

THE
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Special Article

• India-Africa Forum Summit: New
Delhi 26-29 October 2015

UDAY Scheme Truly
Heralds the Uday (Rise),
of a 'Power'ful India

Implementation of GST in
Winter Session will be a Game-
Changer for Indian Economy

Fulfilling the Commitment:
Notification for Implementation
of OROP Issued by Modi Govt

Party, Philosophy & Discipline



Which is a good party? Evidently the one that is not simply a collection of individuals but is a body corporate with a distinctive purposeful existence, different from its desire to capture power. Political power should be a means rather than an end to the members of such a party. There should be devotion to a cause in the rank and file of the party. Devotion leads to dedication and discipline. Discipline does not mean simply outward conformity to certain do's and don'ts. The more you impose discipline from above the less is the internal strength of the party. Discipline is to a party what *Dharma* is to a society.

Let the different political parties try to evolve a philosophy for themselves. Let them not be mere conglomerations of persons joined together for some selfish

ends. It should be something different from a commercial undertaking or a joint stock company. It is also necessary that the philosophy of the party is not kept confined to the pages of the party manifesto. Members should understand it and devote themselves to translating it into action.

The question of discipline in the rank of a party is important not only to keep the party in perfect health but also because of its bearing on the conduct of the people in general. A government is primarily an instrument of conservation and protection and not of destruction, or change. To inculcate reverence for law in the people demands that the parties who aspire to be guardians of law should themselves set an example in this direction. The essence of democracy is a spirit of, and capacity for, self-governance. If the parties cannot govern themselves how can they hope to create in the community a desire for self-governance? While on the one hand it is essential for the community to guarantee and protect individual freedom it is desirable, on the other hand, for the individual to willingly submit to the general will. The greater this submission the less will be the coercive power of the State. In a party whose affairs are regulated not by any state law but by the decisions voluntarily accepted by the party units, one can set an example of how best individual freedom and social responsibility can be balanced. It is, therefore necessary for the parties to prescribe a code of conduct for their members and to strictly follow it.

-Deendayal Upadhyaya

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Salient points of Prime Minister's speech at Delhi Economics Conclave on 6th November 2015



- We have embarked on a course of fiscal consolidation. We have entered for the first time into a monetary framework agreement, with the Reserve Bank to curb inflation. Even while cutting the fiscal deficit we have substantially increased productive public investment.

- We have reduced wasteful expenditure through innovative methods like the use of technology. Some of the methods are part of your agenda, such as using Aadhaar to target subsidies to the deserving. These are reforms that you are probably aware of. But our reforms

are far broader, and far deeper, than is generally recognised.

Reform for whom?

- We must REFORM TO TRANSFORM. Reform is that which helps all citizens, and especially the poor, achieve a better life. It is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. In short, reform is not an end in itself. Reform for me, is just a way station on the long journey to the destination. The destination is transformation of India. Therefore, REFORM TO TRANSFORM. And reforming to transform, is a marathon, not a sprint. For simplicity, I will classify them as



financial, structural and institutional. It will not be possible for me to cover all of them here. But I will certainly mention some of the most important.

On financial sector reform

- We talk often about interest rates and credit policy. Changes in interest rates are debated for months. Tons of newsprint and hours of television are spent on it.

Interest rates are no doubt very important. But are they important to a person locked out of the banking system? To a person who has no prospect of ever lending or borrowing from a bank? And if large sections of a country are in this position then how important are interest rates? It is for this reason that development experts have been advocating financial inclusion. What we have done in the last 17 months is to bring one hundred and

ninety million people into the banking system. This is more than the population of most of the countries in the world. Now these millions are part of our banking system, and words like 'interest rate' have a meaning for them. Not only have these people been brought into the system but they have shown that there is great strength at the bottom of the pyramid. Believe it or not, accounts opened under the Jan Dhan Yojana today have a total balance of almost Rs. 26,000 crores or nearly four billion dollars. Clearly our financial inclusion reform has been transformational. And yet this quiet revolution has hardly been noticed.

- There is a whole eco-system focused on alleviating poverty. Perhaps this can be called the 'poverty alleviation industry'. Obviously the intentions are good. Well designed schemes and subsidies do have an important place. But empowering the poor is far more effective than empowering the poverty alleviation industry. Our financial reforms empower the poor to fight poverty themselves. I can take the analogy of a house. The foundation and basic structure occupies some of the costs. Then come the fixtures, fittings and furniture. If the foundation and structure are weak any investment in nice fittings or attractive floor

tiles or beautiful curtains is unlikely to last long. So also, empowering the poor through financial inclusion and social security will provide a more stable and lasting solution.

On Structural reforms in various sectors

- Agriculture remains India's mainstay in terms of providing livelihood. We have introduced a series of reforms. There was a tendency to divert subsidised fertiliser for the production of chemicals. A simple but very effective solution is neem-coating of fertiliser which makes it unsuitable for diversion. This had been tried on a small scale earlier. We are now moving towards universal neem-coating of urea. This has already saved crores of rupees of diverted farm subsidies. It is an example of how simple reforms can be very effective. We have introduced a Soil Health Card nationally which tells every farmer the condition of his or her soil. It enables the farmer to choose the right quantity and mix of inputs. This greatly reduces wastage of inputs and increases crop yield besides protecting the soil. By reducing unnecessary chemical inputs, it is also good for health of consumers. It enables farmers to choose the best crop for their soil. Many farmers have been unaware that their land is actually more

suited for a different crop. In economic terms, it is a win-win-win. It reduces costs, increases yields, improves the environment and protects the health of consumers. 140 million soil health cards will be issued, requiring a collection of over twenty-five million soil samples. They will be tested through a nationwide network of nearly 1500 laboratories. About four million samples have already been collected. This too is a reform to transform.

- We have launched a housing for all program - one of the most ambitious in the world. It involves building twenty million urban houses and thirty million rural houses, totaling nearly fifty million. The programme will make sure no Indian is houseless. It will also generate a large amount of employment mainly for the unskilled, the semi-skilled and the poor. This multi-pronged program is also a transformative reform.

- Much has been said and written about India's labour markets. We have already undertaken some important steps. Many workers in the organised sector have suffered when changing jobs by being unable to access provident fund and other benefits. The benefits accrued under one employer become difficult to account for under another

employer. We have introduced a Universal Account Number which will remain with an employee even when he changes jobs. This greatly improves labour mobility and makes life easier for employers and employees.

- We have gone a step further. We have started empowering the unorganised sector employees by giving them a Universal Identity Number and providing certain minimum social security benefits to them. Over a period of years, this will have a major impact on the quality of employment in India.

- We have undertaken major managerial improvements in the transport sector. Our major ports have seen a 5% growth in traffic and an 11% increase in operating income in 2014-15 despite a global contraction in trade volume. The Shipping Corporation of India had been making losses continuously for several years and had a loss of Rs. 275 crores in 2013-14. In 2014-15 it earned a profit of Rs 201 crores a turnaround of nearly Rs 500 crores in one year. The pace of award of new highway works has increased from 5.2 km per day in 2012-13 and 8.7 km per day in 2013-14 to 23.4 km per day currently. These managerial reforms in the working of the public sector will have large multiplier effects throughout the economy.

- Another measure we have taken is to identify what can be called 'dead money' and use it productively. The best example is gold. India is well known for its cultural affinity for gold. As economists you will probably understand that this so-called cultural affinity has a strong economic logic. India has often witnessed high inflation. Gold is an excellent hedge against inflation and is a highly portable store of value. Its portability and usability, also make it a source of empowerment of women who traditionally are the main owners of gold jewellery. However, this micro-economic virtue, can become a macro-economic vice. It implies a high level of gold imports. We have just launched a series of gold-related schemes. These will provide Indians with the inflation protection of gold along with a modest interest without actually holding it. If the scheme reaches its potential, it will help meet the rational expectations of the public while moderating imports. Surely, this too is an important reform with potential to transform.

On Institutional and Governance reforms

- For years, the Planning Commission was widely criticised. It was generally seen as a cumbersome centralising force which imposed central will on the states. It is

another matter that some of its strongest critics suddenly developed a nostalgic admiration for the institution they had hated till the previous day. After coming to power we created a new institution, the National Institution for Transforming India, or NITI. My vision of NITI is very different from the Planning Commission. It is to be a collaborative forum for ideas and action where States are full partners and where Centre and States meet in a spirit of co-operative federalism. Perhaps some people thought this was merely a slogan. But we already have concrete examples of its transformative power. Let me explain.

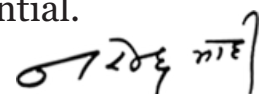
- In a break with over sixty-five years of tradition we have involved states even in foreign policy. The Ministry of External Affairs has been asked to work with the States. When I visited China, a state-to-state summit was also held. And states have been asked to create export promotion councils. Making the States think globally is yet another reform with potential to transform.

- I firmly believe that India's people are far more mature and far more public-spirited than arm-chair critics and experts give them credit for. An important governance issue is the mutual trust between citizens and the state. We made a beginning in trusting the citizens by abolishing

many requirements for 'attestation' of signatures. For example, the Department of Higher Education, has permitted self attestation by students of documents used for admission in various academic courses. We also ended the requirement to visit government offices for life certification for pensioners by introducing online biometric identification. Economists have traditionally believed that people act in their self interest. But India has a long tradition of voluntarism. We introduced the Give-it-up Campaign seeking the cooperation of the public in voluntarily giving up cooking gas subsidies. We promised them that for every connection given up one poor family currently without gas would be given a connection. This will enable us to liberate many poor women from the health hazards of using firewood including respiratory illness. The response has been tremendous. Within a few months over four million Indians have given up their cooking gas subsidies. Most of them are not rich households and belong to the lower middle class. If any of you in this room still have a subsidised connection let me appeal to you to join them.

- We are also taking several steps to serve the honest taxpayer better. Electronic filing of returns now

covers 85% of all tax returns. Earlier, electronic returns had to be followed by a paper verification which used to take weeks to be processed. This year, we have introduced e-verification using Aadhaar and over four million taxpayers made use of this facility. For them, the entire process was simple, electronic and completed instantly with no paper at all. This year, 91% of electronic returns were processed within ninety days as compared to 46% last year. Nearly 90% of refunds were issued within 90 days. I have asked the Income Tax Department to move to a system where not only returns but also scrutiny is done without having to go to the office. Queries could be raised and answered online or by Email. There should be a visible electronic trail of what is pending with whom, where, and for how long. This is being piloted in five big cities. I have also instructed that the performance appraisal system, for Income Tax Officers be changed. The appraisal should reflect, whether or not the officer's orders and assessments have been upheld on appeal. This will deter corruption and also motivate officers to pass correct orders. When fully implemented, these changes, namely online scrutiny, and changes in performance appraisal have transformative potential.



NARENDRA MODI

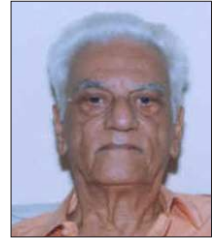
Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Angel In Human Form

• *K.R. Malkani*

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya did not fit into the popular image of leadership. Most of the leaders look like heroes, talk like oracles and pose as kind of super-men. Deendayalji was nothing of the kind. He looked and sounded so ordinary. But he was so very extra-ordinary in his simple living, his clear thinking, his correct judgement of men and matters, and above all in the utter purity of his character. He was, verily, a Brahma Sanyasi who lived in the thick of the world but was altogether above it. While most leaders fall in your estimate as you come to know them, Panditji belonged to that rare species who rise in your esteem the more you know them.

I must say I was not particularly

impressed when I first saw him during the period of the ban on RSS way back in 1948. But I found that the bright young 'Swayamsevaks' of UP already treated him with reverence.



They were right. For years I called him 'Deendayal'. But as I saw more and more of him, I, too, unconsciously, switched over to "Panditji", It was a quiet tribute to the quality of the man and his leadership.

More than ten years back we pressed him to write a weekly diary for the Organiser. He agreed-but he could not always make it in the midst of his busy schedule. A few years later he told Jagdishji that every time he came to Delhi he was afraid of being reminded by



ORGANISER that he had missed this week and that. After that I stopped asking him about the diary. He wrote as and when he had the time. Perhaps if I had kept up my nagging, the country would have had more of his thoughts today to profit by.

The late Prof. M.A. Venkatarao of Bangalore once suggested to him that Jana Sangh should have an organ of its own. Panditji reported: "Why should we have one of our own when ORGANISER can serve the purpose?" When I heard of this I felt the burden of responsibility grow greater on me. I once asked him whether I should go soft on this or that. And Panditji replied: "Why should you? Hit it hard, hit it well. As an opposition paper you cannot afford to go soft on the Establishment."

A visitor once remarked that Jana Sangh was all right, but it was a little reactionary. Panditji smiled and said: "I don't understand those stock phrases of progressive and reactionary. But I do know this that our speeches are more critical of America than of Russia."

When John Matthai submitted his three-volume report on tax reform, Panditji took from us all the tomes to read. Perhaps he would have liked nothing better than to read, read, read. By temper he was a research scholar.

Jana Sangh had just won an impressive number of seats (27 out of 80) in the Delhi Municipal Corporation and Congress had failed to secure a majority. A well-to-do independent cooperator came and urged that Jana Sangh run about, sign up

uncommitted members and try for a majority. Panditji always played it cool. He said, "We don't even have a car to run about. Only those who have one (referring to the independent cooperator) can do so." And with that he sent the ball back into the independent's court.

One day Panditji, Bala Saheb Deoras (General Secretary of the RSS) and others were taking tea. As he saw the tea things arrive, he told the host, "But there is nothing in all this for Bala Saheb." (Bala Saheb occasionally takes non-vegetarian food because of his low blood pressure). So solicitous was Panditji about others welfare, though he himself was a strict vegetarian. He did not so much as take onion. But he would never fuss about it. He just took out onion pieces standing out in a dish and go ahead with the rest.

When the cow protection movement commenced more than ten years ago, he vowed never to use foot-wear made out of the hide of slaughtered cattle. He made it a point to buy chappals and shoes made out of the hide of cattle dying naturally. If he couldn't get one, he just went in for canvas shoes.

When the Arab-Israeli war broke out and almost everybody became pro-Israeli, Panditji had a word of caution: "We should not become blindly pro-Israel just because the Congress is blindly pro-Arab. We should not view the world as if it were peopled by angels and devils. We must judge issues on merit."

When ORGANISER completed twenty years of publication, we wanted to hold a



small reception and have a Chief Guest. I asked Panditji if he had any name to suggest. Without a moment's hesitation he said : "Why don't you call Dr. Zakir Husain ?" I smiled. Only two months earlier we had canvassed against his candidature for Presidency. But Panditji persisted : "Yes, why not?" It is a different matter that eventually we decided not to have any Chief Guest.

When the three non-Congress Governments of Haryana, West Bengal and Punjab were toppled in less than three days, we published a cartoon depicting Chavan butchering the democratic bull. Many thought it was over-stating the case. Panditji's reaction was, "The sight of cow slaughter is shocking even in a cartoon. And besides the political situation is so fluid. You don't know with whom you may have to sit together."

In the twenty years I knew him I did not

once see him raise his voice in anger. The strongest word he used for the really bad men of Indian politics was 'bada badmash hai' (he is a big rascal) and that too not in anger but in wonder that men should be so roguish.

Such was Panditji an angel in human form. That he should have left us in the prime of his life will be our life's regret. We can only console ourselves with the thought that it was fortunate enough to have him for as long-or as short-as we had him, and that we will always have his example to go by.

(K. R. Malkani was a leading nationalist intellectual, author and also a widely respected political leader. He was the chief editor of Organiser, Panchjanya and Motherland. He was Vice-President of BJP , Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry)

Courtesy:www.deendayalupadhyay.org

India-Africa Forum Summit

New Delhi 26-29 October 2015

• *Amb. R. Dayakar*



India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) was established in 2008 by India and African Union as a joint triennial platform. The aim being for restructuring the traditional framework of India's age-old multi-dimensional interactions with Africa and to leverage shared perceptions and positions and to address, in a holistic mode, common challenges, changing priorities and emerging complementarities, for collective benefit in the 21st century' globalized setting. So far, two such summits have taken place in New Delhi and Addis Ababa.

The third edition, IAFS-III, held in New Delhi, a fortnight ago, under the theme of "Partners in

Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda" with the motto of "Reinvigorated Partnership-Shared Vision" gives a new direction to the deep and abiding mutuality of interests and shared goals of the two sides in addressing various developmental issues in the face of shifting global dynamics and embodies yet another success story from the foreign policy and diplomacy of Modi government.

IAFS-III stands out in several aspects from the earlier two editions. First, the attendance. Thanks to the leaf taken of the Banjul formula in consultation with the African Union (AU), whose criterion had guided the previous



two summits in limiting the African participation to no more than 15 countries, IAFS - III has representation from all the 54 African countries, including a non-member of AU like Morocco with the King himself attending the summit. In all, 41 Presidents or Vice-Presidents or Prime Ministers or Kings attended the event, others being represented either as ministers or senior officials. This gives IAFS as India's principal plank for a structured engagement with Africa, a truly pan-African underpinning. African Development Bank and 8 Regional Economic Councils (RECs) were also part of the summit. Second, for India this is the biggest diplomatic event since the Non-Aligned Summit of 1983. The summit included meetings of Trade

Ministers, Senior Officials and Foreign Ministers, India-Africa Editors Forum, and various cultural programmes blending Indian and African items. The Ministry of External Affairs proved equal to the task of simultaneously handling the high-level delegations of 54 different countries, making flawless conference arrangements. Third, for Africa, it is the largest ever gathering of its member countries outside the continent. Fourth, the summit has imaginatively dovetailed India's developmental efforts in Africa with the UN's 27 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 released only a couple of months ago and the 50-year developmental goals of African Union embodied in the AU Vision Document, Agenda 2063, integrating India's developmental

partnership in Africa not only bilaterally and regionally but also at the global level.

Currently India's annual trade with Africa is of the order of US\$ 70 billion and its investment stands at US\$ 32 billion. Further, India's concessional credit to Africa since the first IAFS was \$7-4 billion with an additional \$1.2 billion in grants. About 25000 African youth have received training and education in India since the second IAFS. Products from 34 African countries have duty-free access to India.

India and Africa share a number of common features. First, the diversity. Like India, Africa has a vastly diverse society in terms of race, religion, ethnicity, language, customs and traditions. Second, both share a common colonial legacy and a history of struggle for freedom and justice. Third, they face similar developmental challenges. Fourth, both have similar demographic bulge with two-thirds of their population under the age of 35 years creating both challenges and opportunities. Fifth, both, of late, are facing security challenges from terrorism and extremism like Boko Haram and Al-Shabab in Africa and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and IM in India. Sixth, both have shared interests in multilateral bodies like WTO, UN

and Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). There are also complementarities, particularly in the economic sector. Two notable areas in this regard are food and energy sectors. Africa has 60% of the world's arable land and used to be a net exporter of food. However, the colonial legacy has made it a chronic importer of food. India's own experience in agricultural research and extension and crop production, water management, animal husbandry and fisheries which led to the country becoming self-sufficient and net exporter of food can guide Africa to effect a similar change. Further, the huge natural gas reserves in Africa can be transformed into a fertilizer like urea with Indian technology and investment for consumption of African agriculture as well as Indian farming. In the energy sector, with India importing four-fifths of its oil needs and Africa endowed with massive hydrocarbons, the former can mobilise investments and technology for exploration and extraction of the oil to meet the needs of Africa and itself. Such complementarities create win-win situation for both the sides.

In the people-to-people contacts, the Indian diaspora plays a

significant role. It constitutes a vibrant cultural and commercial link between India and Africa. The Indian indentured labourers were taken to Africa in the mid-19th century by the colonial government to work in plantations and railroad projects. The succeeding generations have through sheer hard work and merit, come to occupy important positions in public life and contributed to the nation building and economic growth of the country of their adoption and adaptation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made reference to the Indian diaspora when he referred in his inaugural address to “generations of Indians and Africans in each other's land”. Earlier, the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj also drew attention to Indian diaspora in Africa while addressing the pre-summit meetings of Trade and Foreign Ministers.

A host of joint takeaways have come out of the 3-day Summit including a common position on the climate control, gender equality, comprehensive reforms of the UN system including the Security Council, joint fight against terrorism, violent extremism, piracy and human trafficking, common position on bilateral and multilateral trade issues,

harnessing blue/ocean economy, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), agriculture, energy security including renewable sources, skill development, education and health care and acknowledgement of the role of the Indian diaspora in the development partnership.

India's involvement in Africa is traditionally development-oriented. The core activity of this involvement is capacity building with emphasis on human resource development and institution creation. This is a recurring theme in the twin documents – Delhi Declaration and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation – released at the end of the summit. As Prime Minister Modi told the Summit, India's partnership with Africa is beyond strategic concerns and economic benefits and is rooted in the emotional bonds forged over centuries. Consistent with this position, the Prime Minister announced a concessional credit of US\$ 10 billion to be availed of by Africa over the next five years, which is in addition to the ongoing credit programme. India will also offer a grant assistance of US\$ 600 million which includes an India-Africa Development Fund of US\$ 100 million and an India-Africa Health Fund of US\$ 10 million,

50,000 scholarships in India over the next five years and a support to the expansion of the Pan Africa E-Network and creation of institutions of skilling, training and learning across Africa. A significant decision of the Summit is that IAFS will henceforth be held once in 5 years. The 5 year interlude will give all the stake-holders sufficient leeway to address the tasks mandated by the Summit.

The summit is considered successful by all accounts. However, certain observations are in order. The enthusiasm at the summit is also tinged with scepticism about the gap between past promises, performance and delivery. This also finds mention at item No.29 of the Delhi Declaration and a redressal provision for a monitoring mechanism in item no. 52 of the Framework for Strategic Cooperation. Second, there are several countries in Africa which do not have resident Indian diplomatic representation. This lacuna needs to be addressed and diplomatic missions need to be opened in all these countries. Third, perceptions about Africa and Africans in India stemming from certain incidents in Goa, Bengaluru, Punjab and Delhi need to be corrected as reported in the Indian media.

The massive gathering of the

African leaders confirms an elevated stature for India as a leading developing nation and an influencing global actor. The Summit's inspiring logo of the Indian and African lion carried the imagery of courage, conviction and confidence of partnership and initiatives in building a new global order.

(The author a former diplomat was head of the Gulf Division in the Ministry of External Affairs and was also India's Ambassador to Iraq, Jordan and Sweden)

With Reform in FDI, India will be Unstoppable on the Path of Economic Development



With coming of NDA Government to power, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed his commitment time and again to poverty elimination, inclusive development [make India a developed Country] and also to make India a Global Manufacturing Hub. Being aware of the constraint of financial resources for fast tracking the development process, a series of Economic Reforms and a number of measures to improve the Ease of Doing Business in the country have been set in motion. A number of stalled projects have been de-bottlenecked and fast-tracked.

The results are showing up.

To further boost entire investment environment and to bring in foreign investments in the country, the Government has brought in FDI related Reforms and liberalisation touching upon 15 major Sectors of the Economy. The salient measures are:

1. Limited Liability Partnerships, downstream investment and approval conditions.
2. Investment by companies owned and controlled by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
3. Establishment and transfer of

ownership and control of Indian companies

4. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
5. Plantation
6. Mining and mineral separation of titanium bearing minerals and ores, its value addition and integrated activities
7. Defence
8. Broadcasting Sector
9. Civil Aviation
10. Increase of sectoral cap
11. Construction development sector
12. Cash and Carry Wholesale Trading / Wholesale Trading (including sourcing from MSEs)
13. Single Brand Retail Trading and Duty free shops
14. Banking-Private Sector; and
15. Manufacturing Sector

The announcement of reforms in foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in a raft of sectors comes as a Deepavali bonanza to investors and the markets earlier this month. The decision to relax FDI limits and conditionalities for investment in industries ranging from defence and plantations to single brand retail and private banking is likely to offer overseas investors and existing

promoters in these businesses significant new opportunities. The timing of the announcement shows the firm commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's towards reform and his intent as well as promise of "minimum government, maximum governance". Among the various sectors, banks, defence and construction could benefit substantially from FDI reform. The decision to allow foreign institutional investors, foreign portfolio investors and qualified foreign investors to independently or together own up to 74 per cent — the prescribed sectoral limit — in private banks, subject to management control remaining unchanged, will offer some of them greater flexibility in expanding their capital base. At the same time, it will give investors the freedom of fungibility. In defence production, investment up to 49 per cent has been put under the automatic route, and proposals for higher overseas ownership will now go to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board instead of the Cabinet Committee on Security, shortening the lead times for approval. Significantly, portfolio and foreign venture capital investors can now hold as much as 49 per cent, double the 24 per cent that was permitted earlier. This should give a big fillip to local start-ups and could help nurture

entrepreneurs developing indigenous technologies in a crucial and sensitive sector.

Meanwhile, with a view to boost the availability of housing stock to achieve the government's goal of ensuring homes for all by 2022, investment in construction activity has been freed from floor area and minimum capital infusion restrictions. Exit and repatriation of proceeds will be allowed automatically at any stage of a construction project, subject to a three year lock-in period. The combination of all these measures could potentially boost FDI inflows and offer multiple spinoff benefits to the economy, not the least of which would be increased job creation and higher tax revenue.

The Crux of these reforms is to further ease, rationalise and simplify the process of foreign investments in the country and to put more and more FDI proposals on automatic route instead of Government route where time and energy of the investors is wasted. It is one more proof of minimum government and maximum governance. Further refining of foreign investments in key Sectors like Construction where 50 million houses for poor are to be built. Opening up the manufacturing Sector for wholesale, retail and E-

Commerce so that the Industries are motivated to Make In India and sell it to the customers here instead of importing from other countries. The proposed reforms also enhance the limit of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) from current Rupees Three thousand crores to Five thousand crores. The proposal also contains many other long pending corrections including those being felt by the limited liability partnerships as well as NRI owned Companies who seem motivated to invest in India. Few other proposals seek to enhance the sectoral Caps so that foreign investors don't have to face fragmented ownership issues and get motivated to deploy their resources and technology with full force.

With this round of Reforms, the Government has demonstrated that India is unstoppable on the path of Economic Development. Prime Minister has reiterated that Economic well being of the people of India is the main Task before him. It is also clear that India is a Country which is more than ready to integrate with the Global Economy because it feels that the Fruits of Development will reach to the common man only if there is Development.

Reform in Power Sector

UDAY Scheme Truly Heralds the Uday (Rise), of a 'Power'ful India

• Rastriya Prahari

Recently Modi government unveiled its Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in. Massive accumulated losses in the previous UPA regimes have made these state owned entities not only hugely dependent on banks but also unable to service their huge debts.

UDAY is a path breaking reform for realizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of affordable and accessible 24x7 Power for All. It is another decisive step furthering the landmark strides made in the Power sector over the past one and a half years, with the sector witnessing a series of historic improvements across the entire value chain, from fuel supply (highest coal production growth in over 2 decades), to generation (highest ever capacity addition), transmission (highest ever increase in transmission lines) and consumption (over 2.3 crore LED bulbs distributed).

The weakest link in the value chain is distribution, wherein DISCOMs in the country have accumulated losses of approximately Rs. 3.8 lakh crore



and outstanding debt of approximately Rs. 4.3 lakh crore (as on March, 2015). Financially stressed DISCOMs are not able to supply adequate power at affordable rates, which hampers quality of life and overall economic growth and development. Efforts towards 100% village electrification, 24X7 power supply and clean energy cannot be achieved without performing DISCOMs. Power outages also adversely affect national priorities like “Make in India” and “Digital India”. In addition, default on bank loans by financially stressed DISCOMs has the potential to seriously impact the banking sector and the economy at large.

Due to legacy issues, DISCOMs are trapped in a vicious cycle with operational losses being funded by debt. Outstanding debt of DISCOMs

has increased from about Rs. 2.4 lakh crore in 2011-12 to about Rs. 4.3 lakh crore in 2014-15, with interest rates upto 14-15%.

UDAY assures the rise of vibrant and efficient DISCOMs through a permanent resolution of past as well as potential future issues of the sector. It empowers DISCOMs with the opportunity to break even in the next 2-3 years. This is through four initiatives (i) Improving operational efficiencies of DISCOMs; (ii) Reduction of cost of power; (iii) Reduction in interest cost of DISCOMs; (iv) Enforcing financial discipline on DISCOMs through alignment with State finances.

It is a travesty that India has over 270 gigawatts of power generation capacity, but is currently using only half of it, because distributors refuse to lift power that they are forced to sell at a loss. As a consequence, several parts of the country are still suffer long periods of power cuts. The solution to the problem is technically obvious, but has always been politically challenging. The first phase of the solution as announced by the Modi government, is to buffer the finances of the distribution companies, or discoms, from the subsidies that state governments may want to provide for power. UDAY scheme attempts this by asking states to issue bonds to banks as repayment for discom dues. This will accomplish the significant

objective of forcing states to put their money where their mouth is on power subsidies. They will now have to directly bear on their budgets the entire cost of the subsidies. From the discoms' perspective, the shifting of the debt burden to the state government changes their financial picture significantly and, presumably, allow them to buy enough power to meet aggregate demand in their domains. This is all to the good.

UDAY scheme shows the intent and sincere efforts of the central government to solve the crisis and mess that were created by previous UPA government in its 10 year tenure.

UDAY is a shining example of the utilization of the best principles of cooperative and competitive federalism and has been evolved through discussions at the highest levels with multiple States. Adopting UDAY is optional for States, but provides the fastest, most efficient and financially most feasible way for providing 24X7 Power for All. It will be operationalized through a tri-partite agreement amongst the Ministry of Power, State Government and the DISCOM.

UDAY accelerates the process of reform across the entire power sector and will ensure that power is accessible, affordable and available for all. UDAY truly heralds the uday (rise), of a 'Power'ful India.

Implementation of GST in Winter Session will be a Game-Changer for Indian Economy

• Siddharth Singh



The implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) in the upcoming session of Parliament will be a game-changer. It is expected to set right the aberrations in Indian supply chains and contribute to India's economic growth, better integrate its market as well as firm up campaigns like 'Make in India'.

GST is a destination-based, indirect tax that will be levied on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods and services. GST will subsume all central and state indirect taxes and levies, including excise duty, additional excise duties, service tax, additional customs duty (countervailing duty, special additional duty of customs), surcharges and cesses, value added tax, sales tax, entertainment tax (other than the tax levied by local bodies), central sales tax (levied by

the centre and collected by states), octroi, entry tax, purchase tax, luxury tax, and taxes on lottery, betting and gambling.

Currently, tax rates differ from state to state. GST will bring uniformity and will reduce the cascading effect of these taxes by giving input tax credit. GST will have a comprehensive tax base with minimum exemptions and thus it will help industry, which will be able to reap benefits of common procedures and claim credit for taxes paid. This is expected to reduce the cost for consumers. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley estimates GST will help increase India's GDP by around 2 per cent.

The Centre and states have to frame and pass GST laws — Central GST and State GST — which will provide the framework for the new tax. The IT infrastructure has to be

ready before April 1, 2016, the scheduled date for implementation of the new tax. A GST Council will be formed, which will decide on issues including tax rates, exemption list and threshold limit.

The GST is a destination tax applicable on supply of a good or service. It is a value-added tax (VAT) that incentivises firms to pay the tax correctly and allows tax collection to be a simple process. Hence, with the implementation of GST, material movement should be without verification at state borders. The Centre is going to strongly incentivise state governments to develop processes such that tax scrutiny is carried out only on evasion suspicion. The processes will ensure that firms are not subjected to the tyranny of tax inspectors. The GST Bill envisages a dual GST with the Centre and the states simultaneously levying it on a common base. Looking at the data of the last few years, the indirect taxes collected — customs duty, excise duty and service tax levied by the Centre, and VAT levied by states — are about 11% of the GDP. The indirect taxes collected by the Centre — before sharing with states — are roughly 5% of the GDP, while the balance equivalent to about 6% of the GDP is the indirect taxes collected by the state. To ensure that the overall indirect tax collection

does not dip owing to implementation of the GST, the 13th Finance Commission had suggested a GST rate of 18%.

The Centre's support in providing technology-based solutions to states is going to be the hallmark of success of GST. This may include mobile technologies for easy payment of tax. The GST Bill proposes an additional tax not exceeding 1% on interstate supply of goods. Industry has expressed some reservation as this levy is cascading and would encourage firms to set up warehouses in all states irrespective of the trade volume.

So the upcoming winter session which is going to start from 23rd November, it will be interesting to see that what stand the opposition parties take because it will be completely unfair to oppose GST bill just for the sake of opposition. This bill has the potential to transform the Indian economy and can bring transformative changes in the life of people of this country. It is not only a test for government but it is a big test for the opposition also whether they prefer the anti growth or anti people agenda or they support the government to help them passing some crucial bill which will bring substantial change in the life of citizens of this country.

Gold Monetisation Schemes: Tapping Our Own Resources and Utilising them for Betterment



The Gold Monetisation Schemes (GMS), which were recently launched to access currently idle gold held in the form of jewellery and ornaments by the public in India, and use this for more productive purposes within the economy, have high chances of succeeding. On 5 November, three schemes were launched to monetise gold holdings in the country and reduce India's import bill—national gold coin, gold monetisation scheme and the sovereign gold bond scheme.

Need for such schemes were felt from long time but now the present government has actually made it possible by their active economic

reform process. Incremental gold demand in India is largely met by imports, with net imports worth 1.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) in financial year (FY) 2015, contributing significantly to the current account deficit of 1.4% of GDP. Around 700 to 900 tonnes of gold is imported every year by India and it accounts for a significant portion of physical demand.

Indians purchase gold either for consumption (used in its own right, in the form of jewellery) or as a capital good (in the hope it may be used in the future to, which indirectly funds consumption). Investors hold gold for a variety of reasons: as a store of value, a hedge

Gold Monetisation Scheme and Its Benefits



against inflation and currency fluctuations, as an insurance against uncertainty and tail risks.

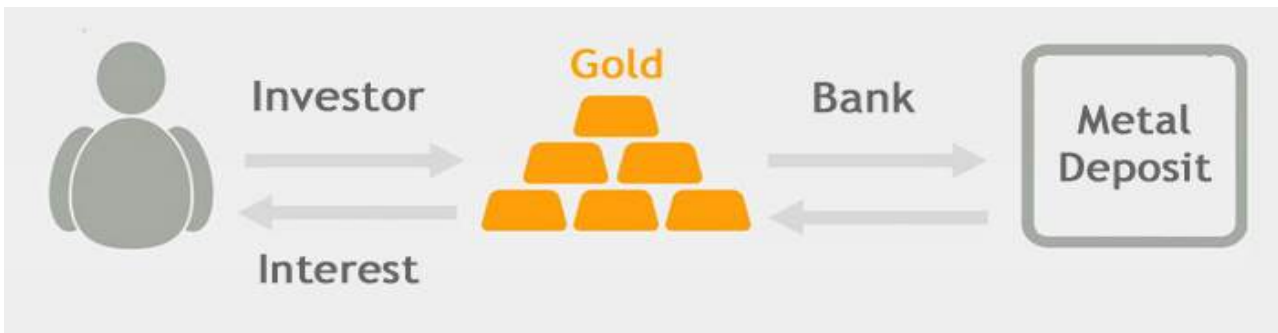
These reasons are relevant to gold holders in India. While the rupee has depreciated by 47% against the US dollar over the past five years, gold in rupee terms is up by 28%. Consistent with this, there is a positive correlation between consumer price index (CPI) inflation and gold purchases. Indeed, gold is a preferred method of savings and investment, next only to deposits in bank accounts.

The scheme will help in reducing the demand for physical gold by shifting a part of the estimated 300 tons of physical bars and coins purchased every year for investment into gold bonds. Since most of the demand for gold in India is met through imports, this scheme will, ultimately help in maintaining the country's Current Account Deficit within sustainable limits.

The issuance of the Sovereign Gold Bonds will be within the government's market borrowing programme for 2015-16 and onwards. The actual amount of issuance will be determined by RBI, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The risk of gold price changes will be borne by the Gold Reserve Fund that is being created. The benefit to the Government is in terms of reduction in the cost of borrowing, which will be transferred to the Gold Reserve Fund.

The salient features of the Gold Monetisation scheme are:-

- (i). Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued on payment of rupees and denominated in grams of gold.
- (ii). Bonds will be issued on behalf of the Government of India by the RBI. Thus, the Bonds will have a sovereign guarantee.
- (iii). The issuing agency will need



to pay distribution costs and a sales commission to the intermediate channels, to be reimbursed by Government.

(iv). The bond would be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities. The cap on bonds that may be bought by an entity would be at a suitable level, not more than 500 grams per person per year.

(v). The Government will issue bonds with a rate of interest to be decided by the Government. The rate of interest will take into account the domestic and international market conditions and may vary from one tranche to another. This rate of interest will be calculated on the value of the gold at the time of investment. The rate could be a floating or a fixed rate, as decided.

(vi). The bonds will be available both in demat and paper form.

(vii). The bonds will be issued in denominations of 5, 10, 50, 100 grams of gold or other denominations.

(viii). The price of gold may be taken from the reference rate, as decided, and the Rupee equivalent amount may be converted at the RBI

Reference rate on issue and redemption. This rate will be used for issuance, redemption and LTV purpose and disbursement of loans.

(ix). Banks/NBFCs/Post Offices/National Saving Certificate (NSC) agents and others, as specified, may collect money / redeem bonds on behalf of the government (for a fee, the amount would be as decided).

(x). The tenor of the bond could be for a minimum of 5 to 7 years, so that it would protect investors from medium term volatility in gold prices. Since the bond, will be a part of the sovereign borrowing, these would need to be within the fiscal deficit target for 2015-16 and onwards.

(xi). Bonds can be used as collateral for loans. The Loan to Value ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the RBI from time to time.

(xii). Bonds to be easily sold and traded on exchanges to allow early exits for investors who may so desire.

(xiii). KYC norms will be the same as that for gold.

SPMRF Desk

Fulfilling the Commitment: Notification for Implementation of OROP Issued by Modi Govt



The Government recently issued the notification regarding the implementation of 'One Rank One Pension' in respect of Defence Forces personnel and fulfilled the promise which Prime Minister has made at the time of hoisting the National flag at Lal Quila on 15th of August.

Defence Forces of India have a rich history and tradition of bravery and

gallantry. Defence forces have not only defend our borders with exemplary courage and valour but have also performed with fearless attitude and empathy in natural calamities and other trying circumstances. Government of India recognizes and respects their contribution.

The issue of One Rank One Pension was a long standing

demand. Defence Forces had been demanding it for almost four decades but the issue could not be resolved. However, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had made a commitment to implement it for the welfare of the ex-servicemen. Accordingly the Government had announced modalities for implementation of OROP on 05.09.2015. The Government Order by Ministry of Defence, which could not be issued due to model code of conduct, has been issued today.

Salient features of the OROP as stated in the Order are as follows:

- To begin with, pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of pension of retirees of calendar year 2013 and the benefit will be effective with effect from 1.7.2014.
- Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners on the basis of the average of minimum and maximum pension of personnel retiring in 2013 in the same rank and with the same length of service.
- Pension for those drawing above the average shall be protected.
- Arrears will be paid in four equal half yearly instalments. However, all the family pensioners, including those in receipt of

Special/Liberalized family pensioners, and Gallantry award winners shall be paid arrears in one instalment.

- In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.
- Personnel who opt to get discharged henceforth on their own request under Rule 13(3)1(i)(b),13(3)1(iv) or Rule 16B of the Army Rule 1954 or equivalent Navy or Air Force Rules will not be entitled to the benefits of OROP. It will be effective prospectively.
- The Govt. has decided to appoint a Judicial Committee to look into anomalies, if any, arising out of implementation of OROP. The Judicial Committee will submit its report in six months.
- Detailed instructions along with tables indicating revised pension for each rank and each category, shall be issued separately for updation of pension and payment of arrears directly by Pension Disbursing Agencies.

SPMRF Desk

Highlights of Prime Minister's Development Package for Jammu And Kashmir



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in his visit to J & K, announced a Rs. 80,000 crore rupee development package for Jammu and Kashmir. Following are the highlights of the package.

Flood relief, reconstruction and flood management – Rs. 7854 crore: This includes monetary help to people for reconstruction of damaged houses and for infrastructure; restoration of

livelihood for traders and small businessmen; a plan for comprehensive flood management of the River Jhelum and its tributaries; and Jhelum-Tawi flood reconstruction project;

Road and highway projects – Rs. 42611 crore: This includes construction of Zojila tunnel; semi ring roads in Jammu and Srinagar; projects under Bharat Mala for better connectivity; and upgradation of important highway and other projects in the State.

Power, New and Renewable

Energy – Rs. 11708 crore: This includes augmentation of power infrastructure and distribution systems; solar power; small hydro projects.

Health - Rs 4900 crore: This includes creation of two AIIMS-like institutions in capital cities of the State, and support for creation of infrastructure in hospitals and Primary Health Centres.

H u m a n R e s o u r c e Development, Skill Development and sports – Rs. 2600 crore: This includes establishment of IIT and IIM in Jammu; stepping up efforts under the HIMAYAT scheme to train one lakh youth over five years, and augmenting sports infrastructure.

Agriculture and Food Processing – Rs 529 crore: This includes support for horticulture, and creation of cold storage facilities.

Tourism –Rs. 2241 crore: This includes new projects and tourist circuits, and setting up of 50 tourist villages.

Urban Development – Rs. 2312 crore: This includes amounts under Smart Cities and Swachh Bharat missions; and for infrastructure in towns of Jammu and Kashmir.

Security and Welfare of

displaced people – Rs. 5263 crore: This includes amounts towards jobs for Kashmiri migrants, rehabilitation of families from Chhamb and PoK, construction of houses, and setting up of five India Reserve Battalions. The India Reserve Battalions will create 4000 jobs for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pashmina Promotion Project – Rs. 50 crore

Total package amount – Rs. 80,068 crore

SPMRF Desk

Beware the Disruptors

· *M.Venkaiah Naidu*

On every front, India is moving ahead under Narendra Modi's leadership. The disinformation campaign against him by political opponents also targets the image of the country, the interests of the people.

The people of India, depressed by a lack of governance, policy paralysis, corruption and vote-bank politics, gave a massive mandate to the BJP-led NDA under the leadership of Narendra Modi. Aspiring Indians found in him a ray of hope. From Day One, his government declared that its main agenda was development and good governance. Around the globe, the prime minister has been mobilising support for investment and has successfully changed perceptions about India. He also took initiatives to improve the ease of doing business because unless you create wealth, you will not be able to provide employment or social justice.

India is now respected worldwide, more than at any other time. Modi has not only taken steps for reform but also initiated social-security measures like the Jan Dhan Yojana, Jan Suraksha Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Mudra Bank (for small traders like kirana merchants,

vegetable sellers and vendors). The minimum pension has been enhanced to Rs 1,000. Efforts are being made to



provide an Aadhaar card to everybody, to link them with various government benefits. The government's larger aim in this respect is a system based on JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, mobile).

The Centre is moving towards the elimination of corruption, delays and exploitation in government schemes. The LPG and urea subsidies, PDS, payment of scholarships, pensions and even wages under the MGNREGA, are all being streamlined. The results are positive: A lot of money has been saved and we are now being able to reach out to the really poor in a targeted manner. The PM has also initiated innovative programmes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samriddhi, Swachh Bharat, Make in India, Skill India, Digital India and Clean India to push manufacturing and employment as well as cleanliness. There is an increased focus on skill-upgradation and human resource development.

FDI norms have been relaxed in many sectors to attract investments

for creating jobs and rekindling economic activity. The government inherited high fiscal, revenue, trade and current account deficits — and, above all, a trust deficit. Some of these have now become matters of the past and the economy is recovering fast. GDP growth has picked up momentum.

FDI inflow has increased by about \$31 billion. India is being projected to emerge as the fastest growing economy after the slide of recent years. Strong economic growth will help make a firm dent in poverty. An atmosphere of gloom and lack of hope has been replaced by a sense of confidence and purpose. Our opponents believe in politics of poverty, whereas we believe in politics of development, focusing on growth and development so that the poor can have better opportunities to escape the clutches of poverty and live on their own with dignity. For our opponents, poverty has served as good political capital. Some people yearn for Manmohan Singh's government, the most corrupt, incompetent and afflicted by policy paralysis in the history of India.

The World Bank's "Doing Business 2016" report shows that improvements in the regulatory environment have lifted India's ranking four places higher to 130 of 189 countries from last year's recalculated rank of 134. India was

placed at 142 as per the original calculation. This improvement in a large economy like India in 12 months is thanks to the PM's bold initiatives.

The World Bank report says that starting a business in India in 2004 took 127 days. Now this has come down to 29 days. On this parameter, India ranked 164 earlier. Now it ranks 155. Thanks to the government's initiatives, non-performing assets in banks have come down by 28 per cent. On the ease of getting a new electricity connection, India is now in 70th place. With regard to protecting minority investors, India is ranked eighth, whereas the United States and Japan rank 35 and 36, respectively. This is all because of the reforms in Sebi and corporate affairs. The report strongly recommends bringing in the GST tax reform.

After interviewing 500 CEOs around the world, an Ernst and Young report says that India is the most favourable place for investment: "There is no doubt that interest in India has increased. Investors increasingly see the potential and understand the fundamentals." At a time when even China is sliding, India is a bright spot and an island of hope. Let us not allow disruptors to damage India's growth story.

India's performance is likely to improve further next year, after some of the steps taken by the government in the past few months are reflected in the Doing Business index — the latest rankings take into account work done till May 31. Various reforms have been implemented for the simplification of rules, procedures and compliance, and many more are underway. The Centre is also proactively working with the states to streamline various processes.

Today, the Indian PM is admired globally — he is the 10th most admired personality in the world according to a survey conducted by the World Economic Forum. People are now saying that Modi stands for “Making of developed India”. Narendra Modi is the means to accomplish this mission. In the last year, the government has made a strong beginning towards this goal. There is no talk of corruption at the top, no scams, no scandals. “Minimum government, maximum governance” is fast being realised.

The Centre has devolved 42 per cent of Central revenues to the states, 5 per cent to urban local bodies, 2 per cent for natural calamities. This is a historic step in strengthening the finances of the states and local bodies to enable them to take up schemes/ projects of their priority.

In urban development, we have the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (Amrut), Smart Cities to act as lighthouses for other cities to follow, Hriday (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) cities to revive cultural heritage, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana for uplifting the poorest of the poor, Housing for All by 2022, and the Swachh Bharat Mission.

MSPs for pulses have been increased by Rs 200 for the first time. Farmers will now be eligible for compensation even if crop damage is only 30 per cent — earlier this was 50 per cent. They are eligible for 50 per cent more compensation than in the past. Soil health cards for farmers are in the pipeline to help them know the type of their soil and suitable crops for it. Food parks are coming up in various parts of the country. Credit to the tune of Rs 8.5 lakh crore has been extended to farmers. In case of a family member's death, the family will get Rs 4 lakh, instead of the earlier Rs 1.2 lakh. In the last 10 years, the Congress regime acquired more than 20 lakh acres of farmland without adequate compensation. It is now saying that it won't allow the government to acquire even an inch of land. We proudly say that our government has not been embroiled in scam or scandal. Our focus is welfare and development.

Minorities can upgrade their skills under the Ustad scheme, and the government is targeting to distribute scholarships to one crore students. All workers are entitled to smart cards, under which benefits like pension and insurance would be extended. Thanks to a unique number for each worker, provident fund contributions will be transferred without hassle when they switch jobs. A commission has been set up to identify wandering communities and extend support to them. Now, there is no need to approach gazetted officers or people's representatives to confirm identity — the government has introduced self-attestation. Both in rural and urban areas, six crore people will be provided housing with 6.5 per cent interest subvention, a record. Income tax exemption has been given to the middle class for housing loans. Efforts are on to have single-window clearance for housing. Six concerned ministers have already held four rounds of discussion on this.

We have successfully evacuated Indian citizens from Iran, Libya and Yemen. Whenever there is a crisis, Indians are taken care of by the ministry of external affairs in a prompt manner. When an earthquake shook Nepal, India was the first to react and offer help. Five Tamil fishermen who were convicted by Sri Lankan courts and

languishing in jails there have been released with the intervention of our PM. Father Alexis Prem Kumar was also released from Afghanistan at the initiative of the PM.

People have shown support for the BJP and Modi's leadership. We have won Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and even municipal elections in Assam, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Port Blair and Ladakh.

But in India, some of our political opponents are not able to digest the growing popularity of the PM and the government. They did not allow Parliament to function and obstructed important legislation by virtue of their majority in Rajya Sabha. More than anything else, they continue a disinformation campaign against the PM. They think they are only harming the image of the PM, but actually, they are affecting the image of the country and, in turn, the interests of the people.

(The writer is Union minister for urban development, housing and urban poverty alleviation, and parliamentary affairs)

Courtesy: 2nd November 2015, The Indian Express

India's GSAT-15 Communication Satellite Launched Successfully

GSAT-15, India's latest communications satellite, was launched successfully by the European Ariane 5 VA-227 launch Vehicle in the early morning hours of today (November 11, 2015). The 3164 kg GSAT-15 carries communication transponders in Ku-band as well as a GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) payload operating in L1 and L5 bands.

After a smooth countdown lasting 11 hours and 30 minutes, the Ariane 5 launch vehicle lifted off right on schedule at 0304 hrs (3:04 am) IST today. After a flight of 43 minutes and 24 seconds, GSAT-15 separated from the Ariane 5 upper stage in an elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) with a perigee (nearest point to Earth) of 250 km and an apogee (farthest point to Earth) of 35,819 km, inclined at an angle of 3.9 degree to the equator. The achieved orbit was very close to the intended one.

ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan in Karnataka took over the command and control of GSAT-15 immediately after its separation from the launch vehicle. Preliminary health checks of the satellite revealed its normal health.



In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be performed to place the satellite in the Geostationary Orbit (36,000 km above the equator) by using the satellite's propulsion system in steps.

After the completion of orbit raising operations, the two solar arrays and both the antenna reflectors of GSAT-15 will be deployed. Following this, the satellite will be put in its final orbital configuration. GSAT-15 will be positioned at 93.5 deg East longitude in the geostationary orbit along with the operational INSAT-3A and INSAT-4B satellites. Later, it is planned to experimentally turn on the communication payloads of GSAT-15. After the successful completion of all the in-orbit tests, GSAT-15 will be ready for operational use.

SPMRF Desk

PM Shri Narendra Modi's initiative has changed the way India is lit up at night



National Programme for LED Launched in Jan. 2015

- **Target** - Switch all street lamps across 100 cities from LED lamps by May 2016.
- **Budget** - Rs 2,500 Crore

Results : 10 months after the launch

- LED lamps production has increased 30 times to 3 Crore units/month.
- LED lamps can save 100 billion Kwh of electricity annually.

Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP)

So that every Indian can afford to shine his/her home with LED

- Cost of the LED Bulb – Rs. 600-700
- Cost of the LED Bulb under **DELP** – Rs. 100-105



LED lamps in Rs.10 : If you buy the LED bulb through the on-bill financing option, you've to pay only Rs. 10 for the each bulb and the remaining Rs.95 will be added in your electricity bill for the duration of 10 months.

NDA's Good Governance : Coal Sector Back On Track

Coal Dispatch by Coal India

Coal imports down



Coal India's production increase in 2014-15 was higher than previous 4 years combined



Modi Government's Reform Measures Continue

34 Stuck Road Projects Worth Rs. 35,000 Crore to be Revived

Compensation for Delays

- NHA allowed to compensate road developers for delays not attributable to them.
- This will revive 34 projects with investment of nearly Rs.35,000 Crore.

Road Transport Ministry Empowered

- Road Projects worth Up to Rs 1,000 Crore can be approved by the Road Transport and Highway Ministry.
- Projects exceeding Rs.1000 Crore limit, have to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.



AMRIT

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment for Affordable Drugs for Cancer & Heart Diseases

- First **AMRIT** outlet opened at AIIMS for selling life-saving drugs at 50 to 60% cheaper prices than the retail market
- **AMRIT** pharmacy would be selling 202 cancer & 186 cardio-vascular drugs, and 148 types of cardiac implants
- Lakhs of patients expected benefit from this initiative
- **AMRIT** will be launched in all Central Government hospitals and Regional Cancer Centers soon



SPMRF Round-Table Series:

"Cleaning Rivers in Germany/Bavaria: Experience, Achievements & Challenges"

Speakers

Professor Martin Grambow

Head, Department of Water Management & Soil
Bavarian State Ministry of Environment & Consumer
Protection, Germany

Shri Anil Madhav Dave

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)
Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water
Resources
Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment
& Forests, Science & Technology



पुस्तक समीक्षा "गौरवशाली भारत"
बढ़ते भारत की कल्पना: गौरवशाली भारत

• शैलेन्द्र कुमार शुक्ला

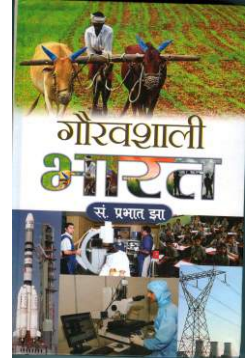
भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष और राज्य सभा सांसद श्री प्रभात झा द्वारा संपादित पुस्तक "गौरवशाली भारत" देश के विकास की एक ऐसी कल्पना है जिसको अलग-अलग विशयों के विशेषज्ञों के जरिए देखने और प्रस्तुत करने की कोशिश की गयी है। इस पुस्तक में भारतीय संस्कृति के वे सारे पक्ष विद्यमान हैं जिसके सहारे हम भारत माता को पुनः विश्व गुरु के स्थान पर स्थापित कर सकते हैं। इस पुस्तक में भारत के धार्मिक, समाजिक व सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों का समावेश के साथ-साथ देश के नागरिकों की अपार क्षमता को भी जोरदार तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

यह पुस्तक वस्तुतः विभिन्न लेखों का संग्रह है, जिसमें भारतीय संस्कृति के आस्था पुरुष और हर देशवासी के घट में बसने वाले प्रभु श्रीराम चंद्र को भारत के गौरवशाली इतिहास के साथ जोड़ा गया है। वहीं देश की सामरिक विशयों को ध्यान में रखते हुए देश के प्रति पड़ोसियों की मानसिकता को भी उद्घटित किया गया है। हिंदी को विश्व की सर्वश्रेष्ठ भाषा के रूप में भरपुर साक्ष्य व जोरदार तर्कों के प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

यह पुस्तक देश के हर नागरिक को अपने कर्तव्यों के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के भाव को उजागर करने के लिए संपादित की गयी है। इस पुस्तक में देश को विकास के राह पर अग्रसर करने और उसके राह में आने वाली चुनौतियों और संकेतों से परिचित कराने के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय हित में क्या-क्या और किन-किन बिंदुओं पर ध्यान देना है इस पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया है। लेखकों की दृष्टि में देश के विकास में बहुत सारी बाधाएं हैं लेकिन वह बाधाएं ऐसी भी नहीं हैं जिसका समाधान या पटाक्षेप नहीं किया जा सके।

यह पुस्तक हमें एकजुट होकर अपने सांस्कृतिक और राष्ट्रवादी हितों की रक्षा करना सिखाती है, देश की प्रगति के लिए चिंतन-मनन करना सिखाती है और अपने नैतिक मूल्यों की रक्षा करना सिखाती है। इस पुस्तक के अध्ययन से ज्ञात होता है कि यदि देश का हर नागरिक अपने अधिकारों और कर्तव्यों के प्रति जागरूक हो तो बदलाव की प्रक्रिया शुरू हो सकती

है। देशवासी यदि अपनी स्थितियों का रौना छोड़ दे, हम अकेले क्या कर सकते हैं के भाव को तिलांजलि देकर राष्ट्रीय हित और मानवीय हित में अपनी शक्ति और ऊर्जा लगा दे तो सुखी, सम्पन्न और स्वस्थ भारत का स्वप्न साकार हो सकता है।



एक जिम्मेदार नागरिक होने के नाते हम अपने नैतिक मूल्यों की रक्षा करते हुए अपने मन से नकारात्मक भावनाओं को निकाल कर अपनी भूमिका को कैसे पहचानें, अन्याय, अत्याचार और अनैतिकता के खिलाफ खड़े होने की योग्यता कैसे हासिल करें और किस तरह हम यह संकल्प लें कि अब कुछ भी गलत और अनैतिक हमें स्वीकार्य नहीं, किस तरह सामाजिक विकृतियों के विरुद्ध अपना अभियान चलायें, इन सब प्रश्नों के उत्तर हमें इस पुस्तक में मिल जाएंगे।

देश के विकास की जो राह इस पुस्तक में दिखाया गया है वह किन-किन कोशिशों से, किन-किन रास्तों से व्यावहारिक जगत में प्राप्त होने वाली उपलब्धियों में बदल सकता है, इन सबकी विस्तृत जानकारी भी इसमें उपलब्ध है। देश को विकास की राह दिखाने वाली यह पुस्तक राष्ट्रीय हित में, जागरूक नागरिक तैयार करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण सिद्ध होगी।

पुस्तक का नाम – गौरवशाली भारत

लेखक – प्रभात झा

भाषा – हिंदी

प्रकाशक – प्रभात प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली

मूल्य – 600 रुपये

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

- Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

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

