

# NARENDRA'S NEW INDIA

*The past 3 years have seen more change, disruption & innovation than the last 3 decades put together. And while India is transforming, so is PM Modi — from an individual to an ecosystem*

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It is rare in contemporary Indian political history that towards the end of 3/5ths of a government's tenure the discussion is not about the general elections coming in two years but of the one coming after seven. That is, like it or not, the undeniable reality after three years of Narendra Modi.

One may call this phenomenon names like 'one man show' or 'excessive self-projection', but it's a fact that the last three years were about one man metamorphosing from an individual holding high office to an 'ecosystem', or even an 'ism'. This is a complex mix of personality, politics, economics, Hindutva and popular culture. To these, add communication skills, efficiency and delivery; then channel the resultant alloy into popular aspirations and dreams – and you will get an 'ecosystem' that is wider, deeper and perhaps even longer-lasting than the individual in question.

From Lutyens' Delhi drawing rooms to bus stands, from hotel

lobbies overlooking the Arabian Sea to tea stalls next to canals, every conversation inevitably turns to PM Modi within three to five minutes of progression. Appreciation meets angst, hate duels against hero worship, the high-nosed encounter the lowbrow – but Modi the topic invariably is.

The building block of 'Modi-ism' was laid even before the man officially took over. In a teary-eyed speech to his MPs on the day the former chief minister of Gujarat entered the hallowed premises of

Parliament for the first time, he had said, "A government is a one which

thinks about the poor, listens to the poor and exists for the poor. This government is for villagers, farmers, Dalits and the oppressed, for them, for their aspirations." We didn't realise then, but here lay the seeds of Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana and even demonetisation.

Calling leaders of neighbouring countries, including Pakistan, for the swearing-in ceremony this day three years ago also provided a glimpse of the new prime minister's foreign policy.

**FP EDIT**