

Volume 1, Issue 12

New India

December 16-31, 2020

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

SAMACHAR



REVITALISING ECONOMY

Post-Lockdown clear vision, substantive policy directions and focussed approach of the Government ensured that economy recovers faster than expected



Reforms enacted to make India Self-Reliant

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tells in his *Mann Ki Baat* that agriculture reforms are empowering farmers and urged people to contribute towards developing their alma mater in the best possible way

AGRICULTURE REFORMS : Reforms have not only served to unshackle farmers but also given them new rights and opportunities. These new rights have begun to ameliorate woes of farmers. Jitendra Bhoji, a farmer from Dhule district in Maharashtra, made use of the recently promulgated farm laws. Bhoji sold his corn produce for approximately Rs 3.32 Lakh and received an advance. It had been decided that the outstanding amount would be cleared in fifteen days. However, later such circumstances developed that he did not receive the remainder for four months. The new farm laws passed in September came to his aid. Under this law, it was decided that all dues of farmers should be cleared within three days of procurement, failing which the farmer can lodge a complaint.

DEVI ANNAPURNA'S IDOL: Every Indian will be proud to know that a very old idol of Devi Annapurna is returning to India from Canada. It was stolen from a temple of Varanasi and smuggled out of the country somewhere around 1913. Mata Annapoorna has a very special relationship with Kashi.

VIRTUAL GALLERIES: Lots of museums and libraries are working to make their collections fully digital. In Delhi, National Museum is doing a fabulous job by working on introducing around ten virtual galleries.

BRAZIL'S VEDANTA INSTITUTE: Jonas Masetti, also known as Vishwanath, teaches Vedanta and Srimad Bhagavad Gita to people in Brazil. He runs an institution named Vishwavidya, situated at the hills of Petropolis in Rio De Janeiro.

GURU NANAK JAYANTI: November 30 was

551th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji who had stayed at Lakhpat Gurudwara Sahib during Udaasi, his spiritual journey. During the 2001 earthquake, this Gurudwara was damaged. It was only by the blessings of Guru Nanak Devji that I was able to ensure its renovation and restoring its glory and grandeur.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS: In the past few days, I was able to connect with students of IIT Guwahati, IIT Delhi, Deendayal Petroleum University of Gandhinagar, JNU of Delhi, Mysore University and Lucknow University. To be amongst the youth of the country is extremely refreshing and energizing. University campuses are like mini India.

CONTRIBUTION TO ALMA MATER: After leaving school or college, two things never end. One, the influence of your education, and second, bonding with your school or college. Whenever alumni interact with each other, greater time is given to reminiscing about time on campus and moments spent with friends than about books and studies, and, from these memories, comes the desire to do something for the institution. What could bring greater happiness than to lend a hand in developing the place where your personality was moulded?

TRIBUTE TO SRI AUROBINDO: December 5 is the death anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. The more we read about him, greater we get into his insight. When we are moving forward with the campaign 'Vocal for Local', Sri Aurobindo's philosophy of Swadeshi shows us the path. ■

 Tune in to Mann Ki Baat by scanning QR Code



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Editor

Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia,
Principal Director General, PIB,
New Delhi

Consulting Editors

Vinod Kumar
Santosh Kumar

Assistant Consulting Editor

Sharat Kumar Sharma

Designer

Ravindra Kumar Sharma

Published & Printed by

Satyendra Prakash,
Director General, BOC
on behalf of Bureau of
Outreach and
Communication

Printed at

J.K Offset Graphics Pvt Ltd.
B-278, Okhla Ind Area
Phase-I, New Delhi 20

Published from

Bureau of Outreach and
Communication, 2nd Floor,
Sochna Bhawan,
New Delhi -110003

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



RNI No. : DELENG/2020/78811

response-nis@pib.gov.in

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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar,

The war against Coronavirus in India has apparently reached a decisive point with scientists on the verge of developing indigenous COVID-19 vaccine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting three vaccine developing facilities in the country and virtual interactions with some others has not only given hope to the people of the country but also to the world. How will the vaccine reach to people is covered in the current issue of New India Samachar.

The cover story of this edition deals with how various interventions of the Government during the pandemic are helping the economy recover. The Chief Economic Adviser in his discussion explains the optimism behind the Government's approach and strategy.

With the true spirit of *Jaan Bhi Aur Jahan Bhi* and turning crisis into opportunity, the commitment of the Government to bring the economy to the growth path once again is reflected in the visible green shoots and various sectors moving northward. This is explained in the cover story. Chief Economic Adviser of the country has made complex economic issues easier for readers saying that the Government is not only cautious but optimistic with its long-term approach.

This edition pays tribute to Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on their birth anniversary on December 25. The country celebrates Vajpayeeji's birth anniversary as Good Governance Day. Launch of President Ram Nath Kovind's books with an insight of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh is also covered in this issue with other regular features being part of the magazine.

We are eagerly waiting for your feedback and suggestions.

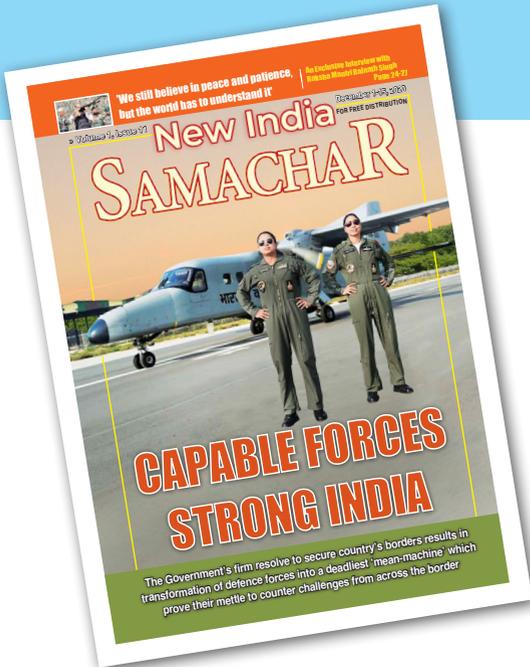
Please send your response:

Address : Bureau of Outreach and Communication, IInd Floor,
Soochna Bhawan, New Delhi - 110003

e-mail : response-nis@pib.gov.in


(K S DHATWALIA)

Mail Box



At the outset, let me congratulate you for your fortnightly publication "New India Samachar"

I happened to get the December issue by chance and really admired the informative and valuable content presented. Please send me further issues, regularly on this mail id. If any subscription, please let me know

However I wish to know if the magazine is available in print. If so, I would like to subscribe Malayalam version for my mother.



santosh@fibre2fashion.com

I wish to congratulate you for bringing out such an informative magazine. I would like to subscribe the "New India Samachar" for the elderly people in my family who are not conversant to handle digital issue. Please let me know the procedure to subscribe it.



bablupavitra@gmail.com

Thanks for sending me the special version of the magazine. The representation is wonderful and wide range of news enriches us with knowledge. Please send me regularly



iamchilwal@gmail.com

Please accept my congratulation for bringing out a very nice and informative magazine.



ashishkalyane1986@gmail.com

My best wishes to the team of New India Samachar for bringing out such an informative piece. I request you to send hard copies for readers who are interested.



mayadharmishraa@gmail.com

I take the pleasure to inform you that from last few weeks I am a regular reader of in digital issues of New India Samachar. It is indeed a useful and informative.

I wanted to express my opinion for issuance of hard copy of the New India Samachar at least in two languages i.e. in English and Hindi . But from the message of mail box, it is apparent that there are already hard copy issues of this magazine.

In the event of hard copy, I would like to receive English version of the same at my address for myself and family members' further studies and record. I am ready and willing to pay the required subscription .



ritabrata446@gmail.com

EXPANSION OF UMANG

The UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance) App can now be availed by Indian students, tourists and overseas Indians. It can now be downloaded in US, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, the Netherlands, Singapore and New Zealand as well. Launched in November 2017 with 163 features, the App provides an access to various Government services and bill payments. It offers over 860



services of Government including EPF, PAN, DigiLocker, gas booking in 27 states and nearly 1180 services for bill and challan payments. This includes 373 services from 88 departments, 487 services from 101 departments. So far, 3.75 Crore people have downloaded this App in India. Facility of this App will be introduced in other countries as well. Their number is constantly increasing.



Antiques stolen from a temple in TN retrieved from London

Relentless efforts made by the Government in preserving country's ancient artefacts met with success when 13th century bronze idols of Lord Rama, Lakshmana and Goddess Sita have been handed over to the Idol Wing, Government of Tamil Nadu on November 18, 2020 in New Delhi. The idols stolen in 1978 from Sri Rajagopal Vishnu Temple were returned by the London Metropolitan Police to the Indian High Commission, UK on September 15, 2020. The temple was built during the Vijayanagara period at Anandamangalam in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu.

Raise in scholarship for SC students

With an increase of Rs 2 Lakh per annum from Rs 6 Lakh to Rs 8 Lakh in National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students, the Government has shown its resolve towards the growth of weaker and under privileged sections of the society. The announcement, effective from the selection year 2020-21, is for students securing admission in globally higher ranking institutions. The minimum qualifying marks have also been increased from 55 per cent to 60 per cent.

Over 50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres functional now

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya-Ayushman Bharat Yojana, launched to provide free treatment to around 50 Crore poor people has achieved another milestone. Now, there are more than 50,000 operational Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs). Around 1.5 Lakh AB-HWCs will be established by December, 2022. The AB-HWCs are spread across 678 districts, and include 27,890 Sub Health Centres, 18,536 Primary Health Centres and 3,599 Urban Primary Health Centres.

Subsidy on transportation under Operation Greens TOP to TOTAL



The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has brought out various schemes for the development of farmers. Operation Greens Scheme TOP to TOTAL is one such scheme which provides 50 per cent subsidy on transport and storage of notified fruits and vegetables. The subsidy would also be available under Kisan Rail Scheme. Similarly, subsidy is now made available for air transportation for fruits, vegetables from North-Eastern, Himalayan States.

Banks reaching out street vendors to help them under PM SVANidhi

PM SVANidhi Scheme meant for street vendors is yielding good results providing benefits to them. Till date, 7,88,438 loans were disbursed proving to be a boon for street vendors. Out of 27,33,497 loan applications received so far, 14,34,436 applications were approved. Vendors who had left for their native places due to COVID-19 lock down are eligible for the loan on their return.



“India Climate Change Knowledge Portal” launched

To strengthen Government’s resolve towards environment protection, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the “India Climate Change Knowledge Portal”. It will be a “single point information resource,” which provides information on various initiatives taken by various ministries enabling users to access updated status on these initiatives. Major components included India’s Climate Profile, National Policy Framework, India’s NDC goals, Adaptation Actions, Mitigation Actions, Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation, International Climate Negotiations, Reports & Publications. Expressing happiness over the web portal launch, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said that the country has practically achieved its Pre-2020 Climate Action targets. You can access the portal at: <https://www.cckpindia.nic.in/>

Pragati reviews project worth Rs 1.41 Lakh Crore

Pragati, the monthly e-governance initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring Union Ministries and relevant State Governments on the same page, throws light on his working style. In its 33rd meeting on November 25, 2020, projects worth Rs 1.41 Lakh Crore spanning 10 States and Union Territories were reviewed. The projects which were taken up were from Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and



Highways (MoRTH) and Power Ministry. These projects were in Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Prime Minister asked the concerned Secretaries of the Union Government and Chief Secretaries of the State Governments to ensure that they complete the work before time. Grievances related to COVID-19 and to the PM Awas Yojana were also taken up. ■



India enters decisive phase of fight against COVID-19

Coronavirus infection is continuing to affect lives of people worldwide. The year 2020 started with pandemic reaching various countries and parts of the world. This brought the lives to a standstill worldwide. However, the end of the year has given a hope for an indigenous vaccine for the Coronavirus infection. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the progress of the vaccine in different parts of the country. He visited vaccine facilities in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Pune in November

India produces 60 per cent of the world's vaccines. So, it is obvious that in the fight against Coronavirus, India is a big hope for the rest of world. Around 212 vaccines are being developed to fight the Coronavirus infection across the globe. World Health Organization's (WHO) says, of these 212 candidate vaccines, 48 are in the clinical evaluation stage and 164 are in the pre-clinical evaluation stage.

Among those in the clinical evaluation stage, 11 are in phase-3 of clinical trials. There are three other vaccines in phase-2 of clinical trials. At least 13 are in phase-1/2, and 21 in phase-1. Six vaccines have been given the Emergency Use Authorisation.

In India, Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmadabad, Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India in Pune are developing the COVID-19 vaccines. Under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.0 package, Rs 900 Crore were earmarked for research and development activities related to COVID-19 vaccine. On November 28, 2020, the Prime Minister visited the Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune. After the Prime Minister's visit, Chief Executive Officer of SII Adar Poonawalla said that he was amazed by the Prime Minister's knowledge about vaccines and vaccine production.

MEETING WITH CMs OF EIGHT STATES OVER VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

- Chief Ministers of eight states were asked to review status, preparedness of COVID-19 response and management. They assured that the way focus in the fight against COVID-19 has been on saving every life, the priority will be to ensure that vaccine reaches everyone
- The meeting, held via video conferencing, had chief ministers of Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal
- This was the Prime Minister's 11th meeting with the Chief Ministers on the issue
- The Prime Minister noted that priority of vaccination is being decided in consultation with the States
- Requirements of additional cold chain storages have also been discussed with the States
- He asked the Chief Ministers to ensure regular monitoring of State Level Steering Committee and State and District Level Task



Force to ensure better results

- So far, India has more than 28,000 cold chain points and is working to increase the number
- To track each vaccine, a digital platform is being prepared and tested. This will track each and every step of the vaccine from its exit from the company till it reaches the people
- Priority for vaccination will be given to healthcare, frontline and all those workers who are at the risk of infection
- Procurement of the syringe is also in the last stage



(Scan QR Code to hear the Prime Minister's full address)

Vaccine trial in final stage



Covishield

Early results found to be effective up to 90%

- The Serum Institute of India, along with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, has created the vaccine (Covishield). Serum said an application for emergency use would be made within two weeks in India.



Covaxin

Phase-3 trials of Covaxin have started in about 25 locations.

- It has been developed by Bharat Biotech of Hyderabad in association with the National Institute of Virology and the Indian Council of Medical Research. The target is to launch the vaccine by the first quarter of 2021

NO LAXITY UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

94.28 % Recovery Rate	1.45 % Death Rate	4,09,689 Active cases	96,08,211 Total patient
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PATIENTS CURED SO FAR - 90,58,822

(Data up to 5 December 2020)

Laboratory
Government
1,187
Private
1,012

Vaccination of 31 Crore people in the first phase...

- According to Principal Scientific Advisor K. Vijayaraghavan, the National Vaccine Committee headed by Dr. VK Paul has prepared a blueprint that who will be the first to be vaccinated
- In a meeting of the Ministry of Science and The Confederation of Indian Industry, he informed that 31 Crore people have been identified to be vaccinated between March and May
- Vijayaraghavan said, 'The vaccine will be given first to One crore health workers, police force of states and central government, armed jawans, home guards, 26 crore members of priority group above 50 years and high risk group below 50 year

**Zydus Cadila
Healthcare**

The vaccine of Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila Healthcare is also in the second phase. Cadila Healthcare vaccine results will be revealed soon. It is expected that this vaccine will also be available by April 2021. ■

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is remembered for his people-centric policies and push for a transparent and accountable administration. To honour him and to take forward his legacy, his birth anniversary on December 25 is observed as the Good Governance Day every year



EPITOME OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the statesman, poet, leader of the masses and the man loved by the people all across, left a void not to be filled forever on his death in 2018. On his 96th birth anniversary, one can say that the current Government is working on Vajpayeeji's legacies and taking measures to realise his dream of Swaraj to Suraj (self rule to good governance). The three-time Prime Minister has the credit of running the first non-Congress coalition Government in the country successfully for a full term following 'Coalition Dharma'. During his tenure as PM, the Government achieved significant milestones. Pokhran nuclear tests were conducted during his second regime and the Government led by Vajpayeeji withstood international sanctions. He never buckled under any pressure whether internal or external and emerged gracefully in situation like former Odisha CM Girdhar Gamang voting

against his Government. He lost the Government by one vote but won people's confidence. The term was also marked by his initiatives for peace with Pakistan and the Lahore declaration was signed.

With his Good Governance initiatives, Vajpayeeji took India to different levels. The Golden Quadrilateral Project, started by his Government, is shaping well in the present regime of the Narendra Modi Government. The visionary in him realised the potential of connectivity. Projects like mobile connectivity, roads across the villages of the country speaks volumes about the vision of the tallest statesman of the country. He was also responsible for India's mobile phone revolution as incoming calls were made free during his tenure.

It was under his rule that a new telecom policy was framed which offered great opportunities for private companies to expand. It was under his rule that India won the armed conflict with Pakistan that

took place between May and July 1999 in Kargil and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC). To make governance easy, three new states – Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh – were created by the Vajpayee Government. Inter-Linking of Rivers was the dream project of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Good Governance means ensuring redressal of everyone's grievances; benefits and opportunities reaching every citizen; security for every Indian; that the Government reaches out to every citizens. For his legacy of good and people-centric decisions, he has been considered as the epitome of Good Governance. His aim was for a development-orientated, transparent and accountable government, which worked for early and easy deliverance of results to the public. He strived for all these throughout his tenure.

To honour him and to take his legacy forward, the Good Governance Day is celebrated on his birth anniversary every year. Soon after coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that December 25 will be celebrated as the Good Governance Day.

With 'citizen-first' being the mantra, motto and guiding principle, India is also aiming for bringing the Government closer to the citizens, so that the masses can become active participants in the process. The Government considers redressal of public grievances as a very important component of a responsive administration.

Since 2014, the redressal of public grievances has received the highest priority across all the Government offices. Also, there has been a lot of re-engineering. Ministries and Departments of the Government have been looking into their work spheres and their internal processes have improved a lot. Use of technology has also been promoted so that sitting at the comfort of their homes, people can connect with the Government. It has bridged the divide between the Government and citizens. On the first 'Good Governance Day' celebrations in 2014, the Prime Minister said an important step for Good Governance is simplification of procedures and processes in the Government so as to make the entire system transparent and faster.

"The push towards self-certification in place of affidavits and attestations is another indicator of the

GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT



- **PRAGATI:** Pro-Active Governance and timely implementation aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- **Jeevan Pramaan:** Annual life certificate by senior citizens for pension through electronic means
- **DigiLocker:** For paperless governance
- **UMANG:** It provides a single platform to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies
- **Anubhav:** It enables submission and display of commendable work done by retiring employees
- **Online RTI portal**
- **Policy of intolerance towards non-performing officers and encouraging the performing officers**
- **Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS):** It is a cost-effective initiative and helps the Government to post the right man at the right post. It enables employees to see all their details and apply for different kinds of claims on a single platform
- **AADHAAR-enabled biometric-enabled attendance for Government employees**
- **National Digital Literacy Mission**
- **e-Post:** A service under which printed or even handwritten messages of customers are scanned and transmitted as email. At the destination offices, these messages are printed, enveloped and delivered through postmen like other letters at the postal addresses
- **e-Sampark:** An online messaging platform with over 90 Lakh registered users



E-GOVERNANCE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good Governance is fundamental and E-Governance is instrumental. Good Governance dictates the design and shape of these tools for improving governance outcomes and processes. Effective implementation of e-Governance can take IT to the common man, helping the Government to align services with the changing needs of both citizens and other stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

To re-engineer Government processes in order to provide an open and accountable administration.

- To make people aware about the Government's commitment for providing a transparent and accountable administration.
- To enhance the welfare and betterment of the common citizens.
- To standardise the Government functioning as well as make it a highly effective and accountable governance for the people.
- To implement the good and effective policies to complete a mission of good governance.

GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX

On the Good Governance Day In 2019, 'Good Governance Index' (GGI) was launched. The Index has been scientifically designed on various parameters of governance. It is citizen-centric and would also seek to determine the status of governance as it exists today.

It is a uniform tool across states to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Governments and the Union Territories. The objectives of GGI are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and UTs, enable states and UTs to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result-oriented approaches and administration.

Various principles have been kept in mind while selecting the indicators, i.e. it should be easy to understand and calculate, citizen-centric and result driven, leading to improved results and applicable to all states and UTs, among others.

THE GGI TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION TEN SECTORS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ● Agriculture and Allied Sectors | ● Economic Governance |
| ● Commerce and Industries | ● Social Welfare and Development |
| ● Human Resource Development | ● Judicial and Public Security |
| ● Public Health | ● Environment |
| ● Public Infrastructure and Utilities | ● Citizen-Centric Governance |

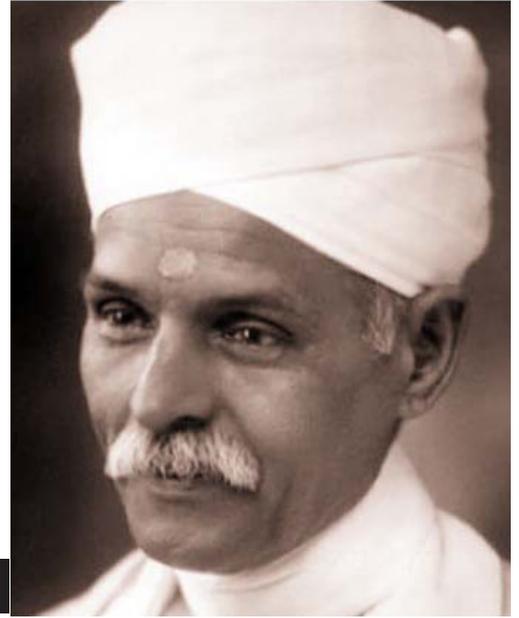
These ten governance sectors are measured on a total 50 indicators. Difference indicators are given different weightage under one governance sector to calculate the value.

relationship of trust between citizens and the Government. Doing away with cumbersome and outdated legislations which no longer have relevance is another focus area," the Prime Minister said. He also said there is no bigger tribute to Atalji

than celebrating his birthday as 'Good Governance Day' and pledging to devote ourselves to this cause. He passed away on August 16, 2018. His memorial on the banks of Yamuna, in the national capital is named *Sadaiv Atal*. ■

Remembering the Visionary

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore rightly called Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya as Mahamana for his various initiatives and works for the society. He was not only able to get a huge tract of land for a university from generous Kashi Naresh but also a huge sum of money from the Nizam of Hyderabad. Saving revolutionaries of Chauri Chaura incident from gallows are some of his exceptional works that truly endorses the prefix Mahamana



BORN: DECEMBER 25, 1861 DIED: NOVEMBER 12, 1946

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a visionary, a social reformer, a journalist, an educationist and a leader, there are many facets of the great soul of India. The visionary in him anticipated that independence will be meaningful only when the country is governed by a generation of progressive and cultured youth. As the nation celebrates 159th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the legacy of his multifaceted persona lives on to inspire generations.

- **The slogan ‘*Satyameva Jayate*’ (Truth alone triumphs) is the legacy given to the nation by Malaviyaji, by saying that this slogan from *Mundakopanishad* should be the slogan for the nation**
- **He started the tradition of Ganga Aarti at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar. He was dedicated to the cause of Hindi, Ganga and cow**

His vision shaped the foundation of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916. There was no match to Mahamana’s relentless efforts to accomplish any target, his steely resolve managed to get a large donation from Nizam of Hyderabad for BHU. It is said that on being denied donation to set up the university by the Nizam, he is said to have auctioned his slippers. Eventually, it was the Nizam who bid for them paying a huge sum. As president of

**“
I do not consider anybody as a greater patriot than Malaviyaji; I always worship him. There is no one in sight amongst all living Indians who has rendered more services to India than him**

MAHATMA GANDHI

Indian National Congress for as many as four times and founder of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha, he never compromised with his principles. For Mahatma Gandhi, Mahamana was his conscience-keeper and like ‘his elder brother’.

In 1909, he founded an English newspaper – The Leader. It was published from Allahabad, now known as Prayagraj. As a lawyer, Malaviyaji is remembered for his defence of 170 people who got death sentence for Chauri Chaura incident in 1922. Around 155 of them were saved from the gallows while remaining persons’ death sentence was commuted into life imprisonment. He was opposed to the separate electorates for Muslims under the Lucknow Pact of 1916. Malaviyaji compelled the British government to sign an agreement with Ganga Mahasabha on uninterrupted flow of Ganga in Haridwar and protect Ganga for future obstructions. To honour the freedom fighter, Malaviyaji was conferred Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2015. ■

ON THE CUSP OF ENERGY REVOLUTION

When the entire world is facing the grave challenge of climate change, the need of the hour is to focus on renewable energy. Taking up the challenge, in the last six years, India has increased its installed renewable energy capacity to two-and-a-half times with more to come

India is constantly focusing on renewable energy since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over reins in 2014. Inaugurating the third Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020), the Prime Minister appreciated India's efforts in the field of renewable energy and environmental protection. While addressing representatives from over 80 countries, the Prime Minister expressed happiness over the progress from Megawatts to Gigawatts in generation capacity within a short span of time and 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' becoming a reality.

In the last 6 years, the



country has come a long way in terms of energy revolution. India is the 4th largest country in renewable power generation capacity and is growing at the fastest speed. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts, which is about 36 per cent of the total capacity.

THE SUNSHINE SECTOR

- Out of the total power generation of 3,73,436

MW till October, 2020, the share of renewable energy is 89,636 MW. The Government has set the target of 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW till 2030. (1 GW - 1000 MW - 1 Billion watts)

- States like Gujarat, MP, UP, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Himachal Pradesh will lead in renewable energy sector as they are more organised for solar revolution
- The Government's commitment towards other sources like wind, bio, hydroelectricity reiterates the fact that the country will meet the target by 2035



- Recently, an ultra Mega solar power project with a production capacity of 750 MW on 1500 hectares of land was launched in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. This will help stopping emission of carbon dioxide which equals to plantation of 2.60 Crore trees
- India's initiative towards International Solar Alliance is a major landmark. As per National Solar Mission, focus is on manufacturing solar equipment that will help in making country self-reliant by 2030

PARIS AGREEMENT INDIA'S SUCCESS

The Paris Agreement of 2015 is crucial for checking the climate change and reducing its negative effects. As per the agreement, 179 countries of the world are committed to stop the temperature rise at 2 ° C or possibly 1.5 ° C during this century. According to the report of Climate Transparency, India is the only country among the G20 nations that has achieved the target set under the Paris Agreement. This shows India's consistent efforts towards renewable energy along with environmental protection. This reflects upon India's persistent efforts to create renewable energy sources and its commitment towards environment protection. ■

FLAGSHIP SCHEME: PM-KUSUM FOR A GREATER SOLAR MAP



Pradhan Mantri - Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) is an important instrument towards connecting agriculture sector with modern technology. With the Government's core objective to bring prosperity in the lives of farmers, the Scheme aims to establish a new paradigm of success towards creating a strong solar map across the country in harnessing renewable energy resources.

India is a predominantly agrarian economy and farmers for long believed in irrigation methods depending upon use of conventional energy resources like electricity through thermal or hydro power. Lack of water for irrigation has always been a hindrance for a good yield over the years. With the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022, the Government launched PM-KUSUM in February 2019, which was announced in the Union Budget of 2018-2019.

Crop damage is a recurrent problem due to erratic rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities. With PM-KUSUM scheme, farmers will be able to get irrigation facility by installing Solar pumps. They can also produce electricity by setting up solar panels in their fields and selling surplus to discoms. Uninterrupted power supply could be ensured in villages, which aims to install a total solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022. As per the target, three Crore irrigation pumps will be run by solar energy instead of electricity generated by other means by 2022. The Scheme will cost a total of Rs 1.40 Lakh Crore. Both the Centre and State Governments will contribute Rs 48,000 Crore each. Farmers will have to bear 10 per cent of the total cost of solar pump. About Rs 34,422 Crore for KUSUM scheme will be sanctioned through bank loans.

Two types of benefits from the KUSUM Scheme

The Scheme will benefit farmers in two ways. One, they will get free electricity for irrigation and secondly if they make additional electricity and send it to the grid, then they will also be able to earn some extra money



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of French Republic Emmanuel Macron at a Solar Power Plant in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

Highlights of KUSUM Scheme

₹ **30%**

Subsidy to be given by the Central Government

₹ **30%**

Subsidy to be given by the State Governments

₹ **30%**

Amount to be sanctioned by banks to farmers as loan

₹ **10%**

Amount to be paid by farmers to install solar energy equipment



BENEFITS

The landowner will have an income of Rs 60 thousand to 1 lakh per acre per year for the next 25 years

BIG POWER SAVINGS

With Solar energy not only electricity will be saved but 30,800 MW additional power will be generated. The Government will allow farmers to make solar power by installing solar panels.

THREE COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME

COMPONENT A: Connecting 10,000 MW of decentralised grids to renewable power plants. Solar or other renewable energy-based power plants (REPP) of capacity between 500 kilowatts (KW) and 2 MW will be set up by individual farmer or group of farmers or cooperatives or Panchayats or Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO). Power discoms may allow setting up of Solar or other renewable energy-based power plants of capacity less than 500 KW in specific cases.

COMPONENT B: Installation of 20 Lakh Solar-powered agricultural pumps. Individual farmers will be supported to install stand alone Solar agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 horsepower (HP) for replacement of existing diesel agriculture pumps in off-grid areas. Pumps of capacity higher than 7.5 HP may be

You can avail the benefits... To apply under KUSUM Yojana, you can go to the official website <https://Mnre.Gov.in/> and register.

allowed but the Central Financial Assistance will be limited to the pump of 7.5 HP.

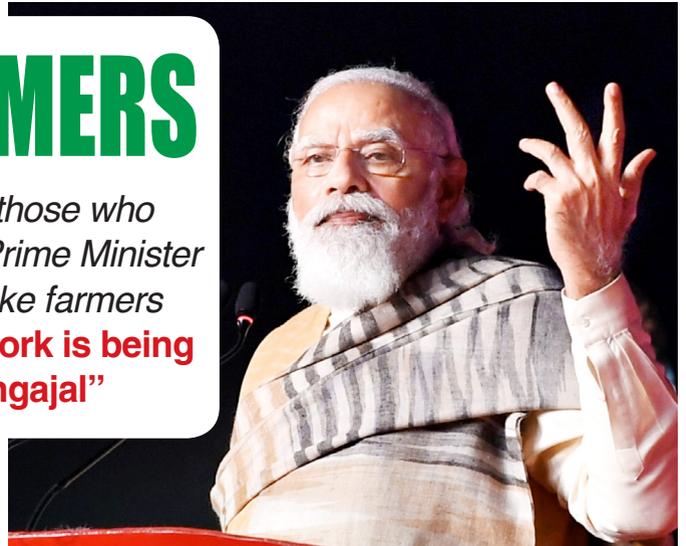
COMPONENT C: Solarisation of 15 Lakh grids connected through Solar powered agricultural pumps. Individual farmers with grid-connected agriculture pumps will be supported.

DIESEL PUMPS TO BE REPLACED IN FIRST PHASE

The first phase of KUSUM Scheme envisages solarisation of only those pumps which are running on diesel. Arrangements will be made to run such 17.50 Lakh irrigation pumps with Solar energy. This will help curb diesel consumption, crude oil imports and ensure protection of environment. Farmer having barren land can use them to produce Solar energy. ■

EMPOWERING FARMERS

Criticising the Opposition and countering those who spread confusions on the farmers' welfare, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said decades of deceit make farmers apprehensive but now there is no deceit, "work is being done with intentions as pure as Gangajal"



The Government is taking revolutionary measures for farmers and the farm sector. For decades, farmers were apprehensive about the promises made by the previous Governments. But now, the Government is taking steps and ensuring that rights of farmers are protected. They are getting more income and are also free from the compulsion of selling their products to any particular mandi. The Government is constantly trying to make the situation better for them. The Government delivered on the promise of stopping the black marketing of urea and giving enough urea to the farmers. It also delivered on the promise of fixing MSP at 1.5 times of the as per the recommendation of the Swaminathan Commission.

A range of schemes are assisting farmers. However, there is a misconception among them. On November 30, while inaugurating the six-lane project of the Varanasi-Prayagraj section of NH-19 in his Lok Sabha Constituency Varanasi, the Prime Minister re-emphasised that he is dedicated for farmers' welfare.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY FROM PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH:

- New agriculture reforms have given farmers new options, legal protections and at the same time the old system also continues if someone chooses to stay with that
- Earlier, transactions outside the mandi were illegal but now a small farmer can take legal action on the transactions outside the mandi also.
- When you see the track record of the

present Government, the truth will come out automatically.

- Five years before 2014, pulses of around Rs 6.5 Crore were procured from farmers. But in the subsequent 5 years, pulses worth about Rs 49,000 Crore were procured, that is, about 75 times increase.
- In 5 years prior to 2014, paddy worth Rs 2 Lakh Crore were purchased. But in the subsequent 5 years, we have crossed Rs 5 Lakh Crore. That equals to almost two and a half times more money.
- The Government is spending crores of rupees to modernise mandis. Why would the Government spend so much if the mandis and the MSP were to be dismantled?
- Assistance is being provided directly to the bank accounts of more than 10 Crore farmer families of the country. So far, about Rs 1 lakh Crore have been reached to the farmers.
- The Government is also addressing the concerns of the families of farmers. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that those farmers who have some doubts on agricultural reforms today, will also take advantage of these agricultural reforms in future and can increase their income. ■



(SCAN THE QR CODE TO HEAR THE PM'S ADDRESS)

The **New India Samachar** in the October 1-15 issue clarified the veracity and misleading facts related to the agricultural reform bill. You can read it by visiting this link
<http://davp.nic.in/nis/pdf/NIS%20English%20October%201-15.pdf>

NEW FARM LAWS PROVIDING BIGGER MARKET, BETTER PRICES TO FARMERS

Empowerment of farmers has been the priority of the Government. The new farm laws passed by Parliament in September 2020 show the commitment of the Government towards doubling income of farmers by 2022

Transforming the agriculture sector in the country and raising farmers' incomes has been the priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he took over reins in New Delhi. In the past six years, several measures have been taken to improve condition of farmers. The Government has the commitment of making income of farmers double by 2022. To provide multiple marketing channels and a legal framework for farmers to enter into pre-arranged contracts among other things, Parliament passed three new laws in September -- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.



MYTHS: PROCUREMENT AT MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE (MSP) WILL STOP

- If farm produce is sold outside APMC mandis, these will stop functioning
- What will be the future of government electronic trading portal like e-NAM

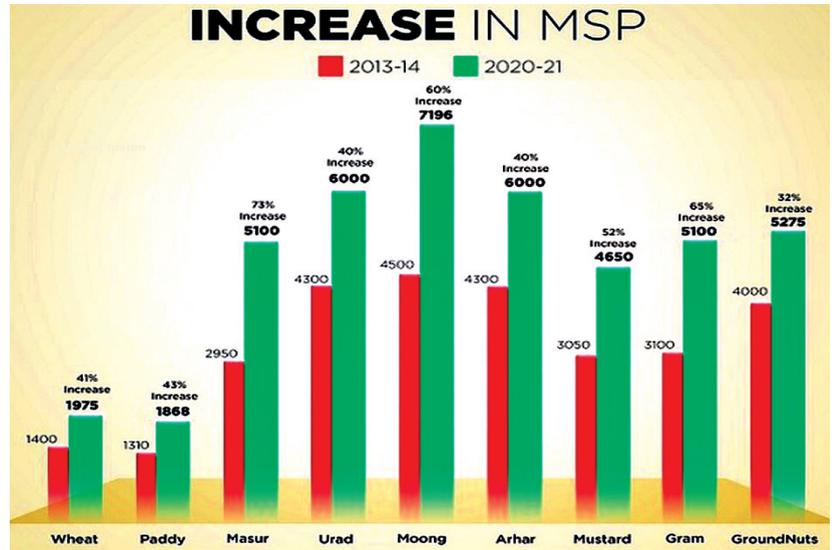


FACTS: PROCUREMENT AT MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE WILL CONTINUE, FARMERS CAN SELL THEIR PRODUCE AT MSP RATES

- Mandis will not stop functioning, trading will continue as before. Farmers will have the option to sell their produce at other places in addition to the mandis
- The e-NAM trading system will continue
- This empowers farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators, large retailers, exporters etc, on a level playing field.
- Price assurance to farmers even before sowing of crops. In case of higher market price, farmers will be entitled to this price over and above the minimum price
- It will transfer the risk of market

unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor

- It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers
- Effective dispute resolution mechanism has been provided for with clear timelines for redressal
- Impetus to research and new technology in the agriculture sector



It will promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing Legislation

X MYTHS: UNDER CONTRACT FARMING, FARMERS WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE AND THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DETERMINE PRICES

- The new system will be a problem for farmers
- In case of dispute, big companies will be at an advantage

✓ FACTS: THE FARMER WILL HAVE FULL POWER IN THE CONTRACT TO FIX A SALE PRICE OF HIS CHOICE FOR THE PRODUCE. THEY WILL RECEIVE PAYMENT WITHIN THREE DAYS

- The purchasing consumer will pick up the produce directly from the farm
- In case of any dispute, there will be no need to go to court repeatedly. There will be local dispute redressal mechanism
- It prohibits the sale, lease or mortgage of farmers' land
- Farmers can withdraw from these contracts at any time without any penalties if they have not availed an advance amount from the contracting parties
- The farming contract was limited to specific products and confined to particular timeframes ■

MSP INCREASED CONSIDERABLY DURING 2014-2020

- On recommendations of the National Commission of Farmers, headed by M S Swaminathan, the MSP for several agricultural products was enhanced by 1.5 times of the production cost incurred by the farmers
- On paddy, the Government hiked MSP by 2.4 times in the last five years. Actual payments made to farmers on paddy were a whopping Rs 4.95 Lakh Crore as against Rs 2.06 Lakh Crore in the previous five-year period
- On pulses, the increase in the MSP was the maximum at 75 times leading to a payment of Rs 49,000 Crore in last five years as against a meagre Rs 645 Crore made in 2009-14
- On wheat, MSP payment to farmers increased by 1.77 times during the last five years at Rs 2.97 Lakh Crore as against Rs 1.68 Lakh Crore in 2009-14
- On oil seeds and copra, the MSP witnessed an increase of ten times in five years. On both these products, the actual MSP pay out was Rs 25,000 Crore as against Rs 2,460 Crore given in 2009-14
- The Government agencies have made total procurement of foodgrains totalling 382 Lakh tonnes during Rabi season of 2020 which is an all-time record in itself



SPECIAL BOND WITH SIKHS

From opening up of the Kartarpur Corridor, stuck for decades, to celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji on a grand scale worldwide, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Government have worked towards re-establishing the pride of the Sikh community. Many institutional measures have been taken for the welfare of the Sikhs in the last six years



World over, the influence of Guru Nanak Dev ji is distinctly visible.

From Vancouver to Wellington, from Singapore to South Africa his messages are heard all around. It is mentioned in Guru Granth Sahib –“sevak ko seva bun aayee”, that is the work of a sevak, a servant is to serve. In the past few years at many important junctures we had the opportunity to serve as a Sevak. I feel that I have been specially blessed by Guru Sahib that he has associated me very closely with his work.”

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

After making consistent efforts for years, the Government succeeded in opening of Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor for devotees in November, 2019 on the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji. Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor is between Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district and Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur.

- The Government allocated Rs 120 Crore for it
- It ensured that pilgrims cross over into Pakistan from the Indian side to visit Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan throughout the year
- It has state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a passenger terminal built to take care of over 15,000 pilgrims per day

EMPOWERING SIKH YOUTH

- Before 2014, just 18 Lakh students from the Sikh community had been given scholarships. But the Narendra Modi Government ensured that 31 lakh

SHOWCASING SIKH HERITAGE TO THE WORLD

- Ministry of Tourism sanctioned development of Anandpur Sahib- Fatehgarh Sahib- Chamkaur Sahib-Ferozpur-Amritsar-Khatkar Kalan-Kalanour-Patiala Heritage circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- Air Connectivity between Amritsar and Nanded via special flight initiated

JUSTICE DELIVERED TO 1984 RIOT VICTIMS

- After more than three decades of the 1984 riots, Sikhs were deprived of justice. The Government has ensured justice for Sikhs. It expanded the ambit of the probe into 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases by enabling Special Investigation Team (SIT) to reopen investigations in all the cases in which trials were completed and accused were discharged
- **Bringing Culprits to Justice:** The SIT re-opened around 80 cases for further investigation. Convictions of big political personalities within just 3 years of SIT formation
- **Compensation Provided to Victims Pan-India:** Additional amount of Rs 5 Lakh to the kin of the 1984 riot victims were given. At least 1,020 riot-hit families, who had migrated to Punjab from different parts of India due to the violence, were given Rs 2 Lakh each as part of

centrally-sponsored rehabilitation scheme.

FULFILLING DEMANDS OF SIKHS THROUGH VARIOUS MEASURES

- Citizenship Amendment Act grants citizenship to Sikh refugees from Afghanistan and Pakistan who suffered forceful religious conversions, terrorism, and other mistreatments
- Revocation of Article 370 has given equal rights to Sikh minority in Jammu and Kashmir; domicile certificates being issued for 1947 West Pakistan Sikh refugees as well
- Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Act 2016 amended, addressing long-standing demand regarding participation in Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee elections
- **Slashing The 'Blacklist':** A number of Sikhs residing in the US, UK, Canada and other countries used to be on the 'blacklist' or the Central Adverse List. This list has been massively reduced by the Government from 314 people to just two. Slashing the blacklist helps them meet their families, get Indian visa and OCI card
- **Jallianwala Bagh Memorial:** The Government brought Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to construct the national memorial in the centenary year as a salute to the sacrifices of martyrs.

Sikh students were given pre/post matric and merit-cum-means scholarships

- Sikh youth form a significant share of 10 Lakh beneficiaries under self-reliance schemes such as Hunar Haat, Garib Nawaz Employment Scheme, Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, gaining employment opportunities
- Several social infrastructures built under PM Jan Vikas Karyakram for backward areas

developed in Sikh concentrated areas

- **Promoting Research On Teachings Of Sri Guru Nanak Devji:** National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies being set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar to promote brotherhood and diversity. Rs 67 Crore sanctioned for the same. Chairs of Sri Guru Nanak Devji set up at a university in the UK and Canada. ■



ECONOMY **on firm recovery path!**

Famed India growth story is set to return beginning next financial year on the back of firm recovery reported in the second quarter of 2020-21. Data suggests a V-shaped recovery in the economy

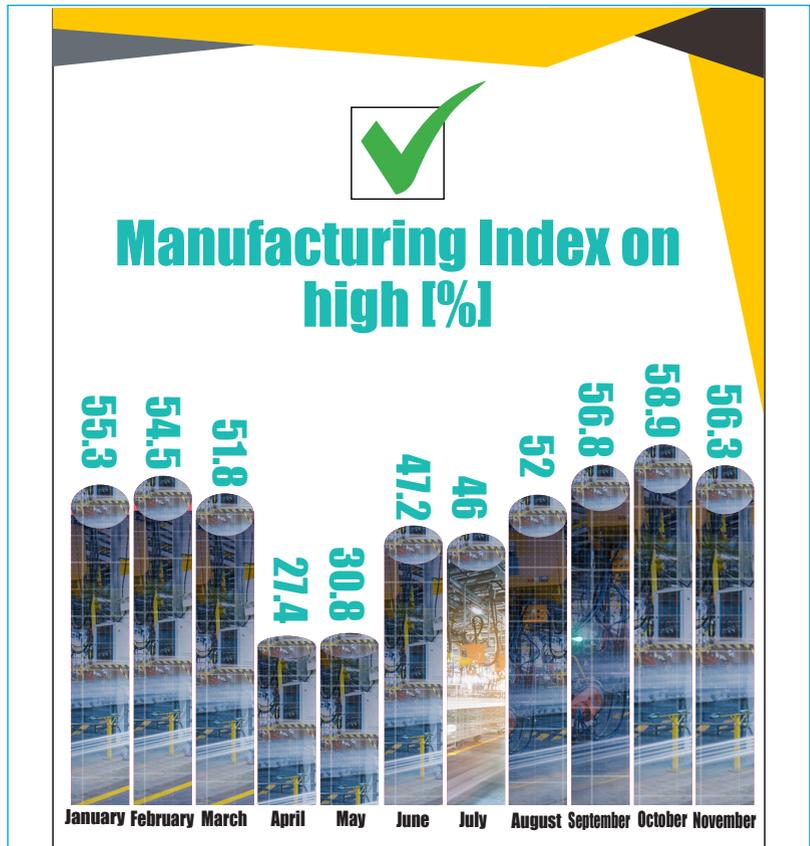
The worst ever pandemic has disrupted lives, jobs and economies globally and India is no exception to the cascading adverse impact of COVID-19. What perhaps stands out is the way Government, people and economy have responded in the last nine months.

A responsive Government, sensitivities of Indian people and economic resilience were on full display even as society devastated by the pandemic limped back to normalcy step by step and firmly at that. With the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolling out an 'AatmaNirbhar' package to rescue the economy from onslaught of the pandemic and achieve self-reliance, most stakeholders responded beautifully and worked in unison to bring the mojo back in famed India growth story.

While this bounce-back was work in progress, several sectors showed promise and green-shoots in the economy were visible. Indian agriculture sector demonstrated its strength by growing at 3.4 per cent during the April–September 2020, i.e. last two quarters during the peak of spread in COVID-19.

Indian businesses have also responded positively to the policy packages announced by the Prime Minister beginning with the COVID-19 economic rescue measures initiated by the Government. In fact, this brought manufacturing growth into a positive zone at 0.6 per cent during July–September 2020 from the 39.3 per cent dip reported in the previous quarter.

Power, gas and water supply sectors have also grown by 4.4 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal as against 7 per cent contraction reported for earlier three months i.e. in April–June 2020. Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) during April– September 2020 touched \$30 Billion, registering 15 per cent growth



- Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) moderated to 56.3 in November against the decade high level of 58.9 in October. With PMI Services Index also ending the seven-month sequence of contraction to rise to 54.1 in October and 53.7 in November, growth of output in the second half of 2020-21 is poised to replicate the performance of Q2. Despite some moderations in November, Manufacturing sector is buoyant.

Positive growth indicators

Sector	FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21	
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Agriculture	3	3.5	3.4	3.4
Manufacturing	3	-0.6	-39.3	0.6
Electricity/Gas	8.8	3.9	-7	4.4
Construction	5.2	2.6	-50.3	-8.6
Tourism	3.5	4.1	-47	-15.6

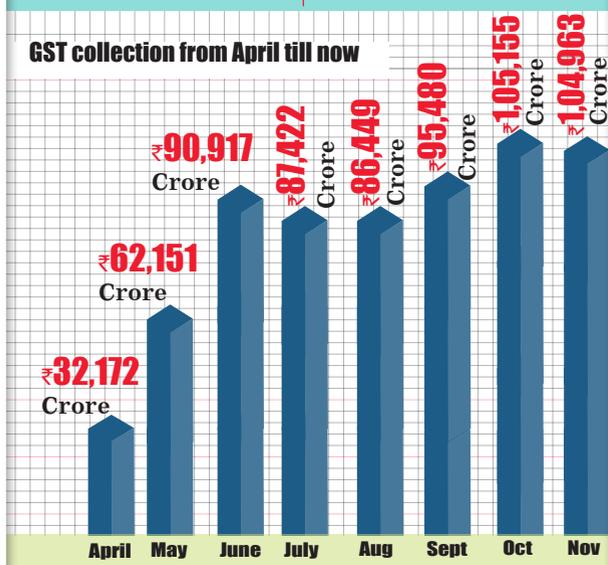
(Figures in %)

GST collection for the first time crosses Rs 1 lakh crore in the last 8 months

Collection was over 10 percent in the same month last year

80 lakh GSTR-3B returns filed in the month of October 2020

GST collection from April till now



For the first time since February, GST collections both in October and November crossed Rs 1 Lakh Crore which is a major indicator of an increase in economic activity. Business activities have been restored after all restrictions have ended

According to the IMF, the economic package of Rs 29 Lakh 87 Thousand Crore given in three phases under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign supported the Indian economy. This package is 15% of India's GDP

over the same period last financial year. Healthy FDI inflows would give a big fillip to 'Make in India' for the world campaign call given from ramparts of Red Fort on August 15 this year. Evolving India as an industrial hub for the world is yet another project that's underway.

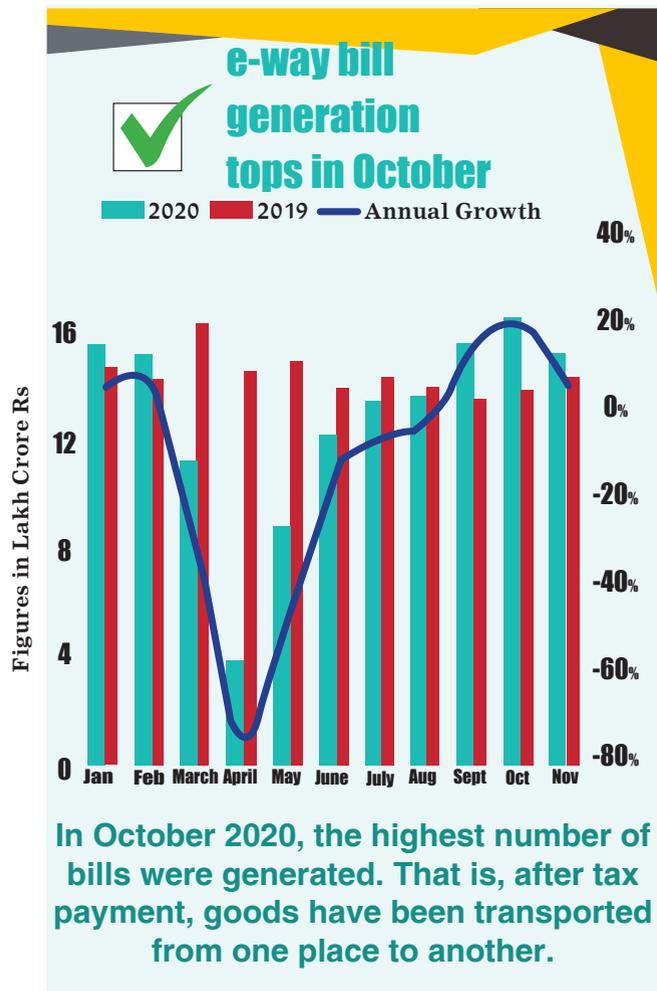
In continuation, it's rather encouraging to note that coal (11.6%), electricity (10.5%), fertilizers (6.3%) and cement (2.8%) sectors have posted healthy growth in October 2020 vis-à-vis performance in the same month a year ago. Various indicators like bumper harvest of Kharif crops, increase in the consumption of electricity, rail freight collections, swelling automobiles & two wheeler sales, better toll, GST mop up reaching pre-COVID period are signalling firm economic recovery.

The Manufacturing PMI in October was 58.9 and in November it was 56.3 which indicates decade's strongest recovery. The PMI of services sector too raised to 54.1 in October. In November,

it was at 53.7 which indicates strong recovery. Overall economic performance was better than expected given that the contraction was limited to 7.5 per cent in July-September 2020 as against 23.9 per cent in the previous quarter. Given that the economy was on a firm recovery mode, most independent consultancies have projected that the GDP contraction for the entire financial year would be much lower than earlier estimates.

Care Ratings, Nomura, ICRA, HDFC, IDFC First, QuantEco and Brickwork Ratings were some of the companies that ventured out to revise their earlier gloomy picture on the economic front. After the second quarter recovery, these ratings have estimated that the economic contraction would be much lower at 7-9 per cent as against earlier projection of 8.2-11 per cent.

Going forward most economists have estimated that the economic growth would be over 10 per cent 2021-22 which is very robust, putting India



✓ Increase in Auto sales



- Total production of number of vehicles in all segments (two-wheeler, three wheeler and four wheeler) in October was at 2,830,153. The number stood at 2,086,479 in the corresponding month of the last fiscal
- This year in October passenger vehicles sales recorded an increase of 14.19% in comparison with October month of the last fiscal
- Two wheelers segment recorded an increase of 16.88 % in October, 2020 in comparison with the corresponding month last fiscal

The automobile sector, troubled by very low sales during the lockdown, has recorded a sharp growth. The festive season in October has seen a rise in the number of vehicle sales

back on a high growth trajectory. Worse on the economic front due to COVID-19 seems to be over while the recovery leading to double digit growth in next few quarters seems to be on cards.

IMPROVED RATINGS BY MOODY'S, GOLDMAN SACHS AND BARCLAYS

During the Corona period, the growth rate of the economy reached a negative territory of -23.9 per cent. Experts predicted that in second quarter, the growth rate would be around -12% but proving them wrong, the economy stood firmly at -7.5%. The contribution of cement, steel, agriculture, manufacturing sectors played a crucial role in it. As per Monthly Economic Review of November 2020 of Department of Economic Affairs, Economy is now on a V-shaped recovery track. The Government's resolve resulted in the positive ratings by global economic agencies. Moody's has raised India's economic growth forecast for the year 2021 from

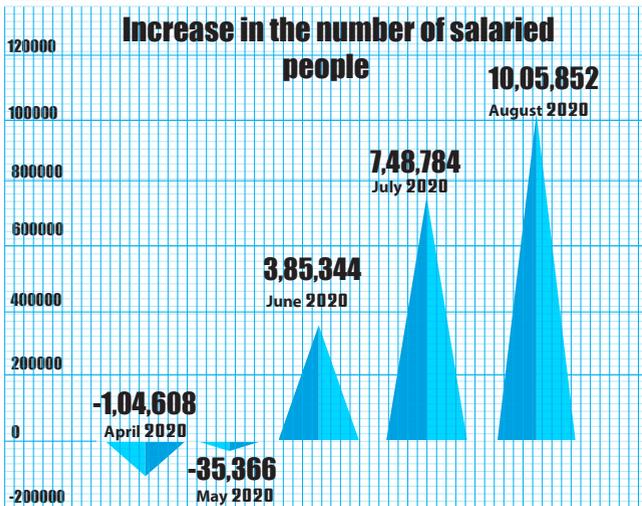
8.1% to 8.6%. Goldman Sachs and Barclays have also improved upon their forecasts. According to a report by Oxford Economics, Indian economy is recovering faster than expected. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest report on the world economic scenario has described India as the fastest growing economy. According to the IMF, growth rate of the Indian economy in the year 2021 will be at around 8.8 per cent, which will be the highest in the world.

A STRATEGIC VICTORY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strategy of taking challenges head on resulted in India becoming a country to tackle Corona satisfactorily in comparison to other countries. It is evident from the fact that the Prime Minister announced a package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana only after a day of the first lockdown on March 25, 2020.



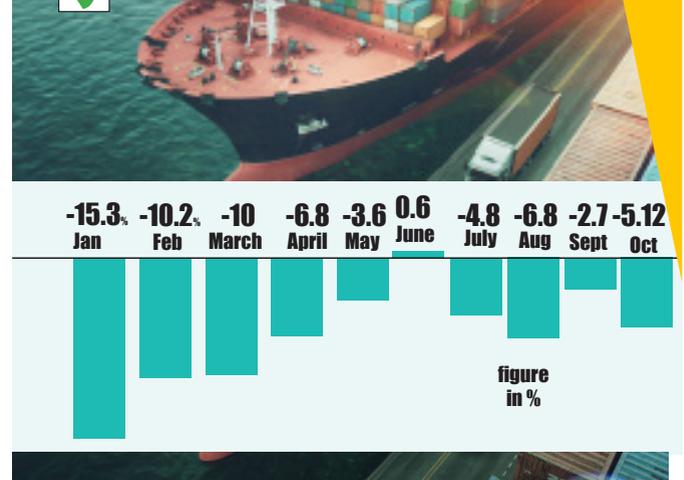
Boom in EPFO enrolment



The number of new nominees in the EPFO during August stood at 10.05 Lakh. On an average, new accounts of 7 Lakh employees are opened every month of the year 2020. Increased contribution to EPFO means companies are hiring new people



Lowest ever trade deficit



AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign has encouraged domestic production. Exports have increased faster than imports leading to lessening of trade deficits

India's GDP growth rate will again be in positive territory from the third to fourth quarter due to normal industrial activity and positive growth in public utility sectors like agriculture, electricity

True to his style, the Prime Minister took all stakeholders in confidence by having virtual meetings with them. Be it with pharmaceutical companies, doctors, social organizations, agriculture, energy, education, IT and people from all other sectors, the Prime Minister reiterated his commitment on national security and other crucial issues. Chief Ministers of various states were taken into confidence. Not only the efforts brought assistance to the needy and poor but it encouraged enterprises for production. It also resulted in major structural reforms.

Keeping the economy as a top priority, the Prime Minister aimed for Self-Reliance through five mantras – intent, inclusion, investment, infrastructure and innovation. For this, the Government laid equal emphasis on "Land, Labor, Liquidity and Law".

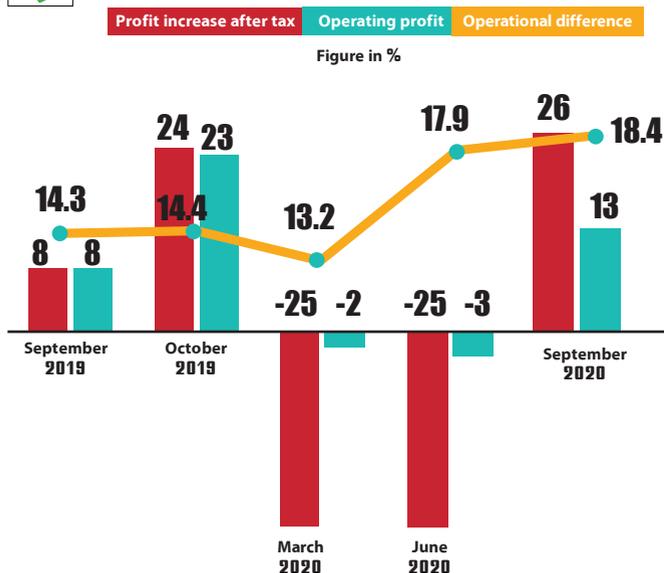
After the announcement by the Prime Minister, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

announced a five-tranche economic package. It was a strategic decision by the Government.

On the first day, the Finance Minister stressed upon reforms in MSME sector to strengthen it through streamlining production and supplies. On second day, she announced packages for farmers, labourers, street vendors with a focus on employment generation and housing. On third day, the concern for agriculture production and animal husbandary sector was addressed. On the fourth day, stress was on improving upon infrastructure, whereas on the last day, reforms announced for improving upon rural and health infrastructure. It indicates that the Prime Minister has prepared a roadmap for the vision of making an AatmaNirbhar Bharat. These reforms were not initiated in haste. It was a well thought out strategy with a long-term planning.

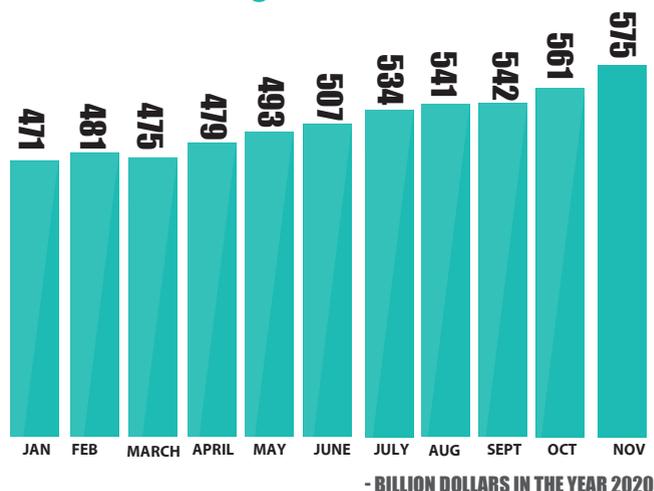
Successful implementation through schemes like foodgrains for poor, money transfer in Jan Dhan

Industry earnings better than expected



Companies register 26 per cent increase in profits, against an estimate of -2.1 per cent. Along with automobiles sector, IT, pharmaceutical and cement companies have registered strong growth in profits.

Foreign exchange reserves at record high



Foreign Exchange Reserves has reached new heights. It has reached a record figure to \$575 Billion. This is the highest ever. The gold reserves too rose by \$1.328 Billion

Steady growth in agriculture

- Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. In the Corona period, a growth in this sector has been recorded. In the first half of FY 2020-21, exports of agricultural products too have registered a growth of 43.4 per cent
- Not only this, the production of foodgrains in the country is estimated to be 298 million tonnes this year, which was 285.21 million tonnes in 2018-19 and 291.95 million tonnes in 2019-20
- The production of pulses was 23.02 million tonnes last year, while 25 million tonnes is expected this year

Record increase in FDI

- Despite the Corona crisis, the country has received FDI worth \$27.1 Billion in April-August of 2020-21. This is 16 per cent higher than the investment of \$23.35 Billion in the corresponding period of 2019-20
- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the total FDI in reinvestment during this period increased by 13 per cent to \$35.73 Billion, as compared to \$31.60 Billion in the first five months of FY 2019-20
- 55% increase in total FDI inflows in 2014-20 compared to \$231.37 Billion in 2008-14

accounts of the people, Samman Nidhi for farmers, generating employment for migrant labourers at their doorsteps and good GST collection indicate that economy is on a right trajectory.

MANUFACTURING SECTOR IS BECOMING A KEY FOR DEVELOPMENT

One of the important growth engines of the economy is manufacturing sector, which has

the potential to drive growth. This sector, with a contribution of 15 per cent to GDP and a 12 per cent share in the country's working population, has manifold impact on around 250 industries.

The Government has taken significant steps to make India a manufacturing hub of the world with the allocation of about Rs 1.5 Lakh Production-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for 10 sectors. The

DIGITAL ECONOMY

Promoting a culture of honesty and transparency

The decision of demonetisation in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only checked black money but is also proving to be a milestone for the nation's growth. It created a very efficient infrastructure of digital transactions through various Apps facilitated by Unified Payments Interface (UPI).



FEATURES OF BHIM APP

- It works on all kinds of phones
- Connected with 189 banks
- Availability for 24 hours
- Much easier payment
- Available in 20 languages
- Works on all QR codes
- Can be linked to more than 10 banks



After demonetisation, the Government made the BHIM App the basis of digital transactions, as a result of which the entire country is witnessing a culture of digital transactions today. The way digital transactions reached their record levels in the Corona pandemic period show that the foundation laid four years ago is now ready to take country to an advanced level of growth.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, "the whole world is moving towards a cashless society. You can get as well as give money through electronic system. You can buy things and pay the bills. In the beginning, it may be difficult, but as it becomes the habit, it will be much simpler."

BHIM APP: THE NEW BANK IN YOUR POCKET

BHIM App has become the new wealth status of your mobile phone. The Prime Minister said from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day, "You can see how fast the online digital transactions are increasing. Look at BHIM UPI App..." Anyone would be immensely proud to know that UPI transactions have crossed to Rs 3.90 Lakh Crore in November alone through BHIM UPI. This is an excellent example of how people have accepted the changing scenarios. More than 221 Crore transactions have been done in the month of November through the UPI-BHIM App, which is the highest ever transaction with a total of Rs 3,86,000 Crore. If compared to the previous year, even after the restrictions of Corona, the transaction through BHIM App has increased by more than 80 per cent.

aim is to make India a favourable destination for investment in the world through its competitive edge. This will not only create a competitive environment in the manufacturing sector across the world but generate employment.

THE TURNAROUND IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

India has shown the world that through grit and determination one could see the turnaround in the growth. The biggest example of it is the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits.

Earlier, it was not produced in India but during Corona, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the initiative. In just two months of lockdown, India became the second largest producer of PPE kits in the world.

Certainly, India has the best talent in the world. This is the reason why all the countries and rating agencies of the world are forced to say that in the coming years, India's economy will not only return to the pre-COVID stage but is going to be the world's fastest growing economy. ■

I am cautiously optimistic as data is showing a good economic recovery

From *Jaan Hai* to *Jahan Hai* to *Jaan Bhi Aur Jahan Bhi*, India has come a long way from not only saving lives but also bringing the economy on track. The country with 137 Crore population is not only faring better in terms of dealing with COVID-19 pandemic onslaught but also its impact on the economy. The upturn in the economy is visible by various indicators which has been made possible due to proper planning, better execution and a decisive leadership. In an exclusive conversation, Chief Economic Adviser **Dr K V Subramanian** spoke to Consulting Editors of **New India Samachar Vinod Kumar** and **Santosh Kumar** on various issues including future roadmap of the economy. Excerpts:



Q India's preparation to check COVID-19 pandemic not only saved lives but also gave a new impetus to the economy. How did the Government's plan work effectively, which is taking the country towards a new hope?

A When cases of COVID-19 started increasing in other countries around March, we studied the pattern of Spanish Flu pandemic that struck around 102 years ago. The one thing that came

out of it was that countries where lockdown was implemented properly with lesser mortality rate, the economic recovery was much better. The inference came out from this that we have to chalk out a long-term strategy. The Government's priority was to save lives first and then to take care of the GDP. The Prime Minister said it correctly, '*Jaan Hai to Jahan Hai*'. After people followed his words and the nation was recovering fast, the slogan of '*Jaan Bhi aur Jahan Bhi*' made an impact with the gradual

Q What is the significance of \$5 Trillion economy that the Prime Minister is aiming for? How can one contribute to it?

A I think lots of reforms introduced are intended to achieve that growth. For citizens, it is essential to follow simple rules especially with respect to COVID-19. Make sure to wear mask, maintain social distancing and wash the hands frequently. The economic impact is quite related to pandemic itself.

phases of unlock. The GDP of UK went down to 20 per cent while India's GDP went down to 23.9 per cent despite more stringent lockdown in India. Now, things are looking up in the unlock phase as manufacturing sector is showing a greater recovery. We can see a V shape recovery.

Q Industry and other sectors appreciated economic reforms and resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put the country on growth path. What are the reasons for this?

A The economic crisis in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic is quite different from earlier crisis. It created a negative growth rate for demand, which potentially impacted the long-term economic growth. To ensure that it didn't happen, the Government undertook a series of reforms. The labour reform, agriculture reform, definitional changes of MSME and the PLI scheme, all these are very seminal because they are doing two things primarily. First, they are enabling the economy to become much more formalised. For instance, if we compare job data of 2011-12 with data of 2017-18, it shows a five per cent reduction in the proportion of casual workers with five per cent increase in the proportion of salaried workers which is an indication of formalisation of economy. Second part was also to concentrate on making growth in job sector more intensive because if you look at sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, they account for large proportion of employment in the economy.

Q Post demonetisation, the economy is moving fast towards digital and cashless medium laying foundation of a strong New India. What was the

Government's perspective behind such a bold decision?

A Digitisation of economy enables it to become more firm and activates formal sector. With JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile), a trinity is created. I think the COVID-19 crisis also demonstrated that lots of activities are making a significant push towards digitisation.

Q BHIM App is completing four years and the period has remarkably shown a major shift towards digital transactions, especially in times of Corona. What is the roadmap ahead ?

A In India, money got transferred to bank accounts of needy people under various schemes of the Government just by one click. People are doing digital transactions by sitting at home following social distancing. It helped a lot during pandemic.

Q Economy is a complex term for a commoner. How is the size and behaviour of the economy different from other countries? How can a common man for whom technical jargons of economy are not relevant, can understand its benefit in easy words?

A As we explained in this year's Economic Survey that talks about *Thalinomics*. Inflation can be understood with the rate of increase in prices of a plate of meal. Similarly, when we talk about employment, it talks about the number of people getting jobs. Similarly, GDP growth is calculated in terms of activities of people and income generated from them. The analysis is based on the basis of percentage increase or decrease. These are two-three crucial data that is important for analysing micro economics.

Q How is Prime Minister's AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaign proving to be helpful for the economy?

A There are some important aspects. First, we have become self-reliant in various sectors. We have become the second largest producer in the world in PPE kits production. It is important to understand that self-reliance comes with competence. No person, company or the country can become self-reliant if, they are not competent. Secondly, if you see the kind of product and services provided by

Q The Prime Minister always talks about opportunity in the crisis. How do you look at India being an economic superpower?

A This pandemic has proved that vision of India is farsighted. We don't visualise from one quarter to another quarter. There was certain impact on the economic activity due to lockdown as lives must be saved first. If we look at the death rate, India has 5 deaths per lakh while the US has 60 deaths per lakh. Death rates of Spain, Italy, UK is 10 to 12 times higher than India. This long-term vision will take India a long way. India can be the example of ethical wealth creation. As per a report, India was the world leader in economy for seventeen and a half centuries. India's contribution to the world GDP was one third (33 per cent) of the total global GDP. On the other hand, the USA, which is considered to be the economic superpower has only 15-16 per cent contribution to the world GDP!

our companies, they make products for top 20 to 30 per cent lot on the income pyramid. But certain sectors like FMCG has products for people even in the remote areas of the country like shampoo sachet. We are trying that companies should give products and services to widen their consumer base as one of the biggest strength of India is that we are a country of 137 Billion people.

Q Reports of IMF, World Economic Forum and Moody's ratings have signalled a major improvement in the economy during pandemic. How one can understand this with the help of these indicators?

A We have discussed that during the unlock phase, the recovery is very well and that is what is being reflected in ratings of these agencies. I do think that many a times lots of analysts' researches end up taking into the account the recent data and often

ignore the long-term trend. But these ratings are definitely a good news.

Q The IMF has said in its report that by 2040 India's contribution to the world's growth rate will be one third. How do you look at it?

A I think policies and reforms will provide the necessary growth impetus to the Indian economy and we will surely realise this prediction.

Q Corona is not yet vanished. Reforms are continuing. Will the growth accelerate or is there any possibility of it falling again?

A I am cautiously optimistic as data is showing a good economic recovery. But since this is winter season and in this weather such cases increase particularly in North India, so this is my appeal to people to remain more cautious so that cases don't increase. This is not only in the interest of individual but also in the interest of the country.

Q When will we be able to reach the positive territory of the GDP?

A This is my presumption that in Q3 or Q4, we will be able to reach that mark.

Q It is agriculture sector that remains unaffected from the negative growth rate. Creating opportunities in agriculture sector has always been a concern. The Government has made an announcement of creating an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 Lakh Crore. How is it going to help the end-users, our farmers?

A Agriculture sector is not much affected as social distancing is not a matter of concern for the sector. The Government has taken all necessary measures despite lockdown. The agriculture sector has provided a cushion. The recent reforms particularly Farmers' Law are very important for agriculture sector because small farmers will be able to sell their produce to anyone. Moreover, there are around 40 to 45 per cent people working in the sector which has a huge potential of job creation. The required growth will not be possible without proper infrastructure. The investment will happen due to Rs 1 Lakh Crore infrastructure fund. Infrastructure fund is likely to work for the growth of agriculture sector. ■

ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION: A NECESSITY IN INDIA

The 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference was held at Gujarat's Kevadia under the tallest statue of the unifier of India, Sardar Patel. During his address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted values of the Constitution and mentioned the long pending need for 'One Nation, One Election'

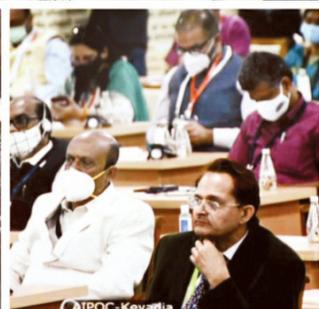
Every few months, there are some elections taking place somewhere in the country, affecting the developmental work. On the 71st Constitution Day, celebrated on November 26, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated the demand for 'One Nation, One Election'.

Addressing the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference, he said, "The One Nation, One Election is not just a topic of discussion, but the necessity of India. Every few months, there are some elections taking place somewhere in India. You are very well aware that it affects developmental works. Therefore, a thorough study and debate on One Nation, One Election is necessary."

He also emphasised on one voter list for all elections, as currently there are different voter lists for different elections. "Why are we wasting so much money and time? Now that the voting age has been decided for everybody who is over 18 years of age, there is no need for different voter lists," the Prime Minister said.

Important take away from Prime Minister's speech

Efforts should be to make ordinary citizen's understanding



MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBITION ON THE CONSTITUTION DAY

The Government organised several programmes to celebrate the Constitution Day. There was a nation-wide reading of the Preamble led by President Ram Nath Kovind. A Special Exhibition on the Constitution Day at Kevadia in Gujarat drew appreciation of Parliamentarians and Legislators. The 1,600 sq ft multimedia exhibition traced the journey of democratic tradition in the country right from Vedic times, through the Lichchavi republic to the making of Modern India.

Organised by the Bureau of Outreach Communication (BOC) in collaboration with Parliamentary Museum and Archives as part of the 80th All India Conference of presiding officers at the Statue of Unity site, the exhibition effectively captured the chronology of the framing of the Constitution which has been dealt in detail by making use of archival material. Rare film footage showing events associated with the framing of the Constitution, speeches made by important members of the Constituent Assembly like Dr B R Ambedkar, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyama Prasad

Mukherjee among others, were sourced from the archives of the Films Division of India, Mumbai.

Another highlight of the exhibition was the section on State Assemblies, where a visitor could see and appreciate the architectural beauty and diversity of different State Assembly buildings. On one of the Plasma

THE EXHIBITION SHOWS RARE FILM FOOTAGE SHOWING EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRAMING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Displays, a visitor could choose to read the Preamble of the Constitution in different Indian languages. A Digital Flip Book gave glimpses of illustrations from the Constitution. A Digital Touch Wall gave information about various national symbols, while another digital screen displayed the chronology of framing of the Constitution. Another display wall described the influence of other Constitutions.

of the Constitution more comprehensive. Knowledge of the Constitution can strengthen constitutional protective shield.

- 130 Crore people have displayed that they have full faith in the three wings of the Constitution – Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Continuous work has also been done to enhance this trust
- Know Your Customer (KYC) has been an important aspect of digital security. KYC in a new form like Know Your Constitution can also strengthen constitutional protective shield
- We, the people of India, have given the Constitution to ourselves. Therefore, we will have to ensure that the common citizen feels connected with all the laws
- Efforts have been made in the last 6-7 years

to improve better coordination among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary

- It is necessary for all the state legislatures to move in the direction of sharing data, so that there can be a central database For this, a modern digital platform -- National e-Vidhan Application – has already been developed
- In the last few years, hundreds of such laws have been removed. But can't we create a system where there should be an automatic process of repealing the old laws just like the Constitution?
- During Coronavirus pandemic, both the Houses of Parliament have worked more than the stipulated time. ■



(Scan QR code for full speech of Prime Minister)



EIGHT BUNGALOWS REDEVELOPED TO BUILD 76 FLATS FOR MPs

Accommodation for the newly elected Members of Parliament in Delhi has been a long-standing problem. The MPs have to put up in hotels for a long time and this leads to financial burden on the Government. Even the MPs did not enjoy this, but were under compulsion. After 2014, serious efforts have been made to overcome this problem

At the Dr B D Road in Delhi, close to Parliament, more than 80-year-old eight bungalows were redeveloped into 76 flats. Keeping in mind the protection of the environment, these flats have energy conservation measures, solar and sewage treatment plants. Bricks used in the building are made from fly ash. The building has double glazed windows for thermal insulation. Energy efficient LED light fittings, occupancy-based sensors for light control, air conditioners with VRV system for low power consumption, low flow fixtures for conservation of water, rainwater harvesting system and rooftop solar plant were also installed in the building.

Construction of these flats has been completed with savings of about 14 per cent from the sanctioned cost and without time overrun despite the impact of COVID-19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated these flats on November 23, 2020.

IMPORTANT POINTS FROM PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH:

- Decades-old problems can be resolved by finding solutions to them and not by avoiding

them.

- Several projects in Delhi were lying incomplete for many years, and were in limbo. Construction of several buildings began and completed in the stipulated time. It included Ambedkar National Memorial, Doctor Ambedkar International Centre, the new building of the Central Information Commission and the War Memorial near India Gate in the memory of the country's martyrs
- The Parliament session happened amid a slew of precautions and new arrangements during the Coronavirus period. One can find a new mindset and a new approach in the working style and governance of the country
- I am sure the next Lok Sabha will also play a very important role to take the country forward in the new decade
- It is said that we can attain karma through our true resolutions and our intentions. Today, we have resources and also firm determination ■



(Scan QR code for full speech of Prime Minister)

PRESIDENT'S BOOKS: A RARE INSIGHT

Books by President Ram Nath Kovind reflect upon his idea of New India which is strongly rooted in its historical and cultural value system. Here is a peep into President's life by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh who along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar unveiled two books penned by him



President Ram Nath Kovind is a man of letters. The books, compilation of his speeches, give an insight into his persona. As aptly said by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, "Whatever is in the book of the President is reflection of his persona."

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on November 19, 2020 unveiled two books penned by the President during his third year of Presidency. These two books -- The Republican Ethic Volume III and

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Republican Ethic, Volume III, is a collection of 57 selected speeches of the President. The ideals of justice, equality, fraternity, non-violence, universal brotherhood, inclusive growth and special concern for vulnerable segments of the society are recurrent themes in his speeches. This book contains his vision of a vibrant India of the 21st century, powered by its gifted people and guiding our world towards a safer and greener future. These speeches provide a window to the worldview of the President and also an insight into the principles and beliefs he values.

Loktantra Ke Swar— are based on his selected speeches and have mention of country's efforts to fight COVID-19.

Speaking on the occasion, Raksha Mantri said speeches of the President present a vision for New India and these books will always remain relevant to understand contemporary India and will work as a reference book. He was of the view that interaction with the President leaves an impact on the mind of the person meeting with him.



The President is a large-hearted man whose words and deeds are the same, which makes him a man of credibility. In the political arena, there have been many people who say something, and then do something else. Their words and deeds are not in accordance

RAKSHA MANTRI RAJNATH SINGH



While sharing working experience with him, Rajnath Singh said, "The President is a large-hearted man whose words and deeds are the same, which makes him a man of credibility. In the political arena, there have been many people who say something, and then do something else. Their words and deeds are not in accordance."

Raksha Mantri said that all his speeches come from the inner core of his heart; they are voice of his inner conscious which is big. Whatever is in the book is reflection of his persona, deeds, presentation of his value system (Jeevan Mulya) in the form of words. This volume includes a special section wherein the President expresses his contemplations on Gautam Buddha, Sant Kabir, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr B R Ambedkar and Deendayal Upadhyay and significance of their preaching, especially in the 21st century.

"The President is also the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces. He expressed his willingness to go to areas like Siachen to meet Army personnel, which is a

PRESIDENT THROUGH THE EYES OF RAKSHA MANTRI

THE SENSITIVE PRESIDENT

A poor student was trying to participate in a bicycle race. The President got to know that he doesn't have his own bicycle. He called him at the Rashtrapati Bhawan and gifted him a sports bicycle. This reflects upon the sensitive side of the President who is humane and generous.

COMMITTED TO POOR

The President was a renowned lawyer. A poor person was entangled in a legal issue but was unable to hire a lawyer. It was the President who took up his case. Helping people to get justice was part of his life. He always talked about judicial reforms. It was due to his efforts to reform the judicial system, verified copy of judgments in Hindi and local languages is being made available by the Supreme Court and many High Courts.

RESPECT FOR TEACHERS

President was attending a programme in a school where he got his initial education. After the end of programme, the first citizen of the country touched feet of his teachers present there. He gave a message by this gesture that people must remain humble and must pay respect to their teachers.

symbol of affection and respect for the forces," the Raksha Mantri said. Information and Broadcasting Minister said, "the President has given many inspiring speeches on various topics. This book comprises speeches on the country's efforts to fight COVID, where India is faring much better than other countries." ■

TOWARDS A NEW HORIZON

Amalgamations in banking sector, infusion of funds in infra bonds and MoUs in physical education signalling towards a positive future ahead

DECISION: Scheme of amalgamation of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India Ltd approved giving benefits to about 20 Lakh account holders



BENEFITS:

- This will protect about 20 Lakh depositors' interest and will give financial stability to the Bank. LVB had been under moratorium for a period of 30 days
- LVB will be amalgamated with DBIL from the appointed date and with this there will no further restrictions on withdrawal
- There will not be any job risk for about 4,000 employees who will be retained as per previous terms and conditions

DECISION: Capital infusion of Rs 6,000 Crore into NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform comprising Aseem Infrastructure Finance Ltd and NIIF Infrastructure Finance Ltd approved

BENEFITS:

- It will contribute nearly Rs 1 Lakh Crore in debt to the infrastructure sector over the next 5 years
- This process will also help relieve exposure of banks to infrastructure projects and free up space for new green-field projects.
- It is also expected that the Debt platform will raise debt from the Bond market and serve as a trusted intermediary

DECISION: Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of physical education and sports among BRICS Countries



BENEFITS:

- Cooperation in the field of sports among the five countries will help in expanding knowledge and expertise in the area of sports science, sports medicine, coaching techniques etc. This would result in improvement in performance of sportspersons in international tournaments
- Benefits arising from cooperation in the field of sports among the five countries would be equally applicable to all sportspersons irrespective of their caste, creed, region, religion and gender

DECISION: Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Vereniging van Registercontrollers (VRC) of the Netherlands

BENEFITS:

- It would help in the development of the Accounting, Financial and Audit Knowledge Base between the Netherlands and India
- It would help to generate greater employment opportunities for Indian Chartered Accountants
- It would benefit the ICAI members and would provide an additional impetus to prospects of the ICAI members ■

POSITIVITY TURNS CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

An alumni of IIT Kharagpur develops battery mask useful for sportspersons by keeping the mask on even while training and a good samaritan in J&K distributes sanitary kits

BATTERY MASK TO PROTECT FROM CORONAVIRUS AND POLLUTION



Every effort is underway to save people from the twin menace of Coronavirus and pollution as a former student of IIT Kharagpur and IIM Calcutta Piyush Agrawal is producing battery-operated masks. The uniqueness of this mask is that two battery-operated fans are fitted in it to provide enough oxygen to the user. Its battery lasts for around eight hours. Mask was developed with the Government assistance under Project Kawach Mask. The price of a mask has been fixed at Rs 3000. Piyush says mask is fitted with two fans. One fan supplies oxygen and the other pushes Carbon Dioxide and moisture out. So the user of the mask constantly gets fresh air which is named as Brand Moksha. The mask is specially prepared for healthcare, sanitation workers and others. Workers are getting employment and learning new techniques. Sportspersons preparing for the next year's Olympics are using these masks so they are not only protected from Corona virus but also get the right environment for preparations.

DISTRIBUTION OF SANITARY KITS LAUDED



The zest for doing something for society helps generate new ideas. Irfana of Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir embodies this in a true sense when she started distributing free sanitary napkins in Srinagar. As part of the menstrual hygiene campaign, Irfana gives away sanitary items. She has earned praise as her 'Eva Safety Door' sanitary napkin kit for women and young girls is now available in most of the public washrooms in Srinagar and nearby villages in Kashmir Valley. She has been contributing with the necessary sanitary items to the needy amid COVID-19 lockdown. She has distributed menstrual kits in around 15 washrooms in Srinagar so far. Death of her father had pushed her into doing something meaningful in life and she started distributing menstrual kits as a tribute to him. The kit contains sanitary napkins, antispasmodics and hand washes. It also has undergarments, baby diapers and sanitisers. ■



बाधाएं आती हैं आएं, घिरें प्रलय की घोर घटाएं,
पावों के नीचे अंगारे, सिर पर बरसें यदि ज्वालाएं,
निज हाथों में हंसते-हंसते, आग लगाकर जलना होगा
कदम मिलाकर चलना होगा।

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी
(अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी)