Salient Points of PM Narendra Modi's address to the Nation on 8th November, 2016

An intellectual & political class works to denigrate idea of India
“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.”

-Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya
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EVENT @ SPMRF

- The European Union launch of The Modi Doctrine at Brussels on 8th November 2016
- Discussion on Demonetisation : Long Term & Short Term Benefits on 19th November, 2016
- Discussion on ”Demonetisation, Democratisation & New Vision of Governance” on 26th November, 2016
SUPPORT FOR DEMONETISATION IS WIDE – ONLY THE UNWISE AND UNETHICAL OPPOSE IT

In a little over 24 hours since he called for a feedback, over 5 lakh people responded to PM Narendra Modi’s call and proffered their views on the move of demonetisation, in hundred hours over 10 lakh people responded to his call. In a truly participative exercise, a “Jan ki Baat” in the true sense, Prime Minister Modi reached out to the people directly and asked them to discuss his effort at eradicating black money and corruption through this move. The respondents overwhelmingly supported the move saying that it was necessary for comprehensively tackling corruption at various levels and for making the economy robust and resilient in the long run. The vast majority of the people of India have this earthy sense of purpose and know when a step is taking in earnest for their well-being. This direct outreach has demonstrated the faith that people at large have in the Prime Minister and in his move to cleanse the economy. People are willing to put up with inconveniences and roundly support the effort. With the Prime Minister’s Office closely monitoring the situation and development, the responsiveness of the government to the situation and to suggestions is distinctly visible on the ground, leading to positive responses to the challenges.

Interestingly or ironically, those political parties and leaders who have made great capital in the name of fighting corruption and who have in the past, periodically called for cleansing public life and earned various sobriquets and laurels are the one who are howling most and loudest against this onslaught on black money and that too in the name of the “common people.” Take the case of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, for example, she has been rabble rousing the streets of Delhi ever since the announcement of demonetisation was made. Ms. Banerjee professes to speak up for the “common people” while throwing up her irrational tantrums and ire at the Prime Minister who has himself said that this move was aimed at empowering the marginalised.

It would be useful to recall that as Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee presided over the Saradha Chit Fund scam, a scam of gigantic proportions involving about Rs. 2460 crores. A number of her political and social associates were involved in the Saradha issue and were in the know. The Saradha Chit fund scam left a trail of deaths and robbed the poor of their hard earned savings. Ms. Banerjee did not take to the streets then, choosing to remain silent or distancing herself from it all. She did not take out processions in support of the poor or the “common people” in whose name she has built a career in politics. Having often cried out against corruption, it is strange to see her today vocally oppose a historic move that is aimed at curbing and eventually eradicating the corroding malady of black money. Ms. Banerjee never issued any statement expressing support or concern for those family whose earning
members committed suicide unable to bear the loss of their savings because of the Saradha Scam.

Even at the level of governance Ms. Banerjee has been acutely insensitive to the plight of the tea garden workers. Conservative estimates point out that over 70 recorded starvation deaths have already occurred in the tea gardens of north Bengal in her tenure and each time she has either chosen to ignore or argue herself and her administration out of it. Starvation, penury, malnutrition and lack of access to medical facilities have led to these deaths and yet despite being in power now for over five years she has done precious little to alleviate the suffering and to improve the status of the tea garden workers. The Left Front rule in West Bengal has also been equally disastrous and “common people” have suffered most – with the breakdown of rural infrastructure, industry, healthcare and education.

While some propagate their concern for the poor because of political reasons or simply because it is fashionable to do so, Prime Minister Modi’s government has consistently and constantly striven for the empowerment and inclusion of the marginalised. In fact its governance and policy focus has been to realise that objective.

Professing to work for the empowerment and uplift of the poor while opposing policies and efforts that actually ensure their empowerment is not only not ethical politics, it is not wise politics either. Those who overlook that are in the long run, as they say, politically rejected or politically dead...
PM MODI'S VISION

SALIENT POINTS OF PM NARENDRA MODI’S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON 8TH NOV, 2016

- India takes a historic step to fight corruption, black money, terrorism & counterfeit currency

All existing notes of Rs 500 & Rs 1000 cease to be legal tender

- PM Modi’s vision

Salient Points of PM Narendra Modi’s address to the Nation on 8th Nov, 2016

- In the past 5 years, with the help of the nation, India has become a “global player” in the global economy. The government is committed to reducing poverty and will remain committed.

- In the past 5 years, crime and corruption have been removed from the country, and this is the biggest challenge to eliminate poverty.

- In every country, such moments have come in history when such dedicated and visionary steps were necessary.

- The note issue of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 has been legal tender, and these notes will not be available for use.

- The country is prepared to deal with the least possible inconvenience, and these notes will be deposited in banks or post offices till 30th November.

- The Reserve Bank of India has accepted the proposal for issuing new notes of Rs 2,000.

- The government has decided to keep all existing notes of Rs 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1.

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Political instability had affected Goa’s growth. And due to this instability, the state never realised its true potential.

I laud Manohar Parrikar for ushering in a political culture in Goa—that of taking Goa to new heights of progress.

Due to Manohar Parrikar, Goa saw political stability and formation of a Government that works for the welfare of the state.

If the CM, RM & me appreciate Goa, one may argue it is also about our political affiliations but a magazine recently lauded Goa’s growth.

We read a week ago how Goa has emerged as Number 1 among the smaller states. This is due to the people of Goa.

As far as the airport is concerned, I am happy that we are fulfilling the promise made by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This will benefit Goa.

A digitally trained, modern and youth driven Goa is being shaped today. This has the power to transform India.

I also want to talk about something else in Goa…on 8th November many people of India slept peacefully & a few are sleepless even now.

We took a key step to help the honest citizen of India defeat the menace of black money.

The people have chosen a government and they expect so much from it. In 2014 so many people voted to free the nation from corruption.

If any money that was looted in India and has left Indian shores, it is our duty to find out about it.

I was not born to sit on a chair of high office. Whatever I had, my family, my home…I left it for the nation.

Why do we have to put the future of our youth at stake? Those who want to do politics are free to do so

Yes I also feel the pain. These steps taken were not a display of arrogance. I have seen poverty & understand people’s problems.

I know the forces up against me, they may not let me live, they may ruin me because their loot of 70 years is in trouble, but am prepared.
विमुद्रीकरण की जरूरत और इससे अर्थव्यवस्था पर पड़ने वाला प्रभाव

विमुद्रीकरण के सरकार के पैसों के लिए एक नई वातावरण का निर्माण जरूरी है। काल्पनिक बलात्कार भी है कि विमुद्रीकरण पैसों पर सबसे तीखी प्रतिद्वंद्व राजनीतिक नजरिये से आ रही है। और इससे भी कामली का बलात्कार भी है कि राजनीतिक नजरिये से आ रही प्रतिद्वंद्व के दृष्टि में आर्थिक नजरिये से आ रही प्रतिद्वंद्व की चर्चा तक नहीं हो रही है। सबसे बड़ी आलोचना सरकार के इस पैसों के 2 मूल बजटों से हो रही है। पहली देश काल में खर्च है, आम लोगों को बढ़ा पेशेवरी हो रही है। सरकार को पहले से बेहतर इंतजाम करना चाहिए था। दूसरी बजट ये कि काला धन रखने वालों पर सरकार पूरे नोट बंद कर देने से बहुत पक्ष नहीं पड़ेगा बात है। सरकार काला धन रखने वालों पर और कड़ी व्यवस्था नहीं कर रही है। बिमुद्रीकरण राजनीतिक नजरिये से ही इसकी समस्या करता, समाज के इसे बड़े पैसों के समय और ज्यादा ज्यादा ज्यादा हो जाता है। अब इससे तो किसी के भी अपराध में है कि बड़े नोटों को बंद करने का पैसास समय की जरूरत का तिलाह बे हो जाती है। विश्व के का अनुसार है कि सरकार में जाने धन की अर्थव्यवस्था बहुत बड़ी हो गई है। इसके बाद इसका अज्ञात इस स्थान से लगा जाता है कि भारत की पूरी अर्थव्यवस्था 2 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा है। और एक समान, अनुमान के मुताबिक, कम से कम 20 प्रतिशत भारत की समानांतर काला धन की अर्थव्यवस्था में चल रही है। एक इंटरनेशनल रिपोर्ट के का अनुसार है कि सरकार में जाने धन की समानांतर अर्थव्यवस्था जीडी पी के 27 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा है। और वह धारण के भी मानता है कि भारत में पिछले एक देखकर, भारत का समय में अर्थव्यवस्था की राजनीतिक अनुमोदन के करीब 50 प्रतिशत तक पुरूष गई है। यानी करीब 1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की। इसका अनुसार है कि युपीएस पर समय के साथ करीब 12 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के घोटालों के साथ आ रहा है, लेकिन उस धारण पर अर्थव्यवस्था में जीडी पी के करीब 50 प्रतिशत की काला धन की समानांतर अर्थव्यवस्था का कारण है। इस आधार पर भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में जीडी पी के काला धन की समानांतर अर्थव्यवस्था का 50 प्रतिशत की काला धन की समानांतर अर्थव्यवस्था चल रही है। यानी करीब 1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की। इसका आधार है कि युपीएस पर समय के साथ करीब 12 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के घोटालों के साथ आ रहा है। यह धारण है कि युपीएस पर समय के साथ करीब 12 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के घोटालों के साथ आ रहा है। यह धारण है कि युपीएस पर समय के साथ करीब 12 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के घोटालों के साथ आ रहा है।
लाख करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा नोट छानने में कम से कम 6 महीने लगेंगे, जो भी पूरी तरह भारत सरकार के छानने में कम से कम 6 महीने लगेंगे। वो भी तरीके से भी काफी गड़बड़ है। गड़बड़ कहाँ है मैं बताता हूं भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक नोट मुद्रण प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, जो अब तक 1000 के नोट छापा रहा है, अभी 2000 के नोट छापा रहा है। 2 शिफ्ट में काम होने पर 133 करोड़ नोट छान जा सकता है। और अगर 3 शिफ्ट में काम करे, तो 200 करोड़ नोट छाने जा सकते हैं। यानी की तरीके से छानने के लिए भारत सरकार के छानने का काम करेंगे तब भी, इस तक में भी काफी गड़बड़ है।

गड़बड़ कहाँ है मैं बताता हूं भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक नोट मुद्रण प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, जो अब तक 1000 के नोट छानता रहा है, अभी 2000 के नोट छान रहा है। 2 पश्चिम में काम होने पर 133 करोड़ नोट छाना जा सकता है। और अगर 3 पश्चिम में जीवन नोट का चालना करे, तो 200 करोड़ नोट छाने जा सकते हैं। यानी करीब साढ़े 5 लाख करोड़ रुपए के 2000 के नोट 2 महीने में छाने जा सकते हैं। सरकार ये काम इसलिए कर सकती है क्योंकि, सरकार ने नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम का 21 पदन का समय घटाकर 6 पदन कर पदया है। इससे इस सरकार के पक्ष का समय कम होगा। यहां एक तथ्य ये भी समझने जरूरी है कि 2000 के नोट इस फैसले को लागू करने की तारीख 8 नवंबर से भी पहले हो जा रहा था। इसलिए प्रधानमंत्री के बार-बार 50 पदन मांगने के बाद सरकार के तैयारी साफ नजर आती है। यहां एक तथ्य है कि 2000 के नोट इस फैसले को लागू करने की तारीख 8 नवंबर से भी पहले हो जा रहा था। इसलिए प्रधानमंत्री के बार-बार 50 पदन मांगने के बाद सरकार के तैयारी साफ नजर आती है।

लेकिन, जरूर है कि इसके बाद 3 लाख करोड़ नोट छाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा। इससे इस फैसले के किसी काम को करने की तेजी आसानी से समझा जा सकता है। यहां एक तथ्य ये भी समझने जरूरी है कि इसके बाद नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा। इससे इस सरकार के पक्ष का समय कम होगा। यहां एक तथ्य है कि इसके बाद नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा। इससे इस सरकार के पक्ष का समय कम होगा। यहां एक तथ्य है कि इसके बाद नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा।

इसके बाद नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा। इससे इस सरकार के पक्ष का समय कम होगा। यहां एक तथ्य है कि इसके बाद नोट बैंक तक छुपाने का काम 6 महीने में होगा।
India and Japan, at last, signed an agreement for cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy on November 11, 2016. Both countries took several rounds of negotiations, which helped the countries to resolve several sticky issues. Initially, limited information was released by the two governments, though the same day, the Indian foreign secretary held a media briefing in which he made several issues clear.

The joint document signed by the two countries lays down: “The present Agreement provides for bilateral cooperation in the field of Nuclear Energy. This would provide for the development of nuclear power projects in India and thus strengthening of energy security of the country. The present agreement would open up the door for collaboration between Indian and Japanese industries in our Civil Nuclear programme.”

Several questions and concerns are being raised as they were raised in the past. In fact, these concerns had in the past delayed the cutting of the deal. The concerns and questions are coming in both the countries, though these concerns are separate in India and Japan.

Some in Japan argued that an agreement with India, a non-signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty...
will undermine the nuclear regime. The reality is that India received a clean exemption in the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) in 2008 and the CTBT is in coma. Instead India has been extending a moratorium on its nuclear test, and this is far more relevant than merely signing a non-existent treaty. India has an impeccable record. All the nuclear cooperation agreements signed by India are accompanied with relevant safeguard practices. So, there is no question of diversion of any item supplied for peaceful purposes to the military programme.

In fact, the India-Japan agreement also provides for a “system of accounting for and control of all nuclear material transferred pursuant to this Agreement and nuclear material recovered or produced as a by-product” under Article 5. Thus, India has adopted the best practices regarding responsible acquisition of nuclear civil nuclear energy materials. The point that a victim of the nuclear attack would find it difficult to sign a peaceful nuclear programme was intriguing. More so, the idea came from a country, which is enjoying nuclear protective umbrella and till the Fukushima incidents had used nuclear energy to generate about 30% of the country’s total electricity production, was definitely bizarre. Even the serious section of the Japanese policy making community found it non-serious and basically a deal-delays ploy.

The argument that for a country that has stopped using nuclear energy and operating nuclear reactors, it is unethical to export them did have some merit. However, the moment the country started operating some of its reactors and decided to eventually operate its non-operational reactors and add a few more, even this ethical resistance evaporated. A tiny section that opposes nuclear energy all over the world kept clinging to this argument.

Other than the ethical and non-proliferation concerns, there were some practical commercial concerns of Japanese nuclear industry, a major driver for the India-Japan nuclear deal. As the Indian nuclear establishment was basically interested in Japanese technology, not in its reactors, Japanese industry did not find it commercially lucrative to enter into the Indian nuclear market. Only when India agreed to buy reactors, Japanese industry started seriously working for the deal. Now it will have to partner with one of the Indian operators like the Nuclear Power Corporation India Limited. A Japanese company will still have less than 50 percent ownership in a nuclear venture. For a short period, Japanese industry wanted a solution to the nuclear liability issue.

Moreover, Japanese officials wanted proper assurance regarding export control enforcement and outreach for the Indian companies receiving Japanese goods. India has completely harmonised its export control system with the NSG guidelines and annexes. Besides, India increased its outreach activities for its companies. Some Japanese companies have also started giving export control training to employees of the Indian companies, which are receiving its goods. The agreement has provision for export control.

In India, too, there were, and to an extent, even now, there are some concerns. The India-US 123 agreement is a somewhat detailed document available in the public domain. However, the press briefing of the foreign secretary, Jai Shankar sought to clear the air after the signature ceremony. He informed that all the stages of India-US agreements for civil nuclear energy were compressed in one document for the India-Japan deal.

Implicitly, the foreign secretary conveyed that the template of the 123 agreement had been taken for drafting the India-Japan agreement. Administrative arrangements for India-Japan specific would be worked out later, although the technical annexure attached to the agreement already has some of the arrangements. But the basic parameters of the agreement are not different.

The termination clause, one of the concerns in India, exists in the agreement. As the Indian foreign secretary, rightly, pointed out that it exists most of the agreements. Article 14 of the India-Japan Agreement lays down details regarding termination of the agreement. Both countries are free to terminate the deal by giving one year written notice which may be withdrawn if a country changes its decision. However, if Japan terminates the agreement because of violation of the safeguards agreement, it may have to take the certificate of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
regarding the non-compliance. The article 14 also discusses return of any transferred nuclear material, non nuclear material or equipment as well as spent fuel as a product of the materials supplied under the agreement. Another party may seek compensation because of the disruption caused by the return of goods. The note circulated along with the agreement puts some restriction on the right to get compensation.

So, is the concern in India that in event of its nuclear test, the deal will be nullified true? Theoretically, it is possible. Even in the India-US agreement termination clause exists, though nuclear test is not explicitly mentioned. The agreement with the US has provisions for consultation between the two countries and remedial action for India in case of termination. The agreement with Japan is not radically different. Nowhere does the India-Japan agreement mention termination because of nuclear test. The agreement with Japan also gives enough space for consultation.

India will continue to have its right to conduct nuclear test if the strategic environment changes dramatically and adversely affects India's security. In such a situation, in reality, both the US and Japan may appreciate the Indian situation. India's security interests are fast converging with both the countries. Quite importantly, by all the assessments, the next round of nuclear tests in the world will start either with the US or China. So, India may not have much difficulty in managing the situation after its own nuclear tests, which may follow after the tests of these countries.

Regarding reprocessing, too, seemingly, the India-Japan agreement has adopted the 123 model. Reprocessing will be done at a dedicated safeguarded site. In fact, India may help Japan in reprocessing its fuel which it sends outside. Moreover, India and Japan may in the future undertake joint Research and Development projects.

As of now, the article 2 sub-paragraph 4 of the agreement mentions, “technology for and equipment for uraniumenrichment, spent nuclear fuel reprocessing, conversion ofplutonium and production of non-nuclear material and plutonium may be transferred under this Agreement only whenthis Agreement is amended for that purpose.” The Annexure B has a detailed arrangement for the purpose. The agreement also has the provision for Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) and High Enriched Uranium (HEU). However, for HEU, an advanced consent from Japan is required.

The question emerges: why did India focus so much on entering into an agreement with Japan when so many countries were willing to do business with it and have already signed agreements for the purpose? Actually, Japan is preferred because of its reliability and trustworthiness. It is not known for imposing additionalities. Second, its technology is considered more advanced than many of the countries active in global nuclear reactor commerce.

Third, important Japanese nuclear companies have bought stakes in the companies of some of the supplier countries. An agreement with Japan will solve the issue of taking the consent from Japan for doing business with the companies of those countries. Fourth, Japan is emerging as an important strategic partner of India in managing Asian affairs. Together the two countries may push the idea of Asiatom.

Fifth, Japan, a country with high technology but declining population, may provide both a base and an opportunity for the Indian scientific force. It could be a win-win situation for both the countries. Indication comes that both the countries may do some innovative work for safety and security, though other countries have the similar provision in their agreements with India.

In the future, the two countries have to consolidate what they have agreed, covered and gained so far. The deal will turn out to be mutually beneficially for both. India will get much needed electricity and technological partnership and Japan will get a market for its companies which are facing a tough situation for several years even before the Fukushima incidents. Really, the sky is the limit for India and Japan in the nuclear and other strategic sectors.

(The author is with the IDSA, New Delhi and is an expert on nuclear issues)
On November 8, as the country was still absorbing the shock win of Donald Trump in the US presidential election, television news channels asked viewers to stand by for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation at 8pm. Hours before, the Prime Minister had met the three Service chiefs in the backdrop of continuing ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces which had claimed the lives of Indian jawans and civilians. Speculation was rife, though nobody had an inkling of what he would say. But one thing was sure: There would be some big bang announcement.

Prime Minister Modi did not disappoint. In a bold move that he knew would have far-reaching consequences, he presented before the people his Government's demonetisation decision. It was, he said, meant to hit three targets: The black money economy, corruption, terror funding. He explained, to the extent he could in a televised address and within the time constraint, the rationale behind the move. Finally, he declared that the decision would be coming into effect from midnight—barely a few hours after his address.

The announcement seized the people's attention, both for its audacity and the swiftness of purpose. It left shocked the movers and shakers of the parallel economy. It made economic experts sit up and take notice. And it surprised his political rivals to an extent that the Opposition was sharply divided in its reaction.
So why did the Prime Minister chose to make the announcement himself? It could well have been done by the Finance Ministry. Had the issue been one of pure economics, perhaps then the ministry would have handled it. But Modi realised the political implications, both in terms of the response that would come from his and his Government’s opponents and the fallouts in case the scheme faltered at the implementation stage. He appreciated the reality that the decision would inconvenience, even if in the short term, millions of people who had nothing to do with black money, who were honest bread-earners and paid their taxes regularly. And he knew that their inconvenience would be exploited by his rivals to fuel discontent among the masses and arouse sentiments against him, his Government and against the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of a clutch of Assembly elections that are scheduled in various parts of the country in the coming months.

Therefore, none but the Prime Minister himself could lend credibility to the decision, none but he could convey to the people the sincerity of purpose of the move, and none but he could persuade them to swallow the bitter pill for the larger national good. The politics, Modi understood well for he has been in the arena for long enough now, would soon overtake the economics. And it would be played out not just in the television studios but also in Parliament and on the streets — some of his opponents are masters at this game.

But perhaps there was another reason for Modi to make the announcement. Only a leader who enjoyed a clean and non-corruptible image, and who led a Government untainted by graft, would sound believable in announcing a crackdown on black money. Thus, a party like the Congress, under whose dispensation, corruption hit new highs through the 2G spectrum and coal block allocation scams, is today being ridiculed by the people for condemning the Government’s demonetisation drive. It simply does not have the credibility to talk against corruption. The same is true of those such as the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party — both known more for graft-ridden deals than effective governance.

If Modi’s opponents are seeking to reap a political harvest by convoluting the monumental decision, there is no reason why the ruling BJP should not go to the people to counter the distortion. By all accounts, the BJP has a head start. News reports filtering in from the ground show that while people have faced some inconvenience for a few days, the vast majority came out as willing to believe in Prime Minister Modi’s appeal that sacrifice is needed to nail the corrupt. Journalists who have fanned out in the country, have been reporting from rural India where women waiting for a paltry sum in long queues at banks, say that “Modi’s decision” is a war against the corrupt rich and not against the ordinary citizen.

A section of the political opposition, realising that they will be cornered in sensible debates, have resorted to obstructionism. Parliament has been disrupted on the issue, and the likes of Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal have threatened massive street protests and have irresponsibly called for ‘people’s uprising’. Both are supposedly champions of integrity in public life. The Delhi Chief Minister owes his position to an anti-corruption movement spearheaded by social activist Anna Hazare. One would have expected him to compliment the Modi Government. Instead, he has stooped to making wild allegations. By contrast, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has shown maturity in welcoming the demonetisation decision as has the Janata Dal (United), Biju Janata Dal among others.

Meanwhile, the Government has set up various panels to tackle the crisis and the Prime Minister has been having a series of meetings to review the matter. Innovative measures like providing facility to swipe cards for money at select fuel pumps, have been taken. Thousands of ATMs across the country are being re-calibrated to deal with the money crunch. Banks are working overtime to handle the pressure. Certainly, the Narendra Modi Government is not idle.

(Writer is a senior Columnist and journalist)
**THE BJP Government's assault against black money dates back to 2011, (it was then in Opposition during the UPA Government) when it submitted to the then central government a slew of measures in a 95-page report on black money. The issue resounded yet again during the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign when the BJP’s prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, promised to bring back black money from offshore accounts and also to fight it within the country. This was followed up by the formation of a special task force, two days after Mr. Modi took over as Prime Minister, under the chairmanship of Justice MB Shah, which submitted its report by December 2014, suggesting a few measures to the Government.

In its next move, the Government, while giving the tax evaders a chance to come clean, asked the defaulters to disclose their unaccounted income or assets by paying the applicable tax, cess and penalty totalling 45 per cent of the undisclosed income. Under this scheme, a total of 64,275 disclosures were made, from which Rs 65,250 crore was declared.

The Government's present surprise move, to change the national currency by replacing old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes with new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 notes, is a systematic extension of all these efforts. In a dramatic announcement, Prime Minister Modi walked the talk on black money during a public address on November 8, when he declared that the legal tender of high-value currency notes would be invalid from midnight. However, this is not the end. The menace of black money runs so deep into the veins of the Indian economy that it is still a long road ahead before we move towards a corruption-free India.

For smooth conduct of the demonetisation drive the Government has come up with certain proposals to avoid inconvenience:

- Old notes can be deposited and exchanged at post offices and banks across the country before December 31.

- Government has set limits on ATM withdrawals and bank withdrawals per week, which keeps on changing.

- People, who due to some reasons, are not able to deposit their old notes by December 30, can go to specified offices of the Reserve Bank of India up to March 31, 2017 and deposit the notes after submitting a declaration form.

- On humanitarian grounds, exemption has been made on key utility payments like hospitals, petrol pumps, crematorium, Government milk booths, monuments etc.

- Withdrawal charges at ATMs have been wavered. Toll tax at national highways too have been wavered.

- To avoid shortage of low-value currency like Rs 50
and Rs 20, Government has made them available in SBI ATMs.

- Separate queues are being maintained at banks and ATMs for senior citizens and for divyang people.

Aim:

Tackle black money: Black money refers to the money people stack with themselves, in the form of cash or assets, for which tax has not been paid. With a ban on high-value currency notes, people will be left with no other option but to declare their unaccounted income. They will either land up paying tax or will have to destroy cash as after December 31; it will be just worth a piece of paper.

Combat counterfeit currency: High-value currency of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 constitute for almost 80 per cent of the money in circulation in the economy. The replacement of old currency with new ones will eliminate fake currency from the system.

Deal with terrorism: It’s a known fact that fake currencies were used for terror funding and other illegal activities, both within the boundaries of this country and across the border. A ban on counterfeit currency will put an end to arms smuggling and other activities by terrorists, Maoists and jihadis.

Advantages: Long-term

Boost deposit base and savings: The unaccounted cash in the economy, which is estimated to be to the tune of ₹4,500 billion, will ultimately make its way to the banks. This will boost the banks deposit base as well as savings. The notes will not come back to banking system and will hence increase the Reserve Bank of India’s reserves. An increase in RBI reserve will help the RBI and the Government in multiple ways that can be beneficial for the economy. It can be used for infrastructural development and improve fiscal consolidation. Infrastructural investment will in-turn generate jobs.

Reduce lending rates: As banks’ liquidity is bound to increase, which is already happening, banks are in the process of reducing interest rates. Reduction in interest rates will help the small enterprises, the SMEs in particular. Until now a major roadblock for the banks had been non-performing asset and liquidity.

Short-term:

Increase in taxes: Notes deposited by people in banks will have to be explained if it is more than Rs 2.5 lakh. If someone did not pay tax or may be if they make sudden deposits, they will be questioned. If they fail to explain, they will be scrutinised and will be compelled to pay 200 per cent tax.

On the other hand, income tax authorities will have to be proactive in taking information from the banks so that those accounts are scrutinised. If they don’t scrutinise those accounts then the benefit will flow. With an increase in income in bank accounts, income tax will have to be increased and also paid and levied by tax authorities. This will increase the Government’s tax collection. The Government will also incur indirect taxes in the form of excise duty and sales duty.

Reduce inflation: People who had until now earned money through illegal ways will be now afraid to stack black money as they may be prosecuted by the Income tax department on the legitimacy of their income. This will cause deflation in the market. With better tax compliance, there will be an increase in the gross domestic product too.

Moving towards a cashless economy: Indian economy was until now heavily cash dependent in which 98 per cent of the transactions by volume and 65 per cent by value was made by cash. Not only is cash difficult to handle and carry, it became difficult for the Government to keep a track of the same. The demonetisation drive will help us move towards digital transaction and formal banking systems. Transactions can be done with the use of cards, cheques, drafts and online transfer. This will also boost the Prime Minister’s Make in India and Digital India initiative.

(Writer is a Columnist and journalist)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi had long ago signalled his determination to tackle the menace of black money head on. Early on in his tenure, he had taken ownership of this goal and announced his plan to compress the black economy. In the last two and half years that he has been in office, his government has rolled out several initiatives that have systematically built up this plan. These include a special investigation team on black money, the Jan Dhan Yojana-Aadhaar-Mobile money trinity, direct benefit transfers, incentives for e-payments and a disclosure window for black money among other measures. So in this context, Demonetization at this time is a significant step because it follows the disclosure window that the government had offered to black money holders. The Prime Minister had made clear at the time of announcing the disclosure window that it was the last opportunity for voluntary disclosures, and demonetization therefore was the critical next step in the fight against black money and the larger process of transforming our economy into one that is efficient, transparent and clean.

There is enough evidence to suggest that the people in general have accepted Prime Minister Modi’s initiative to cleanse the financial system. They have warmly responded to his appeal to bear the consequences of the decision on the 500 and 1,000 rupee notes. True, it has caused some difficulties to the common people in short term because people are queuing up in front of banks but no riotous situation has arisen anywhere, demonstrating that the people are with the government. They know that to achieve something great in long term, they have to pay a little price in short term.

It may take a few more weeks for the people to go leisurely to the nearest ATM to withdraw money. Government did allow public utility services to accept the old notes for a
few days just after ban because after all, the aim of the exercise — easily the most ambitious since Independence — is to rid the financial system of counterfeit notes, reduce corruption and take the anti-black money efforts to new heights.

The Modi government has clearly signalled its intention to move against illegal wealth. The currency swap deals with the stock of black money held by tax evaders. The challenge now is to ensure that the creation of new black money is minimized. There is no magic wand to solve what is a deep problem in India, but a committed government plus tax reforms such as the new goods and services tax (GST)—which creates incentives for producers to seek bills from their input providers—will be part of the solution.

In the long run, demonetisation will prove to be a significant positive move to the Indian economy and society. This also reflects India’s anti-corruption drive and is very likely to improve the country’s reformist stance. It will also provide a big boost to the government’s financial inclusion drive, pushing more households towards efficient banking and payment infrastructure. The benefits of phasing out large paper currency are significant to an economy and even more to a society such as India where corruption was treated as an acceptable way of life. A step like this can result in the cleaning up of a system for which many believed it could not be done, as earlier attempts did not have significant impact. However, the decision by Prime Minister Modi is one of the most historic steps taken in independent India. A decision like this can help curb inflation, recapitalise banks, reducing the interest rates and making the economy vibrant, with capital inflows. The taxes will be spread to a much larger population. At present only 2.6 per cent of the Indian population pays taxes. Some just don’t make enough and the others who do, siphon off the money. If this plan works, the ramifications of the currency demonetization can touch all parts of the Indian economy.

Specific Advantages:

1. Demonetization will help us to eradicate black money, corruption to some extent.

2. Due to lack of funding there will be no arms smuggling and all the terrorist activities will also be choked.

3. Counterfeit currencies are being used for financing terrorism which is being run by the enemy in India. Now Govt’s bold move of demonetization will enable the government to fight counterfeit currency/terrorist funding activities.

4. Card transactions will slowly replace the cash transactions in our daily activities.

5. Exchange of money in banks can only be done producing a valid identity card like PAN, Aadhar card and electoral card. By doing so it will be easy for the government to track the money which is being exchanged in banks.

6. Financial Intelligence Unit will track all details of the transactions from the banks. So now it is really difficult to get rid of the black money.

7. This decision will bring in more transparency in real estate sector. More transparency will have more credibility, making it more attractive to the foreign investors as well as domestic investors.

8. Housing prices could witness downward pressure, helping revive demand in the sluggish housing segment.

9. It will help the common man by putting an end to the artificial increase in Real Estate, Higher Education and Healthcare transactions bringing them within the reach of the common man.

So in conclusion, the Demonetization of high value currency notes in India will provide a big boost for Digital India. Reduction in cash transactions will help multiply digital and plastic transactions such as cheques, credit card and mobile wallets. PM Modi has tightened the seatbelts and honest Indians are optimistic about the joyride ahead.

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The Pantheon in Paris is a must-visit for all those who wish to see for themselves the manner in which the French people venerate those who have contributed to articulating, narrating and shaping civilisational France. Inspired by the vision and idea of the French civilisation, driven by patriotism to perpetuate and disseminate that idea of France and of French ideals and values, in it rests personalities who instilled the sense of the nation in ordinary minds and hearts. The final resting place of Napoleon Bonaparte—one of the first modernisers of France and of Europe as a whole—at Les Invalides also evokes strong emotions; the sign of celebrating patriotism and of generating a certain pride in nationhood as a legitimate act exudes these commemorative corners, symbols and institutions.

As one climbed down to the Crypt, the final resting place of the immortals of France’s cultural and intellectual spirit, an overpowering sense of their contribution, the fierce and yet rich and deep debates that these personalities generated, their ceaseless civilisational quest of articulating and shaping the French ethos and of situating it in the wider world while interpreting other civilisations, all came to the fore.

Voltaire, who was convinced that all knowledge came from India, especially from the banks of Ganga, had his corner in the Crypt and opposite him rested...
Rousseau, that formidable shaper of political discourse. Emile Zola, Victor Hugo, who perhaps more than anyone else shaped the French mind, Alexandre Dumas, Louis Braille, who through his creation of the Braille gave new light, all find a place of honour. Each of them had an inspiring epitaph summarising the ideas and ideals that they embodied.

One saw how students came in regular batches—the Pantheon is next door to the Université Sorbonne — and were taken around by teachers who explained the contributions, the oeuvres, the life and times of these greats. The manner of preserving the remains of these personalities suggested a concrete realisation of their indispensability in shaping and preserving civilisational France. The remains of some of those activists and leaders who died resisting Nazi occupation of France and were leaders of the iconic French Resistance Movement, were relocated to the Pantheon in 2015, indicating that the process of identifying patriots, nationalists and heroes is an active and ongoing process among the French.

But this could perhaps have been possible because of this habit which, even in the midst of intense political tussle, argues that the idea of France, the idea of her integrity and sovereignty and of her triumph is an idea that is non-negotiable and undisputed. No false debates or callow messiahs, patronised and promoted by vested political groups and interests, have ever promoted the idea of questioning the very idea or raison d'être of France, of La République or the patrie.

In India, however, ever since the founding of the Republic, there has been an intellectual and political class which has worked to generate a negation, denigration and hatred towards the idea of the nation, of civilisation and of inherited wisdom and values. These groups have intensely worked to create Indians who would spite at the very idea of India and revel in announcing its impending demise and in doing so would receive accolade and approbation. They never allowed a true veneration of true heroes in this country.

While Narendra Modi symbolises the urge to celebrate the perennial idea of India and evolve a positive ethos leading to a new national narrative, those making the most noise today are actually the ones who have always viciously laboured to dissolve all that we have stood for, civilisationally.

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केंद्र सरकार द्वारा पांच सौ और एक हजार रुपये के नोट बंद करने के पैसों के बाद से ही नियमित खुशियों में मूल्यांकन की स्थिति है। इस साहसिक एवं अंतिम निकाय के द्वारा मार्ग-नक्सली पर बल करने की विकल्प बांट राजनीतिक जमानत के लोग पूरी तरह से बहस को भटकाने चाहते हैं। चूंकि शुरूआत से ही सरकार के इस निर्देश को लेकर तनाव पेशावरों के बावजूद आम जनता के वर्ग में एकतरफा सरकार का भाव खुलकर दिख रहा है, लिहाजा विदेशी प्राणियों के लोग इस पर चर्चा करने से भागते नजर आ रहे हैं। सदन में भी वो मुद्रे पर बल करने की बजाय केवल शोर-शराब की स्थिति भूल जाते हैं एवं बहसे से काम की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हालांकि सरकार पहले दिन से इस मुद्रे पर बल करने की तैयारी केवल शोर-शराब की स्थिति पूर्व करते हैं लेकिन विनिमय की समस्या यह है कि अगर शान्तिपूर्ण हालात सदन में हुई तो वो ही बेकाबू होंगे।

इसमें कैसे शक नहीं कि इस निर्देश से आम जनता को कुछ पेशेवरों जोर झेलनी पड़ी है। लेकिन देश का सामान्य जन अपनी कुछ दिनों की पेशेवरों की दर्दनाक करता है ऐतिहासिक निर्देश को स्वीकार कर चुका है, लेकिन बड़ा सवाल वह है कि कौन लोग हैं, जो इस निर्देश को स्वीकार करने से कतरा रहे हैं। वो कौन लोग हैं, जो इस निर्देश को वापस लेने के लिए असफल राखिएं कर रहे हैं? वो कौन लोग हैं, जो महंगी गाड़ियाँ और एसीजी सुपक्ष में जाकर दो घंटे में अपना चार हजार रुपया निकालने के बावजूद भ्रम फैलाते हुए बल बोल रहे हैं कि पैसा नहीं मिल रहा? वो कौन लोग हैं जो भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ चल रहे हैं इस खुली जंग में भ्रष्टाचार बंद की बजाय ‘भारत बंद’ का राग अतिरिक्त लगे? एक सवाल यह भी है कि कौन लोग ऐसा कर रहे हैं, वो ऐसा कैसे कर रहे हैं?

इस सवाल पर प्रवक्ता करने से पहले जो ‘कतार’ पर बल लग लो। कांग्रेस उपाध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी ने अपने चार हजार रुपये के दो घंटे में निकाल लिए, लेकिन लोगों को गुप्त या कर रहे हैं कि पैसा नहीं निकल रहा है। अगर वे इमानदारी दिखाते हैं तो सभके सामान्य स्वीकार करते कि “हां मैं कतार में लगा था और मुझे में पैसा मिला, लेकिन नहीं उनकी जबान तो कुछ और बोल रहा है।

दरअसल, राहुल गांधी को यह बात बहुत मिल गई होगी चाहिए कि इस देश की आम जनता को ‘कतारों’ से कभी समस्या नहीं रही है। 70 साल के लिए कई लाख साल कांग्रेस ने सत्ता में रही है, ने इस देश
की आम जनता को कतार में खड़े रहने की आदत डाल दी है। यह वही जनता है, जो कभी सिलेंडर गैस, तो कभी यूरेशिया, तो कभी रेल टिकट के लिए आए, दिन कतारों में नजर आती रही है, इसलिए इस जनता को अब कतारों का भय दिखाने की राजनीति सफल होती नहीं दिख रही है।

यदिनन इस देश में 70 वर्षों में जो लंबी कतार का नले खड़ी की है, उसे नोटबंदी के इस फैसले से खड़ी हुई कतार ने तोड़ पड़ा है। यह वह कतार बन रही है, पजसमें देश का आम जन खड़ा होकर पबना पकसी डर के, भय के अनेक हफ्तों के साथ देश के भविष्य के लिए खड़ा होने को तेज़ी से बढ़ा रही है।

याद की जाती है, की जब देश में जो कतार बनाया गया था, उसे नोटबंदी के इस फैसले से खड़ी कतार ने तोड़ पड़ा था। वह वही कतार था, पजसमें देश का आम जन खड़ा होकर पबना पकसी डर के, भय के अनेक हफ्तों के साथ देश के भविष्य के पलए खड़ा होने को तैयार है। यह कतार ईमानदारों की कतार है। प्रधानमन्त्री मोदी ने जो यह कतार बनाई है, इस कतार में पकसी भ्रष्ट, बेईमान और चोरी से काली कमाई करने वाले की पहममत नहीं हो रही है और वो खरुलकर खड़ा हो सकते हैं। पलहाजा यह ईमानदारी का उत्सव मना रहे देश की ईमानदार जनता की कतार है।

इधर, भ्रष्टाचार के पखलाफ चल रही इस लड़ाई का लगातार पवरोध कर रहे पलली के मरुखयमंत्री अरपवनद के जरीवाल की अनी कोई पवश्वसनीयता नहीं रही है। वे खरुद कभी लालू यादव, तो कभी पकसी पलाहाजा यह ईमानदारी का उत्सव मना रहे देश की ईमानदार जनता की कतार है।
Last week, I got a wonderful opportunity to attend “Lokmanthan”, a Colloquium of ‘Nation First’ Thinkers and Practitioners held in the city of Bhopal. Having reached Bhopal, initially I wasn’t very sure of what to expect out of this ideation platform as a young learner. Fortunately so, it turns out, that all the knowledge, thoughts and experiences that I ended up learning through the medium of public discourse and brainstorming sessions, has in fact been by far the most intellectually stimulating exercise that I have ever attended. Hence in this article, I am sharing some relevant learnings which are particularly useful for the young and the “new” generation of India and the rest of the modern world.

As opposed to the western mind set of reductionist globalization, the focus of “Lokmanthan” was on the philosophy of Integral Humanism where all the discourse and learnings were universally aimed at humanity as a whole. Refuting plurality of souls, the idea of oneness amongst people of all races, caste, creeds & geographies was established. Most importantly, it was emphasized that this idea of collectivity was not opposed or antagonistic to the idea of “Nation First” thinking. Hence identifying with your nation and the rest of the humanity were rightfully described as being capable of peaceful co-existence.

With this larger vision various discussions were directed at addressing current challenges like Decolonizing Indian Minds, Rashtriyata (Nationality) in Neo-liberalism and Globalization, Identity, Aspirations and National Integration and Role of Art, Culture, History and Media in Nation Building. Various Academicians, Intellectuals and writers, Policy makers, Artists and Students from all over the country had come together at this forum not with concept of passively prescribing text book learning but to use this...
platform as a medium to ideate on burning issues facing contemporary society.

India and its history were aptly described as a “wonder” by J Nandakumar who explained how even though our country had faced numerous invasions and counter cultural influences in the past, there was still a thread of “Rashtriyata” which was binding us all together. Hence even though for an outsider, India might seem to be a crucible for diverse identities, intrinsically there was a common bond of collectivity and common Indian values that we all shared. Unfortunately, this diversity in modern times has been perceived as a source for anti-nationalist and centrifugal forces, especially so in a democratic political structure like that of India. The reason for this sorry state of affairs is that the western philosophies and notions of modernity perceive social identities to exist in water-tight compartments and do not see them as an organic whole with the shared values of “Rashtriyata” percolating through them. Tarek Fatah added to this by stating that religious and social identities are and should not be antagonistic to nationalistic thinking. Thus being an Indian, irrespective of castes, religion and colour, it is our duty to be honest and committed to collective values of nation building.

An important distinction made by Dr Anirban Ganguly, Director of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation was the difference between the meaning of “scientific modernization and blind westernization”. He explained how the political hegemony since the establishment of Western Education system by the British, had led to a process of cultural homogenization in India. This in turn has led to a situation where the western education system in India has become a pool for western ideas of consumerism, conflict and market thinking; thus completely ignoring the essence of Indian teachings and sustainable living. On the other end of the spectrum, Smt Smriti Irani explained how Indian way of living and thinking was not to be confused with feudalistic and backward thinking. Illustratively on the issue of gender equity she stated that “Regression does not come wrapped around in a Saree”. Thus explaining how following traditional values and lifestyles including indigenous clothing, food and outlook did not mean we were rejecting ideas of social justice and universal rights. Instead it meant how youth, both boys and girls can take this country forward while respecting national duty and Indian traditions and at the same time also following universal notions of gender equity and social empathy for one and all.

Social inclusion was a very strong theme in the panel discussions where challenges related to empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Tribal population were discussed. Milind Kamble, a social entrepreneur who is also the founder of Dalit Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) was probably the best choice for a guest speaker. I personally found his thoughts to be very progressive. Instead of harping on social identities and reservations, he spoke about how PM Modi’s Stand Up India campaign and initiative like DICCI were generating employment for lakhs and lakhs of young SC entrepreneurs. In his own words rather than “asking for jobs”, SC youth were increasingly being made self-sufficient to “give jobs”.

Hailing this Lokmanthan as the beginning of a new era in India, Shri Rinpoche, ex-prime minister of Tibet explained how Terrorism had become a market place; which would very soon collapse on its own weight. On the same lines, actor Anupam Kher, over and above his star attraction, in very simple terms explained the importance of family values, ‘nation first’ outlook and the importance of speaking the truth when it comes down to the matters of national security and taking strict action against forces which were anti-national in nature. He explained how the so called intelligentsia influenced by the misplaced notions of modernity, had made the youth so defensive about his/her patriotic values. Thus he advised the youth not to fear failure in the light of stiff opposition from fissiparous tendencies; and to put all their efforts in constructive nation-building.

Folk culture and art was best exemplified by Dr Shetty, who explained how the world was undergoing a post-modernism phase, where all the western notions of art and culture are increasingly been rejected in favor of native representations of art and philosophy. This correlates with how there is a renewed focus on Yoga, Ayurveda, Vedanta, Sustainable way of Indian living and native art world-wide. Hence he advised the young population to identify this change in Global thinking.
and learn to respect and appreciate its own culture, art and oral/folk heritage. Also the famous artist, Smt. Sonal Mansingh, much like her dance inspiringly explained how Krishna destroyed the snake Kaliya to prevent the river Yamuna from getting polluted and poisoned. Thus using Indian culture and its traditions as medium to reflect on how even our mythological stories and heroes had displayed consciousness for Environmental Sustainability, which is so very important in the current scenario of Global warming and Environmental degradation.

Summing up the session, Shri Chandra Prakash Dwivedi, our very own Chanakya from the TV screens asked us to finally contemplate upon the relevance and the utility of these intellectual discourses in the current context. He went on to describe how these learnings were of use only if these were disseminated beyond the walls of Lokmanthan, out into the mainstream discourse. Just like how a seed is planted in fresh soil, so were these values and teachings meant to be planted in the fresh minds of today’s youth. Most importantly, he warned us all that a good thought wasn’t enough to bear any plant let alone a fruit. Invoking M.S. Gowalkar’s observations—what had harmed India the most all these years was not so much the wrong doing of those who were dishonest to the nation; but that it was the INACTION and Indifference of the “Sajjan” (Good) people who chose not to act upon what they knew was the right thing to do. Similarly, all that I am sharing with you today, from the mind-churning exercise that was held at the “Lokmanthan” 2016, is of no practical use, if all of us, including me do not act upon what we have learnt and what we know to be in the national interest. Hence we need to act and ACT NOW to build strong foundations for this nation based on shared values of nationalism, humanism, social justice, harmony and empathy through the lens of a nation-first outlook as also with an orientation towards progressive and holistic thinking.

(The author is an expert in public policy and health and has been working and writing on these issues)
लोकमंथन: बौद्धिक विमर्श में एक नई परंपरा का प्रारंभ

भो

पाल में संपन्न हुए लोकमंथन आयोजन के बहाने भारतीय बौद्धिक विमर्श में एक नई परंपरा का प्रारंभ देखने को मिला। यह एक ऐसा आयोजन था, जहाँ भारत की शक्ति, उसकी सामूहिकता, बहुलता-विविधता के साथ-साथ उसकी लोकशक्ति और लोककल्याण के भी दर्शन हुए। यह आयोजन इस अर्थ में खास था कि यहाँ भारत को भारतीय नर्तकों से समझने की कोशिश की गयी। बिदेशी चर्चाओं और बिदेशी विचारधाराओं से आक्रांत भारतीय बौद्धिक विमर्श में यह एक नए युग का आरंभ भी था।

वहस थी पर कड़वाहटें नहीं:

हमारी सभी प्रदशंसा के लिए इस पद्धति में शामिल थे। जितु कड़वाहटें कहीं नहीं थीं। दलित ईडिवन चैवर आफ कामसंघ और ईडिवन के प्रमुख भिन्नित कबीले ने जब यह कहा कि "दलित अब मांगने नहीं देने वाला बनेगा" तो समाज तातियों से गुंज उठा। आयोजन की सफलता इस अर्थ में बहुत महत्व की है कि इसमें ‘भारत प्रथम’ या ‘देश सबबढ़म’ के विचार से जुड़े विचारक, लेखक, कलावंत, फिल्म और युवा शक्ति के प्रतिनिधियों ने यह एक शासकीय आयोजन होने के बाद भी इस पर सरकार की छाया नहीं थी। मुंक चित्र और विचारों का आदान-प्रदान हुआ। तीन दिन के आयोजन में प्रजासत्ताता आयोजन सिंह चौहान उनके संस्कृति दर्शन सुंदर पत्रक के काम फिलाडेल्फिया, मुंक दुर्योग और विनय सहवान ज्यों हां पंडित और प्रजासत्ताता आयोजन सिंह चौहान ने अपने प्रसारविचार स्वागत भाषण में अपनी बौद्धिक विवादास्य के साथ कहा कि लोकमंथन में हो रहे व्यापक विमर्श से अभूत प्रर्तकों और वह हमारे लिए पारंपरिक होगा।

पहले दिन शुभारंभ सत्र में स्वामी अध्याशान्त, शिशुवाणिय और राजीवलोकाकांक कोहली राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के सहसंस्कृति दर्शन सुंदर पत्रक ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। इस सत्र का मूल स्थल यही था कि भारत को अपनी अक्षमता के आधार खड़ा होना चाहिए। यहाँ राजीवलोकाकांक ने उपनिवेशवाद से लड़ने के लिए एक प्रबल स्वदेशी आंदोलन की जरूरत बताया। उनका कहना यही था कि आधुनिक शिक्षा प्रणाली हमें जड़ों से फिर से बाल दिया। उनका कहना यही था कि भारत को अपनी अक्षमता के आधार खड़ा होना चाहिए। यहाँ राजीवलोकाकांक ने उपनिवेशवाद से लड़ने के लिए एक प्रबल स्वदेशी आंदोलन की जरूरत बताया।
कहाँ। इस आयोजन में आए राजीव मल्होत्रा, तारिक फेदेह, डा. कमलेश दत्त प्रियाठी, अनुपम खेर, डा. चंद्रकांत श्रीवेदी, सागरदेव रिहोट्से, बिभेक देशेराय, रामनाथ राय, अशोक मलिक, कमलबलाल गोयनकर, प्रो. मकरंद पारावै, मुकुल काननकर, प्रो. अशोक मोदक, डा. विभवंदु सिंह, मौलाना सैयद अत्तर हसन देहलवी, ए.सूर्यकार, राजेन्द्र सिंह, विचार गीतानंद, अदिता काला, मधु भडालकर, बलदेव भाई शर्मा, प्रो. गीरीशचंद्र त्रिपाठी, डा. अनिवार्य गंगुली, तुलसी अहमद, प्रो. मेनकादत्त शाह सरसोत्तम के साथ भारतीयता का आधार पर एक नया आकाश रचने की बात कहाँ। कृत मिलाकर यह आयोजन एक ऐसी भावभूमि पर खदा था जहां से भारत की शक्ति और उसकी वैविध्यता के दर्शना हो रहे थे।

कलाकारों ने भरे रंग:

आयोजन में लोककलाकारों और संगीतियों ने भी रंग भरे। उनकी विविधता से भरी प्रसूति जहाँ भारतीयता के लोक की गोरीवाण बना रही थी वहाँ आत्मने के भारतीय प्रयोग को पारिपार्श्वत कर रही थी। भारतीय पर्याय में संबंध की अन्तर धाराएं हैं और इसके आधार पर समाज रचना के अंदर प्रसार हुए हैं। लोकप्रचार इस अर्थ में खास रहा कि इसमें वैदिक आत्मने किसी पर कूद धोने के बजाए मुक्त चित्र बनाया। इसके अग्नि रंग बात यह भी था कि बड़ी संख्या में युवाओं ने सहभागिता किया। आयोजकों ने पहले दिन से इस बात पर ज़रूरत थी कि लोकप्रचार में युवाशिक आधिकारिक सहभागमयी मुख्यतः हो। 956 प्रतिविधियाँ ने तीन मिला बनाता आदि के साथ इस पूरे समारोह में सहभागिता किया।

देश-काल-स्थिति का चित्रण:

लोकप्रचार दरअसल देश-काल-स्थिति के तीन सूत्रों पर विषय का मंच बना। औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता मुक्ति और भारतीयता का अवधारणा उसका मूल्य था। विषय के सभी सूत्रों में इस सोच की अभिव्यक्ति दिखी। भारत का संकट है कि यहाँ की सारी वैविध्यता उपर रोगी गयी विभागों के साथ आराम है। भारत में रहकर भारतीय तत्व और उसके संस्कृति का अधिकार आवश्यक है। इसके लिए प्रतिवेदन वि-सहभागिता के तीन आदि चूंके हैं। जनमूलक आत्मने अपनी वैयक्तिकता का कार्य करने वाला है जब तक उसमें आत्मने साधनों के साथ संघर्ष नहीं होता। भारतीय तत्त्वक रंग बात ज्ञात था कि यह भारतीय नजरों से देखना हमारे अिने इसे लेकर संबंध में भरे है। हमारे अिने हमारी भार्तीय नजर के लिए धीरज है और भारतीयता के संस्कृतिक के बदल की पक्षधर है।
Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently concluded the third annual summit meeting with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to discuss the future of a broad-based and action-oriented partnership between India and Japan. This is a great time for India and Japan to bond, with the personal rapport between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Modi giving the India and Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership a new vigour and substance.

In last two and half years under Modi regime in India, country has moved on the path of more integration into the global economy, reforms to unify the country into a single market through a Goods and Service Tax, measures to expedite clearances, cut red tape and liberalise foreign investment norms in critical sectors of the economy like defence, railways, insurance and construction, as well as proactive external engagement, key to powering a calibrated engagement between India and Japan. Whereas in Japan also, a stimulus package for economic revival signals that Japanese Prime Minister Abe’s economic revitalisation plan is working. In a nutshell, India and Japan are poised well to advance the special strategic global partnership befitting a new era for the relations between the two countries. Both countries are responding to these dynamics. Indeed, economic relations between India and Japan have vast potential for growth, given the obvious complementarities that exist between the two...
Asian economies, including India’s huge and growing market and its resources, especially human resources. The bilateral trade between India and Japan has increased from about USD four billion in 1999-2000 to USD 14.52 billion during 2015-16. Besides, cumulative FDI inflows between April 2000 and March 2016 have grown to USD 20.96 billion. Clearly, there is a lot of space for India and Japan to boost business linkages.

Deeper engagement in Defence would benefit both India and Japan as both countries have identified Defence as an important area of strategic cooperation. The India and Japan agreements on Defence Exchange and Technology Cooperation along with a government nod for up to 100 per cent FDI in India’s Defence sector open up great opportunities for industry to collaborate in research, development and production of aircraft and equipment.

Continuing the success of collaborating on high-speed rail links, India and Japan could look at cooperation on a second high-speed rail project, which Japan is keen to fund. The Indian Railways has identified at least five other corridors—Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai, Delhi-Kolkata, Delhi-Nagpur and Mumbai-Nagpur for running 300 kmph or higher speed trains, which add up to a win-win scenario for India and Japan.

India and Japan have signed a landmark civil nuclear cooperation deal after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Shinzo Abe, a move that will boost bilateral economic and security ties. This agreement will enhance cooperation in the energy sector. This is a win-win scenario as this agreement will help pave the way for Japan to export nuclear technology to India. With Japanese companies in possession of key elements such as safety components and the construction of domes of nuclear powerplants, such an accord with Japan is crucial for India’s energy needs. The deal would allow Japan to export nuclear technology to India, making it the first non-NPT signatory to have such a deal with Tokyo. It would also cement the bilateral economic and security ties as the two countries warm up to counter an assertive China. There was political resistance in Japan - the only country to suffer atomic bombings during World War II – against a nuclear deal with India, particularly after the disaster at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in 2011. Japan is a major player in the nuclear energy market and an atomic deal with it will make it easier for US-based nuclear plant makers during his interaction with Japanese PM, Modi also pitched for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of disaster management and risk reduction.

Some of the important sectors in which MoU have been signed between India and Japan during PM Modi’s recent Japan visit are as follows:

- **SKILL DEVELOPMENT:** Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of India, Government of India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Government of Japan on the Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Program. MOC envisages training 30,000 Indian youth in the Japanese styled manufacturing in the next 10 years.

- **ISRO AND JAXA:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ISRO and JAXA concerning Cooperation in the Field of Outer Space. The MOU also provides for establishing JWG and sign Implementing Arrangements to carry out specific cooperative projects.

- **AGRICULTURE:** Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan in the Field of Agriculture and Food Related Industry. It aims to deepen the bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food industries that includes food value chain networking and protecting Geographical Indication (GI) of agriculture products.

- **URBAN DEVELOPMENT:** MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited and Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development. It would enable cooperation between the two organizations promoting investment in infrastructure projects in railways and transportation; port terminals; toll roads; airport terminals; urban development; logistics; and any supporting industries for these sectors.
**TEXTILES:** MoU between Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, GoI and Japan Textiles Products Quality and Technology Centre (QTEC) in the Field of Textiles. It aims to improve quality of Indian Textiles for conformity assessment for Japanese market.

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT:** MOU between the State Government of Gujarat and Hyogo Prefectural Government, Japan. The present MOU seeks to promote mutual cooperation between Gujarat and Hyogo in the fields of academics, business, cultural cooperation, disaster management and environmental protection.

In conclusion, While PM Modi has demonstrated India’s resolve to refuel the India’s development story by way of facilitating Japanese businesses and investments, there is renewed confidence among the Japan Inc who are well-versed with PM Modi as a result-oriented leader. Both countries stand to gain from their Global strategic partnership.

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भारतीय जनता पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह द्वारा पंजाब की स्थापना के स्वर्ण जयंती महोत्सव में दिए गए संबोधन के मुख्य बिंदु

पंजाब की स्थापना के स्वर्ण जयंती अवसर पर जी. गुरुओं व संतों की इस पावन घरी की नमन करते हुए मैं अपनी ओर से एवं प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की ओर से राजन्य के लोगों को हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ।

10 साल तक केंद्र ने नयी की जो सोनिया-मनमोहन की सरकार चली, उस दौरान हर कोई देश की सीमाओं को अपमानित करके चला जाता था, मोदी सरकार के ढ़ाई वर्षों में यह नज़ारा बदला है।

आज पूरी दुनिया को मालूम पड़ा है कि हिंदुस्तान की सीमा से छेड़खानी नहीं कर सकते, अगर ऐसा किया तो ईंट का जवाब दिने जा रहा है। जी की स्मृति वर्ष के रूप में मनाने के लिए विशेष प्रयास करेंगी।

आजादी के बाद देश के किसानों के लिए सबसे ज्यादा काम करने वाली बारी यदि कोई सरकार बनी है तो वह भारतीय जनता पार्टी की मोदी सरकार है।

कृषि, उद्योग, ग्रामीण विकास, रोजगार, अर्थव्यवस्थाएं या फिर स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की बात हो, हर क्षेत्र में, हर दृष्टि से इन 10 वर्षों में पंजाब को एक आदर्श सूबा बनाने का काम अकाली-भाजपा गठबंधन ने किया है।

देश में खाद्यन्त्र की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए जब हरित क्रांति की शुरुआत हुई तो पूरे देश के अन्न व खाद्य के अन्न तब भारतीय भाजपा के किसानों ने ही किया था। पंजाब के बौद्ध अन्न के क्षेत्र में देश की
स्वायत्तता की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती

- पंजाब भारत का जिगार है। प्राचीन काल से ही पंजाब की देश और धर्म की रक्षा के लिए शहादत व बलिदान की महान परम्परा रही है

- चाहे 1965 की लड़ाई हो, चाहे 1971 की लड़ाई हो, चाहे काफिल की लड़ाई हो या फिर चाहे आज आतंकवाद से लड़ाई हो, पंजाब कभी भी बलिदान देने से पीछे नहीं हटा

- सरदार भगत सिंह, उधम सिंह, लाला लाजपत राय, मदन लाल धींगरा जैसे कई वीर युवाओं ने देश के लिए बलिदान दिया

- हम जहां एक ओर पंजाब के युवाओं के बलिदान पर गर्व करते हैं, देश की सीमा की सुरक्षा में लगे पंजाब के वीर जवानों के साहस व शौर्य पर गर्व करते हैं, हारित क्रान्ति में पंजाब की भूमिका पर गर्व करते हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर पंजाब के युवाओं को नशेड़ी कहने वाले लोग पंजाब का मैडेट लेने के लिए आये हैं

- जो लोग पंजाब की युवा शक्ति पर गर्व नहीं कर सकते, पंजाब की वीरता पर गर्व नहीं कर सकते, किसानों के पसीने पर जिन्होंने अभिमान नहीं है, उनको पंजाब का वोट लेने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है
The revised edition of The Modi Doctrine: new paradigms in India's Foreign Policy was launched at Brussels on the 8th November 2016. The Europe-India Chamber of Commerce (EICC) and the Indian Embassy in Brussels organised the book launch and discussion.

Hon'ble Member of Parliament Dr. Swapan Dasgupta spoke at length on the occasion on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s foreign policy and overall vision of governance. Dr. Anirban Ganguly, Director Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation & one of the editors of the volume spoke on the dimensions of Prime Minister Modi’s foreign policy and how it is redefining India’s engagement with the world. Ambassador of India to Belgium and the European Union, H.E. Manjeev Puri spoke about Prime Minister Modi’s engagement with the EU and his larger vision for India-Europe ties. Shri Shishir Bajoria, Chairman Bajoria Group of Companies and Director of EICC proposed the vote of thanks.

Among those who participated in the book launch were Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden MBE, MEP, Chairman, Delegation for Relations with India and Mr. Jo Leinen, MEP, Committees on Environment, Foreign Policy & Constitutional Affairs. H.E. the Ambassador of Bhutan in Belgium-EU was also present on the occasion. Members of the Chambers of Commerce, Indian diaspora, officials of the European Union, experts and other members of the diplomatic corps were present on the occasion.
Counterfeit currency will drastically drop after Govt’s decision of Demonetisation & it will help in dismantling Terrorism financing in India.

By Demonetisation, Govt. has dismantled the terror financing network for atleast next 4 to 5 yrs.

It will take maximum of 2 months to return back to complete normalcy of cash. So, 6 month time frame given by opposition is false.

Biggest beneficiary of Demonetisation process of Modi Govt. is that honest citizen who has never evaded any tax in his life.

Demonetisation will increase the transparency in the system which will encourage FDI from foreign countries.

With this move of the PM, there has been a significant rise in the deposits made in the banks across India.

More money in the banks will lead to a fall in the rate of interest on loans charged by banks.
Discussion on
“DEMONETISATION, DEMOCRATISATION & NEW VISION OF GOVERNANCE”

Ashok Malik (Senior Columnist & Author)
in Conversation with
Prof. Bibek Debroy (Member, NITI Aayog)

Date: 26th November, 2016
“The gigantic task of reconstruction, cultural, social, economic and political can be rendered possible thought coordinated efforts of bands of trained and disciplined efforts of bands of trained and disciplined Indians. Armed with the knowledge of Indian’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 India 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