

KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 20, No. 07

01-15 April, 2025 (Fortnightly)

₹20



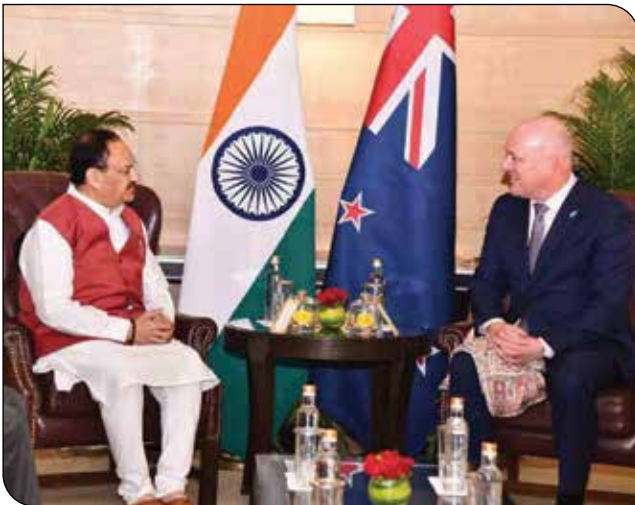
PM Modi's State Visit to Mauritius: Strengthens Bilateral Ties and Regional Cooperation



'OBJECTIVE AND MISSION OF BJP IS NOT POWER BUT SERVICE'



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda addressing at a massive public rally in Agartala (Tripura) on 09 March 2025, on the completion of two years of BJP government in the State



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda meets the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon in New Delhi on 18 March 2025



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah at the 57th annual conference of All Bodo Students' Union in Kokrajhar, Assam on 16 March 2025



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing at the North-East Students' & Youth Parliament in New Delhi on 11 March 2025



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh celebrating the festival of colours Holi with BJP karyakartas and others in New Delhi on 14 March 2025

EDITOR

DR. SHIV SHAKTI NATH BAKSHI

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

RAM PRASAD TRIPATHY
VIKASH ANAND

CREATIVE EDITORS

VIKAS SAINI
BHOLA ROY

DIGITAL MEDIA

RAJEEV KUMAR
VIPUL SHARMA

SUBSCRIPTION & CIRCULATION

SATISH KUMAR

E-MAIL

MAIL.KAMALSANDESH@GMAIL.COM

MAIL@KAMALSANDESH.ORG

PHONE: 011-23381428, FAX: 011-23387887

WEBSITE: WWW.KAMALSANDESH.ORG



BJP UTILIZES POWER AS A MEANS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE: JP NADDA

The BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda while addressing the huge gathering of Karyakartas said the objective and mission of the Bharatiya...



10 NORTHEAST IS A PRICELESS GEM OF INDIAN CULTURE: AMIT SHAH

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah...

11 'A PROMINENT ROAD IN DELHI WILL BE NAMED AFTER BODOFA UPENDRA NATH BRAHMA'

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah...



31 PM MODI RECEIVES THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD OF MAURITIUS

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 57th National Day celebrations of the Republic...

32 INDIA AND NEW ZEALAND VOW TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS

At the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon...



ARTICLES

FROM VISION TO VICTORY: HOW INDIA IS WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST TB / JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA	22
'EK BHARAT SHRESHTH BHARAT' / SHIVPRAKASH	26
A TRUE JOURNALIST WAS ALWAYS ALIVE IN HIM / DR. SHIV SHAKTI NATH BAKSHI	28
OTHERS	
IN A LANDSLIDE VICTORY, BJP WINS 9 OUT OF 10 MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS IN HARYANA	08
BJP REGISTERS MASSIVE VICTORY IN LOCAL BODY POLLS IN MIZORAM	09
AT \$4.3 TRILLION, INDIA'S GDP DOUBLES IN 10 YEARS, OUTPACES WORLD WITH 105% RISE	12
CUMULATIVE EXPORTS DURING APRIL-FEBRUARY 2024-25 ESTIMATED AT \$ 750.53 BILLION	13
JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS OFFERES QUALITY MEDICINES AT 50% TO 80% LOWER RATES	15
FORMER UNION MINISTER DR DEBENDRA PRADHAN NO MORE	16
KADAM SINGH PASSES AWAY	16
PM MODI ENGAGES IN AN INSIGHTFUL PODCAST CONVERSATION WITH LEX FRIDMAN	17
KAMAL PUSH	17
PM MODI'S ADDRESS IN LOK SABHA ON THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF MAHAKUMBH	18
UNION HOME MINISTER'S REPLY ON WORKING OF MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS IN RAJYA SABHA	20
PM SURYA GHAR: INDIA'S SOLAR REVOLUTION	24
DIGITIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN INDIA	33

@Narendramodi

I am immensely proud of our athletes who have brought glory to the nation at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Turin, Italy! Our incredible contingent has brought home 33 medals. Met the contingent in Parliament and congratulated them for their accomplishments. @SpecialOlympics.

(18 March, 2025)



@JPNadda

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Global TB Report shows a 17.7% decline in the incidence of TB disease in India.

(19 March, 2025)



@AmitShah

Earlier in Kashmir, people's representatives were elected by letter; now the people there elect their own representatives. For the first time, Modi ji has laid the foundation of democracy in Kashmir.

(21 March, 2025)



@Rajnathsingh

Delighted at the safe return of NASA's #Crew9 on earth! The crew comprising of India's daughter Sunita Williams and other astronauts have rewritten the history of human endurance and perseverance in Space. Sunita Williams' incredible journey, unwavering dedication, fortitude and fighting spirit will inspire millions across the globe. Her safe return is a moment of celebration for space enthusiasts and the entire world. Her courage and achievements make us all proud. Congratulations and a big thank you to all stakeholders for bringing them back safely on earth.

(19 March, 2025)



@B.L Santhosh

BJP sweeps Chakma Autonomous District Council Village Council elections. Of the 88 VCs @BJP4Mizoram bags 64 VCs . Congress scored moral victory & ruling ZPM was limited to 12 VCs . Of the 516 seats Party bagged 364 seats . Congratulations Team @BJP4Mizoram.

(13 March, 2025)



@Manohar Lal

In order to replace slums with houses in 100 smart cities, 5,52,000 houses have been sanctioned so far, out of which 4,99,000 houses are under construction and 3,36,000 houses have been completed and the construction of the remaining houses will also be completed by the end of the year.

(17 March, 2025)



CREATING WOMEN LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE

Started in 2019, the Vigyan Jyoti initiative has brought a radical change

Aim to encourage meritorious girls to pursue higher education and careers in STEM

Over 80,000 girls from 300 districts have benefited

DST partnered with 250+ institutions fostering girls' STEM participation

KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
SHRI RAM NAVAMI (06 APRIL)
to all of its readers



DOUBLING OF GDP HAS GIVEN HUGE IMPETUS TO THE VISION OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT'

As India's GDP reaches \$4.3 trillion in early 2025, the world watches in amazement the remarkable turnaround of the Indian economy in the last ten years. India, which has more than doubled its GDP in the last decade, not only remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world but also emerges as the economy which has shown the highest decadal growth. The GDP, which more than doubled from \$2.1 trillion in 2013 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025, marking a 105% increase, is a feat unmatched by most major global economies. The Indian economy, which was counted among the 'Fragile Five' economies of the world during the Congress-led UPA era, has now become one of the 'Top Five' economies under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and today emerged as the growth engine of the world.

While the economy has more than doubled, India achieved a record-breaking \$709.84 billion in foreign direct investment from 2014 to 2024, representing a significant 119% increase over the \$320 billion attracted during the UPA era (2004-2014). Under the Modi government, India's exports have witnessed record-breaking growth, rising from USD 466 billion in 2013-14 (UPA's final year) to \$778 billion in 2023-24—a 67% increase. The share of exports in GDP rose from 18.7% in 2020-21 to 21.85% in 2022-23, signalling a strong post-pandemic recovery. Services exports surged to \$709.84 billion during 2014-24, more than doubling the UPA-era figure of \$305 billion. This growth has been driven by strategic initiatives like Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, which have enhanced India's manufacturing capabilities and global competitiveness.

The Indian economy, which was counted among the 'Fragile Five' economies of the world during the Congress-led UPA era, has now become one of the 'Top Five' economies under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and today emerged as the growth engine of the world

Despite global challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, India's GDP is projected to grow at 6.8% in 2025, following 8.2% in 2023-24—the highest among major economies. In contrast, the UPA era (2004-2014) averaged a lower growth rate of 6.8%, compared to 8.4% under the NDA (2014-2024). Reflecting this growth at the individual level, per capita income surged from Rs. 86,647 in 2014 to Rs. 2.12 lakh in 2024, signifying a direct uplift in living standards for millions of Indians. While the economy continues to do wonders, a remarkable outcome of it is that 25 crore people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty as the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) fell sharply while extreme poverty also fell below 1% during the last decade. This turnaround reflects the impact of targeted welfare schemes, financial inclusion, rural development, and improved health and education access under NDA governance.

The Modi government's flagship Jan Dhan Yojana exponentially boosted financial inclusion, with over 53 crore new bank accounts opened, providing unprecedented banking access nationwide. The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile) effectively facilitated seamless Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), exemplified by Rs. 27,442.08 crore swiftly transferred to 11.42 crore beneficiaries within just 24 days during the peak of the Covid-19 lockdown. Furthermore, the rise in digital transactions from 2.2 billion in 2013-14 to over 208.5 billion in 2024 is driven by Digital India.

The remarkable economic achievements of the Modi government highlight strategic governance, fiscal discipline, and infrastructure-led growth that have propelled the Indian economy forward despite global headwinds. The more than doubling of GDP has given huge impetus to achieving the target of becoming the third largest economy in the world within a couple of years from now. The emergence of the Indian economy as the growth engine of the world economy is paving the path of 'Viksit Bharat'. ■

BJP National President addresses a massive rally on 2yrs of BJP Govt. in Tripura



BJP UTILIZES POWER AS A MEANS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE: JP NADDA

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a massive public gathering in Agartala, Tripura on 09 March 2025 to mark the second anniversary of the BJP government in Tripura and extended his best wishes to Chief Minister Shri Manik Saha on completing two years in office under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He expressed gratitude to the people of Tripura for repeatedly blessing the Bharatiya Janata Party and reminded them of the state's period of unrest before the BJP government came to power. During the event, Shri Nadda announced two schemes, 'Balika Samridhi Yojana' and 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Atmanirbhar Yojana'. During the event, Chief Minister Shri Manik Saha and other senior leaders were present on the stage

The BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda while addressing the huge gathering of Karyakartas said the objective and mission of the Bharatiya Janata Party are not power but service. The BJP utilizes power as a means to serve the people. This is why Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for the third consecutive term is serving the nation as the Pradhan Sevak. There was a time when journalists used to talk about "anti-incumbency", implying that the people were dissatisfied with the government and did not want it to return. However, after the arrival of Shri Narendra

Modi, the political culture has changed.

Continue blessing the BJP

The BJP National President urged the people of Tripura to continue blessing the BJP and highlighted the various developmental initiatives undertaken by the state government. Under the Chief Minister's Integrated Crop Program, Rs 25 crore was allocated, benefiting 1.46 lakh hectares of land. The BJP government procured 53,900 metric tons of rice at MSP, providing benefits to 27,800 farmers. Additionally, 65,700 Kisan Credit Cards were distributed, facilitating



570 crore in financial assistance to farmers.

Significant progress in organic farming

He said Tripura is making significant progress in organic farming, with 19,000 farmers increasing their participation in the sector. In horticulture and gardening, 96,000 people participated in the Chief Minister's Self-Reliance Scheme, while 9,575 households benefited from plant distribution under the Urban Horticulture Program. Furthermore, 11 crore was allocated under the Chief Minister's Animal Resources Development Scheme, and 66,600 fishermen were trained in scientific fish farming. Shri Nadda reiterated that the BJP government remains committed to the welfare of farmers, tribals, and every section of society, ensuring that development reaches the grassroots level.

Tripura has seen significant improvements

Shri Nadda stated that under the BJP government, Tripura has linked 4,500 schools with innovative programs, established 137 smart classrooms, and provided free medical treatment to 7.77 lakh families under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and 4.3 lakh people under the Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The state has seen significant improvements in roads, railways, airways, and internet connectivity, positioning itself as a leader in infrastructure development. A total of 462 km of roads have been constructed, with 180 km completed in 2024-25 alone. In social welfare, 3.77 lakh women receive Rs. 2,000 pension, 68 crore in scholarships has been provided to Rs. 33,000 tribal students, and 27 tribal communities have benefited from the Vandhan Kendra scheme. Tripura, once marred by violence under CPIM rule, has seen a 20% decline in crime under the BJP government, making it the third safest state in India, while 64,000 kg of cannabis has been seized in the fight against drugs. The state secretariat is now fully digitalized, with 29 lakh files and land revenue records digitized, a synthetic football ground has been developed, and under Khelo Tripura, Para Games were recently conducted.

During Vajpayee Ji's tenure Ministry of North Eastern Region was established

Shri Nadda emphasized that development in

Tripura has only taken place under former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as it was during Shri Vajpayee Ji's tenure that the Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region was established, and since Shri Modi took office, Union Ministers have been actively engaging with the Northeast. The first Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav was held at Bharat Mandapam, and under Shri Narendra Modi's leadership.

Shri Nadda emphasized that under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 25 crore people across the country have risen above the poverty line, with 24 lakh beneficiaries in Tripura. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 4 crore houses have been constructed nationwide, including 4.7 lakh houses in Tripura. Through the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, 12 crore farmers across India, including 2.6 lakh farmers in Tripura, have benefited. Additionally, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, 12 crore toilets have been built across the country, including 4.5 lakh in Tripura, ensuring dignity and hygiene for millions.

Highlights

- The BJP's goal and mission are not power but service.
- The BJP utilises power as a means to serve the people.
- Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the BJP state governments have transformed anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency through public welfare schemes and their spirit of service.
- Tripura is now moving towards becoming a drug-free state.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Balika Samridhhi Yojana, the BJP government in Tripura will deposit a Rs. 50,000 bond in the name of every girl born in a BPL family. When the girl turns 18, she will receive the bond, which will be worth 10 lakh at that time.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Atmanirbhar Yojana, the Tripura government will provide scooters to the top 140 girls who secure the highest marks across the Tripura Education Board, CBSE, and ISC Board
- Once drenched in blood under CPIM rule, Tripura has now witnessed a 20% decline in crime rates.
- Under the BJP government, Tripura is today the third state in India with the lowest crime rate. ■

In a landslide victory, BJP wins 9 out of 10 Municipal Corporations in Haryana

Five months after winning the Haryana Assembly polls for a third time, the ruling BJP on 12 March 2025 registered a landslide victory in the civic body polls by winning the mayoral elections in nine out of 10 municipal corporations and an independent candidate won in Manesar.

The principal Opposition Congress after its dismal performance in the Assembly elections failed to register any victory in the state.

BJP candidates registered emphatic wins in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ambala, Hisar, Karnal, Rohtak, Panipat, Sonapat and Yamunanagar by defeating their nearest Congress rivals. The polls for the nine municipal corporations were held on 02 March, while the voting for Panipat took place on 9 March.

We will leave no stone unturned to fulfil the hopes of people: Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulating Haryana BJP for the grand victory said, "I am very grateful to my family members in Haryana for the historic victory of BJP in the Haryana civic elections.

This victory is an expression of the unwavering faith of the people in the development work being carried out by the government led by @NayabSainiBJP ji in the state. I assure the people of the state that we will leave no stone unturned to fulfil their hopes and aspirations.

The hard work of the dedicated Karyakartas of the party has played a big role in this great victory, for which I heartily appreciate them."

BJP National President congratulates for massive victory in Haryana

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda termed BJP's resounding victory in the Haryana municipal elections as the people's endorsement of the development and welfare initiatives of the double-engine government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Expressing gratitude to the people of Haryana for this historic win, Shri Nadda extended his heartfelt congratulations to



Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini, State BJP President Shri Mohanlal Badoli, and all BJP karyakartas across the state.

Shri Nadda stated that the people of Haryana have once again expressed their trust in Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini. With this victory, Haryana now has a "triple-engine government," which will accelerate development and ensure the state's progress without any interruptions. The Congress party's deteriorating condition in Haryana indicates that the people have completely lost faith in it. This historic victory is a testament to the unwavering trust of the people in the inclusive, development-oriented, and welfare-driven policies being implemented under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Nadda further stated that this victory is a commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Haryana and reflects the state's continuous progress. He emphasized that the BJP government's welfare schemes for the poor, infrastructure development, and employment opportunities for the youth have received overwhelming support from the people. Expressing confidence in Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini's leadership, he asserted that Haryana will achieve new milestones and set new benchmarks in development. ■

BJP registers massive victory in local body polls in Mizoram

The Bharatiya Janata Party registered a landslide victory in the local elections for the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in Mizoram by winning 64 out of 88 village council seats on 12 March 2025.

Out of the 88 seats, 12 were declared uncontested, with the BJP securing 9 of these and the remaining three won by the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

The Indian National Congress failed to win a single council seat in the election. The defeat marks the party's first major loss in the Chakma local body polls. The ruling ZPM managed to secure 12 seats, while the Mizo National Front (MNF) won 8 seats.

Noteworthy, in the 2020 local election, the MNF, who were the ruling state party secured 64 village council



seats with BJP winning in 16 seats.

Gratitude to the people of Mizoram: JP Nadda

Congratulating the people of Mizoram, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in a social media post on 'X' said, "Gratitude to the people of Mizoram for blessing the BJP with a decisive victory in the 2025 Village Council General Election in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC).

This thumping mandate stands as a testament to the people's trust in Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi's vision and commitment to development. I congratulate and applaud the @BJP4Mizoram Karyakartas for their relentless dedication and hard work in securing this win". ■

BJP National President meets the PM of New Zealand

As part of the 'KNOW BJP' initiative, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, met the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt. Hon Christopher Luxon in New Delhi on 18 March 2025.

In the discussion, Shri Nadda provided an overview of the Bharatiya Janata Party's organizational framework, membership, campaign strategies, and ongoing public welfare initiatives. He highlighted the KNOW BJP initiative and proposed a delegation exchange between the BJP and the New Zealand National Party, which was aimed at fostering greater mutual understanding and exchanging organizational insights.

The conversation also covered India's progress in healthcare under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,



particularly advancements in prenatal and neonatal care, institutional deliveries, and healthcare for the elderly. Shri Nadda suggested that India, with its world-class medical facilities and affordable treatment, could be a prime destination for medical tourism. Additionally, he suggested that sending Indian healthcare professionals to New Zealand could foster knowledge exchange and collaboration, benefiting both nations' medical sectors

Shri Nadda was accompanied by BJP Foreign Affairs Department In-charge, Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, during the discussions. Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon is on an official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which also marks his first visit to India in his present capacity. ■

Northeast is a priceless gem of Indian culture: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the North-East Students' & Youth Parliament in New Delhi on 11 March 2025. He said before independence, the Northeast contributed over 20% to India's GDP,

which has now fallen below 7%. He highlighted the region's immense potential for global tourism and praised its brilliant youth and hardworking tribes. The Northeast is a priceless gem of Indian culture, enriched with a rich heritage.

Shri Shah highlighted its diversity, with over 220 tribal groups, 160+ resident tribes, 200+ languages, 50 unique festivals, and 30 globally renowned dance forms. The region has 78 unique musical instruments, 100+ traditional attires, and unparalleled craftsmanship, handicrafts, and cuisine. Despite its many unique qualities, the Northeast lagged in development due to misinformation and conflicts that fuelled terrorism and separatism.

Northeast always been a priority for the BJP

Shri Shah emphasized that the Northeast has always been a priority for the BJP government. Earlier, there was no dedicated ministry for the region, but it was established during Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji's tenure. PM Shri Narendra Modi has placed the Northeast at the core of every government initiative. A key achievement of the Modi government is reducing the gap between the Northeast and the rest of India. By 2027, all Northeastern state capitals will be connected via rail, air, and road networks.

Northeast witnessed significant peace

The Modi government has made the Northeast a priority in every scheme, engaging with militant groups to understand their concerns, reach agreements, and integrate them into the mainstream. As a result, the region has witnessed significant



peace over the past decade. Between 2004 and 2014, the Northeast saw 11,000 incidents of violence, whereas from 2014 to 2024, this number dropped by nearly 70% to 3,428. He also noted a 70% reduction in security personnel casualties and an 89% decline in civilian

deaths.

Agreements with all major militant groups

He said the Modi government has signed agreements with all major militant groups, leading to the surrender of over 10,500 rebels. In the past 10 years, 12 key peace agreements have been reached with insurgent groups. Under the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, the government has honoured, preserved, and promoted the Northeast's languages, dialects, culture, attire, traditional dances, and arts. Additionally, by disarming 10,000 insurgents, the government has fostered an environment of peace across the region.

Shri Shah emphasized that the Northeast is of great significance to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Government of India.

Highlights

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made the Northeast the focal point of every government program.
- Through 12 agreements, the Modi government has fostered peace in the Northeast, enabling over 10,000 youths to surrender and reintegrate into the mainstream.
- Northeast will play a crucial role in building a 'Viksit India'
- The Modi government has not only improved physical infrastructure but also strengthened emotional bonds in the region
- Shortly, the youth here will not have to go elsewhere for employment ■

A prominent road in Delhi will be named after Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the 57th annual conference of All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) as the Chief Guest in Kokrajhar, Assam on 16 March 2025. On this occasion, Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Shri Biswajit Daimary along with several other dignitaries were present.

In his address, Shri Shah said that All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU) has played a significant role in establishing peace, development, and enthusiasm in the region. Without the role of ABSU, the Bodo Accord would not have been possible, and peace would not have been established in Bodoland.

BJP government will fulfill every dream

Shri Amit Shah said when the entire Bodoland is following the path shown by its leader, Upendra Nath Brahma Ji, the government has decided to name a prominent road in Delhi as Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma Marg. He also mentioned that in the first week of April, a program will be held in Delhi where a bust of Upendra Nath Brahma Ji will be unveiled. He said, the Modi government and the Assam government will bring every dream of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma Ji to fruition.

Bodoland Territorial Region peace agreement

Shri Amit Shah said when the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) peace agreement was signed on January 27, 2020, the opposition was mocking it. However, today, the central government and the Assam government have fulfilled 82 percent of the conditions of this agreement. He further stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India will implement 100 percent of this agreement in the next two years. After that, there will be lasting peace in the BTR.

The Union Home Minister said during the tenure of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Bodo language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Additionally, the BTR region was expanded



by including the Sonitpur and Biswanath districts.

Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the entire Northeast has been freed from issues such as insurgency, movements, blockades, strikes, and violence, and has been ushered onto the path of development. ■

Rajeev Chandrasekhar elected as the new State BJP President of Kerala

Former Union Minister and technocrat-turned-politician Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar was elected as the new State BJP President



of Kerala on 24 March 2025. After taking charge, Shri Chandrasekhar addressed party Karyakartas and said, "This is a significant honour for me. It is a huge opportunity to serve my state...We know that we have to bring change to Kerala. We also know that to bring effective change to the lives of the people of Kerala, to the economy of Kerala, to bring investments, to create opportunities for the youth, we have to be in government, and therefore, our goal is that we will make a very strong effort to provide an alternative to the state that the two fronts have ravaged over the last 70 years. Kerala today is in decline, and we want Kerala to be 'Viksit Kerala'...". ■

AT \$4.3 TRILLION, INDIA'S GDP DOUBLES IN 10 YEARS, OUTPACES WORLD WITH 105% RISE

INDIA OUTPACED ALL THE NATIONS IN THE G7, THE G20, AND THE BRICS BY MORE THAN DOUBLING ITS ECONOMY SIZE

India has been the fastest growing major economy in the world for the last ten years, with the latest data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) showing a staggering 105 per cent growth in the last decade.

According to the IMF, India's GDP currently stands at \$4.3 trillion. After the inception of BJP government at the centre under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has focussed on strengthening the economy. It was \$2.1 trillion in 2015 and since then, India has more than doubled its economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product.

India is on the cusp of overtaking Japan as the fourth-largest economy in the world. Japan's GDP currently stands at \$4.4 trillion, and India is poised to go past that mark by the third quarter of 2025. Should the average rate of growth continue the way it is, India will surpass Germany - the 3rd-largest economy globally - by the 2nd quarter of 2027. Germany's GDP currently stands at \$4.9 trillion. India has also outpaced all the nations in the G7, the G20, and the BRICS by more than doubling its economy size.

While India topped the list in terms of pace of growth, the top two spots in terms of size of economy remained the United States (\$30.3 trillion) and China (\$19.5 trillion). Germany is in third place at \$4.9 trillion, Japan in fourth at \$4.4 trillion, and India in fifth at \$4.3 trillion.

Breaking into the top two places will take India a little over two decades at its current rate of growth. Though, it is interesting to note that as of March 2025, the US's national debt stands at \$36.22 trillion, while China's national debt as of September 2024 stands at \$2.52 trillion. In comparison, India's overall debt as of September 2024 stands at \$712 billion.

INDIA'S GROWTH TRAJECTORY

India took 60 years for its GDP to reach the first trillion-dollar mark (in 2007). From \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion took 7 years (in 2014), Despite COVID-19, India reached the \$3 trillion mark in 2021. The journey from \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion took just 4 years.

At this pace, should the progression continue the way it is, India is poised to add a trillion dollars to its GDP every 1.5 years and could likely become a \$10 trillion economy by the end of 2032. ■



CUMULATIVE EXPORTS DURING APRIL-FEBRUARY 2024-25 ESTIMATED AT \$ 750.53 BILLION

The cumulative exports (merchandise & services) during April-February 2024-25 is estimated at USD 750.53 Billion, as compared to USD 706.43 Billion in April-February 2023-24, an estimated growth of 6.24% .

- The cumulative Non-Petroleum exports in April-February 2024-25 valued at USD 337.01 Billion registered an increase of 6.43% as compared to USD 316.64 Billion in April-February 2023-24.
- Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in February 2025 include Electronic Goods, Rice, Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals including processed minerals, RMG of all Textiles and Coffee.
- Electronic Goods exports increased by 26.46% from USD 3 Billion in February 2024 to USD 3.79 Billion in February 2025.
- RMG of all Textiles exports increased by 3.97 % from USD 1.48 Billion in February 2024 to USD 1.53 Billion in February 2025.
- Rice exports increased by 13.21% from USD 1.05 Billion in February 2024 to USD 1.19 Billion in February 2025.
- Marine products exports increased by 3.40% from USD 0.49 Billion in February 2024 to USD 0.51 Billion in February 2025.
- Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals including processed minerals exports increased by 24.25% from USD 0.40 Billion in February 2024 to USD 0.50 Billion in February 2025.
- Coffee exports increased by 22.32% from USD 0.15 Billion in February 2024 to USD 0.18 Billion in February 2025. ■

CABINET APPROVES IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19 March approved the Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) to boost growth in livestock sector. Implementation of revised RGM, as Central

Sector component of Development Programmes scheme is being done with an additional outlay of Rs.1000 crore that is total outlay of Rs.3400 crore during 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Two New activities added are: (i) One-time assistance of 35% of the capital cost for establishment of Heifer Rearing Centres to Implementing Agencies for creation of 30 housing facilities having total 15000 heifers and (ii) To encourage farmers to purchase High genetic merit (HGM) IVF heifers to provide 3% interest subvention on loan taken by the farmer from milk unions / financial institutions/ banks for such purchase. This will help in systemic induction of high yielding breeds.

The revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission is approved with an allocation Rs.3400 crore during 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).

With the implementation of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and other efforts of the Government, milk production has increased by 63.55% in the last ten years, along with the availability of milk per person, which was 307 grams per day in 2013-14, has increased to 471 grams per day in 2023-24. Productivity has also increased by 26.34% in the last ten years. ■

CABINET APPROVES INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF LOW-VALUE BHIM-UPI TRANSACTIONS

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 19 March approved the 'Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Low-Value BHIM-UPI Transactions (P2M)' for FY 2024-25 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 1,500 crore. The scheme, running from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, aims to encourage small merchants to adopt digital payments.

Under this scheme, UPI transactions up to Rs. 2,000 made to small merchants will be incentivized at 0.15% per transaction value, while transactions to large merchants will receive no incentive. The government will disburse 80% of the claimed amount by acquiring banks upfront, while the remaining 20% will be contingent upon maintaining a technical decline rate below 0.75% and a system uptime of over 99.5%. ■

CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF A NEW AMMONIA-UREA COMPLEX IN ASSAM

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19 March approved the

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

proposal for setting up of a new Brownfield Ammonia-Urea Complex of 12.7 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) annual capacity of Urea production within the existing premises of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup Assam, with an estimated total project cost of Rs.10,601.40 Crore with Debt Equity ratio of 70:30 through a Joint Venture (JV), under the New Investment Policy, 2012 read with its amendments on 7th October, 2014. The tentative overall time schedule for commissioning of Namrup-IV Project is 48 months.

Additionally, the Cabinet also approved the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)'s equity participation of 18% in relaxation to the limits prescribed in Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines; and constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to oversee the process of setting up of Namrup-IV Fertilizer Plant. ■

PLI SCHEME FOR TELECOM AND NETWORKING PRODUCTS

DoT's PLI Scheme Boosts Domestic Telecom Manufacturing with Rs. 4,081 Crore Investment and Rs. 78,672 Crore Sales

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 21 March notified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme on 24.02.2021 to boost domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products in India with an outlay of 12,195 crore. As on 31.01.2025, beneficiaries have made an investment of 4,081 crore, generating total sales of 78,672 crore, which includes export sales worth 14,963 crore. Additionally, it has generated employment for 26,351 individuals.

This information was given by Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications And Rural Development, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on March 20, 2025. ■

MUTUAL CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR MSME PROVIDES 60% GUARANTEE FOR CREDIT FACILITY UP TO 100 CRORE

The Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS- MSME) has been launched for providing 60% guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for credit facility up to Rs.100 crore sanctioned to eligible MSMEs under MCGS-MSME for purchase of equipment/ machinery.

The Scheme is being implemented by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), a wholly owned company of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The MLI shall sanction loans to eligible borrowers and then submit details of the loan account on the portal of NCGTC along with payment of fees, whereupon the MLI shall get a confirmation of loan being guaranteed under the Scheme.

The Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) / All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), shall be the eligible MLIs under the Scheme, subject to execution of an agreement by them with NCGTC.

This information was given by Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today. ■

PM APPLAUDS INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT OF 1 BILLION TONNES COAL PRODUCTION

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 21 March hailed India's historic achievement of 1 Billion Tonnes Coal Production, highlighting significant commitment to energy security, economic growth and self-reliance.

Shri Modi also lauded this achievement, calling it a "proud moment for India" and recognizing the relentless dedication and hard work of those associated with the sector.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy informed in a X post that India has crossed a monumental 1 billion tonnes of coal production.

Responding to the X post of Union Minister, Shri Modi wrote on X; "A Proud Moment for India!

Crossing the monumental milestone of 1 Billion tonnes of coal production is a remarkable achievement, highlighting our commitment to energy security, economic growth and self-reliance. This feat also reflects the dedication and hardwork of all those associated with the sector." ■

MINISTRY REVAMPED THE SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME AS 'SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0'

The Ministry of Tourism launched its Swadesh Darshan scheme in 2014-15 with the objective to develop tourism facilities under identified thematic circuits and sanctioned 76 projects in the country for Rs.5287.90 Crore. The Ministry revamped the Swadesh

Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations and has sanctioned 34 projects for Rs.791.25 Crore under SD2.0.

Ministry of Tourism regularly co-ordinates with the concerned line Ministries and State Governments in order to improve connectivity including road and air to both prominent and lesser known tourist destinations in the country.

This information was given by Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 20 March. ■

PM INTERNSHIP SCHEME APP LAUNCHED

The Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in the presence of MoS Corporate Affairs, and MoS Road and Transport Shri Harsh Malhotra on 17 March launched a dedicated mobile app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme on 17th March, at Samanvay Hall No. 5, at Parliament, New Delhi.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman commended the Prime Minister's vision in introducing a package of five schemes to promote employment, skilling, and opportunities. She emphasized that the PM Internship Scheme has the potential to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry expectations, thereby enhancing youth employability.

Eligible youth can apply through the new mobile app or through the Portal accessible at <https://pminternship.mca.gov.in/>. ■

TOTAL OF 55.02 CRORE JAN-DHAN ACCOUNTS OPENED TILL 7TH MARCH 2025

The Government initiated the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI), namely the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August, 2014 to provide universal banking services for every unbanked adult based on the guiding principles of banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded and serving unserved and underserved areas. A total of 55.02 crore Jan-Dhan accounts have been opened till 07.03.2025, out of which, 36.63 crore accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.

This information was given by Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on 18 March. ■

JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS OFFERES QUALITY MEDICINES AT 50% TO 80% LOWER RATES

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) fixes ceiling prices of scheduled medicines in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 2013. All manufacturers and marketers of scheduled medicines are required to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA. Further, NPPA fixes the retail price of new drugs, as defined in DPCO, 2013. For applicant manufacturers and their marketers, who too are required to sell the new drug within the price notified by NPPA. In respect of non-scheduled formulations, manufacturers are required to not increase the Maximum Retail Price of the drugs launched by them by more than 10% during the preceding 12 months. As on 12.3.2025, ceiling prices of 928 scheduled formulations and retail prices of over 3,200 new drugs stood fixed by NPPA. Details of prices fixed by NPPA are available on its website (www.nppaindia.nic.in). ■

OVER 53.76 LAKH BENEFICIARIES COVERED UNDER PMMVY SCHEME IN FY 2023-24

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides that subject to such schemes as may be framed by the Central Government, every Pregnant Women & Lactating Mother (PW&LM), except those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, shall be entitled to maternity benefit of not less than rupees six thousand, in such instalments as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, maternal benefit of Rs. 5,000/- is provided to eligible Pregnant Women & lactating Mothers during the period of pregnancy and lactation. The eligible beneficiary also receives the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000. ■

Former Union Minister Dr Debendra Pradhan no more

Former Union Minister and veteran BJP leader Dr Debendra Pradhan passed away on 17 March 2025 in New Delhi. Dr Pradhan was 84. Born on July 16, 1941, Dr Pradhan got his MBBS degree from SCB Medical College, Cuttack in 1966. He started his career as a medical officer however, quit the government service to pursue social services and agriculture. One of the major pillars in building BJP organisation in Odisha, Dr Pradhan, joined the BJP in 1983.



Dr Pradhan entered electoral politics in 1984. He was elected as BJP's State President for two consecutive terms from 1988 to 1993. His third term as State President was from 1995 to 1997.

Dr Pradhan was elected from Deogarh parliamentary constituency in 1998 as MP. The same year, he became the Surface Transport Minister in the cabinet of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He again won the 1999 election from

Deogarh and became Union Minister of Surface Transport and Agriculture in the Vajpayee government. Dr Pradhan was national Vice-President of BJP from 2001-02.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri JP Nadda paid their last respects to the mortal remains of Dr Pradhan at the residence of his son and Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi. Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, many Union Ministers, BJP

Chief Ministers, party leaders, Leader of Opposition and former Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, and thousands of Karyakartas also paid homage to the mortal remains of Dr Pradhan in New Delhi and Bhubaneswar. The final rites were performed at Swargadwar, Puri, Odisha on 18 March 2025 with full State honours.

A hardworking and humble leader: PM Modi

Condoling the demise, in a social media post on X, Shri Modi said, "Dr. Debendra Pradhan Ji made a mark as a hardworking and humble leader. He made numerous efforts to strengthen the BJP in Odisha. His contribution as MP and Minister is also noteworthy for the emphasis on poverty alleviation and social empowerment. Pained by his passing away. Went to pay my last respects and expressed condolences to his family. Om Shanti".

His contribution to public service is unforgettable: JP Nadda

Paying his last respects, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda said, "Paid tribute to the mortal remains of the revered father of Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and former Union Minister Dr. Devendra Pradhan ji in New Delhi. Along with strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party in Odisha, his contribution in the field of public service is unforgettable.

I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May God give a place to the departed soul in his lotus feet and provide strength to the bereaved family. Om Shanti" ■

Kadam Singh passes away

Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav's father, Shri Kadam Singh passed away on 15 March 2025. The 92-year-old, who had led a life marked by discipline and health, breathed his last in Gurugram.



PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, many Chief Ministers, and other senior leaders expressed their condolences after the demise. The last rites of Shri Kadam Singh were held on the same day evening at his native village Jamalpur in Haryana.

Condoling the demise of Shri Kadam Singh, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wrote a letter to Shri Bhupender Yadav and said, "The loss of a father is one of the most painful moments of life. I can understand your pain in such difficult moments of life. It is difficult to mention in words the void his demise has left in your life". Shri Modi also said, "Shri Kadam Singh's values are visible in your personality and behavior. He may not be present today, but his teachings will continue to guide you." ■

PM MODI ENGAGES IN AN INSIGHTFUL PODCAST CONVERSATION WITH LEX FRIDMAN

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi recently had an engaging and thought-provoking conversation with renowned podcaster and AI researcher Lex Fridman. The discussion, lasting three hours, covered diverse topics, including Prime Minister Shri Modi's childhood, his formative years spent in the Himalayas, and his journey in public life. This much-anticipated three-hour podcast with renowned AI researcher and podcaster Lex Fridman was released on 16 March 2025. Lex Fridman described the conversation as "one of the most powerful conversations" of his life.

Responding to the X post of Lex Fridman about the podcast, PM Shri Narendra Modi wrote on X; "It was indeed a fascinating conversation with @lexfridman, covering diverse topics including reminiscing about my childhood, the years in the Himalayas and the journey in public life. Do tune in and be a part of this dialogue!" ■



The recent podcast with Lex Fridman is now available in multiple languages! This aims to make the conversation accessible to a wider audience. Do hear it...»

**KAMAL
PUSHP**

Sahyog, Samarpan
Aur Sanskar



RAMCHANDRA RAI

As a District Convenor in Jana Sangh, Shri Ramchandra Rai discharged his responsibilities quite well. He studied in Prayagraj with Honorable Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji and was associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since childhood. He went on to become the State Executive of the RSS, and played a prime role in the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh. He was the Sangh chalak of district Gopalganj.

He was also associated with Seva Bharti. In the year 1980, he contested the MLA elections from Mirganj Vidhan Sabha under BJP. He took active part in the work of the RSS in Odisha and Assam. During the Emergency, he was imprisoned for 18 months in Muzaffarpur Central Jail under MISA. Shri Rai was also actively involved in Satyagraha. He was very devoted to the organization and the Sangh till the last moment of his life. ■



स्व. रामचन्द्र राय

Date of Birth
25/11/1922

Gender
male

State
Bihar

District
Gopalganj

Town/City

तरूँचक, मीरगंज, गोपालगंज

Level
District

Post in Organisation
District Officebearer

Active years
1954-2005

MAHAKUMBH STRENGTHENED THE SPIRIT OF UNITY: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Lok Sabha on 18 March 2025 on the successful conclusion of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. He extended his heartfelt salutations to the countless citizens of the nation, whose efforts ensured the grand success of the Mahakumbh. Highlighting the collective contributions of various individuals and groups in making the Mahakumbh a success, he acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the government, society, and all dedicated workers involved. Shri Modi expressed his gratitude to devotees from across the country, with special mention of the people of Uttar Pradesh and, in particular, the citizens of Prayagraj, for their invaluable support and participation. Following are the excerpts of his address in Lok Sabha:



Underlining the immense efforts required for the grand organization of the Mahakumbh, comparing it to the legendary Bhagirath's endeavor to bring the Ganga to Earth, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi mentioned about his emphasis on the importance of "Sabka Prayas" during his address from the Red Fort. He noted that the Mahakumbh showcased India's grandeur to the world. "Mahakumbh is a manifestation of the collective resolve, devotion, and dedication of the people, inspired by their unwavering faith", he added.

The Mahakumbh showcased India's grandeur to the world. "Mahakumbh is a manifestation of the collective resolve, devotion, and dedication of the people, inspired by their unwavering faith"

Profound awakening of national consciousness

The Prime Minister remarked on the profound awakening of national consciousness witnessed during the Mahakumbh, highlighting how this consciousness propels the nation towards new resolutions and inspires their fulfillment. He emphasized that the Mahakumbh effectively addressed doubts and apprehensions held by some regarding the nation's capabilities.

Nation's readiness for the next millennium

Highlighting the transformative journey of the nation, drawing a parallel between the Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha ceremony in Ayodhya last year and the Mahakumbh this year, Shri Modi remarked that these events reinforce the nation's readiness for the next millennium. He emphasized that the collective consciousness of the nation reflects its immense potential. He noted that pivotal moments in a nation's history, much like in human history, serve as examples for generations to come. Shri Modi reflected on India's historical milestones that awakened the nation and provided new direction, citing the spiritual resurgence during the Swadeshi movement, Swami Vivekananda's iconic speech in Chicago, and key moments in India's freedom struggle, such as the 1857 uprising, Bhagat Singh's martyrdom, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's "Delhi Chalo" call, and Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March. "Prayagraj Mahakumbh is a similarly significant milestone, symbolizing the awakened spirit of the nation", he added.



Vibrant enthusiasm during the Mahakumbh

Underscoring the vibrant enthusiasm witnessed during the Mahakumbh in India, which lasted for nearly one and a half months, the Prime Minister highlighted how crores of devotees, rising above concerns of convenience or inconvenience, participated with unwavering faith, showcasing the nation's immense strength. Citing his recent visit to Mauritius, where he carried sacred water from Triveni, Prayagraj, collected during the Mahakumbh, Prime Minister mentioned the profound atmosphere of devotion and celebration when the holy water was offered at Mauritius' Ganga Talao. He emphasized that this reflects the growing spirit of embracing, celebrating, and preserving India's traditions, culture, and values.

Seamless continuation of traditions across generations

Shri Modi remarked on the seamless continuation of traditions across generations, highlighting how the modern youth of India have actively participated in the Mahakumbh and other festivals with deep devotion. He emphasized that today's youth are embracing their traditions, faith, and beliefs with pride, reflecting a strong connection to India's cultural heritage.

"When a society takes pride in its heritage, it creates grand and inspiring moments, as witnessed during the Mahakumbh", said Shri Modi, emphasising that such pride fosters unity and strengthens the confidence to achieve significant national goals. He highlighted that the connection to traditions, faith, and heritage is a valuable asset for contemporary India, reflecting the nation's collective strength and cultural richness.

The collective spirit of "we" over "I"

Stressing that the Mahakumbh has yielded many invaluable outcomes, with the spirit of unity being its most sacred offering, the Prime Minister highlighted how people from every region and corner of the

country came together in Prayagraj, setting aside individual egos and embracing the collective spirit of "we" over "I." He emphasized that individuals from various states became part of the sacred Triveni, strengthening the sense of nationalism and unity. He noted that when people speaking different languages and dialects chanted "Har Har Gange" at the Sangam, it reflected the essence of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and enhanced the spirit of oneness. Shri Modi observed that the Mahakumbh demonstrated the absence of discrimination between the small and the great, showcasing India's immense strength. He remarked that the inherent unity within the nation is so profound that it overcomes all divisive efforts. He highlighted that this unity is a great fortune for Indians and a significant strength in a world facing fragmentation. He reiterated that "unity in diversity" is India's hallmark, a sentiment consistently felt and experienced, as exemplified by the grandeur of the Prayagraj Mahakumbh. He urged the nation to continue enriching this unique characteristic of unity in diversity.

Promote river cleanliness,

Speaking about the numerous inspirations drawn from the Mahakumbh, Shri Modi highlighted the vast network of rivers in the country, many of which are facing challenges. He stressed the need to expand the tradition of river festivals, inspired by the Mahakumbh, adding that such initiatives would help the current generation understand the importance of water, promote river cleanliness, and ensure the protection of rivers.

The Prime Minister concluded by expressing confidence that the inspirations drawn from the Mahakumbh will serve as a strong medium for achieving the nation's resolutions. He appreciated every individual involved in organizing the Mahakumbh and extended his salutations to all devotees across the country and conveyed his best wishes on behalf of the House. ■

TERRORISM, NAXALISM AND INSURGENCY ARE ON THE VERGE OF ENDING: AMIT SHAH



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on 21 March 2025 replied to a discussion on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Rajya Sabha. While replying to the discussion that lasted for two days, Shri Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the last 10 years, the Ministry of Home Affairs has worked to strengthen the morale of our security personnel by establishing strong political will and a robust legislative framework. Following is the excerpts of his reply in the Rajya Sabha:

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah said the security, development, and sovereignty of this country have always been challenged by three major problems – terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Left Wing Extremism, and insurgency in the Northeast. He mentioned that these three deep-rooted issues have disrupted the peace of the country for almost four decades, raised questions on the country's security, and hindered the pace of national development. He added that due to these three problems, nearly 92,000 citizens of the country had lost their lives over the span of four decades. He further stated that before Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, no coordinated efforts had been made for the complete eradication of these deep-rooted issues. He said, Terrorism, Naxalism and Insurgency are on the verge of ending under Modi government.

Zero-tolerance policy against terrorism

Union Home Minister stated that earlier, in Kashmir, terrorists would frequently infiltrate from a neighboring country, carry out bomb blasts and murders, and the attitude of the then central governments towards these incidents was lenient. They would remain silent, afraid to speak out, and were also fearful of losing their vote bank. He mentioned that after Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism was adopted. He said, under the Modi government, no one has the courage to carry out bomb blasts in the country. After our government came to power, attacks occurred in Uri and Pulwama,

but within just 10 days, we responded by entering Pakistan's territory and carrying out surgical strikes.

Root cause of separatism was Article 370

Shri Amit Shah said that the root cause of separatism in Kashmir was Article 370. He mentioned that due to political compulsion and vote bank politics, Article 370 continued for many years. The Home Minister said that on 5th August, 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi abolished Article 370 in this very Parliament. He added that the framers of our Constitution had a vision that there should be one country, one symbol, and one constitution, and PM Modi fulfilled this dream. Shri Shah further stated that on 5th-6th August, 2019, a new era of one law, one symbol, and one leader began, and from that moment, the process of permanently integrating Kashmir with India began.

Anti-Corruption Bureau was established

He said in Jammu and Kashmir, Dogri, Hindi, and Urdu were granted the status of official languages of the state. To curb corruption, an Anti-Corruption Bureau was established, and all national laws were also adopted in the region. PM Modi also abolished the permit system at the Pathankot checkpoint, ushering in a new era of democracy, development, and prosperity. He mentioned that during the 33 years of the previous governments, cinemas were not allowed to open in the region, but under Modi government, they were opened. For 34 years, permission for Tazia processions during Muharram was not granted, but it was allowed during our time. Previously, it was very

difficult to hoist the national flag at even Lal Chowk, but now there is not a single house there where the Tricolor was not hoisted during the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign and the celebration of Krishna Janmashtami was held at Lal Chowk.

Restriction on passports to supporters of terrorism

Shri Amit Shah stated that the Modi government took several steps that resulted in the near elimination of the number of Indian children joining terrorists. He mentioned that, ten years ago, there was glorification of terrorists and large processions were held, but under Modi government, not a single procession took place; those who were killed were buried at the place where they fell. He added that many relatives of terrorists were ruthlessly removed from government jobs. The government also imposed restrictions on giving government jobs, passports, and contracts to the supporters of terrorism and terrorists.

From 2014 to 2024, terrorist incidents dropped

The Home Minister said that between 2004 and 2014, there were 7,217 terrorist incidents, but from 2014 to 2024, this number dropped to 2,242. During this period, the total number of deaths decreased by 70%, the number of civilian deaths decreased by 81%, and the casualties of security personnel decreased by 50%. From 2010 to 2014, an average of 2,654 organized stone-pelting incidents occurred every year, but in 2024, not a single such incident occurred. There were 132 organized strikes, but now there are none. In stone-pelting incidents, 112 civilians were killed, and 6,000 were injured, but now stone-pelting itself has stopped. In 2004, there were 1,587 terrorist incidents, while in 2024, this number was reduced to just 85. In 2004, the number of civilian deaths was 733, but in 2024, it was reduced to 26, and the number of security forces' deaths dropped from 331 in 2004 to 31 in 2024.

For the development of Kashmir

Shri Amit Shah stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved 63 projects worth Rs. 80,000 crore for the development of Kashmir in 2015. Out of these, Rs. 51,000 crore was spent, and 53 projects have been fully implemented. He mentioned that between 2019 and 2024, 40,000 government jobs were provided, 1.51 lakh OBC children were given self-

employment opportunities through the Vishwakarma Yojana, 5,184 youth clubs are working on skill development, and 18,000 youths were provided with their own taxis. He further said that by introducing an attractive industrial policy, Rs. 12,000 crore worth of investments have been realized on the ground in Kashmir, and MoUs worth Rs. 1,10,000 crore are currently being implemented. Shri Shah highlighted that earlier in the entire 70 years only Rs. 14,000 crore worth of investment had come to the region, while in the 10 years of Modi Ji's leadership, Rs. 12,000 crore worth of investment has already started yielding production. Tourism in Kashmir has also restarted, with a record 2.11 crore tourists visiting in 2023. He added that Rs. 250 crore has been invested in tourism.

Foundation of democracy in Kashmir

Union Home Minister said that Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation of democracy in Kashmir. He mentioned that under the previous government's rule, Jammu and Kashmir had 90 legislators and 6 MPs, but now there are 34,262 elected representatives in the region. He also highlighted that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, not a single bullet was fired, and 98% of the people cast their votes. Shri Shah further stated that today, Jammu and Kashmir has AIIMS, IITs, and IIMs. There were only 4 medical colleges earlier, but now there are 15, along with 15 new nursing colleges.

Cannot tolerate terrorism or terrorists

Home Minister emphasized that we deal with terrorists by directly targeting between their eyes as soon as they are spotted. He affirmed that their government cannot tolerate terrorism or terrorists, as there is no place in the country for those who play with the blood of citizens.

Fighting against Naxalism

Shri Amit Shah said that we started fighting against Naxalism using the latest technology. He mentioned that drone surveillance and satellite imaging, combined with artificial intelligence, were used to develop solutions and extract results. Based on this data analysis, we were able to precisely deploy security forces to the right locations, and this approach formed the basis of our operations. ■



FROM VISION TO VICTORY

How India is winning the fight against TB

The recently concluded 100-day Intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has not only demonstrated the power of innovation but has also shown that mobilising communities is just as crucial as transforming the programmatic approach. The campaign was launched on December 7, 2024, with the objectives of accelerating TB case detection, reducing mortality and preventing new cases



JAGAT PRAKASH
NADDA

On this World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, I reflect with immense pride on how India is rewriting the playbook in the fight against TB. The recently concluded 100-day Intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has not only demonstrated the power of innovation but has also shown that mobilising communities is just as crucial as transforming the programmatic approach. The campaign was launched on December 7, 2024, with the objectives of accelerating TB case detection, reducing mortality and preventing new cases.

The 100-day Intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan introduced cutting-edge strategies to detect TB early, ensuring that even those without symptoms — who would have otherwise gone undiagnosed — were identified and treated. Portable X-ray machines were taken directly to high-risk individuals, including people

with diabetes, smokers, alcohol consumers, those living with HIV, the elderly, those with low BMI and household contacts of TB patients. Artificial intelligence-powered X-rays flagged suspected TB cases instantly, and confirmation was done using gold-standard Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT). These efforts ensured that contagious cases were identified and treated quickly, curbing transmission and saving lives.

The 100-day Intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan introduced cutting-edge strategies to detect TB early, ensuring that even those without symptoms — who would have otherwise gone undiagnosed — were identified and treated

The campaign reached every corner of the country, screening 12.97 crore people belonging to vulnerable populations. This intensive effort led to the notification of 7.19 lakh TB patients, out of which 2.85 lakh cases were asymptomatic and would have otherwise been missed but for this innovative approach, thus breaking the chain of TB infection.

This is more than just a milestone — it's a turning point.

TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan: A people's movement

But the real game-changer wasn't just the technology — it was the unprecedented mobilisation of communities. TB elimination is now a mass movement powered by jan bhagidari (people's participation). Across India, over 13.46 lakh nikshay shivirs were held, where more than 30,000 elected representatives, including MPs, MLAs, and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies stepped up to support the 100 day TB-mukht Bharat Abhiyaan. Corporate partners and ordinary citizens joined the campaign, reinforcing the idea that TB elimination is not just a government responsibility but a collective mission. In this mission, jan bhagidari was exemplified across states /UTs — more than 35,000 activities such as TB awareness, nutrition kit distribution, undertaking pledge for TB free India etc was carried out across 22 line ministries. Similarly, more than 21,000 activities were held with PSUs, trade associations,

business associations, voluntary organisations and more than 7.7 lakh students across 78,000 educational institutions participated in TB awareness and sensitisation activities. Screening and testing of more than 4.17 lakhs vulnerable population was undertaken in congregate settings like prisons, mines, tea gardens, construction sites and workplaces. More than 21,000 TB awareness activities were held on festivals during the campaign duration involving faith-based leaders and community influencers.

The vision of our honourable PM, which laid the foundation stone of Jan Bhagidari, mobilised extensive social support for adoption of patients not only for nutrition but also psychosocial and vocational support. Support for TB patients is no longer limited to hospitals — it is happening at homes, in villages, and at workplaces. Through the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, individuals and organisations are providing nutritional support to TB-affected families, with thousands of food baskets already delivered. In just 100 days, 1,05,181 new Ni-kshay Mitras were enrolled. Recognising the critical link between nutrition and TB recovery, the government has doubled financial assistance under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per month, ensuring that no TB patient fights this battle alone.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also providing



The vision of our honourable PM, which laid the foundation stone of Jan Bhagidari, mobilised extensive social support for adoption of patients not only for nutrition but also psychosocial and vocational support

tailored and personalised treatment for TB patients under the Differentiated TB care programme. For instance, if a TB patient is found to be underweight (with a BMI < 18.5 kg/m²), their healthcare providers will chart out a tailored nutrition and treatment plan and monitor their progress each month during treatment.

Building on the momentum of the 100-day campaign

The momentum of this campaign has also demonstrated how a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach can drive transformative change. Twenty-two ministries joined forces to integrate TB awareness and services into everyday life. TB awareness floats became a highlight of the Goa carnival parades. In schools across the

country, TB awareness messages were incorporated into morning assemblies. The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises leveraged its network of cluster offices to offer free TB screenings to thousands of visitors. These diverse efforts shattered stigma, corrected misinformation and put TB elimination at the centre of public consciousness.

The 100-day campaign is just the beginning. India is all set to scale up these efforts nationwide, ensuring that every citizen — regardless of where they live — has access to modern diagnostics,

quality treatment, and unwavering community support. Just as India rapidly scaled up Covid-19 testing, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is investing in next-generation TB diagnostics to bring faster and more accurate testing to the last mile.

India has witnessed the power of community-driven action before — whether through Swachh Bharat Mission or our polio eradication drive. Similarly, TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan is now becoming another people-led movement. When innovation meets access, and when governments, communities and individuals unite the impossible becomes reality. India is not just fighting TB — we are defeating it. ■

(The writer is BJP National President and Union Minister, GoI)

MUFT BIJLI YOJANA CROSSES MILESTONE OF 10 LAKH INSTALLATIONS

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, has achieved a historic milestone with 10 lakh homes now solar-powered as of 10th March 2025.



Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 13th February 2024, this transformative scheme is rapidly reshaping India's energy landscape. With 47.3 lakh applications received, the initiative has already disbursed 4,770 crore in subsidies to 6.13 lakh beneficiaries, making solar energy more accessible than ever. The scheme's easy financing options, including collateral-free loans up to 2 lakh at a 6.75% subsidized interest rate through 12 Public Sector Banks, have further accelerated adoption. So far, 3.10 lakh loan applications have been received, with 1.58 lakh sanctioned and 1.28 lakh disbursed, ensuring financial inclusion for all. With a seamless 15-day subsidy transfer process and zero electricity bills for many beneficiaries, the scheme is not just powering homes but also empowering people. Every solar installation under PMSGMBY offsets carbon emissions equal to planting 100 trees, driving India towards a cleaner, greener, and self-reliant future.

Remarkable Progress Across Several States

The scheme has seen remarkable progress across several states. Notably, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu have achieved 100% of their government building rooftop solar targets, leading the nation in clean energy adoption. States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu are also performing exceptionally well, contributing significantly to the overall installation figures. The Government is actively monitoring the progress across all states to ensure the smooth and timely execution of the scheme, with the goal of reaching 1 crore households by 2026-27.

Top 5 states with the highest number of households benefiting under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

Key Benefits

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana offers several significant benefits to participating households:

- **Free Electricity for Households:** The scheme provides households with free electricity through the installation of subsidized rooftop solar panels, significantly reducing their energy costs.
- **Reduced Electricity Costs for the Government:** By promoting the widespread use of solar power, the scheme is expected to save the government an estimated 75,000 crore annually in electricity costs.
- **Increased Use of Renewable Energy:** The scheme encourages the adoption of renewable energy sources, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix in India.
- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:** The transition to solar energy under this scheme will help lower carbon emissions, supporting India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

Subsidy Details

The subsidy provided under the scheme varies based on the household's average monthly

electricity consumption and the corresponding suitable rooftop solar plant capacity:

Average Monthly Electricity Consumption (units)	Suitable Rooftop Solar Plant Capacity	Subsidy Support
0-150	1-2 kW	Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 60,000/-
150-300	2-3 kW	Rs. 60,000/- to Rs. 78,000/-
> 300	Above 3 kW	Rs. 78,000/-

Subsidy Application and Vendor Selection:

Households can apply for the subsidy through the National Portal, where they can also select a suitable vendor for installing rooftop solar. The National Portal will assist in decision-making by providing information on appropriate system sizes, a benefits calculator, vendor ratings, and other relevant details. With all credentials are entered correctly on the National Portal, the average time taken in processing the CFA is around 15 days after redemption request made by the consumer.

Collateral-Free Loans: Households will have access to collateral-free, low-interest loans at around 7% interest for the installation of residential rooftop solar (RTS) systems up to 3 kW.

Eligibility

Application Process

The application process involves following nine specific steps to ensure a smooth and efficient submission and approval of solar panel installation.

Impact

The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is expected to have far-reaching outcomes, both for individual households and the nation as a whole:

- **Household Savings and Income Generation:** Households will benefit from significant savings on their electricity bills. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to earn extra income by selling surplus power generated by their rooftop solar systems to DISCOMs. For instance, a 3-kW system can generate over 300 units per month on average, providing a reliable source

of energy and potential revenue.

- **Expansion of Solar Capacity:** The scheme is projected to add 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop installations in the residential sector, significantly contributing to India's renewable energy goals.
- **Job Creation:** The scheme is also expected to create approximately 17 lakh direct jobs across various sectors.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana supports domestic manufacturing by mandating the use of solar modules and cells produced in India. As of 10th March 2025, the scheme has facilitated the installation of over 3 GW of rooftop solar capacity, with an additional 27 GW targeted by March 2027.

Model Solar Village

Under the "Model Solar Village" component of the scheme, the focus is on establishing one Model Solar Village per district throughout India. This initiative aims to promote solar energy adoption and empower village communities to achieve energy self-reliance. An allocation of 800 crore has been designated for this component, with 1 crore provided to each selected Model Solar Village.

- To qualify as a candidate village, it must be a revenue village with a population of over 5,000 (or 2,000 in special category states).
- The village in each district with the highest RE capacity will receive a central financial assistance grant of 1 crore.

Conclusion

The Muft Bijli Yojana stands as a transformative initiative in India's renewable energy journey, making solar power accessible, affordable, and impactful for millions of households. With 10 lakh installations already completed, the scheme is well on track to achieve its ambitious goal of 1 crore solar-powered homes. Beyond reducing electricity costs, the scheme is fostering energy self-reliance, environmental sustainability, and economic growth, making it a key pillar in India's clean energy transition. ■



'EK BHARAT SHRESHTH BHARAT'

With the desire for public welfare, the sages created the Indian nation through their penance and hard work. While other nations were formed on a political basis, India was founded on cultural principles. Our ancient religious texts have beautifully defined this cultural unity. Jagadguru Shankaracharya Ji ensured the permanence of this unity by establishing four monasteries (Maths) in the four corners of India. This unity is reflected in our pilgrimages, fairs, Katha Pravachan, and other cultural traditions.



SHIVPRAKASH

According to the verse from the Atharvaveda, "Bhadram Icchant Rishi Swar Vidayah, Tapo Diksham Upasedu Agre. Tato Rashtra, Balam, Oja Cha Jaatam Tadasme Deva Up Sam Namantu." (भद्रं इच्छंतः ऋषयः स्वर विदायः, तपो दीक्षां उपसेदु अग्रे। ततो राष्ट्रं, बलम्, ओजः च जातम् तदस्मे देवाः उप सं नमन्तु।।), with the desire for public welfare, the sages created the Indian nation through their penance and hard work. While other nations were formed on a political basis, India was founded on cultural principles. Our ancient religious texts have beautifully defined this cultural unity. Jagadguru Shankaracharya Ji ensured the permanence of this unity by establishing four monasteries (Maths) in the four corners of India. This unity is reflected in our pilgrimages, fairs, Katha Pravachan, and other cultural traditions.

India is an ancient, culturally rich, and great nation. To create confusion, some have referred

to it as a new nation or a conglomeration of many nations (subcontinent). However, India was not only an ancient nation but also a global leader in various fields. India had earned a top position in knowledge, science, art,

India had earned a top position in knowledge, science, art, economy, and education. Indian culture has always spread the message of welfare, harmony, and tolerance. Swami Vivekananda echoed this message before the world at the Chicago World Religion Conference

economy, and education. Indian culture has always spread the message of welfare, harmony, and tolerance. Swami Vivekananda echoed this message before the world at the Chicago World Religion Conference. The famous politician leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia described Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, and Lord Shiva as the foundation of India's unity. The renowned economic historian Angus Maddison, in his research, World Economy: A Millennial Perspective, stated that "India was the economic superpower of the world from the first century to the

17th century." In The Beautiful Tree, scholar Dharampal Ji highlighted India's exceptional education system based on archival records stored in London. Education in India provided equal opportunities to all without discrimination. India also excelled in women's education, science, and industry. Recognizing India as an ancient democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the country as the "Mother of Democracy." This glorious and great India makes every Indian proud.

India is the most populous country in the world, with a population of approximately 140 crores residing across its vast landscape, spanning from north to south and east to west. This vast expanse has contributed to immense diversity in geography, climate, language, color, caste, attire, food, and customs. Each region has its own dialects and social structures. There are also divisions within caste groups and tribal communities across different regions, such as the Himalayas, North-East India, Eastern India, and South India. Unfortunately, political leaders and divisive forces have attempted to exploit these diversities to serve their

vested interests. However, India exemplifies unity in diversity, making this diversity a unifying force rather than a dividing one.

The unity that sages, great leaders, revolutionaries, writers, and poets have long cherished is what Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has sought to reaffirm through the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative. This initiative aims to instill a shared sense of unity among 140 crore Indians. PM Shri Modi has not only announced 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' but has also launched several programs at governmental and societal levels.

The Education Department introduced an innovative experiment called Bhasha Sangam to familiarize students with different Indian languages. Additionally, the Bhasha Sangam app enables people to learn multiple languages. Such initiatives allow students from one state to understand the language and culture of another, fostering national integration. Moreover, the Indian government, under the leadership of PM Shri Modi, has established study and research centers in prestigious international universities to promote Indian languages like Sanskrit, Tamil, and Pali.

Kashi holds a revered place in the hearts of all Indians. Known as a city of gods and scholars, it is home to Lord Shankar in the form of Kashi Vishwanath. Scholars from the South consider it an honor to visit Kashi. Rameswaram and Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu, which highlight Kashi's significance, are referred to as the "Kashi of

the South." Tamil Nadu has over 100 temples named after Kashi. So, the Kashi Tamil Sangam is a remarkable initiative that fosters a deep connection between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, allowing thousands of Tamil devotees to experience the essence of unity. Similarly, the Saurashtra Tamil



The Education Department introduced an innovative experiment called Bhasha Sangam to familiarize students with different Indian languages. Additionally, the Bhasha Sangam app enables people to learn multiple languages

Sangam has been organized to strengthen the bond between western and southern India. Another notable initiative, Yuva Sangam, enables youth from different states to travel and experience the nation's inherent unity firsthand.

During the Mann Ki Baat program, PM Shri Modi personally shared inspiring stories and educational experiences of participating students. Furthermore, respecting Sikh sentiments and faith, the government has undertaken the renovation of the Lakhpatt Gurudwara in Gujarat and organized the Lakhpatt Gurunanak

Darshan Yatra to connect Punjab and Gujarat.

At the consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram in the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, the Prime Minister symbolically connected North and South India by commencing his rituals from Panchvati and visiting all major temples of the South. The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, which brings together saints from all Sanatan traditions and pilgrims from every Indian state, embodies this spirit of unity. The installation of Sengol in the newly elected Parliament on May 28, 2023, further signifies this unity.

The new education policy also encourages students to explore linguistic unity under Bharat Shreshtha Bharat through activities focused on "The Languages of India."

In Mann Ki Baat, PM Shri Modi frequently remembers great leaders from different states, shares wisdom from ancient scriptures, and highlights sayings in multiple Indian languages—all reinforcing the bond of national unity. Under his leadership, the BJP has celebrated the foundation days of different states across India, bringing together communities and fostering a sense of intimacy within society. He has also encouraged social media users to communicate in one additional Indian language alongside their native language and English. While other political parties often resort to divisive politics, PM Shri Modi is strengthening India's unity and collective national identity. ■

(The writer is the BJP National Jt. General Secretary (Organisation))



A TRUE JOURNALIST WAS ALWAYS ALIVE IN HIM

DR. SHIV SHAKTI NATH BAKSHI

Atal ji inspired generation after generation to contribute to national life with an intense feeling of patriotism and love for the nation. The political movement which started with the aim of giving alternative in Indian politics reached a milestone in him as he became the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India who completed his full term in office. A towering personality in Indian politics, Atalji was a true statesman, a democrat, a leader, a consensus builder and, above all, a gentleman in politics. As a politician and a poet, he was equally loved and admired, cutting across political divides within the country and beyond the borders. His multidimensional personality saw his activism blossom in various fields since his early childhood, leading him to participate in the national movement. While he was praised for his oratory and poetry, his intellectual capabilities, writing skills, and understanding of various issues were recognised at a very early age as he was assigned tasks of national importance. He also left an indelible mark in the field of journalism, setting high standards in public life.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee started his public life as a journalist and was assigned the important responsibilities of editing Rashtradharm, Panchjanya, and Dainik Swadesh one after another in his initial days. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, who was planning to start a monthly magazine by the name of 'Rashtradharm' asked Atalji to move to Lucknow, where the magazine was slated to be published. Atalji, along with Rajiv Lochan Agnihotri, was assigned the responsibility to edit the magazine, 'Rahstradharm' which was an instant success. While 'Rashtradharm' was gaining admirers, the pro-leftist elements were not comfortable with its rising reputation among the intellectual class. Atalji's writings made him a respected figure among the intellectual fraternity, and 'Rashtradharm' became a leading publication of national repute. In the meantime, the publication of 'Panchjanya' started and Atal ji was given the responsibility of being its editor. There was no doubt that its first issue itself was widely praised everywhere.

But soon the office of 'Rashtradharm' was

sealed by the administration in 1948 and staffs were incarcerated. Atalji somehow escaped and remained in hiding in Allahabad for some time. In the meantime, the court ordered in favour of 'Rashtradharm' and it was allowed to resume its publication. Atalji started publishing 'Dainik Swadesh' from the same office but the office was again sealed. Then, Atalji went to Kashi and started publishing weekly 'Chetana'. In 1950, he again shouldered the responsibility as editor of 'Dainik Swadesh'. But the publication could not be sustained for long due to financial difficulties as there was no support from the government. In view of the political situation of the day, there was no prospect of getting government advertisements. Atalji had to stop the publication of 'Dainik Swadesh' with heavy heart and he expressed his pain in the last editorial 'Alvida (Farewell)'. Thereafter, he moved to Delhi from Lucknow and started contributing as editor of 'Veer Arjun'. The 'Veer Arjun' also started gaining reputation under his stewardship but his destiny lay somewhere else. As Bharatiya Jansangh was formed, Atalji was sent to strengthen the foundation of the newly formed political party. The rest is history.

Atalji was a staunch believer in the freedom of press and its crucial role in democracy. He always believed that the democracy will be strengthened by maintaining the freedom of the press. He used to say, "Freedom of the press is a valuable asset of our democracy." He valued the important role played by editors in society very highly as he said, "The editor should be responsible to the society and should be true to himself. One should not act against the soul, but it is necessary that the soul is kept alive first." He was of the opinion that there should be a healthy connect between the government and media and was not in favour of any press censorship as he said, "The government should interact with the representatives of the press before taking drastic steps like implementing the system of censorship." He had immense faith in the sense of duty of Indian media as he used to say, "Barring a few exceptions; the Indian press has maintained a high standard of journalism." He also had hopes from the coming generation of journalist and believed in their talent and commitment

to profession. He said, "Today's journalists are more informed, more industrious, more investigative and also more aggressive." While addressing the 11th Biennial Session of the National Union of Journalists on 12th July, 1998, he said that the Media should be more powerful in our country. Such a situation should arise so that it can compete with the international media. For this to happen, he emphasised on maintenance of quality, standard and professionalism in media as he said that the selection of news should be in such a way that it is in the interest of the society and the interest of the nation. Highlighting the role of the journalism, he said, "The morale of the society should be raised, the evils should be exposed, there is no objection to this, but overall the attitude of the press should be such that the right picture is created in the minds of the countrymen about the country and outsiders can also assess the truth about us."

Atalji became active in politics but he always cherished his days of journalism. He once said, "I wanted to be a good journalist, but got entangled in the rough ground of politics. Politics has strangled my poetic mind. Now I have become a babbler." But he was also aware of the problems journalism was facing as a profession as he said, "Journalism was once a mission, then became a profession and now it is becoming a business." Addressing the 11th Biennial Session of the National Union of Journalists on 12th July, 1998 he further said, "I also started my public life with a newspaper. Back then working in the newspaper was a mission. The country was in slavery, the freedom struggle was going on, and everyone wanted to sacrifice their lives in that Yagya. Today, the face of journalism has changed. It has become a business. There is nothing wrong with being a professional. But the goal should not be just to make money. The thing that comes in print should influence the heart and mind." On the occasion of the release of Hindi weekly Pioneer in Lucknow, 27 August 1999, he emphasised on the responsibilities of journalism and its duty to serve the ideas and larger goals in the society. He said, "Newspapers which lack resources, they have to proceed on the basis of ideas. Newspapers should not hesitate in exposing lies, but it should be done in a proper manner. It is true that newspaper is also an industry, but it is not an industry like selling soap and oil. Journalism has its own beliefs and objectives. Its responsibility is far greater. If journalism is not based on a higher purpose, then difficulties will

arise. I myself have been a journalist, so I am well aware of the difficulties newspapers have to go through. Now the competition in journalism has increased a lot and newspapers compete with TV channels, which give news on every half an hour. But it is a matter of happiness that despite this, neither the popularity of newspapers has decreased nor their usefulness has been adversely affected. For any newspaper, along with news, ideas are equally important. Especially for those which have lesser resources, they will have to proceed on the basis of strength of ideas."

Atalji has left a unique and glorious legacy in Indian politics. He in fact represented the spirit of India where democratic traditions have shaped the socio-cultural fabric of the nation. While believing in the democratic functioning within a political party and in governance, he was quick in opposing emergency and dictatorial tendencies in politics. His nationalism was imbued with democratic spirit wherein the diversities of Indian society were to be addressed through tradition of evolving consensus on various issues of national and international concerns. In his long parliamentary life, he was able to leave his indelible mark on important issues even while being in opposition. It was by dint of his grasp over the various problems afflicting the nation that he tried to find solutions within the framework of national ethos and value system. A leader rooted to soil he was known for having political insights which showed that a true journalist was always alive in him.

His long inning in politics saw him gaining love, affection and respect more and more with every passing day. An orator par excellence, he mesmerised the masses with his magical appeal. The nation wanted to see him as prime minister and this dream was realized with the increasing support of the people in the country. As prime minister he led the country on every front with remarkable success. India emerged as a peaceful nuclear power state which became confident of itself even in the face of international economic sanctions. As a true 'Atal' he never buckled under pressure, never as an editor, nor as a political leader. He wrote a new saga of good governance and development while giving a massive boost to infrastructure sector and making India self reliant on various fronts. As he rightly said in one of his speeches, he has left ineffaceable imprints on the canvas of time. The path shown by him has become guiding light for the emerging New India. ■

PM MODI'S STATE VISIT TO MAURITIUS

Strengthens Bilateral Ties and Regional Cooperation

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook a significant state visit to Mauritius, reaffirming the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and strategic ties between the two nations on 11 March 2025. The two days visit marked an important milestone in India-Mauritius relations, focusing on diplomatic cooperation, economic collaboration, and shared commitments to regional stability.

Bilateral Ties Through Symbolic Initiatives

As part of his visit, Prime Minister Modi, along with his Mauritian counterpart Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, planted a tree under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (Tree for Mother) initiative. This initiative, launched by Prime Minister Modi, symbolizes environmental consciousness and intergenerational sustainability.

Following this, Prime Minister Modi met with Mauritius' President Dharambeer Gokhool at the State House, where they discussed mutual interests, including India's contributions to Mauritius's social, economic, and cultural development. In recognition of his visit, the President hosted a banquet lunch in his honor, followed by a tour of the Ayurveda Garden at the State House, reflecting the deep connection between India and Mauritius in the field of traditional medicine.

Engagement with the Indian Diaspora

A key highlight of the visit was Prime Minister Modi's address at a large community event at the Trianon Convention Center, attended by members of the Indian diaspora, local Mauritians, and socio-cultural organizations. He emphasized the unique ties between the two nations and the areas in which India and Mauritius could collaborate further, such as climate change, digital transformation, women empowerment, and countering drug abuse.

During the event, Prime Minister Modi also handed over Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards to Mauritius' President Gokhool and Prime Minister Ramgoolam, as well as their spouses. This reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening



people-to-people ties and acknowledging the Indian-origin population in Mauritius.

Diplomatic Agreements

In the evening, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Ramgoolam engaged in high-level diplomatic discussions, including restricted meetings and one-on-one talks. These discussions covered a range of subjects, including defense cooperation, maritime security, economic partnerships, and global and regional concerns.

The discussions culminated in the adoption of a Joint Vision for an Enhanced Strategic Partnership, elevating India-Mauritius ties to a strategic partnership level. This document outlines cooperation in various fields, including: Political exchanges, Developmental projects, Capacity-building initiatives, Economic and trade collaboration, Defense and maritime security cooperation, Cultural and educational partnerships.

Infrastructure and Development Projects

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi announced India's support for several developmental projects in Mauritius. Notable initiatives included:

- 1. New Parliament Building:** India pledged support for constructing a modern parliamentary complex in Mauritius, enhancing the country's legislative infrastructure.
- 2. High-Impact Community Development Projects**

PM MODI RECEIVES THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD OF MAURITIUS

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 57th National Day celebrations of the Republic of Mauritius as the Chief Guest. During the celebrations, President of the Republic of Mauritius H.E. Mr. Dharambeer



Gokhool conferred the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.C.S.K) award, the highest civilian award of Mauritius, on Prime Minister Modi. This is the first time that an Indian leader is receiving this honour. Prime Minister Shri Modi dedicated this award to the special friendship between India and Mauritius and to the 1.4 billion people of India and their 1.3 million brothers and sisters in Mauritius.

During the National Day celebrations, an Indian Navy marching contingent participated in the parade. An Indian Naval Ship also made a Port Call to coincide with the National Day celebrations.

(HICDPs): India announced a grant assistance of 500 million Mauritian rupees for the second phase of these projects, covering essential community amenities.

- 3. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation:** This institute will train Mauritian civil servants and serve as a center of excellence for governance and public administration.
- 4. Cap Malheureux Area Health Center:** This healthcare facility, inaugurated by the two leaders, aims to improve medical services for local communities.
- 5. 20 Community Projects:** These included children's playgrounds, green space upgrades, and community centers, promoting sustainable urban development.

MoUs and Economic Partnerships

As part of the visit, eight MoUs were exchanged between India and Mauritius, covering:

- **Training and capacity-building:** India will train 500 civil servants from Mauritius.
- **Diplomatic training:** Mauritian diplomats will receive training at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in New Delhi.
- **Local currency settlement of bilateral trade:** Building on the success of UPI and RuPay card implementation.
- **Combating financial crimes:** Strengthening cooperation on anti-corruption and anti-money laundering measures.
- **Support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs):** Encouraging entrepreneurial growth and economic diversification in Mauritius.
- **Indian Rupee-denominated Line of Credit:** India extended Rs. 487.6 crore through SBI for replacing Mauritius' water pipelines, marking the first-ever rupee-based Line of Credit issued by India.

Cultural and Spiritual Connections

In a deeply symbolic act, Prime Minister Modi offered Gangajal from the Prayagraj Mahakumbh at Ganga Talao, a sacred lake in Mauritius. This act reaffirmed the spiritual and cultural ties that have bound India and Mauritius for centuries.

Vision MAHASAGAR: India's Roadmap for the Global South

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi introduced Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), an evolution of his earlier Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth Across Regions), announced during his last visit to Mauritius ten years ago. This vision aims to strengthen India's engagement with the Global South, emphasizing:

- Maritime security
- Sustainable development
- Technological advancements
- Regional cooperation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's state visit to Mauritius in March 2025 reinforced the historical, cultural, economic, and strategic partnership between the two nations. ■

INDIA and NEW ZEALAND vow to strengthen Bilateral Relations



At the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon undertook an official visit to India from 16-20 March 2025. This visit marked Prime Minister Luxon's first trip to India in his current role. Accompanied by senior ministers and a high-level delegation, he visited New Delhi and Mumbai.

Prime Minister Luxon received a warm welcome in New Delhi, where he held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shri Modi. He also paid homage at Raj Ghat and met with President Droupadi Murmu. He was the Chief Guest at the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue, where he delivered the Inaugural Keynote Address.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India-New Zealand relationship, rooted in shared democratic values and people-to-people ties. Recognizing the potential for further collaboration, they agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, defense, security, education, science, technology, agriculture, space, and sports.

Regional and Global Cooperation

The Prime Ministers discussed regional and global issues, emphasizing their commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. They reaffirmed their support for freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Both leaders acknowledged the contributions of the Indian diaspora in New Zealand and emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and security of Indian and New Zealand citizens in both countries.

Defense and Security Partnership

The Prime Ministers emphasized the significance of defense cooperation and welcomed the signing of

a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defense Cooperation. They acknowledged the progress made in military exchanges, naval visits, and training programs.

New Zealand welcomed India's participation in the Combined Maritime Forces, and both sides agreed to enhance maritime security cooperation. Additionally, New Zealand expressed interest in joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), which India welcomed.

Science, Technology, and Climate Action

New Zealand reaffirmed its commitment to the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), reinforcing cooperation in disaster risk reduction. Plans for an MoU on earthquake mitigation were also discussed.

Key Announcements

- Launch of FTA negotiations to enhance trade and investment.
- Initiation of mobility negotiations to facilitate skilled worker exchange.
- New Zealand's entry into the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- New Zealand's membership in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Signed Agreements

- Joint Statement
- MoU on Defense Cooperation
- Authorized Economic Operator - Mutual Recognition Agreement (AEO-MRA)
- MoU on Horticulture Cooperation
- Letter of Intent on Forestry Cooperation
- Education Cooperation Agreement
- MoU on Sports Cooperation ■

DIGITIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN INDIA

India is one of the largest repositories of tangible heritage, with monuments, sites, and antiquities spanning from prehistoric times to the colonial era. While various organizations like the ASI, State Archaeology Departments, and INTACH have documented parts of this heritage, much remains scattered or undocumented. The absence of a unified database makes research, conservation, and management challenging. To address this, the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) was launched to systematically document and digitize built heritage, sites, and antiquities. Through standardized documentation, training programs, and public awareness, NMMA aims to create a comprehensive national database, ensuring the preservation of India's rich cultural legacy.

National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

Established in 2007, the NMMA is responsible for the digitization and documentation of India's built heritage and antiquities. It has made significant progress in compiling national registers for monuments and antiquities.

Achievements of NMMA:

- **Digitization of Antiquities:** 12,34,937 antiquities have been digitized, including 4,46,068 from ASI Museums/Circles/Branches and 7,88,869 from other institutions.
- **Built Heritage & Sites:** 11,406 sites and monuments have been documented.
- **Budget Allocation:** Rs. 20 lakh were allocated for NMMA in the FY 2024-25.

Objectives of NMMA:

- Documenting and creating a national database of built heritage, monuments, and antiquities for better management and research.
- Ensuring uniform documentation of antiquities across central, state, private institutions, and universities.
- Raising awareness about cultural heritage preservation.
- Providing training and capacity building for state departments, local bodies, museums, NGOs, and universities.
- Enhancing collaboration between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), state departments, and other

stakeholders.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (AMASR Act 1958) was enacted by the Parliament with an aim "to provide for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance, for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings, and other like objects.

As per the AMASR Act 1958, the following are the definitions of ancient monuments:

"Ancient monument" means any structure, erection, or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock sculpture, inscription, or monolith, which is of historical, archaeological, or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than one hundred years, and includes:

- The remains of an ancient monument
- The site of an ancient monument
- Such portion of land adjoining the site of an ancient monument as may be required for fencing, covering, or otherwise preserving such monument
- The means of access to, and convenient inspection of, an ancient monument

The scope of documentation of Built Heritage by the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) has been enhanced by defining any structure that belongs to the pre-independence period, and the year 1950 has been considered as the cut-off date keeping in view of historical importance.

Conclusion

The digitization and documentation of India's cultural heritage are crucial for its preservation and accessibility. The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) plays a vital role in this effort by standardizing records, training stakeholders, and promoting public awareness. By leveraging technology and collaboration, NMMA ensures that India's vast heritage is systematically documented, protected, and made available for research and education. A unified and comprehensive database will not only aid in conservation but also strengthen cultural identity for future generations. ■

PM MODI CONGRATULATES CREW-9 ASTRONAUTS

Sunita Williams and Crew 9 astronauts once again shown us what perseverance truly means: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 19 March 2025 extended heartfelt congratulations to the Crew-9 astronauts, including Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams, as they safely returned to Earth. Shri Modi lauded Crew-9 astronauts' courage, determination, and contribution to space exploration.

Shri Modi said that Space exploration is about pushing the limits of human potential, daring to dream, and having the courage to turn those dreams into reality. Sunita Williams, a trailblazer and an icon, has exemplified this spirit throughout her career.

In a message on X, the Prime Minister said, "Welcome back, #Crew9! The Earth missed you. Yours has been a test of grit, courage and the boundless human spirit.



Sunita Williams and the #Crew9 astronauts have once again shown us what perseverance truly means. Their unwavering determination in the face of the vast unknown will forever inspire millions.

Space exploration is about pushing the limits of human potential, daring to dream, and having the courage to turn those dreams into reality. Sunita Williams, a trailblazer and an icon, has exemplified this spirit throughout her career.

We are incredibly proud of all those who worked tirelessly to ensure their safe return. They have demonstrated what happens when precision meets passion and technology meets tenacity. @Astro_Suni @NASA" ■



**BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT
BECOME A PROUD MEMBER OF 'KAMAL SANDESH'**



SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Name :

Address :

..... Pin :

Phone : Mobile : (1)..... (2).....

E-mail :

SUBSCRIPTION TYPE	One Year	₹350/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English or Hindi)	₹3000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Three Years	₹1000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English+Hindi)	₹5000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>

(DETAIL OF THE PAYMENT)

Cheque/Draft No. : Date : Bank :

Note : * DD/Cheque will be made in favour of "Kamal Sandesh"
* Money order and Cash accepted with details

(Subscriber's Signature)



SEND YOUR DD/CHEQUE ON THIS ADDRESS
Dr. Mookerji Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003
Ph.: 011-23381428 **Fax:** 011-23387887 **E-mail:** kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam at Port Louis in Mauritius on March 11, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian community in Mauritius on March 11, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Christopher Luxon at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on March 17, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Christopher Luxon visit Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in New Delhi on March 17, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Director of National Intelligence of the United States, Ms Tulsi Gabbard in New Delhi on March 17, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Turin, Italy contingent which brings home 33 medals in New Delhi on 18 March 2025



NOW
KAMAL SANDESH E-MAGAZINE
 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE
WWW.KAMALSANDESH.ORG
 BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

f @KAMAL.SANDESH

t @KAMALSANDESH

ig KAMAL.SANDESH

yt KAMALSANDESHLIVE

Date of Posting : (i) 27-28 Adv. Month (ii) 12-13 Same Month
 Office of Posting : Lodhi Road H.O. New Delhi "REGISTERED"
 36 Pages with Cover
 Published on: 30 March, 2025
 RNI No. DELENG/2006/16838
 DL(S)-17/3265/2025-27
 Licence to Post without Prepayment
 Licence No. U(S)-42/2021-23



Narendra Modi App

Connect with PM
Dial 1800-2090-920
 to download NaMo App

#HamaraAppNaMoApp



- Empowerment:** Realize your potential by executing task effectively and efficiently
- Participation:** Leverage collective power of ideas and efforts powering inclusive growth
- Recognition:** Share your work with other party members and be recognized
- Networking:** Connect with other party members who are doing great work

Scan QR code to download NaMo App
 Latest Update Regarding NaMo App (Scan QR Code)



PHOTOGRAPHER: AJAY KUMAR SINGH