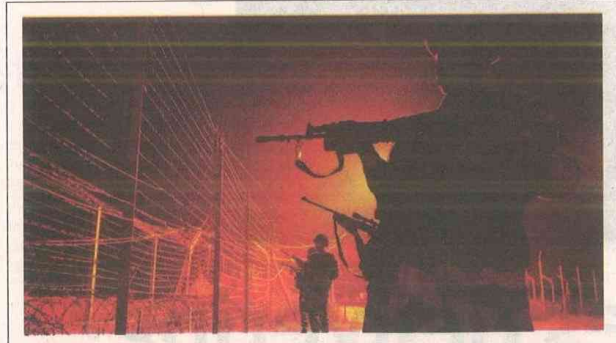




WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

CONNECTIVITY

- New integrated transportation initiative for roads, railways, waterways and civil aviation.
- Sagarmala and Bharatmala programmes for the construction of new ports and expressways.
- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) regional connectivity scheme with fares starting at about Rs2,500.
- Increasing number of railway accidents.
- 23km per day of highway construction achieved vis-à-vis a target of 41km.
- Air India's finances are still precarious. The national airline is still grappling with legacy issues.



AFP

TERROR, DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY

- Carried out surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, resumed cordon-and-search operations in more than 20 villages in Shopian.
- Combing operations launched against Maoists in Chhattisgarh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "neighbourhood diplomacy" falling in place as relations with Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka look up.
- No strategy to pre-empt rebel attacks on security personnel in districts where Maoists are active.
- Ties with Pakistan and China are icy despite Prime Minister Modi making trips to both countries (a December 2015 stopover in the former).
- Relations with Russia—India's once time-tested friend—too seem to be in the doldrums.

FARMERS

- New crop insurance scheme and higher funding for irrigation to counter weather risks.
- Set an ambitious goal to double farm incomes in real terms by 2022, moving away from the historical focus on increasing production.
- Initiated a range of marketing reforms to create a "one nation, one market" in agriculture.



BLOOMBERG

FISCAL SITUATION

- Got states on board to introduce the goods and services tax, the biggest tax reform since independence.
- Crackdown on black money leads to a surge in 2016-17 tax receipts, number of return filers.
- Merger of railway budget with Union budget and shifting budget presentation date to 1 February from 28 February.

# MODI A REPORT

The record of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in its first years in power has been impressive, judging by the numbers. Politically too, the BJP has seen unprecedented success in March after a gap of 15 years and expanding its base. This in part explains why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has faced controversies associated with the actions of his government. The next general election is due in 2019. Modi's management of the optics and his government's aspirations of voters. Here is a look at the key

- Decline in wholesale prices of vegetables and pulses has dented farm incomes.
- A loan waiver in Uttar Pradesh led to a moral hazard problem and delay in repayment of loans in other states.
- Acute drought in southern states led to a spike in farm suicides.

GREEN ECONOMY AND ENERGY

- Push for electric vehicles.
- Neglect of the forest and wildlife sectors. Decisions pending on a national forest policy, definition of forests, inviolate forest areas and a national wildlife action plan.
- Rs42,000 crore unlocked for afforestation with Parliament passing the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill 2016.
- Activists allege that the government is favouring industries and indiscriminately giving green clearances, ignoring the toll taken on the environment.
- Ganga clean-up is yet to gather momentum.
- Clean and renewable energy generation gets a boost.

- Demonetization drive led to short-term cash crunch, hit small and medium enterprises.
- Pending cases of retrospective taxation on past transactions still unresolved.
- Inability to bring back black money stashed away abroad by citizens.



POSITIVE  
Compiled by Me

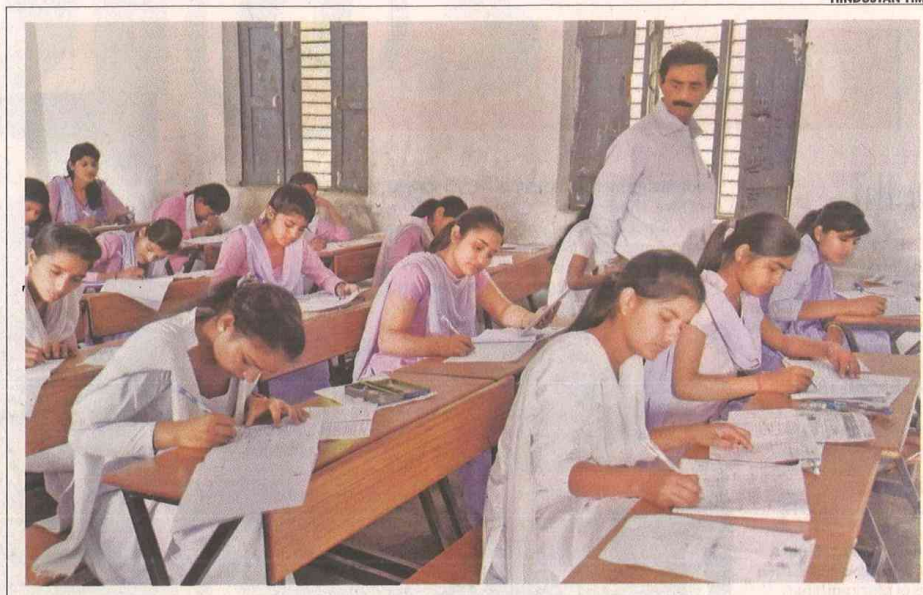


HINDUSTAN TIMES

### EMPOWERMENT— SOCIAL SAFETY, EDUCATION, JOBS, GENDER

- Graded autonomy to promote quality in education.
- Slew of social security measures to benefit the working class.
- Six months of paid maternity leave for working women.

- The Women's Reservation Bill is still pending.
- New Education Policy still to be formulated.
- Job creation yet to pick up pace.



HINDUSTAN TIMES



HINDUSTAN TIMES

### MINDSET CHANGE

- Swachh Bharat Mission launched to eliminate open defecation and promote cleanliness.
- Soviet-style five-year plans come to an end; 15-year vision, three-year action plan come into play.
- Cashless economy.

- Hyper-nationalism as seen through the lens of social media trolling and rise of vigilante groups with little regard for human life.
- Rise of vigilante groups with political agendas who attack minorities.
- In spite of stricter laws, greater awareness and even campaigns, violence against women continues unabated.

### POLITICS

- Getting unanimity on the economic reforms agenda with high parliamentary productivity.
- Series of electoral gains puts the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on the political forefront.
- Expanding voter base of the Bharatiya Janata Party to Dalits and other backward classes, focus on expansion in the North-East.



PRIYANKA PARASHAR/MINT

### OPTICS

- Doing away with the red beacon—a symbol of so-called VIP culture—from all government vehicles.
- Extending support to ending the practice of triple talaq.
- Introducing the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (save the girl child, educate the girl child) scheme.
- Rise of vigilante groups called *Gau Rakshaks*, who target people suspected of harming cows or consuming beef.
- Launch of the anti-Romeo squads in Uttar Pradesh, ostensibly to protect women from harassment, but seen widely as moral policing.
- Ghar Wapsi* (homecoming), aimed at promoting the conversion of non-Hindus to Hinduism, and campaign against Love Jihad, allegedly practised by Muslim men to win over Hindu women.

### DIGITAL AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Improving e-infrastructure, e-participation and government e-services for addressing transparency.
- Unified Payments Interface—a payment system that allows mobile-enabled money transfers between bank accounts. Promotion of the Bharat Interface for Money for a less-cash economy.
- Leveraging Aadhaar for improving service delivery to citizens.
- Call drops continue despite mobile phone services providers promising improvement.
- Drop in digital payment transactions with the easing of a cash crunch that followed the demonetization of high-value banknotes in November.
- Leakage of Aadhaar data.

# DI@3 RT CARD

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) during its three macroeconomic parameters, especially inflation. Precedency by wresting back power in Uttar Pradesh and its electoral footprint to the North-East. This remains India's most popular political leader. Still, gainsaffron groups have left the BJP vulnerable to and, to a large extent, the outcome will depend on government's ability to generate jobs to meet the growing demand by themes of the NDA's three years in power.

NEGATIVE  
Anil Thakur/Mint

