

# RISE OF PM MODI

The rise of the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government marked a significant shift in India's political landscape, characterized by a series of transformative changes in governance, policy-making, and India's global standing.

Narendra Modi, a former Chief Minister of Gujarat, emerged as a key national figure after the 2014 general elections, when the BJP won a landslide victory, securing 282 seats out of 543 in the Lok Sabha.

The victory was unprecedented, as it was the first time in three decades that a single party had won a majority on its own.

Once in power, Modi quickly set about implementing his vision for India's future.

His government focused on a host of key reforms, aimed at modernizing India's economy and infrastructure. One of the early landmark decisions was the 'Make in India' initiative, which aimed to make India a global manufacturing hub by attracting foreign investments and promoting the domestic manufacturing sector.

Modi also launched the Digital India campaign to push the country toward becoming more tech-savvy, promoting e-governance, and expanding internet access to rural areas.

On the global front, Modi has worked tirelessly to elevate India's stature on the world stage. His foreign policy approach has been characterized by active engagement with world powers, increased regional cooperation, and a focus on India's security concerns. Modi's outreach to global leaders, particularly with countries like the United States, Israel, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates, has strengthened India's diplomatic ties.

The government's 'Act East' policy aimed at strengthening ties with Southeast Asian nations, while the 'Neighbourhood First' policy focused on fostering better relations with India's immediate neighbors, particularly in South Asia.

Modi's personal rapport with foreign leaders like U.S. President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Russian President Vladimir Putin has led to a stronger geopolitical position for India.

His landmark visit to the UAE in 2015, where he became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the country in 34 years, and his role in forging stronger ties with the Arab world, was another example of India's growing influence.

While Modi's tenure has been marked by successes, it has also faced significant challenges. Despite these controversies, Modi's leadership remains resilient.

His government has faced criticism for growing religious intolerance, rising unemployment, and economic inequalities, but it has maintained a stronghold in electoral politics, securing a second term in the 2019 general elections with an even larger mandate.

# Railways and Gati Shakti form an unbeatable partnership

A K KANDELWAL



In One Day International cricket, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly formed a formidable partnership with 26 combined centuries. Just as they dominated the cricket field, the partnership between Indian Railways and PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) is proving to be a game-changer for India's infrastructure development in line with demand.

This transformational approach facilitates the breaking of silos across various departments, Ministries, States, and Union Territories. Gati Shakti is now a cornerstone of infrastructure planning and decision-making, its implementation extending to division-level construction organisations across the breadth of the national transporter. Through this, Railways has fully assimilated institutional framework and Geographic Information System (GIS) data-based digital platform-the two key elements for operationalizing PMGS.

Gati Shakti channels Ganguly's elegance and assertive leadership, while the Railways, like Tendulkar's adaptability, tackles diverse challenges with finesse.

This integrated approach has significantly improved coordination between Infrastructure Ministries and Railway Zones,

accelerating project approvals. Instead of the typical 4-5 months required for project survey sanctioning, this initiative reduced the approval time to just 7 days, significantly enhancing the efficiency of the entire railway network. 458 project surveys sanctioned in 2022-23 compared to around 50 in the past.

Although Railways has historically coordinated with other government agencies, the integration of multiple transport modes through PMGS-leveraging advanced digital platforms and real-time monitoring has revolutionized India's infrastructure ecosystem. Through better coordination across railway zones, departments, and sectors, PMGS is now a model for holistic infrastructure planning and execution.

One of the most visible impacts of PMGS is breaking down departmental silos. Traditionally, seven different departments work independently on various aspects of railway infrastructure development, resulting in delays and inefficiencies. By fostering inter-departmental communication and leveraging digital platforms, project sanctioning has been expedited and unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles have been eliminated.

Implementation of PMGS has resulted in significantly improved planning with 73 projects being sanctioned in the fiscal year 2023-24 as compared to 6-7 projects approved annually before Gati Shakti. This is the maximum record so far in a financial year! Project delivery also reached record highs, with 5,309 kilometres of New Line,

Doubling and Gauge Conversion projects completed. Rail electrification hit an all-time high of 7,188 route kilometres (RKM), and track commissioning accelerated from 4 km per day to 15 km per day.

Effectively, PMGS-NMP future-proofs infrastructure planning through detailed mapping of where, what, and when. It holds accurate and comprehensive data on social and economic infrastructure, trunk and utility networks, multimodal connectivity, tourist spots, land revenue maps, and forest boundaries, among others. This information is crucial for project planning and implementation.

All the projects are scrutinised by (NPG) Network Planning Group comprising all infrastructure ministries for integrated planning to avoid redundancies and situations like the breaking of newly laid roads for cable/pipe laying after its construction.

For instance, housing societies can now have sewage, electricity, and other utilities ready before residents move in and not wait for complaints to float in before taking any action. Warehouses near expanding suburbs can receive timely road connectivity ahead of demands rising, and ports undergoing expansion benefit from adequate railway evacuation and multimodal links.

This efficient planning capability is supported by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), which has played a pivotal role in developing PMGS-NMP.

A critical aspect of Gati Shakti's success

lies in prioritizing key infrastructure projects that would have the maximum impact on improving connectivity, efficiency, and logistics. Railways can now identify critical sectors for first- and last-mile connectivity, such as economic centres, mines, power plants, and logistics hubs, and plan freight corridors and port connectivity projects well ahead of demand. This infrastructure is prioritized based on the potential to drive economic growth and improve the ease of doing business in India.

The improvement is evident through better collaboration among all the 68 Divisions of 16 Railway Zones. Before Gati Shakti, each railway zone and each department operated somewhat in isolation, leading to delays, inefficiencies, and lack of coordination. The introduction of digital interfaces through PMGS-NMP provided a unified platform for cross-zone collaboration, allowing for the quick resolution of issues and smooth execution of projects.

However, I would like to share a word of caution for both PMGS and Indian Railways. While Sachin and Sourav excelled on the cricket field, they faced challenges in the political arena. Similarly, the strength of PMGS and the determination of the Railways should not be diluted by political projects that lack long-term benefits, as India approaches its century of independence.

(The writer is Ex-Member Infra Railway Board).

# Have you dug your own grave-Duggar

DR. SHIKHA MAGOTRA

While taking enough care of whole of us, we often neglect our feet. Though it is our feet only which carry the burden of whole body and enable us to walk through each and every phase of life. Can we think of ourselves to live healthy life independently without feet. How much difficult it would be if we could not walk on our own feet!

Same is happening with our culture too. We are undoubtedly, consistently watering the abundant leaves and fruits of Duggar cultural tree and even cherishing the taste of its fruits too. But, what about its roots, our feet-Dogri. They are starving. It's disheartening to say that nobody is paying enormous attention towards them. They remain unwatered and struggling to survive while holding the tree altogether. We must think- How long will the tree survive when roots starve! How far

can we go when the feet are gone! How much our culture can live when the language has gone extinct!

It's deeply saddening that there is currently no provision for educating our children in their mother tongue- Dogri at elementary level in their own state of dialect. Even when Dogri is an official language of J&K UT already and it has been included in the 8th schedule of Indian constitution too.

Also, there are around 400 higher secondary schools in Jammu province only and still only one of them has appointed Lecturer for Dogri language. Moreover, the most recent advertisement for the appointment of Lecturers in J&K released yesterday also provides negligible vacancy for Dogri language. Among all 575 posts, only 3 has been declared for Dogri language.

This is struck against the National educa-

tion policy (NEP) which supports and encourages students to study in their mother tongue. But, according to the current advertisement, the recruitment process of government denies the students' rights to study in their mother tongue-Dogri.

Looking at the demographics of the UT, there are more than 5 lakh Dogri speakers in Jammu province only which contributes to half the population of Jammu. And also, the UT has enormous youth potentially literate to be recruited as lecturers and other posts in government for Dogri. We have around 40+ PhD holders in Dogri and around 1500+ M.A. graduates already in the UT.

Isn't it threatening for ourselves that even after having skilled youth, we are forcefully depriving our young generation to study in their mother tongue-Dogri.

Given the high number of qualified Dogri

scholars, the UT has an urge for the appointment of Dogri lecturers in all higher secondary schools, with at least two lecturer per school. Many talented Dogri scholars remain underutilized. Institutions should prioritize hiring these scholars, and the government should incentivize schools to implement and promote Dogri programs.

Further to foster education in regional languages at elementary levels, Dogri needs a structured curriculum aligned with the NEP's emphasis on regional languages, including textbooks, resources, and extra-curricular activities that foster Dogri heritage.

Dogri's heritage and influence in Jammu's identity must be acknowledged and respected, being an official language of the UT. This is high time that we must realise that the actions we are taking aren't going towards digging our own graves eventually.

# Bhairav Temple-where desire gets fulfilled and evil vanishes

RAVI ROHMETRA

The speciality of Jammu City is that with great respectfulness it is being called as city of temples. Situated at Chowk Chabutra in the heart of city of temples in the preached Bhairav temple where Lord Kaal Bhairav is in the form of Natural Pindi. Batuk Bhairav Nath ji is the 5th Rudra of Lord Shiva.

Several years ago when repair work was going on in Dhonthly Bazar, the debris was dumped near the temple where the Pindi of Lord Kaal Bhairav was the labourers accidentally threw debris into the pond by mistake. The same night, Kaal Bhairav appeared in the contractor's searched out the Pindi from the pond and restored to its original place. Also, a temple was built there later. That is how Batuk Bhairav Nath Ji temple was built.

At present, the temple is getting famous day to day and more people are connecting with this holy place. Presently, Mahant Rumil Sharma is the sole trustee of the Pracheen Shri Bhairav Mandir Trust. All the progress and functions are being held under his supervision. The Bhandara which was started first around two decades back, has now attained the form of the biggest Bhandara of Jammu. Thousands of people from different parts of the state come here every year to participate in the annual function and seek the blessings of Lord Kaal Bhairav Ji.

This year Pooja and havan will be performed at the temple on Shri Kaal Bhairav Adhltami, Chowk Chabutra and Dhonthly Bazar are colorfully decorated and illuminated.

Lord Kaal Bhairav Ji is also the Kul Devta of around 52 Biradri's which include Dutta, Sooden, Anand, Khukhram, Sasan etc. Mahant Rumil

Sharma said lighting of an oil lamp at the house and shop's entrance, will keep the evil effects of unseen forces away, he has also called upon the people of Jammu irrespective of their caste, creed and colour to participate.

Jammu the famous city of temples is a place with numerous spiritual places with fascinating histories.

Today we take a religious trip to Bhairav Mandir, Chowk Chabutra, the only Bhairav temple in the city. The old history of the temple is depicted by the architecture and idols of the temple.

Bhairav Mandir, Chowk Chabutra, Jammu is also termed as City of Temples for innumerable temples and shrines that are spread across the city crafting a beautiful sanctified ambience. Amongst all the temples, Bhairav Mandir is situated at Chowk Chabutra depicting the old tales to the devotees through its architecture and idols present inside the temples. The temple presents a great spiritual and historical importance for the people of Jammu.

History of the temple Bhairav Mandir comes under Shri Bhairav Mandir Trust and the temple is maintained by the sole trustee, Pandit Rumil Sharma who is also the head priest of the Bhairav temple, Chowk Chabutra. This temple is famous for worshipping Kaal Bhairava who is believed to reside in Bhrikuti (eyebrows) of Bhagwan Shiva. The twelve different forms of Bhairav are worshipped in this temple which includes Batuk Bhairav ji, Prachand Bhairav Ji, Swaran Akarshan Bhairav Ji, Kaal Bhairav Ji etc. One of the innumerable places dedicated to Bhakra Ji includes the most famous temple of Kaal Bhairav Ji which is in Ujjain and that particular form is worshipped here in Bhairav Mandir. Traditional



Beliefs The reason behind the name of the temple is that Kaal Bhairav Ji himself appeared at this place. As per traditional beliefs, it is said that the temple was constructed about 100 decades back. Since Kaal Bhairav Ji is believed to be the God of nine planets and all almost all Kul Devtas so people from different regions and castes through this temple in large numbers to seek blessings from Bhairavnath. As per prevalent legends, Bhairav Nath is considered as the fifth Rudra avatar of Lord Shiva. The routine of worshipping and chanting hymns are done in a particular manner; firstly prayer is done for Lord Shiva and then for Lord Bhairava and as the priest quotes, "In Kalyug it is obligatory to worship Bhairavnath since he is solely responsible for helping us to keep us safe from all the troubles." The traditional folklores explain

that Lord Shiva had himself said that Lord Bhairava will safeguard his devotees during the Kalyug. Visiting Hours Donations People who are willing make donations are advised to buy essential items for the temple instead of paying in cash. The government departments participate and extend full support during the Bhandaras seeking blessings of the Almighty.

108 Names of Lord Bhairav-Om Bhairavaya Namaha; Om Bhuatanaathaaya Namaha; Om Bhritaatmane Namaha; Om Bhuutabhaavanaaya Namaha; Om Kshhetragyaaya Namaha; Om Kshhetrapaalaaya Namaha; Om Kshhetraadaaya Namaha; Om Kshatriyaaya Namaha; Om Viraaje Namaha; Om Shmashaanavaasine Namaha; Om Maamsashine Namaha;

Om Kharvaroshine Namaha; Om Smarantakaaya Namaha; Om Raktapaaya Namaha; Om Paanayaaya Namaha; Om Siddhaaya Namaha; Om Siddhidaaya Namaha; 18. Om Siddhisevitaaya Namaha; Om Kankaalaaya Namaha; Om Kalaashamanaaya Namaha; Om Kalaakaashataaya Namaha; Om Tanaye Namaha; Om Kavaye Namaha; Om Trinetraaya Namaha; Om Bahunetraaya Namaha; Om Pigala-lochanaaya Namaha; Om Shudupaanaaya Namaha; Om Khadgapaanaaya Namaha; Om Kapaaline Namaha; Om Dhumralochanaaya Namaha; Om Abhirave Namaha; Om Bhauraviinaathaaya Namaha; Om Bhuutapaaya Namaha; Om Yoginiapataye Namaha; Om Dhanadaaya Namaha; Om Dhanahaarine Namaha; Om Dhanavate Namaha; Om Priitivardhanaaya Namaha; Om Naagahaaraaya Namaha; Om Naagapaashaaya Namaha; Om Vyomakeshaaya Namaha; Om Kapaalabhrite Namaha; Om Kaalaaya Namaha; Om Kapaalamaaline Namaha; Om Kamaniyaaya Namaha; Om Kalaanidhaye Namaha; Om Trilochanaaya Namaha; Om Jvalannetraaya Namaha; Om Trishikhine Namaha; Om Trilokashaaya Namaha; Om Trinetrataapaaya Namaha; Om Dibhaaya Namaha; Om Shaantaaya Namaha; Om Shaantajanapriyaaya Namaha; Om Batukaaya Namaha; Om Batuveshaaya Namaha; Om Khatvaangadhaarakaaya Namaha; Om Yanaadhyakshaaya Namaha; Om Pashupataye Namaha; Om Bhikshukaaya Namaha; Om Parichaarakaaya Namaha; Om Dhuurtaaya Namaha; Om

Digambaraaya Namaha; Om Shuuraaya Namaha; Om Harine Namaha; Om Paandulochanaaya Namaha; Om Prashaantaaya Namaha; Om Shaantidaaya Namaha; Om Siddhaaya Namaha; Om Shankarapriyaabandhavaaya Namaha; Om Om Ashtamuurtaye Namaha; Om Nidhiishaaya Namaha; Om Gyaanachakshushye Namaha; Om Tapomadaaya Namaha; Om Ashtaadhaaraaya Namaha; Om Shadaadhaaraaya Namaha; Om Sarparyuktaaya Namaha; Om Shikhisakhaaya Namaha; Om Om Bhuudharaaya Namaha; Om Bhuudharaadhiishaaya Namaha; Om Bhuupataye Namaha; Om Bhuudharaatmagyaaya Namaha; Om Kankaaladhaarine Namaha; Om Mundine Namaha; Om Naagayagyopavitavate Namaha; Om Jribbhanaya Namaha; Om Mohanaaya Namaha; Om Stambhine Namaha; Om Maranaaya Namaha; Om Kshobhanaaya Namaha; Om Shuddhanilaamjanaprakhyaaya Namaha; Om Om Dvityaghne Namaha; Om Mundabhushitaaya Namaha; Om Balibhuje Namaha; Om Balibhunaathaaya Namaha; Om Baalaaya Namaha; Om Baalapaaraakramaaya Namaha; Om Sarvaapattaaranaaya Namaha; Om Durgaaya Namaha; Om Dushta Bhuutanishevitaaya Namaha; Om Kaamine Namaha; Om Kalaanidhaye Namaha; Om Kaantaaya Namaha; Om Kaaminivashakridvashine Namaha; Om Sarvasiddhipadaaya Namaha; Om Vaidyaaya Namaha; Om Prabhaye Namaha; Om Vishnave Namaha.

(The writer is a social worker).

# Life struggling with poisonous air

VIJAY GARG

The air quality in the country's capital Delhi and its surrounding areas is becoming very poor or rather, it is becoming deadly. The air quality index has crossed 400 in many areas of the capital. The apex court is also serious about the increasing pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region and has asked for strict measures. From the central government to the governments of Delhi and surrounding states, they have been making different claims, but this does not seem to bring any major relief in the pollution level. Even though the Delhi government has taken many measures and issued instructions to control pollution to overcome this serious problem, they are not proving effective. The latest report of the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that globally the air has become poisonous to such an extent that the poison is slowly dissolving in our breath. The lungs are clogged with pollutants, which can prove to be a major cause of slow death. WHO report states that every year about five million people die prematurely due to exposure to poisonous air. They say goodbye. According to a report by Greenpeace, an organization working for the environ-

ment, the capital Delhi is the most polluted among the capitals of all the countries in the world. The question is why the National Capital Region of Delhi, which has been continuously facing this crisis for the last few years, does not get the light of any permanent solution? Why are governments and politicians not ready for solutions instead of holding each other responsible? The report of the World Health Organization states that on the basis of PM 2.5, most of the world's 15 Among the cities, 12 cities are from India. According to the report on air quality, the 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India, where the annual concentration of PM 2.5 is the highest. A study by "BMJ" has found that many people die every year in India due to pollution. PM means 'particulate matter' is a variety. Its particles are very fine which flow in the air. PM 2.5 or PM 10 refers to the size of particles in the air. These particles present in the air enter our body along with the air and dissolve in the blood. This causes many problems in the body. Health diseases like asthma and breathing problems may occur. The thing to note is that India suffers the most loss in terms of population, hence considering it as its responsibility, it will have to take some mean-

ingful and concrete measures immediately. At present, most of the diseases in the world are occurring due to environmental pollution. More people die each year from diseases caused by pollution than from malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis combined. However, the question arises that what is the difference in deaths caused every year due to air pollution? What steps are being taken by the government to stop it? The government and society have known this for decades, but both remain indifferent about it. It seems that people are completely oblivious to their tragic future. In fact, the problem of air pollution is becoming so complex. That the future seems bleak. In fact, today man has become so addicted to the indulgent lifestyle and is selfish that he is polluting the very air, the basic foundation of his life. Forgetting all morality and duty, materialistic lifestyle and in the blind race of development, today man has forgotten how important clean air is for life. The increasing number of vehicles and the smoke coming out of factories have polluted the air; the cutting of trees has polluted the life-giving gases and the filth spread by humans has polluted the water at such a speed that now diseases are spreading at double the

speed. This trend continues even today. There has been so much change in human thinking and ideology that no one is worried about the future. There is no doubt that today man is depleting nature. As a result of which, due to environmental imbalance, critical situations like global warming, acid rain, melting of snowy peaks, rise in sea level, drying up of plain rivers, loss of fertile land and increase of deserts etc. are being created. All this is the result of human carelessness. Sadly, we are still not waking up. As a result, air pollution is continuously increasing in India. Be it the Central or State governments, no one seems serious in dealing with pollution. Obviously, to fight pollution there is a need to make long-term policies, while people need to make all efforts at their own level to prevent the air from becoming poisonous. It is true that the Central and State Governments had taken many steps to deal with air pollution. Yet we proved to be a laggard in dealing with air pollution. In such a situation, India's responsibility becomes bigger and more challenging, because we will have to adopt the measures being taken in both developed and developing countries. Actually, air pollution is

an issue which is of concern to the whole world. It is a subject matter and cannot be resolved without mutual consent and honest effort. To tackle air pollution, sustained efforts are needed rather than immediate action. Measures such as adopting clean energy sources, controlling the number of vehicles and promoting public transport can have a long-term impact. To solve the problem of stubble burning, it is necessary to provide better technology and subsidies to farmers so that they adopt more environment-friendly alternatives. Besides this, pollution at construction sites. Strict adherence to control measures and stringent laws are required to control industrial emissions. It is necessary to evaluate the air quality throughout the year through a systematic monitoring system so that the pollution levels can be kept under control in time. Air pollution not only means planting trees but also preventing land pollution, air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution. Only then will something concrete be visible. Time to do something, not to think.

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