

KAMAL SANDESH

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'BJP is a party driven by ideology'



'WE VALUE THE PRIORITIES OF OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES'



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee & Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya on the occasion of 'BJP's Sthapna Diwas' at BJP HQ, New Delhi on 06 April 2025



Delhi CM Smt. Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP State President Shri Virendraa Sachdeva welcoming BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda to 'BJP Sthapna Diwas' at BJP HQ, New Delhi on 06 April 2025



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing the inauguration session of National Workshop on Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar "Samman Abhiyan" at BJP HQ, New Delhi on 08 April 2025



BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda receiving the greetings of people at "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat Sheh Milan" Programme on the occasion of Bihar Diwas 2025 at Dr. Ambedkar Int'l Centre, New Delhi on 29 March 2025



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah receiving the greetings of people at a massive public rally in Gopalganj in Bihar on 30 March 2025



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders unveiling a book, documenting the contributions of 75 female freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence in New Delhi, on 29 March 2025

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@Narendramodi

In the times to come, our government will continue focusing on ensuring a robust ecosystem where every aspiring entrepreneur, has access to credit thus giving him or her the confidence and a chance to grow.

(8th April, 2025)



@JPNadda

'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', launched on 8 April 2015 under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji, has been extremely effective in making small industries self-reliant and strong. Under this, guarantee-free loans have been distributed to more than 52 crore beneficiaries, out of which about 70% are women beneficiaries. This ambitious scheme has strengthened the country's economy by making self-employment available to millions of citizens in the last 10 years. I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister for this unique achievement in realising the objective of ensuring economic prosperity, self-reliance and self-sufficiency of the countrymen. #10yearsofmudra

(8th April, 2025)



@AmitShah

Bharat created a new landmark with the inauguration of the first vertical lift railway sea bridge at Pamban in Tamil Nadu by PM Shri @narendramodiji today. The engineering marvel will further boost our economy by expanding our nation's transportation bandwidth through the deployment of cutting-edge technology, and the Rameswaram-Tambaram train service flagged off today will speed up growth by infusing new energy into urban mobility.

(6th April, 2025)



@Rajnathsingh

When India is increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean region, it is enhancing our national interest as well as the security of our friendly nations. That is, our presence in the Indian Ocean represents a shared value. It ensures our security as well as the security of our friendly nations.

(5th April, 2025)



@B.L Santhosh

Another triumphant win for NDA in Assam. NDA wins 33 out of 36 seats (BJP 6 out of 6) in Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council elections. Congratulations Team @BJP4Assam led by CM Sri @himantabiswa & State President Sri @DilipSaikia4Bjp

(4th April, 2025)



@Nitin Gadkari

In Goa, we have sanctioned ₹1,060.21 crore for the 4-laning of a 7 km stretch from Bhoma to Old Goa on NH-748. This highway, formerly NH-4A, spans 153 km from NH-48 near Belgaum in Karnataka to NH-66 near Panaji, Goa, serving as a vital link for passenger and freight traffic from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka to Goa. With this upgradation, the entire Panaji-Khandepar corridor will feature a four-lane roadway with paved shoulders. Owing to severe congestion and limited Right of Way in Bhoma, Corlim, and Ella, two elevated corridors totalling 4.275 km and 7-metre-wide service roads on both sides have been proposed.

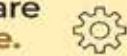
(7th April, 2025)



More money moved through Mudra than the GDPs of Pakistan and Bangladesh



Together, their GDPs are approx. ₹28 lakh crore. Mudra crossed ₹33 lakh crore



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
AKSHAYA TRITIYA (30 APRIL)
to all of its readers



JUSTICE FOR ALL

As millions of karyakartas across the nation celebrate the 46th foundation day of Bharatiya Janata Party, the overwhelming blessings of the people continue to energize this glorious journey. The BJP has not only become the world's largest political party but also a torchbearer of democracy which practices internal democracy as one of its core values. While it is committed to the principles of 'panchnishtha', it has now also inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who gave the mantra of 'panch pran' and 'Viksit Bharat'. The BJP which has become the party of good governance and development remains dedicated to the philosophy of 'Antyodaya' working tirelessly for the upliftment of poorest of the poor in the society. The commitment of its leadership and millions of karyakartas can be seen in the huge transformation that has taken place under BJP governments at the centre and in various states. In the last ten years, the nation has emerged as the global growth engine becoming fifth largest economy of the world. The journey is studded with many record achievements with remarkable accomplishments.

The BJP which has become the party of good governance and development remains dedicated to the philosophy of 'Antyodaya' working tirelessly for the upliftment of poorest of the poor in the society. The commitment of its leadership and millions of karyakartas can be seen in the huge transformation that has taken place under BJP governments at the centre and in various states

While the members of parliament should be congratulated for passing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

with overwhelming majority in both houses of the parliament, it is highly unfortunate to note that the opposition tried to mislead the nation through its divisive politics. The Bill amends the Waqf Act, 1995 to rationalize the extraordinary and arbitrary powers of the Waqf Boards, while improving its administration. The Bill also limits the powers of the Waqf Boards in determining whether a property is a Waqf property, and streamlines the manner of registration of Waqfs. It is to be noted that the earlier Waqf Act was draconian and one-sided, as it enabled the Waqf Boards to unilaterally determine any property, including Hindu property as Waqf property. Moreover, in 2013 and 2014, just before the general elections, the then Congress led UPA Government made two successive efforts to make further malafide amendments to the Act to give unbridled powers and completely exempt it from any oversight. Not only this, in 2014, they tried to introduce the Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Bill, which did not provide a fair opportunity of being heard to the alleged "encroachers" and even clandestinely handed over 123 WVIP properties in Lutyens Delhi to the Delhi Waqf Board. The Bill aims to address the long-standing mismanagement of Waqf properties, and seeks to bring much-needed accountability and efficiency to Waqf

administration, ensuring that these assets are managed transparently for the benefit of the community rather than being exploited by vested interests. It also safeguards the interests of poor, OBCs and women among the Muslims.

The Congress led opposition will be remembered for creating hurdles in transformative reforms in the country to serve their vested political interests. The opposition on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 should be seen in the context of their appeasement and vote bank politics which compels them to oppose Bill on Triple Talaq and to ensure that justice is not delivered to Muslim women like Shah Bano. As the nation marches towards realizing its dream of 'Viksit Bharat' under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the guiding principles of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' will definitely ensure justice for all and appeasement of none. ■

TIES FOR A SHARED FUTURE

Following the conclusion of his engagements at the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 4, 2025. He was warmly received by a delegation of six Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Sri Lanka, led by Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath. At his hotel, the Indian community gathered to extend a heartfelt welcome to the Prime Minister.



PM MODI'S SRI LANKA VISIT

To mark the occasion, several collaborative works showcasing shared cultural heritage were on display. These included Sri Lankan audio books featuring tales from the Panchatantra, Jataka, Hitopadesha, and the Pali version of Gita Govinda, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural and literary ties between the two nations.

The Prime Minister later announced India's support for several landmark religious and cultural initiatives, including the Sacred City project in Anuradhapura, the development of the Thirukoneswaram Temple in Trincomalee (often referred to as the "Kailash of the South"), and the enhancement of the Sita Eliya temple complex in Nuwara Eliya. Additionally, sacred relics of Lord Buddha discovered in Gujarat will be sent to Sri Lanka for public exposition during the international Vesak Day celebrations in May 2025.

On 6th April the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Disanayaka together visited

Anuradhapura to seek blessings at the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi temple there and also inaugurate two railway projects that have been undertaken there with Indian assistance.

Bilateral Talks and Strategic Cooperation

On April 5, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome by President Disanayaka at Colombo's iconic Independence Square. This was followed by official meetings, including a restricted discussion and delegation-level talks at the Presidential Secretariat.

The leaders reviewed the progress made under the Joint Vision for a Shared Future, adopted during President Disanayaka's visit to India. They assessed developments across key areas such as connectivity, infrastructure, economic cooperation, defence, people-to-people relations, reconciliation efforts, and issues related to fishermen.

PM Modi receives the highest Honour of Sri Lankan

During the recent visit to Sri Lanka, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayaka conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the “Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana”, the highest civilian honour Sri Lanka bestows on Heads of State and Government of friendly nations at Colombo in Sri Lanka on 05 April 2025.

PM Shri Modi is the first Indian and only the second foreign leader to receive this award. He accepted it on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India, acknowledging the deep trust and friendship between the two nations. ■



We value the priorities of our partner countries: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in a joint statement with Sri Lankan President Mr. Disanayaka, highlighted the deep-rooted and evolving partnership between India and Sri Lanka. He noted the symbolic significance of the visit, stating, “President Disanayaka chose India for his first foreign visit after becoming President, and I have had the privilege of becoming his first foreign guest. This is a symbol of the depth of our special relations.”

Shri Narendra Modi underscored Sri Lanka's central role in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, pointing to significant strides made in bilateral cooperation since President Disanayaka's visit to India four months ago. “The Sampur Solar Power Plant will help Sri Lanka achieve energy security. The agreement reached to build a multi-product pipeline, and to develop Trincomalee as an energy hub will benefit all Sri Lankans. The Grid Inter-Connectivity Agreement between the two countries will create opportunities for Sri Lanka to export electricity.”

PM said, “I am pleased that today a 5,000 Solar Rooftop System will be inaugurated for religious places in Sri Lanka. India will also provide support for the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project.” PM added, India has adopted the vision of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’. We also value the priorities of our partner countries. He added, In the last 6 months alone, we have converted loans worth more than USD 100

million into grants. Our bilateral ‘Debt Restructuring Agreement’ will provide immediate assistance and relief to the people of Sri Lanka. Today we have also decided to reduce interest rates. It symbolises that even today, India stands with the people of Sri Lanka. PM said, for the social and economic development of the Eastern Provinces, a support package of approximately 2.4 billion Lankan Rupees will be provided. Today, we also inaugurated Sri Lanka's largest warehouse for the welfare of farmers.

Shri Modi said, “For the Indian Origin Tamil Community in Sri Lanka, the construction work of 10,000 houses will be completed soon. Training will be provided to an additional 700 Sri Lankan personnel. They will include Members of Parliament, personnel associated with the judiciary, entrepreneurs, media persons, as well as young leaders.” PM Shri Modi expressed appreciation for President Disanayaka's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, especially in the areas of Defence Cooperation and regional security. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to collaboration under the Colombo Security Conclave and enhancing security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

Energy and Infrastructure Milestones

The visit marked significant breakthroughs in the domain of energy cooperation:

- The signing of an MOU on India–Sri Lanka electricity grid interconnection, setting the stage for physical

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6th BIMSTEC SUMMIT

PM MODI'S THAILAND VISIT

4 APRIL 2025

BANGKOK, THAILAND



India and Thailand Elevate Bilateral Ties and Strengthen Regional Cooperation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commenced his official visit to Thailand on April 3, 2025, to attend the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit hosted by Thailand. He was received warmly at the airport by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, with members of the Indian diaspora turning out in large numbers both at the airport and at his hotel to welcome him with great enthusiasm

Prime Minister Shri Modi held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shinawatra at Government House. A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to elevate India–Thailand relations to a Strategic Partnership, reflecting a shared commitment to deepening cooperation across multiple sectors.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in diverse fields such as digital technology, MSME cooperation,

cultural heritage, and regional development. These MoUs mark a step forward in aligning bilateral cooperation with mutual priorities.

BIMSTEC is becoming a vital bridge between South and Southeast Asia: PM

While addressing the BIMSTEC Summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized that BIMSTEC is becoming a vital bridge between South and Southeast Asia, and a powerful platform for advancing regional connectivity, cooperation, and shared prosperity. He welcomed the enforcement of the BIMSTEC Charter last year and expressed confidence that the adoption of the Bangkok Vision 2030 will strengthen collective efforts toward building a prosperous, secure, and inclusive Bay of Bengal region.

To further empower BIMSTEC, the Prime Minister stressed the need to expand its scope and enhance institutional capacities. Highlighting security concerns, he welcomed the institutionalization of



the Home Ministers' mechanism, proposing that India host its first meeting later this year. He noted the mechanism's potential to address cybercrime, terrorism, drug and human trafficking.

For regional development, the PM emphasized that physical, digital, and energy connectivity must progress in tandem. He welcomed the operationalization of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, and called for accelerated efforts toward establishing electric grid interconnection across the region.

The PM also proposed linking India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the payment systems of BIMSTEC countries. He noted that such integration would significantly boost trade, industry, tourism, and overall economic activity in the region.

List of MoUs Signed between India and Thailand

1. Joint Declaration on the Establishment of India-Thailand Strategic Partnership
2. MoU on Digital Cooperation between India's Ministry of Electronics and IT and Thailand's Ministry of Digital Economy and Society
3. MoU on Maritime Heritage Development between India's Ministry of Ports and Thailand's Fine Arts Department
4. MoU on MSME Cooperation between NSIC (India) and OSMEP (Thailand)
5. MoU on North-East Development Cooperation between India's MDoNER and Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6. MoU on Handicrafts and Creative Economy

Participation in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit

On April 4, Prime Minister Shri Modi participated in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit alongside regional leaders. He emphasized the need to expand BIMSTEC's agenda and institutional capacity, and proposed a 21-point action plan aimed at bringing renewed vigor and direction to the organization. His address highlighted India's commitment to regional prosperity, connectivity, and resilience.

BILATERAL MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF BIMSTEC Engagement with Myanmar

PM Shri Modi held a bilateral meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State

Administration Council of Myanmar. He expressed condolences for lives lost in the recent earthquake and reaffirmed India's commitment as a first responder through Operation Brahma, offering ongoing humanitarian, medical, and disaster relief. He reiterated India's longstanding support for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar via a credible, inclusive, and Myanmar-led political process.

Engagement with Bangladesh

Prime Minister Shri Modi met with Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor to the Interim Government of Bangladesh. Reaffirming India's commitment to a democratic, stable, and inclusive Bangladesh, he advocated a people-centric approach to bilateral relations. PM Shri Modi also congratulated Bangladesh on assuming the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC, expressing optimism about the forum's growth under its leadership.

Shri Modi's visit to Thailand underscored India's proactive diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific, while strengthening ties with ASEAN neighbors and the BIMSTEC grouping. His engagements reaffirmed India's strategic priorities — enhancing cultural bonds, fostering regional connectivity, supporting democratic values, and building partnerships for inclusive growth and prosperity in the region. ■

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integration of power systems.

- A trilateral MOU between India, Sri Lanka, and the UAE to develop Trincomalee as an energy hub, aimed at ensuring Sri Lanka's energy security and enabling potential export earnings.
- Virtual inauguration of the Sampur Solar Power Project.
- Launch of a solar rooftop project providing systems to 5,000 religious institutions, expected to generate up to 25 MW of solar power.
- Inauguration of a temperature-controlled warehouse facility in Dambulla — the first of its kind in Sri Lanka.

Infrastructure cooperation continued with the joint inauguration of two railway projects in Anuradhapura, developed with Indian assistance. ■

46th Foundation Day Celebration of BJP in New Delhi



BJP IS A PARTY DRIVEN BY IDEOLOGY: JP NADDA

BJP National President & Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed party Karyakartas on the occasion of BJP's 46th Foundation Day at the central office in New Delhi on 06 April 2025 and extended his heartfelt greetings to crores of BJP Karyakartas on the occasion of the Foundation Day and Shri Ram Navami. The program began with Shri Nadda hoisting the party flag, followed by floral tribute offered with reverence to the statues of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya. During the event, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri B.L. Santhosh, National General Secretaries Shri Dushyant Gautam, Shri Vinod Tawde, Shri Arun Singh, and Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, National Secretary Shri Anil K. Antony, Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, BJP Delhi State President Shri Virendra Sachdeva and other senior leaders were also present on the occasion

BJP National President & Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has implemented the principles of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya with the basic mantra of 'Sabka Sath - Sabka Vikas'. Every BJP Karyakarta actively participates in this journey as part of a political movement dedicated to the reconstruction of the nation. This journey began in 1951 with the formation of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Considering the political landscape at the time, the movement later merged with the Janata Party for a brief period, and on 6th April 1980, reclaiming its ideological identity, it emerged as the Bharatiya Janata Party. This movement continued with the goal of establishing a new and alternative political culture. Recalling the emotional farewell to the Jana Sangh's emblematic lamp, former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had expressed timeless

words, and on 6th April, Shri Lal Krishna Advani brought together people driven by a shared ideology to call for the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

BJP never compromised its ideology to attain power

Shri Nadda stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party has never wavered for the sake of votes, nor has it ever compromised its ideology to attain power. BJP is the only political party in India that has consistently remained steadfast in its ideological foundation. He recalled that between 22nd and 25th April 1965 in Mumbai, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya had delivered a discourse on Ekatma Manav Darshan, based on draft adopted in the Jan Sangh's Vijayvada session, the principle of Integral Humanism was formally adopted. Though the ideology was mocked at the time—particularly by those viewing politics through the

Will continue serving society and ensuring all-round development: PM Modi

Wishing every Karyakarta on the BJP Foundation Day (06 April), the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a social media post said, "Greetings to all @BJP4India Karyakartas on the Party's Sthapana Diwas. We recall all those who devoted themselves to strengthening our Party over the last several decades. This important day makes us reiterate our unparalleled commitment to work towards India's progress and realise the dream of a Viksit Bharat.

The people of India are seeing the good governance agenda of our Party, which is also reflected in the historic mandates we've received in the



years gone by, be it in the Lok Sabha elections, Assembly elections across different states and various local body polls across the nation. Our governments will continue serving society and ensuring all-round development. My best wishes to all our hardworking Karyakartas, the backbone of our Party, as they actively work on the ground and elaborate on our good governance agenda. I am proud of the manner in which our Karyakartas are working round the clock, in every part of the nation and serving the poor, downtrodden as well as marginalised. Their energy and enthusiasm are truly motivating". ■

BJP TAKES ALONG ALL SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY: RAJNATH SINGH



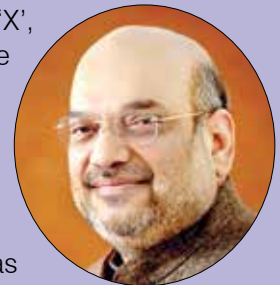
On the foundation day of BJP, I congratulate and extend my heartfelt best wishes to all @BJP4India Karyakartas. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi BJP has become the pivot of Indian politics today. BJP is a party that takes along all sections of the society

and is dedicated to the development and welfare of all. Whether it is the central government or its state governments, this is fully reflected in the functioning of all.

BJP is the only party in India today that is working as a representative of the aspirations of the poor, Dalits, deprived and exploited sections of the society. BJP is the only party that knows how to coordinate between national aspirations as well as regional aspirations.

Today, under the leadership of Modiji, BJP is working with the resolve of developed India and the people of the country also have full faith that this resolve will certainly be fulfilled in 2047". ■

CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS BUILDING A DEVELOPED INDIA: AMIT SHAH



In a post on 'X', Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said, "Hearty congratulations to all the Karyakartas on the foundation

day of the world's largest political organization, Bharatiya Janata Party.

On this occasion, I salute all those great men who sowed the seeds of patriotism in the foundation of BJP and worked to create a banyan tree of crores of patriots.

Under the leadership of Modi Ji, BJP will continue to work towards building a developed India in every field #BJP4ViksitBharat." ■

BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT REACHES THE RESIDENCE OF SHAKUNTALA ARYA JI IN DELHI & HOISTS THE BJP FLAG



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda after visiting the house of Shakuntala Arya ji in Delhi said, “On the occasion of the foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, today I reached the residence of the former Mayor of Delhi, Mrs. Shakuntala Arya ji at booth number 78 of Lajpat Nagar Mandal, hoisted the BJP flag and had a cordial meeting with her and enquired about her well-being. Mrs. Shakuntala ji's contribution in establishing new dimensions of public welfare and development in Delhi is significant. Your spirit of public service and struggle for the party is an inspiration for all of us. It is the result of the dedication and hard work of our senior leaders that BJP is recognized as the most popular and ideal political organization among the people”.

lens of Karl Marx—for them, the ideas of integration and inclusivity were unimaginable. While the Congress party gradually slipped into ideological decay, the Bharatiya Janata Party carried forward the legacy of Ekatma Manavvad. When Janata Party governments were formed in various states, the philosophy's roots were further strengthened through the principle of Antyodaya—upliftment of the last person in the queue. Building upon this vision, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has followed the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.'

'Ek desh mein do nishan, do vidhan, do pradhan nahi challenge'

Shri Nadda said the shining crown we see today

as the Bharatiya Janata Party stands firmly on the strong ideological foundation laid by great stalwarts such as Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Kushabhau Thakre, and Shri Jagannathrao Joshi. He recalled that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee had resigned from Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet in 1948 and in 1951, the journey of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh began, and in 1953, he launched a nationwide Satyagraha with the slogan— 'Ek desh mein do nishan, do vidhan, do pradhan nahi challenge.' Dr. Mookerjee attained martyrdom in suspicious circumstances while imprisoned in Srinagar. His revered mother had written to Pt. Nehru demanded a probe into his death, but Nehru coldly disregarded the plea. This betrayal sparked a wave of anger among thousands of Jana Sangh Karyakartas, who resolved to carry forward the struggle for national integrity. Decades later, on 6th August 2019, this historic battle culminated in victory when, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the strategic direction of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the BJP government abrogated Article 370—thus fulfilling the dream and sacrifice of Dr. Mookerjee and generations of nationalist Karyakartas.

Hindu population in Pakistan declined from 22 percent to merely 1.8 percent

Shri Nadda stated that an agreement was once made between Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali to ensure the protection of Muslims in India and Hindus in Pakistan. However, while that understanding existed, the Hindu population in Pakistan declined from 22 percent to merely 1.8 percent. These people were politically persecuted, and those who came to India due to such persecution were granted citizenship by the BJP government. In all Muslim-majority countries, Waqf Boards are run by their respective governments. The BJP government, instead of bringing Waqf Boards directly under government administration, is only bringing them within the framework of legal regulations. The government will ensure that the properties and income of Waqf Boards are used for the education and upliftment of the Muslim community. The BJP has taken the country out of authoritarianism. Today, Rajpath has become Kartavya Path, a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been installed there, and

remnants of colonial legacy have been removed from the Indian Navy's flag. The consistent effort of the BJP has been to promote and preserve Indian culture.

BJP is a party driven by ideology

BJP National President Shri Nadda said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is a party driven by ideology. Today, the BJP has 240 Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, over 98 Members in the Rajya Sabha, and more than 1,600 MLAs. The BJP has its own government in 13 states and NDA-led governments in 7 others. With the contribution of millions of dedicated workers, the BJP has become a widely followed party based on ideology. Today, over 13.5 crore people are associated with the BJP. There are more than 10 lakh active party Karyakartas, and BJP has booth presidents at 6 lakh booths across the country. In Gujarat, the BJP is in government for the sixth consecutive term; in Goa and Haryana, for the third term; in Madhya Pradesh, for the fourth term; and in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Manipur, and Assam, the BJP is in government for the second term. After 27 years, the BJP has now also formed government in Delhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party that has progressed in a scientific manner. Winning elections and strengthening the organization is also a science. Advancing with ideological firmness without any compromise is the resolve of the BJP. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the BJP has worked with concern for the poor, the oppressed, the underprivileged, the youth, and women—through initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and the Ujjwala Yojana. That is why it is essential for every BJP Karyakarta to study and understand the lives and contributions of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and all those leaders who laid the foundation of the party. The responsibility of the Bharatiya Janata Party is to build a developed India by 2047, and for that, every Karyakarta must work with dedication and strength.

Every BJP leader and Karyakarta will reach out to 5 lakh booths

Shri Nadda said that from April 07 to April 13, every BJP leader and Karyakarta will reach out to 5

lakh booths and visit 1 lakh settlements to spread the message of the Bharatiya Janata Party. On the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Constitution Glory Day will also be observed from April 14 to 25, during which the contributions of Babasaheb to the making of the Constitution will be highlighted. The BJP will also expose the way Congress has struck at the soul of the Constitution. Shri Nadda urged BJP karyakartas to find and visit the founding members of Jan Sangh and BJP during their booth visits. He shared that in Delhi, he himself would be meeting a 98-year-old Jan Sangh worker. BJP National President Shri Nadda once again extended his best wishes on the occasion of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Foundation Day.

Highlights

- From April 7 to April 13, every BJP leader and Karyakarta will reach out to 5 lakh booths and spread the message of the party across 1 lakh settlements
- PM Shri Narendra Modi has implemented the principles of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee ji and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya ji with the basic mantra of 'Sabka Sath - Sabka Vikas'.
- The political movement started in 1951 by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in the name of Bharatiya Jana Sangh has today transformed into the Bharatiya Janata Party – the largest political party in the world
- Today, more than 13.5 crore people are associated with the BJP.
- There are over 10 lakh active Karyakartas and booth presidents at 6 lakh booths across the country.
- It is the only political party that has remained steadfast in its ideological foundation and continues to move forward with that strength.
- Fulfilling the legacy of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjeeji's sacrifice in 1953, the BJP government abrogated Article 370 on August 6, 2019.
- From the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and Swachh Bharat Mission to the Ujjwala Yojana, the BJP under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi has always cared for the poor, the oppressed, the deprived, the youth, and women. ■



"EK BHARAT - SHRESHTHA BHARAT SNEH MILAN", NEW DELHI

Under PM Modi, a new chapter of development is being written in Bihar: JP Nadda

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed the "Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat Sneh Milan Samaroh" organized on the occasion of Bihar Diwas at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, on 29 March 2025, and described Bihar as the land that taught democracy to the world.

Shri Nadda extended his best wishes to everyone on Bihar Diwas and expressed gratitude to all those who have contributed to the culture, traditions and development of Bihar. He called upon the attendees to remain united and contribute to the development of Bihar and the nation.

The BJP National President also visited an exhibition showcasing Bihar's local arts and handicrafts. Bihar's artisans and artists displayed their handmade products, including Madhubani paintings, Bhagalpuri silk, Tikuli art, Sikri painting, and thread crafts. Shri Nadda stated that Bihar's art and culture are an integral part of India's heritage, and the BJP government is making every possible effort to promote them on a global level.

Purvanchal leads, the nation follows

Shri Nadda stated that where Purvanchal leads, the nation follows. History stands as evidence that the world learned the essence of democracy from the land of Bihar. He emphasized that Mahatma Gandhi launched his first movement for India's independence from Champaran, Bihar, and when democracy was under attack during the Congress regime, Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan also initiated his movement from Bihar. This is why Bihar holds special significance. The framework of democracy across the world has its roots in Bihar. The state possesses the strength to stand with brilliance and diligence. Renowned universities like Nalanda and Vikramshila flourished on land of Bihar, attracting students not

only from India but from across the globe to acquire knowledge.

He said no matter where one goes in the world, they will find people speaking Maithili, Magahi or Bhojpuri. He emphasized that the people of Bihar have the strength to work with honesty and dedication.

Under NDA government Bihar reached new heights

Launching a sharp attack on the RJD, Shri Nadda stated that Lalu's rule turned a progressing Bihar into a sinking Bihar. There was a time when stepping out after 5 PM became difficult, but under the NDA government, Bihar has reached new heights of development. He recalled his childhood and teenage years spent in Bihar, mentioning how he had witnessed the construction of Gandhi Setu over the Ganges, a project that took decades to complete. Today, Bihar has a Marine Drive along the Ganges, along with a newly built bridge over it.

Today, Bihar has over 1,12,000 km of roads

Shri Nadda highlighted that when the NDA government came to power in Bihar in 2005, the rural road network in the state was only 384 km long, whereas today, Bihar has over 1,12,000 km of roads. Several expressways have also been constructed in the state. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has gifted Bihar with IIT Patna. He recalled that during Lalu Yadav's government, when people spoke about road construction, Lalu used to say, "If roads are built, the police will come"—this foolishness is not right. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the double-engine government, several new district hospitals have been built in Bihar, and Soon, Asia's biggest hospital will be built in Patna. ■

NDA will once again form the government in Bihar with a resounding majority: Amit Shah

Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed a massive public rally in Gopalganj, Bihar, on 30 March 2025. In his address, Shri Shah highlighted the Modi government's developmental efforts for the people and youth of Bihar over the past decade. He also took a sharp dig at the RJD's rule, criticizing its governance. Shri Shah stated that while Lalu Yadav focused solely on promoting his own family, pushing Bihar into darkness, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been working towards the state's progress. During the event, BJP National General Secretary Shri Vinod Tawde, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Samrat Choudhary and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Bihar BJP President Dr. Dilip Kumar Jaiswal, and other senior leaders were present.

'Jungle Raj' of the Lalu-Rabri era

Shri Shah highlighted that the 2025 Bihar elections will be a decisive moment for the state, determining whether it moves forward on the path of development under PM Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Nitish Kumar or reverts to the 'Jungle Raj' of the Lalu-Rabri era. Since the formation of the NDA government in Bihar, the pace of development has accelerated. Every time Shri Narendra Modi sought votes for the Bharatiya Janata Party, the people of Bihar overwhelmingly supported the 'Lotus' symbol. In return, Shri Modi has ensured uninterrupted progress in the state over the past ten years.

PM Modi has accomplished it in just a decade

He asserted that while the Congress party failed to achieve in 65 years, Shri Narendra Modi has accomplished it in just a decade. The 2024-25 budget allocates 26,000 crore for key road projects, including the Patna-Purnia Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, Bodh Gaya-Rajgir-Vaishali-Darbhanga Expressway, and a bridge over the Ganga River in Buxar. An additional 21,000 crore



has been sanctioned for a 2,400 MW power plant in Pirpainti, along with 11,500 crore for the Koshi-Mechi link flood control and irrigation project.

What Lalu Yadav done for Bihar

Union Home Minister questioned Lalu Yadav, asking what he had done for Bihar despite ruling the state for 15 years and serving as a minister in the Sonia-Manmohan government for 10 years. He pointed out that in 2004-05, Bihar's budget was merely 23,000 crore, whereas the NDA government has increased it 13 times to 3,23,000 crore. He further highlighted that the per capita income, which was 8,000, has now risen to 66,000, while the population below the poverty line has been brought down from 56% to 33%.

Shri Shah stated that when Lalu Yadav was a minister at the Centre, he had 10 years in power. Lalu Yadav provided only 2,80,000 crore to the people of Bihar, whereas the NDA government has given 9,23,000 crore to the people of Bihar.

Highlights

- The people of Bihar can never forget RJD's era of 'Jungle Raj'.
- PM Shri Narendra Modi empowered 60 crore poor people of the country whereas Lalu Yadav only promoted his family.
- Lalu Yadav's government tarnished Bihar's reputation nationwide with caste massacres, state-backed corruption and the fodder scam.
- The RJD government pushed Bihar into extortion, lawlessness, hooliganism, dacoity, kidnappings, ransom and anarchy.
- If NDA government is formed again in Bihar, we will make Flood-Free Bihar.
- RJD created new benchmarks in corruption by orchestrating multiple scams in Bihar. ■

'TAKE GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD'

BJP National Mahila Morcha organized two significant programmes on 29 March 2025 in New Delhi. The Mahila Morcha has three major assignments: The GeM Portal, Kamal Mitra, and the 'One Crore Selfies with Beneficiaries' initiative, where women workers from across the country showcased outstanding performances.

Under the GeM Portal initiative, 1,41,000 women entrepreneurs were registered. The 'One Crore Selfies with Beneficiaries' campaign saw more than 10,000 beneficiaries participating, and 80 achiever women who actively engaged in the program were recognized. Kamal Mitra, a flagship program, involved training women in various government schemes aimed at women's welfare. These trained women further educated others in their respective states, ensuring that more women benefited from these schemes. The resource persons for Kamal Mitra included professors from Delhi University, researchers, and businesswomen who provided specialized training to Mahila Morcha members. Women excelling in these three projects, along with resource persons, were honoured for their achievements.

The event was attended by BJP National Vice President Shri Bajjayant Panda, BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri BL Santosh, BJP National organiser Shri V. Satish, Tamil Nadu BJP President Shri K. Annamalai, BJP Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Vanathi Srinivasan and other senior leaders.

Growth of women's businesses post-registration on the GeM Portal

Addressing on this occasion, BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri BL Santosh lauded the exemplary performance of women in GeM Portal registration, Kamal Mitra, and the 'One Crore Selfies with Beneficiaries' initiative. He emphasized the need to take government schemes to every household and called for an assessment of how these initiatives have contributed to the growth of women's businesses post-registration on the GeM Portal.



Former Union Minister Smt. Smriti Irani expressed pride in being part of an organization that was the first to implement the 35% reservation formula to ensure women's participation. She also highlighted the contributions of Rajmata Vasundhara Raje, the first national president of Mahila Morcha and a founding member of the Jana Sangh.

Rani Velu Nachiyar, the first queen from South India to fight against British colonial rule

The second event of Mahila Morcha took place at the Kedarnath Sahni Auditorium, Civic Centre. The program paid tribute to Rani Velu Nachiyar, the first queen from South India to fight against British colonial rule. Through theatrical performances, her invaluable contributions and struggles in the freedom movement were depicted. Additionally, a coffee table book was unveiled, documenting the contributions of 75 female freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence.

The book was launched by Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Diya Kumari, and Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Vanathi Srinivasan. Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh acknowledged Rani Velu Nachiyar's unparalleled bravery and pioneering role in challenging the British colonial rule. He emphasized the importance of remembering and celebrating the warriors who fought for the country's integrity, highlighting India's rich cultural and spiritual unity. Drawing parallels between Rani Velu Nachiyar's leadership and the contemporary role of women in India's defenses and governance sectors, he underscored the ongoing commitment to women's empowerment.

He also applauded Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's efforts in strengthening leadership through an inclusive approach. He reiterated the government's commitment to recognizing and honouring unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle to ensure their stories inspire future generations. ■

Supreme Court's ruling on West Bengal teacher recruitment scam exposes the deep-rooted corruption in TMC government

West Bengal BJP State President & Union Minister Dr. Sukanta Majumdar and BJP National Spokesperson Dr. Sambit Patra jointly addressed a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on 04 April 2025. During the conference, they strongly condemned CM Mamata Banerjee for rejecting the Supreme Court's observations on the West Bengal teacher recruitment scam and opposing the court's verdict. Dr. Patra, citing moral grounds, demanded Mamata Banerjee's resignation and asserted that the people of Bengal must stand together against her autocratic, Taliban-like rule.

Dr. Patra said historic decisions are being made under the Modi government, with parliamentary sessions running through the night. The issue being addressed in today's press conference has been relentlessly fought for on the ground by West Bengal BJP President and Union Minister Shri Sukanta Majumdar, who has also appealed for justice. Everyone is well aware of the situation in Bengal, the corruption, the oppression under Mamata Didi's rule. Today, not just India but the entire world is witnessing it.

Union Minister Dr. Sukanta Majumdar stated that following the Supreme Court's ruling, Mamata Banerjee appeared before the media and began her blame game, targeting everyone, accusing CPM leaders, and even questioning the judiciary and honourable judges. Through her remarks, she diminished the dignity of the Supreme Court, which could be considered contempt of court. TMC leaders who accepted bribes in exchange for jobs were protected by Mamata Banerjee. In schools where only 1,000 teachers were required, an additional 1,500 positions were created through a Cabinet decision, not to improve education but to safeguard those who had obtained jobs illegally. This was a calculated move involving the entire Cabinet. The BJP demands that since the Cabinet collectively decided to shield those involved in corruption, the Chief Minister and all responsible ministers should face legal consequences and be jailed. Those who orchestrated and facilitated such wrongdoing should not be allowed to remain free,

Highlights

- The Supreme Court stated, "We have gone through the facts regarding the findings of this case. The entire selection process is vitiated by manipulation and fraud. Credibility and legitimacy have been deluded."
- Mamata Banerjee, who talks about 'Maa, Maati, Manush,' should step down immediately on moral grounds, given the string of massive scams that have surfaced.
- To distract the public from this scam, Mamata Banerjee will now attempt to create an atmosphere of communal tension or fear in Bengal by any means.
- The lives of 26,000 teachers are being devastated today. CM Mamata Banerjee's corruption and scandals have caused immense distress to millions.
- CM Mamata Banerjee's outright rejection of the Supreme Court's verdict, regardless of the reasoning, is a blatant display of dictatorship and authoritarianism.
- The teaching community in Bengal has always been held in high esteem, but Mamata Banerjee's policies have severely damaged this legacy.
- In West Bengal, everything is up for sale, all it takes is money. CM Banerjee has turned the state into a mall.
- Mamata Banerjee must now step away from power. If she chooses to resign on her own, it would be better; otherwise, the people will ensure her removal.
- Through her statements, Mamata Banerjee has tarnished the dignity of the Supreme Court, the nation's highest judicial authority, which constitutes contempt of court.

as they knowingly worked to protect corruption at an institutional level.

West Bengal BJP President said the BJP demands that the state government uphold constitutional principles and provide compensation to the rightful individuals through party funds or the CM Relief Fund. ■

DISCUSSION ON THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 (LOK SABHA)

OPPOSITION TRYING TO BUILD ITS VOTE BANK BY SCARING THE MINORITY COMMUNITY: AMIT SHAH

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in the discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha on 2 April 2025

Participating in the discussion, Shri Amit Shah said Waqf is an Arabic word, and its history is linked to the Hadiths. The way it is used today refers to a donation of property in the name of Allah or a donation of property for sacred religious purposes. He mentioned that the contemporary meaning of Waqf came into existence during the time of the second caliph of Islam, Hazrat Umar. In today's language, Waqf is a type of Charitable Endowment, where a person donates property for religious or social welfare. He clarified that such donations can only be of private property, and government property or someone else's property cannot be donated.



No non-Islamic member will be included in Waqf

Union Home Minister said that no non-Islamic member will be included in religious charity-related activities in the Waqf Board. He emphasized that there is no provision for involving non-Muslims in the administration of religious institutions, and they do not wish to create such provisions. Shri Shah further mentioned that the opposition is spreading misconceptions, claiming that this Bill is being introduced to interfere with the religious activities of Muslims and the properties they have donated. He asserted that the opposition is trying to create fear among the minority community to build its vote bank.

Union Home Minister said that any non-Muslim members appointed in the Waqf Board or its premises will not be involved in religious activities. Their role will be solely to ensure that the administration of charity-related matters is being conducted in accordance with the regulations. He said that Waqf in India functions like a trust, where there are trustees and a managing trustee. In Waqf, there are Waqif (donor) and Mutawalli (administrator), who are followers of Islam. Shri Shah pointed out that the word Waqf itself comes from Islam, so only those who follow Islam can manage Waqf. He further clarified that while Waqf is a religious matter, the Waqf Board or Waqf properties themselves are not

religious institutions. According to the law, a Charity Commissioner can be from any religion, as they are not managing a trust; their responsibility is to ensure that the Board operates in compliance with charity laws. Shri Shah emphasized that this is an administrative matter, not a religious one.

Development of the minority community

Shri Shah said that the primary role of the Waqf Board should be to identify and remove those who are exploiting Waqf properties. It should focus on individuals who have leased out properties in the name of Waqf at extremely low rates for hundreds of years. He mentioned that the income from Waqf is decreasing, whereas this money should be used for the development of the minority community and to strengthen the institutions of Islam. The main task of the Waqf Board and its premises should be to stop the theft of these funds.

In 2013, the Waqf law was drastically altered

He said if the Waqf law had not been amended in 2013, this bill would not have been necessary. However, before the 2014 elections, in 2013, the Waqf law was drastically altered overnight for the sake of appeasement, which led to the allocation of 123 high-profile properties in the Lutyens' Zone of Delhi to Waqf.

The Delhi Waqf Board transferred the land of Northern Railways to Waqf. In Himachal Pradesh, land was illegally converted into Waqf property and used to build unauthorized mosques. In Tamil Nadu, 400 acres of land belonging to the 1500-year-old Tiruchendur temple were declared Waqf property. Shri Shah mentioned that according to a report from a committee in Karnataka, 29,000 acres of Waqf land were leased for commercial use. Between 2001 and 2012, Waqf properties worth 2 lakh crore were leased to private institutions for 100 years. He also stated the High Court in Bengaluru had to intervene to stop the acquisition of 602 acres of land. In Honwad village, Vijaypur, Karnataka, 1500 acres of land was made controversial, and this land, worth Rs 500 crore, was leased to a five-star hotel for just Rs 12,000 per month.

Money is meant for the welfare of poor Muslims

Shri Amit Shah said that all this money is meant for the welfare of poor Muslims, not for the plundering of the wealthy. In Karnataka, a claim was made on the Dattapeeth temple. In Taliparamba, an attempt was made to seize 600 acres of land based on a 75-year-old claim. Even properties belonging to the Christian community were seized. He mentioned that many churches in the country have supported the Waqf Bill because they see it as a means to win the sympathy of the Muslim community. However, in four years, even the Muslim brothers will realize that this bill is actually in their benefit.

Chandrashekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj was also declared Waqf property

He said that in Telangana, a claim was made on 1700 acres of land worth Rs 66,000 crore. Similarly, in Assam, a claim was made on 134 acres of land in Morigaon district. Fourteen Marla land related to a Gurudwara in Haryana was handed over to Waqf, and the Chandrashekhar Azad Park in Prayagraj was also declared Waqf property. In Maharashtra, a claim was made on the Mahadev temple in Vadange village, and in Beed, the Waqf Board forcibly took 12 acres of land from Kankaleshwar.

Government has no intention of interfering

Shri Shah said that the government has no intention of interfering in the religious activities of Muslim brothers

- The opposition is spreading misconception that this bill is an interference in religious activities of Muslims and the property donated by them.
- Everyone has the right to follow their religion, but conversion cannot be done for greed, emptation and fear.
- It is the resolve of the Modi government that no citizen of this country, irrespective of his religion, will be harmed.
- This is the law of the Government of India which is binding on everyone and everyone will have to accept it.
- From 1913 to 2013, the total land of the Waqf Board was 18 lakh acres, in which from 2013 to 2025, a new 21 lakh acres of land was added.
- There were 20,000 properties given on lease, but according to records, these properties became zero in 2025, these properties were sold.
- This bill will provide protection to the land, someone's land will not become Waqf by mere declaration
- Donation can be made only of one's own property, hence Waqf will not be able to take personal property without ownership
- The right to declare Waqf property has been abolished and now this will have to be certified by the district collector
- Shri Amit Shah stressed that it has become a fashion to create fear among the people of the minority community
- Even during Ram Janmabhoomi, Triple Talaq and CAA, efforts were made to create fear among the people of Muslim community, but the Muslim community also knows that there is nothing to fear.
- It has been two years, no one has lost citizenship due to CAA, if anyone has lost citizenship due to CAA, then the opposition should put this information on the table of the House.

or the trusts they have established, including Waqf. He clarified that the Mutawalli, Waqif, and Waqf will remain under their control, but it is essential to ensure that Waqf properties are being properly maintained and used lawfully, rather than for personal gain. He questioned the justification of leasing centuries-old donated property for a five-star hotel at a mere Rs 12,000 per month. Instead,

he emphasized that this money should be utilized for the welfare of poor Muslims, divorced women, orphaned children, and unemployed youth, helping them become self-sufficient and skilled. He further pointed out that while Waqf owns land worth lakhs of crores of rupees, its annual income is only 126 crore, raising concerns about mismanagement and misuse.

Stricter law to prevent misuse of Waqf property

Union Home Minister stated that when the 2013 amendment bill was introduced, senior leaders in the then government had advocated for stricter laws to prevent the misuse of Waqf property and ensure that the culprits were held accountable. Shri Amit Shah emphasized that the current bill aims to establish a transparent audit system for Waqf properties. He pointed out that the opposition had proposed an amendment stating that Waqf Board orders could not be challenged in court, whereas the truth is that the bill does allow legal challenges. He further clarified that this bill will not have retrospective effect, but the opposition is misleading and creating fear among Muslims regarding its implications.

Collector has authority to verify the Waqf land

Regarding the role of the District Collector in the Waqf Bill, Shri Amit Shah stated that whenever land is purchased for a temple in the country, it is the Collector who determines its ownership. He questioned why there is opposition to the Collector investigating Waqf land, emphasizing that only the Collector has the authority to verify whether Waqf land belongs to the government or not.

No law will be made for vote-bank politics

Union Home Minister said the Modi government follows a clear principle—no law will be made for vote-bank politics, as laws should serve the purpose of justice and public welfare. He highlighted that in this very House, the Modi government passed the law for 33% reservation for women and granted constitutional rights to backward classes. He further emphasized that while everyone has the right to practice their religion, religious conversion should not take place through greed, temptation, or fear.

Total land under Waqf Board was 21 lakh acres

Union Home Minister stated that this law has been enacted by the Parliament of India, making it binding

on everyone, and thus, it must be accepted by all. He highlighted that from 1913 to 2013, the total land under the Waqf Board was 18 lakh acres. However, between 2013 and 2025, this land increased by 21 lakh acres, bringing the total to 39 lakh acres, with 21 lakh acres being added after 2013. Shri Amit Shah further revealed that while 20,000 properties were originally recorded as leased, official records in 2025 now show zero leased properties, indicating that these properties were sold off. He also mentioned that Catholic and Church organizations have extended their support to this law and have termed the 2013 amendment unjust.

Shri Amit Shah said that this bill will safeguard land, ensuring that no land will become Waqf merely by declaration—it will be protected by law. He stated that the authority to declare a property as Waqf has been abolished, and now such declarations must be verified by the District Collector. Additionally, any new Waqf property will have to be registered through a transparent process. He further mentioned that Muslims now have the option to register their trusts under the Waqf Trust Act, making a separate Waqf law unnecessary for this purpose.

There is nothing to fear

Union Home Minister emphasized that it has become a trend to instill fear among the minority community. He pointed out that similar attempts were made during the discussions on the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, Triple Talaq, and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to create panic among Muslims. However, he asserted that the Muslim community is well aware that there is nothing to fear. He criticized the opposition, reminding them that they had falsely claimed that Muslims would lose their citizenship due to CAA, yet even after two years, not a single person has lost their citizenship. Shri Amit Shah further stated that similar fear-mongering was attempted after the abrogation of Article 370, but today, Jammu & Kashmir has an elected government, terrorism has declined, development is progressing, and tourism is flourishing.

Shri Amit Shah said the opposition party and its allies have sought to build their vote bank by intimidating the Muslim community. He emphasized that the Modi government is firmly committed to ensuring that no citizen of this country, regardless of their religion, will be harmed. ■

PRIORITIZE NATIONAL PROGRESS OVER PARTISAN AGENDAS: JP NADDA

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda participated during the discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha on 03 April 2025. He said the Bill's primary objective is to ensure transparency and accountability in managing Waqf properties, which rank as India's third-largest landholding category (after Railways and Defence). Excerpts:

Shri JP Nadda began by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to address the House and voiced strong support for the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024. He emphasised that the Bill aims to reform and streamline the management of Waqf properties across India.

He rejected claims that the Government is "bulldozing" the Bill, countering that the legislative process has been inclusive and transparent.



no connection to the Bill.

2. He also pointed out opposition's tactics like switching to regional languages to make contentious remarks outside the Bill's scope.

National Interest and Accountability

1. He emphasised that the Bill's primary objective is to ensure transparency and accountability in managing Waqf properties, which

rank as India's third-largest landholding category (after Railways and Defence). He stated that unchecked powers granted to Waqf Boards under the 2013 Act led to misuse, including arbitrary land acquisitions and violations of constitutional rights. The Amendment seeks to introduce checks and balances, ensuring Waqf Boards are answerable to the public, particularly Muslim communities.

2. He cited schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and Awas Yojana as examples of the Government's commitment to inclusive development, emphasizing that benefits reach all communities without discrimination.

Democratic Process and Stakeholder Engagement

1. Shri JP Nadda discussed the extensive democratic processes followed during the Bill's formulation. He contrasted the approach led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government with the UPA era, noting that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for this Bill included 31 members (compared to 13 under the UPA in 2013) and held 36 meetings spanning over 200 hours. He further stated that stakeholder consultations were exhaustive, involving 284 stakeholders, including Waqf Boards from 25 states, 15 State Governments, minority commissions, MPs, MLAs, and ministers.

2. He said the UPA Government, by comparison, consulted only 18 stakeholders and engaged with 13 states during the 2013 Bill's drafting. He underscored that the efforts of the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi reject deeper engagement and adherence to democratic norms.

Criticism of Opposition Tactics

1. Shri JP Nadda accused opposition members of derailing debates by introducing irrelevant topics to the discussion such as the Ram Mandir, Kumbh Mela, Bihar elections, and Kerala cinema, which have

International Precedents for Waqf Reforms

1. Shri JP Nadda highlighted reforms in Muslim-majority nations to justify the Bill's necessity. For instance:

- Turkey established state-controlled Waqf management in 1924 and digitised records in the 1990s to enhance transparency.
- Malaysia uses geo-mapping and modern financial models to manage Waqf assets, ensuring community participation.
- Saudi Arabia and Indonesia reformed Waqf laws in 2016 and 2004 respectively to boost economic benefits and social welfare.

2. Citing these examples, he questioned why similar

The Bill embodies “UMMEED”—Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development: Kiren Rijiju

Union Minister of Parliamentary and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju on 2nd April introduced the WAQF (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha following extensive deliberation by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). He highlighted the unprecedented scale of consultation, with over 97 lakh petitions and 284 delegations from diverse stakeholders, including Waqf Boards of 25 states and union territories, legal experts, scholars, civil society organizations, and policymakers.

This scale of engagement, he emphasized, marks a historic moment in parliamentary lawmaking. The Government reviewed each submission thoroughly, reinforcing its commitment to participatory democracy.

Evolution and Purpose of the WAQF Act

Post-independence, the Waqf Act of 1954 was India's first effort to regulate Waqf properties. It was followed by a more comprehensive 1995 Act, which introduced the concept of Waqf Tribunals to address disputes. However, the 2013 amendments by the previous UPA Government, according to Shri Rijiju, diluted the religious specificity of Waqf by allowing individuals of all faiths to create Waqf—an institution traditionally Islamic in nature and intent.

Moreover, Section 108 of the Act gave Waqf laws overriding authority over other laws, raising constitutional concerns. Shri Rijiju questioned how such sweeping powers could be granted to any single institution in a secular democracy.

Shri Kiren Rijiju also highlighted a controversial decision during the UPA tenure: the transfer of major properties, including parts of the CGO complex and Parliament Building, to the Delhi Waqf Board. Such transfers, Shri Kiren Rijiju warned, could have endangered national assets had they continued unchecked.

Clarifying the Intent and Scope

Shri Rijiju clarified that the proposed amendments are not aimed at interfering in religious practices or institutions. Rather, the Bill seeks to enhance transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in the management of Waqf



properties, which are among the largest landholdings in India.

The amended Act introduces measures for the monitoring and governance of Waqf properties, without undermining religious autonomy. Administrative reforms aim to curb mismanagement and ensure that Waqf assets are used for the welfare of the community—especially the underprivileged.

Structural and Democratic Reforms

To ensure greater representation and inclusivity, the structure of both the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards has been revised. The Central Waqf Council will include:

- Three Members of Parliament (including one ex-officio)
- Ten Muslim members (including two women)
- Four eminent persons from various fields
- Two former judges
- One national-level advocate
- One senior bureaucrat from the Government of India
- No more than four non-Muslim members may serve on the Council.
- Similarly, State Waqf Boards will comprise:
 - A Chairperson
 - One MP and one MLA (including ex-officio members)
 - Four Muslim members (including two women)
 - Two professionals with relevant experience
 - One representative from the Bar Council
 - One senior State Government officer

These changes aim to make Waqf governance more secular, inclusive, and accountable, ensuring representation for backward Muslims, women, and non-Muslim experts.

Addressing Mismanagement and Increasing Utility

Despite India having the world's largest number of Waqf properties—over 8.72 lakh—their annual income remains shockingly low, rising from Rs. 163 crore in 2006 to only Rs. 166 crore today. Shri Rijiju referenced

the Sachar Committee's observation that proper management could have generated Rs. 12,000 crore annually at the time.

Technological and Legal Safeguards

To prevent encroachments and misuse, Waqf can now only be created by Muslims who have practiced Islam for at least five years and only on properties where they have full ownership. Properties in Scheduled Areas under Schedules 5 and 6 are protected from Waqf claims, ensuring the rights of tribal communities.

The Bill abolishes controversial provisions such as 'Waqf by User,' and strengthens dispute resolution by specifying tribunal composition and tenure. Further, the contribution required from Mutawallis (caretakers) has been reduced from 7% to 5% to direct more funds toward community welfare.

Gender Justice and Community Empowerment

In a progressive step, the Bill mandates

safeguarding women's property rights within families before the creation of a Waqf. It also reserves two seats for women in both the Central and State Waqf Boards, acknowledging the vital role of women in community development.

'UMMEED' – A Vision for the Future

Shri Rijju concluded by stating that this Bill embodies "UMMEED"—Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development. It aims to benefit all segments of the Muslim community, including marginalized groups like Pasmanda Muslims, Bohras, Agha Khanis, and women.

He reiterated that the government is not claiming ownership of Waqf property nor interfering in religious affairs. Shri Rijju expressed hope that the Parliament would support this forward-looking Bill. He credited the Hon. Prime Minister for entrusting him with this responsibility and emphasized the significance of the reforms for millions of poor Muslims across India. ■

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reforms in India are criticised.

Constitutional and Legal Concerns

1. Shri JP Nadda highlighted constitutional violations in the 2013 Waqf Act, including:
 - **Article 14 (Right to Equality):** The Act allowed Waqf Boards to unilaterally declare properties as waqf without due process.
 - **Article 21 (Right to Life):** It denied citizens the right to challenge Waqf Board decisions in civil courts, centralizing power in Waqf Tribunals.
 - **Article 300A (Property Rights):** It enabled arbitrary seizure of properties under Section 40 of the 2013 Act.
2. He noted that the amendment addresses these issues by empowering Collectors to verify Waqf claims, protecting tribal lands (under Schedules 5 and 6), and ensuring Government/Autonomous Body properties (e.g., ASI monuments) cannot be classified as Waqf.

Documented Misuse of Waqf Properties

1. Shri JP Nadda cited alarming instances of mismanagement such as 5,970 Government properties across 25 states/UTs that were illegally

declared Waqf properties. In Karnataka, 40 Government assets (including lakes, temples, and agricultural lands) were converted into Waqf properties between 1975 and 2020.

2. Waqf income stagnated at Rs. 116 crore in 2016 (up from Rs. 1,163 crore in 2013) which reacts poor oversight.
3. He also noted that the CAG's 2018 report aged systemic awes, including unauthorized land grabs and lack of accountability.

Call for Cooperation and Reaction

1. Shri JP Nadda urged opposition parties, particularly the Congress, to support the Bill in the interest of marginalized Muslim communities. He criticised past Governments for enabling "land mafia" to exploit Waqf properties and stressed the Amendment protects vulnerable groups, including women, by addressing inheritance issues.
2. He concluded with a plea for humility and collaboration, citing the electorate's rejection of divisive politics in recent elections. He reinforced Modi Government's commitment to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, urging lawmakers to prioritize national progress over partisan agendas. ■



REALITY BITES: TRUTH BEHIND INDIA'S EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



**DHARMENDRA
PRADHAN**

A mischievous impression, guided by partisan consideration, is being made out as if the education system has veered off in the last eleven years of Modi Government. In fact, nothing could be more ironical and further from truth than this. The country that witnessed the monumental neglect of the education system by the previous Congress Governments is deeply aware of the unpleasant truth. While nations across the world reimagined education for a rapidly evolving world, India's educational framework remained trapped in a time capsule, with the last major policy update coming in 1986, marginally amended in 1992. This was a deliberate perpetuation of colonial mindsets that undermined India's rich knowledge traditions, besides insulating the country from rapid technological changes taking place in the world.

Corruption and governance deficit were the defining features of the country's educational past. Public universities were systematically starved of funds. Unregulated private institutions mushroomed into degree mills. Those who suffer from selective amnesia need to be reminded of the infamous Deemed University scandal of 2009 that exposed how university status was granted

to 44 private institutions without proper evaluation, many later found guilty of financial irregularities. Political interference in education was rampant. The University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education became instruments of control rather than enablers of excellence. Appointments of University leadership were based on political loyalty. Textbooks deliberately downplayed the contributions of revolutionaries like Shahid Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Veer Savarkar and others while portraying uncomfortable historical truths about foreign invasions. Historical narratives were carefully curated to serve political interests. India's diverse cultural and intellectual traditions were systematically marginalized. All of these contributed towards creating an education system that remained disconnected from our glorious past and devoid of civilizational ethos.

The National Education Policy of 2020 represents a decisive break from this inglorious past. It was a product of the most extensive democratic consultations in India's policy history. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, a leading scientist and former ISRO Chairman, spearheaded the process of consultation and engaged lakhs of stakeholders across States and UTs as the chairperson of the Committee that drafted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Based on five pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, NEP 2020 is a policy of the people, by the people and for the future of the people.

One of the primary objectives of NEP 2020 is to correct structural inequities inherited from centralized, rigid and elitist frameworks. As a result of this transformative approach, enrolment of SCs in Higher Education has increased by 50%, STs by 75%, and OBCs by 54% since 2014-15. In tribal areas, specialized residential schools have increased literacy rates and special scholarships for tribal students have increased their retention in higher education.

Women's empowerment stands at the heart of these reforms with unprecedented strides in gender parity across education sectors. Female enrollment across all categories has grown by an impressive 38.8%, crossing 2.18 crore in 2022-23. Among Muslim minority students, female enrollment rose by 57.5%. In Board examinations, the number of girls scoring over 60% in Class 10 and 12 has risen by 72% and 77%, respectively. In higher education, Ph.D. enrollment among women has increased by a whopping 135%. Most remarkably, women in higher education STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) fields now constitute 43%, thus shattering glass ceilings in domains previously dominated by men. Female teachers, now constitute 44.23% of the teaching workforce, up from 38.6% in 2014, transforming academic leadership landscapes. These represent a fundamental shift in India's academic ecosystem, with women reclaiming their rightful place in our nation's intellectual journey.

These gains reflect a fundamental shift in priorities. Per-child government expenditure has increased by 130%, from 10,780 in 2013-14 to 25,043 in

2021-22. The Government is prioritizing early childhood education and foundational learning and numeracy for a child's overall development, cognitive growth, and future learning. Government schools are being upgraded with modern infrastructure, holistic pedagogy and other support system. As a result of concerted efforts, the number of our Out-of-School children as also the drop-out rates have decreased; Pupil Teacher Ratio has improved; and most importantly, learning outcomes have been steadily improving.

The NEP 2020 has introduced futuristic elements like coding from middle school, multidisciplinary approaches to problem-solving, and innovation hubs in rural areas. Over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs are nurturing innovation at the grassroots level. More than 3,000 skill centers are bridging the gap between education and employability. These initiatives represent a fundamental reimagining of education for India's future, not mere incremental changes to an outdated system. The youth of India deserve more than recycled manifesto and outdated slogans—they deserve vision, courage and action. The NEP 2020 has introduced futuristic elements like coding from middle school, multidisciplinary approaches to problem-solving, and innovation hubs in rural areas. Over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs are nurturing innovation at the grassroots level. The Government has plans to add 50,000 more ATLS with broadband Internet connectivity in schools in the coming five years. These initiatives represent a fundamental reimagining of education for India's future.

In higher education, sustainable revenue models have freed universities from resource dependency. India now has 11 Universities in the QS World Ranking's top 500, a remarkable improvement over the past. Research publications have increased by 88% since 2015, propelling India to 39th in the Global Innovation Index, up from 76th in 2014. Anusandhan - National Research Foundation is nurturing industry-academia collaboration, positioning India as an emerging knowledge economy and a global destination for learning.

Most significantly, the policy has restored dignity to all Indian languages and knowledge traditions that were

systematically handicapped by decades of 'English-first' policies. Through the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) initiative, over 8,000 higher education institutions have adopted IKS curricula. Through the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Yojana, 15,000 original and translated textbooks in 22 Indian languages will be published, benefitting millions of young minds to express themselves in their mother tongues.

The Government's commitment to social justice was reflected by the enactment of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019 for reservation of teaching positions in central educational institutions for SCs, STs, and others by treating the 'Institution as one Unit' rather than a grossly flawed system of treating 'each Department as one Unit'. Similarly, the Government dispensed with the mischievous practice of declaring "None Found Suitable" in university recruitments to reject candidates from SC/ST/OBC categories and converting these

as non-reserved posts, in the interest of making reservation truly meaningful.

These achievements represent millions of individual stories of empowerment and opportunity. A tribal girl in Odisha accessing quality digital education, a first-generation learner in Rajasthan pursuing advanced research, a student in Tamil Nadu studying engineering through her mother

tongue—these are the real outcomes of a policy that views education as a force for national transformation.

Our government remains focused on building a Viksit Bharat where education truly liberates and empowers. The coming decade will witness an educational renaissance that honors our past while fearlessly embracing the future. India's education system has finally broken free from colonial shadows and ideological captivity. It now stands poised not just to fulfill the dreams of millions of Indians, but to offer the world a model that harmonizes tradition with innovation, inclusion with excellence, and national pride with global relevance. This is not merely education reform—it is the intellectual decolonization that India has waited for long which would catapult India into the comity of developed nations. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Education, Government of India)

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ATALJI: FOREVER FREE FROM WORLDLY ATTACHMENTS

In the realm of Indian politics, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a revered thinker with a pure heart. Even opposition leaders respected him. He embodied the spirit of an Avdhoot saint in the politics, belonging to Kabir's tradition. Known for his compassion and deep commitment to public welfare, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an undisputed political leader admired across all sections of Indian society. On the occasion of his birth centenary, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for allowing me to present my views on his extraordinary life.



**BRIJMOHAN
AGRAWAL**

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924, into a Kanyakubj Brahmin family in Bateshwar, near Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. His parents were Smt. Krishna Devi and Shri Krishna Bihari Vajpayee, a school teacher in Gwalior. Atal Ji's eloquence was remarkable—people would travel miles just to hear him speak. As a student, he once arrived late to a debate competition at Prayagraj University. Although the event was nearly over, he requested a chance to speak. The organizers obliged, and he went on to win the award for best speaker, thanks to his powerful oratory and clear expression. That was our Atal Ji.

Even Pandit Nehru appreciated his speeches in Parliament and once remarked that Atal Bihari would become a great diplomat someday. Atal Ji's speech at the United Nations in 1977, as Foreign Minister of the Janata Party government, remains a shining example of Indian heritage and Hindi

language on the global stage.

Very few politicians are able to embody the ideal of "Jyon ki tyon dhar dini chadariya" (returning the cloth as it was received)—a life of integrity and selflessness. Atal Ji's journey in Indian politics was nothing short of extraordinary—exemplary, awe-inspiring, and unforgettable. He brought a rare combination of literary depth and journalistic insight to politics, which helped him connect deeply with the common people's struggles.

His village, Bateshwar, once known for dacoits, is now revered as a pilgrimage site for BJP leaders. The Modi government should declare his birthplace a national monument.

In the 1990s, Atal Ji led a coalition government of 24 parties with 81 ministers. He taught Indian politics the importance of patience, morality, and coalition dharma.

Atal Ji's journey in Indian politics was nothing short of extraordinary—exemplary, awe-inspiring, and unforgettable. He brought a rare combination of literary depth and journalistic insight to politics, which helped him connect deeply with the common people's struggles

During this time, he skillfully navigated complex alliances with leaders like Ms. Jayalalithaa, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, and Ms. Mayawati—setting a timeless example of coalition governance.

In 1999, his government fell by just one vote. In Parliament, a disappointed Atal Ji remarked, "Our time will come." I believe today is that very time. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the BJP government is doing all round progress of the country in all sectors and it is no doubt a golden era for Indian democracy.

After the Narasimha Rao government, the BJP gradually rose in prominence during the late 1990s. At that time, when the Bharatiya Janata Party was close to forming the government and was looking for a majority, Sharad Pawar had mocked Atal Ji by saying that Atal Ji never got married and now when he (Prime Minister) is going to become the groom, he lacks the baraat i.e. the majority. Despite facing sarcasm and taunts, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji never deviated from his path. Through persistent effort and dedication, he not only provided a new direction to the BJP but also to the entire

nation by successfully forming the government. It is due to his spirit of selfless service that the BJP is now becoming the guiding force of the country.

Although Vajpayee ji served as the Prime Minister for six years, his tenure was marked by several key decisions that gave a new dimension to India's economic growth and development.

On the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute and said that "Vajpayee dedicated his life to building a strong, prosperous, and self-reliant India. Many of the policies implemented during his tenure continue to benefit the country even today."

Here are five major decisions taken during the Vajpayee government that transformed the Indian economy and made it multidimensional.

KEY REFORMS OF THE VAJPAYEE ERA

Golden Quadrilateral Project

This was India's largest highway infrastructure project, connecting major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata. Spanning 5,846 km with four and six-lane highways, it boosted industrial, agricultural, and economic connectivity. Cities like Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, and Vizag also benefited, providing momentum to economic growth.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

In 2000, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak

Yojana (PMGSY) to connect previously unconnected villages across India. The primary objective of the scheme was to provide all-weather road connectivity to villages with a population of 500 or more. This initiative aimed to improve rural transportation and foster development by linking remote, roadless villages to broader road networks.

River Linking Project

Shri Vajpayee envisioned a river linking project to address water scarcity in drought-prone areas, reduce the impacts of floods and droughts, enhance agricultural productivity, and promote hydropower generation. The idea was to interlink water-surplus rivers with water-deficit ones to create a more balanced distribution of water resources and support sustainable development.

On Vajpayee ji's 100th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India's first river linking initiative—the Ken-Betwa National Project—in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. With an investment of 44,600 crore, this landmark project

On the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute and said that "Vajpayee ji dedicated his life to building a strong, prosperous, and self-reliant India. Many of the policies implemented during his tenure continue to benefit the country even today."

became a tribute to Vajpayee ji in the heart of Madhya Pradesh.

Pokhran Nuclear Tests

Under the dynamic leadership of Atalji, India conducted five nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan, on May 11 and 13, 1998. The tests included a thermonuclear device (hydrogen bomb) of 45 kilotons and a fission device (atomic bomb) of 15 kilotons. As a result, India was formally recognized as a nuclear power state. Despite facing international sanctions following the tests, India stood firm in asserting its strategic autonomy.

These tests were a pivotal moment in India's defence and scientific history. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government demonstrated India's nuclear power through these tests and instilled a sense of pride in the country.

Beyond economic reforms, Atal Ji's diplomatic initiatives were equally visionary. His historic bus journey to Lahore symbolized a poetic and peaceful approach to diplomacy.

Lotus represents BJP's commitment to public service with a spirit of detachment, free from personal gain or attachment. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who remained unmarried and led a life of simplicity and service, embodied this philosophy throughout his life. He infused the BJP with a spirit of selfless politics, emphasizing dedication to the people above all else—a legacy that continues to inspire the party and the nation. ■

(The writer is the MP, Lok Sabha and former Cabinet Minister, Chhattisgarh)

Fueling grassroots entrepreneurship and expanding financial inclusion

On 8 April 2025, India marks 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY). Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the flagship programme of the Prime Minister aimed at funding the unfunded micro enterprises and small businesses. By removing the burden of collateral and simplifying access, MUDRA laid the foundation for a new era of grassroots entrepreneurship. Across the country, lives have transformed. Kamlesh, a home-based tailor in Delhi, expanded her work, employed three other women, and enrolled her children in a good school. Bindu, who began with 50 brooms a day, now leads a unit producing 500. These are not exceptions anymore. They reflect a larger shift.

From stitching units and tea stalls to salons, mechanic shops, and mobile repair businesses, crores of micro-entrepreneurs have stepped forward with confidence, enabled by a system that believed in their potential. PMMY has supported these journeys by offering institutional credit to non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises that form the backbone of India's economy. At its core, the MUDRA Yojana is a story of trust. Trust in people's aspirations and in their ability to build. Trust in the belief that even the smallest dreams deserve a platform to grow.

Achievements under PM Mudra Yojana

Since its launch in April 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has sanctioned over 52 crore loans worth Rs. 32.61 lakh crore, fuelling a nationwide entrepreneurial revolution. Business growth is no longer confined to big cities—it is spreading to small towns and villages, where first-time entrepreneurs are taking charge of their destinies. The shift in mindset is evident: people are no longer job seekers; they are becoming job creators.

MSME Credit Boom: A Stronger Business Ecosystem

The SBI report highlights a significant rise in credit flow to MSMEs, driven by Mudra's impact. MSME lending surged from Rs. 8.51 lakh crore in FY14 to Rs. 27.25 lakh crore in FY24, and is projected to cross Rs. 30 lakh crore in FY25. The share of

MSME credit in total bank credit increased from 15.8 percent in FY14 to nearly 20 percent in FY24, showcasing its growing role in the Indian economy. This expansion has enabled businesses in smaller towns and rural areas to access financial support that was previously unavailable, strengthening India's self-reliant economy and driving grassroots job creation.

Financial Inclusion: Empowering Women

Women account for 68 percent of all Mudra beneficiaries, underscoring the scheme's pivotal role in advancing women-led enterprises across the country. Between FY16 and FY25, the per woman PMMY disbursement amount increased at a CAGR of 13 percent, reaching Rs. 62,679, while per woman incremental deposits grew at a CAGR of 14 percent to Rs. 95,269. States with higher disbursement shares to women have recorded significantly higher employment generation through women-led MSMEs, reinforcing the effectiveness of targeted financial inclusion in enhancing women's economic empowerment and labour force participation.

Financial Inclusion: Reaching Socially Marginalised Groups

PMMY has made significant progress in breaking traditional credit barriers. According to the SBI report, 50 percent of Mudra accounts are held by SC, ST and OBC entrepreneurs, ensuring wider access to formal finance. Furthermore, 11



percent of Mudra loan holders belong to minority communities, demonstrating the scheme's contribution to inclusive growth by enabling marginalised communities to become active participants in the formal economy.

Progressive Lending: From Shishu to Tarun

Over the past ten years, Mudra has facilitated the opening of over 52 crore loan accounts, marking a steady rise in entrepreneurial activity. The share of Kishor loans (Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh) has grown from 5.9 percent in FY16 to 44.7 percent in FY25, indicating a shift from micro to small enterprises. The Tarun category (Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh) is also gaining momentum, proving that Mudra is not just about starting businesses but helping them scale.

Bigger Loans, Stronger Businesses

The average ticket size of loans has nearly tripled—rising from Rs. 38,000 in FY16 to Rs. 72,000 in FY23, and further to Rs. 1.02 lakh in FY25—reflecting growing economies of scale and a deepening of both market depth and width.

Furthermore, loan disbursement rose by 36 percent in FY23, indicating a strong revival of entrepreneurial confidence across the country.

Mission, Vision and Purpose of PMMY

Salient Features of the Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) under the Micro Units Development and Refinancing Agency (MUDRA) was set up by Government of India for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units. PMMY ensures collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs 20 lakh is provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) i.e. Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

Under the scheme, three categories of interventions have been formulated which include:

Tarun Plus: Loans above Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 20 lakh (designed specifically for Tarun category, who have previously availed and successfully repaid loans)

International Recognition

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has consistently acknowledged the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in expanding financial access and promoting inclusive entrepreneurship in India.

Conclusion

In ten years, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has consistently demonstrated the power of financial inclusion and the strength of grassroots innovation. Before 2014, access to credit often favoured the well-connected, while small entrepreneurs faced hurdles like complex paperwork or were forced to rely on informal finance. Banks handed out reckless loans to large corporates, while genuine borrowers lost access to credit. MUDRA stepped into this vacuum, offering a cleaner, inclusive alternative that gave everyone an equal chance.

With over 52 crore loans sanctioned, the scheme has empowered women, SC/ST/OBC communities, and rural entrepreneurs by expanding access to formal credit. The rise in average loan size, growing share of MSME credit, and the shift from micro to small enterprises reflect its growing impact. PMMY is not only fuelling self-employment and job creation, but also strengthening India's grassroots economy and advancing equitable growth. ■



PM MODI interacts with MUDRA YOJANA beneficiaries

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with MUDRA Yojana beneficiaries on the occasion of completion of 10 years of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhion 8 April 2025.

Speaking to the befeniciaries, Shri Modi highlighted the transformative impact of the Mudra Yojana on empowering citizens, particularly women, and fostering entrepreneurship across India. He emphasized how the scheme has provided financial support to individuals from marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, enabling them to start their own businesses without requiring guarantees or extensive paperwork. Shri Modi remarked on the silent revolution brought about by Mudra Yojana, noting the significant shift in societal attitudes towards entrepreneurship. He underlined that the scheme has empowered women by not only offering financial assistance but also creating opportunities for them to lead and grow their businesses. He pointed out that women are among the highest beneficiaries of the scheme, leading in loan applications, approvals, and swift repayments.

Shri Modi highlighted the discipline instilled in individuals through responsible utilization of Mudra loans. He remarked that the scheme provides an opportunity to build lives and careers, while discouraging misuse of funds or unproductive efforts.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Rs. 33 lakh crore has been disbursed to the citizens of India under the

- ◆ Mudra Yojana is not limited to any specific group but aims to empower the youth to stand on their own feet.
- ◆ Mudra Yojana has a transformative impact in fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance.
- ◆ Mudra Yojana has brought a silent revolution with shift in the societal attitude about entrepreneurship.
- ◆ Women are among the highest beneficiaries of Mudra scheme.
- ◆ 52 crore loans have been disbursed under the scheme, a monumental achievement unparalleled globally.

Mudra Yojana without the need for guarantees. He emphasized that this amount is unprecedented and surpasses any financial support extended to wealthy individuals collectively. He expressed his trust in the nation's talented youth who have utilized the funds effectively to generate employment and stimulate the economy. ■

Prime Minister lauds transformative impact of MUDRA Yojana on its 10th Anniversary

The PM Shri Narendra Modi on 8 April extended his heartfelt congratulations to the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) as the nation marks #10YearsOfMUDRA.

Celebrating a decade of empowering dreams and driving inclusive economic growth, the Prime Minister highlighted the pivotal role played by the MUDRA scheme in uplifting marginalized communities and promoting entrepreneurship across India. The Prime Minister said in X threads; "Today, as we mark, #10YearsOfMUDRA, I would like to congratulate all those whose lives have been transformed thanks to this scheme. Over this decade, Mudra Yojana has turned several dreams into reality, empowering people who were previously overlooked with the financial support to shine. It illustrates that for the people of India, nothing is impossible!"

"It is particularly heartening that half of the Mudra beneficiaries belong to SC, ST and OBC Communities, and over 70% of the beneficiaries are women! Every Mudra loan carries with it dignity, self-respect and opportunity. In addition to financial inclusion, this scheme has also ensured social inclusion and economic freedom."

"In the times to come, our government will continue focusing on ensuring a robust ecosystem where every aspiring entrepreneur, has access to credit thus giving him or her the confidence and a chance to grow." ■



New Pamban Bridge to Rameswaram brings technology and tradition together: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various rail and road projects worth over Rs 8,300 crore in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu on April 6, 2025. Earlier, he inaugurated the new Pamban Rail Bridge - India's first vertical lift sea bridge and flagged off a train and a ship from the road bridge and witnessed the operation of the bridge. He also performed darshan and pooja at the Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shri Modi said that today marks the auspicious occasion of Shri Ram Navami. He said that earlier today, the divine rays of the sun adorned Ram

said, “the new Pamban bridge to Rameswaram symbolizes the union of technology and tradition”. He emphasized that a town thousands of years old is now connected by a 21st-century engineering marvel. Shri Modi highlighted that this bridge is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, allowing big ships to sail underneath while enabling faster train travel. He mentioned flagging off a new train service and a ship earlier today and congratulated the people of Tamil Nadu for this remarkable project.

Underlining that the demand for this bridge had persisted for many decades, Shri Modi said that, with the blessings of the people, the privilege of completing this work was achieved. He emphasized that the Pamban bridge supports both Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Travel, positively impacting the lives of lakhs of people. The Prime Minister underscored that the new train service will enhance connectivity from Rameswaram to Chennai and other parts of the country. He added that this development will benefit trade and tourism in Tamil Nadu, while also creating new job and business opportunities for the youth.

“In the past 10 years, India has doubled the size of its economy”, mentioned Shri Modi, highlighting that one of the key reasons for this rapid growth is the country's remarkable modern infrastructure.

Noting that today marks the foundation day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Modi underlined the goal of building a strong, prosperous, and developed India is driven by the relentless efforts of every BJP worker. He emphasized that the people of the country are witnessing the good governance of BJP governments and the decisions being taken in the national interest. He expressed pride in the way BJP workers across every state and corner of the country are working at the grassroots level and serving the poor. He concluded by conveying his gratitude to the millions of BJP workers and extended his best wishes to them. ■



Lalla with a grand tilak at the magnificent Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. “Lord Shri Ram's life and the inspiration of good governance from his reign serve as a significant foundation for nation-building”, he said. Adding that Tamil Nadu's Sangam-era literature also mentions Lord Shri Ram, he extended heartfelt greetings to all citizens on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami from the sacred land of Rameshwaram.

Noting that Rameswaram is the land of Bharat Ratna Dr. Kalam, whose life demonstrated how science and spirituality complement each other, the Prime Minister

BUDGET SESSION, 2025 OF PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS SINE-DIE

PRODUCTIVITY OF LOK SABHA WAS 118% AND RAJYA SABHA 119% DURING BUDGET SESSION

The Budget Session 2025 of Parliament, which commenced on 31 January 2025, adjourned sine die on 4 of April 2025. In between, both Houses were adjourned for recess on 13 of February 2025 to reassemble on 10 of March 2025 to enable Department-related Standing Committees to examine and report on the Demands for Grants relating to various Ministries/Departments.

The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju held a press conference after the end of the Budget Session, 2025. Shri Rijiju informed that the first part of the Budget Session yielded a total of 9 sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the second part of the Session, there were 17 sittings of both Houses.

This being the first Session of the year, the President addressed both Houses of Parliament on 31st of January, 2025. Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in Lok Sabha was moved by Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and seconded by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. 173 Members participated in the discussion.

In Rajya Sabha it was moved by Smt. Kiran Choudhary and seconded by Shri Neeraj Shekhar. 73 Members participated in the debate. The Motions of Thanks on President's Address were discussed and adopted after reply from the Prime Minister by the two Houses during the first part of the



Session.

The Union Budget for 2025-26 was presented on 1 of February 2025. A General Discussion on the Union Budget was held in both Houses in the first part of the Session. 169 Members took part in the debate and in Rajya Sabha 89 Members participated in the discussion.

In the Rajya Sabha the working of the Ministries of Education, Railways, Health & Family Welfare and Home Affairs were discussed. As such the entire Financial Business was completed in the Houses of Parliament before 31st of March, 2025.

After the presentation of the report of the Joint Committee, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was passed, which seeks to focus on improving the management of waqf properties, empowerment of stakeholders relevant to management of waqf properties, improving the efficiency in survey, registration and case disposal process, and development of waqf properties. While the core purpose remains to manage waqf properties, the aim is to implement modern and scientific methods for better governance." The Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923 was

also repealed.

During this Session a total of 11 Bills were introduced. 16 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 14 Bills were passed/returned by Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament is 16. The productivity of Lok Sabha during the Budget Session, 2025 was approx. 118% and that of Rajya Sabha was approx. 119%.

BILLS PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES

- The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2025
- The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
- The Appropriation Bill, 2025
- The Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025
- The Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025
- The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Boilers Bill, 2025
- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Appropriation Bill (3), 2025
- The Finance Bill, 2025.
- The "Tribhuvan" Sahkari University Bill, 2025
- The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025
- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025
- The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. ■

PM HIGHLIGHTS CULTURE, CLIMATE AND YOUTH POWER

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 30 March 2025 in his 120th Episode of monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', addressed the nation on the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri and the beginning of the Indian New Year (Vikram Samvat 2082), extending festive greetings in multiple regional languages. Excerpts:



Opening his address with a warm “Namaskar,” the Prime Minister highlighted the convergence of various regional New Year festivals such as Ugadi, Gudi Padwa, Vishu, Puthandu, Navreh, and Rongali Bihu. These festivals show how unity is woven into the diversity of India, he noted, urging citizens to preserve and nurture this spirit of togetherness.

As exams conclude and schools prepare for summer vacations, PM Shri Modi encouraged children to utilize their time constructively. Drawing on nostalgic memories of his own childhood summers, he motivated students to explore new hobbies, enroll in summer camps, and engage in volunteer work. “Summer is the time to learn, grow and contribute,” he said. The Prime Minister also introduced the special MY-Bharat summer calendar, offering opportunities such as study tours to Jan Aushadhi Kendras, cultural events, and padyatras to commemorate Ambedkar Jayanti.

Addressing water conservation, Shri Modi emphasized the importance of the ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign, reminding listeners of their role in safeguarding natural resources. Citing impressive statistics, he revealed that over the last 7–8 years, more than 11 billion cubic metres of water have been conserved through grassroots efforts across India — more than the water held by the massive Govind Sagar Lake of the Bhakra Nangal Dam.

He commended the villagers of Gadag, Karnataka, who collectively revived a dried-up lake, transforming it into a symbol of community resilience and environmental stewardship. Encouraging such initiatives, he suggested keeping water in earthen pots for passersby and birds during the scorching summer months, calling it a punya karma — a virtuous act.

The Prime Minister also spotlighted the Khelo

India Para Games, congratulating participants for their record-breaking performances and growing popularity. Notably, 18 national records were broken during the event, 12 of them by women athletes. He shared an emotional letter from gold medal-winning arm wrestler Joby Mathew, who wrote about the daily struggles and triumphs of para-athletes, stating, “We believe that we are no less than anyone else.”

Fitness remained a key theme as Shri Modi lauded the success of the first-ever Fit India Carnival in Delhi, where over 25,000 participants gathered to promote health, nutrition, and well-being. He urged citizens to organize similar events in their communities with support from the MY-Bharat platform.

Highlighting India’s rich heritage, he spoke about the rising popularity of indigenous martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Gatka, and Thang-Ta, especially through modern cultural expressions such as rapper Hanumankind’s new song “Run It Up.” He praised these efforts for introducing India’s ancient traditions to global audiences.

Shri Modi also raised a pressing environmental issue — textile waste. Calling it a global challenge, he noted that India ranks third in generating textile waste, but is also emerging as a leader in sustainable fashion. He spotlighted efforts in cities like Panipat, Bengaluru, and Tirupur, which are making strides in textile recycling, wastewater treatment, and the use of renewable energy. He praised startups and organizations transforming old clothes into usable goods, from handbags to children’s toys.

He concluded the episode by urging citizens to share stories from their communities, saying, “Something that may seem normal to you could be inspirational to others.” ■

PM MODI VISITS NAGPUR, PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. HEDGEWAR AT RSS HEADQUARTERS & DR. AMBEDKAR AT DEEKSHABHOOMI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Dr Hedgewar Smruti Mandir at Nagpur in Maharashtra on 30 March 2025 and paid tributes at the memorials dedicated to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh founder Param Pujaniya Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, and the second Sarsanghchalak, revered MS Golwalkar (Guruji). RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat and other senior Pracharakas were present during PM Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the Smruti Mandir.

During the visit, PM Shri Modi also paid his tributes to Dr. BR Ambedkar at Deekshabhoomi, where the architect of India's Constitution converted to Buddhism in 1956.

Shri Modi also laid the foundation stone of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre at Nagpur and addressed a huge public meeting.

After visiting the RSS headquarters, PM Shri Modi, in a social media post, said, "Visiting Smruti Mandir in Nagpur is a very special experience. Making today's visit even more special is the fact that it has happened on Varsha Pratipada, which is also the Jayanti of Param Pujya Doctor Sahab. Countless people like me derive inspiration and strength from the thoughts of Param Pujya Doctor Sahab and Pujya Guruji. It was an honour to pay homage to these two greats, who envisioned a strong, prosperous and culturally



proud Bharat."

After visiting the Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, PM Shri Modi said, "Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur stands tall as a symbol of social justice and empowering the downtrodden. Generations of Indians will remain grateful to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for giving us a constitution that ensures our dignity and equality. Our government has always walked on the path shown by Pujya Babasaheb, and we reiterate our commitment to working even harder to realise the India he dreamt of." ■



PM Shri Narendra Modi presented with the Holy Scriptures: "World Ti-pitaka: Sajjhaya Phonetic Edition" by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Ms Paetongtarn Shinawatra at Bangkok in Thailand on April 03, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi attends the 6th BIMSTEC Summit at Bangkok in Thailand on April 04, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake at Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 05, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts with the Sri Lankan cricketers at Colombo, in Sri Lanka on April 05, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Gabriel Boric Font at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on April 01, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in New Delhi on April 08, 2025



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