



Kamal Sandesh
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**Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes to its esteemed reader
a very happy
Christmas
&
New Year 2015**



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But the self-controlled Sādhaḡa, while enjoying the various sense-objects through his senses, which are disciplined and free from likes and dislikes, attains placidity of mind.
— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 64)

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"Atal ji means so much to everyone. A guide, inspiration & giant among giants. His contribution to India is invaluable."

-Narendra Modi



"Once again election results shows the mood of India, we will deliver all our promises. I thank PM, karyakartas & people of both the states."

-Amit Shah

Christmas : 25th December

Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed most commonly on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it is prepared for by the season of Advent or Nativity Fast and is prolonged by the Octave of Christmas and the season of Christmastide. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated culturally by Christian people, and is an integral part of the Christmas and holiday season.



While the birth year of Jesus is estimated among modern historians to have been between 7 and 2 BC, the exact month and day of his birth are unknown, and are not the focus of the Church's Christmas celebration. His birth is mentioned in two of the four canonical gospels. By the early-to-mid 4th century, the Western Christian Church had placed Christmas on December 25 a date later adopted in the East, although some churches celebrate on the December 25 of the older Julian calendar, which, in the Gregorian calendar, currently corresponds to January 7, the day after the Western Christian Church celebrates the Epiphany. The date of Christmas may have initially been chosen to correspond with the day exactly nine months after early Christians believed Jesus to have been conceived, or with one or more ancient polytheistic festivals that occurred near southern solstice (i.e., the Roman winter solstice); a further solar connection has been suggested because of a biblical verse[a] identifying Jesus as the "Sun of righteousness".



BJP marching towards 'Congress free India'

A huge change came in the politics of India on 16th May 2014. While in the Centre BJP got full majority the formation of BJP governments in Maharashtra and Haryana gives the message that the country is now ready to move ahead with BJP and Narendra Modi. The formation of BJP government in Jharkhand and getting 25 seats in Jammu & Kashmir itself shows the unflinching faith of people in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The fate with which Congress met in all these four states viz. Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir shows that like in the Centre the Congress has started getting farewell from the states as well.

Jharkhand was yearning for full majority since its formation. BJP gave the slogan of 'Clear Majority' and people have accepted it. Chhattisgarh was formed along with Jharkhand but the kind of development which has happened in Chhattisgarh has not happened in Jharkhand. The main reason is that never before a government with full majority was formed in Jharkhand. But this time the myth has been broken and BJP has got clear majority.

Fortune has smiled on Jharkhand. The door of progress has been opened. Now BJP cannot say that people have not given us clear majority. BJP will have to now work for the state. BJP came in the government of Jharkhand not once but for three times but in coalition. BJP decided to go alone as an organization in Jharkhand. Thereafter BJP went to elections with AJSU. The BJP President Shri Amit Shah started to take steps towards building a result oriented organization.

It cannot be denied that in Jharkhand local parties have their own importance. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is an old organisation and people have respect for Guruji - no one can deny this.

There was no straight fight between BJP and Congress but the contest was triangular in Jharkhand. It was not easy to tread the path of victory amid this triangular fight but due to the popularity of Shri Narendra Modi and the organisational power of BJP clear majority was attained.

Now let's talk about Jammu & Kashmir. Here it was four cornered contest. While in Jammu BJP had put its best efforts it was expected that in Kashmir valley BJP's account will open. Efforts were in full swing. In Jammu & Kashmir while two national parties were contesting, two local parties were also in the fray. While NC was in power at the time of the elections, PDP was also in power earlier. The kind of mandate which BJP got is a record till date. Before this, BJP had never got so many seats. The votes which BJP got in valley indicate that acceptability of BJP is gradually increasing. BJP might not have got any seat in the valley but this time its efforts have earned votes in the direction of increasing acceptability in the valley. Who will form the government in Jammu & Kashmir will be known later but it shows that the increasing organizational strength of BJP and acceptability of Narendra Modi.

After getting victory in the Lok Sabha elections BJP is continuously getting victory in the states. The slogan which BJP gave in the name of Congress free India, the leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is moving continuously in that direction. ■

A victory of the politics of development

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Once again people have shown the power of the democracy. In the true democratic spirit they not only voted overwhelmingly but they voted for better future. It's a triumph of democracy, a victory of the politics of development and a vote for good governance. What appeared impossible a few years back is becoming real - gloom and despair is giving way to hope and optimism. People have voted for change - change for a better future where government works for the welfare of the people and its focus is on heralding an era of prosperity and development. People are showing their faith in BJP and reinforcing their trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The last six months of governance of BJP led NDA government has reinforced the faith with which people had voted NDA to power at the Centre. After Maharashtra and Haryana people have reposed their trust in BJP.

As the trends of the assembly elections held in Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir started coming in it was clear that BJP had

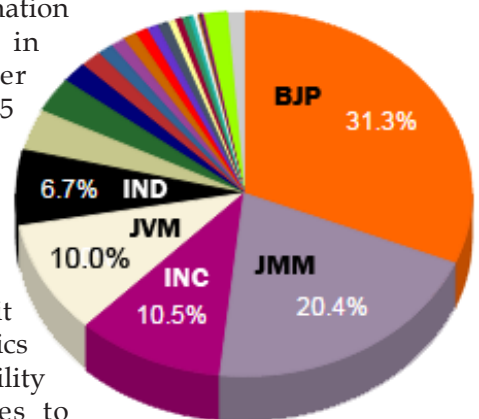
received tremendous support from the people in both the states. In Jharkhand BJP got the full majority while in Jammu & Kashmir it rose to become the second largest party after PDP. It is big a win for BJP. The people responded to the call for full majority in Jharkhand while in Jammu & Kashmir BJP emerged largest party in terms of vote share. It's a historic mandate. Never

are welcome signs for our democracy and a positive change for the country. Jharkhand

The state of Jharkhand had earned infamy for misrule and corruption. A state which is one of the richest in India in term of its mineral resources could not see much progress since its formation. The state of Jharkhand was carved out from Bihar in 2002 with the hope that as a

Jharkhand Result Status			
Status Known For 81 out of 81 Constituencies			
Party	Won	Leading	Total
Bahujan Samaj Party	1	0	1
Bharatiya Janata Party	37	0	37
Indian National Congress	6	0	6
AJSU Party	5	0	5
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	19	0	19
Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik)	8	0	8
Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation)	1	0	1
Jai Bharat Samanta Party	1	0	1
Jharkhand Party	1	0	1
Marxist Co-Ordination	1	0	1
Navjawan Sangharsh Morcha	1	0	1
Total	81	0	81

before any political formation had got full majority in Jharkhand and never before BJP had won 25 seats in Jammu and Kashmir. Politics in the country is changing and it now no more veers around caste and regional calculations - it is shifting towards politics of development and ability of the political parties to perform and deliver. These



governments with tied hands. The coalition governments were subjected to different pulls and pressures and blackmails from the vested interests resulting in a large number of chief ministers, coalition governments of various hues and even president rules at various intervals. The Congress played the negative politics of opportunism in the state seizing every opportunity to become part of the government even in the face of the fact that it never had sizeable numbers in the assembly. Congress experiment with Madhu Koda, an independent as chief minister backfired as huge scams came to fore during his tenure. All this while the people of the state suffered a lot with all developmental projects being halted and state remaining stagnated in the absence of any vision for its future. The results show that people have responded with vengeance and Congress and its allies have been punished for their misdeeds.

It was really a miracle that people voted for a full majority government. It was mainly due to the appeal of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi that people came out in large numbers to elect a government with comfortable majority. The month long elections in Jharkhand saw the participation of people in large numbers. The rallies of PM Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah were

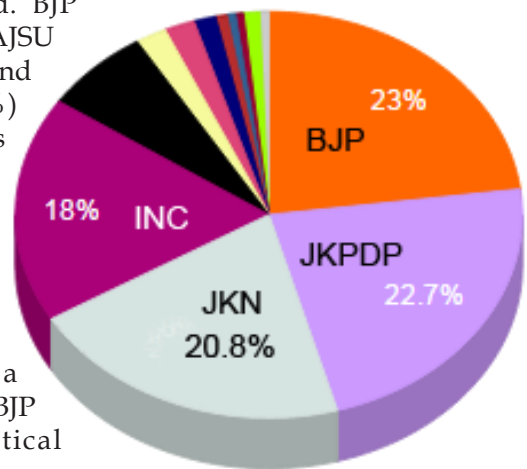
huge success. Most of the pollsters had already predicted a full majority BJP government in the state. Never before the people had given full majority to any political formation as the elections always threw fractured mandates. All the political observers are unanimous in accepting this fact that it was really a miracle. BJP and its ally AJSU have got 42 seats. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) won 19 seats while Congress could win only 6 seats. RJD of Laloo Prasad Yadav which had earlier won 5 seats was totally decimated getting a nought in the state. JVM(P) won eight seats but its leader former chief minister Babulal Marandi lost from both the seats he contested. BJP along with its ally AJSU got a total of around 35% (BJP:31.2 %) votes while its closest contender JMM was way behind at 20.4% votes while Congress could get only 10.5% votes showing a huge gap between BJP and other political parties.

The people in Jharkhand want to walk on the path of progress and development. Jharkhand has immense potential and it has the capacity to emerge as a front ranking state in the country. The people and especially youth have voted rising above

parochial consideration representing a new kind of aspirations for development and good governance. Most of the regional parties failed to win in their pockets as people preferred to go for a stable government which can pursue development oriented work in the state. The mandate in the state is clearly in favour of development and stability. Now, the challenge before the new government is to recover the lost ground by heralding an era of rapid government to meet the aspirations of the people of the state.

Jammu & Kashmir

The politics of Jammu & Kashmir has special place in the politics of the country. The mandate given by the



people of this state is analyzed even in the international media. The world also watches the political process in the state keenly. This time the people have given a strong message to the separatist elements and also subversive elements across the border.

Defying the boycott calls given by the separatists people came out in large numbers to cast their votes and speak their minds. It was a stern reminder to the

performance till date. This time the seats have increased more than double as a result of massive support to the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP also emerged as

emphasis of BJP on all round and inclusive growth of the state created an ambience which may further deepen the organizational roots of BJP in the state.

Jammu & Kashmir Result Status			
Status Known For 87 out of 87 Constituencies			
Party	Won	Leading	Total
Bharatiya Janata Party	25	0	25
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	0	1
Indian National Congress	12	0	12
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	15	0	15
Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	28	0	28
Jammu & Kashmir People Conference	2	0	2
Jammu And Kashmir People Democratic Front (Secular)	1	0	1
Independent	3	0	3
Total	87	0	87

Emergence of BJP as the largest party in the valley in terms of the vote share show the changing mindset in the state where people are now more concerned about development and good governance. Who could have thought that someday BJP may

separatists that there is no alternative to democracy. The people have a lot of respect for democratic process and they wanted to elect a government which can take the state forward on the path of peace, prosperity and development.

As the counting of votes progressed in Jammu & Kashmir it became clear that BJP and PDP were locked in neck to neck contest. First time it appeared that BJP was going to emerge as the largest party in the state but in the final tally BJP won 25 seats just 3 seats less than PDP which emerged as the largest party in the state with 28 seats. It is for the first time that BJP got huge support in the state. The National Conference which was in the government was reduced to 15 seats while Congress could win only 12 seats. BJP had won 11 seats last time which was the best

the largest vote getter in the state by securing 23% votes while PDP which became the largest party got 22.7%. The National Conference registered 20.8% of votes while Congress could get 18% votes. The mandate was fractured in the state but BJP emerged as the main gainer as it managed to get highest number of votes while becoming second largest party in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself took keen interest in the elections and campaigned across the state while addressing highly successful rallies. Apart from Jammu, BJP was able to register its presence in valley and Ladakh as well where its candidates fought the elections seriously thereby opening the areas which were hitherto not considered traditional bases of BJP. It has led to increased acceptability of BJP across the state. The

win so many seats in Jammu & Kashmir and emerge the largest party in terms of vote share? The kind of negative propaganda that was carried against BJP could not stop BJP. BJP was unstoppable because of its commitments towards principled politics and the politics of development and good governance.

Politics of development wins

The nation is witnessing an era rising aspirations and hope. It's an opportunity full of challenges. India is today a young country and youth have dreams in their eyes. They want to see change, they want to see development and they want to get opportunities. They want to lead a better life. And for this they are reposing their faith in the leadership of Narendra Modi. The Lok Sabha results were a testimony of this faith,

the results of Maharashtra and Haryana were re-assertion of that faith and now the people of Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir have echoed the same sentiment which is sweeping across the nation. Narendra Modi has become the symbol of people's aspirations and their hope for the future. People are voting against misrule, corruption, scam and dynasty and they are voting for development, good governance, vision and commitment to perform. In the leadership of Narendra Modi they firmly believe that their dreams will be realized.

The year 2014 has shown the power of the democracy and the strength of the people who can silently bring in big changes. People have the power to set the things right and they have the courage to dream and they are bold enough to dream big now. From Lok Sabha elections to elections in the states, people have shown their power and heralded an era of positive politics. The word 'politics' which had started to get a negative connotation is being restored now in its right perspective. The positive politics can work and bring in big change - this is getting re-established as Narendra Modi is adding positive notes of development in his saga of untiring work with relentless energy and vision. The people of Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir have endorsed the brilliant performance of BJP government at the centre by strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi. ■

Malviya ji, Atal ji honoured with 'Bharat Ratna'



The Government announced on December 24 that Former prime minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and freedom fighter Madan Mohan Malaviya will be honoured with the country's highest civilian award the "Bharat Ratna." President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee said on the announcement that he has been pleased to award Bharat Ratna to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously) and to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee."

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also expressed his views on the development and shared an old picture with AB Vajpayee on Twitter. He tweeted "Atal ji means so much to everyone. A guide, inspiration & giant among giants. His contribution to India is invaluable. "Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya is remembered as a phenomenal scholar & freedom fighter who lit the spark of national consciousness among people," Shri Modi added in another Tweet. Shri LK Advani said, "AB Vajpayee truly deserves the award as he had a blemish free tenure as PM."

Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier recommended BJP veteran Vajpayee and freedom fighter and educationist Madan Mohan Malaviya's name for India's highest civilian honour to President Pranab Mukherjee. Several politicians have hailed the Centre's decision to confer Bharat Ratna on AB Vajpayee and Madan Mohan Malviya. ■

BJP Parliamentary board expressed its deep sense of gratitude towards the Govt of India for its historic decision of conferring Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award on two of the great sons of Bharatmata, freedom-fighter and great nationalist Pt Madan Mohan Malviya and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Resolution passed by BJP Parliamentary board on 24-12-2014 said, "This decision the Government t has not only respected the desires of millions of Indians but also given expression to the sense of deep respect in the minds of all countrymen towards these two great national heroes. This is a fitting salutation to both Mahamana ji and Atal ji for their unique contribution and unflinching commitment to the cause of the people of India".

People of Kerala are fed up by the misrule of the Congress and Left Front : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressed a press conference in Ernakulam in Kerala on 20th December 2014, where he called upon the people of Kerala to join hands with the party to end the misrule of Congress and the Left. Shri Shah observed the economy of Kerala is going through a tough patch. The misrule of the state by Congress and the Left parties have resulted in highly unprecedented levels of unemployment. He further said, in 2000-01 the per capita income in Gujarat was 17,227 rupees, while Kerala's was 19,809 rupees. At that time Kerala's per capita income exceeded Gujarat's by 2,582 rupees. However, at a time when Gujarat decided to take to the path of development, Kerala started trailing. And this is precisely why in 2012-13, while Gujarat's per capita income has risen to 61,220 rupees, Kerala's stands at 56,115 rupees. That makes Gujarat ahead of Kerala by about 5,000 rupees.

Shri Shah said that under the 11th Five Year Plan, while Gujarat grew at 9.34%, Kerala grew at a mere 7.67% and that as with West Bengal, Kerala too is neck deep in debt. In Kerala, it stands at 30% of the GDP, which is over and above other states of India. The youth of Kerala are forced to leave their homes in search of job overseas. For Kerala has the highest unemployment rates among India's largest states. Well, it like what Congress or other supported states have in India... Unemployment. As per an NSO survey, in the year 2011-12, the unemployment rate in Kerala was 9.8%, while in BJP ruled Gujarat it was

0.7%, and in Madhya Pradesh it was 1%, which is the lowest in India. The other main points which he highlighted are as following:

- The NDA government announced an IIT for the first Union Budget in Kerala.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister



Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA government managed to get all the nurses back from Iraq and also managed to get back nurses from Libya.

- The Left and the Congress in Kerala has been promoted the radical elements in the name of appeasement of minorities.
- After **Modi tsunami** in Lok Sabha elections -2014, Congress Party have vanished from the map of 19 States and Union Territories.. The very existence of the Left in India is on the verge of disappear from the electoral map.
- In the Lok Sabha elections -2014, BJP in Kerala got 18,56,796 votes. Every tenth voter IN THE State voted for the BJP. This fact shows that the people of Kerala are fed up by the misrule of the Congress and Left Front. Kerala people want change.
- The BJP is the country's largest party. In

Lok Sabha elections-2014, BJP may not be able to open its account in Kerala but it is the third largest party in term of votes. BJP has got more votes than Communist Party of India. BJP got more than 10 percent of the votes, while CPI got only 7.6 percent votes in Lok Sabha election.

Emphasising that the whole of India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari get into the spirit of good governance and development and referring to the achievements of the government in the last six months, Shri Shah said in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian economy is moving in the path of high growth rate from Slow down. In the first half of Financial Year 2014-15 (April-September) GDP growth rate increased to 5.5 percent, while in the tenure of Congress-led UPA government growth rate in the first half Year 2013-14 was only 4.9 percent. Highlighting the objective of NDA government is – Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas he said that with the welfare policies of the NDA recorded decline in inflation in the past six months. Wholesale inflation is on a five-year lowest level. **Inflation based Wholesale Price Index (WPI) fell to zero per cent in November 2014.** While in the tenure of UPA government it was 7.52 per cent in November 2013 and 6.18 per cent in May 2014. **Similarly, in November 2014 Consumer Price index come down to 4.38 per cent** while at the time of Congress led UPA government it was 11.16 in November 2013 and 8.28 percent in May 2014. Shri Shah said that the with the decline in inflation, Petrol and diesel has become cheaper and all sections of society including farmers in villages are relieved. Low inflation has eased the debt and create a favorable environment for investment.

Shri Shah said that the government gave great relief to the working middle class after increasing the tax exemption limit to Rs two lakh and from Rs two lakh fifty thousand to three lakhs for senior citizens. Similarly, for giving fair price to farmers for their Rabi and Kharif crops minimum support price was increased. Making reference of the steps taken

in the direction of pending economic reforms, Shri Shah said, government has taken the important decisions regarding de regulation of diesel prices fixing the price of LPG. Also eased the norms of foreign investment in rail, defence and the construction sector. Government is moving forward for the passing of important bills like insurance and GST. He further said that the government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna introduced under which the country has opened eight million bank accounts. With the help of this scheme financial inclusion of poors and they can get rid of moneylenders. The target of the scheme is to open the account of every family. He said to generate employment opportunities for the youth and to accelerate industrial growth Government has launched the campaign 'make in India'. Also, the government has also launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Shramev jayate program. **Universal number for PF that helps employees to operate their PF account from anywhere.** Unclaimed Rs. 27,000 lying with Employees provident fund organisation will be spent for the benefit of the workers.

Shri Shah said to provide basic services to the people, the government has approved the Rs 43,000 crore for **Deen Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna.** Further comprehensive reforms in the power sector has been done. He said that the government has started the process to develop 100 new a world-class smart cities and Rs 7,060 crore has been allocated in general budget. Government has also launched a Swachh Bharat campaign to ensure clean India. It has established a Swachh Bharat Kosh. He said that Modi government has established good governance to remove the Policy Paralysis of UPA government. Governmental decision-making process has become fast. Group of ministers created at the time of UPA government is abolished. <http://attendance.gov.in/> is started for the attendance of government employees so that all employees reach on time. In addition, it has been decided to celebrate former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday

on December 25 as a day of good governance.

Saying that India is changing its perception in the eyes of the world he said that India is being praised in countries where Shri Modii is travelling. NDA government has taken steps in WTO to protect the interests of farmers and the poor in the developing countries, India has managed for their conviction. While talking about the measures taken by the government to stop black money and corruption, Shri Shah said that on May 27, the next day of coming to power NDA constituted the special investigation team for the investigation of black money. In addition, the Finance Ministry had sent a special team to Switzerland and after the Government of Switzerland has agreed to cooperate with India.

Digital India program has been initiated to bring transparency. Recently according to Transparency International, Corruption Perceptions index 2014, India is ranked 85 which was 95 in the previous year. That is why in such a short period of six months India has improved the credibility under the leadership of Shri Modi.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah also said the United Nations on June 21, declared the International Yoga Day. For India, it is glorious and unprecedented achievement and full credit goes to Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Modi while addressing the UN General Assembly for the first time on September 27, 2014, has proposed for the declaration of International Day for Yoga. With the three months efforts of Modi's led government UN declared the International Yoga Day.

The most important fact is that India's proposal for the international Yoga Day was endorsed by more than 170 countries. This unprecedented achievement is an honour for 125 crores of Indians.

'Modi Government is taking steps for the development of Tamil Nadu'

While addressing a press conference in Tamil Nadu on 21st December 2014 BJP National President Shri Amit Shah called upon the people of Tamil Nadu to join hands with the BJP for the overall development of the state. Main points of his address are following:

- The BJP got enormous love from people of



Tamil Nadu in Lok Sabha elections-2014. As a result, BJP contested eight seats in Tamil Nadu and won a seat. Party got 5.56 per cent votes in the State.

- The BJP is the largest party in the country. BJP is the third largest party in Tamil Nadu. Fourth is Congress. Congress failed to win a single seat and got only 4.37 percent of the votes. Now we have to make the BJP, the largest party in Tamil Nadu.
- The economy of Tamil Nadu is in the midst of crisis today. Tamil Nadu is lagging behind in the path of development due to misrule of Congress, DMK and AIADMK. Unemployment is staggering and youths are leaving their homes to work elsewhere.
- In the past 15 years Tamil Nadu is lagging behind rather than progressing. In 2000-01 the per capita income of Gujarat was 17,227 rupees, while Tamil Nadu's was Rs.20,319. At that time Tamil Nadu's per capita income exceeded Gujarat's by Rs.3000. And after a decade in 2012-13 Gujarat's per capita income has risen to 61,220 rupees, while Tamil Nadu's per capita income was at only Rs. 58,360

rupees. That makes Gujarat ahead of Tamil Nadu by about Rs. 3,000.

- In 11th five Year Plan Gujarat's growth rate was 9.34 percent while Tamil Nadu's growth rate was only 8.58 percent. Today, Tamil Nadu has the lowest growth rate in the country. In 2012-13 Tamil Nadu's growth rate was only 3.39 percent while BJP-ruled Gujarat has the growth rate of 7.96 percent and Madhya Pradesh is 10 percent.
- On socio-economic development front Tamil Nadu has lagged behind today. In terms of literacy rate Tamil Nadu ranks 14th rank. Tamil Nadu ranks 15th in term of stamping out unemployment. Tamil youths are looking for jobs today and are forced to move away from their home. Like all Congress and third front ruled states, Tamil Nadu has high unemployment rate. According to NSSO unemployment rate in Tamil Nadu is 3.2 percent in 2011-12, while in BJP-ruled Gujarat has 0.7 percent and Madhya Pradesh has 1 percent which is lowest in the country. In terms of poverty alleviation Tamil Nadu is at No. 11. Poverty is lowest in BJP-ruled Goa. In terms of Per Capita income Tamil Nadu is No. 10. Country's highest Per Capita income is in BJP ruled Goa.

Shri Shah said that Modi Government is taking steps for the development of Tamil Nadu.

Recently the government talked to Sri Lankan government to ensure safe release of Tamil fishermen. ■

UN declares June 21 as World Yoga Day

BJP President congratulates PM for elating India's prestige in the world

The night of 11 December became proud moment for India as the United Nations declared June 21 as World Yoga Day. The declaration by United Nations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged the world community to celebrate Indian yoga at the international level in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in September. The decision is being seen as a huge diplomatic win for India. 175 nations had supported Modi's proposal. European Union president Herman Van Rompuy had also told Modi in November that the 28-member EU supported his idea for a Yoga Day at the UN.

The resolution on "International Day of Yoga" was introduced by India's Ambassador to UN Asoke Mukerji on December 11 and had 175 nations joining as co-sponsors, the highest number ever for any General Assembly resolution. It is also for the first time that such an initiative has been proposed and implemented by any country in the UN body in less than 90 days.

PM Narendra Modi hailed the UN General Assembly's decision adopting an India-led resolution declaring June 21 as 'International Day of Yoga' and thanked all 177 nations of the global body. "Elated! Have no words to describe my joy on the @UN declaring 21st June as 'International Day of Yoga'. I fully welcome the decision," Shri Modi tweeted.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elating India's prestige in the world, saying it was due to his efforts that United Nations had declared June 21 as 'International Yoga Day'. In a congratulatory message, he said it was a matter of pride for Indians as it is an extraordinary achievement for the country. "Congratulations to Prime Narendra Modi ji for getting June 21 recognised as International Yoga Day by UN," he said. ■



Helpline to check 'devastating' drug menace soon : PM

PM has asked the administration to set up a nationwide toll free helpline to check 'devastating' drug menace soon

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed serious concern over growing menace of drugs among the youth in the country. Addressing the nation for the third time through "Mann ki Baat" programme of All India Radio on December 14, Shri Narendra Modi called drug addiction as a psycho-socio-medical problem. He said, it is leading the youth to darkness, destruction and devastation.

Recalling a visit to Punjab where rate of addiction is reportedly higher, he said, women had expressed their anguish over the problem. Saying drug addiction is bad, he stressed the need for joint effort of individuals, family, society and government to curb this national problem.

Shri Modi said, he has asked the administration to set up a nationwide toll free helpline which will help the people share drug related problems. Talking about recent DGPs conference in Assam, Prime Minister said, he had asked the police department to have a detailed deliberation on drug addiction and ways to overcome it.

Appealing the youth to shun the bad habit, Shri Modi said that the money spent on buying drugs is going to drug mafia and terrorist outfits. He advocated for starting movement on social media,



namely, Drugs Free India to raise awareness. He also urged the celebrities in the field of sports, culture, and cinema, to take a lead for creating awareness. Expressing gratitude to media for taking up the issue, the Prime Minister said it has created appropriate atmosphere for discussion in the society. Government has

also got sensitised and it cannot ignore the issue.

Quoting Swami Vivekanand, the Prime Minister urged the youth to set a definite goal in life. Vivekanand had asked youth to adopt a principle and follow it in life.

Calling UN declaration of celebration of Yoga Day on 21st June every year as a matter of great pride and joy for the nation, he said, a record number of 177 nations supported the move. Hailing the victory of Jammu and Kashmir Cricket team's recent win over Mumbai in Ranji trophy final, Prime Minister said that success can be achieved through determination in spite of difficulties.

Recalling his last visit to the North East, Shri Modi asked youth to visit the region saying it has a lot to offer in terms of beauty and potential. He appreciated the warmth exuded by the people of the region to him.

Concluding his address, the Prime Minister extended his greetings on Christmas and the oncoming New Year. He asked the people to continue to share their thoughts and ideas through Mann Ki Baat. ■

Atal Ji – The Gentle Giant

By Arun Jaitley

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji turns 90 on 25th December 20 14. I wish him all the best. The Nation has honoured him and Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya ji with the Bharat Ratna.

I first heard Atalji's speech in 1967, when I was a school student. There was a political rally near my house in Delhi for the 1967 General Election. He came to address that rally. He had already enjoyed a formidable reputation as a great orator. He was on way to becoming an iconic political leader. Many youngsters used to repeat the sentences that they heard in his speech. They imitated his style.

I became student activist of ABVP in 1970. Atal ji was a familiar face in both Parliament and political rallies. We had invited him for several speeches in the Delhi University. Whenever we wanted some issues to be raised in Parliament, we rushed to brief him. My acquaintance with him started in 1973 when I was a student leader in Delhi University. Thereafter, I started interacting with him frequently. He has been a great listener. He used to occasionally react to some enthusiastic ideas, which we gave, with humour. During JP's movement in 1974, he was active in addressing rallies

across the country.

When the emergency was proclaimed in 1975, he along with Shri Advani ji, and some other politicians was detained in Bangalore. I was initially detained in the Ambala Jail and subsequently in Delhi's Tihar Jail. We heard about Atal ji having a serious health problem with his back. He was shifted to a house detention at his Delhi residence. His back problem

He penned a Poem, which was very often heard in 1977 election. The opening sentence of the Poem read as - "Toot sakte hain magar hum jhuk nahi sakte".

Thereafter, we saw him as India's External Affairs Minister in 1977, an opposition MP, as the Leader of Opposition in Parliament (Lok Sabha). As he was growing in years, my image of him in the early 1990s was of "the

Atal ji is the product of a democratic system, and trained in Parliamentary values. He realised the virtues of both consensus and harmony. His conduct of the Cabinet Meetings was never tense. If any of us raised any point, or even contradicted a point, he encouraged discussion. The last word, of course, belonged to him. He was liberal in his economic thinking.

worsened for which, he spent a significant part of emergency period at the AIIMS, where he was rushed for surgery. During this period, we received a latest Poem he had written from his hospital bed.

The context of that Poem was relevant. The Doctor at the AIIMS asked Atal ji, if he had bent a bit too much - "Aap jyada jhuk gaye honge" to which he replied - Doctor Saheb, "jhuk to sakte nahi, Yun kahiye mur gaye honge".

best man", who never became the Prime Minister, but history vindicated him, and he went on to become, one of the outstanding Prime Ministers of India.

Atal ji is the product of a democratic system, and trained in Parliamentary values. He realised the virtues of both consensus and harmony. His conduct of the Cabinet Meetings was never tense. If any of us raised any

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A glance at concluding winter session of parliament

Important Tax reform Bill GST tabled in parliament

From Our Correspondent

Recently concluded first winter session of 16th Lok Sabha has been important for various reasons. In this session the tabled GST amendment Bill was a great reform initiative in taxation history of independent India. The session was also known for passage of resolution denouncing an Islamabad court's ruling to free Let terrorist Lakhvi, a wanted accomplice in Mumbai attack case in India, on bail just two days after terrorists massacred over 140 children and teachers at a Peshawar school - a carnage that drew condemnation across India. Apart from it, many legislative works have been accomplished in this session. The last two weeks of the session especially in Rajya Sabha has not been up to the mark because of disruptions, un-cooperative and negative attitude of the opposition parties. One special characteristic of this session was that the Congress and other opposition parties were seen cooperating with the government in Lok Sabha and at the same time these very parties were seen disrupting Rajya Sabha by creating

Lok Sabha's productivity rises to 105% while that of Rajya Sabha declines to 68% Lok Sabha so far clears a record 18 Bills and Rajya Sabha only 12. Introduction of GST Bill in Lok Sabha and passing of labour reform Bills mark the high points of session.

uproar. The opposition parties stalled the parliament on petty issues. It's an irony that along with leftist parties, the Congress was also seen working hand in glove with Trinamool Congress in parliament on the arrest of TMC leaders in Saradha Scam. The opposition's adamant stand on Prime Minister's reply on issue of conversion stalled parliament for many days, whereas government's response was very positive and its many ministers gave clarification on the issue both inside and outside the house.

Unanimous resolution passed by LS denouncing bail granted to Mumbai attack mastermind by a Pakistani Court

The Lok Sabha passed a resolution denouncing an Islamabad court's ruling on December 18 to free 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi on bail, just two days after terrorists massacred over 140 children and teachers at a Peshawar school - a carnage that drew condemnation across India. "We express grave concern of the Indian people that just after the tragic killing(s) in Peshawar, an accused terrorist could be released on bail by the same country...It seems the lesson that there should be no compromise with terrorists has not been learnt." the resolution said.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressing shock in parliament said "India is deeply saddened by the slaughter in Peshawar and was cognizant of the pain Pakistan might be reeling under. But the release on bail of the former Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, one of those who planned the Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, had come as a shock to "all those who believe in humanity."

The Lok Sabha has passed

a record 18 Bills as against 12 during the last Budget session early this year and 04 Bills during winter session last year.

In winter session only 12 Bills were passes by the Rajya Sabha. 12 Bills passed by both houses are following:

- ♦ The Labour Laws(Exemption from Furnishing returns and maintaining registers by certain establishments) Amendment Bill 2011
- ♦ Apprentices(Amendment) Bill,2014
- ♦ The Delhi Special Police E s t a b l i s h m e n t (Amendment) Bil, 2014
- ♦ The Merchant Shipping (Amendmen t) Bill, 2013
- ♦ The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013
- ♦ The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014
- ♦ The Indian Instiutes of Information Technology Bill, 2014
- ♦ Tthe Constiution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bil, 2014
- ♦ The Central Universities (Amendment)Bill, 2014
- ♦ The School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014
- ♦ The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2014
- ♦ The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014

Speaking on conclusion of the winter session, Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu said “Why is that the Rajya Sabha has been marred by interruptions during 16 of the 22 sittings, while only brief interruptions were witnessed during only 5 sittings of Lok Sabha during the same period?

Should the Rajya Sabha be disrupted for days on the issue of naming of an airport which was in pursuance of decisions taken earlier? Can the majority be used to bring the House to a grinding halt negating the established parliamentary democratic principle of collective responsibility of the Government?

So, the broader issue is how one should put to use the majority in Parliament? It was evident that while the majority in the Lok Sabha was used constructively, the same was used to obstruct legislation in the Rajya Sabha. It may be true that the responsibility of enabling smooth functioning of Parliament mostly rests with the Government of the day. But the opposition cannot certainly say that they have no responsibility for the same and their mandate is only to obstruct.

The stalling of parliament by the opposition which obstructed the passage of key bills in this winter session is an effort to stall this government’s development agenda and with a view to restricting the government’s choice in the next budget”. ■

...Continued from page 15

point, or even contradicted a point, he encouraged discussion. The last word, of course, belonged to him. He was liberal in his economic thinking. He realised the importance of infrastructure creation. The National Highway programme, and the Power sector reforms are the part of his legacy. He was committed to normalising the relations with our neighbouring countries. His ‘Bus initiative’ with Pakistan was undertaken at a great political risk, since his own constituency had to be convinced of this. In 2003, he tried to normalise relationship with China, and signed an agreement on settlement of the boundary dispute. A new Chapter of Indo-US relationship was authored during his tenure.

He was unquestionably the greatest orator India has heard, since Independence. He could play with words but he was always measured. He was a wordsmith. He never fell into temptation of committing an impropriety. He realised virtues of social harmony. His ability to rise above the party for a larger national cause was significant.

Today, as we are celebrating the 90th year of his birth as ‘Good Governance Day’, we wish a very Good Health and Long Life to this Gentle Giant. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance and I&B)

'Darkness will be dispelled, the Sun will rise and the Lotus shall bloom'



Atalji has been conferred highest civilian award of the country – Bharat Ratna. The nation has also celebrating his birth day as 'Sushashan Divas' on 25th December 2014. Atalji became the first president of Bharatiya Janata Party at the time of its formation on 6th April 1980. The circumstance that led to the formation of BJP and that necessitated the parting ways from then Janata Party were unique and offered a challenge to the members of erstwhile Jansangh who had decided to merge with Janata Party in the national interest. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the party to face the challenges of the time and restarted the process of building the new party. The Presidential Speech delivered by Atalji in the National Council meeting held in Bombay

(now Mumbai) on 28-30 December 1980 set tone for the new spirit of the party and announced the new found resolve of the karyakartas of erstwhile Jansangh to rededicate themselves in the service of Maa Bharati. It was a historic speech. We are publishing the Presidential Address of Atalji for our esteemed readers in a series. The second part of the series are published below:

Emphasis on Human Values

There is a basic difference between Gandhian Socialism and Marxist Socialism. Gandhian Socialism starts with human values as historically evolved and tested and then attempts to reconstruct the economic and social systems on the basis of these values. In Marxist ideology, on the other hand, human values are made subject to social relations, material conditions and conditions of production. Both Gandhism as well as Marxism claim to end exploitation of man by man. But Marxist Socialism cannot tell us why it wants to do so unless it gets out of itself, whereas the basic

premise of Gandhi's philosophy is that exploitation of man by man is a violation of human values.

Exploitation is due to Loss of Values

The exploitation of man by man has not come on account of evolution and progress in human values. It is, instead, the result of loss of values during some phase of the progress of the socio-economic systems and the material forces operating in that system. Gandhian socialism insists that if economic exploitation of man by man is to be ended it cannot be ended within any value-neutral and so-called scientific social system; it can be stopped only through a

value system on which the changes in the social system are to be structured as well as tested.

Marxists are unable to tell us as to what will happen when Capitalism is abolished, except that they will establish a classless society. In practice, however, something far worse has been happening where they have succeeded as their system has turned out to be tyrannical, dictatorial and destructive of human values. Integrated way of looking at Reality

Marxists and many other so-called scientific socialists often describe Gandhiji as anti-science. This is an utter travesty of truth. Gandhiji's whole life was

nothing but a grand search for truth. And what is science if it is not a search for truth? But scientific methods cannot be applied to the search of man for his inner self or his quest for understanding spiritual reality or the reality of the mind. Gandhian socialism emphasises the reality of both the material and the spiritual, and it is only through this integrated way of looking at reality that human values can be discovered.

Violence is Self-defeating
Another basic difference between Marxist socialism and Gandhian socialism is over violence. All communist revolutions have come through violence and, tragically, they have survived by still greater use of violence against their own people. A Marxist revolution eats its own children. Gandhiji did not rule out the use of violence in certain situations, but he had warned Indian politicians that to rely on violence as an instrument of social and political change or for the resolution of class conflict would ultimately be self-defeating.

Distribution of Power

Yet another point of difference between Marxist views and Gandhian views is regarding the question of distribution of power, to which the problem of violence is related. Marxist socialism does not possess

A Marxist revolution eats its own children. Gandhiji did not rule out the use of violence in certain situations, but he had warned Indian politicians that to rely on violence as an instrument of social and political change or for the resolution of class conflict would ultimately be self-defeating.

an independent theory of the state or of distribution of political power. That is why Marxists do not believe in democracy. Although Gandhiji, like Marx, believed in the ultimate withering away of the State, he warned against the danger of the immense concentration of power in the hands of the State without any countervailing checks. There is difference between Marxism and Gandhism also with regard to the path and process of this withering away. In communist countries, the state has acquired more and more power and is now using it against its own working class and the proletariat in whose name it rules. Recent happenings in Poland provide a glaring example.

Decentralisation

Gandhian socialism regards decentralisation as the basis of its political system. In this there are two

streams of political institutions and processes, both running parallel to each other. On the one hand, there will be institutions of **representative democracy** and, on the other, there will be institutions of **participatory democracy**. Today in India there is no democratic participation below the level of Parliament and State legislatures. All powers vest in the bureaucracy. Under this system, therefore, it is not possible to involve people in the efforts for national reconstruction and to make them feel responsible for shaping their own destinies. Panchayats and District Boards should be given real powers and adequate financial resources. Their autonomy should be guaranteed by the Constitution and should not be on the sufferance of the State Government.

These and other local bodies can be of service not only to their own members but also to one another and can be linked with the higher bodies. These institutions which Gandhiji used to describe as local republics can play a valuable role in curbing authoritarian tendencies and trends.

Decentralised Economy

Gandhian socialism is totally against state monopoly of economic power, while in communist countries, socialism has become synonymous with

such state monopoly. Concentration of political and economic power in the hands of the State have made communist regimes utterly repressive and antithetical to socialist humanism. In order to prevent the concentration of economic power either in the hands of the State or in the hands of a few individuals, we have to accept a decentralised economy. Both communism and capitalism have generated a new kind of inequality, inhumanity, violence, selfishness, greed, unrestrained consumerism and alienation. Gandhiji's idea of trusteeship points a third way to the world. It can imbibe good points of both capitalism and communism while rejecting their bad points. If society is to harmonise the interests of consumers, producers, the state, owners of property and labour, joining in a common endeavour, then there is no other alternative except trusteeship.

Gandhiji's concept of trusteeship does not depend simply on the good sense of those who are in power. Its real importance can be understood only in the context of institutional changes and organised people's power.

It is a pity that we in India never seriously tried to translate this idea into action whereas some other countries, such as the UK have started experimenting

with it.

If in 1947 India had decided to pursue the Gandhian path we might perhaps have been spared the terrible crisis we are having to confront at the moment. Even after 33 years of development and planning, poverty continues to grow, inequalities have become sharper, and the unemployment problem has become explosive. If we had evolved an indigenous pattern of development in conformity with our genius and requirements and having regard to our human and material *resources*, we would not have been in our present plight. As it is, today we are having to suffer the worst features of both western capitalism and Soviet planning.

A third Alternative

The fact is that capitalism and communism are twin-brothers. One denies equality, the other freedom; and both deny fraternity. In spite of their spectacular achievements, both capitalism and communism are showing signs of decay. Communist countries are developing greater and greater inequalities. In capitalist countries, on the other hand, attempts are on to abridge freedom. There is a ferment in the world in search of a third alternative. Protagonists of both capitalism as well as communism find themselves

face to face with problems which cannot be answered within their own systems.

Outside the national frontiers also, there does not seem to be any great difference between capitalist and Marxist attitudes. Marxist powers have proved no less expansionist than the capitalist countries.

The Bharatiya Janata Party will mobilise a national campaign to have Gandhian socialism accepted as a Third Alternative.

Positive Secularism

Since ancient times, the State in India has always been regarded as secular. The concept of theocratic State is alien to Indian traditions and Indian political thought. "*Truth is one but wise men describe it in different ways*" is a belief fundamental to our thinking. The State has never discriminated between followers of different faiths. A very natural outcome of our commitment to the concept of "*Sarva Dharma Samabhava*" was that in 1947, when we became independent, we resolved to set up a political system in which followers of all religions would have the same place. There would be no Class I citizens and Class II citizens. The fanaticism, the tensions that prevailed at that time did not deter us from this resolve, because doing anything else would have been repugnant to our traditions and culture.

...To be continued

A Blood Stained Jihad

By M J Akbar

What kind of mind believes that it can ascend to paradise from the graves of 132 innocent schoolchildren? The same mindset that kills at least 150 women, many pregnant, because they refuse to become sexual slaves in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar. At around the same time that a suicide mission from Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) shook the soul of Pakistan and the world, a barbarian named Abu Anas al Libi executed these women, according to a report by the Turkish Anadolu Agency, "because they refused to accept jihad marriage".

A similar mental aberration persuades Sunni fanatics to practise takfir, which declares many fellow Muslims "unbelievers", or kafirs, and therefore worthy of death. This is why thugs from groups like Sipah e Sahaba Pakistan massacre Shias, making Pakistan the most dangerous country for those who recognise Hazrat Ali as the first imam after the Prophet.

The fact that the acknowledged founder of Pakistan Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a Shia is kept hidden from public discourse, as are other aspects of his westernised personal

Massacre of children result of rampant fanaticism in a Pakistan at war with modernity



lifestyle, including his preference for moderate levels of alcohol.

West of the Indus and the Afghanistan border has already become the Taliban jihad space or space for Baluch secessionists. Now a direct challenge has been mounted against the entrenched Pakistan establishment, the army, which by its very barbaric nature signals the start of a battle for carving out an ISIS-like space.

The ideological fountainhead of TTP, which has claimed public ownership of the Peshawar massacre of children, is Jamaat-e-Islami, and its subsets like Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazlur Rahman faction). The parent organisations take care to maintain a certain distance from their jihad machines, to sustain thin deniability; but it is their madrassas which turn out the assembly-line supply of suicide missionaries in pursuit of different targets.

Broadly, the Islamic jihad has defined its foes in three categories: the far enemy,

principally America; the near enemy, or those domestic institutions or forces who prevent the creation of a sharia state at home; and countries like India, China (in Xinjiang) and Russia (in Central Asia), which have occupied "Islamic space". Sometimes this loose, international confederation of jihadists cooperates; more often, they travel in their own direction.

From the inception of Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami has posed a simple question: since Pakistan was created in the name of Islam, why is it not a fully Islamic, sharia compliant state? Every Pakistan president and prime minister has fudged the answer, except one - General Zia-ul-Haq, who became dictator during the critical decade between 1976 and 1987. Politicians have purchased time through periodic compromise, but have only delayed the doom. Support for theocracy has grown among the people, encouraged surely by the dismal character and governance of their rulers.

Today, there is a subterranean culture where mothers offer sons for martyrdom, confident that not only will he go to heaven but be able to persuade the Almighty to grant paradise to his near and dear ones as

well.

TTP believes that the Pakistan army is the only obstacle left. A TTP pamphlet, quoted by Abu Bakr Siddique in his excellent book, *The Pashtun Question*, says: "With Allah's blessing, the hereafter of the Taliban will be blessed...In this world our ultimate aim of 'sharia or martyrdom' is now focused on the destruction of Pakistani rulers and army ...We want to implement the sharia in place of the old Satanic system...Destruction is a prerequisite for (re)construction."

The Pakistan establishment is trapped in two ways. It cannot deny that Pakistan is an Islamic state, and it cannot explain why such a state has "un-Islamic" characteristics. It does not have the courage to admit the truth, that Islam is a brotherhood and not a nationhood; and that religion cannot be a basis for nationalism. That would mean accepting that the very basis of Pakistan, the two-nation theory, was wrong.

The second is blowback from strategic fallacy. The Pakistan state, and particularly its army, has used faith-based terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and vituperative hatemongers like Hafiz Saeed against India, and the Taliban in Afghanistan. How long can you sup on venom and not become victim to poison?

Pakistan's PM Nawaz

Sharif now accepts, at least in the heat of the moment, that there is no good Taliban. But can he hand over Mullah Omar, emir of the Afghan Taliban, who has conducted a long war against Nato and Afghanistan from safe houses in Quetta and Karachi, to Washington or Kabul? Can he extend this logic to a more relevant proposition, that there is no good terrorism or bad terrorism? The ferocity with which every section of the Pakistan state, including the judiciary, continues to protect an internationally recognised terrorist like Saeed speaks for itself.

The conflict between India and Pakistan is not about geography; it is about ideology. India is a modern

state which believes in democracy, faith freedom, gender equality and economic equity. Pakistan is a theocratic concept, being torn apart by genetic contradictions. It had the potential, in 1947, to become a model for the postcolonial Muslim world; instead, its inability to come to terms with modernity has dragged it into a swamp of blood.

Two Pakistanis have won the Nobel prize: Abdus Salam, for physics; and Malala Yousafzai, for heroic courage. Both found honour abroad and despair at home. Salam was subject to takfir. Malala is a child in the crosshairs of faith fanatics. ■

(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson)

PM condemns bail to LeT commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi

On December 19 condemning the bail granted by a Pakistani anti-terrorism court to LeT commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, accused in Mumbai attacks Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said in Lok Sabha that the House has unanimously expressed its concern about and condemned the recent incident that took place in Pakistan. He added that immediately after this incident, the Government of India conveyed its feelings in strongest possible words." The Government has said that India is no less pained than Pakistan with the massacre of children there. Every child in India and every Indian are moved by this incident" Shri Modi said. "The step of Pakistan immediately following this incident is shocking for every humanist in the world. The message has been communicated to Pakistan in appropriate terms" he added. Shri Modi said that the Government would be guided by the feelings of the House in this regard in its future course of action. ■

A thousand cuts bleed Pakistan to death

By Balbir Punj

The Government, the Army and the mullah-backed terror groups are working together and in conflict for power in that country. To ignore this factor, and merely condemn the butchers of Peshawar, will serve no purpose

Mr Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has gone on an emotional overdrive with the claim that the 132 school children brutally massacred by the Pakistan Taliban in Peshawar are “my children”. However, there was not a word of condemnation from Islamist terror merchants like Hafiz Saeed. Instead, the hawks in Pakistan were busy finding scapegoats and even blaming India for the ghastly massacre.

So, what do we make of the Pakistani Prime Minister’s grief and his repeated declarations that his Government will fight terrorists when only a few days earlier, this same regime had looked askance when Saeed had organised a massive public rally with state support. Mr Sharif’s Government was a service provider for that rally. Special trains brought members of the public to Saeed’s rally, wherein the man who had masterminded the horrible massacre of innocents in Mumbai in 2008, declared his

Yes, even Muslims are subject to terror attacks — Tuesday’s massacre by the remorseless Taliban, who are using terrorism to establish a caliphate, is just one of the several, almost daily bombings of Sunnis and Shias alike in Pakistan. That country, almost ever since it was created amidst unprecedented blood letting, has now become victims of its own ideology and religious zeal.

determination to carry out similar attacks and kill as many innocents in India.

Saeed, about whom the Pakistani Government had assured India that he would be prosecuted for the 26/11 massacre, is a free man now who claims to be Pakistan’s unofficial ambassador to India. Obviously, the Pakistani establishment is in cahoots with those responsible for the Mumbai carnage. Either Mr Sharif and the Pakistani establishment are insincere or they are hypocrites or both.

Ironically, such is the state of Muslims in Pakistan, a state that was carved out of British

India so as to provide a homeland for Muslims who supposedly would not be safe in Hindu-majority India. Today, in Pakistan, not only are religious minorities, like Hindus and Christians, unsafe and publicly and legally discriminated against, even many Muslim sects are frequently targeted.

Yes, even Muslims are subject to terror attacks — Tuesday’s massacre by the remorseless Taliban, who are using terrorism to establish a caliphate, is just one of the several, almost daily bombings of Sunnis and Shias alike in Pakistan. That country, almost ever since it was created amidst unprecedented blood letting, has now become victims of its own ideology and religious zeal.

Pakistan has seen more military dictatorships than civilian democratic regimes — especially since 1971 when the then Prime Minister ZA Bhutto declared a permanent war against India that was to be carried out by inflicting a thousand cuts. His declaration was, of course, meant to divert the attention of his people from the core problem of Pakistan as a state. The Peshawar massacre exposes the core problem of a state that is caught between the military, the mullahs who

represent an uncompromising religious orthodoxy, and the elected civil administration – all of whom are convinced that what is good for the people is known only to itself.

This situation has arisen, as several independent studies about Pakistan have shown, because the people there have been brought up on a hate-India diet. Both, the Islamic religious schools (madarssas) and the state-run educational institutions demonise non-believers (mainly Hindus) and India. No wonder a percentage of such students end up as terrorists and suicide bombers!

The Pakistani state also fattened the military (falsely pretending to fit itself into Washington, DC's global aims) which, in turn, assumed that it had the mandate of the people to fulfill their Islamic aspirations, as set against an India that was constantly seen as much larger, much more capable and better at integrating its diverse population. Whenever the civil administration was seen as compromising with India, as, for instance, in 1998-1999 when Prime Minister AB Vajpayee appeared to smoke the pipe of peace with Mr Sharif, the military sought to frustrate the Government's efforts by assuming power itself.

At some point in time, when the military ruling Pakistan, wanted to soften the democratic aspirations in that

country, it encouraged the mullahs to tighten their leash on the people, by narrowing the purpose of Pakistan to just this: Destroying a 'Hindu India' and this country's ageless pluralistic value system. The strongest step in this direction was that of military dictator Zia-ul-Haq who nailed the Constitution of Pakistan to sustaining and promoting a single version of Islam. This came in handy for the mullahs who wanted to get the better of the military. The virus of hate and bigotry introduced into the public life of Pakistan has since become its signature tune.

The developments in neighbouring Afghanistan have also impacted the course of history in Pakistan. Essentially, the American interest in getting the Russians out of Kabul and then getting the Afghan Taliban to vacate the seat of Government there, led to the coming together of the three contenders for real power in Pakistan.

The terrorist outfits that were used in Afghanistan had to be given an outlet once the Russians were out of Kabul. Both the civilian administration and the military agreed that diverting them to India was an effective way of securing their interests. This was also in line with the strategic doctrine for Pakistan, laid down by ZA Bhutto, that Islamabad can only succeed in its 'national' goal of destroying India not through a direct

confrontation with its neighbour but by delivering a thousand cuts on its body politic.

Now that the mullah element has developed a full scale terror outfit, an 'army' of its own that is fired by the religious idealism of imposing its own brand of Islam over everyone in the world, especially India, Islamists are seeking to impose themselves as the arbiter of what Pakistan must do. In this process, the three streams of power – the civilian administration, military and the mullah-backed terror groups – are working together and in conflict over who should be the final boss in Pakistan. To ignore this factor, and merely condemn the barbaric butchers of Peshawar, will serve no purpose.

Whether in Syria-Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia or Pakistan, it all boils down to the challenge posed by Islamists to modern civilisation and the ideals of democracy, diversity and orderly Government managed through a process of consensual institutions. For the civilised world, Pakistan has become the state that breeds a virus more deadly than the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. In the coming days, there will be more such massacres till the world understands the real challenge and gets together to eliminate this virus. ■

(The writer is BJP Rajya Sabha member)

India-Russia strategic partnership summit held in New Delhi

PM Modi stands by India's time tested friend Russia

— A report by Vikash Anand

Amid western sanctions on Russia, President Vladimir V. Putin visited India to attend the 15th annual India-Russia summit in New Delhi on December 11. This high level annual dialogue mechanism began after 'Declaration of India-Russia strategic partnership' signed by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Russian President Vladimir Putin in October; 2000. The declaration was major political initiative between India-Russia relations after the cold war. Since then, regular dialogue mechanism operates at official and political levels to enhance cooperation and follow up cooperative activities.

This one summit drew special attention, as Russia was imposed sanctions by US and European Union on issues of Ukraine and reunification of Crimea Republic with the Russian federation. In spite of a strong objection by USA, with its President Barack Obama Shri Modi established friendly relations in his recent visit to USA, India welcomed Putin's delegation that included Crimea's Prime Minister Sergei Aksenov. The

stand taken by India reflects that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stood by India's time-tested friend Russia on issue of Crimea.

During a day stay of President Putin in New Delhi, both countries signed a series

- Both countries signed an agreement paving the way for building the third and fourth reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.
- In 2013-14 Bilateral trade was \$ 6 bn. India-Russia set 14 \$ 30 bn bilateral trade by 2025

of deal and vowed to fight menace like terrorism. They pledged to increase their bilateral trade from \$6 Bn to \$30 Bn by 2025. Seeing the weakening national currencies of the world against dollar, both agreed to encourage payments in national currencies for bilateral trade. India's clean energy needs got a boost with Russia promising to build 12 nuclear reactors by 2035. PM Shri Narendra Modi also assured Russia that it would remain India's top defence supplier. Energy

India and Russia pledged to expand their cooperation in science and technology, industry, localization of equipment and spares,

uranium mining, fabrication and supply of nuclear fuel, management of spent fuel and in other aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle. Towards this objective, the Indian side agreed to expeditiously identify a second site, in addition to Kudankulam, for the construction of the Russian-designed nuclear power units in India. Both sides recognize that the first

Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (APEF), held in the city of Vladivostok in May 2013, has laid the foundation for an enhanced regional energy dialogue under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Technology & Innovation

In the meeting both leaders have decided to commemorate the 40 years of the launch of Indian satellite 'Aryabhata' using Soyuz launch vehicle in 2015. By the time of the 50th anniversary of the launch, the leaders would expect significant collaboration between India and Russia on peaceful uses of outer space. Given the strategic importance of rare earth minerals and their

economic and commercial utility, both agreed to enhance cooperation in rare earth minerals' mining, technology development and research. The countries would explore joint development of technologies for processing rare earth materials.

Environment

India and Russia recognized the importance of the Arctic and the contributions in promoting cooperative activities to address Arctic issues by the Arctic Council, given that Russia is a member and India has joined as an observer in May 2013. The sides agreed to facilitate scientific cooperation to study the challenges (like melting ice, climate change, marine life and biodiversity), facing the rapidly-changing Arctic region.

Economic Engagement

For expanding economic engagement both leaders have encouraged Indian and Russian enterprises to explore more fully new opportunities arising from increasing national focus on infrastructure development and expanding the manufacturing sector. It is expected that Russian companies will utilize the opportunities in a wide range of Indian sectors and will 'Make in India'. Both sides have decided to encourage payments in national

currencies for bilateral trade. The Working Group established for this purpose will make recommendations on eliminating the existing barriers and stimulating transactions in national currencies. An emphasis will be laid on promoting Russian

- **Indian companies will buy diamonds worth \$ 2.1 billion in the next 3 years directly from Russian diamond mining giant ALROSA.**
- **Indian news agency PTI & Russian agency TASS signed MoU envisages cooperation on exchange of news as well as right to use news items & exchange of expertise, technical assistance through contact.**
- **Russia offers manufacturing of Russian attack helicopters in India- a boost to Narendra Modi's Make in India project.**

investments in India in major infrastructure projects like DMIC, Smart Cities and Freight Corridors, as well as in broader sectors like telecom, power and roads. In Russia, Indian participation in Industrial Parks and technology platforms, in sectors like pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, coal and energy will be encouraged.

The sides also agreed on mutual trade facilitation measures, particularly with regards to simplified customs procedures. In this context, they agreed to finalize shortly a protocol on a "Green

Corridor" project.

Global order and world peace

Issuing press statement after summit both leaders vowed to work for democratization of global political, economic, financial and social institutions so that these institutions better represent the aspirations and interests of all segments of the international community. They said that India and Russia opposed economic sanctions that did not have the approval of the United Nations Security Council. It is noteworthy that the sanction imposed on Russia by western powers has not approval of UNSC. Shri Modi and Shri Putin reaffirmed the need for UN Security Council reform in order to make

it more representative and effective in dealing with emerging challenges. Russia reiterated its support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the Council.

Russia and India both have been affected by Islamic terrorism. They believe that the nature and spread of international terrorism in recent years, as demonstrated by developments in their shared neighbourhood, require global resolve and cooperative measures of the international community without double standards or

selectivity.

Both leaders also condoled the loss of life in senseless terrorist acts in recent days in Jammu & Kashmir, India and in Chechnya, Russia. On the issue of Afghanistan, the leaders welcomed the peaceful transition of political authority in Afghanistan and called upon the international community to join efforts to support reconstruction and economic development in that country and to continue capacity building of its national security forces.

On issue of proliferation nuclear weapons both nations support global initiative to combat nuclear terrorism and stringent national export control measures. Putin confirmed its support to India's intention to seek full membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and its readiness to facilitate positive decision of the Group on this matter. Russia also supported India's interest in full membership in the MTCR and Wassenaar Arrangement. Russian also welcomed the simplified visa regime introduced by India in November, 2014 under which nationals of Russia will be granted electronic visa on arrival at designated airports in India.

The two sides signed 20 pacts in various fields ranging from oil, gas, defence and investment. Many of the pacts are commercial contracts like the memorandum of understanding between Tata Power and Russian Direct Investment Fund for exploring investment opportunities in the energy sector across Russia.

An agreement was also signed between Russian fertiliser company ACRON and National Mineral Development Corporation for acquisition of stakes by a consortium of Indian companies in a \$ 2- billion project of ACRON. Russian oil producer Rosneft signed a deal to supply India with 10 million tonnes of oil per year. ■

Lima has addressed the concerns of developing countries : Javadkar

India on December 14 hailed the outcome of the climate summit in Lima, saying the outcome has addressed the concerns of the developing countries and given them enough space to grow and take appropriate nationally determined steps to combat global warming. Minister of State (I/C) for Environment & Forest Shri Prakash Javadkar spoke to the media on conclusion of COP 20 Summit in Lima. Here is the text of the statement:.



We are happy that the final negotiated statement at COP 20 in Lima has addressed the concerns of developing countries and mainly the efforts of some countries to re-write the convention has not fructified. It gives enough space for the developing world to grow and take appropriate nationally determined steps. This Final Draft has paved the way for a Paris Agreement to be arrived next year on the basis of principles of equity and differentiated responsibility. The Final Draft also clearly mandated the developed world to take more firm financial commitments to scale it up to Dollar 100 billion per year from 2020. Developed world is also mandated to provide resources for technology development, transfer and capacity building. There is a greater role for public finance for Adaptation Funding. The provision in the earlier draft for Ex-ante review of actions of even developing countries has been removed. The aspirations and main concerns of the Least Developed Countries and developing countries are addressed.

India pro-actively engaged with the developed as well as developing world to arrive at a negotiated settlement based on the principles of the convention and the whole edifice will continue to be under the convention. BASIC countries met five times, LMDCs (Like Minded Developing Countries) five times and stood firm on ground. ■

MADHYA PRADESH

Shivraj Singh Chouhan to head swachhh MP mission

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will head a high-level committee constituted by the State Government to implement and assess Swachhh Madhya Pradesh Mission. The committee will undertake



integrated review and coordination of urban and rural Swachhhata Mission in Madhya Pradesh. Members of the committee include Panchayats and Rural Development Minister Gopal Bhargava, Urban Development and Environment Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, Public Health & Family Welfare Minister Dr Narottam Mishra, Public Health Engineering Minister Kusum Mahdele, School Education Minister Paras Jain, Women and Child Development Minister Maya Singh, State Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary School Education, Principal Secretaries of Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Urban Development and Environment and Public Health Engineering departments. Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayats, Rural Development and Social Justice will be Member-Secretary of the committee.

Meanwhile, the State Government also constituted a committee headed by Urban Development and Environment Minister to implement and assess Swachhh Madhya Pradesh Mission in urban areas of the State. Its members will include Additional Chief Secretary School Education and Principal Secretaries of Public Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Urban Development and Environment and Public Health Engineering departments. Commissioner Urban Development and Environment will be its Member-Secretary. The committee will chalk out a strategy for smooth implementation of Swachhh Madhya Pradesh Mission in urban areas and submit its report to a high-level committee. ■

UTTAR PRADESH

UP election – BJP to focus on development and corruption

With an eye on getting absolute majority in Uttar Pradesh assembly election slated for 2017 Shri Om Prakash Mathur in-charge of UP affairs said that the party would contest election on the issues of development and corruption. “Our election plank would be development and how to fight corruption. The party does not delve in communalism and will not raise any religious issues during campaigning,” Shri Mathur told media persons on 23 December 2014 in Lucknow.

He said that people of the state are fed up with the mis-governance of Akhilesh Yadav Government. They want to get rid of this corrupt government and BJP has emerged as the only alternative in Uttar Pradesh. We are working in this direction in a systematic manner, Shri Mathur said.

About his strategy for Uttar Pradesh elections he said that the Akhilesh Yadav Government is facing corruption charges. The corruption charges against Yadav Singh and Gyatari Prajapatti are serious. We will go to the people with such issues. The party will stage protests and will take these agitations down to the block level, he said.

“I have formed a committee that will chart out our agitational programmes. I have asked it to submit the report within a week’s time. Once we get that report we will declare our agitational programme,” Shri Mathur said. The panel to plan agitation will be headed by Kanpur MLA Shri Satish Mahana. He will be assisted by state vice president of the BJP Shri Ashok Kataria.

Shri Mathur claimed that several SP MLAs were in touch with the party leaders. However, he denied that BJP was planning to engineer the fall of Akhilesh government. When asked who will be the real contestant for BJP Mathur said the party treats SP, BSP and Congress. We will have our strategy to counter all these three parties, he said. ■

Relative Identity and True Identity

By Swami Tejomayananda

Perception alone cannot determine the reality of a thing. Vedanta helps us to differentiate between the real and the unreal and indicates the ultimate Reality which will release us from all bondage.

At the moment, I do not know who I am, and so I take myself to be something else. One man saw a car running over his shadow and started to cry! This is exactly what is happening in our life. We are taking ourselves to be something we are not. One lady saw a tiger in her dream and got frightened. She asked the tiger, "Will you eat me?" The tiger said, "You can decide; it is your dream!"

It takes time even to arrive at the understanding that the purpose of life is to find out about the reality of things. Generally, people want to eat, drink and be merry. They think that acquisition of wealth and comfort will bring more and more happiness. In the process of acquiring wealth, one spoils one's health. Then the wealth is spent to regain one's health. Finally, one realizes that one has not found true and lasting happiness.

Sometimes one discovers that there is a special joy in giving. Instead of asking what I will get, I can ask what I can



give. Again, it is difficult to know what people really want. We may think we are helping people, but they may think we are interfering unnecessarily! A young boy, in his enthusiasm, helped a blind lady cross the road. But she was annoyed because she did not want to cross the road at all!

It is not easy to serve the society. Sometimes it can be a frustrating experience. While serving, if one has the attitude that one is worshipping God, it helps to purify one's mind. Only when the mind becomes pure and subtle, deeper enquiry becomes possible. In the beginning, we go to the temple, pray and feel satisfied. But a time comes, when that does not satisfy us. Who is the God that I pray to? I begin to enquire about the nature of God. Finally, the enquiry is turned to oneself.

My True Identity

Spiritual life begins when we start asking questions like "Who is God?" and "Who am I?" There is an Upanishad named Prashnopanishad. The word 'prashna' means 'question'. It is a dialogue between the Master and the seeker. The questions seek to find out the truth behind the world and oneself.

Imagine a dialogue like this:

Master: Who are you?

Student: I am Ram Kumar.

Master: I did not ask your name.

Student: I am the son of Shyam Kumar.

Master: I am not asking about your relationship.

Student: I am a doctor.

Master: That is your profession.

Student: I am an American citizen.

Master: I am not asking about your citizenship. Who are you? What were you before you were born?

The student gave all the answers with the assumption that he was the body. Whether we act, react or work, it is with this sense of individual identification. When we feel joyous or sad, we identify with the mind. When we think logically and make decisions, we identify with the intellect. Without

such identification, what are we?

Whenever, I say 'I am so- and-so', it is a description superimposed on 'I am', an adjective qualifying the 'I'. That is our relative identity, but the true identity is 'I am'. We have to just stop there. The moment we add something to 'I am', that means we have already identified with something else other than 'I'. When I say, "I am," it reveals pure existence and consciousness. But when I add something else to complete the sentence, it becomes a limiting factor. An actor plays different roles and appears in many forms, but in truth, he is none of them. His real identity is something different. After the show, he goes to the greenroom and gets out of his role.

At this moment, we have two identities - one is real and absolute, while the other is relative, changing to suit the needs of different roles and conditionings. As long as I know my true identity, my relative identity will not bother me. Imagine the tragedy if an actor were to identify with the role of a beggar that he is playing! In fact, he should know that by playing the role of a beggar, he will become richer.

Think carefully. 'I am' is an entity that is not limited by any factor. That unlimited 'I am' plays through the body, mind, intellect and the senses. Then a new identity is created, and I begin to identify with the relative identity, forgetting my true nature as the unlimited 'I am'. ■

(The author is the Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide.)

(Courtesy:TOL)

Narendra Modi wins Reader Poll for TIME Person of the Year

Narendra Modi received more than 16% of almost five million votes cast

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi became the winner of this year's reader poll for TIME Person of the Year. Time magazine wrote on its website "Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who entered office this year on the promise of reviving the country's economy, is the winner of this year's reader poll for TIME Person of the Year". In the final tally, Shri Modi received more than



16% of the almost 5 million votes cast. Protesters who took to the streets in Ferguson, Mo., after the police shooting of an unarmed black teenager finished second with 9%. Hong Kong protest leader Joshua Wong, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Malala Yousafzai and the doctors and nurses treating Ebola rounded out the top five. A majority of votes, 60%, came from desktop computers. Just over 35% came from mobile devices, and 4.5% of readers voted on tablets. ■

Narendra Modi second in list of 30 top-performing world leaders

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was placed No 2, behind Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a list of 30 top-performing world leaders by a Japanese market research firm. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was on the third place in the list that also measured the confidence of citizens in their leaders. The survey of more than 26,000 respondents, conducted this fall by Tokyo-based GMO Research rated Xi, Shri Modi, and Merkel the top-performing world leaders, with scores of 7.5, 7.3, and 7.2 respectively on a scale of one to 10. The survey results were published by Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Centre for Democratic Governance and Innovation, and were analyzed by Anthony Saich, a China expert at the school. The top three were followed by French President Francois Hollande (6.3), Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (6.1), and Putin (6.0) at the bottom. Obama (6.6) received middling marks, just ahead of British Prime Minister David Cameron (6.5). In regards to the confidence citizens have in how their leaders handle domestic and international affairs, Xi topped the list in both categories at 94.8 per cent and 93.8 per cent respectively, with Modi slightly trailing behind with 93.2 per cent and 93.3 per cent respectively. ■