



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes its esteemed reader a
Happy Republic Day
26 January 2015



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When one attains the precious mercy of the Ultimate Personality; certainly the end of all miseries occurs and very soon this happy minded person has his spiritual intelligence fully established.
— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 65)

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"Development & good governance are the only ways ahead. Together, let us make a positive impact in people's lives & create a developed India"

-Narendra Modi

"Congress government is a 'non-performing, corrupt and defunct' entity that has failed in law and order as well as governance."

-Amit Shah

on Congress Govt. in Karnataka

Makarsankranti / Pongal : January 14, 2015

Makar Sankranti is one of the most auspicious day for the Hindus, and is celebrated with great devotion, fervor and gaiety. It is a major harvest festival celebrated in every part of India. On this day the sun ends its southward journey (Dakshinayana) at the Tropic of Capricorn, and starts moving northward (Uttarayaana) towards the Tropic of Cancer, in the month of Pausha on this day in mid-January. It falls on the 14th of January every year according to the Solar Calendar. Lakhs of people take dip in places like Ganga Sagar and Prayag and other holy places of the country.



Makar Sankranti is celebrated with pomp in southern parts of the country as Pongal, and in Punjab it is celebrated as Lohri and Maghi. In Peethas of Lord Jagannath and Maa Tara Tarini in Odisha this festival is observed as Makara/Nabanki and 'Uttarayana Yatra'.

In Uttar Pradesh, Makar Sankrant is called Khichiri. Taking a dip in the holy rivers on this day is regarded as most auspicious. A big one-month long Magha-Mela fair begins at Prayag (Allahabad) on this occasion. Apart from Triveni, ritual bathing also takes place at many holy places of the country.

In Bengal every year a very big Mela is held on this occasion at Ganga Sagar where it is believed that Maharaja Bhagiratha, performed great penance to bring the Ganga down to the earth for the redemption of 60,000 sons of Maharaj Sagar, who were burnt to ashes at the Kapil Muni Ashram, near the present day Ganga Sagar. It was on this day that Bhagirath finally did *Tarpan* with the Ganges water for his unfortunate ancestors and thereby liberated them from the curse.

In Gujarat on the Makar Sankrant there is a custom of giving gifts to relatives and kite flying. The Gujarati Pundits on this auspicious day grant scholarships to students for higher studies in astrology and philosophy. Kite flying has also been associated with this festival in a big way in Gujarat ■



NITI Aayog for transforming India

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been constituted. It has replaced Planning Commission of India. It is a major policy initiative which is set to transform the decision making process while matching the new aspirations of the people. India is today an emerging nation as one of the largest world economies requiring major policy related inputs with global vision and initiatives to transform itself into a world leader. NITI Aayog is expected to work in this direction through its high level expertise and innovative methods and approach.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had declared from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2014 that a new institution was on the anvil to replace the Planning Commission. The announcement was welcomed by almost every section of the society. It was seen as a great reformative step forward which may result in streamlining the government mechanism in line of the new challenges that our country face today. Planning Commission was seen as an old institution which had outlived its utility. Formed on 15th of March, 1950 through a Cabinet Resolution it emerged as an important institution in planning and disbursement of funds to the states drawing mainly from the idea of five year planning of Soviet regime. While it was expected to give a new fillip of development activities in the country it started getting submerged in red-tapism and authoritarianism. Its style of functioning often invited charges of over-centralization and politicization of fund disbursement. But the main point was that Planning Commission was no longer finding itself relevant in the changed circumstances where the world economy was getting increasingly globalised. It has not been able to measure up to the rising aspiration of the people and federal structure of our country.

Contrary to the principles of over-centralization ingrained in the mandate given to the Planning Commission the NITI Aayog is set to function on the principles of cooperative federalism giving states much needed room for taking policy initiatives in accordance of its specific needs and circumstances. Apart from this it aims at ensuring citizen's engagement, egalitarian access of opportunities, participative and adaptive governance and increasing use of technology. India as an emergent economy has to position itself globally while dealing with a plethora of new technological and strategic changes which is sweeping across the world. The fast changing world in an era of digital connectivity and communication revolution calls for an institution which may be able to keep pace with the changing world by dint of its innovative capabilities and commitment to deliver highly advanced solutions while making the tempo of developmental process highly adaptive and participative. In such a scenario NITI Aayog is expected to work as a 'Think Tank' functioning as a directional and policy dynamo of the government. The government while constituting NITI Aayog to give institutional framework for policy making expects that it " will provide Governments at the central and state levels with relevant strategic and technical advice across the spectrum of key elements of policy, this includes matters of national and international import on the economic front, dissemination of best practices from within the country as well as from

other nations, the infusion of new policy ideas and specific issue-based support”.

The country has moved away from the Nehruvian Model of economy which is now not able to match up to the emerging realities of the global economic scenario. Planning Commission was formed in line with the requirements of Nehruvian economic model and so its relevance was always doubted by the experts. The decision to replace it with NITI Aayog is not only a bold policy initiative, it will lead to major changes in the decision making process and approach at looking at various dimensions of the economy. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi should be congratulated for taking initiatives that may usher in the era of fast pace of development through highly capable institution like NITI Aayog with the focus on enabling and empowering our people. ■

Niti Aayog replaces Planning Commission

The government on January 1 replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission, a departure from the chronic bureaucratic era of Nehru, with a NITI Aayog or National Institution for Transforming India, marking a major shift in policymaking by involving states. To be headed by PM Narendra Modi, the new body will



“Through NITI Aayog, we bid farewell to a 'one size fits all' approach towards development. The body celebrates India's diversity and plurality,” Shri Modi tweeted.

have a governing council comprising CMs of all states and Lt Governors of Union Territories and will work towards fostering “co-operative federalism” for providing a “national agenda” to the Centre and states.

The new body, which will remain at its predecessor’s address in Lutyens’ Delhi, will have a vice-chairperson and CEO. The NITI Aayog, which will serve as a policy think-tank for the central and state governments, will have 7-8 full-time members and two part-time members, while four Union ministers will serve as ex-officio members. The two part-time members will be from leading universities and research organizations, number of full-time members has not been specified. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed Indian-American economist Arvind Panagariya as the first vice chairman of the Niti Aayog. Economist Bibek Debroy and former Defence Research and Development Organisation chief VK Saraswat were appointed as full-time members by the Prime Minister, who will be the chairman of the body, according to a release issued on January 5. Union ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Arun Jaitley, Shri Suresh Prabhu and Shri Radha Mohan Singh will be ex-officio members while Shri Nitin Gadkari, Smt. Smriti Irani and Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot will be special invitees to the institution that aims to embark on a “Bharatiya approach to development” to transform India.

Born on September 30, 1952, Panagariya is a professor of economics at New York’s Columbia University, a former chief economist at Asian Development Bank and has also worked with International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organisation and World Bank.

Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge would also be part of NITI Aayog as “special invitees nominated by the PM”. PM Narendra Modi who announced the dismantling of Planning Commission in his maiden Independence Day speech last year, hailed the replacement in a series of tweets, saying the inclusion of CMs and LGs will “foster a spirit of cooperative federalism”. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his maiden Independence day speech last year had announced the dismantling of the Planning Commission, hailed the move in various tweets. ■

UPA had pushed nation into inflation and high prices : Amit Shah

From Our Correspondent

In his maiden visit to Odisha BJP National President Shri Amit Shah came down heavily on the previous Congress led UPA government at the Centre for taking the nation to years back.

Addressing a massive Maha Sangram Rally held in Bhubaneswar on 06 January Shri Shah kept up the party's attack on Congress for raising questions about the December 31 Pakistani boat interception and asked whether the opposition party is contesting

elections in Pakistan.

"Mujhe lagta hai Congress ko maloom nehin hai ki unko chunao Pakistan mein ladna

month rule, the Congress leaders should first give the account of Congress party's 60-year rule in the country.



BJP's 'Prachar Rath' for 'Mahasangram' rally

The State BJP on 04 January 2015 rolled out five 'Prachar Raths' in the city to mobilise people to attend the public meeting of its national president Shri Amit Shah on January 6.

The campaign vehicles were flagged off at the State party office by State general secretary (organization) Shri Prasanna Mishra and urge people to attend the 'Mahasangram' rally.

The raths displayed posters of the party's campaign aimed at ousting the BJD Government by highlighting the series of scams that rocked the State during its rule.

hai yaa Hindustan mein. (I feel Congress doesn't know whether it would fight elections in Pakistan or India)," Shri Shah said. "Rahul Baba is asking us for a report card on what we have done during last six months. I ask you, first to give a report card on what your family has done in the last 60 years that your family ruled the country?"

Coming down heavily on Gandhi, Shri Shah said instead of asking Shri Modi to give an account of its six-

Shri Shah asked Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi to restrain party spokespersons from making reckless remarks on sensitive matters, and said it is the main opposition's duty to boost the morale of security personnel rather than raising doubts on the government's efforts to curb terrorism.

He said the faulty policies of UPA government had pushed the nation into inflation and high prices, adding petrol and diesel

prices have come down by as much Rs 10 during six months rule of BJP government.

Hitting out at Congress for raising questions on the security forces' operation in the Arabian Sea, BJP National President said it was the opposition party's "duty" to boost the morale of defence personnel instead of finding faults with the NDA government's efforts to curb terror. "I will like to ask the Congress from where they fight elections. India or Pakistan?"

The BJP President lauded the Coast Guard and the defence intelligence wing for saving the country from another terrorist attack via the water route. Noteworthy, in a mid-sea operation on New Year's night, a suspected Pakistani fishing boat carrying explosives was intercepted by the Coast Guard in the Arabian Sea but caught fire and exploded with all four crew members on board.

Saying that about 350 people were killed when Pakistani terrorists landed on the coast near Mumbai in 2009 and launched an attack on the city, Shri Amit Shah insisted that

BJP National President Amit Shah becomes Active Member from Odisha

Sri Amit Shah has officially become active member from the state of Odisha. In a specially arranged ceremony for membership campaign held at Dhauli, Sri Shah inducted 129 primary members and confirmed his active membership. No doubt it is a golden privilege and pride for the state.

In his address to people Sri Shah said that Sri Narendra Modiji the Prime



Minister of India has launched membership campaign at New Delhi on 1st November 2014 and till now 3 crores 20 lakhs primary members have registered their names. Any primary member would become an active member registering hundred primary members. Only active members would be assigned organizational responsibilities and hold different portfolios of the party. So he requested each and every activist of the party must be an active member. He also expressed his pleasure that he could become an active member in such a historic place like Dhauli.

Sri Shah advised people to go to villages and start vigours campaigning to meet 40 lakhs membership target in the state. As Modiji has given a call to nation for development and good governance. We the people of Odisha must be associated with his journey and through such process we can develop the state and extend our service to the poorest of the poor. Sri Shah also expected his positive hope to make the state as the number one in the country and all round development would be possible only if BJP comes to power. To meet such destination we must strengthen BJP organization in the state.

As I am informed today, 56 thousand people have become primary members yesterday he told. He also expressed his gratitude to those 129 primary members made him an active member in such a place with great historic important.

Sri K.V SinghDeo State President of BJP extended his indebtedness to Amit Shah for accepting active membership from Odisha. He also expected to achieve the target of 40 lakh membership in stipulated time and hoped the bright future of the state under BJP rule at centre and in the state in future.

Sri Shiv Prakashji, Rastriya Saha Sangathan Mantri, Union Minister Sri Jual Oram, Sri Dharmendra Pradhan, Sri Arun Singh, National Secretary and State Prabhari, Sri Pratap Sadangi, State Vice-President, Surma Padhee Ex-Minister, Pruthwiraj Harichandan, Sameer Mohanty, Spokes Person, Bhruhugubuxi Patra, State Secretary, Amiya Das District President, Bhubaneswar and Dillip Mohanty etc attended the function. ■

the Narendra Modi government at the Centre was determined to foil any attack. "They (Pakistan) fire bullets from across the border, but the nature of India's response under the NDA government has changed. We are giving a fitting reply.

"Earlier, they (Pakistan) used to open fire first and they ended it too. But now, we end the firing," Shri Shah said.

Making remarks on the scams in the State, Shri Shah said Odisha is poor though it is rich in natural resources as the yield is reaped by Delhi. Now, the new mines auction policy of the Centre will benefit states like Odisha and Jharkhand, he claimed, adding that the margin from the auction can be spent by the State government for the welfare of the poor.

"Odisha is abundant in natural resources. Yet the state itself has become underdeveloped and Odisha can become No 1 state in the country", Shri Amit Shah said. He said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has decided to ensure the development of the resource rich eastern states like Odisha and Jharkhand.

Calling on the people to take advantage of the Modi government's 'Make in India' policy, Shri Shah said such initiative would generate massive employment opportunities in the country in the coming days. He also lauded the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* which eradicated the 'financial untouchability' in the country.

Among others Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha State President Shri KV Singh Deo and all other senior leaders were present on the occasion. ■

BJP will form government on its own in Odisha

BJP National president Shri Amit Shah on January 07 exuded confidence that the party would form the government on its own in Odisha in future. Addressing a press conference he said, "As far as the BJP's performance in Odisha is concerned, the party has been very successful in raising people's issues. Organizational capability of the party is being strengthened.

I am confident that party will secure a majority in the coming Assembly elections and form the government on its own," said Shri Shah, concluding his two-day-long visit to Odisha. "We will not require support of the Biju Janata Dal. We will take the fight to its logical end," he said.

"In the past 14 years, Odisha has not developed as compared to other States. The rate of growth has dropped. Although Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ruled with brute majority, he could not achieve the growth as was expected," the BJP president said. In the Chit-fund scam, more than 10 lakh people lost their hard-earned money, while those in power pocketed money generated out of the scam, he said. ■

Raosaheb Patil Danve is new Maharashtra BJP President

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah appointed Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve as the new BJP President of Maharashtra. Shri Danve (59) succeeds Devendra Fadnavis, who has since become the state Chief Minister after the party's stunning victory in the assembly elections. Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve is the MP from Jalna Parliamentary constituency in the state. He is at present Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. ■



“Development & good governance are the only ways ahead”, says the Prime Minister

From Our Correspondent

Asserting that development and good governance are the only ways ahead, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 25 visited his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi as part of nation-wide Good Governance Day celebrations being held by his government.

All MPs of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which Shri Modi had steered to a comprehensive victory in the general elections earlier this year, have been asked to be in their respective Parliamentary constituencies for ‘Sushasan Diwas’ and the Prime Minister through his own visit has sought to lead by example. “Development & good governance are the only ways ahead. Together, let us make a positive impact in people’s lives & create a developed India,” the PM tweeted ahead of his visit.

The Prime Minister’s aircraft landed at the Babatpur airport on the outskirts of the city at around noon where he was received by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and state minister Ahmed Hasan.

Shri Modi visited Banaras Hindu University, founded by Pandit Mohan Malaviya whose name was announced

for conferment of the highest civilian honour – the Bharat Ratna. Significantly, December 25, is also the 153rd birth anniversary of the renowned educationist.

During his day-long tour, his second to Varanasi after becoming the Prime Minister,

the nation a modern, air-conditioned passenger train engine and inaugurated a project for expansion of the DLW.

Among others Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu, Union HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, Minister of State



Shri Modi participated in the cleanliness drive as part of ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ at the Assi Ghat along the river Ganga and in some lanes in nearby residential localities.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated an Inter-University Centre for Teachers’ Education inside the BHU premises.

Shri Narendra Modi also visited the Diesel Locomotive Works on the outskirts of the city where he dedicated to

for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha, MoS for Culture Shri Mahesh Sharma and state BJP president Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai were also present on the occasion.

Modi at Assi Ghat

Taking forward his Swachh Bharat campaign, Shri Modi revisited his constituency and lauded people for helping rid the Assi Ghat of mounds of soil and garbage to restore the historical site to its old glory.

PM at Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching at the Swatantrata Bhawan in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.



Speaking on the occasion, he described the land of Kashi, as one which gave us “Shiksha Ki Sanskriti” (a culture of education). We need to introspect whether we are losing this culture of education, the Prime Minister said. He said the education system is not meant to produce robots, but to develop a holistic humanist vision (Poorna Maanav Mann) along with science and technology.

Whenever humanity has entered the age of knowledge, India has played the role of Vishvaguru, the Prime Minister said, adding that the 21st century is therefore an age of immense responsibility for India, as the world is again entering the age of knowledge.

The Prime Minister said “good education” is in great demand across the world and among all sections of society.

He said India’s youth can fulfil this global requirement of teachers, if they are trained effectively.

He said if a teacher goes abroad, he benefits and captures the imagination of an entire generation. He said the Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching is a step in this direction.

The Prime Minister also unveiled the plaque of the Inter-University Centre, and launched the Campus Connect wi-fi of Banaras Hindu University by remote control. ■

In the holy city to mark the Good Governance Day, he supervised the cleanliness campaign and also nominated various people and organisations to join the ‘Swachh Bharat (clean India)’ campaign launched by his government on Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday on October 2 last.

Shri Modi on November 8 had wielded a spade to remove silt deposited at the ghat along the banks of the Ganga as part of his clean India campaign. “People, social organizations,

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Varanasi Mahotsav launched

The Prime Minister also launched the Varanasi Mahotsav. He gave away prizes to six craftsmen under the YUKTI initiative. Speaking about this initiative, the Prime Minister said it will make it possible to skill our craftsmen through the use of appropriate technology interventions.

The Prime Minister said events such as the Varanasi Mahotsav would help boost tourism. He called upon schools and educational institutions of Varanasi to develop expertise in various aspects of Varanasi’s rich culture, which would help them contribute towards drawing the attention of tourists visiting Varanasi. He said tourists would come to Varanasi, because of its ancient heritage, but would stay only if the people of Varanasi made the effort to showcase that heritage.

Describing the strength of India’s heritage, the Prime Minister spoke of the recent adoption of International Yoga Day by the United Nations. He said a record number of 177 countries had supported India’s resolution, and it had been adopted within a record time of 90 days.

The Prime Minister exhorted artists and poets to touch upon contemporary issues such as “swachhta” (cleanliness) and the welfare of the girl child, so that greater awareness is generated about these vital subjects, in the society.

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municipal corporation and state government have played an important role and we are seeing today that the ghat, which was full of soil, is now back to its old beauty along side Mother Ganga," he said in a brief address.

The Prime Minister nominated for the campaign Nagaland Governor Padmanabha Acharya, former IPS officer and activist Kiran Bedi, former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly, comedian Kapil Sharma, classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, Ramoji Rao of Eenadu group and Aroon Purie of India Today group. He had nominated some people during his last visit as well. In a first, he also nominated some organizations which included Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Eenadu and India Today groups besides 'dabbewale' of Mumbai, who deliver home-made food to lakhs of people in the city. ■

Indian Railways would not be privatized

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi declared categorically that the Indian Railways would not be privatized. He was addressing a gathering in Varanasi after the commencement of expansion of the Diesel Locomotive Works.

He asserted that his aim was to ensure that the modernization and growth of railways is facilitated through private investment, and not through public funds which are the property of the poor, and should be used to fulfil their basic needs including health and education. He said private investment would be used to modernize Railways and make it service-oriented, so that it could become an engine of growth for the nation. Shri Narendra Modi said 4 rail universities would be established to ensure proper and well-trained human resource for the Railways. He said the Railways should not be seen as just a means of transport, but should become the backbone of economic development. He exhorted Railway workers to ensure that the best service in India is provided by the Indian Railways. The Prime Minister, who earlier flagged off the new high horsepower diesel locomotive, described this as an example of India's indigenous capabilities, and an illustration of his vision of Make in India. He recalled former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" and said the slogan had inspired farmers to make India self-reliant in food production. He expressed hope that "Make in India" would inspire us to become self reliant in all our needs.

The Prime Minister also said the postal and railway networks of India could be leveraged to become drivers of rural development. The Union Minister for Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu, was present on the occasion. ■

UTTAR PRADESH

UP BJP demands EC to take cognizance of allegation by BSP's former Co-Ordinator

The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that Election Commission should take cognizance of allegation leveled by Bahujan Samaj Party's former co-ordinator that tickets for elections were up for sale in the party. "This is a serious allegation that BSP tickets for parliamentary and assembly elections came with a price tag. The Election Commission should probe these allegations because these are detrimental to the democracy," BJP spokesman Shri Vijay Bahadur Pathak said in Lucknow 06 January 2015. He said as the allegations have been leveled by a former senior leader Jugal Kishore who was party's coordinator these cannot be ignored. Meanwhile, BJP leaders led by party's State President Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai held demonstration outside Noida office demanding a CBI probe against Yadav Singh. Dr. Bajpai also gave a 25-point charter of demand to Noida officials seeking details about corruption of Yadav Singh. "If we do not get any reply within 15 days, the BJP will launch an agitation," Dr. Bajpai declared. ■

The Vindication of Amit Shah

By Arun Jaitley

CBI Special Court at Mumbai has discharged Amit Shah, the BJP President, of all charges relating to a case of his involvement in the alleged killing of Soharabuddin and Tulsi Prajapati. I have been following this case actively from the time of its investigation, filing of charges, arrest of Amit Shah and grant of bail to him. I had written a letter on 27th September 2013 to the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in my capacity as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. The letter pertains to misuse of CBI against BJP leadership. In the letter, I had written with regard to these two cases as under:

Soharabuddin Encounter case

The encounter in which one Sohrabudin Sheikh was killed was an operation allegedly directed by the Intelligence Bureau of the Central Government. It has been a practice that when the Intelligence Bureau processes and develops intelligence, it keeps vigilance on the target. Thereafter when an opportunity arises to arrest the target the State police is associated with the operation. Sohrabudin was a noted mafia who operated in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and

The encounter in which one Sohrabudin Sheikh was killed was an operation allegedly directed by the Intelligence Bureau of the Central Government. It has been a practice that when the Intelligence Bureau processes and develops intelligence, it keeps vigilance on the target. Thereafter when an opportunity arises to arrest the target the State police is associated with the operation. Sohrabudin was a noted mafia who operated in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and was carrying prize on his head in Madhya Pradesh. He was an illegal weapon dealer. He had also been convicted under TADA.

Rajasthan and was carrying prize on his head in Madhya Pradesh. He was an illegal weapon dealer. He had also been convicted under TADA. The search conducted by Madhya Pradesh police at his premises at village Jharnia, District Ujjain had yielded more than 40 AK-56 rifles, hundreds of AK-56 cartridges and hundreds of hand grenades. He was an absconder from the police agencies of various state

governments.

After his encounter on 24/25-11-2005 his brother filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court. The filing of the said petition was also sponsored by Congress Party. The then Addl. Solicitor General of India, Shri Gopal Subramaniam in a pre-conceived and planned move, appeared on day one before the Court and agreed to take instructions from the Central Government. Subsequently, the Attorney General appeared for the Union of India and Gopal Subramaniam designated himself as Amicus Curiae without any specific order of the court appointing him. The Government of India conceded that the investigations be handed over to the CBI. Though the Central Government should be a mere formal party, the then Attorney General used to appear and oppose even motion for adjournments. Since objections were raised with regard to the fairness of the CBI, the Supreme Court ordered investigations by a team of Gujarat Police officers of the State Police under its supervision. The State police reconstructed the encounter, conducted scientific investigation under supervision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and implicated and arrested

several police officers including three IPS officers. Upon hearing the arguments of the Union of India and Shri Gopal Subramaniam, the amicus curiae and others, the Supreme Court referred the matter to the CBI. The ground on which the Supreme Court transferred the case to the CBI was that the investigation involved inter-state ramifications and the Andhra Pradesh angle of the matter had not been probed. As a matter of fact the Congress Government in Andhra Pradesh did not cooperate in the investigation by Gujarat police which is a matter of record.

The CBI investigated the case but did not investigate any of the four points, on the basis of which the case was referred to the CBI, which were the points found lacking in Gujarat police investigation. It did not probe the Andhra Pradesh angle of the case seriously. The probable purpose of the CBI in this case was to try and implicate the political establishment of Gujarat, setting aside the pretence of federal character of India's governance. The CBI targeted Shri Amit Shah, the then Home Minister and also the Minister of Law, Transport & Parliamentary Affairs of the State of Gujarat with the ultimate desire of implicating Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Shockingly, when the Legal department of the CBI

opined that there was no case against Shri Amit Shah, the same was responded to by the Supervisory Officer of CBI, putting up a "Note" by observing that the arrest of Amit Shah would enable the CBI to get some more witnesses particularly the police officers since they would then feel intimidated. He also opined that arresting Amit Shah was necessary since it was necessary to reach the eventual target of

criminal antecedents and criminal cases in Gujarat. These two witnesses were felicitated for having given such a deposition against Shri Amit Shah in a function presided over by Shri Shankersinh Waghela, the then President of Gujarat Congress. The testimony of these two witnesses is based upon the alleged extortion from them to help them in PASA detention. The record of the Gujarat Government

The CBI arrested Amit Shah with no prosecutable evidence against him. In order to arrest Amit Shah they relied on the false testimony of two witnesses namely, Ramanbhai Patel and Dashrathbhai Patel, noted land grabbers of Gujarat. Shri Amit Shah, as per the CBI theory in the Charge Sheet, is alleged to have told both of them six months after the encounter that Sohrabudin had left no option for himself.

investigation of Narendra Modi. This note was approved by the Director, CBI, Shri Ashwani Kumar.

The CBI arrested Amit Shah with no prosecutable evidence against him. In order to arrest Amit Shah they relied on the false testimony of two witnesses namely, Ramanbhai Patel and Dashrathbhai Patel, noted land grabbers of Gujarat. Shri Amit Shah, as per the CBI theory in the Charge Sheet, is alleged to have told both of them six months after the encounter that Sohrabudin had left no option for himself. This was incorporated as an extra judicial confession. It is noteworthy that both Ramanbhai Patel and Dashrathbhai Patel have

shows that no detention of these persons under PASA was never in contemplation. Said two witnesses also claimed that they have paid a sum of Rs. 75 lacs to Shri Amit Shah through one Ajay Patel in three different installments with specific dates mentioned by them in their statement. They gave the specific dates of payments on which they allegedly physically handed over the alleged amount to Shri Ajay Patel. They further claimed that they were there through all the dates. This testimony is false without any further probe inter alia on the ground that on some of the dates Ajay Patel was not even in India and his passport establishes this fact. This was a key substance of a frivolous

charge sheet filed against Shri Amit Shah. Shri Amit Shah was granted bail on this charge sheet by the Gujarat High Court by a detailed speaking order inter alia holding that there is no prima facie case against Shri Amit Shah. The CBI, however, challenged the said order and upon the request of the CBI, the Supreme Court ordered Shri Amit Shah to remain out of Gujarat and all political

touch with one police officer Shri R.K. Pandian, IPS who was an accused in the case. The vast contemporaneous record shows that Shri R.K.Pandian, IPS had been regularly in telephonic contact of Shri Amit Shah much before and after the incident as a part of his official duty since he was also heading the charge of SP, IB (Intelligence) of the State Police looking after political agitations and

Shah once again just few months before the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections which were scheduled to be held before December, 2012. Shri Amit Shah had to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide its order date 08-04-2013 held that no separate charge sheet could be filed in this case since CBI itself had alleged that both the cases were similar and it merged the charge sheet with the Sohrabudin case charge sheet thereby preventing the CBI arresting Shri Amit Shah once again.

Tulsi Prajapati and the arrest of Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, former Home Minister Rajasthan

Shri Gulab Chand Kataria is the former Home Minister of Rajasthan and the present Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and a very important leader of Rajasthan BJP. He is a complete stranger to even the existence of such persons known as Sohrabudin and Tulsi Prajapati. The CBI filed a supplementary charge sheet against Gulab Kataria wherein it was alleged that the motive of elimination of Tulsi Prajapati by Gulab Kataria was extorting money from marble dealers of Rajasthan namely RK Marbles. As per the CBI there were two motives; one the Gujarat Police wanted to eliminate him in order to eliminate the eye-witness in the Sohrabudin case and the Home Minister

Tulsi Prajapati was a case built up by the CBI as an extension to the Sohrabudin case. The CBI solicited the investigation of this case by making a specific prayer in the Court. Their ostensible case was that Tulsi Prajapati was a witness to the arrest and disappearance of Sohrabudin while in custody of the police officers and correspondingly he was eliminated by the Gujarat Police.

activities. He remained outside the State of Gujarat for a period of two years. The said order of the High Court was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Tulsi Prajapati encounter

Tulsi Prajapati was a case built up by the CBI as an extension to the Sohrabudin case. The CBI solicited the investigation of this case by making a specific prayer in the Court. Their ostensible case was that Tulsi Prajapati was a witness to the arrest and disappearance of Sohrabudin while in custody of the police officers and correspondingly he was eliminated by the Gujarat Police. The only evidence mentioned against Shri Amit Shah by the CBI in this case was that he was regularly in

political activities. Any Home Minister of any State will have to necessarily remain in touch with SP, IB (Intelligence) of the State Police looking after political agitations and political activities since he had to keep himself informed about the activities on a regular basis. Without a point of evidence a separate Charge Sheet was filed against Shri Amit Shah in the Tulsi Prajapati case. Very importantly, though the CBI was under the direction of the Supreme Court to complete the investigation of Tulsi Prajapati case within 6 months from 11-04-2011, the CBI deliberately and as a part of political conspiracy did not obey the direction and filed the Charge Sheet on 04-09-2012 so as to arrest Shri Amit

of Rajasthan wanted to eliminate him for extorting money from marble dealers. What a co-incidence. It was alleged by the CBI that Shri Gulab Chand Kataria allegedly met one Shri D. G Vanjara, IPS of Gujarat Police allegedly between 26/12/2005 and 28/12/2005 at the Circuit House at Udaipur. The CBI evidence of his presence was that PS of Shri Gulab Chand Kataria was staying in the same Circuit House during that period and Shri D.G.Vanzara, IPS also stayed in the said Circuit House. However, records of the Rajasthan Government conclusively establish that Shri Gulab Chand Kataria along with his wife had flown on 25/12/2005 to Mumbai and stayed there till 2/1/2006. He attended the meeting of the BJP National Executive and thereafter a meeting of the National Council and after celebrating New Year along with his wife, returned to Jaipur on 2/1/2006."

It is clear from the above that the charges were filed against Amit Shah at the behest of the then political Government. There was legally no admissible evidence against him. Amit Shah's application for discharge was opposed both by the CBI and Sohrabuddin's brother. The court heard both their lawyers'. The charge was without any basis. The fact that the CBI allowed itself to be misused is a cause for concern.

Since I had analysed the alleged evidence, both during investigation and after the filing of the charge sheet, I was amongst the few voices which had consistently maintained in the past three years that the prosecution of Amit Shah was a case of "No Evidence". Without analysing the evidence in detail, the media allowed itself to report as was briefed by CBI. Even a vital noting on the CBI file that the implication of Amit Shah was necessary so that the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi could be implicated, was no news for them. I am relieved at the fact that we have an independent judicial system in India which has vindicated Amit Shah. ■

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

MADHYA PRADESH

Vision Document should be key to budget plans : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

At a joint review meeting in Bhopal on 06 January 2015 Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan directed that budgetary proposals of departments should be chalked out in accordance with the State Government's Vision Document and *Sankalp Patra*. Ministers should review budgetary proposals themselves. He urged to work with renewed vigour and energy in the New Year.

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will now undertake joint quarterly meetings along with Ministers and top officers for departmental review. Ministers, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and Secretaries attended the meeting. The marathon meeting lasted from 12 noon till late in the evening. The next joint meeting will be held in April.

Shri Chouhan said that investment promotion is top priority of the State Government. For this, all departments should work with positive mindset. He himself meets investors every Monday. Now, he will follow up directives given at three previous Mondays on the last Monday of the month. All departments should chalk out roadmap of works done in accordance with Vision Document during 2015-16. Revenue earning departments must make intensive efforts for meeting targets during next quarter. All departments should fill up necessary vacancies immediately for Simhastha-2016.

The Chief Minister said that a roadmap should be chalked out within two weeks to ensure action on the points identified by the Central Government under Ease of Doing Business. The State Government has identified 68 points for simplification of procedures. All departments should work towards *Swachhh Bharat Abhiyan* with self-motivation.

All Ministers and officers should make farmers aware about methods to save crops from frost and inspect arrangements to deal with cold wave in their respective areas. ■

Congress Govt in Karnataka is non-performing, corrupt and defunct : Amit Shah

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President, Shri Amit Shah, addressed a press conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 3rd January 2015. On this occasion Shri Shah appealed to people to join hands with BJP to ensure Congress free Karnataka. Shri Shah said that Karnataka's economy has crippled under the misrule of the Congress.

of Karnataka to join BJP is overwhelming. Almost 20 thousand people are becoming members of BJP each day. BJP will achieve its target of one crore members in the state by March 2015.

Shri Shah said that Terrorism is a threat that the entire nation and the world has been subject to it in the recent years and the

responsible. We however do not wish to politicize acts of terrors and believe that we as a civil society, as a nation, as Indians need to fight terrorism unitedly. I also offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased Smt. Bhavani.

Shri Shah said that the Congress Govt in Karnataka is a non-performing, corrupt, defunct proving to be an abysmal failure in matters of governance & law & order. The mandate of the people is being squandered by the Siddaramiah led congress government. He said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led NDA government on very first day of the year 2015 has gifted the NITI Ayog to nation. The NITI Ayog will replace Planning Commission. Based on the concept of 'Cooperative Federalism', NITI Ayog will have all the Chief Ministers of states and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories as members on its governing council. It will work as a 'Team India'.

Shri Shah further stated that the government has recommended promulgation of three important ordinances to implement long pending economic reforms and remove the impediments in way of development. One of these ordinances is The Right to Fair Compensation and



Under BJP rule Karnataka's growth rate was more than 10 percent which has now come down around five percent. Shri Shah said that after Congress coming to power the youths of Karnataka have become unemployed. The condition of farmers also is very poor and 77 percent agricultural households are indebted. He said that enthusiasm of people

otherwise peaceful Bengaluru has been shocked and shaken by the recent incident of terrorist violence/blast on Church Street on 29th Dec 2014. Our central Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singhji has swiftly responded to the situation by immediately taking the initiative of calling the CM & offering NIA assistance in probing the incident and nabbing those

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014. This important ordinance will ensure higher compensation for farmers and speedy land acquisition for the infrastructure projects. Shri Shah later informed that, the government has issued Insurance Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 which will raise FDI limit from 26 percent to 49 percent in insurance sector. Insurance Bill had been pending for several years in parliament. NDA government tried to pass it during winter session but the opposition hindered it in Rajya Sabha.

Shri Shah during the press conference elaborated that the government has issued The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second ordinance 2014, which will ensure the fair auctioning of the coal blocks. This ordinance was necessitated after the historic verdict of the Supreme Court in Coal Scam. Government tried to pass it during winter session. Fact is 'The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014' was introduced and passed from the Lok Sabha, where government has a majority but the opposition stalled this in Rajya Sabha, where government fell short of numbers. Thus, the obstructionist role assumed by the opposition parties proved their anti-people and anti-development character. If this bill were passed, poor

states like Jharkhand and West Bengal would have received the maximum benefit.

BJP National President further emphasized that the government raised FDI limit in Defense to 49 percent and Railways to 100 percent to attract foreign investors. Beside this, FDI policy for Construction and pharmaceutical sectors would be further liberated. Shri Shah during the conference informed that as a result of the liberal policies of Modi Government FDI equity inflows of US \$ 14.69 billion have been received during the financial year 2014-15 (i.e. April-September, 2014). This represents an increase of 17% over the FDI equity inflows of US\$ 12.59 billion received during the corresponding period (April 2013-September, 2013) of the previous financial year (2013-14). Shri Shah said that the government introduced Constitutional Amendment Bill during winter session of Parliament. This is necessary for implementation of GST. Government has made constitutional provision for the compensation for states in case of revenue loss due the implementation of GST in initial year.

Referring to the achievements of the government in first 7 months, Shri Shah said, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian economy is moving in

the path of high growth rate and gradually emerging from the slowdown. 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.

Shri Shah said that, the objective of NDA government is - 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'. With the welfare policies and regulations of the economy during the NDA rule a record decline in inflation in the past six months have been observed. 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 percent in November 2013 and 6.18 per cent in May 2014. Similarly, in November 2014 Consumer Price index came 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 further said that, with the decline in inflation, Petrol and diesel have become cheaper and all sections of society including farmers in villages are relieved. There is a considerable decline in non

subsidized LPG cylinders too which is a great relief to the poor and marginalized section of society. Low inflation has eased the debt and has created a favorable climate for investment and growth.

Shri Shah said that the government gave great relief to the working middle class after increasing the tax exemption limit to Rs 2.5 lakh for general taxpayers 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 has been increased. Making reference of the steps taken in the direction of pending economic reforms, Shri Shah emphasized, government has taken the important decisions regarding de regulation of diesel prices fixing the price of domestically produced natural gas. Shri Shah said that the government has introduced Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna under which the country has opened more than 10 crore bank accounts. With the help of this scheme financial inclusion and empowerment of poor has taken place as they can get rid of moneylenders. The target of the scheme is to open the account of every family. Shri Shah 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 organization will be spent for the benefit of the workers. Shri Shah said to provide basic services to the people, the government has approved Rs 43,000 crore for Deen Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna. Further, comprehensive reforms in the power sector have been on anvil.

Shri Shah said that the government has started the process to develop 100 new a world-class smart cities and Rs 7,060 crores 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 in this regard. Shri Shah 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 has been abolished. <http://attendance.gov.in/> has been initiated 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. Shri Shah said that, the perception about India is changing fast in the world. India is being praised in those countries where Shri Modii is travelling like anything. NDA government has taken steps in WTO to protect the interests of farmers and the poor in the developing countries, India has managed to keep its stand in their interest.

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 now ranked 85, which was 95 in previous year. These facts clearly show, in such a short period of six months, India has improved the credibility under the leadership of Shri Modi. ■

Digital connectivity should become a basic right

Excerpts from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's speech at the Indian Science Congress at Mumbai University on January 3, 2014.

When we speak of science and human development, we cannot divorce it from political decisions, social choices, and questions of equity, ethics and access. Human development has been the larger purpose and the driving force of Indian scientific pursuits. And science has helped shape modern India. At the dawn of freedom, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru placed science and technology at the heart of national development. Our scientists launched pioneering research and built outstanding institutions with modest resources that continue to serve us well. Since then, our scientists have placed us at the forefront of the world in many areas. Our scientists put Mangalyaan in the Mars orbit in the first attempt – I must congratulate K. Radhakrishnan's team – and their accurate prediction of Cyclone Hudhud which saved thousands of lives.

Our achievements give us pride, but they do not blind us to the enormous challenges that we face in India. We are at yet another moment of expectation and excitement, as we were at the birth of independent India. But the dreams we all share for India

will depend as much on science and technology as it will on policy and resources.

Our development challenges will naturally shape our strategic priorities in science and technology. Even as we focus on some

knowledge, systems and technologies, we may develop more appropriate, effective, affordable and sustainable solutions that contribute immensely to human development and progress.

When I speak of the ease



key areas, we should not confine research and development to a few predetermined paths. And it is as important to focus on basic research as on research and development and innovation. We should also recognise that science is universal, but technology can be local. If we incorporate traditional and local

of doing business in India, I also want to pay equal attention to the ease of doing research and development in India. Funding proposals must not take too long to clear; meeting application requirements should not become more complex than research; the approval process should not become a deterrent for international

conferences; and our scientific departments must have flexibility on funding decisions based on the uncertainties inherent in research activities. We want our scientists and researchers to explore the mysteries of science, not of government procedures. We want them to consider publications, not government approvals, to be the epitome of their success.

Our universities must be freed from the clutches of excessive regulation and cumbersome procedures. They must have a higher degree of academic freedom and autonomy and there should be as much emphasis on research as on teaching. In turn, universities must also subscribe to the highest academic and research standards and accountability. This includes thorough peer review.

Further, not just scientific departments, but every other department in the government should see how to apply science and technology and promote research to improve their work. Each should have an officer focusing on science and technology relating to its area of work and allocate a percentage of its budget for such activities. Investments in science and technology activities should also become part of the expenditure on corporate social responsibility – to be funded directly or through an autonomous fund.

We also need to foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions and across disciplines to take advantage of developments, innovation and expertise in diverse areas.

My impression is that this is far from the ideal in India. We have to place the university system at the cutting edge of research and development activities in the country. Our investments in science and technology are far too concentrated in the agencies of the Central government and must become more broadbased. Our universities must be freed

from the clutches of excessive regulation and cumbersome procedures. They must have a higher degree of academic freedom and autonomy and there should be as much emphasis on research as on teaching. In turn, universities must also subscribe to the highest academic and research standards and accountability. This includes thorough peer review.

India's pharmaceutical industry has carved out a place for itself in the world because it invests significantly in research. Indeed, our long-term global competitiveness will depend not on replicating what others have done but on a process of sustained development and innovation. There is a growing trend of international collaboration in R&D, not just among business

enterprises, but equally among researchers and scholars at universities and laboratories. We should take full advantage of this. For this reason, I have placed science and technology at the forefront of our diplomatic engagement.

I have often spoken of skill development for our youth. Our future will be secure and global leadership possible if we also prepare the next generation of world-class scientists, technologists and innovators. School education in science and mathematics should become more creative and stimulating.

Let us also use the internet to bring the best of our scientists in direct contact with our children and our youth. Digital connectivity should become as much a basic right as access to school.

We in India are the inheritors of a thriving tradition of Indian science and technology since ancient times. Mathematics and medicine, metallurgy and mining, calculus and textiles, architecture and astronomy – the contribution made by Indian civilisation to human knowledge and advancement has been rich and varied. Above all, we must restore the pride and prestige of science and scientists in our nation, revive the romance for science in society, rekindle the love for it in our children, and encourage our scientists to dream, imagine and explore. ■

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



Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee remains a towering figure in Indian politics. His contribution to Indian politics and public life is immense and he is an inspiration to large number of people. The nation has also celebrated 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 third part of the series is published below:

Commitment to Democracy

Democracy and secularism are inseparable. A state that discriminates between one citizen and another on grounds of their faith, which does not treat them equally, cannot claim to be truly democratic because one of the cardinal principles on which democracy is based is equality of all citizens. Our commitment to Secularism, therefore, is as fundamental as our commitment to Democracy.

Among those assembled at this convention, there are thousands who in 1975-76 put up a valiant fight in defence of democracy. They underwent all kinds of sufferings. Several colleagues of ours became martyrs in that struggle. Today, we can only offer them our respectful homage.

Distorted Secularism

It is a matter of regret that over the years, Congress policies have distorted the concept of Secularism. It has come to be identified simply with the protection of interests of religious minorities. Indeed, very often Secularism becomes only a

respectable garb for the appeasement of narrow communal or sectional interests.

True Secularism is Positive Concept

No doubt, protection of minority interests is an important aspect of secularism. But in its totality, secularism is a much wider and a more positive concept. As indicated earlier, it constitutes the bedrock of democracy. It is also a guarantee of nationalism and national integration.

It is this broad and positive concept of secularism that the BJP subscribes to. In the Indian background, we can claim to have established a truly secular State only if we are able to instil in every citizen, irrespective of his religion, caste, region or language, a sense of Indianness, which I believe exists in all our countrymen and which needs to be assiduously nurtured and strengthened. This Indianness is based on a value system developed out of a synthesis of divergent experiences of various sections of the population over the centuries. This process of synthesis and harmonisation must continue, and all religions in the country

can contribute towards making our citizens better Indian's and all Indians better human beings.

Twelve months of Failure

Twelve months have gone by. But in Delhi, the Government that works is still nowhere in sight.

There is a Parliament, of course. Its winter session has just ended. By putting its seal of approval to 10 Ordinances in 24 days, it has set up a new record. The Houses have been kept sitting till past mid-night in order to pass black Bills like the National Security Bill. On 14 August, 1947, Pandit Nehru had said in the Constituent Assembly; *"At the stroke of the midnight hour when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."*

New Chains of Slavery

On 22 December, 1980, when the Rajya Sabha, deliberating till 1.00 AM passed the National Security Bill, someone could well have observed: *"While all India is asleep, the elected representatives of the people, instead of devising ways to guarantee them two square meals, are engaged in forging new chains to enslave them."*

The Supreme Court also is there in its place. In the Minerva Mills case, it once again reaffirmed that there are in our Constitution some basic features which may not be tinkered with by Parliament. But Government is all set to have this verdict scrapped. The Supreme Court is being depicted as a roadblock on the path of progress. Quite a few vacancies on the Bench remain unfilled.

The Press generally is alive to its responsibilities. The demoniac blinding of undertrials in Bhagalpur may not have come to light if *The Indian Express* and *Sunday* had not shown the enterprise and boldness to expose these misdeeds.

Gagging of the Press

However, the newspaper world is gripped by an unarticulated fear—the fear of consequences that can follow non-conformist writing. The gherao of newspaper offices in Bangalore, and the mass rape, and murder of Chhabirani, wife of journalist Mahapatra of Orissa, convey

an ominous significance that cannot be missed. If bizarre happenings such as these are not sufficient to keep the press in line, New Delhi is always willing to use its arm-twisting skills against press barons to fix the newspapers.

Abuse of official Media

Abuse of governmental media such as radio and television, has now transgressed all bounds of decency. The role of radio and television during the years has made utter nonsense of government's pretensions about democracy. Our shortsighted rulers do not seem to realise that once these media lose credibility with the people, they cannot be effective even as drum-beaters of the ruling party, a task they have shamelessly undertaken.

Administrative Paralysis

In New Delhi today, there is a Government, but there is no administration. There is a Prime Minister, but one who has lost her grip. The secretariat is there as always, but the services seem struck by paralysis as it were. No decisions are being taken. No one is willing to own responsibility. Ministers wear a permanent look of nervousness, always fearful of the hour when they too might be shown the boot like Kamalapati Tripathi. The bureaucracy is demoralised, and feels apprehensive lest, for being upright in the performance of their duties, they should have to suffer humiliation or even imprisonment as DIG, CBI Shri N.K. Singh had to suffer.

Loyalists Rewarded

The rewarding of Ministers and officers who had debased and discredited themselves during the emergency has had a very unhealthy effect on the entire administration. Victory in elections, which naturally depends on many factors and circumstances, cannot wash away the categorically proved conclusions of the Shah Commission, nor convert the stinking scandal of Maruti into a monument of good conduct.

Defections Encouraged

During the last 12 months, the immoral process of defections promoted by selfishness and lust for power has continued unabated. Instead of trying to halt this, the ruling party has been unabashedly engaged in trying to seduce and corrupt potential floor-crossers. As a result, the already soiled reputation of politicians has been further trashed. More distressing still, the party system itself has been seriously undermined.

When the Assam Assembly was placed under '*suspended animation*', the Cong (I) had only 8 legislators. Now the party has 56. It may be noted that this accretion of strength has taken place during a period when the youth of Assam were immersed in a life and death struggle to save their State from foreign infiltration. Their struggle continues even today but the Centre is unable to provide any solution.

Police Atrocities

A large section of the people in Moradabad feel convinced that they can receive no protection from PAC. The Bhagalpur police also seems to believe that by blinding undertrial prisoners, they have only effectively discharged their duty of curbing crime. The stripping of a woman in Baghpat by the police and parading her naked in the streets was shameful, but even more disturbing is the fact that hundreds of people watched this outrage in mute helplessness. All these happenings are pointers not merely of administrative failure or of a decline in social consciousness; they indicate a virtual distinegration of our institutional framework. Some political analysts have described the situation as "*a civilisational crisis*".

Whatever be the epithet used to describe this crisis, there is no doubt that this crisis is unprecedented. The fading charisma of one individual, the influence of a party cracking up with dissensions and the battered prestige of government are certainly in no position to surmount this crisis.

Sinister moves to install a "President for Life"

People who advocate adoption of the presidential system in place of our present parliamentary democracy as a panacea for these ills are either fools or knaves. In most cases, it is the latter description which would fit. Talks about a "*President for life*" and an "*elected judiciary*" are not the fancies of an individual. They are indices of a deep conspiracy which aims at perpetuating the hold on the State acquired by the present rulers with the help of negative votes. If these designs succeed, India would cease to be a republic. This conspiracy must be exposed and frustrated before it can materialise.

Electoral Reform

An analysis of the 1980 election results would show that once again a party that failed to secure the support of the majority of electors has succeeded in capturing power. In the last Lok Sabha elections, the Cong. (I) secured 351 seats out of 525, but in terms of votes the Cong (I) got only 42.56% of the votes cast.

Indeed, it is one of the major quirks of our election system that under this system, on the basis of minority votes a party is able to secure an overwhelming majority of seats. Right since 1952, there has been not a single election in which the winning party has been able to secure the support of a majority of the electorate. Even the Janata Party, when it won the elections in 1977, got only 43.06% votes.

Election a Big Gamble

This system yields odd results. In 1977, the Janata Party secured 43.06% votes but on that basis got only 298 seats, whereas in 1971, with almost the same voting percentage, the Cong (I) was able to get 350 seats. Then again in 1980, with 42.56% votes, the Cong (I) managed to get 66.86% seats whereas in 1977, with a higher poll percentage of 43.06%, the Janata could get only 56.80% seats in Parliament. Critics of this system in Britain have said that this system makes elections a big gamble.

...To be continued

Bihar next destination for resurgent BJP : Ramlal

BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal on January 5, 2014 exhorted party workers to shift into poll mode and fan out through the state to connect the people.

“Our party president Shri Amit Shah has given a slogan - “Jahan Chunav, wahan sarkar” (wherever election takes place, BJP should form government) and the same principle holds true for Bihar which goes to assembly polls later this year,” he said

at the inaugural meeting of the two-day Bihar BJP state executive in Patna.

Exuding confidence that the BJP-led NDA will sweep the Bihar assembly polls as well to continue its winning momentum, the BJP National General Secretary (organisation) said that the onus was now on party workers to fan out, win the trust of the masses and strengthen the party’s machinery at the ground level.

“Since winning the general elections under Shri Modi’s leadership in May last year, we have bagged Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand, besides getting an impressive 25-seat tally in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said seeking to instill confidence among party leaders about winning Bihar as

well.

Shri Ramlal asked the party workers to convince the people of Bihar that it always helped for their betterment if the same party got to rule at the Centre and in a state and coined a new slogan -



“Jiski kendra mein sarkar, uski pradesh mein sarkar, chalo chalein Modi ke Sath.”

He also gave another slogan - “Chalo Chalein Modi ke Sath, Bihar ka hoga vikas (Let us go with Modi for development of Bihar)” - and asked the party workers to popularize this slogan as well to connect the masses in Bihar. Shri Ramlal also slammed Janata Parivar for proposing to merge under a new banner to take on the BJP in Bihar assembly polls and said that the nomenclature was a misnomer to say the least.

“As far as I can see, it’s only parivar (families) without janata (people),” he said referring to lack of crowd at the Janata Parivar leaders’ protest meeting at Jantar Mantar in Delhi last month.

Trashing the Janata Parivar as ‘bemel gathbandhan’ (incongruous alliance), Shri Ramlal said that its leaders were out to preserve themselves and their families, but the people will defeat their nefarious designs at

the hustings in Bihar.

Earlier, the state unit BJP president Shri Mangal Pandey spoke at the opening function of the state executive in which he exhorted the party workers to take the upcoming Bihar assembly polls as an opportunity and challenge before them.

BJP has set out on a one-point agenda to win 175+ seats in Bihar, Shri Pandey said.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, former Union Minister Shri C P Thakur, BJP Lok Sabha MPs Shri Ashwani Chaube, Shri Kirti Azad, Shri Om Prakash Yadav, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Sushil Kumar Singh and a number of other state leaders were present at the inaugural function of the state executive. ■

Union Cabinet brings ordinance to speed up developmental & welfare agenda

Govt. regularises unauthorized colonies in Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi passed ordinances to stimulate pace of developmental and welfare work. After closing of winter session the government passed ordinance to amend certain amendments in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, Citizenship Act, 1955, the Arbitration, Conciliation Act, 1996, the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Coal Mines auction process, to legalize E-rickshaws, ordinance to hike foreign investment cap in the insurance sector to 49 per cent, ordinance to regularize unauthorized colonies in Delhi.

The Cabinet passed the ordinance on December 29 to amend to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Act came into effect from January 1, 2014 but it has been reported that many difficulties are being faced in its implementation. In order to remove them, certain amendments have been made

in the Act to further strengthen the provisions to protect the interests of the 'affected families'. In addition, procedural difficulties in the acquisition of lands required for important national projects required to be mitigated. States, Ministries and stakeholders had been reporting many difficulties in the implementation of this Act. Several suggestions came

applicable for national highways, metro rail, atomic energy projects, electricity related other projects etc. Thus a large percentage of farmers and affected families were denied the compensation and R&R measures prescribed under the Act.

The present amendments bring all those exempted 13 Acts under the purview of



up in interactions with State Revenue Ministers and key implementing Ministries. Proposed amendments meet the twin objectives of farmer welfare; along with expeditiously meeting the strategic and developmental needs of the country.

Pro-farmer step: Excluded Acts brought under RFLARR Act for Compensation and R&R

The existing Act vide Section 105 (read with Schedule IV) has kept 13 most frequently used Acts for Land Acquisition for the Central Government Projects out of the purview. These acts are

this Act for the purpose of compensation as well as rehabilitation and resettlement. Therefore, the amendment benefits the farmers and the affected families.

Pro-development: Faster processing without compromising on compensation or R&R measures to farmers

The second important aspect of the amendment is to make developmental and security related works much faster without compromising on the benefits/compensation to be given to the farmers. In the process of prolonged

procedure for land acquisition, neither the farmer is able to get benefit nor is the project completed in time for the benefit of society at large.

Therefore the present changes allow a fast track process for defence and defence production, rural infrastructure including electrification, housing for poor including affordable housing, industrial corridors and infrastructure projects including projects taken up under Public Private Partnership mode where ownership of the land continues to be vested with the government. These projects are essential for bringing in better economic opportunities for the people living in these areas and would also help in improving quality of life. The 2013 Act was the UPA 2 government's answer to forced acquisitions, the previous law's silence on rehabilitation and re-settlement of displaced persons, low rates of compensation and the 'urgency clause' – which allowed complete dispossession without prior notice to affected families – under the Colonial 1894 land acquisition law.

The Cabinet also on December 29 approved amendment to the existing guidelines that enables regularization of all unauthorised colonies that have come up till June 1, 2014 namely extension of cut-off

date for regularization from March 31, 2002 to June 1, 2014. This will provide the benefits accruing from regularization to a large number of people in unauthorised colonies that have come in existence between March 31, 2002 and June 1, 2014.

On January 5, the Union Cabinet approved changes to the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act. The proposed changes were to make auction the preferred mode to sell important minerals. There are 60,000 mining applications pending with states. The Centre will now get some discretionary powers over states. The Centre will now decide on rules for auctioning and it is along the lines of coal auction. The states will perform the auction and will also get the revenue out of these auctions. The Centre will ensure that these timelines are met and it will also have the power to intervene if states do not meet the order as per the timelines. The onus will be on states to expedite these mining leases. It will be beneficial for the states and Centre will retain its power to monitor it and ensure that these timelines are met for mining. With this, the government has paved the way for leases to be easily transferable. These transferable leases are expected to attract private investments and foreign direct investment

The Cabinet approved the ordinance route for coal and insurance reforms and also liberalized foreign investment policy in the medical devices sector. The hiking of the foreign investment cap in the insurance sector to 49 per cent, which has been pending since 2008, would result in capital inflow of \$6 billion.

The Ordinance demonstrates the firm commitment and determination of this government to reforms. It also demonstrate to the rest of the world including investors that this country can no longer wait even if one of the houses of Parliament waits indefinitely to take up its agenda. The Insurance Laws Amendment Bill, 2008 could not be taken up for discussion in Parliament despite being approved by the Select Committee of the Upper House because of the uproar over the conversion and other issues. The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 was already approved by the Lok Sabha during the session but could make no progress in the Rajya Sabha. The re-promulgation of ordinance on coal will facilitate e-auction of coal blocks for private companies for captive use and allot mines directly to state and central PSUs.

Liberalising of the FDI policy for the medical device segment in the pharmaceutical sector is expected to help attract more investments and boost the domestic manufacturing. ■

Good and transparent governance our top priority : Raghubar Das

From Our Correspondent

Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Shri Raghubar Das was sworn in as the tenth Chief Minister of the State at Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Ranchi on 28 December 2014. Jharkhand Governor Syed Ahmed administered oath of office and secrecy to Shri Das and four Ministers of the new Cabinet in the presence of CMs of two States, Union Ministers, senior leaders of the BJP and MLAs of the AJSU - BJP coalition. Shri Das, who will

represent the Jamshedpur East constituency in the 81-member legislative assembly, is ascend to the position. The 59-year-old will also head the first of Jharkhand government, since the state's formation on November 15, 2000, to be formed with the support of only two political parties. BJP and AJSU Party have a total of 42 legislators, one more than the required majority. With Shri Das' swearing-in, Jharkhand became the eighth state to go

the BJP way. The other states which the BJP governs are Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and some other Union

Shri Hemant Soren along with AJSU chief Shri Sudesh Mahto were present on that occasion.

Shri Raghubar Das, clad in a red jacket and white kurta took oath at 11:25 am with great cheer from the crowd followed by Khunti MLA Shri Neelkanth Singh Munda, Ranchi MLA Shri CP Singh,



Ministers, however, could not attend the occasion as their flight could not take off due to heavy fog in Delhi. Among others senior leaders including Chhattisgarh CM Dr Raman Singh, Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Union Ministers Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Shri Ramkripal Yadav, Shri Radha Modhan Singh and senior BJP leaders, including Shri TS Rawat, Shri Sushil Modi and former CM

Ramgarh legislator of AJSU Shri Chandra Prakash Chaudhary and Dumka MLA Smt. Louis Marandi.

The scene at Morhabadi Football Stadium was unforeseen in the brief annals of Jharkhand. Crowd of over 35,000 people thronged the arena, including who's who, political workers, supporters, activists and most importantly hosts of common residents of the State. Otherwise held at closed circuits of coveted and inaccessible Raj Bhawan, the

ceremony was open for all this time.

Enthusiasm was such that regular chant of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' continued throughout the ceremony. Much of that was in the expectation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi whose huge billboards were put in every pillar and post, including of the great revolutionaries belonging to the State.

Chief Secretary Sajal Chakravorty started the proceeding and the Governor using his powers under Article 164(1) of the Constitution invited the leader of the biggest party Shri Raghubar Das to administer oath of the office along with four other leaders as his Cabinet colleagues.

Immediately after taking oath the CM went to Karamtoli area of the city and took part in the cleanliness drive there. Later he went to garland Bhagwan Birsa Munda's statue at Birsa Chowk on way to his residence in HEC colony. "Good and transparent governance along with ensuring the rule of law in the State will be the top priorities of the Government. We will take along all sections of society to see the light of development as promised by PM Shri Narendra Modi during the elections," said Shri Das after swearing-in.

The CM in his first Cabinet meeting called on 28 December evening also took

scores of decisions to establish a better connect of the Government with the masses. The move is expected to efficiently make the benefits of welfare schemes reach the people in need. Talking to the media persons at the airport, Union Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu also assured for a concerted effort both from the Centre and

State levels to deal with the Naxal menace and also promised all help in pulling Jharkhand out of its current vicious cycle.

Union cabinet Minister Shri Nitin Gadakari said, "Stability of this Government would provide good governance to Jharkhand and desired fillip for all around development." ■

BJP SC Morcha Executive meeting held in New Delhi



An individual becomes great by his/her deeds. BJP led government has decided to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti countrywide ,Rajnath Singh said while addressing the BJP SC Morcha Executive Meeting at NDMC hall in New Delhi. He added, Modi ji has started *Sansad Gram Yojna* in view of deprived and poor section of society. Our motto of politics is not coming in power but making the nation.

While apprizing about various schemes of the ministry, Cabinet Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot said,6730 crore of rupees is allotted in 2014-15. Yet 2400 crores out of 6730 crore has been spent. Whereas, 6625 crore was allotted in 2013-14 and by 1st of September 2013 only 644 crore was spent.

BJP SC Morcha President Shri Dushyant Gautam, addressing the executive members across the country appreciated the work being done by the Narendra Modi led government to the upliftment of poor of society. BJP National Vice President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe asked the representatives on the occasion that every member must make 100 members and make at least two active member at booth level.

BJP National General Secretary(Organization) Shri Ramlal elaborated on membership drive and said that every state president should make at least 300 new members. ■

Ayurveda : Although ancient it can be ever new

By Sri Swami Sivananda

Source of Knowledge

In addition to the methods of experiment and observation, which are the sources of knowledge in the Modern Sciences, Ayurveda accepts concentrated meditation and intuition (Yoga) as a method of acquiring knowledge. He who relies solely on observation, thinks more of differences than of similarities. The methods of investigation in Ayurveda are more synthetic leading to oneness, Adwaita, whereas the tendency in Modern Medicine is more analytical leading to dissipation of ideas.

The mechanistic view of man prevailed progressively during the last two or three centuries, and any disease was considered to be a breakdown in the machine, which should be set right by adjusting or repairing the damaged parts. The attention to the part or organ assumes greater importance than the consideration of the whole man. Ayurveda considers man as a complex and inseparable combination of the material body, the senses, the mind and the soul. Happiness in life depends upon the control of the senses and contentment. (Charaka Sutra-I)

The Factor of Personality

Unlike the machine, man has mind, Manas. Manava is one who has a mind. He has the power of thinking and deciding his future conduct. The decision depends upon the personality of every

individual, which is unborn in all living creatures and persists as long as the organism lives. It is often transmitted to the offspring.

Triguna Theory

Constitutional traits or inborn tendencies or qualities are classified in Ayurveda into three categories called Trigunas. The



constitutional factors leading to emotions are due to Rajoguna. The constitutional factors leading to inertia are due to Tamoguna. The constitutional factors leading to equilibrium or harmony are due to Sattwaguna. The mental and physical characteristics of every individual in health and disease are determined by the predominance of one or the other of these three qualities, Trigunas.

Tridosha Theory

Vata, Pitta and Kapha are the nutritive fluids that feed the living organisms through the nervous, digestive and lymphatic systems respectively. Vata is constituted predominantly of Rajas, Pitta of Sattwa and Kapha of Tamas.

Their equilibrium is health and imbalance is disease.

Clinically, these theories are very helpful to the diagnosis and successful treatment of the multifarious diseases of the mind and the body. These theories represent the synthetic psychosomatic conception of man, which deals with his mental and physical states including the effects of the vitamins, hormones, toxins, antibodies and all factors relating to the self and the environments of time and place. The physiology of Ayurveda begins where the physiology of Modern Science ends. This means that the Ayurveda deals with both the known and the unknown as well, through its philosophy.

The theories of Ayurveda have not been so far verified by modern research, because the instruments of Science have their own limitations, when they have to deal with living matter. Further research is sure to establish the truth of these assumptions, which are like axioms as Ayurveda is concerned. Even the illiterate people and particularly women in India understand theories which they apply in their daily life. The practitioner of Modern Medicine refuses to understand them, because he has lost his moorings in the Indian Culture on account of the bias that he has been taught to acquire by his new education.....

To be continued

Courtesy: Divine Life Society