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“Kashi Tamil Sangamam showcases India's unity amidst immense cultural diversity”



SWEARING IN CEREMONY IN DELHI

‘BJP GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DELHI’



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ji on his Punyatithi at BJP HQ, New Delhi on 11 February, 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda offering prayers at Shri Guru Ravidas Vishram Dham Mandir Trust on the occasion of "Guru Ravidas Jayanti" at Deshbandhu Gupta Road, New Delhi on 12 February, 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda meets His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar in New Delhi on 18 February, 2025



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda along with the CM of UP Yogi Adityanath taking Holy Dip in Sangam & offered prayers in Prayagraj, U.P on 22 February, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah and other senior NDA leaders attending the NDA meeting held in New Delhi on 20 February, 2025

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REKHA GUPTA SWORN IN AS CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

In an impressive and glittering ceremony attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the leader of the Delhi BJP Legislative Party Smt. Rekha Gupta was sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi in a grand oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi on 20 February 2025. Smt. Rekha Gupta, who...



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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@Narendramodi

Trade featured prominently in our talks. We want to increase and diversify India-Qatar trade linkages. Our nations can also work closely in sectors like energy, technology, healthcare, food processing, pharma and green hydrogen.

(18 February, 2025)



@JPNadda

At the time of independence, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had kept the Sengol, a symbol of transfer of power, in the museum. Honorable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji brought it back and installed it in the new Parliament building according to Vedic traditions. (21 February, 2025)



@AmitShah

The Modi government stands like a rock in support of the disaster-affected people. Today, the MHA approved an additional central assistance of Rs. 1554.99 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Tripura under the NDR fund. This is in addition to the Rs. 18,322.80 crore released by the centre to 27 states under the SDR fund.

(19 February, 2025)



@Rajnathsingh

In the municipal elections of Chhattisgarh, BJP has raised the flag of victory by achieving 'perfect ten'. Congratulations to CM of Chhattisgarh Shri @vishnudsai and the entire team including the state president @KiranDeoBJP for this tremendous victory. This victory is a symbol of immense faith of the people in the NDA governments led by PM Shri @narendramodi and CM Shri Vishnu Sai. Best wishes to all the winning candidates along with the party workers. (15 February, 2025)



@B.L Santhosh

Under the guidance of PM Sri @narendramodi Team @BJP4Gujarat led by CM Sri @Bhupendrapbjp & State President & Union minister Sri @CRPaatil registers a record making victory in local body elections.

(18 February, 2025)



@Sudha Yadav

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji is going to take a unique initiative. He will hand over his social media accounts to the inspirational women of the country for a day, so that they can share the stories of their experiences, struggles and achievements with the countrymen. This is a historic opportunity to honour Nari Shakti and bring their contribution to the national stage. If you also want to be a part of this unique experiment, then share your story through the special forum created on #NameApp and spread your inspiration to the whole world. (23 February, 2025)





DREAM OF VIKSIT DELHI WILL BE REALISED

As Smt. Rekha Gupta takes oath as Chief Minister of Delhi along with six ministers, the capital city is heaving a sigh of relief after getting rid of AAP-da misrule. AAP-da misrule will be remembered for its corruption, open loot of public money, paralysed administration, and broken promises, which resulted in a decade of disaster for Delhi. The BJP government in Delhi, led by the new Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, is blessed with a very competent and energetic team that is capable of taking the capital city out of the quagmire of disaster in which the AAP-da government has left it. While the BJP governments across the nation are serving people with full commitment and dedication under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, it is certain that Delhi will also lead in delivering quality services to the people along with corruption-free governance and world-class facilities. As the people of Delhi have blessed the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by electing the BJP government with overwhelming support, there is no doubt that the dream of 'Viksit Delhi' will be realised in the days to come. As the BJP government in Delhi embarks on the journey to fulfil its commitment, people are celebrating freedom from the decade-long disaster of AAP-da government.

The people of Delhi have blessed the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by electing the BJP government with overwhelming support, there is no doubt that the dream of 'Viksit Delhi' will be realised in the days to come. As the BJP government in Delhi embarks on the journey to fulfil its commitment, people are celebrating freedom from the decade-long disaster of AAP-da government

The recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to France and the US between 10 February and 13 February 2025 has further strengthened India's ties and boosted confidence with these nations. Apart from many important engagements, the focus on AI during the France visit was mainly articulated in terms of developing open-source systems to enhance trust and transparency. The AI Action Summit co-chaired by President Mr. Macron and PM Shri Narendra Modi deliberated on AI's transformative potential across sectors such as health, education and agriculture. In US, the meeting with newly elected President Trump focussed on strengthening strategic partnerships in the fields of defence, technology, trade and global security. While discussions were held regarding diverse issues, such as, strengthening Defence and Security ties, Counter-Terrorism, Trade and Economic Growth, Technology and innovation, US President Trump and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a new initiative, the US - India COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st century which is set to drive transformative change across key pillars of cooperation.

The grand success of PM Shri Modi's visit may be seen in the boost to counter-terrorism efforts as the US approved the extradition of the 26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Rana to India, and in the joint statement, the two leaders called on Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai, and Pathankot attacks and ensure that its territory is not used to carry out cross-border terrorist attacks. In another rare expression of trust and confidence in India's leadership on the issue of Bangladesh, the US President Trump said that it was to be handled under the direction of PM Shri Modi calling the Indian Prime Minister 'a Great Leader' and 'a Special Man'. The announcement of support by President Trump for the India-Middle East Europe Corridor (IMECC), and the launch of the new initiative Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA), are set to further enhance mutual cooperation and trust between India and US. As India marches ahead in the path of realising its vision of 'Viksit Bharat', strategic partnership and deepening ties with friendly nations will also realise its ancient vision of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY IN DELHI



REKHA GUPTA SWORN IN AS CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

SIX CABINET MINISTERS ALSO SWORN IN

In an impressive and glittering ceremony attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the leader of the Delhi BJP Legislative Party Smt. Rekha Gupta was sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Delhi in a grand oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi on 20 February 2025. Smt. Rekha Gupta, who was elected from the Shalimar Bagh constituency with a margin of around thirty thousand

votes and unanimously elected as the state BJP Legislative Party leader at a meeting held in Delhi on 19 February 2025, took charge as the Chief Minister of the state for the first time. Smt. Gupta becomes the BJP's fourth Delhi Chief Minister and its second woman leader to hold the post. She is also the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi.

Besides Smt. Rekha Gupta, six elected MLAs

**This team will surely ensure good governance for Delhi: PM Modi**

After the oath-taking ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Smt. Rekha Gupta on taking oath as the new Chief Minister of Delhi. Shri Modi also congratulated the Ministers of the state. Shri Modi said, “Congratulations to Smt. Rekha

Gupta Ji on taking oath as Delhi’s Chief Minister. She has risen from the grassroots, being active in campus politics, state organisation, municipal administration and now MLA as well as Chief Minister. I am confident she will work for Delhi’s development with full vigour. My best wishes to her for a fruitful tenure”.

“Congratulations to Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Ji, Shri Ashish Sood Ji, Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa Ji, Shri Ravinder Indraj Singh Ji, Shri Kapil Mishra Ji and Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh Ji on taking oath as Ministers in the Delhi Government. This team beautifully mixes vigour and experience, and will surely ensure good governance for Delhi. Best wishes to them”.

Our commitment to a ‘Developed Delhi’ will become a reality: JP Nadda

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda congratulated Smt. Rekha Gupta and said, “I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Smt.

@gupta_rekha ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi and to all the members of the cabinet on becoming ministers.

The people of Delhi have given BJP a historic majority, supporting and blessing the double-engine government.

I am fully confident that under the guidance of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the BJP government will develop Delhi in all aspects according to public sentiments and accelerate welfare activities. Our commitment to a ‘Developed Delhi’ will become a reality under your leadership.

- Shri Pravesh Sahib Singh, Shri Ashish Sood, Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Shri Ravinder Singh, Shri Kapil Mishra and Shri Pankaj Singh were also sworn in as Ministers into the new cabinet.

The grand event began at 11 am and concluded by 1 pm. Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Chief Minister. After giving oath to the Chief Minister, the Lieutenant Governor administered the oath of office and secrecy to six other Ministers.

Earlier in the day, the Hon’ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu appointed Smt. Gupta as the Chief Minister of Delhi and other six MLAs as ministers in Delhi with a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs confirming that the appointments will take effect once they are sworn in.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Union Cabinet, all BJP & NDA Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers,

several other senior leaders of the party, leaders of the Delhi BJP and others.

Along with the leaders, it was attended by spiritual leaders from different communities, representatives from various citizens groups such as auto drivers, sanitation workers, RWA members, various communities belonging to the OBC category, slum dwellers and roadside vendors. Lakhs of BJP Karyakartas and party supporters were also present at the historic Ramlila Maidan during the ceremony.

After the oath taking ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Smt. Rekha Gupta and her team and posted on ‘X’ that she has risen from the grassroots and expressed confidence that she will work for the city’s development with full vigor. “My best wishes to her for a fruitful tenure,” the PM said.

Congratulating the newly formed government, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda also said, “I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Smt. @gupta_rekha ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi and to all the members of the cabinet on becoming ministers.”

History has been scripted in Delhi: Rajnath Singh



Congratulating the new Chief Minister of Delhi Smt. Rekha Gupta and the team, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in a social media post on 'X' said, "Attended the oath-taking ceremony of Smt. Rekha Gupta ji and her ministerial team. History has been scripted in Delhi as the BJP has come to power after a gap of 27 years.

Congratulations to those who took oath today. Best wishes to them in their pursuit of taking Delhi to new heights of growth. I am confident that under the inspiring leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi this new Team Delhi will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the dreams & aspirations of the people."

BJP government will make Delhi clean, beautiful and prosperous: Amit Shah



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah Congratulating the new Chief Minister of Delhi and her team on 'X' said, "The people of Delhi have put an end to the reign of deceit and broken promises, choosing the BJP, a synonym for service and dedication. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. @gupta_rekha ji and all the other ministers on taking the oath as Chief Minister in the newly formed BJP government today.

The vision of a developed Delhi, crafted by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for the welfare of Delhi's deprived, women, youth, and poor, will undoubtedly come to fruition under your capable leadership. The BJP government will make Delhi clean, beautiful, and prosperous, transforming it into the world's finest capital.



ABHINANDAN! ABHINANDAN! ABHINANDAN!

POSTS HELD IN 2+ DECADES OF EXPERIENCE OF SERVING MASSES

- 1992: JOINED ABVP
- 1995-1996: SECRETARY, DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
- 1996-1997: PRESIDENT, DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
- 2002: JOINED BJP
- 2002-2005: NATIONAL SECRETARY, YUVA MORCHA
- 2007-2012-2017: COUNCILLOR, NORTH PITAMPURA (BJP)
- 2007-2008: CHAIRMAN, WOMEN WELFARE AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, MCD (BJP)
- 2012: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER, BJP
- 2012-2013: CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, NDMC (BJP)
- 2013-2015: NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, MAHILA MORCHA
- 2015-2017: STATE GENERAL SECRETARY, DELHI
- 2021-PRESENT: NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, MAHILA MORCHA
- 2022-2025: COUNCILLOR, SHALIMAR BAGH-B (BJP)
- 2025: WON FROM SHALIMAR BAGH CONSTITUENCY
- **2025-PRESENT: CURRENT CHIEF MINISTER**

“
*Kaam Hi
Pehchaan*”



PWD, Legislative Affairs,
I&FC, Water, Gurudwara
Elections



Parvesh Verma

Social Welfare, SC & ST
Welfare, Cooperative, Elections



**Ravindra Indraj
Singh**

Home, Power, UD, Education,
Higher Education, Training &
Technical Education



Ashish Sood

Law & Justice, Labour,
Employment, Development,
Art & Culture, Language,
Tourism



Kapil Mishra

Food & Supplies, Forest &
Environment, Industries



Manjinder Sirsa

Health & Family Welfare,
Transport, IT



**Pankaj Kumar
Singh**

Committed to Taking Delhi to new Heights: Rekha Gupta

After taking oath as the Chief Minister, Smt. Rekha Gupta said it is not just a responsibility but an opportunity to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Delhi.

"Adopting the mantra of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas', we will empower Delhi through modern infrastructure, excellent healthcare services, excellent education and new employment opportunities," she posted on X.

"Your blessings and support are our biggest strength. Together we will build a self-reliant, developed and prosperous Delhi," she added.

Smt. Gupta also expressed gratitude to the electorate and outlined her administration's commitment to addressing pressing challenges. She

emphasized a comprehensive strategy to combat air and river pollution, enhance public infrastructure, and improve essential services such as education and healthcare.

The oath-taking event symbolized a new political chapter for Delhi, with a commitment of better governance, transparency, and economic development.

Noteworthy, the Bharatiya Janata Party has secured a historic victory in the 2025 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, marking its return to power in the national capital after nearly three decades. The results, declared on 08 February 2025, saw the BJP winning 48 out of 70 seats, while the Aam Aadmi Party, the incumbent, secured only 22 seats. The Congress party, failed to open its account in the election for the third time in a row.

The elections, held on February 5, 2025,

Smt. Rekha Gupta elected as BJP Legislative Party leader

A day before the swearing in ceremony, the Bharatiya Janata Party Legislative Party unanimously elected Smt. Rekha Gupta as the Leader of the BJP Legislative Party in Delhi at its meeting held in the National Capital on 19 February 2025. Following her election as the BJP Legislative Party Leader, Smt. Rekha Gupta called on Lieutenant Governor Shri V.K. Saxena and staked the claim to form the new government in Delhi. The meeting was attended by all 48 newly-elected BJP MLAs in the presence of central observers- Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Shri OP Dhankar.

Smt. Gupta, who rose through the ranks as a student leader, is a three-time councillor in Delhi. She joined the ABVP in the 1990s and



held several key positions in the BJP. Her tenure as a three-time councillor and former mayor of SDMC reflects her strong grassroots presence.

Her victory in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections from Shalimar Bagh, defeating AAP's Bandana Kumari by a substantial margin, marks a major milestone in her political journey. As the National Vice President of the BJP Mahila Morcha and a former General Secretary of Delhi BJP, she continues to be a prominent leader in Delhi politics. She becomes the fourth woman Chief Minister of

Delhi and the second women BJP CM after Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

After the announcement, Smt. Rekha Gupta thanked the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, the central and Delhi BJP leadership and all the BJP MLAs for their trust and confidence.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the top leadership for trusting me and entrusting me with the responsibility of the post of Chief Minister," Smt. Rekha posted on X. ■



witnessed a voter turnout exceeding 60%. The BJP's resurgence is attributed to its robust campaign led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing critical issues such as air pollution, infrastructure development, public services, Yamuna cleaning and Modi's government's historic achievements and works at the center. BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly elections marks a turning point in the political landscape of the capital. The party's strong campaign, leadership strategy, and focus on key governance issues resonated with voters, leading to a decisive win. This triumph reflects the electorate's renewed confidence in the BJP's vision and governance, setting the stage for a transformative era in Delhi's political and developmental landscape. ■

BJP'S RESOUNDING VICTORY IN GUJARAT LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on 18 February hailed the party's sweeping victory in the Gujarat local body elections, calling it a testament to the people's unwavering trust in the developmental initiatives of the double-engine government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Shri Nadda extended his warm gratitude to the people of Gujarat and extended congratulations to Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, State BJP President Shri C.R. Paatil, and all BJP karyakartas across the state.

Elections were held on February 16 for 1 Municipal Corporation, 68 Municipalities, and 3 Taluka Panchayats in Gujarat. In the results announced, the BJP claimed victory in the Municipal Corporation of

Junagadh, while also achieving a historic win in 60 municipalities and all three Taluka Panchayats, marking a significant triumph across these seats.

In a post on the social media



platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), Shri Nadda congratulated Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, BJP State President Shri C.R. Patil, and all the karyakartas of Gujarat BJP on the party's massive victory in the state's

local body elections. Shri Nadda emphasized that this historic triumph reflects the people's steadfast belief in the inclusive, development-focused, and welfare-driven policies being implemented in the state under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda expressed that the results of the Gujarat local body elections have delivered a clear message that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the people of Gujarat have once again expressed support towards the policies and initiatives of

the BJP government led by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel. By rejecting the Congress, the people of Gujarat have extended their wholehearted support to the BJP at the local level as well. ■

BJP's massive victory in Chhattisgarh civic elections

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on 15 February 2025 said that the resounding victory of the BJP in the Chhattisgarh municipal elections is a testament to the trust of the people of Chhattisgarh in the development efforts of the double-engine government under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra



triumph.

Shri Nadda, in a post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stated that the resounding victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Chhattisgarh municipal elections is a testament to the unwavering trust of the people in the welfare-oriented and tribal-friendly schemes being implemented by

the double-engine government under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Nadda expressed his gratitude to the people of Chhattisgarh for this historic victory and extended his heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, State BJP President Shri Kiran Dev, and all BJP karyakartas in the state.

It is noteworthy that elections were held on January 11 2025, for 10 Municipal Corporations, 49 Municipalities, and 113 town councils in Chhattisgarh. In the results announced, the BJP secured victory in all 10 Municipal Corporations, won 35 out of 49 municipalities, and claimed victory in 81 out of 113 town councils, achieving a historic

triumph. Shri Nadda expressed his gratitude to the people of Chhattisgarh for this historic victory and extended his heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, State BJP President Shri Kiran Dev, and all BJP karyakartas in the state. It is noteworthy that elections were held on January 11 2025, for 10 Municipal Corporations, 49 Municipalities, and 113 town councils in Chhattisgarh. In the results announced, the BJP secured victory in all 10 Municipal Corporations, won 35 out of 49 municipalities, and claimed victory in 81 out of 113 town councils, achieving a historic triumph. Shri Nadda, in a post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stated that the resounding victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Chhattisgarh municipal elections is a testament to the unwavering trust of the people in the welfare-oriented and tribal-friendly schemes being implemented by the double-engine government under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The National President said that the results of the Chhattisgarh local body elections have sent a clear message that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the people of the state have once again endorsed the policies and initiatives of the BJP government led by Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai. Rejecting the Congress, the people of Chhattisgarh have wholeheartedly extended their support to the BJP at the local level as well. ■

BJP National President meets with Amir of the State of Qatar

Bharatiya Janata Party National President and Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers, Shri J.P. Nadda, met His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, in New Delhi on 18 February 2025.



During the meeting, Shri Nadda provided an overview of vision and governance on India's healthcare advancements under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He elaborated on government's efforts in providing healthcare access and affordable medical care. Shri Nadda also described opportunities in collaboration between Qatar and India in healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors. Shri Nadda also thanked

H. H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani for his support to Indian diaspora in Qatar.

H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani congratulated Shri Nadda on election victories of BJP in General Elections and state elections and praised PM Shri Narendra Modiji's vision of development. He concurred

with Shri Nadda that there is further scope of collaboration in healthcare sector between India and Qatar. Shri Nadda was accompanied by BJP Foreign Affairs Department In-charge, Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, during the deliberations.

H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani is on a State Visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ■

PM Modi's visit to the US and France Strengthens Strategic Ties

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi returned to India on 14 February 2025 after a successful four-day diplomatic tour (10-13 February) to France and the United States, reinforcing India's strategic partnerships with both nations.

VISIT TO FRANCE

AI Action Summit: Strengthening AI Cooperation & Global Governance

In Paris, PM Shri Narendra Modi co-chaired the AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron, emphasizing the need for global AI governance to ensure ethical and inclusive development. He highlighted AI's transformative role in health, education, and agriculture, while advocating investment in workforce skilling.

PM Shri Modi stressed that the world stood at the dawn of the AI age, where technology was reshaping global polity, economy, security, and society. He called for collective efforts to establish AI governance that upholds shared values, addresses risks, and builds trust. He emphasized that governance should not only manage risks but also promote innovation for global benefit, ensuring equitable AI access, especially for the Global South.

Referring to the India-France sustainability partnership, including the International Solar Alliance, PM Shri Modi highlighted the importance of joint innovation efforts. He announced that India will host the next AI Summit, reinforcing its commitment to AI development and regulation.



India's Digital Public Infrastructure and AI Mission

PM Shri Modi highlighted India's success in building Digital Public Infrastructure for 1.4 billion citizens, based on open and accessible technology. He also spoke about India's AI Mission, including efforts to develop its own Large Language Model tailored to its diversity. He reaffirmed India's readiness to share its AI expertise to ensure widespread benefits.

Honoring Indian Soldiers & Strengthening Bilateral Ties

PM Shri Modi and President Mr. Macron paid tribute to Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War





Cemetery in Marseille, honoring those who fought in the World Wars. They also inaugurated the new Indian Consulate in Marseille, improving consular services for the Indian diaspora.

Additionally, the two leaders reviewed the 2047 Horizon Roadmap, reaffirming their commitment to bilateral cooperation in technology, defense, and economic development. Their visit to the ITER nuclear fusion project in Cadarache underscored their shared vision for advancing scientific research and clean energy solutions.

PRIME MINISTER'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

The Prime Minister on 13 February, 2025 concluded a highly substantive and productive visit to the United States at the invitation of President Donald Trump. This marked the Prime Minister's first visit to the U.S. following President Trump's second-term inauguration.

Strengthening U.S.-India Ties: Key Outcomes of the Prime Minister's Washington Visit

During his visit to Washington, D.C., on February 12, the Prime Minister engaged in high-level meetings, including discussions with Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and business leaders Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy.

Strategic and Economic Cooperation

Extensive talks at the White House covered defense, trade, technology, and global issues, culminating in the launch of the U.S.-India Compact for the 21st Century to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The leaders unveiled Mission 500, aiming to double two-way trade to \$500 billion by 2030, and committed to negotiating a multi-sector trade agreement by fall 2025. Indian firms pledged over \$7 billion in U.S. investments.

Defense and Security

A new 10-year defense partnership (2025-2035) will be finalized, focusing on procurement, co-production, and technology exchange. The U.S. pledged to review arms transfer regulations and streamline defense trade. The Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance was launched to boost collaboration in autonomous defense technologies.

Technology and Innovation

The U.S.-India TRUST Initiative will drive cooperation in AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, and biotechnology. A Strategic Mineral Recovery Initiative was launched to strengthen critical mineral supply chains. The Indus Innovation Bridge will facilitate joint ventures in space and energy. The two sides committed to a U.S.-India AI Roadmap by year-end.

Energy and Climate

The U.S. and India agreed to collaborate on hydrocarbon trade, energy price stability, and nuclear energy, with progress on deploying U.S.-designed nuclear reactors and small modular reactors (SMRs) in India. A new NSF-ANRF partnership will deepen research cooperation in emerging energy technologies.

Education and Mobility

With 300,000 Indian students in the U.S., both sides committed to expanding academic partnerships and encouraging U.S. university campuses in India. Visa processes will be streamlined to facilitate student and professional mobility while enhancing efforts to combat illegal immigration and trafficking.

This visit reinforced the U.S.-India strategic partnership, setting the stage for deeper collaboration in defense, trade, and technology. The two nations will convene partners under IMEC and I2U2 within six months and launch the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture to advance regional connectivity and commerce. ■

PM Modi releases installment to 9.8 Crore Farmers amounting to more than 22,000 crore

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the 19th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on 24 February, 2025 in Bhagalpur, Bihar. During the event over 9.8 crore farmers including 2.41 crore female farmers across the country will be benefitted through the 19th instalment release, receiving direct financial assistance exceeding Rs. 22,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) without involvement of any middlemen, reinforcing the Government's commitment to farmer welfare and agricultural prosperity. With this installment, the scheme will be supporting farmers nationwide and further reaffirming the government's commitment to rural development and agricultural prosperity.

Previously, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the 18th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on 5th October 2024 in Washim, Maharashtra. This significant event witnessed over 9.4 crore farmers across the country receiving direct financial benefits, amounting to more than Rs. 20,000 crore.

The PM-KISAN scheme is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to supplement the financial needs of land-holding farmers. Under the scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000/- per year is transferred in three equal instalments, into the Aadhaar seeded bank accounts of farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

A farmer-centric digital infrastructure has ensured the benefits of the scheme reach all the farmers across the country without involvement of any middlemen. Maintaining absolute transparency in registering and verifying beneficiaries, the Government of India has disbursed over Rs 3.46 lakh Cr. in 18 instalments since inception, as of February 2025.

Objectives

With a view to augment the income of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs), the PM-KISAN scheme aims to: Supplement the financial needs of the SMFs in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the



anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.

This would also protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

Technological Advancements

With an objective to make the scheme more efficient, effective, and transparent, continuous improvements in a farmer-centric digital infrastructure have been made to ensure the benefits of the scheme reach all the farmers

across the country without any middleman involvement.

The PM-KISAN mobile app was launched on 24th February 2020. This has been developed with an emphasis on greater transparency and to reach more farmers. The PM-KISAN mobile app serves a simple and efficient extension to the PM-KISAN web portal. In 2023, the app was launched with an additional "Face Authentication Feature". This enabled remote farmers to do e-KYC by scanning their face without OTP or fingerprint.

The portal and mobile app offer services like self-registration, benefit status tracking, and facial

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

authentication-based e-KYC. Farmers in remote areas can complete e-KYC via face scans, with provisions to assist neighbours.

Over 5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been onboarded to facilitate registrations and meet mandatory requirements. Additionally, a robust grievance redressal system was established on the portal, and an AI chatbot, Kisan-eMitra, launched in September 2023, provides instant query resolution in local languages regarding payments, registration, and eligibility. Farmers can also assist 100 other farmers in their neighbourhood to complete e-KYC at their doorstep. In addition, the Government of India has also extended the facility for completing e-KYC of farmers to State Government officials, allowing each official to do e-KYC for 500 farmers.

PM-KISAN AI CHATBOT

In 2023, an AI Chatbot was launched for the PM-KISAN scheme, becoming the first AI chatbot integrated with a major flagship scheme of the Union government. The AI Chatbot provides farmers with prompt, clear, and accurate responses to their queries. It has been developed and improved with the support of EKstep foundation and Bhashini. The introduction of the AI chatbot in the PM-KISAN grievance management system is aimed at empowering farmers with a user-friendly and accessible platform.

The AI Chatbot, accessible through the PM KISAN mobile app, is integrated with Bhashini, which offers multilingual support, catering to the linguistic and regional diversity of the PM KISAN beneficiaries. 'Digital India BHASHINI' seeks to enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help the creation of content in Indian languages. This integration of advanced technology will not only enhance transparency but will also empower farmers to make informed decisions.

Additionally, the Department of Posts offers the facility of linking/updating mobile number with Aadhaar for farmers benefiting from PM KISAN scheme. This is to complete e-KYC, through India Post Payment Bank.

Mandatory information required to enroll in scheme:

- Farmer's / Spouse's name
- Farmer's / Spouse's date of birth

- Bank account number
- IFSC/ MICR Code
- Mobile Number
- Aadhaar Number

Other customer information as available in the passbook which is required for mandate registration.

Impact and Achievements

- Since its inception, the Government of India has disbursed over Rs 3.46 lakh Cr. in 18 installments.
- A significant saturation drive launched in November 2023 under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra added over 1 crore eligible farmers to the scheme.
- An additional 25 lakh farmers were included within the first 100 days of the subsequent government in June 2024. As a result, the number of beneficiaries receiving the 18th installment increased to 9.59 crore.
- The scheme has a wide reach across various states. For instance, during the 18th installment (August 2024 - November 2024), Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of beneficiaries at 2,25,78,654, followed by Bihar with 75,81,009 beneficiaries.

A promising journey

An independent study conducted by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in 2019, found that PM-KISAN funds boosted rural economic growth, eased farmers' credit constraints, and increased agricultural input investments. Further, the scheme has enhanced farmers' risk-taking capacity, leading them to undertake riskier but comparatively productive investments.

Conclusion

In the last five years, the PM-KISAN Scheme has evolved into a transformative initiative for the farming community, achieving significant milestones in financial inclusion and rural empowerment. Its vision of providing direct and timely assistance to millions of farmers has been implemented with remarkable efficiency. The scheme's seamless digital infrastructure, which enables direct transfers to beneficiaries' accounts, has set a benchmark for transparency and effective governance. As PM-KISAN continues to expand its reach, it stands as a testament to the government's commitment to strengthening the agricultural sector and enhancing the livelihoods of India's farmers. ■

Government approves Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme till 2025-26

Government to procure 100% of State's Tur, Urad, and Masur Production for Next Four Years

The Government of India on 17 February approved the continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) Scheme during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle up to 2025-26. The integrated PM-AASHA Scheme is administered to bring-in more effectiveness in the implementation of procurement operations that would not only help in providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce but also control the price volatility of essential commodities by ensuring their availability at affordable prices to consumers. Under the Price Support Scheme of the integrated PM-AASHA Scheme, the procurement of the notified Pulses, Oilseeds and Copra conforming to the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ) is undertaken by the Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) at the MSP directly from the pre-registered farmers through the State level agencies.

In order to incentivize the farmers contributing to enhancement of domestic production of pulses and to



reduce the dependence on imports, the Government has allowed the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under PSS equivalent to 100% of the production of the State for the procurement year 2024-25.

The Government has also made an announcement in Budget 2025 that procurement of Tur (Arhar), Urad and Masur up to 100% of the production of the State will be continued for another four years through Central Nodal Agencies to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses in the country. ■

High Level Committee approves 1554.99 crore of additional Central assistance to five States

The High-Level Committee (HLC), under the Chairmanship of the Union Home minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah on 19 February approved Rs.1554.99 crore of additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five States, affected by flood, flash flood, landslides, cyclonic storm during year 2024. This shows the resolve of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to help the people of five States who faced these natural disasters.

The HLC approved central assistance of Rs.1554.99 crore to five States from NDRF, subject to an adjustment of 50% of the opening balance for the year available in the SDRF. Out of the total amount of Rs.1554.99 crore, Rs 608.08 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 170.99 crore

for Nagaland, Rs 255.24 crore for Odisha, Rs. 231.75 crore for Telangana and Rs. 288.93 crore for Tripura.

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States. During the financial year 2024-25, the Central Government has released Rs. 18,322.80 crore to 27 States in SDRF and Rs. 4,808.30 crore from NDRF to 18 States, Rs. 2208.55 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 14 States and Rs. 719.72 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to 08 States.

The Central Government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these States, immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of a formal Memorandum. ■

EKTA KA MAHAKUMBH THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA



NARENDRA MODI

The Mahakumbh has successfully concluded in the holy city of Prayagraj. A grand Mahayajna of Unity has been completed. When the consciousness of a nation awakens, when it breaks free from the shackles of a centuries-old mindset of subjugation, it breathes freely in the fresh air of renewed energy. The result of this was witnessed at the Ekta Ka Mahakumbh (Mahakumbh of Unity) in Prayagraj since January 13.

On January 22, 2024, during the Pran Pratishtha of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, I spoke about Devbhakti and Deshbhakti - devotion to the divine and to the nation. During the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Gods and Goddesses, saints, women, children, youth, senior citizens and people from all walks of life came together. We witnessed the awakened consciousness

of the nation. This was Ekta Ka Mahakumbh, where the sentiments of 140 crore Indians converged at the same place, at the same time, for this sacred occasion.

In this holy region of Prayagraj is Shringverpur, a sacred land of unity, harmony and love, where Prabhu Shri Ram and Nishadraj met. Their meeting symbolized the confluence of devotion and goodwill. Even today, Prayagraj inspires us with the same spirit.

For 45 days, I witnessed crores of people from every corner of the country making their way to the Sangam. The wave of emotions at the confluence kept rising. Every devotee came with one purpose – taking a dip in the Sangam. The holy confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati filled every pilgrim with enthusiasm, energy, and confidence.

This Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is a subject of study for modern management professionals, planning, and policy experts. Nowhere in the world is there any parallel or example of this scale.

The world watched in wonder how crores of people gathered

at Prayagraj at the banks of the confluence of rivers. These people had no formal invitations, no prior communication on when to go. Yet crores of people left for the Mahakumbh of their own accord and felt the bliss of taking a dip in the sacred waters.

I cannot forget those faces radiating immense joy and satisfaction after the holy dip. Women, elders, our Divyang brothers and sisters – everyone found a way to reach the Sangam.

It was particularly heartening for me to see the overwhelming participation of India's youth. The presence of the younger generation at the Mahakumbh sends a profound message that the youth of India will be the torchbearers of our glorious culture and heritage. They understand their responsibility towards preserving it and are committed to carrying it forward.

The number of people who arrived in Prayagraj for this Mahakumbh has undoubtedly created new records. But beyond those physically present, crores of people who could not reach Prayagraj were also deeply



connected emotionally to the occasion. The sacred water brought back by pilgrims became a source of spiritual bliss for millions. Many of those returning from the Mahakumbh were received with respect in their villages, honoured by society.

What has happened in the last few weeks is unprecedented and has laid a foundation for centuries to come.

More devotees arrived in Prayagraj than anyone had imagined. The administration had estimated attendance based on past experiences of the Kumbh.

Nearly twice the population of the United States participated in this Ekta Ka Mahakumbh.

If scholars of spirituality analyse the enthusiastic participation of crores of Indians, they will find that India, proud of its heritage, is now surging ahead with a new-found energy. I believe this is the dawn of a new era, which will script the future of a new India.

For thousands of years, the Mahakumbh has strengthened India's national consciousness.

Every Purnakumbh used to witness a gathering of saints, scholars and thinkers deliberating upon the state of society in their times. Their reflections used to provide a new direction to the nation and society. Every six years, during the Ardhkumbh, these ideas were reviewed. After 12 Purnakumbh occurrences spanning 144 years, obsolete traditions were given up, newer ideas were embraced, and new traditions were created to move ahead with times.

After 144 years, in this Mahakumbh, our saints have once again given us a new message for India's development journey. That message is Developed India – Viksit Bharat.

At this Ekta Ka Mahakumbh, every pilgrim, whether rich or poor, young or old, from villages or cities, from India or abroad, from the East or the West, from the North or the South, irrespective of caste, creed and ideology, came together. This was an embodiment of the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat that filled confidence in crores of people. Now, we must come together in

the same spirit for the mission of building a developed India.

I am reminded of the incident where, as a little boy, Shri Krishna revealed a snapshot of the whole universe within His mouth to His mother Yashoda. Similarly, in this Mahakumbh, the people of India and the world have witnessed the massive potential of India's collective strength. We must now move forward with this self-confidence and dedicate ourselves towards building a developed India.

Earlier, the saints of the Bhakti movement had identified and encouraged the strength of our collective resolve across India. From Swami Vivekananda to Sri Aurobindo, every great thinker reminded us of the power of our collective resolve. Even Mahatma Gandhi experienced it during the freedom movement. Post-independence, if this collective strength had been correctly recognised and harnessed towards boosting the welfare of all, it would have become a great force for a newly independent nation. Unfortunately, it was not done earlier. But now, I am gladdened to witness the way in which this collective strength of the people is coming together for a developed India.

From the Vedas to Vivekananda, from the ancient scriptures to modern satellites, India's great traditions have shaped this nation. As a citizen, I pray that we draw new inspiration from the memories of our ancestors and saints. May this Ekta Ka Mahakumbh help us move ahead with new resolutions. Let us make unity our guiding principle. Let us work with the understanding

that service to the nation is service to the divine.

During my election campaign in Kashi, I had said, "Maa Ganga has called me." This was not just an emotion but also a call of responsibility, towards the cleanliness of our sacred rivers. Standing at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati in Prayagraj, my resolve became even stronger. The cleanliness of our rivers is deeply linked to our own lives. It is our responsibility to celebrate our rivers, big or small, as life-giving mothers. This Mahakumbh has inspired us to keep working towards the cleanliness of our rivers.

I know that organizing such a massive event was no easy task.

I pray to Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna, and Maa Saraswati to forgive us in case there were any shortcomings in our devotion. I see Janata Janardan, the people, as an embodiment of divinity. In case there has been any shortcoming in our efforts to serve them, I also seek the forgiveness of the people.

Crores of people came to the Mahakumbh with a feeling of devotion. Serving them was also a responsibility that was carried out with the same feeling of devotion. As a Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh, I can proudly say that under the leadership of Yogi Ji, the administration and the people worked together to make this Ekta Ka Mahakumbh a success.



Be it the state or Centre, there were no rulers or administrators and instead, everyone was a devoted sevak. Sanitation workers, police, boatmen, drivers, people serving food - everyone worked tirelessly. The way the people of Prayagraj welcomed the pilgrims with open hearts despite facing many inconveniences was particularly inspirational. I express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to them and the people of Uttar Pradesh.

I have always had unwavering confidence in the bright future of our nation. Witnessing this Mahakumbh has strengthened my conviction manifold.

The way 140 crore Indians turned the Ekta Ka Mahakumbh into a global occasion is truly wonderful. Moved by the dedication, devotion and efforts of our people, I will soon visit Shri Somnath, the first among the 12 Jyotirlingas, to offer the fruits of these collective national efforts to Him and to pray for every Indian.

The physical form of the Mahakumbh may have culminated successfully on Mahashivratri, but just like the eternal flow of the Ganga, the spiritual strength, national consciousness and unity that Mahakumbh has awakened will continue to inspire us for generations to come. ■

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India)

**KAMAL
PUSHP**

Sahyog, Samarpan
Aur Sanskar



RAM RATAN SINGH

While being a Swayamsevak, Shri Ram Ratan Singh was arrested in 1948 at Hisua Chowk along with other Swayamsevaks. In 1962, he was made a Bharatiya Jana Sangh candidate from the Warsaliganj Legislative Assembly. During the 1975 Emergency, he was detained for 19 months the Central Jail Gaya under the Maintenance

of Internal Security Act (MISA). In 1977, after being re-nominated by the Janata Party, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly. While carrying out the responsibility of the organization, he also performed the duty of being the district president twice. Apart from this, Shri Ram Ratan Singh was also interested in writing poetry. ■

	स्व रामरतन सिंह
Date of Birth 12/02/1932	Gender male
State Bihar	District Nawada
Town/City चारसलीगंज, नवादा	Level District
Post in Organisation District President	Active years 1952-2002

“KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM SHOWCASES INDIA'S UNITY AMIDST IMMENSE CULTURAL DIVERSITY”

BJP National President and union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda offered prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Mandir and addressed Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 21 February. Shri Nadda highlighted the deep cultural bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, emphasizing that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, continuous efforts are being made to unify the nation, from East to West and North to South. During the event, Tamil Nadu BJP President Shri K. Annamalai was also present.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said that the Kashi Tamil Sangamam represents the confluence of two rich cultures. Despite their diversity, the essence of India's unity is reflected in this gathering. Tamil Nadu's language and culture share an ancient connection with Kashi. In the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,' this third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam is being organized to celebrate unity in diversity. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, several efforts have been made to strengthen national unity, bridging the East and West, North and South.

The BJP National President highlighted the deep cultural connection between Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh through the Madhavpur Mela, which celebrates Rukmini's journey from Dwarka. He emphasized that initiatives like Kashi-Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam reflect Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's decade-long vision of uniting India's linguistic and cultural heritage. PM Shri Narendra Modi has showcased India's linguistic diversity not just within the country but globally. Tamil poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati studied in Kashi and dedicated his life to India's independence, spending years resisting British rule. After returning to Tamil Nadu, he continued his fight for freedom. In the 15th century, Raja Pandian built a Shiva temple in Tamil Nadu for devotees who couldn't visit Kashi. This temple became a spiritual alternative for those unable to seek Baba's blessings in Kashi.

Kashi-Tamil culture highlights Agastya Rishi's legacy

Shri Nadda expressed his privilege in witnessing the Uttar Pradesh government's exhibition on Agastya Rishi. He noted that Kashi-Tamil culture highlights Agastya Rishi's legacy—born in Kashi but dedicated his life to Tamil Nadu. Known as the creator of Tamil grammar, his birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Siddha Day,' symbolizing the deep-rooted ties between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. The Agastya Kundh at the Agastya Rishi Mandir further reinforces this bond.

Shri Narendra Modi, through the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, emphasized unity in diversity, a sentiment reflected in this event. Today, over 200 Tamil devotees and self-help group members will journey from Tamil Nadu to Kashi, Ayodhya

and Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh, strengthening India's rich cultural fabric, he said.

India's unity in diversity

Shri Nadda highlighted that the Tamil Sangamam is being revitalized with the support of IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University. The enthusiastic participation of Kashi's people reflects India's unity in diversity. This event beautifully blends India's rich culture, the ancient Tamil language, and Sanskrit's glorious tradition. Reviving this initiative after a long time is truly commendable. Visitors will carry cherished memories of Kashi, while guests from Tamil Nadu will share and celebrate their cultural heritage. ■





ATAL JI: A LEADER WHO UNDERSTOOD THE PULSE OF THE PEOPLE

His speeches carried poetic charm, his thoughts had remarkable depth, and his personality exuded an appeal that made him immortal in the hearts of the people. Atal Ji was a unique blend of determination and humility in the realm of politics. He did not view politics merely as a means to gain power but as a tool for social service.



HARISH DWIVEDI

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not only a towering leader but also a farsighted and sensitive politician who deeply understood the pulse of the people. His speeches carried poetic charm, his thoughts had remarkable depth, and his personality exuded an appeal that made him immortal in the hearts of the people. Atal Ji was a unique blend of determination and humility in the realm of politics.

He did not view politics merely as a means to gain power but as a tool for social service. His speeches had the ability to touch people's emotions. When he spoke in Parliament, his words resonated with the audience, leaving a lasting impact. He consistently prioritized public welfare, with policies focusing on the poor, farmers, youth, and women empowerment. Atal Ji broke the dominance

of the Congress, which had maintained absolute rule post-independence, and provided a strong political alternative to the citizens of the world's largest democracy. At a time when Congress was dominant across the country, it was a daunting challenge for a new party like the Jana Sangh and a young leader like Atal Ji to make an impact.

When Atal Ji was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957, the Jana Sangh did not pose a significant numerical challenge to Congress. However, through his visionary ideas and strong leadership, Atal Ji transformed the Jana Sangh into a formidable ideological

force, making numbers secondary. His speeches and ideas directly challenged the Congress's stronghold and shook its foundations. When Atal Ji was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957, the Jana Sangh did not pose a significant numerical challenge to Congress. However, through his visionary ideas and strong leadership, Atal Ji transformed the Jana Sangh into a formidable ideological force, making numbers secondary. His speeches and ideas directly challenged the Congress's stronghold and shook its foundations.

force, making numbers secondary. His speeches and ideas directly challenged the Congress's stronghold and shook its foundations.

As Prime Minister, Atal Ji made several historic decisions that changed the trajectory of the nation:

- **National Highway Development Project (Golden Quadrilateral):** This initiative proved to be a milestone in India's economic and social development.
- **India's Nuclear Tests (Pokhran-2):** Under Atal Ji's leadership, India established itself as a nuclear power in 1998, strengthening its global position.
- **Peace Efforts on the Kashmir Issue:** He sought to resolve the Kashmir problem with his mantra of Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat, and Kashmiriyat (Humanity, Democracy, and Kashmiri Identity).
- **Revolution in the IT and Telecom Sector:** His tenure saw remarkable progress in these industries, laying the foundation for India's future technological advancements. Atal Ji dedicated his life to



He remained committed to the welfare of the poor, farmers, and underprivileged communities. His initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, were groundbreaking in connecting rural India with urban centers. Atal Ji was a politician who placed ethics and values at the forefront of politics. His vision, policies, and actions will always serve as a source of inspiration for India's future generations. His patriotism, foresight, and poetic soul made him one of the greatest leaders in Indian politics

national interest, guided by the mantra of Nation First. His leadership had the vision and ability to steer the country in a new direction. He broke away from conventional political traditions, establishing new ideals of purity and ethics in public life. Every word he spoke resonated with the common people. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has written about Atal Ji, stating that he deeply understood when to speak, how much to say, and when to remain silent—a skill he had mastered. As someone aptly said, “Which words are spoken where—if you have this art,

then everything is heard.” Atal Ji exemplified this wisdom.

Atal Ji believed, “We should not live only for ourselves but also for others. Sacrifice as much as possible for the nation. If India remains weak and struggling, the world will not respect us. But if we are strong and prosperous in every way, the whole world will acknowledge us.” His principles and way of life continue to teach us that true success and respect come from dedication and selfless service to the nation.

Atal Ji's poetic heart was reflected in his politics as well. His poetry expressed the emotions

of the common man and his deep patriotism. His lines, such as “Haar Nahi Manunga, Raar Nahi Thanunga” (I will not accept defeat, nor will I engage in futile conflict), continue to inspire those facing struggles.

Despite political differences, Atal Ji's personality transcended party lines. Even his opponents could not help but admire him. His speeches in Parliament blended logic with humor, captivating audiences. Due to his decency and gentleness, he was respected even by opposition leaders.

He remained committed to the welfare of the poor, farmers, and underprivileged communities. His initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, were groundbreaking in connecting rural India with urban centers. Atal Ji was a politician who placed ethics and values at the forefront of politics. His vision, policies, and actions will always serve as a source of inspiration for India's future generations. His patriotism, foresight, and poetic soul made him one of the greatest leaders in Indian politics.

Atal Ji was not just a person; he was an era. His life exemplifies how a politician can shape politics through public service, vision, and human sensitivity. His legacy will continue to inspire us forever:

“Main jee bhar jiya, main mann se maroon, lautkar aunga, kuch se kyun daroon.” (I have lived fully, I will depart content, but I shall return—why should I fear anything?). ■

(The author is a former national secretary of BJP and currently in charge of Assam)

India's economy is expected to grow by 6.4 per cent in real terms and by 9.7 per cent in nominal terms: FM

While replying to the discussion on the Union Budget 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, expressed her gratitude to the Honorable Members for their in-depth discussions in Lok Sabha on on 11 February 2025. She noted that the Budget had been presented amidst significant global uncertainties, shaped by geopolitical tensions such as the Middle East crisis and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, along with stagnation in global GDP and persistent inflation in emerging markets. Despite these difficulties, she emphasized India's economic resilience, citing the first advanced estimates from the National Statistical Office (NSO), which projected a 6.4% growth in real GDP and 9.7% in nominal terms.

The synopsis of her speech is as follows:

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said: the world scenario in the last 10 years has turned almost 180 degrees, as a result of which the challenges for any country in making its budget are far more complicated now than ever before. As per the first advanced estimates from the NSO, India's economy is expected to grow by 6.4 per cent in real terms and by 9.7 per cent in nominal terms.

The Union Budget 2025-26 has sought to address these immediate challenges facing the domestic economy in the global context. It also rolls out a futuristic path for transforming India into Vikasit Bharat. Our main goals in this Budget are to accelerate growth, secure inclusive development, integrate private-sector investments and uplift household sentiments.

So, with a focus on Garib, youth, Annadata and Naari, the Budget likes to reveal new schemes and reforms in the following broad sectors: promotion of agriculture, MSMEs, investments and exports as growth engines in building rural prosperity and resilience. We also want to have employment-led development spurring domestic consumption and boosting manufacturing in India, including export promotion.

Continuing public capital expenditure and rekindling the animal spirits in the private sector to step up investments, and most importantly, investing in people, investing in the economy and investing for

innovation -- these are actually the points on which the Union Budget is focusing so that we balance the national development priorities with fiscal imperatives. In the Budget of 2025-26, the effective capital expenditure is projected at Rs.15.48 lakh crore as against Rs.13.18 lakh crore in the RE of 2024-25.

It indicates that the Government is using almost the entire borrowed resources for financing effective capital expenditure. The sectoral outlays in the year 2025-26 include agriculture and allied activities which get Rs. 1.71 lakh crore; rural development gets Rs. 2.67 lakh crore; urban development and transport, Rs. 6.45 lakh crore; health and education, Rs. 2.27 lakh crore, defence which excludes defence pension, Rs. 4.92 lakh crore. These data from the current Budget show that capital expenditure outlays have not come down at all. On the contrary, they have gone up. Across all schemes, the transfer of resources to the States has been growing by the year. In this Budget, it is Rs. 25.01 lakh crore, which is Rs. 2.1 lakh crore more than the previous year. So, the amounts going to the States have not come down at all. India's development story actually presents a stark tale of two opposite approaches to Budget-making and also for fiscal prudence.

The Union budgeting reveals recurrent claims of transparency. The Food Corporation of India has continuously maintained off-budget borrowings. In 2020-



21, the Government took a major step of bringing all the off-budget borrowings of FCI, which totalled Rs.1.2 lakh crore, onto the Budget. So, that enabled better public understanding and discourse on Government debt and also brought a sense of credibility to the Budget documentation itself. That year, we also started to provide the 50-year interest-free loan to the States. From an allocation of Rs.12,000 crore in 2020-21, it has now, in the current Budget, reached Rs.1.50 lakh crore. In 2021-22, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' off-budget borrowing was also taken on board. We have taken these initiatives to ensure the Budget's transparency and nothing outside of the Budget will be done.

Recognising the taxpayers by easing tax rates

In 2023-24, one big step was recognising the taxpayers by easing tax rates. This year, it has gone to Rs. 12 lakh. In 2024-25, we empowered the Ministries with a proposal which was suggested by the PAC. It will result in substantially enhanced financial delegation to improve operational efficiency in Ministries. This year proactive disclosures, realistic estimation, and ensuring greater predictability are the steps that we have taken. I want to submit here that not only the Centre but also the States will have to look at debt consolidation and also rationalise their debt balances. And therefore, we have outlined a debt consolidation pathway for the Union Government till March, 2031, and this would give some kind of a guidance to the markets with greater predictability also.

Government jobs under Rozgar Mela

Coming to rising unemployment, I want to highlight the fact that according to the 2023-24 Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey, the Labour Force Participation Rate has increased from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 60 per cent in 2023-24, reflecting a rise of about 10.3 percentage points. The Worker Population Ratio has increased from 46.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 58.2 per cent in 2023-24, reflecting a rise of 11.4 percentage points. The unemployment rate has declined from six per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24. Over 9.25 lakh appointment letters have been issued for the Central Government jobs under Rozgar Mela.

Retail inflation is within notified tolerance

Further, regarding the concerns about high inflation, especially food inflation, I would like to say that it actually receives the highest priority of this Government. Overall retail inflation is within the notified tolerance band of 2-6 per cent. I just want to highlight the fact that food inflation which was affected because of adverse weather conditions or supply chain disruptions has all been attended to. We are still continuing to do it. The water levels in reservoirs are also being monitored. It has improved so that water adequacy for irrigation for Rabi crop production is ensured. As per RBI's latest meeting of the MPC that they held on 7th February, CPI inflation for 2025-26 is projected to lower at 4.2 per cent. During the UPA regime, food inflation reached an even staggering 11 per cent causing severe hardship for the public. Under the NDA regime from 2014-2024, it was brought down to 5.3 per cent indicating a robust focus

on supply chain improvements and agricultural reforms. Fuel inflation under UPA-II was 8.9 per cent compared to NDA 2014-2024 which is at 4.4 per cent highlighting better management of global price volatility under NDA. Total domestic active LPG customers have more than doubled from 14.52 crore in April, 2014 to 32.89 crore as of December, 2024. Under the PM Ujjwala Yojana, the refill rate is per capita consumption is 4.4 cylinders in a year. In this Budget, the Government has taken steps to ensure better productivity in agriculture, so that the supply-side problems can be better administered. PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana Developing Agricultural Districts Programme is a very important one where a hundred lowproductivity agricultural districts are being focussed. There are other points like the decline in household savings and an increase in household debt. I want to say some facts in this regard. The household savings consist of net financial plus physical savings, increased by a compound average growth rate of 8.9 per cent CAGR from 2019-20 to 2022-23. There is a reallocation of savings by households to real assets. In the post-COVID period, household real estate investments have increased considerably. The share of savings in physical assets in gross household savings has steadily increased from 30.8 per cent in 2015-16 to 42.7 per cent in 2022-23. So, according to the National

Nirmala Ji given a very clear picture of the Indian economy: PM Modi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has praised Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman's address in the Parliament, stating that it provides a clear picture of the Indian economy and the reform trajectory government is undertaking.

The Prime Minister posted on X; "During her remarks in Parliament, Finance Minister @nsitharaman Ji has given a very clear picture of the Indian economy and the reform trajectory we are undertaking. Here are the links to her speeches..."

Account Statistics, household savings in physical assets have increased by a compound average growth rate of 15.6 per cent from 2019-20 to 2022-23.

Health, education and, social welfare

Public spending outlays in health, education, social welfare, and rural development have increased from Rs. 4.16 lakh crore to 5.54 lakh crore between 2020-21 to 2025-2026. So, there is no cut in any of these. Fiscal consolidation was another issue on which it was being asked whether it is being done at the cost of public spending and social sector spending. It was said that the education budget has been reduced, and the budget for PM POSHAN, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, and Post Matric Scholarships have come down. With respect to social welfare, the budget has increased from Rs. 56,501 crore in 2024-2025 to Rs. 60,052 crore in 2025-2026. It has not gone down. Coming to education, the budget has increased from Rs. 1.26 lakh crore in 2024-2025 to Rs. 1.29 lakh crore in 2025-2026.

Talking about health, the budget which was Rs. 89,287 crore in 2024-2025 has gone to Rs. 98,311 crore in 2025-2026. I would like to highlight one point at this time. The technology which has been adopted for Budget and Budget management has today given all of us the advantage of getting facts by looking at the portal or by looking at the documents. please refer to the Expenditure Profile Statement.

The next head is Samagra Siksha. An amount of Rs.11,516 crore is lying there in the States. An amount of Rs. 5,205 crore is lying in the State accounts, and

this is for Poshan Abhiyan. Under the Flexible Pool for RCH health system, strengthening the National Health Program and the National Urban Health Mission, an amount of Rs.2,988 crore lying with the States. Under Human Resources for Health and Medical Education, an amount of Rs.7,059 crore is lying in the State account.

An amount of Rs. 12,319 crore is left with the States in the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban. For the Urban Rejuvenation Mission which was launched in 500 cities, an amount of Rs. 12,377 crore is lying with the States. On Jal Jeevan Mission, an amount of Rs. 13,782 crore is lying with the States. These are the funds lying unused on the part of the states. I have already mentioned that the amount of capital expenditure, being given, is increasing steadily every year.

Micro-enterprises

With regard to micro-enterprises I would like to highlight the fact that currently, its allocation is Rs. 1 crore and the revised one is Rs. 2.5 crore. The current turnover of micro-enterprises is Rs. 5 crore and we have revised it to Rs. 10 crore. For small enterprises, the current investment is Rs. 10 crore, and now, we have revised it to Rs. 25 crore, and likewise, the current turnover is Rs. 50 crore and we have revised it to Rs. 100 crore. Similarly, for medium enterprises, we have revised it from Rs. 50 crore to 125 crore, and for turnover, we have revised it from Rs. 250 crore to 500 crore. The loan per capita ceiling of KCC has since been increased from Rs. 3 lakh to 5 Lakh lest they should be compelled to borrow from the middleman. That is the intention with which we have brought in the KCC. Nearly, eight crore farmers will be benefiting from this short-term lending which will begin from 1st April 2025.

Three years prior to 2024-25, the country's GDP growth rate averaged at about eight per cent. Only in two out of last twelve quarters, has the growth rate touched 5.4 per cent or remained below it. On account of a strong economic foundation, a speedy rebound is happening and we shall take measures which will going forward help in keeping our economy growing fastest as in the last few years. We will continue to remain the fastest-growing economy. Private final consumption expenditure is expected to grow by 7.3 per cent in 2024-25 driven by good rural demand. With these words, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the Budget Discussion. ■

BUDGET IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: FM

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 13 February 2025 addressed the Rajya Sabha, thanking members for their participation in the budget discussion. She emphasized external challenges in budget planning, the impact of global fragmentation, and the need to secure India's economic interests. Following is the highlights of her reply:

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman during the address highlighted that India's GDP was projected to grow by 6.4% in real terms and 9.7% in nominal terms. The budget focused on growth acceleration, inclusive development, and strengthening private sector investments, with special emphasis on the upliftment of the Garib (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers), and Nari (women).

Sectoral Allocations in the Union Budget

The Finance Minister emphasized the importance of capital expenditure, which was projected at Rs. 15.48 lakh crore for 2025-26, an increase from Rs. 13.18 lakh crore in 2024-25. With public enterprise investments included, the capital outlay could reach Rs. 19.80 lakh crore. She detailed sectoral allocations as follows:

- Agriculture and allied activities: Rs. 1.71 lakh crore
- Rural development: Rs. 2.67 lakh crore
- Urban development and transport: Rs. 6.45 lakh crore
- Health and education: Rs. 2.27 lakh crore
- Defence spending (excluding pensions): Rs.

4.92 lakh crore

She asserted that resource allocation to states had increased, reaching Rs. 25.1 lakh crore for 2025-26, an increase of Rs. 4.92 lakh crore compared to 2023-24.



Key Features of Budget Making

Sitharaman compared the post-COVID economic recovery to the 2008 global financial crisis, noting India's transition from the 'fragile five' to one of the world's top five economies. She stressed the importance of fiscal transparency, digital technology adoption, and structural reforms in budgeting. A major reform was the inclusion of the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) off-budget borrowing of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore into the budget. She also highlighted the introduction of 50-year interest-free capital assistance to states, which grew from Rs. 12,000 crore in 2020-21 to Rs. 1.5 lakh crore in the current year.

Tax Reforms and Budgetary Measures

The Finance Minister addressed concerns regarding taxation and relief measures:

- The new tax regime became the default, with individuals having the option to opt for the old

regime.

- The tax exemption limit increased to Rs. 12 lakh, ensuring zero tax liability for individuals earning up to this amount.
- She dismissed misleading interpretations of the new tax regime and provided calculations on marginal relief.
- The Mahila Samman Bachat Patra and increased deposit limits for senior citizens ensured financial security.

Fiscal Reforms and Debt Consolidation

The Finance Minister emphasized:

- Reduction of short-term T-Bill borrowings, easing liquidity constraints for private-sector borrowers.
- Buyback of G-Secs worth Rs. 88,000 crore, resulting in interest savings of approximately Rs. 5,000 crore.
- A clear debt reduction pathway, aiming to reduce government debt from 58% of GDP to 50% by 2031.
- Efficient utilization of unspent funds across schemes to reduce unnecessary borrowing.

Employment, Economic Growth, and Inflation Management

Smt. Sitharaman addressed employment concerns by introducing the New Employment Generation Scheme, which includes:

1. Support for first-time job seekers
2. Employer incentives for hiring in manufacturing
3. Reimbursement of EPFO contributions for new employees earning up to Rs. 1 lakh per month

Regarding inflation, she noted that CPI inflation had fallen to 4.31% in January 2025, closer to the RBI's target of 4%. Food inflation was managed through tariff-free imports and an expected 5.7% increase in food grain production.

Agriculture and Price Stabilization Measures

The PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana was introduced to boost agricultural productivity. Other

key initiatives included:

- Aatmanirbharta for Pulses to increase domestic production.
- The launch of Bharat Chana Dal and Bharat Aata to offer subsidized essential food items.
- Ensuring price stability through continuous monitoring of food supplies.

Infrastructure Development and Support to States

The Minister clarified that all states were consulted in budget formation and highlighted allocations for major infrastructure projects. Key initiatives included:

- Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for capital assets under the PM Gati Shakti program.
 - National highway and rail projects across multiple states.
 - Support for state-led infrastructure development, ensuring fair allocations across political lines.

SUPPORT TO MSMEs AND ECONOMIC REFORMS

Key steps taken to strengthen MSMEs included:

- Enhanced credit limits and exit mechanisms.
- Customised credit cards offering up to Rs. 5 lakh for micro-entrepreneurs.
- New term loan scheme providing up to Rs. 2 crore for first-time entrepreneurs.
- Removal of duty barriers for key industries like leather and footwear.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman reaffirmed the Government's commitment to economic growth, fiscal responsibility, and social welfare. She emphasized that the budget was designed to promote inclusive development, private-sector growth, and financial stability while ensuring increased capital investments for long-term economic resilience. Addressing concerns over tax reforms, employment generation, inflation, and infrastructure development, she reiterated that the Government remains dedicated to balancing fiscal discipline with growth-oriented policies. ■

INDIA-QATAR STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar, paid a State Visit to India on February 17-18, 2025. Accompanied by a high-level delegation of ministers, officials, and business leaders, this was the Amir's second State Visit to India.



Bilateral talks between Prime Minister Modi and the Amir at Hyderabad House on February 18 focused on strengthening trade, investment, security, and cultural ties. Both leaders expressed satisfaction over signing the 'Agreement on the Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership' and the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

They also agreed to expedite negotiations on the India-Qatar Bilateral Investment Treaty.

India and Qatar reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation across political, economic, and cultural spheres. They welcomed the elevation of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce into a Joint Commission on Trade and Commerce, to be headed by both countries' Commerce Ministers. The leaders set a target to double bilateral trade by 2030 and explored the possibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

The Indian side welcomed the decision of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to open an office in India, recognizing India's rapid economic growth. The Joint Task Force on Investments, established in June 2024, was acknowledged for advancing discussions on various investment opportunities. Qatar expressed interest in investing in sectors such as infrastructure,

technology, manufacturing, food security, and logistics. In this regard, Qatar announced a commitment of USD 10 billion in investments in India. Both nations emphasized deepening cooperation between investment authorities and financial institutions.

Trade and economic cooperation will be expanded, with an emphasis on stable growth, diversification, and mutual services. The Joint Business Forum, inaugurated on February 18, 2025, was welcomed as an avenue for strengthening private-sector collaboration. Both sides highlighted the importance of trade exhibitions in fostering commercial partnerships and agreed to enhance

MoUs signed to deepen bilateral relations:

- Agreement on the Establishment of Bilateral Strategic Partnership
- Revised Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion
- MoU on Financial and Economic Collaboration
- MoU on Cooperation in Youth and Sports
- MoU on Cooperation in Documents and Archives
- MoU between Invest India and Invest Qatar
- MoU between the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Qatari Businessmen Association

cooperation between their export promotion agencies.

Both nations celebrated the operationalization of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) at Qatar National Bank (QNB) Points of Sales and agreed to its nationwide rollout in Qatar.

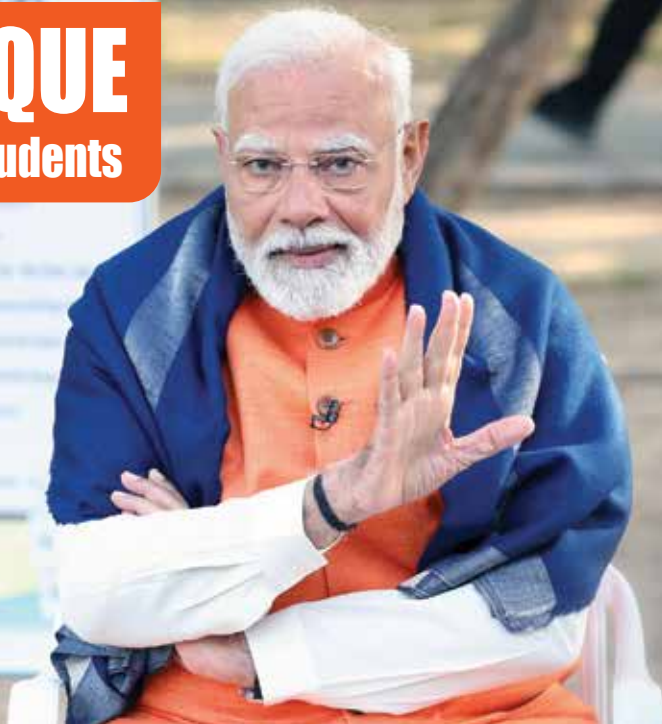
Acknowledging the significant role of the Indian diaspora in Qatar, the Qatari leadership expressed appreciation for their contributions to Qatar's progress. India, in turn, thanked Qatar for its support and for ensuring the welfare of the Indian community. The extension of India's e-visa facility to Qatari nationals was also welcomed.

The Amir expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Modi for the warm hospitality and reaffirmed the strong bonds between India and Qatar. The visit underscored the shared commitment to advancing bilateral cooperation, promoting economic growth, and ensuring regional and global stability. ■

EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE

PM Modi's Inspiring Interaction with Students

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA 2025



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 10 February, 2025 engaged in a lively and interactive session with students from across the country at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi, during the 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2025. The discussion touched on a wide array of topics, from nutrition and wellness to leadership and exam stress management. The Prime Minister's insights offered valuable guidance to students, teachers, and parents alike.

Nourish to Flourish: The Importance of Nutrition

Highlighting the importance of a balanced diet, PM Shri Modi emphasized the benefits of consuming seasonal fruits and traditional Indian superfoods like millets. He noted that the United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets following India's proposal. Encouraging students to adopt healthy eating habits, he advised them to avoid junk food, oily snacks, and products made from refined flour. The Prime

Good health is not merely the absence of illness but a state of overall well-being. He urged students to prioritize sleep and exposure to sunlight, advocating for early morning sunlight intake and deep breathing exercises under trees.

Minister also emphasized mindful eating, urging students to chew their food properly and drink water in small sips to improve digestion.

Wellness and Lifestyle Choices

Discussing holistic wellness, PM Shri Modi stressed that good health is not merely the absence of illness but a state of overall well-being. He urged students to prioritize sleep and exposure to sunlight, advocating for early morning sunlight intake and deep breathing exercises under trees. He underscored the importance of disciplined eating habits, referencing how Indian farmers traditionally eat a heavy breakfast and light supper before sunset, contributing to their strong physical health.

Mastering Pressure: Changing Perspectives on Exams

PM Shri Modi expressed concern over the undue pressure placed on students during board exams. He encouraged students to focus solely on their efforts, drawing an analogy with cricketers who concentrate on

the ball rather than external distractions. The Prime Minister urged students to embrace exams as a part of learning rather than as a life-defining moment.

Challenge Yourself: The Key to Growth

PM Shri Modi advised students to continuously challenge themselves and self-reflect on their goals and aspirations. He highlighted that many individuals allow external influences like media and peer pressure to shape their aspirations, whereas true growth comes from inner reflection and persistence. He emphasized the importance of focus, cautioning against mindless distractions and encouraging students to develop a clear vision for their future.

The Art of Leadership: Leading by Example

Responding to a student's question about leadership, PM Shri Modi stated that true leadership is not about authority but about setting an example through actions. He stressed that effective leaders do not impose their will but inspire confidence by practicing what they preach. He illustrated this with a simple yet profound analogy of a child holding a parent's hand at a fair, signifying trust and guidance.

Balancing Academics and Hobbies

PM Shri Modi rejected the notion that academic excellence alone guarantees success. He encouraged students to explore their hobbies and passions alongside their studies, noting that holistic development is key to a fulfilling life. He urged parents and teachers to allow children the freedom to grow beyond books, emphasizing that exams are not the sole measure of success.

Managing Time and Self-Motivation

On time management, the Prime Minister pointed out that everyone has the same 24 hours, yet some achieve more than others. He advised students to tackle difficult subjects first and plan their

schedules effectively. He also emphasized the role of self-motivation, encouraging students to set small personal challenges to build confidence and resilience.

Overcoming Failure and Exam Anxiety

PM Shri Modi reassured students that failure is not the end but a stepping stone to success. Using cricket as an example, he highlighted how players analyze their mistakes and improve with practice. He urged students to adopt a similar approach, seeing setbacks as learning opportunities rather than obstacles.

Technology as a Strength

While addressing concerns about distractions caused by technology, PM Shri Modi emphasized the need for conscious and productive use of digital tools. He encouraged students to use technology to enhance learning and innovation rather than for non-productive activities.

Environmental Responsibility: Caring for Nature

PM Shri Modi also touched upon climate change and sustainable living, encouraging students to plant trees and take small steps toward environmental conservation. He spoke about Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and inspired students to adopt eco-friendly habits, such as planting trees in their mother's name under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign.

The Prime Minister's discussion reinforced the idea that every child possesses unique talents that need to be nurtured. He urged parents to support their children's aspirations rather than impose societal expectations on them. With an emphasis on self-motivation, time management, and holistic development, Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025 provided invaluable lessons to students nationwide, helping them navigate both academic and personal challenges with confidence and clarity. ■

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PM Modi brought attention to the growing concern of obesity in India in Mann Ki Baat

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23 February 2025 addressed the nation in the 119th episode of Mann Ki Baat, touching on a range of issues including India's remarkable progress in space exploration, artificial intelligence, women empowerment, sports, and health awareness

PM Shri Narendra Modi began his address by celebrating a major milestone in India's space journey—the successful launch of the 100th rocket by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He highlighted how the space sector has grown significantly over the years, with India achieving remarkable feats such as Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, Aditya L-1, and the record-breaking launch of 104 satellites in one mission. The Prime Minister also pointed out the increasing role of women scientists in ISRO's success and emphasized how the space sector is now an attractive field for young entrepreneurs and start-ups.



With International Women's Day approaching on March 8, PM Shri Narendra Modi announced a unique initiative to celebrate women achievers. He stated that on this special day, he will hand over his social media accounts, including X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, to inspiring women who have excelled in various fields

Artificial Intelligence: India's Emerging Strength

PM Shri Modi also spoke about India's growing presence in AI and its transformative impact. He cited the example of Thodasam Kailash, a teacher from Adilabad, Telangana, whose interest in digital music is performing a very important task in saving many of our tribal languages. He has done wonders by composing a song in Kolami language with the help of AI tools. He is using AI to compose songs in many languages other than Kolami. His tracks are

being liked a lot by our tribal brothers and sisters on social media. Be it the Space Sector or AI, the ever-increasing participation of our youth is begetting a new revolution. The people of India are second to none in adopting and trying new technologies.

Women's Day Initiative: Social Media Takeover

With International Women's Day approaching on March 8, PM Shri Narendra Modi announced a unique initiative to celebrate women achievers. He stated that on this special day, he will hand over

his social media accounts, including X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, to inspiring women who have excelled in various fields. These women will share their experiences, challenges, and achievements, bringing visibility to their contributions. He urged people to participate in this initiative through the NaMo App.

National Games and Sporting Excellence

The Prime Minister praised the outstanding performances at the recently concluded National Games in Uttarakhand, where more than 11,000 athletes participated. He acknowledged the rising prominence of Uttarakhand as a sporting



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda alongwith senior leaders of Delhi BJP listening Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's "Mann Ki Baat" with party Karyakartas in Narayana Vihar, Delhi on 23 February 2025

India's Commitment to Wildlife Conservation

On the occasion of the upcoming World Wildlife Day, PM lauded India's conservation efforts, emphasizing the country's rich biodiversity. He highlighted the role of indigenous communities, such as the Soliga tribe in Karnataka and conservationists in Gujarat, in protecting wildlife. He also acknowledged individuals like Anuradha Rao, known as the 'Deer Woman,' for

dedicating decades to animal welfare.

Encouragement for Students Amid Board Exams

As board exams approach, PM Shri Modi extended his best wishes to students, urging them to remain stress-free and confident. He encouraged them to watch Pariksha Pe Charcha, a program designed to guide students on exam preparation and mental well-being. He assured them that success comes with a positive mindset and preparation.

PM Shri Modi concluded the episode by urging citizens to continue sharing their thoughts and stories for upcoming editions of Mann Ki Baat. He reiterated his commitment to engaging with the people of India on issues that matter most, promising another insightful session next month.

With a focus on scientific progress, women's empowerment, health, sports, and conservation, the 119th Mann Ki Baat encapsulated India's aspirations and achievements, inspiring millions across the country. ■

powerhouse and highlighted the success of athletes such as Sawan Barwal, Jyoti Yarraji, and Sachin Yadav. He credited the Khelo India initiative for nurturing young sporting talent and emphasized how India is progressing towards becoming a global sporting powerhouse.

Raising Awareness on Obesity and Health

PM Shri Modi also brought attention to the growing concern of obesity in India, stating that one in eight people suffer from the condition. He shared insights from health experts like Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, boxer Nikhat Zareen, and renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Devi Shetty, all of whom stressed the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Shri Modi suggested that people reduce their oil consumption by 10% to curb obesity-related health issues. He also initiated a challenge, urging citizens to pass on this message to 10 others, encouraging a collective effort towards healthier eating habits.

PM MODI PAYS HOMAGE TO CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ ON HIS JAYANTI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his Jayanti on February 19, 2025.

In a social media post on the X the PM Shri Modi wrote, "I pay homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his Jayanti.

His valour and visionary leadership laid the foundation for Swarajya, inspiring generations to uphold the values of courage and justice. He inspires us in building a strong, self-reliant and prosperous India." ■



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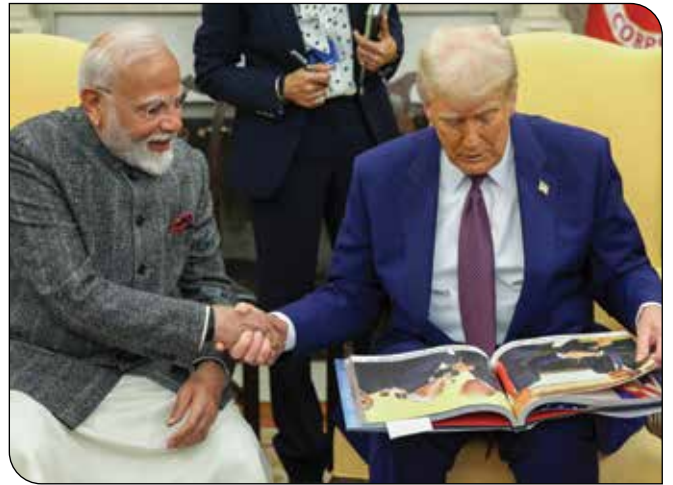
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PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of USA, Mr. Donald Trump at White House in Washington DC, USA on February 13, 2025



President Macron welcomes PM Shri Narendra Modi to India-France CEO Forum on February 11, 2025



Group photograph of the global leaders participated at the AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad AL Thani at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on February 18, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi lighting the lamp at the inauguration of 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan in New Delhi on February 21, 2025



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MODI GOVT'S VISION
ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

While Congress weakens Bharat, Modi Govt is making Bharat a global pharma powerhouse

Today, Bharat is the 3rd largest pharma producer globally

Atmanirbharta and innovation are propelling Bharat towards global pharmaceutical dominance

MODI GOVT PROMOTING
SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS

UNION BUDGET 2025

Union Budget 2025 set to empower homebuyers, farmers, gig workers & street vendors
 Empowering small farmers

KCC limit increased from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh

Set to benefit 7.7 crore farmers

CLEAN ENERGY
FUELING JOBS & FUTURE

\$70 billion Invested in renewable energy sector in 10 years

10 lakh Jobs created in 2024

Source: GoI

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