



THE NATIONALIST

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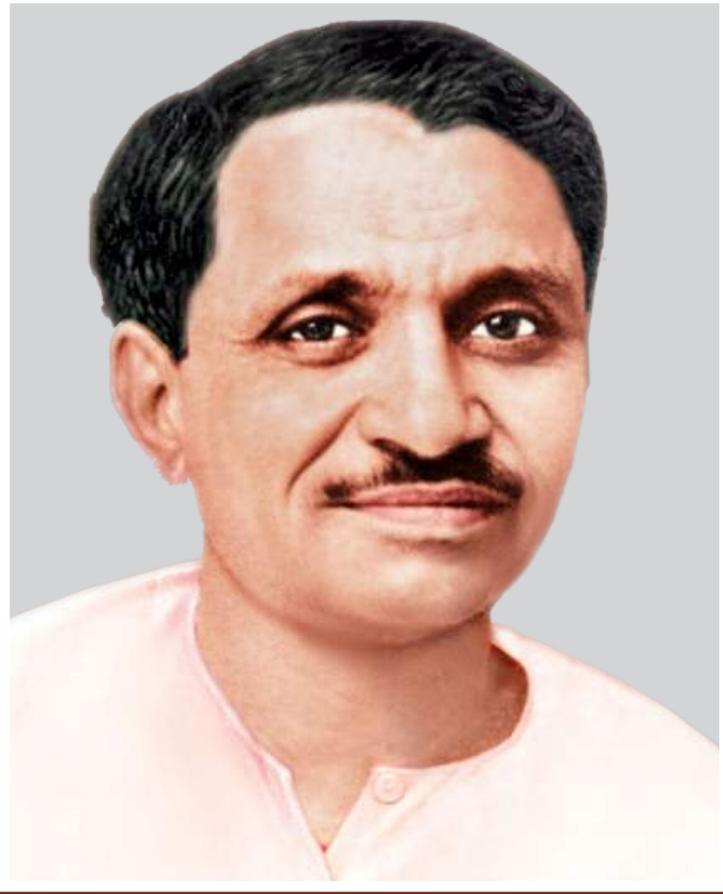
- The Land Ordinance – The Obvious Answers
- Development of Bihar is Our Priority

Pradhan Mantri Khanij
Kshetra Kalyan Yojana
(PMKKKY)

India's Big Step Forward
in Bid for UN Security
Council Membership

Dream of Developed Bihar –
Roads: from Laloo's Apathy
to Modi's Vision

राजनीति दलों के लिए एक दर्शन की आवश्यकता



“भिन्न-भिन्न राजनीतिक दलों को अपने लिए एक दर्शन (सिद्धांत या आदर्श) का क्रमिक विकास करने का प्रयत्न करना चाहिए। उन्हें कुछ स्वार्थों की पूर्ति के लिए एकत्र होने वाले लोगों का समुच्चय मात्र नहीं बनना चाहिए। उनका रूप किसी व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठान या ज्वाइंट स्टॉक कंपनी (Joint Stock Company) से अलग होना चाहिए। यह भी आवश्यकता है कि पार्टी का दर्शन केवल पार्टी घोषणा-पत्र के पृष्ठों तक ही सीमित न रह जाए।

सदस्यों को उन्हें समझना चाहिए और उन्हें कार्यरूप में परिणत करने के लिए निष्ठापूर्वक जुट जाना चाहिए।”

– पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

–पोलिटिकल डायरी, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय; सुरुचि प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली; 2012; पृष्ठ -188

Editorial Advisors :

Shakti Sinha, IAS (retd)
Former Power & Finance Secretary,
Govt. of Delhi

Dr. Anirban Ganguly
Director, SPMRF

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Executive Editor, Kamal Sandesh

Amit Malviya
National In-charge, IT & Social
Media Vibhag, BJP

Research Team:

Amarjeet Singh

Siddharth Singh

Shubhendu Anand

Ajit Jha

Priya Sharma

Gaurav Jha

Shailendra Kumar Shukla

Layout:

Nandan Singh Bisht

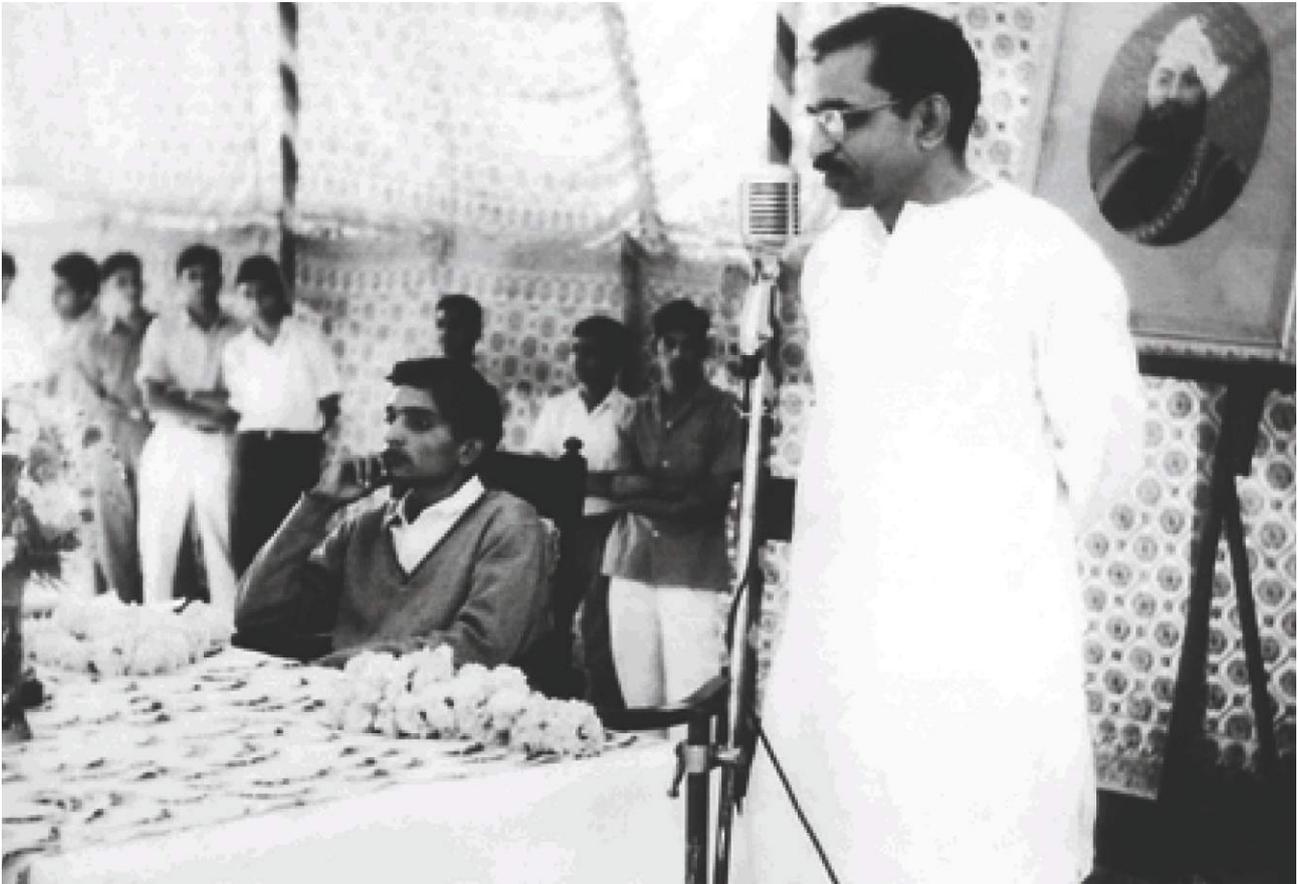
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Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation
11, Ashok Road,
New Delhi - 110001
E-mail : office@spmrf.org,
Telephone : 011 - 48005769

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On the Path of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya



September 2015 announces the centenary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the one leader who, after Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, guided, established and spread the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and its vision and ideals across the breadth and land of India. In shaping post independent India's political evolution and direction, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's contribution has been unparalleled and epochal. By shaping a political philosophy that is attuned to and rooted in the vision and ideal of Bharatiyata, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya developed the possibilities of evolving a political discourse that

was inspired by indigenous thought-roots of India. Unlike other political ideologies which have no root in the Bharatiya ethos and which have derived direct inspiration from foreign thinkers, frameworks and paradigms, the vision of Integral Humanism, as propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, sprung from the fountains of Bharatiya thought and aspirations.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya spoke of Dharma Rajya, as a state where inequality and divisiveness was eradicated. An economic system and a government must be able to provide food, clothing and shelter and must “enable the individual to carry out his

obligations to society by properly educating him” and in the event of “an individual falling prey to any disease, society must arrange for his treatment and maintenance” he argued. And a government which was concerned with these was a government which worked out the rule of Dharma – otherwise it reflected the rule of adharma. “Being responsible for the maintenance, protection and education of his subjects”, the ruler was their true father, pointed out Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, basing himself on India's historical experience of governance.

The need for India to evolve her own understanding of the world, the need for her to rediscover her cultural and civilisational roots and to understand the essential shape and expression of her identity and to restate it in the current context were issues that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya advocated as he advocated the need to develop our own technologies, achieve technological and industrial self-sufficiency, self-reliance in energy and the need to explore options of energy and power generation. He spoke for the marginalized, for the traditional and indigenous landholders, for the farmers and for those who still stood on the last rung of the societal ladder and who needed support and an enabling environment. At the same he also cautioned about an increasing habit of resorting to “eco-destructive consumerism” and called for the need to

evolve or rediscover the fundamental balance between nature and man.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was, in a sense, a man way ahead of his times, one who had a clear perception of the path India needed to chart and pursue in order to regain her rightful place on the global scene. “We have set out with the determination to make this nation strong, happy and prosperous...and therefore we must carry on practical programmes for national reconstruction on this foundation...Our goal is not merely to protect the culture but to revitalize it so as to make it dynamic and in tune with times. We must ensure that our nation stands firm on this foundation and our society is enabled to live a healthy, progressive and purposeful life.”

He would have been happy and vindicated to see today a government led by the party he shaped and directed by workers and leaders who derive direct inspiration from his vision and ideals lead the nation today and conform to his way of addressing issues. In the last fifteen months that the Narendra Modi led BJP government is in power it has striven outmost to fulfill the ideals of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, ideals which can alone propel India to the position of a great and decisive power.

*-Dr. Anirban Ganguly,
Director, SPMRF*

Salient Points of PM Modi's address at Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, 5th September, 2015

(At the Hindu-Buddhist Conference on Conflict Avoidance & Environmental Consciousness)

- Both, Gautama Buddha and Lord Krishna have taught the world so much. Shri Krishna gave his message before the start of the Great War in the Mahabharata and Lord Buddha repeatedly emphasized on rising above warfare. The message by both of them was about establishing Dharma. Both of them gave great prominence to principles and processes. Gautama Buddha gave the eight-fold path and the Panchsheel, while Shri Krishna gave invaluable lessons of life in the form of Karma Yoga. These two divine souls had the strength to bring people together, rising above differences. Their teachings are most practical, eternal and are more relevant in this day and age than ever before.

- On the issue of conflicts — most of which are being driven by religious intolerance — the participants in the conference seem to have agreed that while there is no problem about the freedom to practise one's religion, it is when the radical elements try to force their own ideologies on others, that the potential for conflict arises. On the



issue of environment, the conference seems to have agreed that the philosophic underpinning of the Dharma, which stresses the

protection of natural heritage, is critical for sustainable development.

- United Nations too has arrived at the view that sustainable development is achievable only through aligning development to the local culture of the people. This, in my view, is a positive turn in the development modelling of the world of diversity. I may add that the turn in thinking at the global level has created the eco-system for the Hindu-Buddhist societies to carry forward their consensual ideas to the global fora.

- Hindu philosophy was one of the greatest beneficiaries of the advent and the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Many scholars have analysed the impact of Buddha on Hinduism. In fact, Adi Sankara was even critiqued for the way he was influenced by the Buddha and Sankara was called as "Prachhanna Boudha" — meaning Sankara was Buddha in disguised form. That was the extent of influence of the Buddha on Adi Sankara, regarded by many as the tallest Hindu philosopher. At the mass level Buddha was so venerated that Jayadeva in his Geeta Govinda even praised him as Mahavishnu or God himself who descended to preach Ahimsa. So, Hinduism after the Buddha's advent became Buddhist

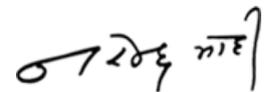
Hinduism or Hindu Buddhism. They are today an inseparable amalgam.

- Buddha was the great preacher of equality. Every man and woman has the same right to attain spirituality— that was his teaching.

- Buddha is the crown jewel of the Indian nation which accepts all ways of worship of all religions. This quality of Hinduism in India was a product of many great spiritual masters chief among them was Buddha. And this is what sustains the secular character of India.

- The Enlightenment which Buddha attained in Bodh Gaya also lit the light of enlightenment in Hinduism.

- As the first Servant of this ancient nation I revere Buddha as a reformer of not only Hinduism but also the world, who has given all of us a new world view and vision which is critical for the survival of all of us and the entire world.



NARENDRA MODI

Text of Prime Minister's 'Mann ki Baat' on 30th August 2015

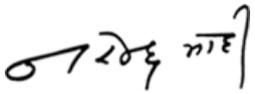
□ पिछले दिनों मुझे सूफी परम्परा के विद्वानों से मिलने का अवसर मिला। सूफी परम्परा में जो उदारता है, जो सौम्यता है, जिसमें एक संगीत का लय है, उन सबकी अनुभूति इन विद्वानों के बीच में मुझे हुई। शायद दुनिया को इस्लाम के सही स्वरूप को सही रूप में पहुँचाना सबसे अधिक आवश्यक हो गया है। मुझे विश्वास है कि सूफी परम्परा जो प्रेम से जुड़ा हुआ है, उदारता से जुड़ा हुआ है, वे इस संदेश को दूर-दूर तक पहुँचायेंगे, जो मानव-जाति को लाभ करेगा, इस्लाम का भी लाभ करेगा।

□ जिस 'Land Acquisition Bill' के सम्बन्ध में विवाद चल रहा है, उसके विषय में सरकार का मन खुला है। किसानों के हित के किसी भी सुझाव को मैं स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हूँ, ये बार-बार मैं कहता रहा हूँ। लेकिन आज मुझे, मेरे किसान भाइयों-बहनों को ये कहना है कि 'Land Acquisition Bill' में सुधार की बात राज्यों की तरफ से आई, आग्रहपूर्वक आई और सब को लगता था, कि गाँव, गरीब किसान का अगर भला करना है, खेतों तक पानी पहुँचाने के लिए नहरें बनानी हैं, गाँव में बिजली पहुँचाने के लिए खम्बे लगाने हैं, गाँव के लिए सड़क बनानी है, गाँव के गरीबों के लिए घर बनाने हैं, गाँव के गरीब नौजवानों को रोजगार के लिए व्यवस्थायें उपलब्ध करानी हैं, तो हमें ये अफसरशाही के चंगुल से, कानून को निकालना पड़ेगा और तब जाकर के सुधार का प्रस्ताव आया था। हमने एक Ordinance जारी किया था, 31 अगस्त को Ordinance की सीमा समाप्त हो रही है, और मैंने तय किया है, समाप्त होने दिया जाए। मतलब ये हुआ, कि मेरी सरकार बनी, उसके पहले जो स्थिति थी, वो अब पुनःप्रस्थापित हो चुकी है। लेकिन उसमें एक काम अधूरा था, और वो था – 13 ऐसे बिंदु थे, जिसको एक साल में पूर्ण करना था और इसलिए हम Ordinance में उसको लाये थे, लेकिन इन विवादों के रहते वो मामला भी उलझ गया। Ordinance तो समाप्त हो रहा है, लेकिन जिससे किसानों को सीधा लाभ मिलने वाला है, किसानों का सीधा आर्थिक लाभ जिससे जुड़ा हुआ है, उन 13 बिंदुओं को, हम नियमों के तहत



लाकर के, आज ही लागू कर रहे हैं ताकि किसानों को नुकसान न हो, आर्थिक हानि न हो, और इसलिए जिन 13 बिंदुओं को लागू करना पहले के कानून में बाकी था, उसको आज हम पूरा कर रहे हैं, और मेरे किसान भाइयों और बहनों को मैं विश्वास दिलाता हूँ, कि हमारे लिए “जय-जवान, जय-किसान” ये नारा नहीं है, ये हमारा मंत्र है – गाँव, गरीब किसान का कल्याण – और तभी तो हमने 15 अगस्त को कहा था, कि सिर्फ कृषि विभाग नहीं, लेकिन कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग बनाया जायेगा, जिसका निर्णय हमने बहुत तेजी से आगे बढ़ाया है। तो मेरे किसान भाइयों-बहनों, अब न भ्रम का कोई कारण है, और न ही कोई भयभीत करने का प्रयास करे, तो आपको भयभीत होने की आवश्यकता है।

□ 1965 के युद्ध के पचास साल हुए और जब-जब 1965 के युद्ध की बात आती है तो लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की याद आना बहुत स्वाभाविक है। “जय-जवान, जय-किसान” मंत्र भी याद आना बहुत स्वाभाविक है। और भारत के तिरंगे झंडे को, उसकी आन-बान-शान बनाये रखने वाले, उन सभी शहीदों का स्मरण होना बहुत स्वाभाविक है। 65 के युद्ध के विजय के सभी संबंधितों को मैं प्रणाम करता हूँ। वीरों को नमन करता हूँ। और ऐसी इतिहास की घटनाओं से हमें निरंतर प्रेरणा मिलती रहे।


NARENDRA MODI

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)



The Central Government has announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY). This is a new programme meant to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations, using funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs). PMKKKY is a revolutionary and unprecedented scheme of its kind, which will transform the lives of people living in areas which are affected directly or indirectly by mining.

The objective of PMKKKY scheme are

(a) to implement various

developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government;

(b) to minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts;

(c) to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

Care has been taken to include all aspects of living, to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of life. High priority areas like drinking water supply, health

care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environment conservation will get at least 60 % share of the funds. For creating a supportive and conducive living environment, balance funds will be spent on making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation and alternative energy sources. This way, government is facilitating mainstreaming of the people from lower strata of society and forest-dwellers who have no wherewithal and are affected the most from mining activities.

The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, mandated the setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations. The Central Government has also notified the rates of contribution payable by miners to the DMFs. In case of all mining leases executed before 12th January, 2015 (the date of coming into force of the Amendment Act) miners will have to contribute an amount equal to 30% of the royalty payable by them to the DMFs. Where mining leases are granted after 12.01.2015, the rate of contribution would be 10% of the

royalty payable. Using the funds generated by this contribution, the DMFs are expected to implement the PMKKKY.

The Central Government has issued a directive to the State Governments, under Section 20A of the MMDR Act, 1957, laying down the guidelines for implementation of PMKKKY and directing the States to incorporate the same in the rules framed by them for the DMFs.

The DMFs have also been directed to maintain the utmost transparency in their functioning and provide periodic reports on the various projects and schemes taken up by them.

SPMRF Desk

Rurban Mission to Transform Rural Areas and to Develop a Cluster of Smart Villages



Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

In an ambitious bid to transform rural areas to economically, socially and physically sustainable spaces, the Union Government has approved the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) with an outlay of Rs. 5142.08 crores.

The Rurban Mission aims at development of rural growth clusters which have latent potential for growth, in all States and UTs, which would trigger overall development in the region. These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills & local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities. The Rurban Mission will thus develop a cluster of Smart Villages.

These clusters would be well delineated areas with planned

layouts prepared following the planning norms (as laid down in the State Town and Country Planning Acts/similar Central or State statutes as may be applicable), which would be duly notified by the State/UTs. These plans would be finally integrated with the District Plans/Master Plans as the case may be.

The State Governments would identify the clusters in accordance with the Framework for Implementation prepared by the Ministry of Rural Development. The clusters will be geographically contiguous Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25000 to 50000 in plain and coastal areas and a population of 5000 to 15000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas. There would be a separate approach for selection of clusters in Tribal and

Bridging the gap between urban and rural areas



Non-Tribal Districts. As far as practicable, clusters of village would follow administrative convergence units of Gram Panchayats.

For the selection of clusters, the Ministry of Rural Development is adopting a scientific process of cluster selection which involves an objective analysis at the District, Sub District and Village level, of the demography, economy, tourism and pilgrimage significance and transportation corridor impact. While the Ministry, following this analysis, would provide a suggestive list of sub districts to the State, the State Governments would then select the clusters following a set of indicated principles included in the Framework for Implementation.

The Rurban mission aims to create 300 such Rurban growth clusters over the next 3 years, across the

country. The funding for Rurban Clusters will be through various schemes of the Government converged into the cluster. The SPMRM will provide an additional funding support of upto 30 percent of the project cost per cluster as Critical Gap Funding (CGF) as Central Share to enable development of such Rurban clusters.

To ensure an optimum level of development, fourteen components have been suggested as desirable for the cluster, which would include; Skill development training linked to economic activities, Agro Processing/Agri Services/Storage and Warehousing, Digital Literacy, Sanitation, Provision of piped water supply, Solid and liquid waste management, Village streets and

drains, Street lights, Fully equipped mobile health unit, Upgrading school /higher education facilities, Inter-village road connectivity, Citizen Service Centres- for electronic delivery of citizen centric services/e-gram connectivity, Public transport., LPG gas connections.

The States would prepare Integrated Cluster Action Plans for Rurban Clusters, which would be comprehensive plan documents detailing out the strategy for the cluster, desired outcomes for the cluster under the mission, along with the resources to be converged under various Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored and State Sector schemes, and the Critical Gap Funding (CGF) required for the cluster.

In addition to the Critical Gap Funding, proactive steps have been taken to ensure the success of the mission with adequate budget provisions for supporting the State Government towards project development, capacity building and other institutional arrangements at the state level.

The Rurban Mission envisages institutional arrangements both at the State and Center to ensure smooth implementation of the Mission. The Mission also has an

Innovation budget towards facilitating research, development and capacity building.

The scheme through development of rurban growth clusters aimed at catalyzing overall regional growth, would thus simultaneously benefit the rural as well as urban areas of the country, by achieving twin objectives of strengthening rural areas and de burdening the urban areas hence leading to balanced regional development and growth of the country.

SPMRF Desk

India's Big Step Forward in Bid for UN Security Council Membership



India's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council has made big progress, with China forced to fall in line for now. The nearly 200 member countries of the United Nations have agreed that over the next year, they will negotiate the wording of a document that will call for reforming the Security Council, the top decision-making body, which has 15 members. Of these, five, including China, Russia, Britain, France and the US, are permanent. For the first time, different countries have submitted written suggestions for what the resolution should state. China has been strongly opposing the expansion of the Security Council and therefore it reportedly wanted to force a vote on

whether the UN should proceed with a one-year discussion on how the reform should be framed, but failed to muster enough support. If a vote had been called, India would have been forced to get other countries on board to support the extended negotiations. While the US and Russia have verbally backed India's membership, neither has put that down in writing.

The draft resolution calls for next year's UN agenda to discuss the "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council." Once the draft is agreed on, it will be put to vote at the General Assembly, where a two-thirds vote is needed to clear it. Ahead of the UN's 70th anniversary in October, the PM has, on foreign

trips and in bilaterals with the heads of other countries, strongly lobbied for support for a permanent seat on the Security Council for India. India believes that the United Nations (UN), especially the UN Security Council (UNSC), must reflect contemporary global realities. For this purpose the reform of the UN including the expansion of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories is essential. To this end, the Government of India has been actively working along with other like-minded countries for building support among the UN membership for a meaningful restructuring and expansion of the UNSC. The Government of India has strongly put across to the international community India's case for permanent membership of the Security Council which is based on India's extensive contribution to the activities of the UN particularly the maintenance of international peace and security. By any objective criteria such as population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, civilizational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and on-going contributions to the activities of the UN - especially to UN peacekeeping operations - India is eminently suited for a permanent membership

of an expanded UNSC.

India along with Brazil, Japan and Germany (together known as the G-4) has proposed expansion of the membership of the UNSC in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. Separately, India is spearheading a group of around 42 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America – called the L.69 Group – which has demanded urgent action on the UNSC reform front. With a view to harness the support of the 54-member strong African Group, the L.69 has engaged in discussions with the Committee of C-10 of the African Union to evolve a joint position on UNSC reform.

India is also pursuing the matter through bilateral channels with our interlocutors. A large number of countries have supported India's initiatives for reform of the UNSC as well as endorsed its candidature for permanent membership.

There is also broad support for the idea that there should be a concrete outcome on the issue of UNSC reform in 2015, which will mark the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 World Summit which had called for 'early' reform of the UNSC.

SPMRF Desk

One Year of World's Largest Financial Inclusion Scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY): An Assessment

• *Rastriya Prahari*

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world, completed its First Anniversary on 28th August 2015. It was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014 and Mega launch was done by him on 28th August 2014 across the country. Simultaneous launch functions were held in State Capitals and Districts through 79 Mega Camps in the presence of Union Ministers, State Chief Ministers, MPs/MLAs and other dignitaries. More than 70000 account opening camps were held all over the country. The target of opening one account per household was achieved by 26th January 2015. The success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana had shown the potential of the enormous role that the financial inclusion program can play in the rise of the economy. At present more than 17.5 crore bank accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and the people have deposited more than Rs.22,000 crore in these accounts.



The scheme has been started with a target to provide 'universal access to banking facilities' starting with "Basic Saving Bank Account" with an overdraft upto Rs.5000 subject to satisfactory operation in the account for six months and RuPay Debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh and providing social security schemes i.e., Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) & Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Milestones achieved under PMJDY

- Banks have opened 17.74 Crore accounts under PMJDY with deposit of more than 22000 crores.
- Aadhaar has been seeded in 41.82% of account opened under PMJDY.
- To ensure universal banking

access more than 1.26 lakhs Bank Mitras have been deployed with on-line devices capable of e-KYC based account opening and interoperable payment facility.

- 131012 Mega Financial Literacy camps were organized by banks under PMJDY 'in coordination with various agencies and 89876 Financial Literacy counters, to spread awareness on PMJDY, use of RuPay cards etc. 147418 students in 2567 schools/collage were imparted training on Financial literacy from September 2014 to April 2015 (Source: Banks).

- More than 10 lakhs accounts have been found eligible for Overdraft facility. Out of these overdrafts facility has been availed by 164962 account holders.

- 847 Claims of Life cover of Rs.30000 and 389 Claims of accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh have been successfully paid.

- As on 22nd August, 2015, 8.17 crore beneficiaries have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and 2.76 crore have been enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. 6.83 lakh account holders have been enrolled under Atal Pension Yojana.

- Zero balance accounts in

PMJDY have declined from 76% to 45.74% from September 2014 to 19th August 2015

Accomplishments

- Jan Dhan Yojana features in Guinness Book of World Records: The Guinness World Records recognised the achievements made under PMJDY for opening 18,096,130 accounts by Banks in a week (from 23 to 29 August, 2014) as a part of Financial Inclusion Campaign.

- Launch of dedicated website for Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana by Secretary (FS) ON 27.10.2014: website for PMJDY (www.pmjdy.gov.in) which is available in both English & Hindi versions. The website consists of Information on administrative structure with contact details of Central/State/District level mission directors/nodal officers monitoring implementation of PMJDY, information of latest events & latest circulars issued under the Scheme.

- Payment of wages under MNREGA: More than Rs 4273 crore have been routed through these accounts till June 2015 towards payment of wages under MNREGA. (Source: MNREGA, Ministry of Rural Development).

- DBTL transactions: Transfer of subsidy of more than Rs 17446

crore through Jan Dhan accounts from November 2014 to 31st July 2015. (Source: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas).

The scheme is a game changer for the Indian economy. It has created a platform for inculcating the habit of saving money, providing formal credit facilities, plugging leakages in public subsidies and welfare programs. This is indeed a credible achievement of the Government in trying to change the economic condition of the people.

Process simplification and customer's convenience have been at the core of the design of PMJDY. First, the account opening form was made one pager, simplified and universal. Use of e-KYC reduced paper work and documentation. Second, the citizen had option of opening account even during extended working hours and with customer service points (Business correspondents) in branchless banking. Third, multiple services were bundled in single product i.e. bank account, RuPay Card, mobile banking, insurance and credit (over draft). Fourth, entire account opening process was completed in quick time and accounts were instantly activated. Fifth, multiple channels were made available to the citizen for grievance management like email, toll free number, portal,

physical letters. The grievances were immediately attended to within 2 days and resolved within 5-7 days. Finally the whole task was done in a Mission mode within a very strict timeline.

Technology has been a key enabler of PMJDY. Technology was efficiently leveraged to address some of the challenges faced in previous financial inclusion initiatives. Use of USSD based mobile banking, e-KYC, RuPay Debit Cards ensured simplification of processes and time saving for the citizens. All these initiatives led to very encouraging response from citizens. Now the focus of PMJDY has moved from account opening to the realms of social security benefits like accident insurance, life insurance, credit to low income groups and provision of pensions. PMJDY has been a game changer in the financial inclusion efforts in the country. It has demonstrated that when we converge the efforts of all stake holders, and work in unison with clearly defined goals, unprecedented results follow.

A Family Gets Together

RSS-BJP relationship is unique. It cannot be understood by existing models

• **Ram Madhav**

The recent three-day meet of the leaders of the RSS and its affiliates has generated a lot of curiosity and controversy. The presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several of his cabinet colleagues invited extra attention and ill-informed criticism.

The RSS is a big and popular organisation. Hence, the attention and curiosity are understandable. But is the criticism warranted? Can't organisations interact with governments in a democracy? In fact, the PM and ministers meet members of social, cultural and business organisations almost a daily routine. Then why an objection in this case?

In the eyes of some critics, the RSS is an extra-constitutional authority wielding unwholesome control over the BJP. The PM's and BJP's association with the RSS is well-known. The Sangh Parivar, a family of organisations, is essentially an ideological parivar.

Meetings between the RSS and BJP leaderships are not new. Moreover, this wasn't the first time such a meeting has taken place.

During the previous NDA regime too, one such three-day meeting was held in 2003. Then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and several ministers, including L.K. Advani and M.M. Joshi, were present. That meeting had also generated a lot of curiosity. The only difference between then and now is the vehemence.



The RSS has clarified this time that the meeting was not called to review the performance of the government, nor were ministers asked to submit report cards. The RSS leadership took extra care to ensure that the meeting didn't turn into a forum to discuss the performance of the government. Bhaiyyaji Joshi, the RSS general secretary, had categorically told the functionaries that the objective of the meet was not to discuss the government's functioning. The programme was structured in such a way that the ministers would speak only at the end of each session, so that the discussion didn't turn into a review of the ministries.

Yet, some critics went to the ridiculous extent of invoking the Official Secrets Act against participating ministers. It is flabbergasting. Ministers attend so many meetings. They go home every evening and share a meal with family and friends. Does it mean they are violating the Official Secrets Act? Every party holds meetings internally and with groups affiliated to it. Ministers and prime ministers attend these meetings. It can be a working committee meeting or a meeting of the women's wing or the youth wing or something else. Does it mean they are carrying official files to these meetings?

I am tempted to question the behaviour of the critics themselves. The Congress has a notorious history of extra-constitutionalism. During UPA 1's rule, the joke was that the country had three PMs — the PM, a super PM at 10 Janpath, and the CPM. During UPA 2, the country got rid of the CPM while the super PM continued to call the shots. The more we go back in history, the uglier the extra-constitutional activity becomes.

Congress members themselves have written about how the extra-constitutional authority wielded unquestionable powers in those days. Let me quote what Natwar

Singh, a senior Congress leader, wrote in *India Today* in February 2014: “My diary entry of May 13, 1995 reads: P.V. 'Where are you, come over.' I arrived at 7 Race Course Road at 8.40 pm. Around 9 pm P.V. walked in. He did not sit down. The normally imperturbable P.V. appeared flummoxed and agitated: 'I have just received her letter to me?' I said I had not seen it. The two were apparently having an epistolary war regarding the trial of Rajiv Gandhi's assassins. What P.V. said next was so unexpected that I was dumbfounded. 'I cannot take her on. I could. I don't want to. What does she expect me to do?' 'Why don't you see her?' I said. 'How often do I see her? It is a question of my self-respect. Her attitude is affecting my health. How many times do I have to be insulted'...”

Sonia Gandhi was not even the Congress president at that time. In fact, P.V. Narasimha Rao was. The hatred of this extra-constitutional authority, for Rao, was so deep-rooted that when Rao passed away, his body was not even allowed into the Congress party headquarters. It was kept at the gates for just 20 minutes “to pay homage”. He was not allowed a cremation in Delhi. Rao happens to be the only PM for whom there is no memorial in Delhi. Even Sanjay Gandhi has one.

Returning to the RSS-BJP equation, it is important to understand the relationship in perspective. Walter Andersen, co-author of the book *The Brotherhood in Saffron*, had once made an interesting comment: “The RSS is very difficult to understand and very easy to misunderstand.”

There are two distinct models in the world with respect to the management of a political party. One is the British Labour party model, where the labour unions used to guide the party leadership. Two, there is the Communist Party of China model, in which the party controls everything, including the government, labour unions, cultural bodies, etc. Looking at the RSS from the point of view of either of these models will be a mistake.

The RSS model is unique. It has a Parivar of 40-plus organisations. The RSS is their ideological fountainhead. Contrary to perception, the RSS neither controls nor commands them. In a very Indian familial way, they come together occasionally to discuss and exchange notes. There are a few issues that are dear to the RSS's heart — national security (that includes Kashmir and the Northeast), economy (especially in the light of Swadeshi), social harmony (that deals with SC and ST

welfare issues) and education (with focus on values, etc).

These issues form the core agenda in all such meetings. BJP leaders, whether in power or out of it, attend these meetings essentially to share their views on these issues. The recent meeting was no different. The ministers did share their views. Did it satisfy all the organisations? That's difficult to say, since 100 per cent satisfaction is never possible.

But yes, as someone who has seen so many such meetings in the past, I can confidently say that the ideological family went home content with the general direction of the country under the new government. That is probably the best news for this government — a thumbs-up at home.

The writer is the BJP's national general secretary and director, India Foundation

Courtesy: 15th September, 2015, The Indian Express

Ease of Doing Business List Out: NDA Ruled States Bag Top Spots

As India plans to modify its economic growth, foreign investments are necessary. Thus to portray the country as a hotspot for investments, the government along with World Bank brought out a state wise ranking report called 'Assessment of State Implementation of Business Reforms'. Compiled by the World Bank in association with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), KPMG, CII and FICCI, the report had Gujarat on the top. All top five states in the list, are BJP led states namely Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh ruled by BJP ally TDP. While Gujarat topped with 71.41 percent, Andhra (70.12 percent) stands second. Third, fourth and fifth are taken away by Jharkhand (63.09 percent), Chhattisgarh (62.5 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (62 percent). Poll-bound Bihar is ranked a poor 21st in the list. As PM Narendra Modi and BJP-ruled states have taken the reform process ahead, situation may continue to improve for India over the next few years.

The 'Ease of Doing Business Index' is an index created by the World Bank Group. Higher rankings indicate better, usually simpler, regulations for businesses and stronger protections of

property rights. Indian states have been assessed on a 98-point action plan for business reforms for the period January 1 to June 30, 2015. The 'Doing Business Report' takes stock of business reforms implemented by states to facilitate Ease of Doing Business in India.

Eight of the following factors were taken in consideration while preparing the report:

- a) Setting up a business
- b) Allotment of land and obtaining construction permit
- c) Complying with environment procedures
- d) Complying with labour regulations
- e) Obtaining infrastructure related utilities
- f) Registering and complying with tax procedures
- g) Carrying out inspections
- h) Enforcing contracts

SPMRF Desk

Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score
1	Gujarat	71.14%	17	Himachal Pradesh	23.95%
2	Andhra Pradesh	70.12%	18	Kerala	22.87%
3	Jharkhand	63.09%	19	Goa	21.74%
4	Chhattisgarh	62.45%	20	Puducherry	17.72%
5	Madhya Pradesh	62.00%	21	Bihar	16.41%
6	Rajasthan	61.04%	22	Assam	14.84%
7	Odisha	52.12%	23	Uttarakhand	13.36%
8	Maharashtra	49.43%	24	Chandigarh	10.04%
9	Karnataka	48.50%	25	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9.73%
10	Uttar Pradesh	47.37%	26	Tripura	9.29%
11	West Bengal	46.90%	27	Sikkim	7.23%
12	Tamil Nadu	44.58%	28	Mizoram	6.37%
13	Telangana	42.45%	29	Jammu and Kashmir	5.93%
14	Haryana	40.66%	30	Meghalaya	4.38%
15	Delhi	37.35%	31	Nagaland	3.41%
16	Punjab	36.73%	32	Arunachal Pradesh	1.23%

The Land Ordinance – The Obvious Answers

• *Arun Jaitley*

The Ordinance to amend 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013' has lapsed on 31st August, 2015. The Bill to replace the Ordinance is pending for consideration before the Standing Committee of Parliament. Questions are being raised with regard to the nature and future of the Land Acquisition Law in India.

The 2013 Act

I am of the opinion that the 2013 Act is badly drafted legislation. It has lot of ambiguities and obvious errors. The effect of certain provisions of this Act is contrary to the language used therein. A series of legitimate difficulties would arise once the Act is seriously implemented. The provisions of the Act would also prevent the development of the rural areas through rural infrastructure and further prevent job opportunities created in those areas by industrialisation. This was the principal object of the Central Government when the Ordinance to amend the Act was issued on 31st December, 2014.

It has been argued by many in the

Congress Party that the 2013 law provided for consent of the farmers before the land is acquired and the 2015 law has snatched away this mandatory consent of the farmers. It is contrary to the language of section 2(1) of the 2013 law. For development of the project related to national security, infrastructure, agro-processing, industrial corridors, water harvesting, Govt. aided educational institutions, sports and tourism facilities, rehabilitation project, affected families, housing projects, planned development of villages etc.; no consent is required. This provision is partly diluted by the use of the word "also" in section 2(2) where it indicates confusion in the mind of the draftsman with regard to non-applicability of the consent provisions to section 2(1). This ambiguity is required to be corrected.

Provisions relating to 'social impact assessment' and various steps to be taken therein required a large timetable which taken together could go up to several years. The language of the time



provisions uses the word “within” the time period. This time requires to be shortened or exempted in some cases.

2013 Act required the entire acquired land to be utilised within a period of five years. Townships cannot be completed within five years. Since some key corrections were required in the badly drafted legislation, most of the State Governments represented to the present Central Government in 2014 that these amendments should immediately be carried out. It was at the request of the State Governments that the amendment to Land Acquisition law of 2013 was issued. However, after the issuance of the Ordinance, the Congress Party changed its position and wanted to oppose the Ordinance for political reasons. The Ordinance was re-issued on two more occasions but the political stalemate has continued and the Bill requiring amendment is pending before the Standing Committee of Parliament. The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers again under the aegis of the NITI Aayog wherein all Chief Ministers were of the opinion that some flexibility should be given to the States if the stalemate at the Centre continues, the States should be empowered to bring their own amendments.

Can the State bring amendment to the Central Government?

Acquisition of property is a List-III, Entry 42 subject provided for in the concurrent list. The provisions of article 254(2) clearly provide that a State Government can bring a legislation on a Concurrent List Subject which conflicts with the Central legislation provided the Presidential assent is given to such legislation. The States are thus fully empowered to amend the 2013 Land Law and seek Presidential assent before the amendment can be effected. This has been precisely agreed to in the meeting convened by the NITI Aayog. One State has already brought the amendments and some others are likely to follow.

The States can provide for alternative mechanism which balances the interests of farmers and also provides for land required for acquisition.

Has the Centre moved back?

The amendments to sections to the 2013 Act which were brought by the Ordinance, were incorporated in Section 10A. The provisions of section 10A provide that the States can provide for any or all of the five purposes mentioned in section 10A and exempt the consent and the social impact assessment provisions. The Ordinance, therefore, left it to the wisdom of the

States as to whether they wanted to notify any of the five Exempted Purposes. The position in the Ordinance remains unchanged. Pursuant to the decision taken by the NITI Aayog, the State Governments are still empowered to so decide. Earlier, there was delegation under the Ordinance which even otherwise under the Constitution remains on account of land being a concurrent subject and State can amend the law with the approval of the President.

The object of the 2015 Ordinance was to give certain amount of flexibility to the States. They know their requirements the best. That flexibility is made available to the States even now under the decision taken in Chief Ministers' meeting. The position, therefore, currently remains is as follows:-

- (a) The 2013 Act occupies the field;
- (b) The Bill remains for consideration of the Standing Committee and if some consensus suggestions are made, the same would be implemented;
- (c) That if any State wishes to make some amendments in the Central law, the same would be permitted by the Central Government.

Was the notification under section 105 necessary?

Section 105 of the 2013 Act

exempted 13 legislations listed in Schedule IV of the Act from the applicability of the provisions of the Act. They were exempted from consent and social impact assessment provisions. They were also exempted from the provisions of additional compensation, relief and rehabilitation. The section requires issuance of the notification within a period of one year which would make compensation and the relief and rehabilitation provisions applicable to the notified 13 laws. This enhanced compensation was statutorily incorporated in the Ordinance. Since amendment to Ordinance has lapsed on 31st August, 2015, it is incumbent upon the Central Government to issue the notification before 31st August, 2015. The same has been done now.

The writer is Finance Minister and Information & Broadcasting Minister in Union Government of India.

Courtesy: Press Release, www.bjp.org, 1st September 2015

Bihar Undone: Time for Resurrection

• *Parag Amalnerker*

The state of affairs in Bihar today makes it impossible for one to believe that this state was once rich with history, culture and accomplishments.

Ancient Bihar, known as Magadha (was originally known as Vihar) was the centre of power, learning, and culture in India for 1000 years. India's "first empire", the Maurya Empire as well as one of the world's greatest pacifist religion, Buddhism arose from the region that now makes modern Bihar. Magadha empire, notably under the Maurya and Gupta dynasties, unified large parts of South Asia under a central rule. Its capital Patna, earlier known as Pataliputra, was an important political, military, and economic centre of Indian civilisation during the ancient and classical periods of history. Many of the ancient Indian text, outside the realm of religion were written in ancient Bihar. Abhijñānaśākuntala was the most prominent. The classical Gupta dynasty of Bihar was known to have been a period of great culture and learning inside India. The Gupta period is often referred to as the Golden Age of India.

The historic Civil –disobedience movement of Champaran was launched from Bihar by Mahatma

Gandhi after his return from South Africa. The exploitation of the peasants by European indigo planters drew the attention of Mahatma Gandhi. Champaran Satyagraha received the spontaneous support from many Biharis; In India's struggle for independence, the Champaran Satyagraha marks a very important stage. Besides other excesses peasants were forced to cultivate indigo on 3/20 part of their holding and sell it to the planters at prices fixed by the planters. This marked Gandhi's entry into the India's independence movement. The British government had to include Gandhi in an inquiry committee which conducted an open inquiry into the peasant's grievances. This eventually led to the abolition of the system.



Bihar unfortunately post India's independence has been subsumed in a mesh of caste cauldron, class divides and land wars. The state of affairs in Bihar is the direct result of the circumstances that politicians created to favor themselves and their parties with little vision or heed to development and good governance.

Post the death of indigenous mass leaders like Lalit Narayan Mishra Congress ruled the state for nearly two decades through puppet Chief Ministers eventually leaving the state ripe for caste based politics to take centre stage. Perhaps more than any other state, the OBC community especially the Yadavs, Koeri's and Kurmi's formed a bulk of Bihar's population in the early 1930's and even today determine a lot of the state's fortunes either way.

The rise of Lalu Prasad Yadav from the 1990's is a case in point. The irony is that he came into prominence for playing a key role in the Bihar Student Movement which was blessed by JP himself who the Congress and Indira Gandhi left no stone unturned to subdue and demolish by eventually declaring the draconian emergency. The same Lalu Prasad Yadav for his desperate political survival has joined hands with the Congress for the 2015 Assembly elections! It is a mockery of the state's brave past and an insult to all that JP worked hard to prevent, preventing India from being permanently in the clutches of the Gandhi family. Lalu Prasad Yadav has the distinction of using caste to keep the state divided and sinking it to a morass that it has found difficult to come out of. Lalu also has the distinction of perhaps being the first CM to be convicted of corruption charges (the fodder

scam) making the current nexus of him and Nitish Kumar almost toxic to the state's needs.

It is important to step back in time to decode Nitish Kumar. Unlike Modi who from his very first tenure as CM of Gujarat never spoke of caste and communities but spoke for the welfare of six crore Gujarati's, Nitish Kumar has like a chameleon tried every trick in the book in his career to stay relevant and get power. Nitish Kumar himself was one of the first politicians in Bihar to organize a caste-based Kurmi rally in early 1992. He tried his luck with the Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) - Liberation during the Assembly elections in 1995.

The BIMARU acronym coined by Ashish Bose begins with Bihar! Bihar featuring in this acronym was the direct result of the poor quality of leadership in the state for it to be clubbed as BIMARU. Development was hardly the agenda in Bihar till Nitish Kumar joined hands with the BJP in 2005. The revival of Bihar began in 2005 with the advent of the BJP in the state and this consolidated further when this combine won the 2010 elections. JD (U) won 115 and BJP won 91 seats, the difference being Marginal between the two parties. Till Nitish Kumar's delusional megalomania and unilateral belief that he could be

the PM of India led to the unfortunate split of the JDU and the BJP.

The consequences of BJP not being a part of the government structure is evident for all to see. In a short span from 2013 onwards cognizable crimes, murders and riots have increased manifold. Riots in fact have increased by as much as 72%. Right under the watch of Nitish Kumar as Modi's Lok Sabha rally witnessed a series of blasts resulting in unfortunate deaths. This act typifies the complete abdication of responsibility that a CM is expected to display but his personal grouse and self –glorification Vs. Modi is repeatedly damaging the state.

If one looks at the contours of the impending elections , it takes little to see that the ganging up of RJD, JDU and the Congress is nothing but a desperate attempt of non –performers to try and stay relevant by stalling the march of Modi Led BJP. The fact of the matter is that development has taken centre stage again this election thanks to the relentless focus of Modi and team. The battle now is between Modi's package for Bihar announced recently Vs. Nitish Kumar's reactive counter package for Bihar! This is good news because eventually these packages will accelerate development of the state of which it has been long been starved. PM

Modi's package of INR 125000 Crores for Bihar could not have been more holistic. It covers Health, Highways, Farmer Welfare, Digital Bihar, Skilling Bihar, Railways, Rural roads, Electricity and even Tourism.

One must remember that accepting a problem is the first step towards solving it. It was the same Nitish Kumar who held a rally in Delhi in the not so distant past and when to his surprise Modi did deliver an elaborate package, he stated that Bihar does not have any problems and does not need help!

This petty point scoring of one man's ego, his ganging up with the provenly corrupt Lalu and even worse with the Congress against whom he fought with JP during emergency reflects poorly on what this state once was and could have been.

The state which was the center of learning, culture and historic resistance movements cannot progress under this toxic alliance. This Bihar elections starting October 12th 2015 promise to be a harbinger of change, one that will see Bihar rise from the morass that it is in to get what it rightfully deserves.

Parag Amalnerkar is a strategy and marketing professional, passionate about nation building, he focuses on incisive analyses on geopolitics, foreign affairs, defence and also political satire.

Dream of Developed Bihar – Roads: from Laloo's Apathy to Modi's Vision

• Vipul Garg

Bihar is blessed with fertile soil and a rich historical past. It has the potential to be the granary for the whole of India and a great tourist hub for Indians and Foreigners alike. But the potential remains largely untapped. Bihar suffers from pervasive poverty characterized by poor levels of infrastructure. Improvement in the transport infrastructure and more particularly the rapid development and strengthening of road network in Bihar could provide the required impetus for realising the dream of a developed Bihar.¹

But the current state of roads tells a sorry story. The poorest in Bihar stay in areas where roads seldom reach them and they seldom reach the roads. During the fury of the monsoons they drown because there are no roads to get them to safety in a situation of flood. The old and the ailing die because there are no roads to transport them to places where they can get care. Roads can improve the state of the downtrodden and help the people of Bihar to get some respite and hope for a better future.²

But sometime during the 15 year rule of Laloo Yadav, when a group of

villagers in Bihar suddenly found him, they fell at his feet and began begging for a plain, down-to-earth little thing: a road. 'But whatever for?' he chortled in comic disbelief, 'Where are your cars that you need roads?'³. This callous statement not only shows the apathy of Laloo Yadav but a complete lack of vision for the betterment of the people of Bihar.

An economic survey done in 2008-09 after the end of Laloo's rule in Bihar, the road density – road length per lakh of population- was just 111 km. At that time the national road density was 360 km. Similarly, the proportion of the Bihar villages connected through roads was only 57 per cent as against 62 per cent for all-India and 99 per cent for Gujarat. This tells the sordid tale of Laloo's governance of Bihar during his rule.⁴

In contrast stands the vision that PM Modi spelt out recently for the people of Bihar at a rally in Arrah. As part of this vision Rs. 13820 Cr has been outlaid for Rural Roads and Rs. 54713 Cr for State Highways. These would come from Central funds. More than just the funds it is the focus on roads that comes into

picture. This is likely to get even Laloo Yadav and Nitish Kumar to think more in terms of development.

If the people of Bihar chose wisely at the polls then the next Bihar Chief minister is likely to realise the vision that Pm Modi recently laid out and steer the people of this state to better roads and hope better days.

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(The author is a keen observer of Indian politics, current affairs and development issues and writes on these)

Petitioning Leading Academicians and Public Intellectuals Across the Globe

Urge Some Academics to Lift Their Veil of Ignorance That Wages Economic War Against India

Digitization to Transform the Indian Economy and Society

A letter signed by a group of US-based academics, implacably opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, has advocated a boycott of India by Silicon Valley. The attempt to instigate a boycott by Silicon Valley, one of the leading sectors of the US and world economy, against cooperation with a vital flagship information technology programme of the Government of India effectively constitutes a call for economic war against India itself.

Shri Narendra Modi is visiting USA as the democratically elected Prime Minister of 1.25 billion Indians. The victory he has secured at the hustings has been the grandest triumph in three long decades. Not only that, under his leadership his Party and alliance have formed Governments in four provinces across India including the state of Jammu and Kashmir. This clearly establishes the fact that people of India, transcending barriers of caste, class, creed and community have reposed their faith in the Prime Minister.

The Digital India initiative, which the enlightened signatories decry, is going to transform government and governance in India. It will take technology to the remotest corners of India and eliminate corruption. It will profoundly change the lives of ordinary citizens who have to run from pillar to post in their dealings with official India and ensure speed, accuracy and disbursement of welfare to the poorest. Prime Minister Modi intends India's embryonic digitization endeavor to become a vehicle for the transformation of Indian society by deepening and democratizing it.

The process of digitization of the government-citizen interface is already in place in most advanced countries. Yet, academics based there allege civil liberties in India will be endangered if its own government adopts the rational and efficient measure of digitizing to improve governance that is standard elsewhere. Moreover, India is home to several digital innovators and a vibrant start-up ecosystem that stands to gain tremendously from the Digital India initiative. Silicon Valley, which is

where the transition to a digital world began, is, thus, a natural place for the Prime Minister to visit and explore cooperation and growth opportunities in IT.

Shri Narendra Modi has already unveiled schemes that were previously unheard of in nature and extent in the sphere of governance. For the first time the Government of India launched a financial inclusion scheme, Jan Dhan Yojana. Continuing this focus on the poor and the marginalized the Government has initiated a social security programme as well. These schemes have already touched millions of Indians. The wheels of economic reforms have begun moving at an unprecedented pace, with global agencies and organizations taking note of India's strides. Shri Narendra Modi's clarion call to 'Make in India' has drawn the world to invest in India and create employment for the people.

The faculty statement concerning Prime Minister Modi's alleged culpability for the tragic events of 2002 is even more of a disgrace. It is a belabored and questionable effort to throw mud at PM Modi as a person; in the desperate hope some of it would stick. The canard of his alleged responsibility for the communal rioting in Gujarat in

2002 has been comprehensively debunked by a high powered Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed and intensively monitored by the Supreme Court of India at a period when Narendra Modi was not even the Prime Minister. By ignoring the fact that India's Apex Court has exonerated Mr. Modi of all charges over 2002 amounts to defamation. It also reflects their scant regard for India's judicial process and her time tested constitutional institutions.

Other slanders in the petition against India's incumbent executive authority are unworthy of comment. The cavalier disregard for facts and paucity of measured judgment also demonstrate that signatories to the malicious counsel against India have very little stake in it. It seems as if they are determined to pursue a vengeful agenda against a democratically elected Prime Minister of the country even if it seriously harms the interests of the people of India. As scholars and public intellectuals from around the world, we submit that we have far more faith in the wisdom of the ordinary people of India than in the motivated slander concocted by a tiny group of first world academicians.

We urge the signatories of the letter to lift the veil of ignorance and grasp the bigger picture. They

should stop seeking fame by thriving on misplaced victimhood and false grievances. It is ironic that those who claim to be most exercised about “Human Rights” and “Civil Liberties” have arrogated to themselves the power to judge and mock the democratic choice of those very same masses they purport to speak on behalf.

- Dr. Gautam Sen, Former Professor of Political Science and International Relations, London School of Economics
- Dr. Dilip K Chakrabarti, Professor Emeritus, South Asian Archaeology, University of Cambridge
- Professor Kapil Kapoor, Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Dr. Lokesh Chandra, President – Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- Madhu Kishwar, Professor CSDS, Founder Manushi
- Prof Indranath Choudhury, Formerly Chair Tagore Studies, University of Edinburgh
- Ramesh N. Rao, PhD, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Communication, Columbus State University
- Shalendra Sharma, Professor of Political Science; and Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco
- R NarasimhaRao, Ph.D., Loflin Chair Professor-Emeritus of Computer Science, University of Louisiana
- Former President, Hindu University of America, Orlando, FL
- Vamsee Juluri, Professor of Media Studies, University of San Francisco
- Delphi Chatterjee, Professor, Colorado State University
- T.S. Rukmani, Distinguished Professor Emeritus (Religion), Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
- Ravi Wig
- Former President PHD CHAMBER of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY & Chairman Human Resource & Industry Relations
- Dr. Jyotsana Suri, President, FICCI
- Rana Kapoor, President, ASSOCHAM
- DS Rawat, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM
- Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

- Milind Kamble, Founder Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries
- Sunil Alagh, Founder and Chairman of SKA Advisors
- Professor Sunil Kulkarni, San Diego State University
- Professor Jayanta Kumar Ray, National Professor and Former Chairman, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies
- Professor Santisree Pandit, Department of Political Science, University of Pune
- Dr. Sanjay Paswan, Faculty Department of PMIR, Patna University
- Professor B B Dutta, Former Member of Parliament and Former Head of Department of Economics, Saint Edmund College, Shillong
- Professor Aswini Mahapatra, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Michel Danino, Guest professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Member - Indian Council of Historical Research
- Prof RakaArya, Faculty National Law School, Bhopal
- Professor Gunamagesan, Vice Chancellor University and Institute of Advanced Research, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Professor C.I. Issac, Former Head of Department, P.G. History, CMS College -Kottayam, Member, Indian Council of Historical Research
- Professor S R Bhatt, Former Head of Department – Philosophy, Delhi University
- Professor S P Singh, Department of Political Science, Delhi University
- Professor K.T.S. Sarao, Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi
- Professor Purabi Roy, Member, Indian Council of Historical Research
- Professor Saradindu Mukherjee, Member, Indian Council of Historical Research
- Ambassador Prabhat Prakash Shukla, Former Ambassador to Russia, High Commissioner to Australia, Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi
- Professor Sacchidananda Sahai, Professor of Epigraphy and Member, Indian Council of Historical Research
- Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Member - Indian Council of Historical Research
- Tufail Ahmad, MEMRI Institute Washington DC, Former Head of BBC Urdu
- Prof R Vaidyanathan, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Senior Fellow CPR and Chancellor Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
- Professor Madhav Nalapat, Department of Geopolitics, Manipal University

- Surjit S Bhalla, Chairman Oxus Investments
- Professor Mukul Asher, Professorial Fellow, National University of Singapore
- Laveesh Bhandari, Director and Chief Economist, Indicus Foundation
- Professor Rajavashisth Tripathi, PhD, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and
- David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
- Professor Ashok Gulati, Former Chairman Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, ICRIER
- Jaya Jaitley, Former President Samta Party
- Sucheta Dalal, Founding Trustee, Money Life
- Professor Ashish Garg, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Professor Bharat Lohani, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Professor Dr T.V.Prabhakar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Avinash Kumar Agarwal, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Professor Nimesh Bolia, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- Professor [Retd] Dr. M.S. Sriram, Former HOD, Dept. of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras, Historian of Indian Astronomy and Mathematics
- Sonal Mansingh, Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan, Founder President Indian Classical Dances Academy
- Professor Nanditha Krishna, Director, CPR Institute of Indological Research, The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation
- Prathibha Prahalad, Artist, Festival Director - Delhi International Arts Festival
- Aditi Banerjee, Esq, New York
- D.r Anirban Ganguly, Director, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation
- V. Anantha Nageswaran, Fellow, Geo-Economics, Takshashila Institution
- Prakash Shah, Reader in Culture and Law, Queen Mary College, University of London
- Professor Asoke Mitra, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Delhi University
- Jagbir Singh, Former Professor and Head Department of Punjabi, University of Delhi, Life Fellow, Punjabi University, Patiala
- Professor Rajeev Srinivasan, Faculty Indian Institute of Management, Innovation Consultant
- Professor K Gopinath, Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science
- Dr. T G Sitharam, Professor in Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Science
- Dr. Kishor S Trivedi, Hudson Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University
- Dr. Udipi Shrinivasa, Professor [Retired], Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science
- Professor Balaji Krishnamurthy, BITS, Pilani (Hyderabad Campus)
- Professor A.K. Jain, Emeritus Fellow, Physics Department, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- Professor R Shankar, Former Professor & Head Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
- Ishan Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
- M Vidyasagar FRS, Cecil & Ida Green Chair in Systems Biology Science, The University of Texas at Dallas
- Dr. Shanthu Shantharam, Visiting Professor, Seed Science Center, Iowa State University
- Dr. Nambinarayanan, Director (Retd) Advanced Technology, ISRO
- Dr. R V Prasad, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Prof M D Shrinivas, Center for Policy Studies, Chennai
- Professor J K Bajaj, Center for Policy Studies, Chennai
- Shri Francois Gautier, Editor in Chief La Revue de l'Inde, Paris, France
- Vijay Bedekar, President VPM Bedekar Institute of Management, Thane, Maharashtra
- Prof. C.P. Ravindranathan, VPM Bedekar Institute of Management, Thane, Maharashtra
- Hari Kiran Vadlamani, Founder, Indic Academy
- Prasanna Viswanathan, Chief Executive Officer, Swarajya
- Sandipan Deb, Editor Swarajya
- N. Subramanian, Editor, NewsInsight, Delhi
- Koenraad Elst, Historian, Author
- Yvette Rosser, PhD from University of Texas, Austin; Author
- Kalavai Venkat, Non-resident Senior Fellow of the Global Hindu Institute
- Rajiv Malhotra, Founder Infinity Foundation, Author
- Sandeep B, Editor, India Facts
- Dr. Premn Addy, Writer and Historian, Calcutta
- Dr. Krishen Kak, Indian Administrative Services

[Retired], Author

- Ashwani Puri, CEO - Puri University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- Dr Bharat Gupt, Associate Professor of History, Delhi University [Retired]

- Arvind Lavakare, Author, Public Intellectual

- Dr. Manish Pandit, Consultant Physician and Hon. Sr. Clinical Lecturer University of Birmingham

- Dr. Shekhar Pant, MD La Femme, Fortis Hospital, Delhi

- Padma Sundaram, Indian Administrative Services [Retired], Author

- Mohan Raj Goyal, Entrepreneur, Founder - MoGo Mantra Inc, Fremont California

- Prakash Singh, Former Director General, Border Security Force, India

- Syed Ata Hasnan, Formerly with the Indian Army

- Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee, IFS, Former Ambassador of India to The Netherlands

- Amita Sharma, Visiting Faculty Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Former Secretary Government of India

- Ambassador VK Grover, Indian Foreign Services (Retired)

- Shakti Sinha, Indian Administrative Services (Retired), Former Power Secretary, Delhi Government

- Jaydev Ranade, Former Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, Former Member National Security Advisory Board

- Sampath Iyengar, Private Equity Fund Manager and Innovation Advisor

- Sanjay Anandaram, Investor and Startup Evangelist

- Naren Gupta, Venture Capitalists, Nexus Capital

- Vinita Gupta, Entrepreneur and Venture Capitalist

- Khanderao Kand, Founder & President GITPRO

- Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Principal Rekha Chitram, Faculty of Fine Arts and Center for International Modern Art and Embroidery, Kolkata

- Professor Deboshruti Roy chowdhry, Ashoka University, Former Professor of Philosophy, Presidency University, Kolkata

- Professor Govardhan Bhatt, National Institute of Technology, Raipur

- Satyesh Sinha, Assistant Professor, CDU, Los Angeles, CA

- Sankrant Sanu, Independent Author Seattle, USA

- Aman Nath, Chairman Neemrana Group of Hotels, Writer and Architectural Restorer

- Prof (Dr) K. L. Chopra (Padamshri), FNA, FASc, FNASc, FNAE, D.Sc.(hc), Former Director, IIT, Kharagpur

- Dr. Parag Singla, Assistant Professor Indian Institute

of Technology, Delhi

- Dr. Anand Bulusu, Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

- Dr. Ram Manohar Singh, Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

- Dr. Anurag Tripathi, Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

- Dr. S Pradyumna, Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

- Dr. Supreet Singh Bahga, Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi



NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Silicon Valley agog with joy over Modi visit

PM set to make big push for Digital India

S RAJAGOPALAN ■
WASHINGTON

It's another 12 days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in California's famed Silicon Valley, but the Bay Area is already agog with excitement and expectation.

The SAP Centre in San Jose is all set for a virtual repeat of the iconic Madison Square Garden event a year ago, with more than 45,000 Indian-Americans registering for admission to the 18,500-seat arena that also goes by the nickname of "Shark Tank".

For Modi it will be something more as he makes a major push for his recently-launched "Digital India" initiative to expand internet access, boost electronics manufacturing and develop apps to improve the delivery of Government services.

The Prime Minister will be visiting the *Facebook* headquarters in Menlo Park on September 27 for a town hall-style event. He is also slated to visit Googleplex, the home of tech giant *Google* in Mountain View, and electric car maker Tesla's plant in Fremont.

Given that Modi has more *Facebook* followers than any political leader except President Barack Obama, and that India has the second highest number

of *Facebook* users after the US, Zuckerberg's outreach to the Indian leader may be pretty obvious, yet highly significant.

Indian techies, start-ups and venture capitalists are enthused no end. "It's symbolic that there is finally a government in India that understands technology and innovation are critical to India," Venkatesh Shukla, president of Silicon Valley branch of TIE, also known as The Indus Entrepreneurs, told the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Shukla believes the visit allows Modi to build relationships with tech firms that want to invest in India, while also fostering support from the Bay Area's influential Indian-American community. Even as California's tech giants prepare to roll out the "silicon carpet" for Modi, a veritable battle is raging among Indian-American academics supporting or opposing the Prime Minister's Digital India initiative.

While about 130 Indian-American professors from major US universities issued an open letter raising privacy and transparency concerns and criticized the tech giants for receiving Modi with "uncritical fanfare", another group of 150-odd academics lauded the PM's initiative. The pro-Modi group of academics said in their statement that the Digital India project "heralds a new age of participatory democracy and enhances transparency in governance in India, levelling the playing field for vast numbers of India's citizens".

मोदी के सिलिकान वैली दौरे के बचाव में आया भारतीय समूह

नई दिल्ली, एजेसी : भारतीय बुद्धिजीवियों और अर्थशास्त्रियों का एक समूह अब खुलकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के डिजिटल इंडिया कार्यक्रम और उनकी आगामी सिलिकान वैली दौरे के समर्थन में आ गया है। जबकि कुछ समय पहले उनका यह दौरा अमेरिका के कुछ विद्वानों के निशाने पर था।

एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक सौ से अधिक अमेरिकी विद्वानों ने प्रमुख तकनीकी कंपनियों को भारत सरकार के साथ काम करने के खतरे की चेतावनी दी है। इसके तहत उन्होंने नागरिक अधिकारों के अपमान और सांस्कृतिक और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में मानवाधिकारों के हनन का सवाल उठाया गया है। मोदी के विरोधी अमेरिकी विद्वानों के खिलाफ खुलकर मंगलवार को प्रोफेसर और मानुषी पत्रिका की संस्थापक मधु किश्वर ने कहा कि नवीं बार अमेरिकी विद्वानों के इस समूह ने लक्ष्मण रेखा पार की है। अमेरिकी बुद्धिजीवियों ने मोदी पर प्रहार करने और भारत को ठेस पहुंचाने के अंतर को भी

पार कर दिया है। आर्थिक बायकाट की मांग कर रहे अमेरिकी बुद्धिजीवियों के खिलाफ उन्होंने कहा कि इस अमेरिकी समुदाय ने कभी भी आतंकवाद के जनक पाकिस्तान के बायकाट करने और तिब्बत में मानवाधिकार हनन करने वाले चीन के बायकाट की बात नहीं की है। किश्वर ने दावा किया कि ई-गर्वनेंस, डिजिटलाइजेशन से भ्रष्टाचार की रोकथाम में खासी कामयाबी मिली है।

वहीं, यस बैंक की वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष प्रीति सिन्हा और लवीष भंडारी ने भी मधु किश्वर का समर्थन करते हुए कहा कि केंद्र सरकार के कार्यक्रम उचित हैं और इससे लोगों के जीवन में बदलाव आएगा। मोदी के आसन्न सिलिकान वैली के दौरे पर उन्होंने कहा कि अविष्कारों के इस गढ़ से कई सबक सीखने की जरूरत है। मोदी समर्थक इस समूह की याचिका पर फिक्की अध्यक्ष ज्योत्सना सूरी, एसोचैम के अध्यक्ष राणा कपूर से लेकर देश के कई विद्वानों, वैज्ञानिकों ने दस्तखत किए हैं।

GSLV Successfully Launches India's Latest Communication Satellite GSAT-6



In its ninth flight (GSLV-D6) conducted on August 27, 2015, India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, equipped with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS), successfully launched GSAT-6, the country's latest communication satellite, into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The launch took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, the spaceport of India.

This was the fifth developmental flight of GSLV and the third to carry the indigenous CUS. GSLV-D6 was intended to further test and qualify the CUS developed by ISRO. In its oval shaped GTO, the GSAT-6 satellite is now orbiting the Earth with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 168 km and an apogee

(farthest point to Earth) of 35,939 km with an orbital inclination of 20.01 deg with respect to the equator.

In the coming days, GSAT-6's orbit will be raised from its present GTO to the final circular Geostationary Orbit (GSO) by firing the satellite's Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) in stages. The satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations, deployment of its 6m wide sieve shaped unfurlable antenna, the satellite's positioning in its designated orbital slot of 83 degree East longitude in the GSO and in-orbit testing of its communication payloads. Flight of GSLV underscores the success of ISRO in mastering the highly complex cryogenic rocket propulsion technology.

Make in India: Now Government to Have Its Own Operating System, May Replace Microsoft Windows In Future



The Indian government is all set to launch its own operating system-Bharat Operating System Solutions (BOSS), which is likely to replace Microsoft Windows in the future. After the successful launch of the Digital India and Make in India initiatives by PM Modi's government, this new OS is targeted to prevail over the vulnerabilities existing in government cyberspace under threat from the Chinese hackers in the past.

The latest version of BOSS, which

is soon to be released is code-named 'Anoop' and will be the successor to BOSS 5.0 code-named as 'Anokha'. The latest version was built using the Linux Platform with the help of Gujarat Technical University, DRDO and other private computer manufacturers. This OS will be available in 18 languages including regional languages such as Assamese, Malayalam, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati and other major Indian languages.

Aware of the pitfalls of

vulnerabilities in its cyberspace following Snowden reports and countless attacks by Chinese hackers on key government websites, Central Government has taken a vital step towards having its own operating system (OS) with which it plans to replace all other OSs, including the most popular Microsoft Windows in future.

A highly improved version of BOSS (Bharat Operating System Solutions) developed by C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) will be unveiled in near future. It has successfully tested fending itself from all kinds of attacks during the past few months of trial. Several government agencies including the Army intelligence were given the task to attack it to test its vulnerability status but they all failed to break it. This project answers government's need to have a fully secure network.

The Snowden reports had revealed that India was the most scrutinised nation by the US intelligence agencies. While other countries like China started carrying out R&D to overcome the problem. The new OS can help India take a substantial step to prepare in this direction as will be able to take care of both the individual computer as well as the networking.

Though the plan to have its own operating system has been the scheme of the things of the government for a past few years, it has been unable to take off due to lack of proactive and systematic approach and funding. Modi government's pro-active approach and sincerity towards the issues has finally resulted in success of the program. The OS is expected to be handed over to department of electronics and information technology (DEITY) to further smooth rough edges and ready it for the use of government ministries. Later, the government can collaborate with indigenous industry giants to develop it further and create an open source OS along with other hardware and network systems that would encourage other entities and individuals to shift to it from other OS like Windows, Macintosh, BlackBerry RIM etc.

The Increasing Importance of India-Africa Cooperation to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century

• *Siddharth Singh*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks on an assignment that has never been undertaken in such magnitude since 1983 when then PM Indira Gandhi held the NAM Summit and later the same year the CHOGM where 33 leaders from 44 countries attended. Forty of 54 African leaders have already signed in to attend the India-Africa summit that will take place on 29 October in New Delhi. PM Modi will hold bilateral talks with each of the countries in attendance. PM Modi has emphasised the need to be a player in the region, and a country with capacity can only engage all of Africa. In the past, only three countries have held Africa summits — Japan, China and the United States.

Interestingly, the Indian initiative has revived interest in Africa to a competitive level. China, which had scaled down its summit to ministerial level, has decided to repeat a heads-of-state level summit in December this year to be held in Africa. Japan, used to holding the summit in Tokyo, has decided to have the summit in Kenya in 2016.

India provides a useful model for



democratic development. Indeed, the world's largest democracy is increasingly responding to requests from African governments to share its democratic experience, offering training on electronic voting systems, parliamentary procedures, federal governance, and an independent judicial system to strengthen the rule of law.

India and Africa, with a combined population of 2.3 billion and very old civilisational ties, are looking at deeper political and economic engagement and the upcoming India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) next month would see many fresh ideas thrown up. India and Africa

have a “collaborative partnership”, which distinguishes it from the ties between Africa and other nations. India and Africa are looking at “a very tangible political and economic engagement, which keeps in view several facts”, including that together both comprise one-third of the world population.

The focus of the India-Africa Summit will be multi-pronged. While the ministerial meetings ahead of the summit will flesh out details on the economic front, the foreign ministers will be meeting to discuss various ways to cooperate on the strategic, economic and security fronts. The emphasis during this summit will be to fight terror and piracy issues in the region. Militant organisations such as Boko Haram, Al Shabab and the ISIS are a huge area of concern for the African nations. Tackling terror, piracy and crimes in the high seas would be of foremost importance during summit discussions as well as during bilateral meetings with many of the affected countries.

Climate change would be in focus at the India-Africa Forum Summit here this October with India proposing that the 54 African countries join a Solar Group of nations to tap the sun's rays for energy while forming another grouping with the coastal countries

to harness ocean wave energy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been stressing on the need to boost the production of solar energy, which he has described as the ultimate solution to India's energy problem. India has set an ambitious target to generate 100 GW of electricity from solar energy by 2022. While the UN climate conference (COP21) in Paris is slated for December, India will be looking at long-term cooperation with the African countries in sustainable development.

The cooperation on tapping the oceans would not just stop at harvesting energy, but also extend to hydrography -- or carrying out surveys of the water depth, information on the seafloor material (i.e., sand, mud, rock) which would have implications for anchoring, dredging, structure construction, laying of pipeline and cable, and fisheries habitat. India is already cooperating with Seychelles and Mauritius in hydrography. Blue economy, the newest buzzword in tapping ocean reserves and building the resilience of the marine ecosystems to combat climate change and ocean acidification, would also form part of the cooperation.

The lack of governance and ineffective security apparatus in the

coastal areas of the African continent have resulted in favourable conditions for the growth of terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking, gun running, and other illegal activities. So the increasing importance of India-Africa maritime security cooperation to meet the challenges of the 21st century will be reflected in the talks between Indian and African leadership during the forthcoming India-Africa summit.

Indian Ocean ports handle about 30 % of global trade and half of the world's container traffic traverses the ocean. However, the Indian Ocean has some of the world's most important choke points, notably the Straits of Hormuz, Malacca, and the Bab el Mandeb. As these choke points are strategically important for global trade and energy flow, a number of extra-regional states maintain a naval presence in the Indian Ocean. India has been making efforts in capacity building and sharing best practices with regional coastline countries in Africa through a number of activities such as bilateral naval exercises, regular ship visits, training, transfer of naval hardware, and sharing of intelligence.

For India the main goal is to ensure that India consolidates its position in Africa. As China's slowdown

impacts ties with Africa, India is seeking to step in and boost political and economic ties with the continent. The upcoming India-Africa Summit may offer a crucial opportunity to do that.

Siddharth Singh is a Research Scholar in Centre for Indo-Pacific studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Book Review: Redefining Governance: Essays on One Year of Narendra Modi Government

Editor: Dr. Anirban Ganguly

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• *Abhishek Pratap Singh*

The issue of governance in India for past many years has witnessed absence of efficient leadership, indecisiveness and poor identification of goals. While the country in the last decade was waiting for the unleashing of economic growth, adoption of e governance model, focus on agricultural issues and proactive diplomacy abroad the immediate leadership was more or less occupied with managing coalition government, domestic problems and questions of integrity. However, the electoral verdict on 16 May 2014 gave the BJP led by Narendra Modi a clear majority to run the country on the principles of integrity, efficiency and good governance in order to ensure benefit for those standing on last steps. To this purpose the government undertook significant steps driven by the goals of financial inclusion, inclusive growth, providing basic amenities and cementing external relations as well.

The present volume edited by Dr. Anirban Ganguly holds significance

as it dwells on the changes that have been brought about by the Narendra Modi Government in order to achieve its goal of 'less government and more governance.'

Also since Modi government has to undergo a regular litmus test by media, social activists and academia the volume offers an interesting account about the changes that have been made at the different levels of governance for the development of India.

The present volume includes thirty four chapters divided under five broad sections namely governance, defense, foreign affairs, economy and entrepreneurship and lastly others featuring miscellaneous subjects. The first five chapters in section one largely focuses on the shifts in governance, key policy decisions, cementing neighbourhood and proactive leadership of Modi. Notably, the authors have emphasized on sound foundations being laid upon to

REDEFINING
GOVERNANCE

Essays on One Year of
Narendra Modi Government



Editor
DR. ANIRBAN GANGULY

deliver development by the leadership. On the question of integrating North East India the chapters have emphasized on the fair execution of multidimensional measures based on enhanced connectivity, better infrastructure and unleashing its resource potential for growth and diplomacy both in the region. The detailed account by P.P. Srivastava on the shift from look east policy to act east policy, role of civil society, objectives of Shillong Conference (p.79) and the future ahead forms an interesting analysis about the situation and prospective for North East India. While Sivaji Sarkar identifies 'institutional change' under Modi as a significant step without mentioning MUDRA bank, Arun Singh's analysis of 'trust in leadership' (p.87) is backed by economic imperatives and global forecasts.

The chapters under the section defense cover very critical issues of disaster relief, national security, defense preparedness and operation of nuclear policy under Modi government. The detailed account of Kashmir flood management and Nepal earthquake relief is insightful. The question of defense preparedness largely revolves around supply of orders but the author gave a miss to the

very critical security question of functioning of Advanced Landing Grounds (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh.

In the section foreign policy Rajiv Sikri identifies the ability of Prime Minister Modi to usher in proactive diplomacy based on *samvaad*, *samman*, *samridhi*, *suraksha*, *sanskriti and sabhayata* (p.130) based on interactions with neighborhood, major powers, African, Arab world and European states and Pakistan as well. While Veena Sikri makes Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh a diplomatic milestone, Claude Arpi draws on the specific case of India-France interactions. In the last chapter Rajeev Srinivasan identifies three primary objectives of Modi's foreign policy namely, positioning India as a lead nation, emphasizing concentric circles of interests and for a role in multi-polar world.

In the section on economy and entrepreneurship the chapters largely emphasize on the importance of MUDRA bank for financing small scale projects, role of NITI Aayog to chart out future growth and prospective case for entrepreneurship as a pillar of economic growth. Prof. R. Vaidyanathan gives detail account backed by well collected data and statistics to make it a full proof

analysis. He identifies strengthening of cooperative fiscal federalism (p.205) and strong steps against black money operation as one of the important pillars of redefining governance under Modi regime. Similarly, the role of well trained and skilled workforce (p.211) along with policy decisions for GST and on Make in India campaign are drivers of economic growth argues Shakti Sinha in his paper.

In the last section termed as others the most important is the chapter by Mahadev Desai on reforms in education sector under Modi regime based on increased scholarship assistance, key policy decisions on girl education and significant e-learning initiatives. In the last chapter by the editor of the book the course of India's rise as civilizational state is identified with synergy between new path of growth and proactive role on global affairs.

However, some issues and policy decision does not find a mention in the book. For example, no chapter underlines the significance of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) to ensure resource delivery in villages. Similarly, budgetary provisions regarding Gold Monetisation scheme, Public Debt Management Authority and financing through unclaimed funds

in EPF/PPF remain largely untouched in the book. In addition, the question of tourism revival in India based on schemes like 'visa on arrival' for 150 countries and development of historic monuments fall short of any mention in the book.

No doubt the writings are based primarily on the principle of deductive methodology and empirical observation. The examples have been given and often footnotes have been provided to offer a well researched analysis. In sum, the volume offers clarity of understanding about the idea of governance under the Modi regime and its future course of action.

Doctoral Candidate, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Development of Bihar is Our Priority



BJP President Shri Amit Shah addressed a joint press conference held at the BJP headquarter and formally announced allocation of the seats for upcoming Bihar assembly elections. Addressing the press conference, BJP President said, we will win two-third majority in Bihar assembly elections. He said that Bihar is moving towards Jungle Raj 2 in JD(U) and RJD coalition and we are committed to liberate the people from it. He said, “The Grand Alliance were in talks, now have been broken. Now, what the left coalition is a coalition of compulsion. On the other hand, our NDA alliance is an alliance committed to the development of Bihar.” Shri Shah expressed Shri

Nitish Kumar and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav as opportunistic. He said that BJP ruled states are moving fast on the track of development, the people of the states are fully satisfied with the welfare schemes run by our government in the respective states but Bihar is still lagging behind compared to the development of other states of the country.

He said that how can Nitish Kumar promise of a corruption-free state to the people of Bihar when he joined hands with Congress who involved in corruption of Rs.12 lakh crores, how can Nitish Kumar show the dream of development to the people of Bihar when he makes compromises with Lalu Yadav, a symbol of corruption and Jungle

Raj. He said that the development of the state was much faster till the BJP were in the government but as the BJP was stepping out of the government, development works have been stopped, the crime graph has been increased, the growth is halted, the GDP has been declined and the legal system has been precarious. He said that Shri Nitish Kumar has betrayed with the mandate given by the people of Bihar. He said, Nitish kumar assuming himself a Bihar but the people of Bihar have rejected them.

He also insisted that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is unanimously accepted leader of the National Democratic Alliance and all of NDA allies are united under the leadership of Shri Modi Ji. He said, we registered splendid victory in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and J&K on the basis of good governance and development of Shri Narendra Modi Ji and now NDA will form a government of two-third majority in Bihar for the overall development of the state under the dexterous leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji. He said, we are committed for the overall development of the state. He said, we have already allotted the fund of Rs.1.65 lakh crores for the development of Bihar including a special package of Rs.1.25 lakh crores and Rs.40 thousand crores

allotted for the ongoing projects in the state which represents our commitment towards development of the state. He said, development certainly cannot go together with Jungle Raj and corruption.

He said, the people of Bihar gave an opportunity to Congress, the people of Bihar also tested Lalu Ji and they also seen the ruling of Shri Nitish Kumar, now it is NDA's turn. We want to appeal to the people of Bihar to give BJP-led NDA a chance to form government in Bihar we went to assure that we will make every possible effort for the development of the state.

He said that the development of Bihar is our priority and we will move forward the state on the path of development by bringing Bihar in compeer to the developed states of the country.

SPMRF Round-Table Series: 14th September 2015

Speaker: Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, *In-Charge BJP Foreign Affairs Department & Convener, Overseas Friends of BJP*

Topic: The Takeaways from Prime Minister Modi's UAE visit & a curtain raiser on his upcoming US Visit



"The gigantic task of reconstruction, cultural, social, economic and political can be rendered possible through coordinated efforts of bands of trained and disciplined Indians. Armed with the knowledge of India's past glory and greatness, her strength and weakness, it is they who can place before their country a programme of work, which while loyal to the fundamental traditions of Indian civilisation will be adapted to the changing conditions of the modern world."

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

*Convocation Address delivered at Gurukul Kangri
Viswavidyalaya, Haridwar, 1943*

