

The Orbit

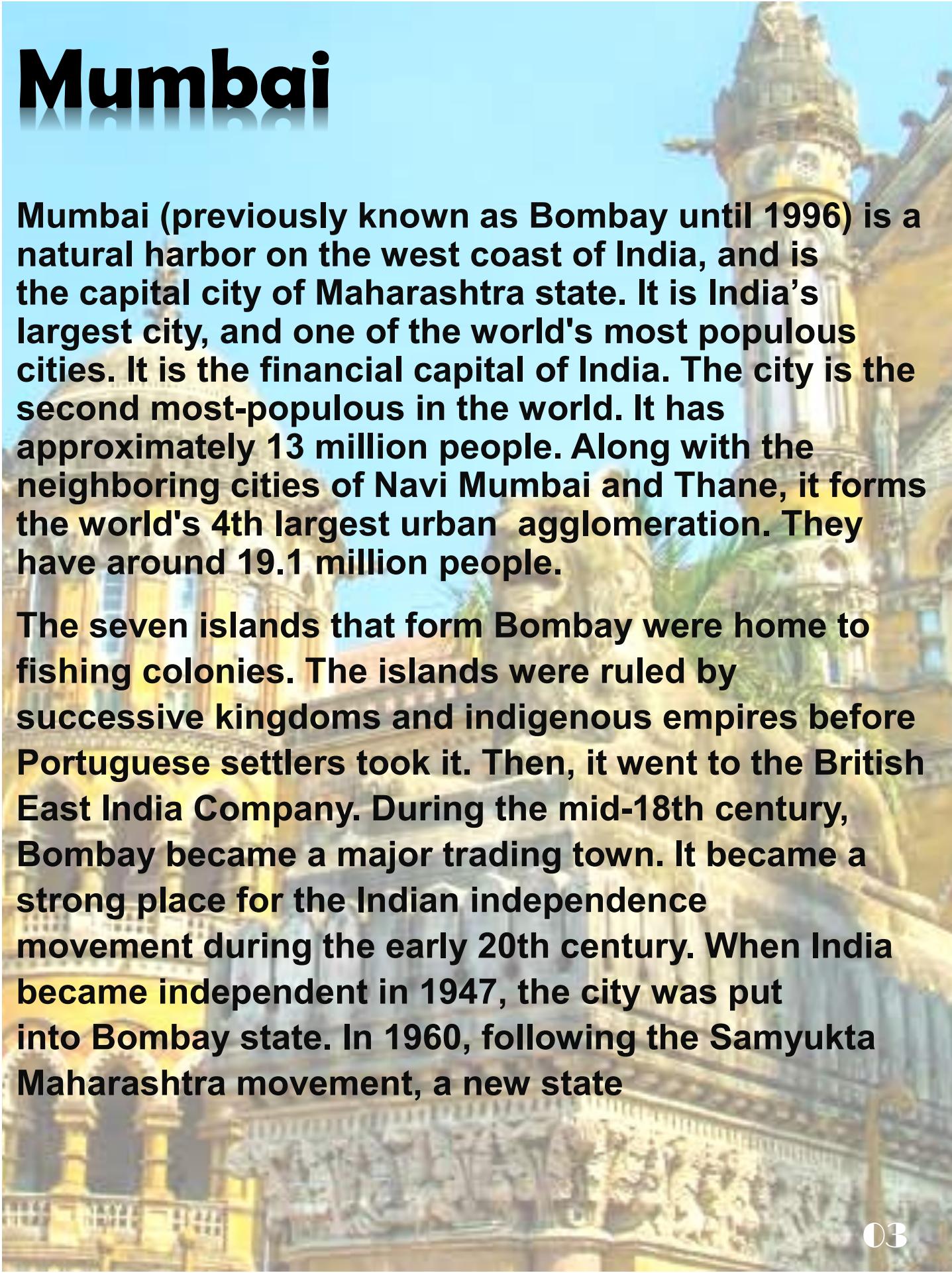


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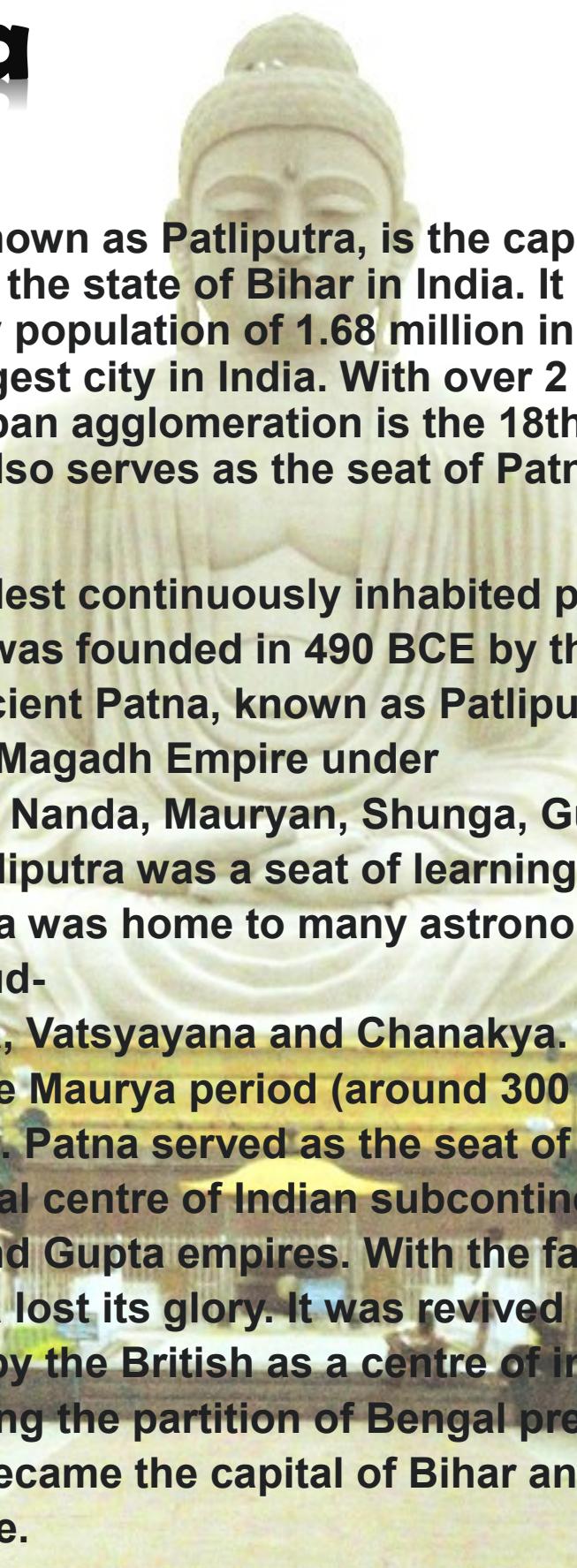
Mumbai



Mumbai (previously known as Bombay until 1996) is a natural harbor on the west coast of India, and is the capital city of Maharashtra state. It is India's largest city, and one of the world's most populous cities. It is the financial capital of India. The city is the second most-populous in the world. It has approximately 13 million people. Along with the neighboring cities of Navi Mumbai and Thane, it forms the world's 4th largest urban agglomeration. They have around 19.1 million people.

The seven islands that form Bombay were home to fishing colonies. The islands were ruled by successive kingdoms and indigenous empires before Portuguese settlers took it. Then, it went to the British East India Company. During the mid-18th century, Bombay became a major trading town. It became a strong place for the Indian independence movement during the early 20th century. When India became independent in 1947, the city was put into Bombay state. In 1960, following the Samyukta Maharashtra movement, a new state

Patna

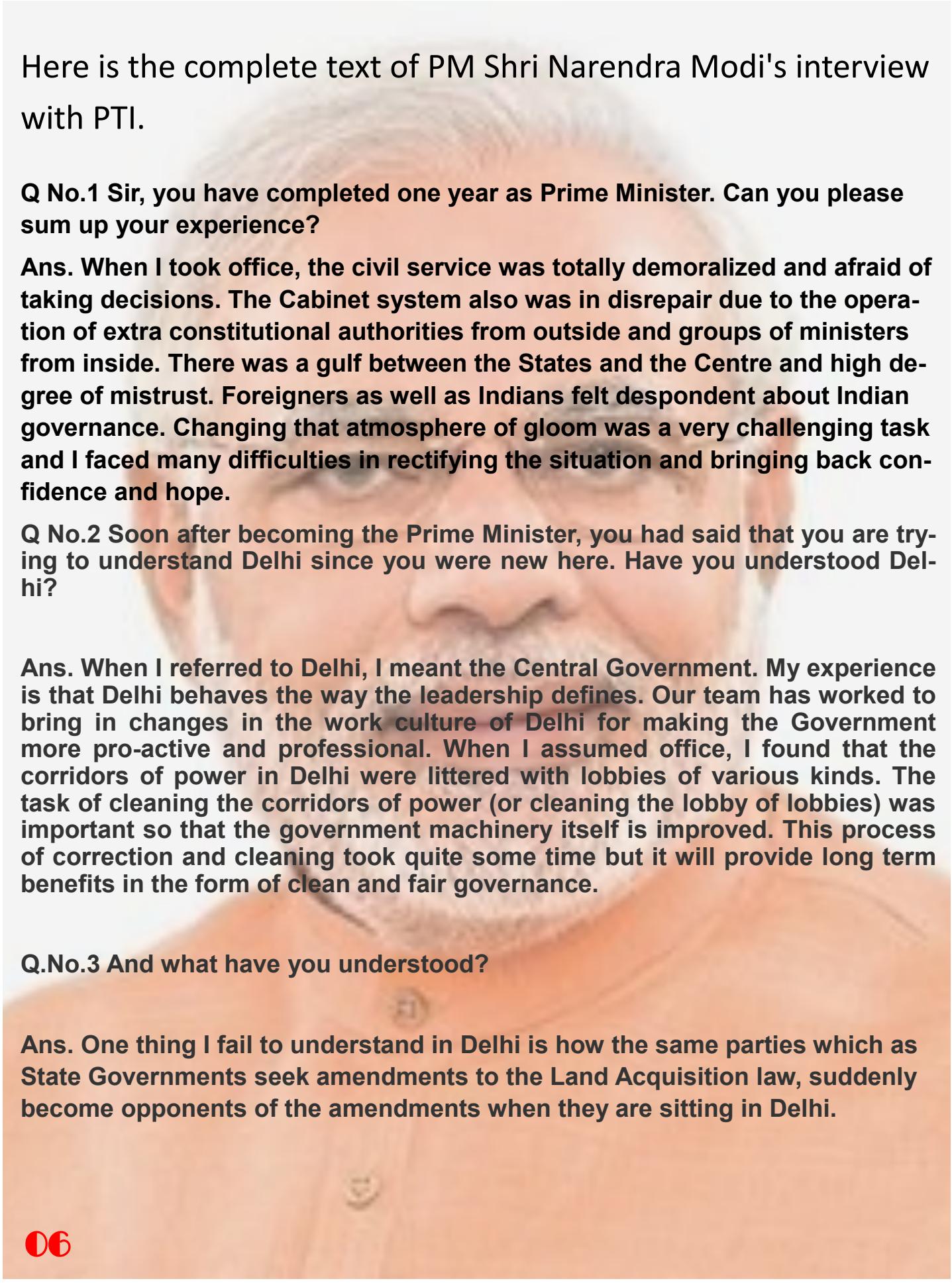


Patna, also known as Patliputra, is the capital and largest city of the state of Bihar in India. It had an estimated city population of 1.68 million in 2011, making it the 19th largest city in India. With over 2 million people, its urban agglomeration is the 18th largest in India. Patna also serves as the seat of Patna High Court.

One of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world, Patna was founded in 490 BCE by the king of Magadha. Ancient Patna, known as Patliputra, was the capital of the Magadh Empire under the Haryanka, Nanda, Mauryan, Shunga, Gupta and Pala empires. Pataliputra was a seat of learning and fine arts. Patliputra was home to many astronomers and scholars including Aryabhata, Vatsyayana and Chanakya. Its population during the Maurya period (around 300 BCE) was about 400,000. Patna served as the seat of power, political and cultural centre of Indian subcontinent during the Maurya and Gupta empires. With the fall of Gupta Empire, Patna lost its glory. It was revived again in the 17th century by the British as a centre of international trade. Following the partition of Bengal presidency in 1912, Patna became the capital of Bihar and Odissa Province.

Interview With PM Narendra Modi





Here is the complete text of PM Shri Narendra Modi's interview with PTI.

Q No.1 Sir, you have completed one year as Prime Minister. Can you please sum up your experience?

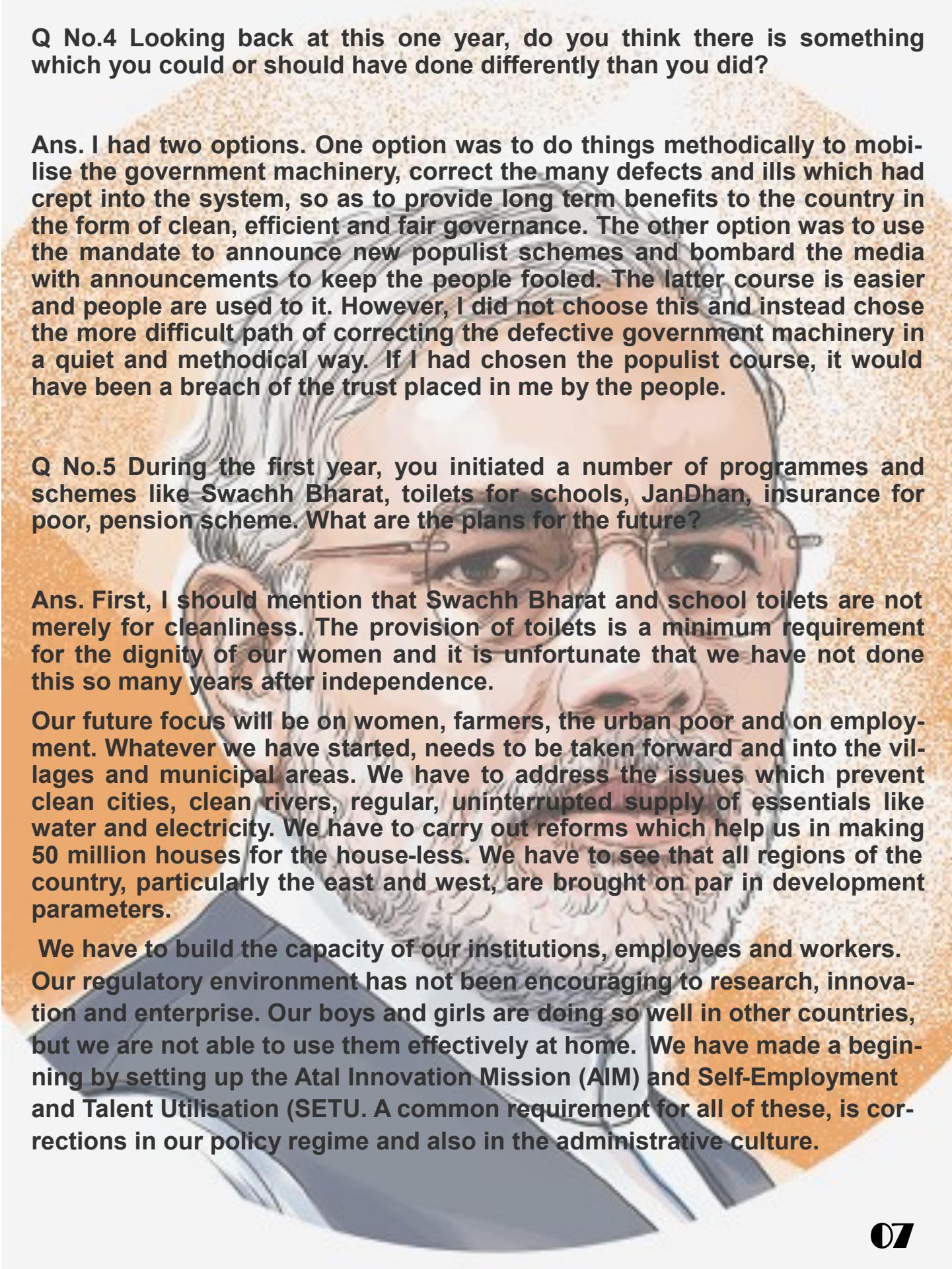
Ans. When I took office, the civil service was totally demoralized and afraid of taking decisions. The Cabinet system also was in disrepair due to the operation of extra constitutional authorities from outside and groups of ministers from inside. There was a gulf between the States and the Centre and high degree of mistrust. Foreigners as well as Indians felt despondent about Indian governance. Changing that atmosphere of gloom was a very challenging task and I faced many difficulties in rectifying the situation and bringing back confidence and hope.

Q No.2 Soon after becoming the Prime Minister, you had said that you are trying to understand Delhi since you were new here. Have you understood Delhi?

Ans. When I referred to Delhi, I meant the Central Government. My experience is that Delhi behaves the way the leadership defines. Our team has worked to bring in changes in the work culture of Delhi for making the Government more pro-active and professional. When I assumed office, I found that the corridors of power in Delhi were littered with lobbies of various kinds. The task of cleaning the corridors of power (or cleaning the lobby of lobbies) was important so that the government machinery itself is improved. This process of correction and cleaning took quite some time but it will provide long term benefits in the form of clean and fair governance.

Q.No.3 And what have you understood?

Ans. One thing I fail to understand in Delhi is how the same parties which as State Governments seek amendments to the Land Acquisition law, suddenly become opponents of the amendments when they are sitting in Delhi.



Q No.4 Looking back at this one year, do you think there is something which you could or should have done differently than you did?

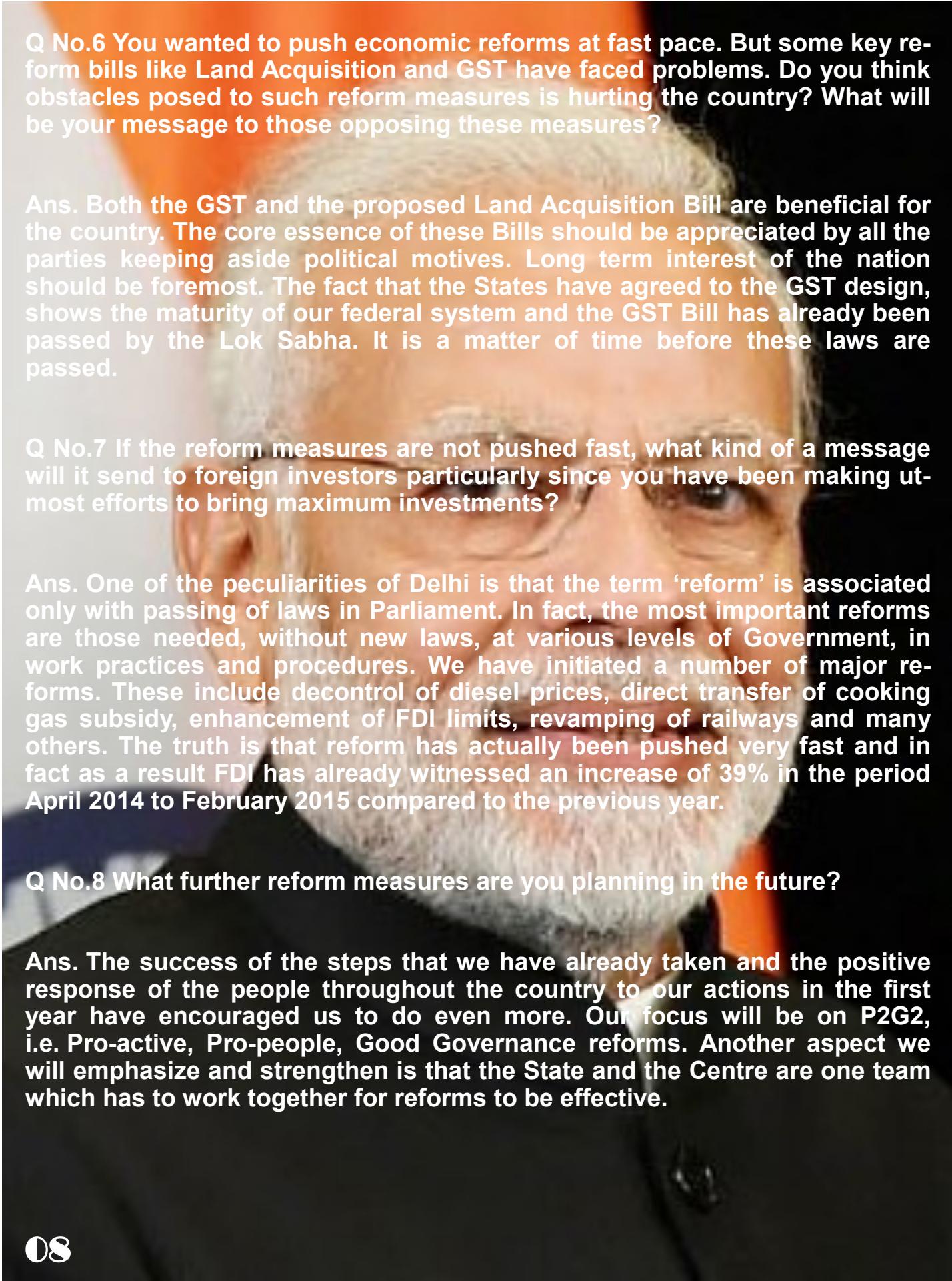
Ans. I had two options. One option was to do things methodically to mobilise the government machinery, correct the many defects and ills which had crept into the system, so as to provide long term benefits to the country in the form of clean, efficient and fair governance. The other option was to use the mandate to announce new populist schemes and bombard the media with announcements to keep the people fooled. The latter course is easier and people are used to it. However, I did not choose this and instead chose the more difficult path of correcting the defective government machinery in a quiet and methodical way. If I had chosen the populist course, it would have been a breach of the trust placed in me by the people.

Q No.5 During the first year, you initiated a number of programmes and schemes like Swachh Bharat, toilets for schools, JanDhan, insurance for poor, pension scheme. What are the plans for the future?

Ans. First, I should mention that Swachh Bharat and school toilets are not merely for cleanliness. The provision of toilets is a minimum requirement for the dignity of our women and it is unfortunate that we have not done this so many years after independence.

Our future focus will be on women, farmers, the urban poor and on employment. Whatever we have started, needs to be taken forward and into the villages and municipal areas. We have to address the issues which prevent clean cities, clean rivers, regular, uninterrupted supply of essentials like water and electricity. We have to carry out reforms which help us in making 50 million houses for the house-less. We have to see that all regions of the country, particularly the east and west, are brought on par in development parameters.

We have to build the capacity of our institutions, employees and workers. Our regulatory environment has not been encouraging to research, innovation and enterprise. Our boys and girls are doing so well in other countries, but we are not able to use them effectively at home. We have made a beginning by setting up the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU). A common requirement for all of these, is corrections in our policy regime and also in the administrative culture.



Q No.6 You wanted to push economic reforms at fast pace. But some key reform bills like Land Acquisition and GST have faced problems. Do you think obstacles posed to such reform measures is hurting the country? What will be your message to those opposing these measures?

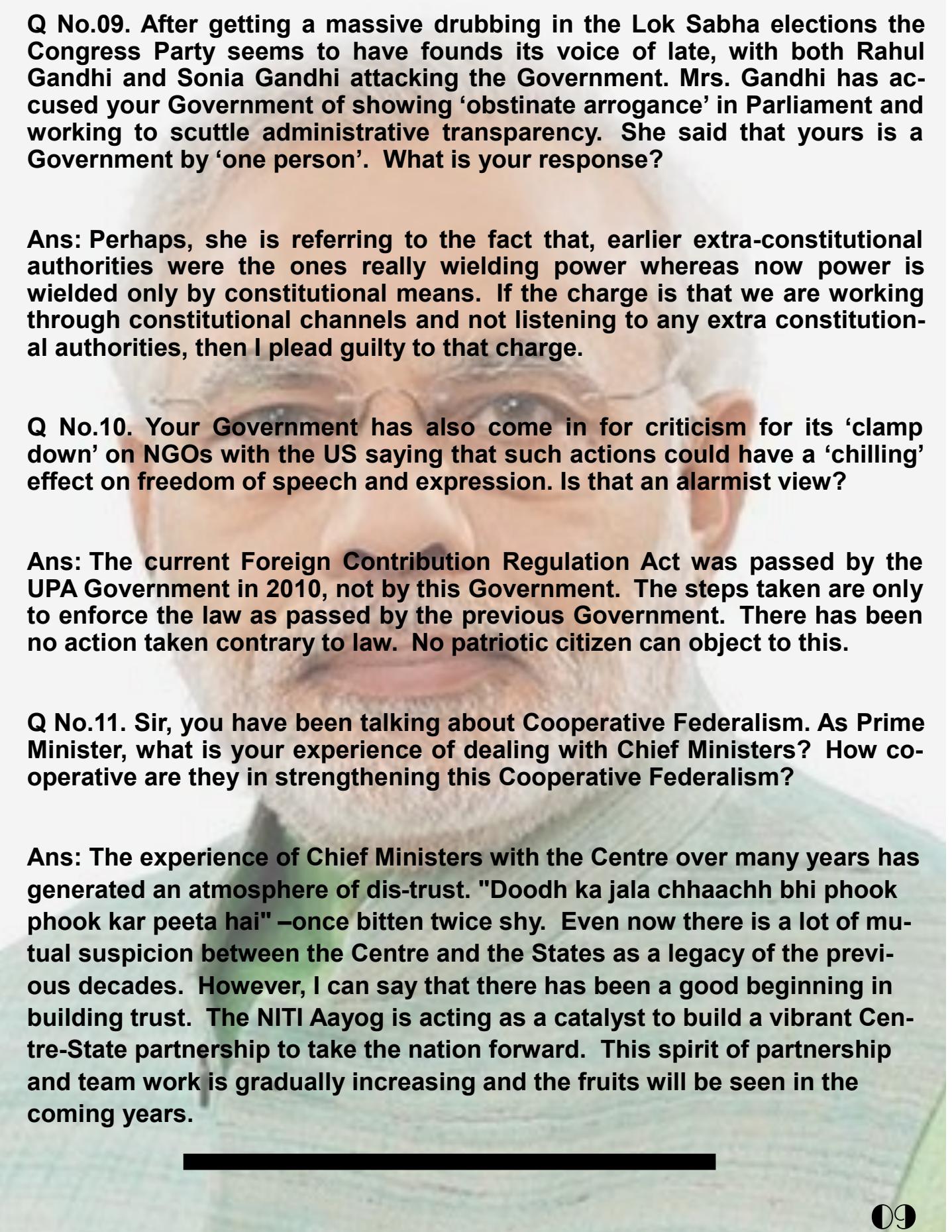
Ans. Both the GST and the proposed Land Acquisition Bill are beneficial for the country. The core essence of these Bills should be appreciated by all the parties keeping aside political motives. Long term interest of the nation should be foremost. The fact that the States have agreed to the GST design, shows the maturity of our federal system and the GST Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha. It is a matter of time before these laws are passed.

Q No.7 If the reform measures are not pushed fast, what kind of a message will it send to foreign investors particularly since you have been making utmost efforts to bring maximum investments?

Ans. One of the peculiarities of Delhi is that the term 'reform' is associated only with passing of laws in Parliament. In fact, the most important reforms are those needed, without new laws, at various levels of Government, in work practices and procedures. We have initiated a number of major reforms. These include decontrol of diesel prices, direct transfer of cooking gas subsidy, enhancement of FDI limits, revamping of railways and many others. The truth is that reform has actually been pushed very fast and in fact as a result FDI has already witnessed an increase of 39% in the period April 2014 to February 2015 compared to the previous year.

Q No.8 What further reform measures are you planning in the future?

Ans. The success of the steps that we have already taken and the positive response of the people throughout the country to our actions in the first year have encouraged us to do even more. Our focus will be on P2G2, i.e. Pro-active, Pro-people, Good Governance reforms. Another aspect we will emphasize and strengthen is that the State and the Centre are one team which has to work together for reforms to be effective.



Q No.09. After getting a massive drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections the Congress Party seems to have found its voice of late, with both Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi attacking the Government. Mrs. Gandhi has accused your Government of showing 'obstinate arrogance' in Parliament and working to scuttle administrative transparency. She said that yours is a Government by 'one person'. What is your response?

Ans: Perhaps, she is referring to the fact that, earlier extra-constitutional authorities were the ones really wielding power whereas now power is wielded only by constitutional means. If the charge is that we are working through constitutional channels and not listening to any extra constitutional authorities, then I plead guilty to that charge.

Q No.10. Your Government has also come in for criticism for its 'clamp down' on NGOs with the US saying that such actions could have a 'chilling' effect on freedom of speech and expression. Is that an alarmist view?

Ans: The current Foreign Contribution Regulation Act was passed by the UPA Government in 2010, not by this Government. The steps taken are only to enforce the law as passed by the previous Government. There has been no action taken contrary to law. No patriotic citizen can object to this.

Q No.11. Sir, you have been talking about Cooperative Federalism. As Prime Minister, what is your experience of dealing with Chief Ministers? How cooperative are they in strengthening this Cooperative Federalism?

Ans: The experience of Chief Ministers with the Centre over many years has generated an atmosphere of dis-trust. "Doodh ka jala chhaachh bhi phook phook kar peeta hai" –once bitten twice shy. Even now there is a lot of mutual suspicion between the Centre and the States as a legacy of the previous decades. However, I can say that there has been a good beginning in building trust. The NITI Aayog is acting as a catalyst to build a vibrant Centre-State partnership to take the nation forward. This spirit of partnership and team work is gradually increasing and the fruits will be seen in the coming years.

Idioms

An idiom is an expression or phrase that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms don't mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meaning.

Here are some idioms:-

English Idioms: Food

Egg head



A very studious and academic person.

Big cheese



An influential person.

Couch potato



A lazy person who watches too much TV.

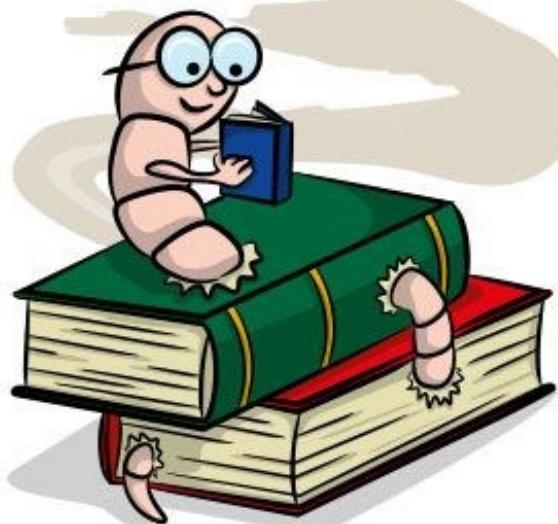
Tough cookie



A very determined person.

English Idioms: School

Bookworm



Someone who reads a lot.

Brainstorm



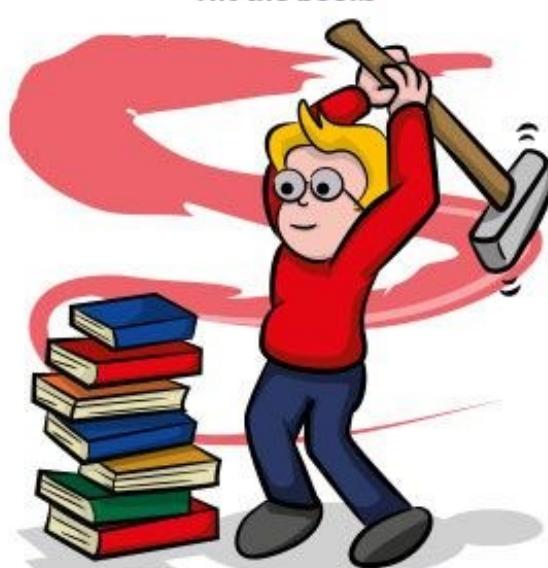
To try to develop an idea or think of new ideas.

Copycat



Someone who copies the work of another.

Hit the books



To begin to study hard.

Proverbs

A proverb is a simple, concrete, traditional saying that expresses a perceived truth based on common sense or experience.

Some common proverbs are:-

ENGLISH PROVERB

"You snooze, you lose."



It is better to act or deal with problems immediately. If you wait, things will get worse.

ENGLISH PROVERB

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

A true friend is a person who will help you when you really need help.



ENGLISH PROVERB

"To steal someone's thunder"

To take the credit for something someone else did; to take the attention away from someone else, usually to your own advantage.



ENGLISH PROVERB



The pen is mightier than the sword.

Trying to convince people with ideas and words is more effective than trying to force people to do what you want.

English Proverbs

ENGLISH PROVERB

"To be caught with your hand in the cookie jar."



To be caught in the act or attempt of doing something wrong or mischievous.

ENGLISH PROVERB

"Every cloud has a silver lining."

Every bad situation has some good aspect to it.



ENGLISH PROVERB

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."



You can offer somebody an opportunity to do something, but you can't force them to do it.

ENGLISH PROVERB

The shoemaker's son always goes barefoot.

Often those closest to a person don't benefit from the person's expertise.



Guess Me What?

Time For Riddles Readers...

1. What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I ?
3. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?
4. I am something people love or hate. I change peoples appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of them self I will go up even higher. To some people I will fool them. To others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me but I will show. No matter how hard people try I will Never go down. What am I ?

Facts

Time to know some facts:-

1. The scientific term for brain freeze is “sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia”.
2. Canadians say “sorry” so much that a law was passed in 2009 declaring that an apology can’t be used as evidence of admission to guilt.
3. Back when dinosaurs existed, there used to be volcanoes that were erupting on the moon.
4. The only letter that doesn’t appear on the periodic table is J.
5. One habit of intelligent humans is being easily annoyed by people around them, but saying nothing in order to avoid a meaningless argument.
6. If a Polar Bear and a Grizzly Bear mate, their offspring is called a “Pizzy Bear”.
7. In 2006, a Coca-Cola employee offered to sell Coca-Cola secrets to Pepsi. Pepsi responded by notifying Coca-Cola.
8. There were two AI chatbots created by Facebook to talk to each other, but they were shut down after they started communicating in a language they made for themselves.
9. A single strand of Spaghetti is called a “Spaghetto”.
10. In Colorado, USA, there is still an active volcano. It last erupted about the same time as the pyramids were being built in Egypt.
11. Until 2016, the “Happy Birthday” song was not for public use. Meaning, prior to 2016, the song was copyrighted and you had to pay a license to use it.

Story Time

Time for an Interesting Story:-

Box Full of Kisses

Some time ago, a man punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became angry when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, “This is for you, Daddy.”

The man became embarrassed by his overreaction earlier, but his rage continued when he saw that the box was empty. He yelled at her; “Don’t you know, when you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside?”

The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and cried;

“Oh, Daddy, it’s not empty at all. I blew kisses into the box. They’re all for you, Daddy.”

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

Only a short time later, an accident took the life of the child.

Her father kept the gold box by his bed for many years and, whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.



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Student's Details:-

Name — Tanmay raj

Class — 8

Section — A

Thanks For Reading !

See You in The next Edition ... Till then



Answers of Guess Me What?

1. The word is starting! starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I.
2. Footsteps
3. Your Name
4. Age