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AGRICULTURE

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 27, 2014

Rs 52.11 crore approved under food security mission

CHANDIGARH: [Haryana government](#) has approved Rs 52.11 crore for state [food security mission](#) for 2014-15 to encourage cultivation of food grains and cereals in the state.

This initiative would help encourage production and subsidisation of wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and commercial crops like sugarcane and cotton, an official spokesman said.

Training would be imparted to the farmers to encourage use of new farming techniques and technologies, Additional Chief Secretary of [Haryana Agriculture Department Roshan Lal](#) said.

Under the Mission, the target of production and area under wheat, pulses and coarse cereals would be completed in the districts while the proposal regarding commercial crops would be sent to the Union Government for approval.

An amount of Rs 34.33 crore has been allocated for improving production of wheat. Similarly, Rs 12.38 crore and Rs 5.40 crore have been approved for increasing the production of pulses and coarse grains, respectively, Roshan Lal added.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 26, 2014

Seven top priorities for the home ministry

Narendra Modi is keenly aware of high expectations after BJP's poll showing. With the new government ready to take charge under his leadership, Modi has his tasks defined. Addressing issues on the 'home' front will be one of his top priorities. Here are the seven top priorities of the home ministry:

1. Eliminate Indian Mujahideen (IM) as a foremost goal of the counter-terrorism strategy. Recent arrests of IM leaders have weakened the organization. Now is for concerted action to root it out.
2. While there's always a political angle to violent movements like Naxalism, the ministry must limit Naxalites' arc of influence with coordinated action, better intelligence, improved teeth-to-tail ratio in Central forces and political initiatives.
3. Focus needs to be brought back on the National Population Register (which suffered due to duplication with the Aadhaar card). A reliable database on our citizens will help tackle issues such as illegal immigration.
4. The new government would like a return of migrants to J&K. This isn't an easy job as only a sense of security can trigger the process of return migration. For that, the situation in J&K will have to ease up. This will require both political and security initiatives.
6. Police needs to be made people-oriented. Currently, a lot of people, especially the poor, view it with dread. Police is also seen as a force that works at the behest of its political masters, even illegally. Police reforms have been written out to make the force more autonomous, but nothing has been implemented. Carrying them out is a top task.
7. Other initiatives would include revamping intelligence agencies, use of technology for security operations, reforming the criminal justice system that has been pending for long. Streamlining the visa process would also be a priority if the government is to make tourism a high priority.

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 27, 2014

The equalizers: Women make up 25% of Narendra Modi Cabinet

NEW DELHI: Women may only account for 11% of all Lok Sabha MPs but they fared better when it came to representation in the Cabinet. Six women were sworn in as senior ministers on Monday, accounting for 25% of the Cabinet. They include Sushma Swaraj, Maneka Gandhi, Najma Heptulla, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Uma Bharti and Smriti Irani.

The number of women dropped sharply when it came to the ministers of state, though. There is only one MoS with independent charge, Nirmala Sitharaman, and no other women ministers.

However, the good news is that the women seem to be getting important, 'serious' ministries. While the portfolios had not been announced till late Monday night, if reports are to be believed, Swaraj is likely to get external affairs. If that happens, she will be the first woman to be part of the cabinet committee on Security (CCS) since Indira Gandhi. Irani is tipped for HRD, Gandhi women and child welfare, Badal food processing, and Heptulla minority affairs. Sitharaman is reportedly set to get independent charge of commerce. Bharti, meanwhile, announced on Twitter that she would be the minister for water resources even before any official announcement was made.

HINDU, MAY 27, 2014

Rajnath, Jaitley new power centres

VARGHESE K. GEORGE & SURESH NAMBATH



* Partial list of likely portfolios

Rewarding loyalty and promoting the younger generation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also accommodated all Bharatiya Janata Party heavyweights of his generation and representatives of key pre-poll allies, avoiding major surprises in the council of ministers.

Sushma Swaraj — not considered to be close to Mr Modi — has been inducted as Minister for External Affairs, the third in the pecking order of power at the Centre, after the Home Minister. However, Rajnath Singh and Arun Jaitley, key enthusiasts who helped Mr. Modi overcome the many hurdles through his campaign to become the 15th Prime Minister of India, will constitute his core team.

Smriti Irani, 38-year-old Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, has been appointed a Cabinet minister while Nirmala Sitharaman, an effective spokesperson but not a member of parliament, and Dharmendra Pradhan, who, as general secretary in-charge of Bihar delivered the State for the party, have been inducted as Ministers of State with independent charge.

There are seven women in the council, six of them in the Cabinet.

In picking his ministers, Mr. Modi seemed intent on demonstrating that he is his own man, on the lines of his campaign presenting himself as the BJP strongman who single-handedly changed the destiny of Gujarat. Long-time allies Shiv Sena and Akali Dal, and the important partner in the south, the Telugu Desam Party have been taken on board, but on Mr. Modi's terms, and newfound partners in Bihar, Ramvilas Paswan and Upendra Kuswaha — who represent powerful caste lobbies — have been humoured with an eye on the state elections in 2015.

Maharashtra and Haryana, two States that go to polls this year, have been represented tactically in the council.

While L.K. Advani, who served as Deputy Prime Minister under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and who was the BJP's prime ministerial candidate in 2009, could not have been expected to serve under Mr. Modi, the exclusion of Murli Manohar Joshi was an expression of the generational shift in 2014.

Ready to take risks

The risks the BJP could not take before the election Mr. Modi was ready to take now. But by including Ms. Swaraj and Venkaiah Naidu, both considered close to Mr. Advani, and Nitin Gadkari, a favourite of the RSS leadership, Mr. Modi demonstrated an ability to be accommodative.

Mr. Modi picked the Ministry also to emphasise the national sweep that the BJP has achieved in this election. Pon Radhakrishnan from Kanyakumari, India's southernmost constituency, Jitendra Singh from Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir and Kiren Rijju from Arunachal Pradesh are BJP Ministers in the council.

There are seven women in the council, six of them in the Cabinet

CHILD WELFARE

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 24, 2014

Modi's parting gift for govt staff, donates Rs 21 lakh for girl child welfare

Urges govt to create corpus out of his donation and set up a foundation that would be managed by CM and chief secretary of the state

As a parting gift for [girl child](#) of drivers and peons in government offices, Prime Minister designate [Narendra Modi](#) has urged the state government to set up a fund for their welfare. He has donated Rs 21 lakh from his personal savings which would be used as corpus.

Before leaving for New Delhi on May 22, Modi donated Rs 21 lakh from his personal saving for the welfare of girl child of drivers and peons employed in various government offices. Modi has urged the government to create a corpus out of his donation and set up a foundation that would be managed by the chief minister and the chief secretary of the state. Modi has also asked the state government to raise more funds for the foundation and support the lower-level government staff to educate and train their girl child.

During his term as [Gujarat](#) chief minister Modi had set up a Kanya Kelavni Nidhi (fund) for welfare of the girl child. Over the years through donations and auction of the various gifts he received Modi had collected Rs 89.96 crore for the fund.

To give an impetus to educating the girl child Modi had started the campaign known as 'Kanya Kelavani Abhiyan' or girl child education campaign in 2003. This campaign was linked with the school enrolment drive aimed at achieving 100 per cent enrollment on schools across the state. under this initiative in the month of June every year, MLAs and bureaucrats and senior government officials go out in every village of the state and request parents to send their children to school.

This was followed by the 'Gunotsav' or 'Celebrating Quality' campaign in 2009 with objective of improving the quality of schooling in Gujarat. This is a mass assessment process that helps in evaluating whether the large amount of educational and physical infrastructure is being optimally utilised or not. Gunotsav has also found commendation from the central government. The main objective of Gunotsav is to make sure that all children studying in primary schools (Std 2 to 7) achieve basic reading, writing and numerical skills.

CIVIL SERVICE

TRIBUNE, MAY 28, 2014

Govt staff on warpath again

Block-level protests against 'betrayal of trust' from June 5

Pradeep Sharma

Government staff, who held the state to ransom with their three-day strike in January this year, are on the warpath again against the state government's 'betrayal of trust'. With the proposed policy of regularisation of contractual and daily wage employees failing to get concrete shape, the employees decided to resume their agitation.

"The agitation will kick off with block-level protests on June 5," Subash Lamba, general secretary, Haryana Sarv Karamchari Sangh, said today.

"Memoranda will be submitted to MLAs and MPs on June 17 and 18. Employees' unions will meet on June 29 to chalk out their agitation programme," he said.

He alleged that except for the amendment in the assured career progression scheme and grade pay structure, the government had failed to implement other demands of employees, including the main demand of the regularisation of thousands of contractual and daily wage employees.

After a meeting with Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on February 26, the government announced that the services of those daily wage and contractual employees who had completed three years of regular service would be regularised.

The regularisation policy, which was to be on the pattern of the Punjab Government's regularisation policy, was to have major financial implications on the fund-starved Haryana Government.

With the model code of conduct coming into force in early March, the formulation of the regularisation policy was put on the backburner as there were many legal hurdles in the regularisation of thousands of employees.

A senior government functionary claimed that the process to regularise employees was on and a formal policy would be announced shortly.

On January 21, nearly two lakh employees, including roadways staff, went on a three-day strike, crippling essential services such as transport and water and power supply.

Arm-twisting by staff

After its dismal performance in the General Election, the Congress government can ill-afford to antagonise the powerful lobby of state government employees. It is widely

believed that influential employees' unions wanted to arm-twist the government ahead of Assembly elections in October.

[FINANCIAL EXPRESS, MAY 27, 2014](#)

Nripendra Misra named principal secretary to PM

SUMMARYNripendra Misra — a 1967-batch IAS officer from UP cadre — has been appointed principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nripendra Misra — a 1967-batch IAS officer from UP cadre — has been appointed principal secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Misra, who retired as Trai chairman in March 2009, was secretary, department of telecommunications, before that.

Misra told FE that his focus would be on implementation. "We will work towards removing bottlenecks," he said. Since demitting office as Trai chairman, Misra has been associated with the Public Interest Foundation.

Towards the end of his tenure as Trai chairman, Misra had a running battle with the then telecom minister, A Raja; Misra had written several letters to DoT, observing that his 2007 recommendations were being cherry-picked rather than being implemented in their entirety.

Misra holds a masters degree in Political Science from Allahabad University as well as in Public Administration from the Harvard University. As secretary between 2003 and 2005, Misra attempted the merger of BSNL and MTNL, but was stymied by their opposition.

His move to end BSNL's monopoly over its optic fibre cable was also not approved by Dayanidhi Maran in the UPA-I government.

Misra's recommendations to the DoT in 2007 that there be no cap on licences or no ceiling on mobile operators in a circle and also no auctions for spectrum in 800, 1,800 and 900 MHz bands, to ensure a level playing field between incumbents and new players, raised a major controversy.

[ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 27, 2014](#)

Government asks departments to depute staff as ministers' secretaries

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked all departments under it to identify and ensure availability of deputy secretary or director-level officers who could be deputed with newly-appointed ministers as private secretaries. "Since the process of appointing private

secretaries to ministers takes time, it would be in order to provide the services of an officer within the department till then, the department of personnel and training (DoPT) told all ministries in an office memorandum. Therefore, as an interim measure, it may be advisable to identify an officer working at deputy secretary (DS) or director level in the ministry or department who could be deputed to work with the new minister until a regular private secretary of the minister's choice is appointed", it said.

The DoPT said it would be an interim measure "for a short period of a month or so". "It may be ensured that such officer has sufficient tenure for this purpose. Such an officer would continue to work as DS or director and will not be eligible for redesignation as PS unless the minister wants him as a regular PS," the missive said.

It has asked all ministries to send a formal proposal later for regular appointment of PS or officer on special duty (OSD) to the minister. According to the rules, a Cabinet minister is entitled to 15 personnel as personal staff. It includes a PS, two each additional PS and assistant PS, one each first personal assistant, second personal assistant, Hindi stenographer, lower division clerk (LDC), driver, attendant and four peons.

A minister of state (MoS) is entitled to a 13-member official staff. It includes one each PS, additional PS, assistant PS and first personal assistant and two second personal assistant. An MoS also gets one each Hindi stenographer, LDC, driver and attendant and three peons. A minister of state holding independent charge may be given one extra assistant PS, if required. A total ceiling of 10 years be prescribed beyond which an officer may not be permitted to be appointed in the personal staff of ministers, irrespective of level, according to DoPT rules.

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 24, 2014

A first: Key secretaries told to give Narendra Modi powerpoints on road ahead

Significantly, Modi is not expected to have any aide with him from the PMO except for those meant to take notes of the meetings.

Surabhi , Subhomoy Bhattacharjee

For the first time ever for any incoming government, secretaries of key departments will make detailed presentations to the new Prime Minister Narendra Modi from May 27 on the roadmap and agenda ahead.

Most secretaries of key economic and strategic ministries were told about this by the cabinet secretary when they met him this week. These ministries include home, defence, finance and key infrastructure and economic ministries.

No Prime Minister has ever held such a meeting with secretaries before being briefed by the respective ministers and that, too, within 24 hours of moving in. But breaking this convention, Modi is expected to learn first hand from top officials the challenges this government faces the morning after his cabinet is sworn in.

Each of these ministries has already sent a status report to the cabinet secretary.

The expected format of the presentation: Secretaries will share a short set of slides — between five and 10 — on the critical issues that need to be addressed in their respective sectors. This will be followed by questions and answers with the PM. Each meeting could stretch late into the evenings.

Significantly, Modi is not expected to have any aide with him from the PMO except for those meant to take notes of the meetings. This is in tune with the way he has handled presentations made by secretaries in the Gujarat government.

“We have been told there is no time line for these meetings to end. The new PM is known to ask for minute details and so we are gearing up accordingly”, an official said. Carrying of references or files was considered a big no-no in Gandhinagar for such meetings and most secretaries are planning to emulate this style. One of them confirmed to The Indian Express that some officers had made calls to their counterparts in Gujarat to get “some tips.”

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had, in his first term, asked for written inputs from each Secretary and then sent out a detailed action agenda for them to follow up. His first meeting with them happened only in October, five months after he took over.

BUSINESS STANDARD, MAY 26, 2014

Top secretaries nervous, excited before rejig

Individual PowerPoint presentations to Modi rehearsed, homework on for any searching questions

Vrishti Beniwal & Nivedita Mookerji

The directive for ministry secretaries to make a presentation to the new prime minister this week, without a minister necessarily being around, is an important event. [PowerPoint](#) presentations and one-on-one meetings between PM and secretaries are not only a departure from the [Manmohan Singh](#) government - these also bring back three-decade-old memories of the Rajiv Gandhi government.

The secretaries gearing up for their first presentations to the new PM are both excited and nervous, amid speculation of a bureaucratic reshuffle, too. The exercise is expected to give the new PM a chance to assess the merit and potential of his top team. He is likely to get a sense of their level of judgement and vision through these initial interactions. For the secretaries, it will be the first opportunity to "impress the boss", said an official.

The perception is that one needs to be extra alert with [Narendra Modi](#), the prime minister-

elect. Some civil servants are also a bit edgy on the language Modi might prefer during interactions. And, what if he asks difficult questions? There won't be any additional secretaries or joint secretaries assisting them.

Time is yet to be allotted for the secretary-level presentations. Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth has asked all ministries to be ready with PowerPoint presentations on achievements, status of proposals, key goals in the next five years, low-hanging fruit, what shouldn't have happened and what could be rolled out immediately. Secretaries have been told the new PM can summon them any time during the week after his swearing-in. The home, finance and defence ministries will be the first to be called. If not on Tuesday (as the PM will be busy in bilateral meetings), then perhaps on Wednesday, followed by key infrastructure ministries.

"Immediate areas of concern, certain things which need tweaking, suggestions for the future and some wild ideas will be shared. Since the (Union) Budget is coming, that has also been lined up," said a senior finance ministry official.

Another official who picked up the phone late Saturday evening, an unusual time for bureaucrats to be in office, said the presentations, crisp and to the point, with timelines, had been prepared, rehearsed and re-rehearsed with the cabinet secretary. All leaves have been cancelled for at least the first two weeks in the government; some have even been called back from holiday. Among others, a proposed short trip to Nashik by agriculture ministry officers stood cancelled.

Secretaries will be given about 15 minutes each to take the PM through 12-15 slides of the presentation. Modi is unlikely to take any instant decisions, according to a former secretary who's aware of the way he works. "It's too early for any decision." He will give time to an official if he finds the presentation interesting and cut it short if he's not, he added.

Rajiv Gandhi's style of functioning was similar; he, too, often interacted directly with bureaucrats, cutting out the hierarchy. While information technology-savvy Gandhi used to ask secretaries to make PowerPoint presentations, he was also known to be impatient with officials. At least two secretaries were sent back to their respective states under Rajiv rule, says a former secretary.

Also, the fact that he'd announced the dismissal of his foreign secretary, A P Venkateswaran, at a press conference has not been forgotten. Venkateswaran had announced that the prime minister would go to Pakistan soon. However, Rajiv Gandhi

denied this statement. When a journalist pointed out what Venkateswaran had said, Rajiv said, "You will soon have a new foreign secretary."

Manmohan Singh believed more in discussion with bureaucrats, followed by "searching" questions and answers, rather than power points, though screen presentations were often part of the dialogue.

While secretaries have usually met Singh with their respective ministers, he's known to have asked bureaucrats to feel free to meet him on their own as well.

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 24, 2014

Narendra Modi sarkar puts the brakes on babu break

NEW DELHI: For probably the first time in years, this Monday, secretaries to the Government of India were asked to cancel all leave plans and stay in office for the next two weeks to gear up for the new government.

"I have been working at the Centre for six years now, but haven't seen such a diktat yet. Even when Parliament was rocked by debates on missing coal allocation files or the economy's slowdown worsened over the past year, the officials in charge of these ministries would travel abroad or outside Delhi without any fuss," an official said.

The buzz that has been missing from government offices for years is tangible even before next Prime Minister Narendra Modi, known for a nononsense rather than business-asusual approach, takes charge.

Amitabh Kant - one of the most forthright secretaries in the government these days and the only babu at the Centre who is followed by Modi on social media platform Twitter - is probably the first to welcome the change in the mood after the poll results.

"(This is the) first time a CM in office will take over as the Prime Minister of India. With three terms as CM, Modi will hit the ground running,"

Kant tweeted, reflecting the hope for action in somnolent sarkari corridors after years of policy paralysis.

"Mr Modi appears to be a PM who will deliver and his government will be an action-oriented government. It will be exciting to work in the new regime," said another secretary in one of the key ministries operating out of Delhi's Shastri Bhawan, hoping that the civil services' steel frame would be restored to its original shape and officials get more freedom to execute projects and policies under the NaMo government.

In several ministries and departments, some of this fresh burst of energy is just nervous energy, as a big-ticket bureaucratic reshuffle could be on the cards as the government settles in.

"Yes, the entire system is filled with enthusiasm in the hope of a decisive regime under Modi after years of dithering. But many officials are hyperactive because of the fear of being booted out if you are unable to justify your position," said a senior official.

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 26, 2014

Babus revisit NDA govt schemes for Modi

Ajith Athrady

With the BJP-led NDA government returning to power at the Centre after a decade, bureaucrats are busy culling data on the status of the Vajpayee-led NDA government programmes like PMGSY, Sarva Shiksha Abiyan, Anna Antyodaya Yojana, Golden Quadrilateral Highways and port connectivity roads.

The officers of the various ministries, who have been preparing for presentation for the new prime minister, are also working on the status report of popular programmes implemented by the NDA government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1998 to 2004, expecting that new government may be keen to know its implementation.

"As there is a high chances of Modi-led government to revive these programmes again, we are getting ready for it," an official from the Cabinet Secretariat told Deccan Herald.

The UPA government had earlier came under severe criticisms from the BJP that the Congress-led dispensation at the Centre during its two terms had failed to push the NDA government programmes by either not allotting fund or making it crawling to either highways construction or Prime Minister Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), centrally sponsored rural road scheme.

While several ports connecting roads took years to complete, the UPA government also faced criticism for failure to push several other infrastructure projects.

Cabinet Secretary Ajit Kumar Seth is likely to hold meeting with senior secretaries to the Union government on Wednesday to review their presentations for Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi about the success and failure of various schemes and projects of the previous governments in past 10 years.

Sources said Seth directed that presentations must include things like five important achievements, failures and steps the department would like to take in order to boost the country's economic growth. He also asked all Central secretaries to write what should not have been done by the previous government besides providing "four or five practical goals/ achievements" which can be pursued "for the next five years", if "freedom is given" to the bureaucrats.

Officials have also been asked to furnish top achievements of their respective ministry in the last one decade and the gap between the actual result and the intended plan.

TELEGRAPH, MAY 24, 2014

PMO set to import Gujarat model

Officials being shortlisted for capital duty

RADHIKA RAMASESHAN

New Delhi, May 23: Narendra Modi is understood to have asked his former chief principal secretary, K. Kailasanathan, to shortlist 12 IAS officers the Prime Minister-elect might wish to appoint in “critical” posts at the Centre.

A parallel exercise to sift and pick bureaucrats has kicked in along with the “consultations” Modi has been holding with BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Arun Jaitley and Nitin Gadkari to put in place his council of ministers.

The need to fortify the Centre’s steel frame of bureaucracy acquired a sense of urgency because of a perception that the erstwhile UPA government had accommodated its alleged favourites in key posts in its last days. “In the process, the former dispensation has put a question mark on the neutrality of these officers,” an official said.

Whether the UPA did so or not, a regime change invariably brings with it a bureaucratic makeover. If Atal Bihari Vajpayee went out of his way to pack the bureaucracy with officers from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, indications are Modi might initially go in for those from Gujarat because of the familiarity factor.

Arvind Sharma, who has been Modi’s additional principal secretary since 2001, is already in Delhi and is expected to function as his principal secretary.

Official sources in Gandhinagar described Sharma as Modi’s “ideal” officer. “One who is in sync with his boss’s ideas and has the drive to execute them,” an officer said, recalling that as the CEO of the Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board, Sharma had implemented Modi’s special investment zones.

Possibly winging their way into the PMO from Gandhinagar are Girish Chandra Murmu and Hasmukh Adhia, IAS officers of the 1985 and 1981 batches. Adhia, who has five years before he retires, reportedly sought a clear job profile before considering relocation.

It seems some officers Modi was personally keen on were not sure how they would cope with the “demands” of Delhi or function in its power-packed corridors.

But, the sources pointed out, Bharat Lal, an officer of the Indian Forest Service, should have no such reservations. He has been the Gujarat government’s resident commissioner since 2010 and worked as Modi’s point person in the capital, interacting with power centres and diplomats.

Lal had also worked in the UPA's first regime with Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the former rural development minister, on implementing MGNREGA, the rural job programme. He is expected to move into Modi's PMO.

In assembling a core team of officials known to him in the administration, Modi has signalled that his PMO would be the nodal point of governance just like his CMO in Gandhinagar was. In Gujarat, this did not mean overt centralisation or micro-management; rather the team of officials tried to ensure that systems were followed at each stage without interference or impediments.

Sources in the bureaucracy in Delhi claimed that the much-needed "trust" quotient Modi would need to function effectively might take longer to settle in than he would expect. "Ten years of the UPA rule have created a strong block of partisans in the bureaucracy, who discreetly profess allegiance to the Congress. Weaning away their loyalties might take a long time," a source said.

Shortly before the election results were announced, some appointments were made. They include A.B. Pandya, who was appointed as chairman of the Central Water Commission; Bhagwati Prasad Pandey, additional secretary and financial adviser, commerce and industry; Lov Verma, secretary, health and family welfare; and Shankar Agarwal, secretary, women and child development.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS LINE, MAY 30, 2014

The Gujarat model revisited

ARUP MITRA

It makes sense to prioritise industry-led growth over doles as a means of social uplift
Dole duty MNREGS programmes are unsustainable in the long run Mohd Arif
The debate around the Gujarat model of development is based on the following template.
Both the level and the rate of change in the social indicators are immensely important. If
the level of social indicators is low and the rate of growth is also negligible, the situation
is the worst of all.

However, if the rate of growth is fast in a region, it holds the possibility of catching up
with the developed regions.

Naturally one cannot afford to ignore growth, though there are examples to suggest
evolved social indicators despite sluggish growth.

Such an outcome is possible either because of a proactive state creating awareness among
public in a significant manner, or social movements being influential enough to outweigh
economic non-performance. In the absence of all this the economist's desperate argument
in favour of economic changes as an agent of change in social indicators comes into play.

So, one is back to the issue of growth — not only growth but also the determinants of
growth, some of which may have a direct impact on social indicators. Take the case of
infrastructure, which contributes to growth and also enables the population to access
better health and educational facilities.

Better options

In this context of these conundrums, the Gujarat model, with its emphasis on
manufacturing, makes lot of sense. If industry can be the engine of growth at the all-India
level there is no doubt pro-poor programmes will also get a boost.

This is not to deny the fact that the manufacturing sector has also become highly capital
intensive over time and even the so-called labour intensive industries have witnessed a
major decline in labour to value added ratio.

But expansion in the manufacturing sector will have better implications in terms of
employment generation rather than just services led growth.

Despite a steady rise in the share of the services sector in total GDP, the spillover effect
of the manufacturing sector's performance on the rest of the economy is seen to be much
greater than the other way around.

If a large part of the workforce has to be shifted from agriculture to non-agriculture, it is manufacturing which holds the key. So how the manufacturing sector can take the lead, and how the unorganised component within this sector can be made economically viable, are some of the challenges for inclusive growth.

UPA's errors

The UPA government initiated the National Manufacturing Policy but a lot more needs to be done.

It did not falter on the growth front. There has been sustained accelerated growth in the last 15 years or so, until the global crisis occurred. However, inflation and the charges of corruption and inaction were serious enough to cause its ouster in the recent election.

On top of that there was a major crisis related to leadership. But an unnoticed and huge error, apart from the stress on services over manufacturing, was the lopsided emphasis on doles instead of productivity.

The popular Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) could not create assets to make households or communities self-sufficient. Even the beneficiaries understood the limitations of these programmes, though research tends to suggest that they resulted in wage increase and reduced distress migration to urban areas.

At most they provided consumption support in a limited sense but the implementation was haphazard, as revealed by several Jan Sunwai events or public hearings. People revealed how towards the end of the financial year there was always a rush to settle accounts and public money was spent to "dig holes and fill them in".

A significant change in perception this time round was that slums would no longer be the biggest vote-banks. The growing participation of the middle class was recognised; it became apparent that discourse around doles may not pay off.

The new agenda included provision of infrastructure, expansion in business, and modernisation of cities. These call for an accent on manufacturing – precisely the sector where Gujarat has excelled. Therefore, following the Gujarat model can make a difference to India.

The writer is a professor at the Institute of Economic Growth,

New Delhi

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EDUCATION

HINDU, MAY 29, 2014

Delhi University introduces mobile app to smarten admission procedure

VIJETHA S.N

Delhi University is all geared up to smarten up its admissions procedure from introducing mobile apps to forming 'flying squads' to supervise whether all the rules of admission procedure are being followed. Also, colleges will now have to make public the number of students that they have admitted with each list.

"There will be flying squads, or committees of teachers, who will be visiting every college in the university, all over the city so that last year's mistakes are not repeated again," said Joint Dean Students' Welfare Neerav Malay, adding that the 'Admissions Assistance and Monitoring Committee' will also have to ensure that information is not being withheld on any account.

Last year, there were several colleges who illegally did not admit students meeting the cut-offs by closing their admission gates too early.

"Also, colleges usually do not reveal the number of students that they have admitted, now they will have to do so, along with the courses of each of these students. This will have to be revealed on a daily basis. This is being done so that a student hoping for admission in a particular college can access his chances of getting a seat, without losing out elsewhere. For example, an out-of-station student can make a choice of his college depending upon his chances of getting into the hostel," he added.

After making the admission process almost entirely available online; a mobile "app" with similar features will be introduced this admission season.

This mobile "app" can be used to buy application forms, submit them and pose enquiries as well as search for admission-related information.

"The application has been developed by me and is meant to help students with any information they need. From the time of buying the pre-admission form to submitting the applications and checking the cut-offs of the colleges and the admission status. The app will be managed by my office with help from our student volunteers," said Deputy Dean, Students' Welfare Gurupreet Singh Tuteja, adding that it had taken him about three months to build the template of the application.

The mobile application is possible only if you have an android phone and is called: "DU UG Admission 2014-15." It will remain active throughout the admission season.

[TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 29, 2014](#)

UGC retracts letter on ad hoc teachers

NEW DELHI: Within a week of writing to DU colleges saying there's no provision for salaries to ad hoc appointments , the University Grants Commission has withdrawn the May 19 letter. The DU teachers' association , which has written to the UGC in protest and demanded it, has welcomed the withdrawal.

The UGC has clarified in its May 27 letter that "the position as regards 'teachers appointed on contract basis' remains as per clause 13.1 of the UGC Regulations 2010." The letter further clarified "teachers appointed on contract basis and "guest/parttime" teachers are two distinct categories" and remunerations to them are covered by different guidelines.

"We welcome UGC's timely decision to withdraw its earlier letter...which caused a lot of anxiety to the 5000-odd ad hoc teachers in DU. For no fault of their own, these teachers are forced to continue working on ad hoc basis. " says a statement from DUTA.

The UGC's May 19 letter had said, "College may not appoint any ad hoc teacher as the salary of ad hoc teacher is not admissible as per UGC norms/guidelines." UGC had further directed that posts of teachers on leave (presently filled by ad hoc teachers) be filled by "contract/substitute teachers" who'll be given "full salary except allowances, gratuity and increment."

[TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 28, 2014](#)

DU keeps sports, ECA quota at 5%

[Manash Pratim Gohain](#)

NEW DELHI: Delhi University has issued guidelines for admission of students to the four-year undergraduate programme in sports category . Five percent seats are reserved in all colleges for those seeking admission in the combined category of sports and extracurricular activities (ECA) on supernumerary basis.

According to the guidelines , these are two-step admissions—in the super category and trial category. Those who have participated in international sporting events fall in the super category and are eligible for direct admission. The rest need to take fitness tests to be followed by sports trials. There will be three tests—strength , endurance and speed.

Aspirants must apply in individual colleges. Colleges are being asked to notify their requirement of players of different sports in their prospectus.

"Admission will be based on sports trials which will have a maximum of 50 marks and sports certificates, also having a maximum of 50 marks. A minimum of 18 marks must be

scored by the candidate in sports trials," joint dean of students' welfare Malay Neerav said.

Each college will have a sports admission committee in which the principal will be the chairperson and the teacher in charge of physical education the convener. The committee will also have a physical education teacher as member, one expert nominated by the college from the confidential list given by the DU sports council, one faculty member nominated by the sport council, one regular bona fide sports student representative , one DU sports council representative and one vice-chancellor's nominee as observer.

Before the sports trials, candidates, other than those from the super category, need to qualify in a fitness trial. A candidate needs to qualify in two of them, except those from the field of archery, shooting and chess who need to qualify in one test. "A student needs to get the fitness certificate only once from any of the colleges," Neerav said. Only those who have achieved distinction in sports during the last three years in a competition recognized by Association of Indian Universities and Indian Olympic Association are eligible for the quota.

Lists of the finally selected candidates containing trial marks, certificate marks and other details as well as the course allotted are to be submitted along with a copy of qualifying Class XII marks to DU sport council at the earliest so that these may be displayed at the university website for seven days in order to ensure that grievances , if any, are taken cognizance of. A grievance committee for sports admission has also been constituted by the VC with the secretary , DU sports council, as its convener.

A SPORTING CHANCE RULES FOR ADMISSION IN SPORTS CATEGORY

Sports and ECA quota: 5% of total intake Level of competence determined only of candidate achieving distinction in sports during the last 3 years in competitions recognized by Association of Indian Universities and Indian Olympic Association Admission based on performance in sports trials 50 marks weightage for sports certificates and 50 marks for sports trials Candidate needs to secure of at least 18 marks in sports trials Colleges to notify requirement of players of various sports along with respective positions in prospectus One fitness test certificate valid for all colleges All sports trials to be video-graphed

CATEGORIES:

Super category:

Direct admission by colleges without trials to sportspersons who have participated or represented the country in Olympics or World Championships organized by international sports federations, Asian Games, Asian championships organized by the international federation of the respective games, Commonwealth, SAF and Afro-Asiana games,

paralympics recognized by International Olympic Committee or ministry of youth affairs and sport

Via sports trials:

The candidates need to qualify the fitness test and then take the sports-specific trial. Sports trials includes skill test, game performance test, game-specific fitness and fundamentals of the game

FITNESS TESTS

Strength:

Standing broad jump (1.65 metres for men, 1.15 metres for women)

Endurance:

1,000 metres run or walk (5 min for men, 6 min for women)

Speed:

50 metres dash (8s for men, 9s for women) It is essential for candidates to qualify any two of the three fitness tests to be eligible for trials

Exception:

For archery, shooting and chess one needs to qualify in just one fitness test

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 28, 2014

State for 'multi-varsity' system to help students choose any elective subject

Lakshmi Ajay

Choice-based electives for students will enable an Engg. student to take up music or a commerce graduate an elective on agriculture

In the near future, an engineering student in Gujarat can take up music or a commerce graduate can opt for an elective in agriculture. This is the kind of academic mobility being worked out by the Gujarat government, through a "multi-varsity" system that is likely to be introduced from the new academic session beginning July. Initially, 13 institutes, including Gujarat Technological University, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad University, Nirma University, CEPT University, City Pulse Institute of Film & Television, National Institute of Design, PDPU and Rai University have shown the willingness to participate in the initiative and offer courses.

"In the last meeting of all vice-chancellors(VC's) of various varsities held on May 9 in Ahmedabad, this system was discussed and a final draft has been drawn up and circulated among them. This will pave the way for choice-based electives for students, whereby an engineering student can take up music or a commerce graduate can do an elective on agriculture if he so wishes. This can be done by either taking online courses or by

attending required number of classes in one semester to complete the course,” a state government official said.

A separate entity under the Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat (KCG), established by the Department of Education, has been formed to look into the system and its implementation. For starters, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU), Gandhinagar, is looking forward to offer online electives on “Petroleum” and “Solar Energy” for a total of two credits for students from different varsities consisting of 30 hours each. “However the success of the initiative depends on more universities opening up courses, which is yet to happen,” said P K Banik, Director General of PDPU.

“The content of the course should also look at employability quotient of the student and will have to fulfil a 13-point mandate by the participating institute regarding the course it plans to offer. Post scrutiny by the committee, the institute is free to offer it and course will be reviewed periodically after every semester. Institutes can have weekend courses or finish it in a semester,” a source said.

You are here: [Home](#) » [National](#) » 'Govt spending on education will double'

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 28, 2014

'Govt spending on education will double'

Smriti Zubin Irani took charge of the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on Tuesday, saying she would seek to ensure that government spending in the education sector is increased to 6 per cent of the GDP from the current 3.8 per cent.

Making it clear that she would leave no stone unturned to fulfil the promises made by the BJP in its poll manifesto for the education sector, the new HRD minister said her immediate priorities were to establish a national e-Library to empower school teachers and students as well as the setting up of a central university on Himalayan technology.

“To me, it is not a position of authority but a position of service. I want to assure that we will leave no stone unturned to fulfil the promises made by our party in its poll manifesto in next five years,” Irani told reporters.

Expressing her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and her party for giving her the HRD portfolio, the Minister said she felt honoured as the post was earlier held by senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi during the previous regime of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Many bills, formulated by the United Progressive Alliance government to bring reforms in the education sector during its regime, have either lapsed or are pending passage in Parliament. Irani said these bills would be studied for possibility of their introduction afresh in Parliament.

“On behalf of the Ministry, we have undertaken a study of all the pending bills in the Parliament, all pros and cons of these legislations. I will only say, instead of making any specific statements right now, we are having ministerial meetings within our departments to see what can be done,” she said.

The HRD Ministry faced a crisis of consensus on many of its education reforms agenda during the UPA regime. Irani said her Ministry will evolve a consensus among all the stakeholders before taking any final decision on any of the issues.

HINDU, MAY 24, 2014

Ph.D in history has become an academic exercise'

Students must realise significance of monuments: MLC

MLC Arun Shahapur has said that obtaining Ph.D in history has become mere an academic exercise, for some students, than a work that could shed new light on history for the present generation. He was speaking at the seminar on 'Past, Present and Future prospects of Bijapur Heritage' organised on account of a week-long programme to celebrate International Museum Day by Archeological Survey of India, Dharwad circle, here on Friday.

He said that the research students should undertake the Ph.D not merely for getting better job opportunities in teaching section, but primarily for giving an insight of unknown historical events, for better understanding of the history.

He felt the need for the government to organise study tours for Pre-University students to make them realise the significance of historical monuments.

Mr. Shahapur said that it was heartening and a matter of pride for the people of Bijapur to know that during Adil Shahi period, they had built an exemplary underground water supply system, without the presence of heavy machines unlike today.

“Unfortunately, despite having advanced technology and heavy machines, we are unable to supply water to people, we must introspect where we are going wrong”, the MLC said.

ELECTIONS

HINDU, MAY 27, 2014

The importance of high turnout

SANJAY KUMAR

SHREYAS SARDESAI

SUCCESS RATE AND RISE IN TURNOUT			
Turnout Increase since 2009	Number of seats	Seats won by NDA	% of total seats won
15% points and above	70	67	95.7%
10-14.99% points	145	125	86.2%
0.1-9.99% points	267	123	46.1%
No change/decline in turnout	61	21	34.4%

Analysis based on turnout figures released by ECI



The 2014 Lok Sabha election saw several previous records being shattered, participation of voters being prominent among them. At 66.4 per cent, voter turnout was the highest that India has ever seen in a national election. Compared to the turnout in 2009, the 2014 turnout was eight percentage points higher. This rise is also the highest ever between two successive parliamentary elections.

How much did this unprecedented turnout contribute to the National Democratic Alliance's sweeping victory? An analysis of the constituency-level turnout data released by the Election Commission does indicate a link between the success rate of the NDA and the increase in turnout. If we compare the percentage point increase in turnout at the constituency-level with the winning party in that constituency, we find that the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies had a greater likelihood of winning seats where the turnout increase was higher.

A State-wise disaggregated look at the turnout figures shows an interesting mix of continuity and drastic change. Nagaland recorded the highest turnout at 87.8 percent

followed by Tripura (84.7 percent) and Sikkim (83.4 percent). These were the top three turnout States in 2009 also. Assam and West Bengal too recorded very impressive turnouts. Overall 17 States recorded turnouts higher than the national average and 12 were below it. At the bottom of the list was Jammu and Kashmir again, but here too the turnout jumped by ten percentage points. However this increase was largely due to the effect of a huge rise in voter participation in Udhampur and Jammu; turnout in the Kashmir Valley remained low. While both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh recorded below 60 per cent polling, the turnout rise in both States was a good 11 percentage points. Interestingly, of all the States, Goa recorded the biggest percentage point jump (+21) in turnout. In fact, barring Nagaland which saw its turnout fall marginally, every State saw its turnout rise.

One of the major reasons for the polling percentage going up has been the increased participation of women. Nationally, 65.6 per cent of all registered female voters turned out to vote, a rise of ten percentage points. Men were only marginally ahead at 67.1 per cent. In as many as ten States, women’s participation was greater than that of men.

The other interesting takeaways are that in seats with high SC and ST population proportions, the overall polling was higher compared to the turnout in seats with lesser SC and ST proportions. This pattern perhaps indicates high voting by non-ST and non-SC communities in seats where SCs and STs dominate. The overall locality-wise pattern also remains the same with semi-urban seats recording the highest turnout (68.7 per cent) followed by rural seats (66.5 per cent). Highly urban seats recorded the lowest turnout (61.1 percent) yet again, although it must be added that the percentage point increase in turnout was much higher in urban seats compared to semi-urban and rural seats. This perhaps indicates greater participation by middle and upper class voters in cities.

(Sanjay Kumar and Shreyas Sardesai are with Lokniti, CSDS.)

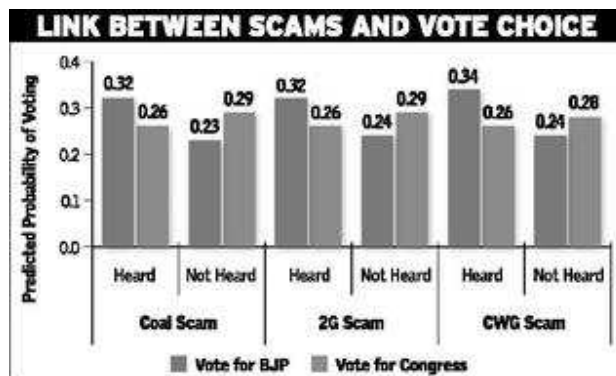
HINDU, MAY 27, 2014

Does corruption influence voter choice?

PRADEEP CHHIBBER

HARSH SHAH

RAHUL VERMA



There is overwhelming consensus that the Congress-led UPA has performed poorly in this election owing to charges of massive corruption at the highest level, besides lack of leadership and the government's inability to control price rise. Political commentators and the BJP-led NDA made repeated references during election campaigns to the coal scam, the 2G spectrum allocation scam, the commonwealth games (CWG) scam and the Adarsh Housing scam among others. But the BJP too faced its own share of trouble — among other accusations, Narendra Modi's government in Gujarat was alleged to be favouring the Adani business group and Nitin Gadkari was alleged to be involved with the Perti group. Notwithstanding the campaign rhetoric, however, the issue of corruption does not matter in the way commentators and political parties think it does.

Knowledge of scams

This is not to say that voters in India do not care about corruption. There is a crucial difference in how voters think about corruption and how political parties and leaders represent this issue in their campaigns. Voters care more about the corruption they encounter on an everyday basis, whereas parties make the issue a spectacle.

In our view, big-ticket corruption does not determine electoral outcomes in India for two important reasons. First, a large proportion of the electorate has never heard of the corruption scams that occupy newspaper headlines and prime-time television space. In July 2013 (tracker I poll), Lokniti-CSDS contacted more than 18,000 citizens and found that awareness among the general public on scams such as 2G and coalgate was quite low. Only half of the sampled respondents said that they had heard of the coal scam; 40 per cent knew of the 2G scam. For all other scams, less than a third of the citizens reported that they had heard of them. Not surprisingly, the awareness of all of these scams is much lower among women, the poor and respondents residing in rural areas.

Second, did knowledge of a scam influence which party a citizen preferred? The 2013 tracker poll had asked respondents whom they would vote for in the elections. We estimated a statistical model that would assess whether a respondent's knowledge of the scams would influence which party he/she preferred, after controlling his/her demographic characteristics (age, gender, caste, religion, economic class and locality of the respondent, and his/her exposure to the media.) We found that there was no statistically significant influence of the knowledge of scams on the respondent's preference for the the two main parties — the Congress and the BJP.

The table shows that the likelihood of a voter preferring the Congress remained almost the same whether or not he/she had heard of the party's involvement in scams. Those who had heard of the scams were a little more likely to vote for the BJP but the difference in the probability of a voter voting for the BJP after hearing about the scams is no more than 10 per cent (and that too only for the CWG scam) and does not pass the threshold of statistical significance. In layman's terms, the difference in the probability of a voter voting for the BJP after hearing of a scam and one opting for the BJP without having any knowledge of a scam is zero.

Local-level corruption

Why do these scams have no bearing on vote choice? In our view, this is because it is the corruption of local-level institutions which matters more to voters. In the State of the Nation survey conducted in January 2009, respondents were asked if it was possible to get work done in a government office if the work was legitimate and if one had all the documents. Only one in every five respondents said yes. The others said that despite having all the documents, even for legitimate work one needed to either know someone important, pay a bribe, or both. Similarly, data from the State of the Nation survey (2011) show that people are much more concerned with the everyday corruption they face while interacting with local-level state institutions — the police, Block Development Officers etc. It is extremely difficult for a voter to use this local-level corruption as the basis for casting his/her vote. Since most local-level corruption cases are directly linked to state officials and are not directly linked to any particular party, corruption is not an issue on which voters discriminate while exercising their franchise.

(Pradeep Chhibber, Harsh Shah and Rahul Verma are with the Travers Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, U.S.)

ENVIRONMENT

HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAY 30, 2014

After Modi, his ministers pitch for clean, green Ganga

Moushumi Das Gupta

A clean-up of the Ganga, long overdue, has emerged as a key theme for the NDA government, with at least three ministers gearing up for a concerted move to fix its growing pollution and environmental threats.

Shipping minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday was the latest to join the list of ministers who have pitched in to rejuvenate the holy river — a move signalling the “high priority” status accorded to the project by Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#). The BJP manifesto has also promised to ensure uninterrupted flow of the Ganga.

“It is my dream to restore sacred Ganga’s glory and utilise this ancient river’s full potential by using it as a waterway from Gangotri to Kanpur, Kanpur to Allahabad and Allahabad to Kolkata to transport people as well as cargo,” Gadkari said after taking charge as highways and shipping minister.

Gadkari met Modi on Wednesday morning to discuss the plan. He said he will soon talk to his counterparts in stakeholder ministries like water resources and Ganga rejuvenation, tourism, urban development, environment and forest to thrash out details.

“We will prepare a roadmap for transforming this ancient river into a mode for cargo and public transport. The area around the stretches would also be beautified. This will not only help develop tourism but will also bring in revenue,” he said.

On Tuesday, Uma Bharti who took over charge as minister of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation had also announced that cleaning up the river would be the topmost priority of her ministry. “I will come out with a blueprint for the project within a fortnight,” Bharti had said.

Bharti’s colleagues — tourism minister Shripad Naik and urban development minister M Venkaiah Naidu — have also spoken about the proposed plans of their respective ministries to beautify the river and develop the pilgrim city of Varanasi to promote tourism.

JUDICIARY

HINDU, MAY 26, 2014

Rohatgi may be next A-G

J. VENKATESAN

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi is likely to succeed G.E. Vahanvati as the next Attorney-General. Mr. Vahanvati is expected to resign on Tuesday.

Though senior advocate Harish Salve's name was also considered for the post along with some others, the choice narrowed down to Mr. Rohatgi, who had appeared for the Gujarat government in a number of cases.

Meanwhile, Solicitor-General Mohan Parasaran has resigned to enable the Modi government to appoint a new person to the post.

Mr. Parasaran told *The Hindu* that he had sent his resignation to the Law Secretary for the new government to consider. He said Additional Solicitors-General Indira Jaising, L. Nageswara Rao, Siddharth Luthra and K.V. Viswanathan had already put in their papers.

Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar is the top contender for the post of Solicitor-General.

LIBRARIES

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 24, 2014

Modi its new head, Sonia resigns from Nehru Memorial Society

Anubhuti Vishnoi

Minister-elect Narendra Modi will be the president of the NMML Society after he is sworn in next week.

The NMML Society, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, is presided over by the Prime Minister.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday resigned from the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), an institution that is considered an important legacy of the Nehru-Gandhi family and with which she has been associated for years now.

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According to the rules, the NMML Society, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, is presided over by the Prime Minister. So Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi will be the president of the NMML Society after he is sworn in next week.

While NMML director Dr Mahesh Rangarajan declined to comment, highly placed sources confirmed that Sonia, who was NMML chairperson, had resigned. Sonia is also learnt to have resigned from the membership of the government's National Committee on the Commemoration of the 125th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 26, 2014

Librarians to stage demonstration in Mumbai on June 2

[Sumita Sarkar](#),

NASHIK: Librarians with BLib (bachelor of library) degree from across the state will stage a demonstration in Mumbai on June 2 demanding salary on a par with those with BEd (bachelor of education) degree.

The librarians had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in 1998 over the demand and though the Bombay high court (HC) had ruled in their favour, the order has not yet been implemented.

They will stage the demonstration along with MLCs of Konkan, Pune and Nagpur to protest the "disobedience" of the court order by the government. The librarians from Nashik district said they were contemplating a contempt petition against the government next month.

There are 35 qualified librarians in Nashik district and 225 across the state. Vilas Sonar, representative of the association of Nashik district secondary schools non-teaching staff, said, "On June 2, we will stage a demonstration in Mumbai when the assembly starts along with MLCs of Teachers' Constituencies of various places.

We want to know why two different resolutions on the same issue have been passed by the government."

"On December 5, 2006, the government decided to pay all the qualified librarians akin to their BEd counterparts. But the government resolution (GR) was not uploaded on the website.

By the time we got the GR, we noticed that the 's' from the word 'librarians' was omitted in the GR, which meant that only the librarian who had filed the PIL will be getting that pay scale," said Mandar Limaye, the lawyer of the petitioners.

"We then filed a contempt petition. The government appealed to the Supreme Court and it ruled in our favour on January 24, 2014. On March 8, the government filed a review petition in the SC but it was dismissed.

Before the hearing of our contempt petition in the HC, the government came up with another GR on April 1 mentioning DEd scale," he added.

During the hearing on May 9, the petitioners objected to the new GR as it contradicted the new GR.

Next month, when the court opens after vacation, the petitioners will be filing another contempt petition.

Sonar said of the 200 librarians in the state, around 150 are expected to join the agitation in Mumbai.

MASS MEDIA

HINDU, MAY 24, 2014

The humble origins of radio broadcast in India

NITYA MENON

The transmitter used by the first-ever broadcasting station in the country, now preserved in the government museum at Egmore

Madras city, a decade short of a century ago, made broadcasting history in South Asia. On May 16, 1924, the Madras Presidency Radio Club (MPRC) transmitted the country's first radio broadcasting programme from Ripon Buildings. The objective of the club, led by C.V. Krishnaswami Chetti, a Manchester-trained electrical engineer of the Madras Corporation, was to stimulate interest and foster the study of radio communications in the Presidency.

For Chetti, the radio held the keys to propelling the country out of the 'pocket of darkness' it was then wedged in. The club wasted no time in laying the groundwork to establish the broadcasting service. The first batch of wireless sets was procured from the British Marconi Telegraph Wireless Company.

Their agents conducted sessions, demonstrating how to use the sets, for members of the club. On 1st Line Beach, a series of receiving sets were displayed for sale to encourage curiosity in the new medium. The club's station began regular broadcasts by July, from Halloways Garden in Egmore.

The club offered its members practical training on manipulating the apparatus, opportunities to attend lectures by experts like W.H. Calway, as well as exclusive access to important radio journals.

In an effort to increase membership, the management initiated drives specifically to appropriate students and ladies. Even a bar was opened on its premises to appeal to a wider demographic.

It was, however, only with the relaying of recorded concerts from the newly-built 'draped studios' the radio club hit the jackpot.

The recorded concerts of instrumental pieces, vocal compositions and monologues by humorists proved to be hugely popular. Within the first year, the club aired around 40 English and 52 Indian concerts that captivated the nascent listening public in the city.

By 1927, the club, which primarily relied on amateur local talent, began attracting professional artistes. So much so that radio listeners' clubs began to crop up. One reader from Madras, for instance, in a letter to the editor in *The Hindu* talks of the need to start a listeners' club.

The club, however, was forced to shut shop having run into financial trouble. The service was continued by the Corporation which ran it as a municipal service from 1929.

There were ambitious plans of expanding the broadcasting service through the Presidency, including in mofussil areas. Loudspeakers were to be strategically placed in important parts of city.

Twice every week, after 5.30 p.m., the beaches of Marina, Santhome and the High Court would resound with the reverb of amplified radio broadcasts of music, and 10-minute lectures. Radio was to be used as an integral element in classroom teaching as well, with indoor radio receivers being fixed in Corporation schools.

Nine years later, in June, All India Radio established its station in Madras, taking over the service. The radio wave, as it were, had already made a sweep in the Presidency.

In 1924, the country's first radio programme was broadcast from Ripon Buildings

MINORITY GROUPS

INDIAN EXPRESS, MAY 28, 2014

‘Muslims too many to be called minority, it’s Parsis who need special attention’

Heptulla said she would have to consult Narendra Modi on whether he wants to “inherit” the Prime Minister’s 15-point programme for minorities.

Abantika Ghosh

Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla has said Muslims are too large in number to call themselves a minority and that it is the Parsis who need special attention, for they are a “minuscule minority”.

Talking to The Indian Express on the day she took charge of the ministry Tuesday, Heptulla also said she would have to consult Narendra Modi on whether he wants to “inherit” the Prime Minister’s 15-point programme for minorities.

Referring to the issue of Muslim reservation in jobs, she said “there is no provision in the Constitution for religion-based reservation”. The matter is in the Supreme Court.

“If you have six children it is always important to see what you can do for the weakest of them. So far as my ministry is concerned, of the six minority communities the weakest is clearly the Parsis. They are a minuscule minority that is so ‘Muslims too many to be called minority, it’s Parsis who need special attention’ precariously placed that one needs to take care of their survival. Muslims really are too large in number to be called a minority community,” the minister told The Indian Express.

She said the very concept of minority and majority is relative and when talking about minorities it is imperative to understand that it is a term that encompasses many parameters, including language, apart from religion. Neither is there a ‘one-size-fits-all’ formula for the welfare of minorities.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in 2006 in the wake of the appointment of the Sachar Committee by the then prime minister Manmohan Singh to look into social, educational and economic conditions of Muslims in India. Though it caters to all six minority communities — the latest addition being Jains — Muslims have, since its inception, been a special focus area for the ministry.

Heptulla is yet to get a full lowdown on the ministry’s programmes and schemes, but one scheme that she is not inclined towards is the Prime Minister’s 15-point programme for minority concentration areas. “It was started by Indira Gandhi in 1980 and in these 34 years all that has happened is that successive prime ministers have merely ‘inherited’ it without any real thrust on implementation. I will have to discuss with Narendra Modiji whether he really wants to inherit it. It is striking that it has remained at 15 points all this

while without one addition or deletion which should have happened if there was application of mind,” she said.

Asked about the non-implementation by the Gujarat government of a scholarship scheme for minority girls, she said: “It is all misinformation. The scheme has been implemented.” This matter too is currently in the apex court after the Gujarat government refused to pay its 25 per cent share in the scheme.

Heptulla made no bones about her aversion to the idea of reservation, maintaining that it cannot be a solution for anything. “I am not in favour of reservation. I have come this far without reservation. What is important is positive action to provide level playing field. Once we do that politically, socially and educationally they will be able to compete with the rest.”

Dispelling apprehension among Muslims about a government under the stewardship of Narendra Modi, she said such fears had been manufactured politically over the years and has survived because there is little information about the status of Muslims in Gujarat. According to data from 2001 census, Muslims constitute about 13 per cent of India’s population.

MONEY

ASIAN AGE, MAY 28, 2014

At 1st meet, Cabinet sets up special investigative team on black money

The first meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday, constituted a special investigative team (SIT) headed by former Supreme Court judge M.B. Shah to unearth black money, including in the case of Hasan Ali. The move of the government is to comply with the Supreme Court directive.

The Justice Shah-led SIT will have the revenue secretary, CBI, IB, RAW and IB directors, Enforcement Directorate officials, CBDT chairman and RBI deputy governor as members. Former Supreme Court judge Arijit Pasayat will be vice-chairman of the panel. The Supreme Court, which appointed the two judges, had last week granted the government one week to set up the SIT.

“In the first Cabinet of the new government... In the light of the directions of the SC, we have constituted an SIT for unearthing black money... This was an important issue for us,” law and IT and communications minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

According to a press release, the other SIT members are the Narcotics Control Bureau director-general, Revenue Intelligence director-general, Financial Intelligence Unit director and a joint secretary in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. “The special investigative team has been charged with the responsibility and duties of investigation, initiation of proceedings and prosecution in cases of Hasan Ali and other matters involving unaccounted money,” the statement added.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 27, 2014

Narendra Modi has his finger now on India's nuclear button

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi now has his finger on the country's nuclear button. As the PM, he will chair the "political council" of the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), the "sole body" that can "authorize" a nuclear strike against an adversary in retaliation. But the final call will rest with him.

India does not have an elaborate nuclear command, control and communications system like the US, with its primary, alternative and even airborne national military command centres and posts. Or, the so-called "nuclear football", the special black briefcase with launch codes and secure satellite communication links, which accompanies the US President whenever he is away from the White House or command centres.

Nor does India have a Constitutional chain of "pre-delegated" succession, under which the nuclear launch authority is automatically transferred to the next in line if the US President is incapacitated. The vice-president is followed by 15 other successors in this clearly laid-down list.

The decision to authorize the use of nuclear weapons is more of a collegiate process in India, with the NCA's political council as a whole playing the role. Apart from the PM, it includes the home, defence, finance and external affairs ministers. But for all practical purposes, the nuclear button will be wielded by Modi, who will soon get a detailed briefing on the country's arsenal and its command and control systems, say officials.

The NCA also has an "executive council", which will now be headed by the new national security advisor and includes the three Service chiefs, top officials from DRDO, department of atomic energy and others, to provide inputs and "execute directives" given to it by the political council. "Alternative chains of command' have been established if the political leadership is 'decapitated' in a first strike," said an official.

The BJP manifesto caused some disquiet internationally after it proclaimed India's nuclear doctrine would be "revised and updated to make it relevant to challenges of current times". Many interpreted this to mean a BJP government could change India's long-standing policy of "no-first use (NFU)" of nuclear weapons, even though BJP chief Rajnath Singh later clarified that was not the case.

Incidentally, both Pakistan and China have deliberately kept their nuclear doctrines vague without clear-cut NFU policies. Some estimates put Pakistan's number of nuclear warheads at 90-110, as compared to India's 80-100, with China having more than double that number.

The NCA's priority is to make India's nuclear weapons triad fully operational. Though the first two legs are in place with land-based Agni ballistic missiles and fighter-bombers,

there still exists a big operational gap on the sea front.

The miniature 83 MW pressurized light-water reactor on board the country's first indigenous nuclear submarine, the 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, went "critical" last August but the vessel is yet to begin sea trials and test its 750-km range K-15 ballistic missiles.

India desperately needs nuclear-powered submarines armed with long-range nuclear-tipped missiles, which can silently stay underwater for extended periods, because a NFU policy must be backed by an assured and effective second-strike capability for "credible deterrence". India's nuclear doctrine, after all, holds "nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage".

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 30, 2014

President Pranab Mukherjee promulgates Polavaram ordinance

HYDERABAD: President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday promulgated the ordinance that will pave the way for transfer of seven mandals in Telangana's Khammam district to the successor state of Andhra Pradesh. The development took place on the day Telangana chief minister-elect and TRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao called for a state-wide bandh in protest against the ordinance.

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, states that certain mandals in Khammam, Palvancha revenue division, Chintoor, Kunavaram, Vararamachandrapuram and Bhadrachalam will not be part of Telangana and will be merged with Andhra Pradesh. Significantly, the revenue village of Bhadrachalam under the Bhadrachalam revenue division where the Sree Sita Ramaswamy temple is located, will remain with Telangana. The ordinance came into force with immediate effect.

KCR is opposing the ordinance on the ground that the seven mandals, which will submerge when the construction work on Polavaram irrigation project begins, are very much part of Telangana and cannot be transferred to AP. However, in view of the assurance given by the previous UPA government to the Seemandhra region that the Polavaram project will be taken up in right earnest, the new NDA government decided to go ahead with the ordinance.

SIGNS AND PROMISES

What will Narendra Modi do?

Mukul Kesavan

What will Narendra Modi do with his mandate? The Bharatiya Janata Party and its supporters ask, not unreasonably, that critics wait upon events. Spokespersons for the party reiterate that Narendra Modi has promised development for all. They rather ruin the effect of this by tacking on 'and appeasement of none'. The word 'appease' is a curious choice in this context. Appeasement is generally used to describe the propitiation of all-powerful beings, mortal or divine, but the BJP always uses it to describe the republic's treatment of its most depressed and marginalized community, Indian Muslims.

If there is one obvious feature of this election, it is the BJP's successful consolidation of the Hindu vote in a whole range of constituencies. Not one of the BJP's 282 successful Lok Sabha candidates is a Muslim, and it's fair to say that no one is surprised. The party's spokespersons argue that the BJP has no time for tokenism, that Muslims will draw closer to the BJP once they experience the Modi-inspired development that lifts everyone's boats.

We must hope they are right but even if they are, republican democracy is about fraternity and an election which sees the BJP hugely expand its footprint in India geographically while remaining, in its personnel and its voters, a near-exclusively Hindu party, should be a cause for real concern, not least for the party.

The flip side to Hindu consolidation is the political marginalization of minorities. I use the word minorities advisedly because the well-publicized failure of the BJP to win Muslim votes has been explained away as a form of false-consciousness peculiar to Muslims. The BJP's explanation is that the Muslims have, yet again, been brainwashed by pseudo-secular propaganda into believing the worst.

But Muslims weren't alone in their repudiation of the BJP. The Centre for the Study of Developing Societies' polling data (which is the only access we have to estimates of community-wise voting), tell us that Christians were even more emphatic in their rejection of the party. According to the CSDS, 9 per cent of Muslim voters voted for the BJP and the equivalent percentage amongst Christians was even lower, at 8 per cent. Given the BJP's refrain that Narendra Modi's campaign was centred on growth and governance to the exclusion of all things sectarian, someone needs to explain why Christians didn't respond to the universal economic rationality of the BJP's message.

The simple explanation might be that India's minority citizens felt threatened by the BJP's majoritarianism. Five years ago, the BJP in Odisha justified and explained away violent attacks on Christians in Kandhamal district. Subramaniam Swamy, now chairman of the BJP's strategic action committee, demanded in an article written as recently as 2011 the disenfranchisement of all non-Hindus (not just Muslims) who didn't defer to their Hindu origins.

It follows, then, that the expectations raised by Narendra Modi's campaign are mixed with foreboding, not just amongst Muslims and Christians but for those Indians who think that majoritarian politics is a bad fit for a diverse country and who dislike the BJP's brand of paranoid nationalism. The BJP might, of course, mutate into an Indian version of the German Christian Democratic Union, a centre-right party mindful of the niceties of a liberal democratic republic, but given that the party is led by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, it's fair to say that this 'remains to be seen'. In the interim it's inevitable that the new government's composition, its initiatives and pronouncements will be parsed for clues that might reveal its nature and its intentions.

The first signs aren't reassuring. Modi had 71 BJP members of parliament in Uttar Pradesh to choose from for ministerial office and he chose to make Sanjeev Baliyan, the MP from Muzaffarnagar, a minister of state. Baliyan was accused of violating prohibitory orders and promoting enmity between communities during the riots in Muzaffarnagar in September 2013. Thus not only did the BJP win western UP on the back of communal rioting, one of the riot-accused is now part of Narendra Modi's first ministry.

The BJP has argued that Baliyan was framed by a hostile state government and it should be noted that he hasn't been convicted of a crime, but it's worth remembering that

Narendra Modi has form in this matter. Maya Kodnani, who was widely believed to have been involved in the killings in Naroda Patia in 2002, was made minister of women and child development in 2007, five years *after* the riots. She served for two years till her past caught up with her; she was convicted of murder and conspiracy to murder in 2012 and was sentenced to 28 years in prison. A Modi *sarkar* looking to put its sectarian past behind it, wouldn't have doubled down on Sanjeev Baliyan; it would have waited for him to be exonerated of these serious charges before elevating him to ministerial office.

The other sign that the BJP might default to its gut positions in spite of its growth-and-governance message, is that within 24 hours of taking office, the new minister of state in the prime minister's office, Jitendra Singh, declared that "[w]e are in the process of repealing Article 370 and are in talks with the stakeholders". He subsequently claimed he had been misquoted, that he had "never said anything quoting the Honourable Prime Minister". As clarifications go, this one was mystifying because he hadn't been accused of quoting the prime minister in the first place, but the MP from Udhampur seemed driven to say what he said by a core agenda that outweighed such niceties as tactics and timing.

What do these signs suggest? I think it's reasonable to assume that the BJP isn't going to literally reconstitute the republic in the near future. I can't see the BJP manoeuvring to amend the Constitution's preamble to drop the word 'secular' for example, a word, incidentally, inserted into it by Indira Gandhi in her most authoritarian phase. Nor can I see Narendra Modi amending Article 25 of the Indian Constitution which guarantees freedom of religion. The one thing he isn't going to do is give critics a clear-cut reason for saying 'I told you so'. Also, as a practical matter, the BJP doesn't have the votes either in Parliament or the provincial legislative assemblies to make constitutional amendments.

On the other hand, the BJP has a core constituency that is committed to majoritarian consolidation and this base vote will certainly wish to be 'appeased'. There is a range of *Hindutvavadi* issues that this government could sponsor without attempting formal amendments to the Constitution.

For example, given Modi's reference to the 'pink revolution' during the election campaign, it's not unreasonable to expect that the government will move to curb the trade that exists in beef cattle. This has the double virtue of being consonant with the directive principles of the Constitution and attentive to Hindu sensibilities on the subject. There have been attempts to pass a Central law on the matter of cow slaughter that haven't gone anywhere, so it's possible that a Modi government could try to move decisively on this.

The BJP could also try to enact an anti-conversion law. Several Indian states have versions of the Freedom of Religion Act, all of which are, ironically, designed to constrain freedom of choice in the matter of religion. They are explicitly aimed at curbing proselytization and conversion. So a person planning to convert has to seek permission from an officer of the state. The officer then makes a judgment as to whether the desire to convert is of the individual's free will or is in fact coerced or induced.

These acts have clauses that keep ‘reconversion’ to Hinduism outside the purview of the act since re-conversion is seen as a return to the person’s original, authentic state. Since the Supreme Court has ruled that converting others isn’t part of the fundamental right to propagate one’s faith, the BJP, given its majority, might attempt to push an all-India bill to this effect through Parliament.

Which brings us to the matter of the Babri Masjid and the Ram Mandir.

While the Supreme Court has stayed the Allahabad High Court judgement and taken it on appeal, there is nothing to prevent a Modi government, given its mandate and clout to ‘encourage’ the various parties to the dispute to settle. The BJP has consistently maintained that it would like to build a Ram Mandir through a negotiated consensus, which is code for the Muslim parties to the dispute ceding their claim to the site of the razed mosque.

In the past, the BJP has pleaded the compulsions of coalition government as an explanation for not doing anything to fast-track the Ram Mandir. Given its comfortable majority, it no longer has to attend to the sensibilities of less sectarian coalition partners. With the term of the UP assembly due to expire in 2017, there is every reason to believe that the BJP will agitate this issue (which is, after all, a part of its election manifesto) in the run up to the provincial elections.

The BJP likes to argue that its critics are alarmist in an irresponsible way. But these issues (and others, like the uniform civil code) cumulatively have the potential for making minorities feel that they are being singled out for unwelcome attention.

We are surrounded in South Asia by nations that struggle with the violent and demoralizing consequences of a turn towards majoritarianism: Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are cautionary tales. India’s principal success as a nation state is that amid these semi-failed countries, it has, in comparison, been an oasis of pluralist calm.

Should government policy and legislation begin to imply that India is, *de facto*, a Hindu state, this might energize the BJP’s base but it will almost certainly cause a profound sense of alienation amongst large swathes of the republic’s citizenry. So before that happens, we need to consider the point at which the implementation of the BJP’s ‘core agenda’ might become a threat to the cohesion of the nation state. Whether we’re partisans of the BJP or its critics, this is a conversation we need to have today and every day through the duration of this Modi *sarkar*.

STATESMAN, MAY 27, 2014

Cong will not get main Opp status in LS’

**Main Opp should have ten per cent seats: AP ex-Speaker said
stanley Theodore**

Andhra Pradesh former Speaker Mr Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, who handled the issues

of main Opposition party and Leader of Opposition party when the Congress got less than ten per cent seats in 1994, said that party will not get the LoP status in Lok Sabha.

Before that term's first session in 1995 The Statesman met him and asked him if the government or the Speaker can grant the main Opposition party status to the Congress. Mr Ramakrishnudu said, "The government has no say in the matter. The Speaker is supreme in the House. But here the people have not given that status to the Congress. The Speaker cannot be above the will of the people

The Congress then got 26 seats in the 294-member Assembly. The Congress was termed as the main Opposition group and its leader was called Congress Legislature Party leader.

When The Statesman recalled that conversation and asked him about his view in the Lok Sabha, he said, "The main Opposition party should have ten per cent seats in the House. This is clearly stated in Parliamentary Practice and Procedure by Kaul and Shakhder and also in Parliamentary Rules. They (Congress) will not get that status in Lok Sabha".

"There is also a precedent. In 1984 the TDP was the main Opposition party with 33 MPs in the Lok Sabha. They did not get that status", he said.

Among those 26 MLAs was Mr KR Suresh Reddy who was the Speaker from 2004-2009.

When asked if the Speaker can confer that status on the Congress in the Lok Sabha, he said, "There certainly is a question of Speaker's discretion. But in the functioning there is no major difference between the main Opposition party and the largest recognised Opposition party. In both situations the same time is allotted during debates, interventions during debates can be made, among others"

"There is a rule position which affects the Leader of Opposition party status. That post deals with salary, entitlement to perks and secretarial facilities. I don't see any dire need for the main Opposition party to seek those benefits", he said.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

TIMES OF INDIA, MAY 25, 2014

The Philosophy of Good Governance

By: Sudheendra Kulkarni

New Age

All human beings are endowed with powers of contemplation and [Truth](#)-seeking. Therefore, we are bound to ask ourselves two basic philosophical questions. Who governs this infinite universe? And how is it governed? We can see that there is order behind the seeming entropy in the universe. When the contemplation turns poetic and artistic, which inevitably happens in moments stirred by awe, the order in the universe even appears as harmony.

Most of us are likely to answer the first question by attributing the governance of the universe to God. Who else, other than the Almighty, can create the galaxies, stars, planets, atoms and sub-atomic particles, and cause them to move and evolve in an orderly manner? Who else can infuse [life](#) into matter and cause the life to disappear periodically, only to make it reappear again in a vast variety of [Self](#)-renewing and ever-evolving species?

Some people do not accept God to be the creator and governor of the universe. However, even they will answer the second question by saying that the universe is governed by laws. Truth is another name for the laws sustaining and governing the various inter-related systems in the universe. This is why Gandhiji said that atheists may deny God but they cannot deny Truth. He thus concluded that Truth is God, adding that the Law and the Law-Maker are One.

Coming to the human side of the universe, questions about governance yield a wide variety of answers in terms of systems, laws, rights, responsibilities, etc. This is because humans are blessed with the power of will, besides some degree of [freedom](#), to decide how to govern themselves. However, since human societies are also an inseparable part of the universe, they cannot violate the dictates of Truth and the ultimate Law, which, in the human context, manifests as Dharma or a set of universally valid ethical principles. The nature of the State may change from place to place and from one era to another. But Raj Dharma, in the non-denominational sense of the term, always reigns supreme. At coronation ceremonies in the past, the king in [India](#) used to say: "I am supreme and I can do no wrong". Upon this, the Rajguru would gently strike the king on his head with a staff and exhort him, "No, you are not supreme. Dharma is supreme." Hence, as Narendra Modi is about to be "coronated" as India's next Prime Minister, this great and ancient nation expects him to follow Raj Dharma.

However, the canons of Dharma are applicable not only to the raja, but also to the praja. What is common to both raja and praja is 'raj' – governance. Hence, it is the duty of individual citizens, communities and various socio-political-economic organisations to govern themselves by following the ethical principles applicable to them, leaving only

the residual functions of governance to the State. This alone can make Modi's promise of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' come true.

What this means is that We the People are the government. Government is not something removed from, and above, the governed. In a democracy, people have the right to elect a government of their choice. But people and people's institutions also have a duty to govern themselves ethically. This is what Gandhiji meant by Swaraj — not merely self-rule (swa ka raj), but rule over self (swa par raj). This is possible when 'self' of the raja as well as the praja is subordinated to the all-pervasive 'Self', the ultimate Truth. This path alone leads to Good Governance, Development and a Harmonious India.

DECCAN HERALD, MAY 26, 2014

Modi govt to aim at smart governance

A statement issued by prime-minister-designate Narendra Modi's office said for the first time he has adopted the guiding principle of "minimum government and maximum governance", and also rationalisation with a commitment to bring change in the work culture and style of governance.

"It is a good beginning in transforming an entity of assembled ministries to organic ministries. It will bring more coordination between different departments, and be more effective and bring a speed in process," added the statement.

The statement said the focus is on convergence in the activities of various ministries, where one Cabinet minister will head a cluster of ministries working in complimentary sectors.

"Modi is eventually aiming at smart governance, where the top layers of the government will be downsized and there would be expansion at the grass-root level," it added.

Modi, said the statement, is aware of the high expectations of the people. "For four whole days he was busy with the formation of the ministry and discussing various alternatives to effective governance, convergence and coordination between various ministries."

The statement said earlier, when there was political instability and multi-party governments, ministry formation was almost done in a bifurcated manner. "Modi has tried in a rational manner to club like-minded departments in ministry formation in such way as to convert the entity of assembled ministries into an organic entity."

The statement added that Modi's plan was to form "a ministry as an instrument to deal with challenges and expectation of the people. The integrated and interconnected nature of governance is being focused on in this new dent."

Modi emphasised that "the ministry can deliver, govern and a bring change in the style of

functioning. In ministry formation, the process of development will be more inclusive than it has been.”

SANITATION

ECONOMIC TIMES, MAY 24, 2014

Narendra Modi plans multi-million dollar sanitation project to clean up 1,000 Indian towns

By Vasudha Venugopal

NEW DELHI: The new NDA government under Narendra Modi is set to embark on an ambitious multi-million dollar sanitation project that seeks to clean up around 1,000 Indian towns besides eliminating manual scavenging as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi whose 150th birth anniversary will be celebrated in 2019.

Tentatively named the 'Mahatma Gandhi Clean India Programme', the project will start from three cities in Uttar Pradesh, including Modi's Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, according to people working on the project.

This will be the first among six mega projects lined up by the so-called Team Modi, an eclectic bunch consisting of technocrats, young professionals employed in the West now on a sabbatical to assist Modi, and his own set of bureaucrats from Gujarat.

"Modi believes that Kachde se bhi kanchanBSE -4.97 % ban sakta hai-...Waste is wealth for him and he will rope in professional companies with machinery and technology," says one of his close confidantes .. adding that the project will not be left to politicians or bureaucrats and that the involvement of private companies and professional management will ensure that it is different from mega projects like MNREGA launched by the previous UPA regime.

A special part of the project is about building 2 lakh toilets for women in 5,000 villages.

In his interactions with the team working on the project, Modi reportedly said, "our mothers and sister have no access to closed toilets while we talk about 'nari-sanman' and 'nari-gaurav'. We must make a commitment that nobody will defecate in the open."

The role models for the project are cities like Amsterdam, Singapore, Freiburg (Germany) and Kobe (Japan). The project will be implemented on a P4 (people-public sector-private sector-partnership) model.

"Even in Surat, when the corporation was finding it difficult to bring down illegal structures, people formed groups and ensured removal of encroachments and revived public toilets. Modi is quite aware about that and wishes to emulate the model.

That is why he has been urging people to be responsible for their surroundings," an official working closely with Modi told ET. The officials and professionals that ET spoke to requested not to be named since the project was still on the drawing table and a Modi government was not yet in office.

The project envisages providing sanitation and sewerage facilities to over 36 million households in the country in the first phase. Modi had asked his team of over 100 qualified professionals to find out the financial implications of providing urban infrastructure like drinking water, gutter, solid waste management, storm water drainage, roads, transport and street light in 500 cities first, as phase one of the project.

Modi, said one official, has clearly told people that the first phase of the project encompassing 500 cities need to get over by 2019.

"By 2022, the 75th year of independence, he wishes to make them model cities in terms of cleanliness, green cover and infrastructure," the official said.

The focus will be on water supply, drainage system and roads as Modi believes every city should be a 'nirman nagar' with excellent drains and roads. Experts have suggested a unique model of people owned public toilets in the cities as part of the project, said some of the people associated with the project.

The funding could be divided between the government and private investors, say his team members. The project will have tenders given out to companies abroad for recycling solid wastes generated into organic fertilizers for horticulturists to grow fruits and vegetables.

"More than the dip in GDP, there are at least million infants dying because of unclean surroundings. Modi will definitely hike up the expenditure on the project, considering even in Gujarat 3,000 crores in the last few years, compared to Rs 200 crores of what it was a few years ago," a confidante said.

WOMEN

BUSINESS LINE, MAY 24, 2014

Getting women on board

AKSHAYA KAMALNATH

Companies must look beyond male-dominated networks and help develop the right mindset

The percentage of women directors in India is a strikingly low 4.8 per cent. The Companies Act, 2013 introduced a provision stating that companies of a certain size would be required to have at least one woman on their boards.

Further, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the listing agreement to make this requirement a pre-condition for listing on a stock exchange in India. Companies have to fulfil this requirement by October 1 to “encourage women’s participation in decision making at every level”. Beyond this, the benefits of this measure have not been analysed.

The gap in analysis has been filled by various media reports which detail similar measures in Norway, France and other European countries and a proposed measure in the European Union. The justification is two-fold. First, gender equality in decision-making bodies is seen as a pre-requisite of democracy. Second, the measure is seen as good for companies in the long run because it ensures that the female talent pool is harnessed. It is also argued that women bring diverse perspectives to the board.

In the US, a study conducted in 2006 by the Wellesley Centre for Women after the Enron debacle found that female directors expanded the content of board discussions and were more likely than male directors to raise issues concerning multiple stakeholders. Thus a gender diverse board would avoid ‘groupthink’ and help the board be more effective monitors of management. More recently, a study from the University of British Columbia’s business school found that companies with more women board members tend to pay less for acquisitions, thus indicating that women are less inclined to chase risky deals. This finding is important in light of the global financial crisis, which is said to have been precipitated by excessive risk-taking by company boards.

Guidelines

In order for companies to be able to benefit from this measure, however, it is important that the women so appointed are meritorious candidates. The law in India merely focuses on the end result of gender diversity with no guidelines about how this is to be achieved. The proposed EU directive on the other hand stresses on the importance of transparency in recruitment processes for board positions.

It requires board appointments to be made based on the “comparative analysis of the qualifications of each candidate, by applying pre-established, clear, neutrally formulated and unambiguous criteria”. Again it stresses that priority will be given to a woman

candidate only when she is “equally qualified” as the male candidate and even this priority is not automatic. It also provides that exceptions can be made where “an objective assessment taking account of all criteria specific to the individual candidates tilts the balance in favour of the” male candidate.

However, to guard against boards using the exception to pass over qualified women candidates, the directive makes it obligatory for these companies to disclose, where an unsuccessful candidate requests it, the criteria of selection.

Finding the women

While the Indian law is lacking in these guidelines, it is up to companies to voluntarily internalise similar merit-based procedures to ensure that the requirement does not function as an anti-merit quota. Companies have to guard against appointing promoter family members. That will also send out a wrong signal to shareholders.

The current reality is that boards tend to recruit candidates they think are suitable and these candidates are usually picked from the networking circles to which the existing members belong. Women, who don’t usually network in the same way as men, are therefore overlooked. The quota law forces boards to look beyond the traditional networking circles.

This is why there is a sudden feeling in industry that there are not enough qualified women to fit the bill. The real problem is that there is no ready network they can draw from.

Norway addressed this issue by creating a database of qualified women for board positions. Malaysia, which introduced a target for listed companies to have at least 30 per cent women on their boards by 2015, has set up training programmes for potential candidates and also instituted a registry of qualified women that companies can draw from. It would be beneficial if either the ministry of corporate affairs or SEBI steps in to set up a registry of qualified women along with a training programme. This would also prevent companies from making token appointments.

The writer is a doctoral student at the University of Newcastle

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