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One whose mind is undisturbed by distress without desires for happiness, free from attachment, fear and anger; that sage is known as steadfast in consciousness

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 56)

QUOTES

"We need to think about empowering our farmers so that they can feed India & the world & at the same time they earn a good income"

-Narendra Modi

“The confidence that has been instilled by popular Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards good governance through communication technology before the country men, will help address the grievances of the general public through modern communications and re instill their confidence in it.”

-Amit Shah

Krishna Janmashtami : August 17, 2014

Krishna Janmashtami, also known as Krishnashtami, Srikrishna Jayanti, Sree Jayanti or sometimes merely as Janmashtami, is a major annual Hindu festival celebrated on of the birth of Lord Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu. Based on scriptural details and astrological calculations, the date of Krishna's birth, known as Janmashtami, is 19 July 3228 BCE and he lived until 3102 BCE. Krishna belonged to the Vrishni clan of Yadavas from Mathura, and was the eighth son born to the princess Devaki and her husband Vasudeva.

AS per the religious texts at that time Mathura was the capital of the Yadavas, to which Krishna's parents Vasudeva and Devaki belonged. King Kansa, Devaki's brother, had ascended the throne by imprisoning his father, King Ugrasena. Afraid of a prophecy that predicted his death at the hands of Devaki's eighth son, Kansa had the couple locked in a prison cell. After Kansa killed the first six children, and Devaki's apparent miscarriage of the seventh (which was actually a secret transfer of the infant to Rohini as Balarama), Krishna was born. Following the birth, Lord Vishnu ordered Vasudeva to take Krishna to Gokul to Nanda and Yashoda, where he could live safely, away from his Uncle Kansa. Krishna grew up in Gokul with his brother, Balram. He then returned to Mathura and killed Kansa with the help of Balram.

Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and staying up until midnight, the time when Krishna is believed to have been born. Images of Krishna's infancy are placed in swings and cradles in temples and homes. At midnight, devotees gather around for devotional songs, dance and exchange gifts. Some temples also conduct readings of the Hindu religious scripture of the Bhagavad Gita.

Janmaashtami popularly known in Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra as Dahi Handi, is celebrated as an event which involves making a human pyramid and breaking an earthen pot (handi) filled with buttermilk (dahi), which is tied at a convenient height. Places in Uttar Pradesh that are associated with Krishna's childhood, such as Mathura, Gokul and Vrindavan, attract huge visitors from all over the world. People in the city of Dwarka in Gujarat – where Krishna is believed to have established his Kingdom – celebrate the festival by visiting the Dwarkadhish temple. In Jammu, kite flying is an important part of the celebration on his day.

In the eastern state of Assam, North East, West Bengali and Odisha, people celebrate Janmashtami by fasting and worship until midnight. Purana Pravachana from the Bhagavata Purana is recited. The next day is called Nanda Utsav. In Southern India, floors in houses are decorated with footprints made from flour, to symbolize Krishna's childhood sport of stealing butter from houses. About eighty percent of the population of Nepal identify themselves as Hindus and celebrate Krishna Janmashtimi as a major festival. Janmashtami is a national holiday in Bangladesh. On that day a procession starts from Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka, the National Temple of Bangladesh the procession dates back to 1902. Janmashtami is celebrated by Pakistani Hindus with singing of bhajans and delivering of sermons on Krishna. The festival is also celebrated widely by Hindus and ISKCON followers in America, Canada, Russia, in maximum European countries, in Caribbean in the countries of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the former Dutch colony of Suriname. ■





Editorial...

Nation's faith reinforced in first 60 days!

After a long time the nation is feeling that there is a government at the centre. The government which is elected for 60 months has made its mark in just 60 days. The BJP led NDA government formed under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has shown that if there is a will, there is always a way. Shri Narendra Modi has shown his determination in changing the work culture in the country while rescuing the bureaucracy from the grip of policy paralysis and indecision. Many small steps taken are going to make way for big change in the coming days. Now people can self attest their documents, files will be cleared within the stipulated time, red-tapism in bureaucracy will end due to fixing of accountability, and many such things will not only lead towards speedy actions in the government it will help in improving overall working environment. The first sixty days of the government have clearly seen a marked difference from the earlier Congress led UPA government when an atmosphere of apathy, pessimism, indecision and indifference ruled the roost.

The BJP led NDA government started its inning by forming an SIT under Justice MB Shah to unearth black money. It was the first decision aimed at fulfilling one of its important poll promises. The President's speech before the parliament session laid the blue print of the manner in which the government is going to function in the coming years. While touching upon international diplomacy, inclusion of minorities, poverty elimination, stress on labour-intensive manufacturing industry, foreign direct investment, containing inflation and rationalization of tax structure it also laid down a clear vision and planned approach of the government. In the face of the reports of deficient monsoon, rising prices of essential commodities and supply-demand bottleneck the government acted swiftly to control prices by taking immediate steps to restrict the exports of essential commodities and by invoking Essential Commodities Act against hoarders and black marketeers. Apart from these the budget presented by the finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley has created a new hope in the country. In preparing his budget Shri Arun Jaitley faced twin challenges of meeting the high expectations of people and the economic legacy of Congress led UPA which was deteriorating by every passing day. It may be said with satisfaction that he handled successfully various crucial issues by announcing reliefs where it was required the most while restoring people's confidence in economy along with presenting a superb blue print for future. Similarly Rail Budget also touched upon the areas which required urgent attention while making way for the railways of future with the vision of hi-speed and bullet trains. And all this was done within 45 days of assuming the office!

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi should be congratulated for making India's presence felt in the international arena from the day one. The day he was invited by the President to form the government he invited the leaders of SAARC countries at his oath taking ceremony thus signaling India's willingness to engage with neighbours in an atmosphere of friendship and goodwill. His trips to Bhutan and Nepal have been able to re-establish the close bonds which India shares with the people of these neighbouring countries. Apart from these the BRICS summit saw India playing a bigger role amid the establishment of New Development Bank which India will head and will be headquartered at Shanghai. The handling of hostage-crisis in Iraq and India's advocacy in WTO has brought India to the forefront of the international politics. In fact India has

made its mark in the international diplomacy while dealing with countries like US, Russia, France, China and Germany.

The message is clear – everyone has to contribute for the development of India and India has to position itself in the comity of the nations with dignity and equality. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in one of his speeches has emphasized that development of the country should take the form of a movement wherein everyone contributes with the sense of responsibility that whatever he is doing is for the sake of the country. Only by creating such movement our dream of a vibrant and developed nation will be realized. The nation is feeling a new kind of energy with lots of hopes and expectations and the BJP led NDA government by acting swiftly on a large number of issues has been able to reinforce the faith of the people in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The government has to work hard so that the nation is enabled to recover the ground lost during Congress led UPA government. It has to work with a fast pace with clear vision and resolve. And now it can be said with satisfaction that the work done in first 60 days clearly indicates that the nation will be able to recover the lost years under UPA rule and reinforce the faith in the BJP led NDA government. ■

Amit Shah accorded warm welcome by Members of Parliament

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all members of Parliament accorded a warm welcome to the newly elected president of the Party Shri Amit Shah on July 31. While addressing the Parliamentary Party Shri Amit Shah described the BJP's election victory as 'historic event' and said party is bound to maintain the

in four states i.e. Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir are important. He asked them to take the elections as a challenge. Shah asked the MPs to take these elections seriously and strive hard to continue with the winning streak by ensuring the party's victory in the Assembly elections and bypolls. He said while it will be the duty of party MPs in the respective states to ensure the party's victory, MPs from those states which are not poll-bound will also be deployed for party work in the poll-bound states.

The issue of the current UPSC row was also raised at the meeting and sought early resolution of this issue. Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh assured the MPs that the Prime Minister is personally taking the issue seriously and it will be resolved soon.

Parliamentary affairs minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu informed the members that various Parliamentary committees of both the houses have been constituted unanimously. He said that government would be bringing the bills regarding insurance and Sebi in the Parliament soon.

The present BJP Parliamentary Party's office secretary Mr. Ram Kripal Sinha has requested that he should be relieved from the responsibility on the health ground which was accepted by the Party. The Party appointed Shri K. Bala subramaniam as the new office secretary. Shri Bala is the old Party worker and held different positions in State and National level. ■



people's trust who have brought a non congress government to power at the centre with simple majority for the first time after independence.

Shri Shah said, Party MP's should use "contact, coordination and dialogue" as a medium to know about people's grievances and work for their redressal. MP's should coordinate with Party organization and coordination committee should be constituted for the use of MPLAD fund effectively. He said Parliamentarians should open office in their respective constituencies to remain connected with the common people and after studying all the issues they should participate in Parliament debates. He said that forthcoming By-elections and assembly elections

Let Nepal touch the heights of Himalaya : Narendra Modi

PM offers “HIT” mantra – Highways, I-ways-Transways for Nepal

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in a historic address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal won applause from lawmakers as he began his address to the Parliament in Kathmandu in Nepali language on August 3 said that Nepal's Constitution would set an example for the whole world, especially to



Here are important quotes from the historic speech :

- This is an honour for all Indians. I consider this as respect shown to 1.2 billion Indians.
 - Our relations with Nepal are as old as the Himalayas and the Ganga.
 - Not only the people of Nepal but also those who believe in the power of democracy are looking at Nepal and this assembly.
 - I congratulate Nepal for choosing the path of “Buddha” (peace) over “yudha” (war).
 - We have always believed that it is not our work to interfere in what you do but to support you in the path you decide to take. Our only wish is that Nepal's progress reaches as high as the Himalayas. Being your neighbour and seeing our experience as a democracy, we feel happy at the direction in which you are going.
 - Nepal should become a leading exporter of herbal medicines and we are ready to support you in this.
 - Nepal needs ‘HIT’ — Highways, Infoways, Transways — and we will support you in all these.
 - We Congratulate you for choosing the ballot over bullet.
 - We are so close. Still it took 17 years for us to come here. I assure you this will not happen again. I am coming back again for the SAARC summit.
- Together SAARC nations should wage a war against poverty and we should help each other in it.

strife-torn regions, as a model for leaving the path of violence, and how a peaceful and democratic process can help achieve goals.

Shri Narendra Modi, said he was deeply touched to be the first foreign leader invited to address

always support Nepal's sovereign right to choose its own destiny, the Prime Minister said India wished for a democratic and prosperous Nepal, which would rise as high as the Himalayas, and set an example

the two countries – which he added – were as timeless as the Himalayas and the Ganga. They were relations built on the bonding of hearts, and a shared cultural heritage. *“Humaare sambandh kaagaz ki kashtiyon se aage nahin badhe hain. Humaare sambandh dilon ki daastaan kehte hain.”*

Dwelling on the shared heritage, the Prime Minister said he belonged to the land of Somnath, began his journey in national politics from Kashi, and had now arrived at the feet of Pashupatinath. This is the land that gave birth to Lord Buddha, who held the whole world spellbound, the Prime Minister remarked.

All the wars that India has won, have witnessed Nepali blood being shed, and Nepalis attaining martyrdom defending India, the Prime Minister observed. “I salute the Nepali braves who have laid down their lives for India”, Shri Narendra Modi said.



this Constituent Assembly. He said this was a gesture of respect from the Nepali people, not only to him, but to 125 crore Indians.

Asserting that India would

for the whole world.

The Prime Minister, began his address in Nepali language, saying his Government accorded top priority to relations between

BJP Parliamentary Party passes resolution to congratulate PM for historic trip to Nepal

The BJP Parliamentary Party on August 5 unanimously passed a resolution congratulating the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his historic trip to Nepal. The Resolution was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and adopted by all the MPs.

“The BJP Parliamentary Party congratulates the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his successful tour of Nepal. The Prime Minister’s stance – ‘No Interference in Internal affairs of Nepal and only solicited Cooperation’ – was well received by one and all. Shri Modi’s support to democratic republic constitution has helped in removing several misgivings.

During his Nepal visit, the Prime Minister spoke in a new language of diplomacy and has matched high expectations of Nepal and has inaugurated a fresh start in bilateral relations. This trip is historical break from an unforgettable past. The BJP Parliamentary Party congratulates the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for being the first Prime Minister to address the Nepal Parliament.

This is a great achievement of diplomacy. Prime Minister is making concerted efforts to have a new and meaningful friendship among SAARC nations. Shri Modi has injected a new life in Indo-Nepal relations. His speeches and body language shown is wonderful. He got a rousing welcome in Nepal. It was overwhelming. He had won the hearts and minds of Nepalese – PM Ne Jeeta – Nepali Ka Dil.

PM facilitates reunion of Jeet Bahadur with his family in Nepal

Jeet Bahadur, the boy from Nepal whom the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, had met years ago, was on August 3 reunited with his family in Nepal. Jeet Bahadur's mother, elder brother, and sister-in-law travelled from their village in Nawalparasi district, to Kathmandu, to receive Jeet Bahadur. He was received by his family in the presence of Shri Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister quoted Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw to highlight the bravery of the Gorkha soldiers. Noting that the world was keenly observing the Constituent Assembly of Nepal, the Prime Minister said that the members of this assembly were not just drafting Constitutional provisions, or rights of different sections of society. The Constitution of Nepal should be a document like the "sanhita" of Vedas and Upanishads, the Prime Minister said - it should define a new direction for the country. But, the Prime Minister added, "Rishi-Man" - the mind of a sage - is required for this task. The mind which can see far, which can anticipate problems, which can think of taking society forward even a hundred years later. The Rishi-Man had developed the Vedas and Upanishads - such application was required now.

Giving the example of the Indian Constitution, the Prime Minister said it unites different

parts of India, and represents the hopes and aspirations of 125 crore Indians. He said that the Constitution of Nepal would inspire the hopes and dreams of not just the people of Nepal, but the entire world.

Elaborating on this theme of "Yuddh se Buddh ki ore" - the Prime Minister said, that once upon a time, the great King Ashoka had adopted this path and created history. Today, the members of this Constituent Assembly had shunned the path of violence and embarked on building a Constitution, that would be a beacon of peace and

hope, not only for Nepal, but also for various strife-torn regions of the world.

I congratulate those who have left the bullet, in favour of the ballot, the Prime Minister said.

Nepal is a sovereign nation; let this sovereign nation touch the heights of Himalaya; let the world take notice, the Prime Minister asserted.

Let the Nepali Constitution be one in which all sections of Nepali society feel that it is a bouquet where one flower represents them and their aspirations, the Prime Minister

PM Modi performs puja at Pashupatinath Temple

In the morning of 4th of August, Shri Modi reached Pashupatinath Temple, the most sacred Lord Shiva shrine in Nepal, and conducted special prayers.

"He took part in a special 'puja' which was conducted by Ganesh Bhatta, the Indian head priest of the temple, and lasted for 35 minutes," said Govinda Tandon, member secretary of Pashupati Area Development Trust.

The prime minister also made an offering of 2500 kilos of sandalwood. Nearly half kilo of sandalwood paste is used daily on the Shiva 'linga' at the temple.

Considering steep price of the commodity, temple authorities had requested India to provide the sandalwood. Worth several crores of rupees the quantity would last 12-15 years.

Since it was a Monday on the auspicious month of Shrawan, thousands of devotees had thronged at the temple, which was decorated with flowers to welcome the Prime Minister. ■



said. "Har Nepali ko lage ki yeh ek aisa guldsta hai jismein mere ek phool ki bhi mahak hai."

May the sanvidhaan (Constitution) represent the ideal of "Sarvjan Hitay, Sarvjan Sukhay." A Constitution unites, it does not divide, the Prime Minister said. He added that it should not collapse under the weight of the present, but build on hopes for the future. That, the Prime Minister said, would be "Rishi-Man" – the mind of a sage – which would make a Constitution for future generations.

Let commas and full-stops not become poison for the future, the Prime Minister urged the Constituent Assembly.

Noting that a Federal Democratic Republic is the goal of the Constituent Assembly, the Prime Minister said India respected and welcomed it, and hoped it would be reality soon.

Referring to India-Nepal relations, the Prime Minister remarked that when an adverse wind blows in Nepal, India too feels cold. Therefore, the Prime Minister remarked, how can India be happy if Nepal is unhappy. Giving the example of the Kosi floods in Nepal, the Prime Minister said his Government has been working since yesterday itself to help provide relief.

Speaking on economic issues, the Prime Minister said Nepal's hydropower potential can resolve India's power shortage. He said this potential, if harnessed properly, can make Nepal a prosperous country. Referring to an age-old saying – paani aur jawaani pahaad ke kaam nahin aate – the Prime Minister said the time had come to change this thought. India and Nepal are both

The bridge of trust between India and Nepal should be strengthened : PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on August 3 had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sushil Koirala. Delegation-level talks were also held between the two sides.

Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that the biggest focus of the



two nations should be development. "Sabka saath, sabka vikaas" is relevant for India's neighbours too, he asserted.

Stressing the need for prioritizing infrastructure in the pace of development, Shri Narendra Modi said that the bridge of trust between the two nations should be strengthened.

Asserting that India respects Nepal's sovereignty, the Prime Minister hoped that the process of Constitution-making would be completed soon.

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sushil Koirala endorsed the Prime Minister's view we should work together with mutual confidence and trust. He sought India's assistance in several development projects. Peace and stability are essential for development, he asserted.

The Prime Minister appreciated the Constituent Assembly's objective of a federal democratic republic

Later, three agreements were signed between India and Nepal, in the presence of the two Prime Ministers:

- Letter of Exchange for establishing Pancheswor Development Authority
- MoU in the health sector for Goitre Control Programme
- Cooperation between Doordarshan and Nepal TV

The two Prime Ministers released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the visit of the Prime Minister of India. ■

India can be a front ranking country in field of Science : Narendra Modi



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid his first visit to Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in Mumbai on July 21, 2014. He was briefed by Dr. R.K. Sinha, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and other top officials and scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre on India's atomic energy programme; DAE's extensive research and development and education programmes; and DAE's contributions in other areas such as healthcare, especially cancer treatment, food security, solid waste management and water purification.

Referring to the Diamond Jubilee of DAE, which falls on August 3, the Prime Minister asked Department of Atomic Energy to draw up a programme of year-long celebrations, with special focus on the various human and developmental dimensions of atomic science, with special outreach to the youth in schools and colleges throughout the country. The

Prime Minister exhorted DAE to present the human face of India's capabilities in nuclear science throughout the world.

Prime Minister was apprised of the safety and security measures adopted by the DAE and India's excellent record in this regard. During the visit, which lasted four hours, Prime Minister was also shown some of DAE's most advanced facilities at BARC, including the Dhruva Research Reactor.

Prime Minister expressed his strong appreciation for the extraordinary achievements of Indian scientific community in one of the most complex and challenging fields of science and technology. He said their success was especially creditable because it took place in the face of decades of international technology denial regime; India's self-reliance in the nuclear fuel cycle and the commercial success of the indigenous reactors demonstrated that with vision, resolve and hard work, India could be a front ranking country

in the most challenging fields.

Prime Minister reiterated his belief that energy security, which was increasingly based on clean and reliable sources of energy, was the critical driver of India's rapid and sustained long term development. He saw an essential role for nuclear energy in India's energy strategy, given the scale of demand in India.

Prime Minister assured the DAE of his full support in the implementation of DAE's ambitious expansion programme and expressed hope that DAE would meet the target of increasing the capacity by three times from the present level of 5780 MW by 2023-24 within the projected cost. He underlined the importance of ensuring that nuclear energy remained commercially viable and competitive with other sources of clean energy in the long run. He also asked DAE to continually upgrade technology, both with regard to our long term plans and international trends. DAE, he said, must also plan for

ensuring adequate availability of skilled human resources in the country.

Prime Minister told DAE that nuclear safety and security were of the highest priority for him and asked DAE to ensure that India's standards and practices were the most advanced in the world. He also asked DAE to pay special attention to the local communities in planning and implementing nuclear power projects.

He hoped that role of industry in providing equipment and systems for the nuclear programme would continue to grow and recognized that adequate incentive structure should exist to facilitate that. He noted that we would need to tap additional sources of investments for our ambitious expansion programme. He welcomed India's growing international partnership in the nuclear energy and hoped for timely implementation of the ongoing projects in a manner that they met the requirements of techno-economic viability and safety standards. Technology transfer to India, he observed, was a vital element of his vision for international partnership in India.

Prime Minister lauded the contribution of DAE scientists in the critical area of cancer research and treatment through the Tata Memorial Hospital. He hoped that DAE would soon implement the planned projects in Chandigarh and Vishakapatnam and would take one of the most advanced standards of cancer treatment in Asia to other parts of India.

He also directed DAE to make special efforts to expand its research and extension on a national scale applications of atomic science in areas like healthcare, waste management, water treatment, agriculture and food preservation.

Prime Minister congratulated DAE on the important milestone of Diamond

Jubilee and wished the DAE community continued success in the future.

The National Security Advisor, Shri Ajit Doval, the Director, BARC and the Secretary AERC, Joint Secretary in the PMO, Shri Javed Ashraf, and Private Secretaries to the PM, Shri Vikram Misri and Shri Sanjiv Singla were also present. ■

NDA government is focused on Cleaner Energy through a well defined roadmap : Javadekar

The Union Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar on 01 August in New Delhi said that the new dispensation has done many things to give real impetus to the solar, wind and clean energy sector in this year's budget. "The lasting and sustainable way of development comes through innovation. The mantra for the new government is focused on cleaner energy through a well defined roadmap," he said.

"Unfortunately we lack in innovation... Our education, our system does not allow innovation or innovative brains to flourish. Yes we have great talents," he said after conferring the Climate Solver Awards 2013 organised by WWF-India and Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

Laying stress on innovation, the minister mentioned a recent news about "Indians brains" constituting one-third of organizations like NASA and said that they got the finishing touch to their career in US as they "devised and decided" to grow on innovation.

"The material cost may not be more than Rs 2000. But that becomes Rs 20,000 and the additional 18,000 becomes innovation. That's how you get rich. That's the sustainable way. Science, Technology and Innovation changed our lives permanently," he said. Laying emphasis on innovation which "impacted the society in geometric proportions", Shri Javadekar also quoted example of solar panels over canals in Gujarat and said that it was the innovative use of solar energy that gave three pronged benefits to the society.

"These included enhancement of energy efficiency, saving land resources and minimising evaporation of water due to placing of solar panels on the banks of irrigation canals in Gujarat," he said.

Shri Javadekar also touched upon several key climate friendly initiatives that had been introduced in the Union Budget this year.

The minister also released a report on "Solar Air Conditioning and Solar Desalination in India". ■

Two months of Modi Government pulls India out of gloom

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

It's just about two months since the Narendra Modi led BJP government came to power at the Centre, marking the end of fractious coalition politics in India. During this small period Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has effected significant changes across the spectrum of governance at the Centre, almost always silently and without seeking media attention. The Prime Minister has led by example as the hardest working member of the Cabinet, who seldom works less than 16 hours each day. While experts on the Modi model of governance say that it will take at least six months for the changes to be visible, but the policy changes effected in this short period have started showing results. The difference between the governance model of Shri Modi and his predecessors has already become visible cutting across the bureaucracy, governance and economy. Actually what has changed is the pace and quality of decision-making in every sphere of governance and the man leading this change is the Prime Minister himself who is fully involved in both the initiation of policy as well as monitoring its implementation. Unlike in the past, when ministers operated according to their own whims and often running their own fiefs not bothering about directives or

advice from the Prime Minister's Office, now there is constant monitoring of all ministries and their political and departmental heads. The only purpose of such steps are to create a culture of accountability at the top which percolates down to the lowest rung of the bureaucracy.

In the economic front the first two months under Narendra Modi government's watch have

In the economic front the first two months under Narendra Modi government's watch have turned out to be good, with macro indicators like inflation, exports and investment looking up suggesting that growth could have finally bottomed out. Exports rose 10.2% only in June marking yet another positive development following a series of good numbers in recent days that suggest the economy is picking up from decade-low growth rates. During this period the industrial production rose to a 19-month high of 4.7% while services activity rose to a 17 month high on the strength of robust order flow indicating rising optimism in these sectors. Similarly, imports rose for the first time in a year, at around 8.3%, confirming some sort of recovery in the domestic economy.

turned out to be good, with macro indicators like inflation, exports and investment looking up suggesting that growth could have finally bottomed out. Exports rose 10.2% only in June marking yet another positive development following a series of good numbers in recent days that suggest the economy is picking up from decade-low growth rates. During this period the industrial production rose to a 19-month high of 4.7% while services activity rose to a 17 month high on the strength of robust order flow indicating rising optimism in these sectors. Similarly, imports rose for the first time in a year, at around 8.3%, confirming some sort of recovery in the domestic economy. India's other big concern, retail inflation, dropped to its lowest level of 7.2% since January 2012. Reflecting the above and the expectations of a change for the better, financial markets have surged and there are indications of a growth revival sooner than later :

The issue of black money and corruption which agitated the nation in recent years found an effective response in the first few days of Shri Narendra Modi assuming power. Shri Modi promised effective steps to retrieve the black money stashed abroad during his electioneering and he showed firmness in his resolve through a series of

measures towards this end. These steps include;

1. Setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), chaired and vice-chaired by two former judges of the Supreme Court to look into money stashed abroad
2. Joining the global efforts to combat cross-border global tax evasion and tax fraud, and to promote international tax compliance
3. Taking appropriate legislative measures such as reporting of assets (including bank accounts) kept outside the country
4. Renegotiation of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with other countries to bring the Article on Exchange of Information to International Standards
5. Proactively engaging with foreign governments for exchange of information

Governance agenda

Immediately after being voted to power with an overwhelming majority, the Modi government unveiled an ambitious set of measures to spur Governance which was paralyzed in the last few years. Following his idea of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', Shri Modi formed more organic ministries as a first step to bring greater synergy and improve efficiency and pace of implementation. Shipping, road transport and highways Ministries have been clubbed. Finance and corporate affairs Ministries have also been brought together. Similarly, erstwhile External affairs and overseas development Ministries

have become one while Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministries have been integrated. The new Government's decision to scrap 21 Group of Ministers and 9 Empowered Group of Ministers is also an attempt to curb the multiplicity of layers in the decision making process which led to indecision and lack of accountability.

Within days of his assuming office, Shri Narendra Modi declared his government's top

cleaner offices and surprise visits by him and his Ministers have brought a new work culture in the government. Though these are early days, but the winds of change are also visible in the working of the Parliament. The 16th Lok Sabha has so far recoded a productivity of 103%, in sharp contrast to the 15th Lok Sabha that worked for only 61% of the scheduled time according to a recently released report by PRS. The remarkable jump can be attributed to the change in the

Following his idea of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', Shri Modi formed more organic ministries as a first step to bring greater synergy and improve efficiency and pace of implementation. Shipping, road transport and highways Ministries have been clubbed. Finance and corporate affairs Ministries have also been brought together. Similarly, erstwhile External affairs and overseas development Ministries have become one while Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministries have been integrated. The new Government's decision to scrap 21 Group of Ministers and 9 Empowered Group of Ministers...

ten priorities and made it clear that the ministers; bureaucrats or other institutions of government must work with due autonomy and consequent accountability. This was intended to set a new governance culture in India. The direction of Shri Narendra Modi to his ministers and MPs not to appoint their kith and kin in their personal staff was intended to bring transparency in their functioning and to ward off possibilities of misuse of these positions which became the hallmark of the previous UPA regime. Narendra Modi's emphasis on use of e-governance tools, faster clearance of files,

approach of the government for greater Parliamentary engagement in furtherance of the public good.

Foreign Policy

Modi Government has prioritized the foreign policy issues from the moment it took office. The invitation to leaders from the SAARC countries and Mauritius for the oath taking ceremony was a marked departure in the conduct of our foreign policy. Prime Minister Shri Modi's first foreign visit to Bhutan and his subsequent engagement during the BRICS Summit enabled a valuable opportunity for bilateral and multilateral discussions on

important avenues of cooperation with BRICS countries. He has also recently concluded his historic visit to Nepal the first by an Indian Prime Minister since 1997. The visit not only paved the way for the two countries to renew their bilateral ties but it also won the hearts and minds of common Nepali citizens. This visit also suggested a keen desire of the Government to broaden and deepen our relationship with the neighbours and overcome the stalemate from persistent trust deficit. India's pragmatic stand

been on economic diplomacy. However, unlike in the past the emphasis has now shifted to Asian powers such as Japan, China, Korea, Singapore and the neighboring countries in South Asia. Infact there has been considerable forward movement in this regard. Singapore has already offered to build some of the Smart Cities that are on the top of Prime Minister Modi's agenda. Japan has expressed its interest to support India's proposed Bullet Train and High Speed Train projects. Similarly, many countries have shown their

investor sentiments to encourage private investment has received high priority. This effort has become all the more crucial because India's ranking as a favoured destination in foreign direct investment has dropped in recent years. The Union cabinet has recently approved proposals to amend three key labour laws, including the Factories Act 1948, the Apprentices Act 1961 and the Labour Laws (exemption from furnishing returns and maintaining registers by certain establishments) Act, 1988, considered as impediment to output growth and employment creation in the labour-intensive manufacturing sector. With India moving to relax foreign investment in the railways, defence, insurance, pension and the transportation sectors, these areas may see big ticket investments in the near future. Added to this there is now clarity on retrospective taxes and on GST to enable a stable and more predictable tax regime aimed at improving the Ease of Doing Business.

Infrastructure

The Government has also attempted to address the distress of infrastructure sector through a series of measures in the union Budget. Encouraging banks to extend long term loans to infrastructure and promoting them to raise long term funds for infrastructure will ease the credit availability. Attempts to mainstream PPPs with sophisticated models of contracting and quicker dispute settlement mechanism will also accelerate economic activity and pace of project implementation.

The new government's focus on reviving economic growth and generating employment opportunities is evident from the series of reforms undertaken in the past two months. Rekindling investor sentiments to encourage private investment has received high priority. This effort has become all the more crucial because India's ranking as a favoured destination in foreign direct investment has dropped in recent years. The Union cabinet has recently approved proposals to amend three key labour laws, including the Factories Act 1948, the Apprentices Act 1961 and the Labour Laws (exemption from furnishing returns and maintaining registers by certain establishments) Act, 1988, considered as impediment to output growth and employment creation in the labour-intensive manufacturing sector.

at the WTO, the successful evacuation of Indian nurses and citizens caught in the domestic conflicts in Iraq and Libya and the time coordination with Nepal to avert the Kosi floods in Bihar have demonstrated the emphasis on enlightened national interest in the conduct of our foreign policy.

With Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's promise of building an investor-friendly environment, one of his priorities for foreign policy has

keenness to assist in the massing river rejuvenation plans for the river Ganga and in the implementation of other mega-projects of the new Government. This means that India's foreign policy is going to have a stronger dose of economic element in it. Economic Reforms

The new government's focus on reviving economic growth and generating employment opportunities is evident from the series of reforms undertaken in the past two months. Rekindling

Emphasis on International standard highways, railways infrastructure and network expansion, low cost housing, development of industrial corridors, building smart cities given the pressure of urbanization, public transportation, solid waste disposal, sewerage treatment and drinking water in the urban areas, new airports, ports and inland navigation can indeed bring a turnaround both in the economy and particularly in the infrastructure sector.

Laying stress on connectivity and to improve transportation within the country the Prime Minister has outlined a 17 points Action Plan for ministers. The 17 points Action Plan proposes a network of Coastal Expressways on the east and west coasts, connected to each other through latitude expressways (to be called Akshansh Marg Expressways) at 13 degrees, 15 degrees and 17 degrees.

The government has also proposed to build a Kanha-Krishna corridor, from Madhya Pradesh to Andhra Pradesh, which would combine highways and the rail network as well as oil and gas pipelines. It has also envisaged building Metro Rail and BRT systems in more towns and cities to enable an urban citizen to travel from one point to another in less than an hour at a reasonable price. Besides inland connectivity, Shri Modi's vision includes construction of a World-Class Ports on either side of the peninsula to take advantage of the country's long shoreline.

As part of the plan to

50 tourist circuits, national plan to grow pilgrimage tourism, health insurance for all citizens, massive expansion of AIIMS, IITs, IIMs network apart from building a Railway University in different states for the improvement of education and health facility, Swatch Bharat Mission to ensure a Clean India by 2019, housing for all by 2022, Interlinking of rivers for irrigation and flood control, 'Namami Gange' scheme for clean Ganga and schemes for women safety and steps for the improvement of internal security of the country will lead the country in the path of development by laying a strong foundation for the future.

improve telecommunication connectivity, it has been proposed that all long distance calls within the country should be priced the "same as local calls for every citizen". The agenda also talks of decentralized mini grids in towns and cities that would be operated by private vendors or cooperatives, as well as plans for village-level mini grids. Nagpur has been identified as the logistics distribution hub and electricity distribution hub.

Apart from these the decisions like identification of non-cultivable land for agricultural purposes with irrigation facilities, promotion of tourism and labour intensive manufacturing for job creation,

expansion of solar mission, development of nuclear power for civilian purposes, connect houses and industries to gas grid, setting up investment industrial regions; dedicated freight industrial corridors, creation of 50 tourist circuits, national plan to grow pilgrimage tourism, health insurance for all citizens, massive expansion of AIIMS, IITs, IIMs network apart from building a Railway University in different states for the improvement of education and health facility, Swatch Bharat Mission to ensure a Clean India by 2019, housing for all by 2022, Interlinking of rivers for irrigation and flood control, 'Namami Gange' scheme for clean Ganga and schemes for women safety and steps for the improvement of internal security of the country will lead the country in the path of development by laying a strong foundation for the future.

While there remains a lot to be done to propel India to greater prosperity; but if the first two months of the Modi Government are any indication then there is no doubt that the country is moving in the right direction. Infact, the pace of change has been transformational in several spheres of the government which will become visible in due course. However, a decade of misgovernance and policy paralysis cannot be undone in a matter of two months. The rapid pace of work of the new government is only an indication of its desire to turn things around in the shortest possible time. The rejuvenation of India could not have begun on a better note than this. ■

More crop per drop should be our mantra : Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called upon agricultural scientists to make farming community more empowered and prosperous through new science and technology interventions. He was addressing as Chief Guest on the occasion of 86th Foundation Day and ICAR Award Ceremony 29th July, 2014 in New Delhi. While acknowledging millions of Indian farmers for their immense contributions, he emphasized the need to disseminate technologies to farmers in the most simple, adoptable and acceptable manner. He reiterated that we must make adequate improvements in science and technology in sync with fast changing climate and agro climatic zones. We will have to strengthen capabilities of farmers so that food security can be ensured for the country along with the enhancement of profits for them, he added. Scientists should win the confidence of farmers so that they adopt their technologies with hope.

While referring present challenges before agriculture, he emphasized the need for enhancement of per hectare productivity and development of short duration crop varieties without any quality erosion. He said a judicious mix of traditional wisdom and new technologies may be developed to improve soil health and fertility. In an era of water crisis,

efficient use of every drop of water and water harvesting should be promoted through public awareness and participation, he said. More crop, per drop should be our mantra for better productivity from each drop of water. He also emphasized on enhancement of livestock productivity and

comprehensive digital platform of research work done by young researchers for their doctoral thesis. As a future direction, he suggested focused research on priority areas such as enhancement of production and quality of pulses and oil seeds, blue revolution for fisheries production, culture of pearls and



advised dissemination of new technologies to livestock owners.

Shri Modi stressed upon strengthening of the lab to land programme to make it more effective. He also suggested development of a talent pool of progressive farmers and agriculture students for ensuring quick availability of technologies at village level. Agricultural Universities may launch community radio to present solutions to immediate and local agricultural problems.

Prime Minister suggested compiling and developing a

cultivation of medicinal plants including sea weeds. While mentioning important role of ICAR, he suggested to set special goals for the centenary of this institution and should work for development of a road map to attain the same.

Shri Modi also visited National Agricultural Science Museum and showcasing of ICAR technologies and products.

Shri Modi conferred Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award, Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar, N.G. Ranga Farmer Award for

Diversified Agriculture, Chaudhary Charan Singh Award for Excellence in Journalism and awards to Agriculture Universities.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture presided over the function and welcomed the Prime Minister while highlighting the achievements of ICAR in his speech. He said due to critical monsoon conditions, the steps have already been undertaken to implement contingency plans in 520 districts of the country. These are developed under the NICRA project of ICAR. He also informed that 639 Krishi Viyan Kendras are working at ground level and in 12th five year plan 'FARMER FIRST' scheme will be initiated. The Minister expressed his gratitude to the Prime

Minister for giving importance to agriculture sector in the budget and assured that ICAR will provide necessary cooperation and knowledge inputs for implementation of the same. He also emphasized the contribution of ICAR in the field of agricultural education, soil health, climate change and agro diversity.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries while addressing assured that ICAR will extend full support in implementing the various suggestions and guidelines given by Prime Minister in his speech.

The Ministers conferred various categories of ICAR awards. This year 89 awards were given under 16 different

categories, which includes three institutions, one AICRP, 73 scientists, 10 farmers and two agriculture journalists. Eleven women scientists include the list of awardees.

Hon'ble guests released the publications of ICAR and its institutes along with products.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR welcomed the dignitaries and made a presentation on the achievements and contributions of ICAR along with outlining the future road map of the Council. Representatives of the scientific institutions, ministries, line departments, international organizations, Agricultural Universities along with scientists and senior officers of ICAR participated in the event. ■

Indian Contingent to the CWG 2014 felicitated

Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs & Sports along with Sports Authority of India felicitated the complete Indian contingent of Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2014 here today. India secured 5th place by winning a total of 64 Medals (15 Gold, 30 Silver and 19 Bronze). The complete Indian contingent of 231, including the athletes, coaches and support staff were invited to attend this ceremony.

The felicitation was done by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs & Sports, Minister of State (Home) Shri Kiren Rijiju, Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar along with MPs Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore and Shri Anurag Thakur. The cash awards were also distributed to the medal winners during the felicitation ceremony.

During this ceremony, Sports Authority of India (SAI) also launched a new logo. The logo launch was done by Tendulkar. With its continuous efforts SAI has redefined the definition of Indian sports by taking it to higher level. It is probably the best time to infuse dynamism & energy with fresh look of SAI logo. The new logo envisions the continuous success of Indian sports and shall definitely give a vibrant and everlasting presence in global sports arena with new brand image of SAI as sports super power. ■



Amit Shah launches Constituency Connect, an app to connect you to your MPs

The confidence has been instilled by popular Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards good governance through communication technology before the country men", said BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on July 28 while launching a mobile app for Delhi citizens who can use it to connect with their local MPs and can register their complaints along with offering feedback. Shri Shah



added, it will help address the grievances of the general public through modern communications and reestablish their confidence in it. "On the basis of the usage and experience of this technology in the future there are infinite possibilities of improvement, which will be periodically put into

use which will certainly be of great help in achieving the dream of good governance" said, BJP National President Shri Shah.

"For the first time with the help of modern communications it will be possible to find solutions for the common problems faced by the voters of the parliamentary

constituency . New Delhi parliamentary constituency MP Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi through the medium of mobile apps has tried to promote public participation, it is a role model and commendable".

Shri Shah said through this communication technology MLA and counsellors of the said constituencies will co-ordinate with each other and promote the people's representatives relations with the public to solve the problem.

The 'Constituency Connect App' can be downloaded on both Android phones and iPhones and will help BJP MPs in New Delhi to connect with their constituencies. The app is aimed at facilitating the redressal of public grievances in the national capital. ■

How will the App help?

- The App which was conceptualized by the New Delhi MP Menakshi Lekhi will help in the cause of good governance advocated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It will provide information on MPs and their work in the constituency and in Parliament.
- It will offer a forum to the people to give their feedback to the representatives.
- The application would enable the people to understand the status of their complaints in a Government office.
- It will help in making MPs more accountable to the public.

Pseudo-seculars in communal attire

By Balbir Punj

While the reprehensible but innocuous incident of a Shiv Sena MP force-feeding a fasting Muslim during Ramzan has been highlighted, a Muslim cleric's call to the faithful to wage jihad in Iraq has been ignored.

In the penultimate week of this month, self-appointed secular politicians created much ado in Parliament about a Shiv Sena MP force-feeding a Muslim employee who was fasting during Ramzan. It is true that the Shiv Sena MP had failed to exercise the restraint that is expected of his position. But the Opposition and a section of the media gave the incident a communal colour, resulting in disruption of Parliament and the rising of communal temperatures in the country. In short, secularists manage to communalise a reprehensible but innocuous incident.

The double standards of these self-appointed defenders of secularism are, however, fully exposed. Last month, a leading Muslim cleric had reportedly written an open letter to the Saudi Government asking Riyadh to support five lakh Sunni youths from India who want to join the Islamic State terror group and fight Shias in Iraq. Was there any public outrage against this outlandish war cry, fraught with dangerous implications for the security of the country and global peace? No.

The media and politicians of all hues chose to ignore the call given by Maulana Salman Nadwi of the Lucknow-based

Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulma. The Maulana's letter cannot be ignored given that already several Muslim youths from India are believed to have joined the Iraqi terrorists. The Lucknow-based cleric enjoys a position of respect among his co-religionists as the grandson of Abdul Hasan al-Nadwi, also known as Ali Miyan, the rector of the Darul Uloom and a former president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board.

Maulana Nadwi's open letter is no off-hand affair either — he had earlier welcomed the

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setting up of the caliphate by the Islamic State and acknowledged the self-styled caliph in Iraq without even a show of protest at the jihadi leader setting a claim to this country. Silence in such cases surely amounts to some approval of the ideas espoused by the Maulana even though the appeal maybe limited to only a small segment of the Muslim community.

What Maulana Nadwi has called for is a massive participation of young Muslim men in Islamic State's terror army. Ironically, the group also seeks to bring India under its control, as is amply clear from the map that it has published showing its view of the Islamic caliphate.

Even if India's local 'secularists' turn a Nelson's eye to the Maulana, the Union Government should arrest the cleric and order an investigation into his income sources. Otherwise, given the appeal religious fundamentalism holds among a section of Muslim youth in India and abroad, there is every likelihood that more such calls will be issued by that community's competing religious leaders.

Yet, the kind of hatred and barbarism perpetrated by the Islamic State alone should be enough for anyone in this

country to distance himself from that medieval movement. The Islamic State has reportedly begun to burn churches and persecute Christians in Iraq. In fact, it is even believed to crucify its enemies – which is one of the most painful ways to kill someone.

The jihadis are also enforcing the burqa on all women and arresting any woman found outside their home without a male escort. Notably, such punishments, which are supposedly in keeping with

demand for orthodox Islamic laws including punishments such as amputation of limbs for theft. Women have to wear the veil and any public or private gathering for any non-Islamic worship is strictly prohibited.

It is shocking that Muslim men have managed to join such jihadi forces in Iraq from our shores. How did they manage to go there? More importantly, what are the social and psychological forces pushing them towards such disastrous moves? According to their

what were they preaching? Have the security agencies done any homework on this? The present Government at the Centre should expose the harm done to this country by Muslim appeasement policies.

The call to kill infidels and die for the sake of Islam is a strong force within the community. And it is this very sentiment that terror groups are appealing to while calling on the faithful to join the battle in Iraq. How strongly such emotive appeals influence Muslim communities across national boundaries is clear from events around the world from Pakistan to Libya to Lebanon and Palestine, and even across Europe.

Most European countries are now viewing visiting Muslim clerics with suspicion and keeping them under watch. In France, Germany and Britain, the barrier is raised at immigration counters against the entry of Wahabi clerics. Why should India be any different?

West African states threatened by Islamist terror are already in the throes of a security crisis. The large-scale killing and kidnapping by Boko Haram in Nigeria is just one example. That outfit is already challenging the Government's authority over large parts of the country. Similarly, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia are also facing the problem of jihadi violence. China too has been warned following attacks against its security forces in Xinjiang Province, which borders Pakistan. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

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Islamic laws, are already part of the legal system in many Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia.

These developments have to be seen against the backdrop of the larger geo-politics in the Middle East and North Africa. The hopes raised by the Arab Spring, of liberal and democratic regimes coming to power in these countries, have already been dashed. In Libya, the democratically-elected Government is fighting jihadi forces that hold important port of Benghazi, and the capital of Tripoli is also under attack.

In Egypt, an uneasy lull prevails as the Army has taken back charge and has put the Muslim Brotherhood on a tight leash. In Qatar, the Government has already enforced the jihadi

families, these youths have reportedly been allured by the promise of heaven not only for themselves but also their entire families. This is not something that could have happened overnight. To be taken in by such promises, preparations at the social, religious and financial level are needed for a long time.

The Government must investigate if such long term brainwashing has been going on in this country. Equally importantly, it must also find out how the Congress's long rule at the Centre and in many States had emboldened religious extremists to carry out such brainwashing programmes. Also, how did so many preachers of jihad manage to come from Saudi Arabia and

Developing countries must have freedom to use food reserves to feed their poor : Nirmala Sitharaman

The Statement issued on August 5, 2014 by Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce & Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha regarding 'India's Stand in the WTO'.

I am making this intervention in the House today in order to place before the Hon'ble Members the facts relating to the stand taken by India in the World Trade Organization (WTO) recently.

The Bali Ministerial Declaration was adopted on 7 December 2013 on conclusion of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Bali. Ministerial Decisions were adopted on ten issues relating to the Doha Development Agenda which is the agenda for the unfinished Doha Round of trade negotiations, underway in the WTO since 2001.

Amongst these Ministerial Decisions, two are of particular significance — the Ministerial Decision for an Agreement on Trade Facilitation and the Ministerial Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement is basically aimed at greater transparency and simplification of customs procedures, use of electronic payments and risk management techniques and faster clearances at ports. We have autonomously taken several similar measures such as the 'Indian Customs Single Window Project' announced in the Budget 2014-15 to facilitate trade, under which importers and exporters will be able to lodge documents at a single point, reducing

interface with Governmental agencies, dwell time and the cost of doing business.

The Protocol of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) was to be adopted by 31 July 2014 by the WTO. After this the Agreement would automatically come into force from 31 July 2015 if ratified by two-thirds of the

purposes.

India, therefore, took the stand that till there is an assurance of commitment to find a permanent solution on public stockholding and on all other Bali deliverables, including those for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), it would be difficult to join the consensus on



members of the WTO.

In contrast to their efforts on Trade Facilitation in the WTO, some developed countries have been reluctant to engage on other issues.

Seeing the resistance to taking forward the other Decisions, the apprehension of developing countries was that once the process of bringing the Trade Facilitation Agreement into force was completed, other issues would be ignored, including the important issue of a permanent solution on subsidies on account of public stockholding for food security

the Protocol of Amendment for the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Without a permanent solution, public stockholding programmes in India and other developing countries will be hampered by the present ceiling on domestic support which is pegged at 10 per cent of the value of production and is wrongly considered as trade-distorting subsidy to farmers under existing WTO rules. The existence of such a subsidy element is determined by comparing present day administered prices with fixed reference prices of the 1986-88

period which is unrealistic.

The problem is a very real one. Developing countries are finding themselves hamstrung by the existing rules in running their food stockholding and domestic food aid programmes. The developed world too had market price support programmes and was able to move away from such support - though not fully even now - because of their deep pockets. This is not possible for

negotiations focused on development against the single-minded mercantilist focus of most of the rich developed world on market access issues.

Overall balance is important even in a limited package of outcomes. The Bali outcomes were negotiated as a package and must be concluded as such.

It is regrettable indeed that today the WTO is unable to agree even to fast track negotiations on an issue of such importance to

and food security. A permanent solution on food security is a must for us and we cannot wait endlessly in a state of uncertainty while the WTO engages in an academic debate on the subject of food security which is what some developed countries seem to be suggesting before they are ready to engage on this important issue.

Food security is a humanitarian concern especially in these times of uncertainty and volatility. Issues of development and food security are critical to a vast swathe of humanity and cannot be sacrificed to mercantilist considerations.

Developing countries such as India must have the freedom to use food reserves to feed their poor without the threat of violating any international obligations.

This is our sovereign right. It is our duty to protect our citizens' fundamental rights to life and livelihood.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian population. In a country of the size of India with 60% of the population dependent on a relatively unremunerative agriculture sector, we cannot give up administered prices. This is the only way we can procure food for the Public Distribution System (PDS), the central pillar on which our efforts to ensure food security, rest. Public stockholding is a widely used means to ensure food security in many developing countries where agriculture is largely rainfed.

We have to look after both consumer and producer interests. We have to enable our people to live a life of dignity by

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developing countries. It is important for developing countries to be able to guarantee some minimum returns to their poor farmers so that they are able to produce enough for themselves and for domestic food security.

Developed countries continue to have large entitlements to provide support to farmers. These would have been cut in the Doha Development Round which unfortunately remains unfinished. Had this Round, which has development at its core, concluded as per the agreed timelines and its development agenda, the world would have had an outcome in a single undertaking in which competing interests could have been balanced. Today, developing countries are fighting to keep the

millions of subsistence farmers across the developing world, while the rich world can continue to subsidise their farmers unabatedly.

The matter came up for discussion in the margins of the BRICS Trade Ministers meeting in Brazil on 14 July and the G20 Trade Ministers meeting in Sydney on 19 July. It was also raised by the representatives of some countries in their interactions with the Indian government. On each occasion I explained that India is a signatory to the Bali Decisions, including Trade Facilitation and is not standing in the way of its implementation but is seeking an equal level of commitment and progress in working on the issue of public stockholding which affects the country's livelihood

ensuring access to an adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices.

On 25 July 2014, India made a statement in the WTO General Council conveying, inter alia, that the adoption of the TF Protocol must be postponed till a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security is found.

India offered suggestions on the procedure to be followed in order to ensure time-bound delivery of an outcome on public stockholding for food security. We also urged that a similar approach be adopted on all other elements of the Bali Package notably the LDC issues.

The integrity of India's stand is reflected in our unwavering efforts to offer a way forward in the face of criticism. Even on 31 July 2014, India offered a way to achieve not only a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security but also to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the agreed timeframe as well as deliver favourable outcomes for LDCs.

We have offered practical suggestions for the way forward. The issue of a permanent solution on public stockholding is a simple one that can be addressed very easily as there are already several proposals on the table. A solution to this simple problem will be a tremendous relief for millions of farmers and poor consumers.

However, despite India's efforts, our concerns were not satisfactorily addressed.

The Director General of the WTO reported to an informal meeting of the Trade

Negotiations Committee on 31 July 2014 that a solution could not be found to bridge the gap.

The General Council meeting was, thereafter, formally declared closed without adopting the TF protocol.

India stood firm on its demands despite immense pressure. The Government of India is committed to protecting the interests of our farmers against all odds. Our farmers work in extremely adverse

conditions across the world and I take this opportunity to also thank the countries that have stood by India in the VVTO.

India is an unwavering votary of the multilateral trading system and we reiterate our commitment to the WTO. We continue to believe that it is in the best interest of developing countries, especially the poorest, most marginalized ones among them and we are determined to work to strengthen this

India stood firm on its demands despite immense pressure. The Government of India is committed to protecting the interests of our farmers against all odds. Our farmers work in extremely adverse conditions, most of them at the mercy of the vagaries of the monsoon, aggravated today by climate change. For farmers in many developing countries farming is a subsistence activity, not a commercial one. We are committed to their welfare and I am grateful for the support and understanding extended by farmers' organizations in this cause.

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I must also thank Hon'ble Members of Parliament, many civil society groups and academicians who have lent their voice in support of the Government's efforts to ensure a fair deal.

It is evident from the expressions of support that India's stand has resonated

across the world and I take this opportunity to also thank the countries that have stood by India in the VVTO. India is an unwavering votary of the multilateral trading system and we reiterate our commitment to the WTO. We continue to believe that it is in the best interest of developing countries, especially the poorest, most marginalized ones among them and we are determined to work to strengthen this

institution. The timely correction of any imbalances or anomalies in the working of the system or its rules is critical to ensure that the WTO works impartially and fairly in the interest of all its Members and not just a select few.

I am confident that India will be able to persuade the WTO Membership to appreciate the sensitivities of India and other developing countries and see their way to taking this issue forward in a positive spirit. This would be a major contribution by this institution towards 'meeting the global challenge of food insecurity and would convey -a strong message that the WTO is genuinely committed to the cause of development. ■

Achche din or jungle raj? Bihar's choice

By Ashok Malik

The Bharatiya Janata Party has never formed a Government on its own in Bihar. Regardless of the new alliance between Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar, the ground there is more fertile than it has ever been for the BJP.

Bihar is set for a compelling political contest. Ten legislative Assembly by-elections will see a direct fight between the BJP-led NDA — with two allied parties, including Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party — and a combine comprising the Janata Dal (United), the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress. The set of by-elections brings together Lalu Prasad and Mr Nitish Kumar for the first time in 20 years. To its adherents, this reunification of the Mandal twins holds hope of Yadavs and Kurmis voting as one and of the Muslim vote consolidating against the BJP.

Should this troika of parties do well in the by-elections, it is possible the alliance may be scaled up for the 2015 Assembly election. Indeed, should the NDA do very poorly in the by-elections — which would be a setback, given its impressive victory in Bihar in the recent Lok Sabha election — there is even talk of Mr Kumar calling early poll. Discussion as to who will become the non-BJP chief ministerial candidate is premature. The more speculative in the political class are speaking of the Nitish-Lalu duo sending an appropriate signal to the minorities and propping up a Muslim candidate, maybe even one from the Congress, a neutral

but rump party.

All this is hypothetical and extremely tentative. For the moment, the BJP is justified in seeing itself as the rising force in Bihar. Irrespective of how the by-elections go, it will be optimistic about the 2015 Assembly election, and victory there would certainly be a priority for the party's new president Amit Shah.

Bihar, like Uttar Pradesh, is

Bihar is set for a compelling political contest. Ten legislative Assembly by-elections will see a direct fight between the BJP-led NDA — with two allied parties, including Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party — and a combine comprising the Janata Dal (United), the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress. The set of by-elections brings together Lalu Prasad and Mr Nitish Kumar for the first time in 20 years. To its adherents, this reunification of the Mandal twins holds hope of Yadavs and Kurmis voting as one and of the Muslim vote consolidating against the BJP.

moving into a post-Mandal, post-social justice era of competitive politics. A quarter-century of Lalu and then Nitish-raj has exhausted the OBC empowerment process. This process had led to, first, Yadav rule and then a counter-consolidation of smaller and less-endowed OBC groups, led by Kurmis. However, Mr Narendra Modi's advent, and the peculiar circumstances of the 2014 Lok Sabha election, nullified many old postulates.

Mr Modi was at once a Hindu leader, who appealed to the traditional BJP constituency; an OBC, who won over significant slices of Mr Kumar's and Prasad's voters; and an embodiment of the aspirations of small-town, urban-oriented young voters looking for a narrative of economic rise. The BJP will hope to replicate this platform in the 2015 Assembly election, seeking votes for Mr Sushil Kumar Modi, who is also an OBC, and betting on a strong campaign by the Prime Minister.

On paper, a Nitish-Lalu-Congress alliance is formidable. It can unite Yadavs and Kurmis, along with the most-backward OBCs, Dalit and Mahadalits and Muslims. In the past decade, these differentiated groups have voted for either the RJD or the JD(U). In minor pockets of Bihar,

the Congress retains a presence. Sheer arithmetic would suggest this coalition is better placed than the NDA.

However, there are many points to consider. Chemistry is often as important, if not more important, than arithmetic in assessing an Indian election. First, Mr Kumar may be able to swing his core Kurmi vote but many of those who voted for him in the past decade did so because they saw an alternative to Lalu-raj. Some of these people were BJP voters. In a three-way contest, should they have assessed Mr Kumar as well-placed in a local/Assembly election, they may well have backed the JD(U) to keep out the RJD. If the Lalu-Nitish partnership survives till 2015, this segment – the non-Kurmi, non-traditional, incremental voters for Mr Kumar – will gravitate towards the BJP. Lalu Prasad will repel more than Mr Kumar will attract.

Second, Yadavs comprise some 13 per cent of Bihar's voters, much larger than the three to four per cent Kurmi segment. Muslims make up 16 or 17 per cent.

The BJP alliance and deft social engineering allowed Mr Kumar to punch well above his weight. Should he tie up with Lalu Prasad, however, he will be very much the junior brother. The wily Prasad will seek to rebuild his Yadav-Muslim constituency and turf out Mr Kumar, as had happened in the early 1990s.

Of course, given his conviction in the fodder scandal, Lalu Prasad will not be able to present himself as a chief ministerial aspirant. He will

probably seek to build a new-generation RJD under one of his sons or the first of his daughters, Ms Misa Bharti. In sum, the Nitish-Lalu partnership has many hidden minefields. Success is far from guaranteed, and the likelihood of Lalu Prasad emerging as the most senior rival of the BJP, pushing Mr Kumar to the margins, is very high.

While not discounting the potential of a Nitish-Lalu reunion, the fact is that 2015 offers the BJP its best chance in Bihar. The party grew appreciably in the State in the late 1980s and early 1990s, particularly in south Bihar (today's Jharkhand). From the mid-1990s, however, it ceded space to the JD(U) in a bid to put together an effective electoral alliance. A section of the party felt the bond with Mr Kumar, though beneficial in capturing power, had come at the cost of the BJP's organic growth in Bihar.

In 2014, in the Lok Sabha contest, this theory was tested and found to be valid. Could it repeat itself in an Assembly election? The BJP would be

banking on the fatigue factor and on the presumption that after a quarter century of rule by either Lalu Prasad or Mr Kumar (or their proxies), Bihar is tired and ready for change. In these circumstances, the BJP is the only viable option.

The party would need to run a high-octane, 'good days are coming' campaign, quite in the manner of its Lok Sabha communication and political marketing exercise. In that sense, the two-year break from Mr Kumar – between 2013 and the scheduled election in 2015 – and the fact that BJP Ministers would not have been in office in the period before voting will help. It can restore a degree of freshness to the BJP.

This is not always easy to do. In Maharashtra, the BJP has not been power for 15 years now. Yet, so corrupt is the political culture and so pervasive the cynicism, it is difficult to sell the idea of renewal and change. Could Bihar be different? For the BJP, which has never formed a Government in Patna on its own, the ground is more fertile than it has ever been. ■

(Courtesy: The Pioneer)

People from all walks of life participated in BJP Ganga Cell's nation wide plantation programme with enthusiasm

BJP's Ganga Cell started a Nation Wide plantation programme on the banks of Ganga and its tributaries which was started on 12th July 2014 and went on till 31st July 2014. People from all walks of life participated in this plantation programme with enthusiasm. It was a awareness programme for public participation in keeping Ma Ganga Aviral and Nirmal. We will start more public awareness programmes, said Ganga Cell's national convener - Mrs Anita Singh. ■

WEST BENGAL

BJP planning to expand its support base by striking alliance with local outfits

The Bengal BJP is planning to expand its support base mainly in the northern part of the State by striking alliance with the local outfits which enjoy substantial hold in that pocket. These outfits are Gorkha Janmukti



Morcha with which the saffron outfit already has an alliance, Jharkand Mukti Morcha, Kamtapur People's Party, Lok Janshakti Party etc. These outfits have good support base in the seven districts of North Bengal: Coochbehar, Alipurduar,

Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, North and South Dinajpurs and Malda.

The decision to form a broad-based alliance arrived in a recent meeting attended by senior leaders of all the parties. State BJP President Shri Rahul Sinha and GJM leader Shri Roshan Giri were also present in the meeting. The parties decided to contest the coming elections together, the BJP sources said adding the step was being taken with a view to defeat Trinamool Congress and the Left Front in the 2016 Assembly elections. Earlier Left parties like Forward Bloc and RSP apart from the CPI(M) labour arm CITU and INTUC dominated the tea belt but later they have been nearly forced out by the Trinamool Congress which has this time round won 4 out of eight Lok Sabha seats from the area.

The BJP had in the last Lok Sabha elections polled more than 16 per cent votes and had come second in South Malda seat behind the Congress. The party which won the Darjeeling seat has very good presence in Alipurduar where it gave both the Left and the Trinamool a good chase this time round. The party leadership feels that additional support from the JMM and the KPP — which is primarily an organization of the sons of the soils like the Kamtapuris and Rajbangshis — could work wonders for the party in the coming State elections in the area. For now, however, the parties have decided to contest the Siliguri Municipal Corporation elections and the Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad elections together sources said.

ODISHA

BJP will start its large-scale membership drive from January 2015

The Bharatiya Janata Party plans to increase its members ten folds in Odisha to make itself a strong alternative in the State. Speaking to media persons in Berhampur on August 02, BJP State President



Shri KV Singhdeo and State In-Charge for Odisha, Shri Arun Singh said with the declining clout of the Congress, BJP can emerge as a credible alternative in Odisha.

The BJP leaders were in the city to take part in a party meeting to discuss the election results in areas under Berhampur, Aska, Kandhamal and Koraput parliamentary constituencies in the last Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. All candidates of the BJP who had contested in the last Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in these regions took part in the meeting.

According to Shri Singhdeo, the BJP would start its large-scale membership drive from January 2015. "Our aim would be to increase number of our members in Odisha to ten times more," said Shri Singhdeo. Before the membership drive, the existing party workers would be re-oriented through district training programmes from September. Through these training programs party workers would be motivated to make people aware of the achievements of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the failures of the BJD government in the State, said Shri Singhdeo.

Speaking on the feedback that had been collected from the party candidates during the meeting, Shri Singhdeo said lack of coordination was a major reason why the Modi wave could not make an impact in Odisha. He said there was lack of coordination between candidates contesting the Lok Sabha and the Assembly polls although both elections were held simultaneously.

He said that the State government was only shedding crocodile tears for the victims of 'Chit

Fund' scam. He alleged that although the BJD government had promised to form a Rs. 300 crore corpus fund for the victims of 'Chit Fund' scam in Odisha, there has been no budgetary allocation for it in the recent State budget.

Shri KV Singh Deo also said that the ruling BJD came to power using huge money and muscular power and misusing the police and district administrations. He said there are as many as 45 political leaders from the ruling party who are involved with the chit fund scam while the CBI has raided the houses of only three of them so far. The BJD is deeply involved in the Dal, Coal and Mine scams, he said. The BJP President demanded that the investigation of Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda must be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Speaking on the occasion BJP senior leader Shri Bijay Mohapatra said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik deliberately ignored the guidelines of both the Supreme Court and High Court for the benefit of his own party leaders like Kalpataru Das in allotment of Government lands and houses under the so-called discretionary quota.

If no irregularity had been done in the allotment of plots and flats then why Kalpataru Das is surrendering the flats to the Government, he questioned. The observations of the CAG on the illegal allotments of plots and flats to BJD leaders in Bhubaneswar would be published in Odia and distributed both in rural and urban areas soon for public scrutiny, Shri Mohapatra added.

The meeting was attended by BJP State President Shri KV Singh Deo; the party's State Prabhari Shri Arun Singh, Former BJP

President Shri Manmohan Samal, BJP senior leader Shri Bijay Mohapatra, Shri Rama Chandra Panda, Shri Ramakrushna Patnaik and Shri Bijay Kumar Swain.

UTTAR PRADESH

BJP demanded imposition of President's rule in the state

Holding Uttar Pradesh Government responsible for spurt in the incidents of crime the state unit of BJP has demanded imposition of President's rule in the state saying the Akhilesh Yadav Government has lost the moral authority to rule. BJP leaders led by state General secretary Shri Pankaj Singh called on Governor Shri Ram Naik and apprised him of the prevailing law and order situation in the state.

"I informed the Governor about the prevailing law and order situation and as how the Government has tackled Saharanpur and Moradabad incidents. Uttar Pradesh is a fit case to impose President's rule," Shri Singh told reporters outside Raj Bhawan in Lucknow.

He blamed the Akhilesh Yadav government for the sudden spurt in incidents of jail break. He said the Chief Minister has lost the moral authority to rule. BJP State Spokesperson Shri Vijay Babadur Pathak said that when orders of CM are ignored even a petty criminal tries to take advantage of the situation. "As the government has failed to impose rule of the law the criminals are having a field day," he said.

The BJP was reacting to clashes that broke out in the Moradabad district jail in which one prisoner was critically injured, two prisoners escaped from Aligarh and a day earlier two life term convict escaped from the Lakhimpur Kheri jail after pointing gun on the security guards. ■



Kaptan Singh Solanki appointed Haryana Governor

President Pranab Mukherjee on 25 July 2014 appointed Kaptan Singh Solanki as the Governor of Haryana. A hard-core organisation man, Shri Solanki, 75, has proved himself to be a capable organizer and parliamentarian. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said the President has appointed Solanki as Governor of Haryana with immediate effect. Shri Solanki, a former professor,

hails from Bhind district of Madhya Pradesh and was renominated to Rajya Sabha in August, 2012. ■

...Continued from page ...

young nations, and we can give our youth opportunity by harnessing natural resources. India wants to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with Nepal in its journey of progress, the Prime Minister asserted.

In a series of announcements, the Prime Minister said pipelines would be built to help transport oil to Nepal. He said scholarships to students from Nepal would be increased. India would help Nepal emerge as a major exporter of herbal medicines. India would also help develop the tourism potential of Nepal, both as a spiritual, and adventure tourism destination.

The Prime Minister gave a HIT formula for Nepal, saying India wants to help Nepal build highways (H), information highways (I) and transways - transmission lines (T).

The Prime Minister announced that he is keen to double power supply to Nepal.

Stating that the sooner Nepal comes close to us, the better, the Prime Minister urged that the bridge on the Mahakali river and the Pancheshwar multi-purpose project should be taken up at the earliest.

Noting that it is more expensive to make a telephone call between India and Nepal, than it is to make a call between India and USA, the Prime Minister said he is keen to change this fact.

The India-Nepal border should not be a barrier but a bridge which helps bring prosperity to both sides, the Prime Minister said.

He offered assistance to Nepal in the fields of organic farming, and soil health.

The Prime Minister announced that India will give Nepal 10,000 crore Nepali rupee concessional line of credit, for its development.

May the friendship between India and Nepal live long, and may Nepal rise higher than the Himalayas, the Prime Minister said. ■

Hundreds of CPI (M) members join BJP in Kerala



More than 240 members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] on August 6, 2014

parted ways with the party and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The members, including area committee members of the district unit of the CPI(M) and those holding posts in the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), joined the BJP at a function held at the party State headquarters at Thycaud in Thiruvananthapuram .

BJP State President Shri V. Muraleedharan welcomed the CPI(M) leaders by handing over the membership card to Alamcode Dhanaseelan, who was a member of the CPI(M) Varkala area committee.

A majority of those who defected to the BJP are from Varkala, Kallambalam, Navaikulam, Kazhakuttam, Attipra, and Chirayinkeezhu Shri Muraleedharan said.

Shri V Muraleedharan said the decision by the members to leave the party showed the “ideological disarray” in the CPI(M), and the growing acceptance of the BJP in the State. The BJP, he said, had sensed the antipathy within the CPI(M) immediately after the Lok Sabha polls as several of its active members had voted for the BJP candidates.

The CPI(M) had “lost its relevance” as most of its leaders had moved away from the party’s core ideological moorings, he said. This drift had created disgruntlement among its committed workers.

“Such dissatisfied members are looking to the BJP. The party will continue to raise issues concerning the poor and the tribal people,” he said. The BJP leader criticised the Congress for its involvement in various scams. ■

Concentration

By Sri Swami Sivananda

IMPORTANCE OF AN ETHICAL BASIS

Purify the mind first through the practice of right conduct and then take to the practice of concentration. Concentration without purity of mind is of no avail. Some foolish, impatient students take to concentration at once without in any manner undergoing any preliminary training in ethics. This is a serious blunder.

There are some occultists who have concentration. But, they have no good character. That is the reason why they do not make any progress in the spiritual line.

CONCENTRATION- THE MASTER-KEY TO SUCCESS

Those who practise concentration evolve quickly. They can do any work with scientific accuracy and great efficiency. What others do in six hours can be done, by one who has concentration, within half an hour. What others read in six hours can be read, by one who does concentration, within half an hour.

Concentration purifies and calms the surging emotions, strengthens the current of thought, and clarifies the ideas.

Concentration helps a man in his material progress also. He will have a very good out-turn of work in his office or business house. He who practises concentration will possess very clear mental vision. What was cloudy and hazy before becomes clear and definite now. What was difficult before becomes easy now. And what was complex, bewildering, and confusing before comes easily within the mental grasp. You can achieve anything through concentration. Nothing is impossible to a man who practises regular concentration.

It helps the scientists and professors to do great research work. It helps the doctor and the lawyer to do much work and earn more money. It develops will-power and memory; it sharpens and brightens the intellect. Concentration bestows serenity or calmness of mind, inner spiritual strength, patience, great capacity to turn out tremendous work, alacrity, acumen, agility, beautiful complexion, sweet voice, brilliant eyes, powerful voice and speech, power to influence others and attract people, cheerfulness, joy, bliss of soul, supreme peace. It removes restlessness, agitation of mind, laziness. It makes you fearless and unattached. It helps you to attain God-realization.

The more is the mind fixed on God the more is the strength you will acquire. More concentration means more energy. Concentration opens the inner chambers of love or the realm of eternity.

Concentration is a source of spiritual strength. Be slow and steady in concentration. By practice of concentration, you will become superhuman.

Those who practise concentration off and on will have a steady mind only occasionally. Sometimes the mind will begin to wander and will be quite unfit for application. You must have a mind that will obey you at all times sincerely and carry out all your commands in the best possible manner at any time. Steady and systematic practice of Raja Yoga will make the mind very obedient and faithful. You will be successful in every attempt. You will never meet with failure. ■

Source: Divine Life Society

