

Topic of the week for discussion: 28th May to 3rd June 2015

Topic: 1 year Report Card of NDA

On 26th May NDA (National democratic Alliance) completed its one-year in power. Amongst the euphoria created by the PM and associates along with the media, it is imperative to analyze and assess the realistic picture of the actual promises delivered. For this an overall assessment of NDA government whereas an individual assessment of the PM and the cabinet members is required.

One thing that has attracted everyone's attention is the foreign visits by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Having travelled 17 times out of the country on state visits and international summits in his first year in office, Modi has tried to overtly attract international investment.

On a whole, the Modi government has been branded the anti-farmer and pro-corporate sarkaar. On one hand, corporate sector is in jubilant mood for the strong image portrayal of India, its **Make in India** Campaign and other policies.

The unveiling of the Lion and promoting the Make in India concept on a grand level has positioned India in lead for much desired FDI run.

On the other hand, rural India is distressed and frustrated with NDA rule as the government and its ministers failed in communicating their views to the people on the amended Land Acquisition Bill.

Success and Failure of various departments & cabinet ministers:

- The passage of the coal bill and implementation of the coal auction was transparent and seamless and it generated enormous amount of money. The credit goes to Piyush Goyal, the coal ministry.
- Though no strategy seems to be working of Parliamentary affairs Ministry, still many bills got passed in the last legislative session, including the GST Bill, Coal bill, Land Acquisition Bill, Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill, Child Labour Protection Bill and the Insurance bill.
- Manohar Parrikar in Defense has done some good things, such as converting the purchase of fighter planes from France into a government-to-government transaction. On the other hand, he has reneged on the "one-rank-one-pension" scheme, and has fired Avinash Chander as DG of DRDO without having any back-up plan in place.



Topic
Introduction

- The HRD Department led by Samriti Irani did a decent job by scrapping the four-year undergraduate science degree in Delhi University and replacing the teaching of German with Sanskrit. Though nothing of the desired stature was achieved or planned.
- The only department that cannot be given a good score is Finance with Arun Jaitley and his not so dynamic & below expectation Budget. Inflation is on a high again and no exceptional policies are afloat to take advantage of.

Some of the major schemes launched by government:

- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- Swatch Bharat Abhiyan
- Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

Though one year is not sufficient time to really assess the efficiency of a new govt. The honeymoon for the government, bolstered by low international oil prices and a check on spiraling inflation, is under threat from an agrarian crisis.

One outlook that after giving bombastic start in first year the government can fall short of promises and the other is that it can be making a solid and steady base for future growth. Let's all hope it is the latter condition for us.

Read further:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/wall-street-journal-new-york-times-critical-of-narendra-modis-first-year-in-office/article7247201.ece>

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/dDrghcerwaPuOJTpXbEqjL/Nine-charts-that-capture-Narendra-Modis-first-year-in-power.html>