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'From Jana Sangh to BJP, we have consistently given priority to women's empowerment'



**'INDIA IS NOW WALKING THE PATH OF
WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT'**



Himachal Pradesh BJP welcoming BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda to the "Abhinandan Samaroh" in Bilaspur on 06 March 2025



BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda laying the foundation stone of BJP Distt. Office "Deepkamal" at Raghunathpur, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh on 06 March 2025



BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda at the MLA's training camp of Jammu & Kashmir in Katra on 01 March 2025



BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda meeting the BJP Core Committee and Council of Ministers in Patna, Bihar on 25 February 2025



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurating the District BJP offices of Coimbatore, Thiruvannamalai & Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu on 26 February 2025



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressing the National Science Day celebrations in Hyderabad, Telangana on 28 February 2025

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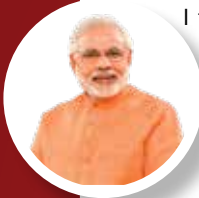
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@Narendramodi

I thank the people of Telangana for blessing @BJP4Telangana with such phenomenal support in the MLC elections. Congratulations to our newly elected candidates. I am very proud of our Party Karyakartas who are working among the people with great diligence.

(06 March, 2025)



@JPNadda

Honorable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji has resolved that there should be a BJP office in every state and every district. With the inspiration of Modiji, today we resolved to build 772 district offices across the country, as a result of which 579 district offices are ready today.

(06 March, 2025)



@AmitShah

Under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, Bharat has been transformed into a nation where progress comes along with the sustenance of ecology and wildlife. Whether it is increasing the number of Asiatic lions, bringing back the cheetahs, or protecting rhinos from poaching, this thread lights up Bharat's glorious trail in wildlife protection.

(03 March, 2025)



@Rajnathsingh

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi today approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand - from 'Sonprayag to Kedarnath' and 'Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib'. This will not only boost tourism in the region but will also increase employment opportunities for the local people. Many thanks to the Prime Minister for these decisions.

(05 March, 2025)



@B.L Santhosh

Congratulations Sri @yourBabulal on being elected as the leader of the @BJP4Jharkhand legislative party & Leader of Opposition designate in Jharkhand Assembly. His vast experience will help in keeping ruling party in check & ensure welfare of Jharkhand.

(07 March, 2025)



@Nitin Gadkari

For the good health of the poor, the poor get medicines at a low cost under the 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana' implemented by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji. Under this scheme, the poor get medicines at a discount of 50 to 90 percent compared to the average market price. Along with cheap medicines, the Jan Aushadhi Project is also providing employment.

(07 March, 2025)



अमर शहीद
भगत सिंह, राजगुरु, सुखदेव

KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
Paying its heartfelt tributes to
BHAGAT SINGH, RAJGURU & SUKHDEV
on Shahid Diwas (23 MARCH)
SHAT SHAT NAMAN!



WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT TO PAVE THE PATH OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT'

As India joined the celebration of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2025, the rapid strides made by women in India under the inspiring and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is further strengthening the resolve for realising the dream of 'Viksit Bharat'. The attempt to realise the full potential of 'Nari Shakti' in the onwards journey of the nation can be seen in the shift from women's development to women-led development. While introducing a series of transformative policies and initiatives aimed at enhancing women's social, economic, and political status, their participation in every sector has been ensured through various enabling and empowering schemes. From financial inclusion and entrepreneurship programs to legal reforms and safety measures, these efforts seek to create an environment where women can thrive as leaders, decision-makers, and key contributors to India's growth story.

As the vision for a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive India guides the nation, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has rightly said that his government prioritises both respect and convenience in women's lives. Apart from launching a large number of schemes, women-centric initiatives like the construction of toilets as 'Izzat Ghar,' the opening of Jan Dhan bank accounts for women, free gas connection, piped water to every home, and increasing maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks have enabled and empowered women with boundless opportunities, ensuring their

active role in shaping the country's future. At the same time, introducing strict laws for women's safety, including 20-year incarceration and the death penalty for rape of minors, increasing the legal age of marriage to 21, strict laws on Triple Talaq, and the abolition of Article 35A restoring the rights of women in Jammu & Kashmir have created a safe and secure atmosphere for women across the nation. While ensuring 33% women participation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, the permanent commission for women in the armed forces, entry in agniveers in all three wings of the armed forces, and admission in Sainik Schools and the National Defence Academy have opened new doors of opportunities for the women, which were hitherto closed to them. The schemes like Lakhpati Didi and Namoo Drone Didi, along with flagship programs such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mission Shakti, and Stand-Up India, reflect the government's commitment to the idea of women-led development as a key pillar of India's growth story.

India has made significant strides in maternal and child healthcare, leading to improved outcomes for women and children. The significant decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), drop in Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR), and rise in women's

life expectancy reflect enhanced healthcare interventions, indicating overall progress in healthcare access and quality. The Union Budget 2025-26, with a record allocation of Rs. 4.49 lakh crore towards gender-specific initiatives, marking a 37% increase from the previous year and around a three times increase in the last ten years, sets the stage for greater financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and employment for women. While under the visionary and inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP-led state governments have launched several initiatives to empower women and enhance their socio-economic status, like Subhadra Yojana, Mahatari Vandana Yojana, Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana, and Mahila Samridhi Yojana, the Modi government at the centre has taken significant steps to enlarge women's role in the public sphere, especially in decision-making processes. Today, when women are making every Indian proud by their remarkable achievements in every field, including science, education, sports, politics, administration, health, and entrepreneurship, there is no doubt that the idea of women-led development will pave the path of 'Viksit Bharat'.

From financial inclusion and entrepreneurship programs to legal reforms and safety measures, these efforts seek to create an environment where women can thrive as leaders, decision-makers, and key contributors to India's growth story



International Women's Day

PM interacts with Lakhpati Didis & launches developmental works

WOMEN'S BLESSINGS ARE MY STRENGTH, WEALTH

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched various developmental works and interacted with Lakhpati Didis in Navsari, Gujarat on 08 March 2025. Addressing the gathering he expressed his gratitude for the love, affection, and blessings from the mothers, sisters, and daughters present in large numbers, extending his best wishes to all the women of the country on this special day. Shri Modi said, "He was blessed by Maa Ganga in the Maha Kumbh while he was blessed in the Maha Kumbh of Matru Shakti today".

Addressing on the occasion of Women's Day, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the launch of two schemes, G-SAFAL (Gujarat scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods) and G-MAITRI (Gujarat Mentorship and Acceleration of Individuals for Transforming Rural Income) in Gujarat. He also mentioned that funds from various schemes have been directly transferred to the bank accounts of women and congratulated everyone for this achievement.

Shri Modi mentioned that today was dedicated to women and expressed his gratitude to all and proudly stated that he considers himself the wealthiest person in the world, not in terms of money, but because of the blessings from crores of mothers, sisters, and daughters. "These blessings are my

greatest strength, capital, and protective shield", he emphasised.

Women-led development

Stressing the importance of respecting women, as it is the first step towards the development of society and the nation, the Prime Minister highlighted, "India is now walking the path of women-led development for the rapid progress of the country". He remarked that the government prioritizes both respect and convenience in women's lives. He mentioned the construction of toilets, also referred to as 'Izzat Ghar' or "house of dignity", for crores of women, which has increased their dignity, and the opening of bank accounts for crores of women, integrating them into the banking system.



Day ment works in Gujarat AND SHIELD: PM MODI

Maternity leave for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks

He also highlighted the provision of Ujjwala cylinders to save women from the hardships of smoke. Shri Modi noted that the government has extended maternity leave for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. He acknowledged the demand from Muslim sisters for a law against triple talaq and stated that the government has enacted a strict law to protect the lives of lakhs of Muslim sisters. He also mentioned that when Article 370 was in effect in Jammu and Kashmir, women were deprived of many rights. If they married someone outside the state, they lost their right to ancestral property and with the removal of Article 370, women in Jammu and Kashmir have now gained their rights.

Increasing opportunities for women

Underlining the increasing opportunities for women at various levels of society, government, and large institutions, the Prime Minister remarked, "women are excelling in every sector, be it politics, sports, judiciary, or police". He noted that since 2014,

women's participation in important positions has increased significantly, mentioning that the central government has seen the highest number of female ministers, and the presence of women in Parliament has also risen. In 2019, 78 female MPs were elected, and in the 18th Lok Sabha, 74 female MPs are part of the House, he added.

Growing participation of women in the judiciary

Underscoring the growing participation of women in the judiciary, with their presence in district courts exceeding 35%. In several states, over 50% of new recruits as civil judges are women, Shri Modi highlighted, "India is the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with nearly half of the startups having women in leadership roles". He also mentioned the significant contributions of women scientists leading major space missions. He expressed pride in the fact that India has the highest number of female pilots in the world. He also acknowledged the role of women in organizing and securing the event in Navsari, with female police officers and officials managing the security arrangements.

Strength of India's women

The Prime Minister shared his earlier interaction with women from self-help groups, noting their enthusiasm and confidence as a testament to the strength of India's women. He reiterated his belief that the resolve for a Viksit Bharat will be fulfilled, with women playing the most significant role in achieving this goal.

Gujarat as a prime example of women-led development

Mentioning Gujarat as a prime example of women-led development which has provided the country with a successful cooperative model, developed through the hard work and strength of women, the Prime Minister underscored the global recognition of Amul and how lakhs of women from Gujarat's villages have turned milk production into a revolution. He added that Gujarati women have not only empowered themselves economically but also strengthened the rural economy. He also highlighted the success of Lijjat Papad, initiated by Gujarati women, which has now become a brand worth hundreds of crores.

FOR US, EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR IS 'MATRU DEVO BHAVA'

On the occasion of Women's Day on 08 March 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi engaged in a heartfelt conversation with the Lakhpati Didis in Navsari, Gujarat, highlighting the significance of women's empowerment and their contributions to society. Shri Modi remarked that while the world celebrates Women's Day today, in our traditions and culture, it starts with the reverence for the mother, 'Matru Devo Bhava'. For us, every day of the year is 'Matru Devo Bhava', he added.

Dream of creating three crore Lakhpati Didis

One of the Lakhpati Didis shared her experience of working with the Shivani Mahila Mandal, where they engage in beadwork, a cultural craft of Saurashtra. She mentioned that they have trained over 400 sisters in



Recognising women's strength and contributions, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tribute to "Nari Shakti" on the occasion of International Women's Day, .

In a post on X, he announced that his social media platforms would be taken over by women from diverse fields, showcasing their achievements on the occasion.

@narendramodi "We bow to our Nari Shakti on #WomensDay! Our Government has always worked for empowering women, reflecting in our schemes and programmes. Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields!"

He called them the prowess of India's Nari Shakti. "Their determination and success remind us of the boundless potential women hold. Today and every day, we celebrate their contributions in shaping a Viksit Bharat".

beadwork, with other sisters handling marketing and accounting tasks. The Prime Minister inquired if the marketing team travels outside the state, to which she confirmed that they have covered almost all major cities in India.

The participant highlighted the success of another Lakhpati Didi, Parul Behen, who earns over 40,000 rupees, and acknowledged the achievement of the Lakhpati Didis. Shri Modi expressed his dream of creating three crore Lakhpati Didis and believed that they could reach five crores.

Prime Minister shows the path to success

Sharing her experience, another Lakhpati Didi assured that she would be a crorepati in a few years time by working hard. She thanked the Prime Minister for showing them the path to success. A Drone Didi sharing her experience told that she is earning around Rs. 2 lakh.

Shri Modi then interacted with a Bank Sakhi who does a monthly operation of around Rs. 4 to 5 lakh. Another woman expressed her desire to make other ladies also Lakhpati Didis like she has become.

Importance of entering online business

Shri Modi emphasized the importance of entering online business models and assured government support to upgrade their initiatives. He highlighted that many women are earning at the grassroots level, and the world should know that Indian women are not just confined to household work but are a significant economic force. Shri Modi remarked that rural women are playing a crucial role in India's economic strength. ■



Bjp National President addresses 'Mahila Diwas' Karyakram in New Delhi

'From Jana Sangh to BJP, we have consistently given priority to women's empowerment'

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed the International Women's Day program in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 08 March 2025. In his address, Shri Nadda emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP has focused on the welfare and empowerment of women in the country. During the program, BJP National Vice President and Delhi Incharge Shri Baijayant Panda, Delhi CM Smt. Rekha Gupta, Delhi BJP President Shri Virendra Sachdeva, BJP Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Vanathi Srinivasan and other leaders were present on the stage.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone on the occasion of International Women's Day. He thanked the women of Delhi for their immense contribution in bringing the BJP to power. This victory would not have been possible without their support and blessings. Whether it was the Bharatiya Jana Sangh or the BJP today, the commitment to empowering women has always been strong.

Women's progress drives global prosperity

Shri Nadda said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's focus on women-led development, stating that women's progress drives global prosperity. Both Jana Sangh and BJP have always prioritised women's empowerment. Building an 'Atmanirbhar' and 'Viksit' Bharat is not possible without instilling confidence in women.

Nari Shakti Vandan Act

BJP National President stated that the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, a task that the UPA and other parties were unable to accomplish in three decades, was completed by Shri Narendra Modi in just three days. The BJP has the highest number of women in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and this law will ensure that 33% of Lok Sabha members are women in the future. ■

'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' in Delhi APPROVED on Women's Day

Delhi govt sanctions 5,100 cr for a year to give 2,500 monthly aid



In good news for the women of Delhi, Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta-led Cabinet on 8 March 2025

approved the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' to provide a monthly honorarium of Rs. 2,500 to women.

Addressing the media Smt. Rekha Gupta said on the Women's Day, the cabinet has approved 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana'. "We conducted a cabinet meeting and have approved the Yojana-the promise we made during the time of elections to provide Rs. 2,500 to women. We have made a provision of Rs. 5,100 crores in the Delhi budget for the implementation of the scheme," she said.

Smt. Gupta added that the government has formed the committee, a portal will be launched and the registration for the scheme will begin soon, she said. ■

For BJP, power is not ultimate objective but a means to serve the people: JP Nadda

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda laid the foundation stone of BJP District Office 'Deepkamal' in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh on 06 March 2025. In his address, Shri Nadda said Congress has transformed into a family-driven party, while the BJP remains an ideologically driven party. In 2019, by abrogating Article 370, the BJP realised Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision and completely integrated Jammu and Kashmir into India. During the programme, Himachal Pradesh BJP President Dr. Rajeev Bindal, LoP in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, Shri Jairam Thakur, state's party In-Charge Shri Shrikant Sharma and other leaders were present on the occasion.



True democracy has been established

Shri Nadda, as karyakartas warmly celebrated the victory of Delhi, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, particularly for honouring Hariman Sharma with the Padma Shri award, who belongs to Bilaspur district in Himachal. Before 2014, it was unimaginable for someone from a village to receive a Padma Shri or be recognized for extraordinary work. However, under the leadership of Shri Modi, true democracy has been established, empowering 140 crore citizens by acknowledging their contributions.

A 'karyalay' truly comes to life after 5 PM

Shri Nadda stated Himachal Pradesh has 17 districts, and 6 BJP offices have already been inaugurated. Today, Bilaspur has also joined that list, and a grand office will soon be built there. Shri Nadda emphasized the difference between 'karyalay' and 'office,' stating that an office operates from 10 AM to 5 PM, whereas a 'karyalay' truly comes to life after 5 PM when karyakartas engage in political activities beyond their daily routines.

Successfully abrogated Article 370

Shri Nadda highlighted that BJP is the only party whose leader, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, resigned

from Nehru's government and established the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Dr. Mookerjee had conveyed that "Ek Desh Mein Do Nishan, Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan nahi challenge." The slogan was first raised in 1952, and despite multiple Congress governments, the BJP's predecessor, Jana Sangh, remained committed to its demand. After decades of struggle, honouring Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's sacrifice, the historic moment came on August 6, 2019, when Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah presented a proposal in Parliament, leading to the abrogation of Article 370. The fight that began in 1952 was finally won in 2019. BJP, under Shri Narendra Modi's leadership and Shri Amit Shah's strategic vision, successfully abrogated Article 370.

PM Modi empowered all sections of society

BJP National President highlighted that Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay introduced the concept of 'Ekatma Manavvad', which Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee later referred to as Antyodaya. Carrying this vision forward, PM Shri Narendra Modi has embraced the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.' Initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and the PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana have been launched to uplift villages, the poor, the marginalized, the distressed, the oppressed, Dalits, youth, and farmers. PM Shri Narendra Modi has empowered all the sections of society through his governance. ■

Rise above the allure of political posts: JP Nadda

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda asked party legislators to prioritise development of their constituencies and maintain deep connections with the citizens as he joined the concluding session of the two-day MLA training workshop in Katra, J&K on 1 March 2025.

Ahead of the maiden Budget session post abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the BJP held the 'Vidhayak Prashikshan Shivir' at a hotel in Katra to ensure effective participation of the party legislators in the Assembly proceedings.

Addressing the MLAs, BJP National President Shri Nadda highlighted the importance of 'Karyakarta Nirman' and urged the legislators to rise above the allure of political posts.

Drawing from his own experience as an MLA and Leader of Opposition, Shri Nadda said posts are transient, but the trust of the people is enduring. He advised legislators to proactively engage with communities through platforms like 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras', 'Asha workers' meetings, and parent-teacher interactions in government schools.

He also emphasised the need for MLAs to be good listeners to effectively resolve public grievances and regularly visit Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities to ensure inclusive development.

The BJP will play a great role of the main opposition party in the J-K assembly. This is for the first time that we have come with such a huge mandate and our



vote share is even better than the ruling party, NC.

He said the BJP legislators will highlight within and outside the Assembly the disadvantages of not having a double-engine government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh also attended the workshop and said that while following our nationalist ideology, the issues concerning the welfare of the people will be raised during the upcoming Budget Session and our legislators are also capable of presenting their arguments with full preparation.

Shri JP Nadda, accompanied by BJP National General Secretary & in-charge J&K, Shri Tarun Chugh, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, and J&K BJP President Sat Sharma also paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills before visiting the two-day workshop at Katra. ■

ABHINANDAN!



Sat Shama

Shri Sat Shama elected as the new BJP President of Jammu & Kashmir on 24 January, 2025



Madan Rathore

Shri Madan Rathore elected as the new BJP President of Rajasthan on 22 February, 2025



Dilip Jaiswal

Shri Dilip Jaiswal elected as the new BJP President of Bihar on 04 March 2025

ABHINANDAN!

ABHINANDAN!

BJP WINS 2 OUT OF 3 MLC SEATS IN TELANGANA

In the recently completed MLC elections held on 05 March 2025 in Telangana, BJP candidates Shri Chinnammal Anji Reddy from Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak MLC (Graduate) constituency and Shri Malka Komaraiah from MLC (Teachers) constituency got historic victories on 2 out of 3 seats of the state. The Kamal Sandesh Pariwar wishes a hearty congratulation to all the newly elected State BJP Presidents and MLCs in Telangana. ■





UNION HOME MINISTER INAUGURATES DISTRICT BJP OFFICES IN TAMIL NADU

PM Modi contributed the most to Tamil language, culture and Tamil pride: Amit Shah

Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the BJP District Offices in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on 26 February 2025. In his address, Shri Shah criticised the Tamil Nadu government for corruption, lawlessness, and anti-national activities, pointing out the DMK leaders' involvement in scandals. He said in 2026, Tamil Nadu would witness the formation of an NDA government, signalling a new era. During the event, Union Minister Dr. L Murugan, BJP National Secretary Shri Arvind Menon, Tamil Nadu BJP President Shri K Annamalai, and other senior leaders were present.

Shri Shah mentioned that three offices had been inaugurated in the region, including the Coimbatore, Thiruvannamalai and Ramanathapuram. The BJP offices are different from the offices of other political parties. While other parties considered their offices merely as workplaces, BJP Karyakartas regard their party office as a temple from where the party's operations are conducted. He expressed hope that the

three newly inaugurated offices would soon become key centres for public outreach, responsiveness to people's concerns, and mass movements for the BJP.

The union Home Minister said PM Shri Narendra Modi has fostered a spirit of healthy competition among all states. After independence, Shri Narendra Modi contributed the most to the Tamil language, culture, and dignity of Tamil Nadu. By placing the sacred Sengol in the Parliament House, the Prime Minister has honoured Tamil culture in the temple of Indian democracy.

Shri Shah highlighted that currently, Tamil Nadu has the worst law and order situation in the country. Women are not safe even in prestigious institutions and universities. The culprits of the Vengaiyaval incident have not been arrested even after 700 days. In Tamil Nadu, when complaints are made about illegal liquor, instead of taking action against those involved in making it, the students protesting against it are killed. There is also a severe rise in anti-national tendencies in the state. The Tamil Nadu government provided security for the funeral procession of the mastermind behind the 1998 bomb blast. Union Home Minister stated that drug mafias have been allowed to freely sell drugs, illegal mining mafias are corrupting politics, and as far as corruption is concerned, all DMK leaders have earned a master's degree in it.

Shri Shah appealed to all the Karyakartas to expose the corruption of the DMK government in Tamil Nadu, the deteriorating law and order situation, the insecurity of women, and anti-national activities. He also urged them to spread awareness about the efforts made by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the development of Tamil Nadu, Tamil pride, language, and culture. Shri Shah expressed confidence that the NDA government is set to form with an even larger majority than in Maharashtra and Haryana. ■

Highlights

- The BJP kicked off 2025 with a win in Delhi and will conclude 2026 with an NDA victory in Tamil Nadu.
- The NDA government will form in Tamil Nadu with a majority even greater than that in Maharashtra and Haryana.
- The time has come to overthrow DMK's anti-national and corrupt government in Tamil Nadu.
- Under DMK's governance, Tamil Nadu's law and order have deteriorated to the worst in the country.
- The Modi government has worked towards preserving and promoting Tamil pride, language, and culture.

'India and Europe share a strong partnership built on shared values'



During the EU President Ms. Ursula von der Leyen's visit to India Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and EU President on 28 February reaffirmed the strong benefits of the India-EU Strategic Partnership and committed to elevating it further. Marking 20 years of strategic ties and over 30 years of cooperation, President von der Leyen led the EU College of Commissioners on a landmark visit, the first outside Europe under their new mandate and the first such visit in India-EU relations.

As the world's largest democracies and open economies, India and the EU emphasized their shared values of democracy, rule of law, and a rules-based international order. They stressed the importance of cooperation in trade, supply chain resilience, investment, emerging technologies, innovation, digital and green industrial transitions, defense, and people-to-people ties. Key global challenges such as climate change, AI governance, development finance, and terrorism were also highlighted.

The leaders welcomed the progress made at the second ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in fostering collaboration across trade, technology, and green transitions. They also acknowledged key outcomes from discussions between EU Commissioners and Indian Ministers.

Key Commitments:

Trade & Investment: Negotiating teams will work towards concluding a balanced and ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA) within the year. Officials were tasked with enhancing market access, reducing trade barriers, and advancing agreements on investment protection and geographical indications.

Technology & Digital Cooperation: The India-EU TTC will deepen engagement in economic security, semiconductor ecosystems, AI, high-performance computing, 6G, digital public infrastructure, and green energy technologies. They welcomed the implementation of the MoU on semiconductors and agreements on 6G collaborations.

Clean Energy & Climate Action: Cooperation will expand in connectivity, clean hydrogen, offshore wind, solar energy, sustainable urban mobility, aviation, and railways. Agreements on the India-EU Green Hydrogen Forum and an Offshore Wind Energy Business Summit were welcomed.

Infrastructure & Connectivity: Both sides committed to advancing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and strengthening cooperation under the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), and the Global Biofuels Alliance.

People-to-People Ties: Greater exchanges in education, research, tourism, culture, and sports were encouraged. Measures will be taken to promote legal, safe, and orderly migration, particularly in skilled workforce sectors.

Indo-Pacific Cooperation: India welcomed the EU's participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). Both sides committed to trilateral cooperation in Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

Defense & Security: Enhanced cooperation in defense, including joint exercises and maritime security, was emphasized. The EU welcomed India's interest in joining projects under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and engaging in negotiations for a Security of Information Agreement (SoIA).

Global and Regional Issues: Discussions covered the Middle East and Ukraine, with both sides supporting a just and lasting peace based on international law, territorial integrity, and sovereignty. A two-state solution for Israel and Palestine was reaffirmed.

The leaders expressed confidence that this visit would mark a new chapter in India-EU relations and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the strategic partnership. They looked forward to the next India-EU Summit in India at the earliest mutually convenient time and the adoption of a new joint Strategic Agenda. President von der Leyen thanked Prime Minister Shri Modi for his warm hospitality. ■



SWASTH DHARAA KHET HARAA



The Soil Health Card Scheme was introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan. The scheme was launched to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country. Soil health card provides information to farmers on nutrient status of their soil along with recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

The Soil Health Card Portal (www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in) facilitates generation of Soil Health Cards for the benefit of farmers in uniform and standardized format across country in all major languages and 5 dialects.

The Soil Health Card contains status of the soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N,P,K, S (Macro-nutrients); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients) ; and pH (Acidity or Basicity), EC (Electrical Conductivity) and OC (Organic Carbon).

Based on this, the card will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm. Soil Samples are taken generally two times in a year, after harvesting of Rabi and

Kharif Crop respectively or when there is no standing crop in the field.

The Guideline of Village Level Soil Testing Labs (VLSTLs) was issued in June 2023. VLSTLs can be set up by individual entrepreneurs i.e. rural youth and community based entrepreneurs, including Self Help Groups (SHGs), Schools, Agriculture Universities etc. The beneficiary/village level entrepreneur should be

a youth whose age should not be below 18 years and should not be more than 27 years. Self Help Groups, Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) can also be enrolled as VLSTL.

As of February 2025, 665 Village-level Soil Testing Labs have been established in 17 States.

The Soil Health Card contains status of the soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N,P,K, S (Macro-nutrients); Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro - nutrients) ; and pH (Acidity or Basicity), EC (Electrical Conductivity) and OC (Organic Carbon)

School Soil Health Programme

A pilot project on School Soil Health Programme has been undertaken by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in (DA&FW) collaboration with Department of School Education & Literacy (DSE&L), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Governments in 20 schools (10 Kendriya Vidyalaya & 10 Navodaya Vidyalaya) in rural areas. The aim is to make students aware about soil health for sustainable agriculture practices. 20 soil health labs were set up in these schools. Modules for students from class VI to XII and teachers were developed and disseminated. Under the programme, soil samples were collected by School Students and soil testing were also done by students and SHCs were generated. Students also educated farmers about the recommendation of Soil health card for judicious use of fertilizer and crop recommendation.

As of 2024, 1020 schools are implementing the School Soil Health Programme, with 1000 soil testing labs set up and 125,972 students enrolled.

Soil Health Card scheme has been merged in Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme as one of its components under the name 'Soil Health & Fertility' from the year 2022-23.

Technological Advancements SHC Mobile App

To further ease the process of obtaining easy access to the Soil Health Card, the Government of India in 2023 made technological interventions in the New Soil Health Card Scheme. The Soil Health Card portal was revamped and integrated with a Geographic Information System (GIS) system so that all the test results are captured and seen on a map. To make the implementation/monitoring of the scheme smooth and to facilitate farmers an easy access to his soil health card, the mobile application has been made robust with the

additional features such as:

Restrict the sample collection region for the Village Level Entrepreneur/Operator collecting the soil samples

Auto selection of the latitude and longitude of the location

- Generation of a QR code to link with the sample and test results of all samples directly on the portal from the geo-mapped labs, without any manual intervention.
- This application provides the graphical information of all over the India and also shows multiple layers State Boundary, District Boundary, Taluka Boundary, Panchayat Boundary and Cadastral Boundary.
- The new system was rolled out in April 2023 and samples are now being collected through the mobile application. Soil Health Cards are now generated on this revamped portal.
- For digitizing the Soil Health Cards, Web based work flow application Soil Health Card portal has been designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Conclusion

The Soil Health Card Scheme has transformed agricultural practices in India over the past decade. Since 2015, it has empowered farmers with crucial information on soil nutrient status and optimal fertilizer use, promoting sustainable farming and improved crop productivity.

Initiatives like the School Soil Health Programme have expanded soil health awareness among students and local communities. With a robust mobile app, the process of obtaining a Soil Health Card has enhanced accessibility, efficiency, and transparency. As the scheme evolves, it continues to play a vital role in fostering sustainable agricultural development and safeguarding India's soil health for future generations. ■

A pilot project on School Soil Health Programme has been undertaken by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in collaboration with Department of School Education & Literacy, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Governments in 20 schools in rural areas. The aim is to make students aware about soil health for sustainable agriculture practices

GROWTH RATE OF REAL GDP FOR 2024-25 IS ESTIMATED AS 6.5%

- **Real GDP Growth Rate of 9.2% for 2023-24 is the highest in the previous 12 years except for 21-22**

The National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released on 28 February 2025 the Second Advance Estimates (SAE) of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Financial Year (FY) 2024-25; Quarterly Estimates of GDP for October-December Quarter (Q3) of FY 2024-25 along with its expenditure components and following Revised Estimates of GDP, National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation:



- a. **First Revised Estimates (FRE) for the Financial year 2023-24;**
- b. **Second Revised Estimates or Final Estimates (FE) for the Financial year 2022-23.**

These estimates are released both at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, in accordance with the release calendar of National Accounts. Detailed Notes on: (i) Second Advance Estimates (SAE) of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of FY 2024-25, Quarterly Estimates of GDP for October-December Quarter (Q3) of FY 2024-25 and (ii) Abovementioned Revised Estimates for financial years 2023-24 and 2022-23 are given respectively in Part A and Part B of the Press Note.

Key Highlights:

1. Real GDP has been estimated to grow by 6.5% in FY 2024-25. Nominal GDP is expected to witness a growth rate of 9.9% in FY 2024-25. Both the growth rates are revised upward from their respective First Advance Estimates.
2. As per the First Revised Estimates, Real GDP has grown by 9.2% in the financial year 2023-24, which is highest in the previous 12 years except for the financial year 2021-22 (the post-covid year). This growth has been contributed by double-digit growth rates in 'Manufacturing'

sector (12.3%), 'Construction' sector (10.4%) and 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector (10.3%).

3. As per the Final Estimates, Real GDP has observed a growth rate of 7.6% in the financial year 2022-23, mainly contributed by double-digit growth rates in 'Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Services related to Broadcasting' sector (12.3%), 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector (10.8%) and 'Electricity, Gas, Water Supply & Other Utility Services' sector (10.8%).
4. Real GDP is estimated to grow by 6.2% in Q3 of FY 2024-25. Growth rate in Nominal GDP for Q3 of FY 2024-25 has been estimated at 9.9%.
5. The growth rate of Real GDP for Q2 of financial year 2024-25 has been revised upward to 5.6%.
6. 'Construction' sector is estimated to observe a growth rate of 8.6%, followed by 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector (7.2%) and 'Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Services related to Broadcasting' sector (6.4%) during 2024-25.
7. Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) is expected to register a good growth of 7.6% during 2024-25 as compared to 5.6% growth observed during 2023-24. ■

QUARTERLY ESTIMATES AND GROWTH RATES

Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 47.17 lakh crore, against Rs. 44.44 lakh crore in Q3 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.2%. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 84.74 lakh crore, against Rs. 77.10 lakh crore in Q3 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.9%.

Real GVA in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 43.13 lakh crore, against Rs. 40.60 lakh crore in Q3 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.2%. Nominal GVA in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 77.06 lakh crore, against Rs. 69.90 lakh crore in Q3 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 10.2%. ■

JAN AUSHADHI DIWAS CELEBRATED WITH THE THEME 'DAAM KAM DAWAI UTTAM' ACROSS THE COUNTRY

On 7th day of the week long celebrations, PMBI celebrated the 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas on 07 March 2025, across the country by conducting more than 100 major events where the Union Health Minister, Chief Ministers of the State/UTs, MPs, MLAs, Councilors and other public representatives including many senior Government officials have marked their presence to grace the event by elaborating upon the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanAushadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP) so that awareness and benefits may be availed by the public. The programme commenced with Jan Aushadhi Jan Chetna Abhiyan on 1st March across the country and ended with the celebration of Jan Aushadhi Diwas, 2025 on 7th March.

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda visited Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh and interacted with beneficiaries. Kendra owners and beneficiaries of Jan Aushadhi scheme also shared their experiences.

Shri Nadda shared a video message through social media and wished everyone a very Happy 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas, 2025 to all the citizens of the country.

As part of the weeklong celebration, more than 1.12 crore Digital messages to national pensioners and beneficiaries of Jan Aushadhi and other schemes were sent across the country to spread awareness about this noble project. In order to educate the youth of the country, various competitions were organised. Through the MyGov portal more than 7 crore messages were also sent to generate awareness. ■

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA RECEIVED 24,00,412 CRORE REVENUE UPTO JANUARY, 2025

The monthly account of the Government of India upto January, 2025, has been consolidated and reports published on 28 February 2025.

The highlights are given below:-

The Government of India has received Rs. 24,00,412 crore- 76.3% of corresponding RE 2024-25 of Total Receipts upto January, 2025 comprising Rs. 19,03,558 crore Tax Revenue (Net to Centre), Rs. 4,67,630 crore of Non-Tax Revenue and Rs. 29,224 crore of Non-Debt Capital Receipts. Rs. 10,74,179 crore has been transferred to State Governments as Devolution of Share of Taxes by Government of India upto this period which is Rs. 2,53,929 crore higher than the previous year.

Total Expenditure incurred by the Government of India is Rs. 35,69,954 crore (75.7% of corresponding RE 2024-25), out of which Rs. 28,12,595 crore is on Revenue Account and Rs. 7,57,359 crore is on Capital Account. Out of the Total Revenue Expenditure, Rs. 8,75,461 crore is on account of Interest Payments and Rs. 3,37,733 crore is on account of Major Subsidies. ■

CABINET APPROVES ROPEWAY PROJECT FROM SONPRAYAG TO KEDARNATH

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 5 March has approved the construction of 12.9 km ropeway project from Sonprayag to Kedarnath (12.9 km) in Uttarakhand. The project will be developed on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) mode at a total capital cost of Rs. 4,081.28 crore.

The ropeway is planned to be developed in public-private partnership and will be based on the most



GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

advanced Tri-cable Detachable Gondola (3S) technology with a design capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour per direction (PPHPD) carrying 18,000 passengers per day. ■

CABINET APPROVES ROPEWAY PROJECT FROM GOVINDGHAT TO HEMKUND SAHIB JI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 5 approved the construction of 12.4 km ropeway project from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ji in Uttarakhand. The project will be developed on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) mode at a total capital cost of Rs. 2,730.13 crore.

Currently, the journey to the Hemkund Sahib Ji is a challenging 21-km uphill trek from Govindghat and is covered on foot or by ponies or palanquins. The ropeway project will also generate substantial employment opportunities during construction and operations as well as in allied tourism industries like hospitality, travel, foods & beverages (F&B) and tourism throughout the year. ■

FLIGHT-TRIAL OF FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND NAVAL ANTI-SHIP MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy carried out successful flight-trials of first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur on February 25, 2025. The trials demonstrated the missile's capability against ship targets while launched from an Indian Naval Seaking Helicopter.

The trials have proven the missile's Man-in-Loop feature and scored a direct hit on a small ship target in sea-skimming mode at its maximum range. The missile uses an Indigenous Imaging Infra-Red Seeker for terminal guidance. The mission also has demonstrated the high bandwidth two way datalink system, which is used to transmit the seeker live images back to the pilot for in-flight retargeting.

The missile was launched in Bearing-only Lock-on after launch mode with several targets in close vicinity for selecting one among them. The missile initially locked on to a large target within a specified zone of search and during the terminal phase, the pilot selected a smaller hidden target resulting in its being hit with pinpoint accuracy. ■

DRDO CONDUCTS HIGH-ALTITUDE TRIALS OF INTEGRATED LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR LCA TEJAS

The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), a Bengaluru-based lab under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft, on March 04, 2025.

The OBOGS-based ILSS is a cutting-edge system designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional liquid oxygen cylinder-based systems. Performance evaluations covered critical aspects such as oxygen concentration, demand breathing, availability of 100% oxygen, aerobic maneuvers at required altitudes for full functional testing of Anti – G Valve, Breathing Oxygen System (BOS) ON during taxiing, Take off, Cruise, G turns and rejoin approach & landing. Following flight clearance from Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), the system successfully met all specified parameters.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, IAF, Public Sector Undertakings, and industry partners on this remarkable achievement, emphasising that this development reinforces India's commitment to cutting-edge defence technologies and aligns with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047.' ■

EPFO ADDS 16.05 LAKH NET MEMBERS DURING DECEMBER 2024

8.47 Lakh New Members Enrolled

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has released provisional payroll data for December 2024, revealing a net addition of 16.05 lakh members. An increase of 9.69% has been registered in net payroll addition during the current month as compared to the previous month of November 2024.

Further, the year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 2.74% in net payroll additions compared to December 2023, signifying increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives. EPFO enrolled around 8.47 lakh new subscribers in December 2024. ■

Union Home Minister addresses on the Punyatithi of Nanaji Deshmukh in Chitrakoot, MP

‘Through rural development, Nanaji Deshmukh implemented Pandit Deendayal’s principle of ‘Antyodaya’ on the ground’

The union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the Remembrance Day ceremony on 15th death anniversary of Bharat Ratna, Nanaji Deshmukh in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh on 27 February 2025. On this occasion, several dignitaries, including the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Rajendra Shukla and other senior leaders were present.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that on the occasion of Nanaji Deshmukh’s death anniversary, a tribute program was organized along with the inauguration of the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and the presentation based on the life of Lord Ram, “Ram Darshan.”

No one had the courage to oppose Nanaji

The Union Home Minister said it is very difficult to gain universal acceptance while being in politics, as one often has to face opposition for political purposes. However, in his long life, no one had the courage to oppose Nanaji, nor did anyone consider it appropriate to oppose him.

He said Nanaji made connections in almost every field, including art, literature, industry, service, and politics, and earned acceptance and respect in each of those fields. Achieving so much in one lifetime is quite difficult. He said through rural development, Nanaji Deshmukh implemented Pandit Deendayal’s principle of ‘Antyodaya’ on the ground.

Role model for generations to come

Shri Amit Shah said when Nanaji was just 60 years old, he decided to leave politics and pursue Ekam Manavaad (Integral Humanism) for the rest of his life. He was also like a lotus in politics, kept himself aloof from every evil and spent his entire life removing evils. Nanaji, through his hard work, has established principles in politics that will remain role model



for generations to come. He said Nanaji’s efforts were instrumental in changing the socio-economic landscape of the country’s villages.

The Union Home Minister said that the Bharatiya Jana Sangh gave two great men to the country’s politics in the same period in the form of Nanaji Deshmukh and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. Both were born in 1916.

‘Integral Humanism’

He said that after the country’s independence, the government was satisfied with creating policies by merely translating principles borrowed from the West. During that time, Pandit Deendayal established the principle of ‘Integral Humanism’. showing how our economic philosophy should be, what our foreign policy should look like, and how our perspective on the world should be based on global brotherhood. He said that this very principle is now leading us toward becoming the best in the world.

PM Modi considers ‘Antyodaya’ as an ideal

Shri Amit Shah said that Pandit Deendayal named India’s development model as ‘Antyodaya,’ meaning



that until the last person in the line is developed, it holds no meaning. He said that the development of the last person should be a reflection of the nation's development. He said Prime Minister Modi, who considers the "Antyodaya politics" of Nanaji and Pandit Deendayal as an ideal, is today bringing about a change in the lives of millions of poor people. Shri Shah further said that development should take place while preserving our heritage.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has significantly improved the lives of 60 crore poor citizens over the past decade. He highlighted key welfare initiatives, including housing, sanitation, clean drinking water, gas connections, free grain distribution, electricity

access, and health coverage of up to 5 lakh. He emphasized that these efforts align with Nanaji Deshmukh's vision for rural development, working towards transforming villages into self-sustaining Gokul Grams.

Nanaji- An exceptional organizer

Reflecting on Nanaji Deshmukh's contributions, Shri Amit Shah described him as an exceptional organizer who played a crucial role in resisting the Emergency, when democracy and personal freedoms were under threat. He noted that despite a scattered opposition, public awareness was awakened, leading to a 19-month-long struggle that resulted in the defeat of the ruling government and the triumph of democracy. Nanaji was instrumental in the formation of the Janata Party and laid the foundation of the current ruling party by championing the principle of Nation First.

Shri Amit Shah further said that Nanaji's life was deeply rooted in the ideals of the Sangh. He said that the unique combination of Sangh's Sanskars, Bal Gangadhar's nationalism and Gandhiji's Gram Swaraj is seen in Nanaji Deshmukh's personality.

He also highlighted Nanaji's role in education, particularly in establishing the first Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Gorakhpur, today thousand of these schools across the country are imparting education and values to children. Nanaji remained committed to cultural nationalism throughout his life. ■

KAMAL
PUSHP

Sahyog, Samarpan
Aur Sanskar





श्री विजय कुमार सिंह

VIJAY KUMAR SINGH

Shri Vijay Kumar Singh worked underground for the RSS's Swayamsevak Satyagraha (1st and 2nd year). He became a district minister in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1975-1977, and was detained under MISA during the

Emergency, from October 1975 to February 1977. After 1980, he became a member of the National Council of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He went on to become a national secretary in Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. ■

Date of Birth 23/03/1953	Gender male
State Bihar	District Begusarai
Town/City बिचला टोला, बेगूसराय	Level National
Post in Organisation National Executive Member	Active years 1973-2021



Agriculture is considered the first engine of development: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the post-budget webinar on agriculture and rural prosperity on 01 March 2025, via video-conferencing. Emphasizing the importance of participation in the post-budget webinar, the Prime Minister thanked everyone for joining the program and highlighted that this year's budget is the first full budget of the Government's third term, showcasing continuity in policies and a new expansion of the vision for Viksit Bharat. He acknowledged the valuable inputs and suggestions from all stakeholders before the budget, which were very helpful. He stressed that the role of stakeholders has become even more crucial in making this budget more effective.

The goal of Viksit Bharat

“Our resolve towards the goal of Viksit Bharat is very clear and together, we are building an India where farmers are prosperous and empowered”, Shri Modi said and highlighted that the effort is to ensure no farmer is left behind. He stated that agriculture is considered the first engine of development, giving farmers a place of pride. “India is simultaneously working towards two major goals: the development of the agriculture sector and the prosperity of villages”, he mentioned.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

Shri Modi highlighted that the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, implemented six years ago, has provided nearly Rs 3.75 lakh crore to farmers and the amount has been directly transferred to the accounts of 11 crore farmers. He emphasized that the annual financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 is strengthening the rural economy. He mentioned that a farmer-centric digital infrastructure has been created to ensure the benefits of this scheme reach farmers across the country, eliminating any scope for intermediaries or leakages.

Agricultural production reached record levels



Underlining that India's agricultural production has reached record levels, the Prime Minister said that 10-11 years ago, agricultural production was around 265 million tons, which has now increased to over 330 million tons. Similarly, horticultural production has exceeded 350 million tons. He attributed this success to the Government's approach from seed to market, agricultural reforms,

farmer empowerment, and a strong value chain. Shri Modi emphasized the need to fully utilize the country's agricultural potential and achieve even bigger targets.

In this direction, the budget has announced the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, focusing on the development of the 100 least productive agricultural districts, he added. The Prime Minister mentioned the positive results seen from the Aspirational Districts program on various development parameters, benefiting from collaboration, convergence, and healthy competition..

Highlights

- Our resolve to move towards the goal of Viksit Bharat is very clear.
- Together we are working towards building an India where farmers are prosperous and empowered.
- We have considered agriculture as the first engine of development, giving farmers a place of pride.
- We are working towards two big goals simultaneously - development of agriculture sector and prosperity of our villages.
- We have announced 'PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' in the budget, under this, focus will be on the development of 100 districts with the lowest agricultural productivity in the country.
- We have announced the formation of Makhana Board in Bihar. ■



Budget, a blueprint for India's future: PM Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 5 March addressed the Post-Budget Webinar on Employment, emphasizing the theme "Investing in People, Economy, and Innovation." He highlighted the budget's role as a blueprint for India's future.



Investing in Education, Skills, and Healthcare

Shri Modi outlined three key pillars of investing in people: education, skills, and healthcare. He highlighted the transformation of India's education system through the National Education Policy, IIT expansion, technology integration, and AI adoption. The introduction of digitized textbooks in 22 Indian languages ensures alignment with 21st-century educational needs.

3 crore youth received skill training

Regarding skill development, he emphasized that over 3 crore youth have received skill training since 2014, with 1,000 ITIs upgraded and 5 Centers of Excellence established. Efforts are underway to align training with global industry standards. He encouraged greater collaboration between industry and academia and promoted the PM-Internship Scheme for practical learning.

In healthcare, he announced the addition of 10,000 new medical seats and a target of 75,000 seats in five years. The government is expanding telemedicine facilities, establishing daycare cancer centers, and developing digital healthcare infrastructure to ensure quality healthcare reaches all.

Strengthening the Economy

Discussing economic investments, Shri Modi highlighted the need for planned urbanization, with India's urban population projected to reach 90 crore by 2047. The government has introduced a 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund to improve governance,

infrastructure, and financial sustainability.

The Prime Minister underscored the tourism sector's potential to contribute 10% of GDP and generate employment. The budget includes initiatives to develop 50 tourism destinations, grant infrastructure status to hotels, and promote domestic and international tourism.

Innovation and Technology: AI and Startups

Shri Modi emphasized the role of innovation in shaping India's future, highlighting AI's potential to contribute significantly to the economy. The budget allocates 500 crore for AI-driven education and research, alongside plans for a National Large Language Model. He urged the private sector to lead in AI solutions and capitalize on India's growing startup ecosystem.

India, now the world's third-largest startup hub, will benefit from a 1 lakh crore corpus fund for research and innovation, including a 'Deep Tech Fund of Funds.' He mentioned the provision of 10,000 research fellowships at IITs and IISc, the National Geo-spatial Mission, and the National Research Foundation to accelerate innovation.

Roadmap for the Future

Citing the IMF's report, he noted India's economy grew by 66% between 2015-2025, reaching \$3.8 trillion. He reiterated India's path to a \$5 trillion economy and stressed the need for strategic investments. He praised the 'Jan-Bhagidari' model for fostering participatory governance, ensuring better implementation of budget initiatives. ■



MSME- the backbone of India's manufacturing and industrial growth: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 4 March addressed the post-Budget webinars via video conferencing. The webinars were held on MSME as an Engine of Growth; Manufacturing, Exports and Nuclear Energy Missions; Regulatory, Investment and Ease of doing business Reforms. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he remarked that the



post-budget webinars on manufacturing and export are of great importance. Mentioning that this budget is the first full budget of the Government's third term, he emphasised that the most notable aspect of this budget is its delivery, which exceeded expectations.

Pointing out that the country has witnessed consistent Government policies for over a decade, the Prime Minister highlighted that in the past 10 years, India had shown a commitment to reforms, financial discipline, transparency, and inclusive growth. He emphasized that the assurance of consistency and reforms has brought new confidence within the industry. He assured every stakeholder in manufacturing and export that this consistency will continue in the coming years.

PM emphasis on skilling to reduce costs

Highlighting that 14 sectors were currently benefiting from the PLI scheme, the Prime Minister said that under the scheme, more than 750 units have been approved, resulting in an investment of over Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, production worth over Rs. 13 lakh crore, and exports exceeding Rs. 5 lakh crore. He emphasized that this demonstrates how entrepreneurs can advance in new areas when given opportunities. Shri Modi announced the decision to launch two missions to promote manufacturing and export. He highlighted the focus on better technology and quality products, as well as the emphasis on skilling to reduce costs. He urged all stakeholders

to identify new products in demand globally that can be manufactured in India and encouraged them to approach countries with export potential strategically.

Employment opportunities for the youth

"MSME sector is the backbone of India's manufacturing and industrial growth", said the Prime Minister. He highlighted that in 2020, the Government made a significant decision to revise the definition of MSMEs after 14 years, which eliminated the fear among MSMEs that they would lose government benefits if they grew. He noted that the number of MSMEs in the country has increased to over 6 crore, providing employment opportunities to crores.

Definition of MSMEs further expanded

Shri Modi emphasized that in this budget, the definition of MSMEs has been further expanded to instill confidence in their continuous growth. This will create more employment opportunities for the youth, he said, highlighting that the biggest problem faced by MSMEs was the difficulty in obtaining loans. He added that ten years ago, MSMEs received loans worth approximately Rs. 12 lakh crore, which has now increased to around Rs. 30 lakh crore. The Prime Minister announced that in this budget, the guarantee cover for MSME loans has been doubled to Rs. 20 crore. Additionally, customized credit cards with a limit of Rs. 5 lakh will be provided to meet working capital needs. ■



LAYING THE DIGITAL PATH TO A DEVELOPED INDIA

This is just a glimpse into India's AI-powered revolution, where technology and innovation are no longer limited to labs but are transforming the lives of ordinary citizens. In many ways, this farmer's story is a microcosm of a much larger transformation that encapsulates our march towards Viksit Bharat by 2047



ASHWINI
VAISHNAV

In Baramati, Maharashtra, a small farmer is rewriting the rules of agriculture with Artificial Intelligence (AI). We are witnessing something extraordinary here: a reduction in the use of fertilisers, efficient use of water, and higher yields, all enabled by AI.

This is just a glimpse into India's AI-powered revolution, where technology and innovation are no longer limited to labs but are transforming the lives of ordinary citizens. In many ways, this farmer's story is a microcosm of a much larger transformation that encapsulates our march towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Writing the digital destiny: India is shaping its digital future with a strong focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI, semiconductor and electronics manufacturing. For decades, India has been a global leader in software but now it is making big strides in hardware manufacturing

also.

Five semiconductor plants are under construction, strengthening India's role in the global electronics sector. Today, electronics products rank among our top three exports and soon we will reach a major milestone — the launch of India's first Make-in-India chip this year.

Building AI — compute, data, and innovation: Semiconductors and electronics form the backbone,

Semiconductors and electronics form the backbone, while DPI serves as the driving force propelling India's tech revolution. India is democratising AI by making it accessible to all through a one-of-its-kind AI framework

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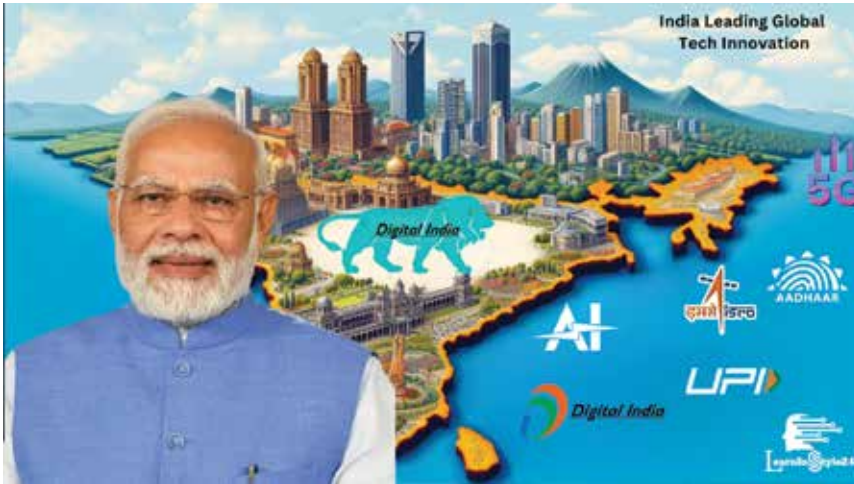
A key initiative in this regard is India's common compute facility with 18,000 plus Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). Available at a subsidised cost of under Rs 100/hour, this initiative will ensure that cutting-edge research

is accessible to researchers, startups, academia, and other stakeholders. This initiative will enable easy access of GPUs for developing AI-based systems, including the foundational models, and applications.

India is also developing large-scale, non-personal anonymised datasets to train AI models on diverse and high-quality data. This initiative will help reduce biases and improve accuracy, making AI systems more reliable and inclusive. These datasets will power AI-driven solutions across various sectors such as agriculture, weather forecasting and traffic management.

The government is facilitating the development of India's own foundational models, including Large Language Models (LLMs) and problem-specific AI solutions tailored to Indian needs. To foster AI research, multiple centres of excellence have also been set up.

India's DPI, a blueprint for digital innovation: India's pioneering work in DPI has significantly shaped the global digital landscape. Unlike corporate or State-controlled models, India's ingenious public-private approach uses public funds



India's workforce is at the heart of its digital revolution. The country is adding one Global Capability Centre (GCC) every week, reinforcing its status as a preferred destination for global research and technology and technological development.

to build platforms like Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker. Private players further innovate and create user-friendly, application-specific solutions on top of DPI.

This model is now being supercharged with AI, as financial and governance platforms like UPI and DigiLocker integrate intelligent solutions. The global interest in India's DPI framework was evident at the G20 Summit, where various countries had expressed the desire to replicate the model. Japan has granted a patent to India's UPI payment system, a testament to its scalability.

The Mahakumbh, a sangam (confluence) of tradition and tech: India leveraged its DPI and AI-driven management for seamless operations of Mahakumbh 2025, the largest human gathering ever. AI-powered tools monitored the railway passenger movement in real-time to optimise crowd

dispersal across railway stations in Prayagraj.

Bhashini, integrated into the Kumbh Sah'Al'yak Chatbot, enabled voice-based lost and found facility, real-time translation, and multilingual assistance for all. Its collaboration with various departments such as Indian Railways and UP Police streamlined communication for quick issue resolution.

By leveraging DPI, the Mahakumbh has set a global benchmark for tech-enabled management, making it more inclusive, efficient, and secure.

Building a future-ready workforce: India's workforce is at the heart of its digital revolution. The country is adding one Global Capability Centre (GCC) every week, reinforcing its status as a preferred destination for global research and technology and technological development.

However, sustaining this growth will require continuous investment in education and skill development.

The government is addressing this challenge by revamping university curricula to include AI, 5G, and semiconductor design, as per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This will ensure that graduates enter the workforce with job-ready skills, reducing the transition time between education and employment.

Pragmatic approach towards regulating AI: As India builds a future-ready workforce, its AI regulatory framework must foster innovation while ensuring responsible deployment. Unlike the "heavy-handed regulatory framework, which risks stifling innovation, or the "market-driven governance", which often concentrates power in the hands of a few, India is following a pragmatic, techno-legal approach.

Rather than relying solely on legislation to address AI-related risks, the government is investing in technological safeguards. The government is financing AI-driven projects at top universities and IITs to develop tools to tackle deepfakes, privacy concerns, and cybersecurity threats.

As AI continues to reshape global industries, India's vision is clear: Leverage technology for inclusive growth while maintaining a regulatory framework that fosters innovation. But beyond policies and infrastructure, this transformation is about our people. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways, and Information & Broadcasting, GoI)



FROM WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT TO WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT

This transformation marks a crucial distinction: Development that includes women is an essential step that provides women with access to opportunities, services, and spaces, ensuring equality. However, women-led development goes beyond inclusion. It empowers women to take the reins of leadership, drive innovation, and shape policies from the forefront



ANNPURNA DEVI

As the world celebrates the International Women's Day, I want to reflect on how India is embarking on an inspiring journey from the era of women's development to a new dawn of women-led development. This transformation marks a crucial distinction: Development that includes women is an essential step that provides women with access to opportunities, services, and spaces, ensuring equality.

However, women-led development goes beyond inclusion. It empowers women to take the reins of leadership, drive innovation, and shape policies from the forefront.

There has been a paradigm shift in how we view women's empowerment. India has emphatically declared that women are at the centre of development. The power dynamics is changing so that they can drive the change themselves. Women are not just

passive beneficiaries of policies and programmes but are now active change-makers. India envisions a future where women are at the heart of decision-making, leadership, and execution of policies, lead businesses and community initiatives. They empower the nation. As Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi says: "When women prosper, the world prospers." The progress

There has been a paradigm shift in how we view women's empowerment. India has emphatically declared that women are at the centre of development.

of women gives strength to the empowerment of our nation.

India has always cherished and upheld its rich traditions of female leadership, deeply ingrained in its cultural and historical tapestry. In the Vedic period, Gargi and Maitreyi were philosophers who participated as equals in debates with other philosophers and served as symbols of educational opportunities available to women

even in those times. Women like Rani Lakshmbai and Kittur Rani Chennamma symbolised the regional and gender diversity of India's freedom movement. Today, President Droupadi Murmu holds the distinction of being the first person belonging to a tribal community and the second woman to hold the high office. Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions were successful largely

because of India's stellar female scientists. They led these positions because 43% of India's graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses are women. The worldwide share of female STEM graduates is around 30%.

Today, women are leading in fields such as business, medicine, and the armed forces. But change isn't restricted to these alone.

Millions of women at the grassroots are being empowered across India. The National Rural Livelihoods Mission has nearly 11.5 million Lakhpati Didis, who are members of self-help groups (SHGs) and have an annual household income above Rs 1 lakh. The Drone Didi scheme



aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected SHGs between 2024-25 and 2025-2026. The drones can be used for applying liquid fertilisers and pesticides to agricultural fields, managing water resources and irrigation by identifying areas that need water, and analysing soil quality and fertility. Since its inception, over 69% of the loans provided under the PM Mudra Yojana — the government's collateral free credit scheme — have gone to women. Nearly 80% of women in India have a bank account that they operate themselves. Programmes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the Jal Jeevan Mission have benefitted nearly 100 million and 122 million households, providing access to toilets and tap water, respectively, and thereby benefiting millions of women. Under the rural housing programme, 74% of the houses registered are either solely or jointly in women's names. The government's programme to distribute free gas cylinders has helped 103 million women get access to smoke-free kitchens. As of May 2024, over 1.4 million

women were elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), which includes the position of sarpanch. This makes up 46% of the total elected representatives of PRIs. Women sarpanches have been involved in projects to improve water, solar power, paved roads, toilets, and banks in their villages.

To enable women with voice and agency to lead, an extra push is required. Our government has demonstrated commitment to this agenda through landmark legislations such as the Women's Reservation Bill that guarantees 33% of all seats in the directly elected Lok Sabha and state assemblies

To enable women with voice and agency to lead, an extra push is required. Our government has demonstrated commitment to this agenda through landmark legislations such as the Women's Reservation Bill that guarantees 33% of all seats in the directly elected Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The amendment

to the Maternity Benefit Act guarantees paid maternity leave for up to 26 weeks to the country's women. Initiatives such as the Women's Helpline and SHe-Box provide support to women in distress while the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) aims to set up 1,000 working-women's hostels across the country, fostering economic independence.

The PM's clarion call for women-led development during India's G20 presidency was endorsed by Brazil during its presidency in 2024. It is our nation's commitment towards harnessing the full potential of our women, recognising their invaluable contribution, and celebrating their role as leaders in the journey towards progress and prosperity. Let's come together and unite for #AccelerateAction, leading the charge to shape the future of India. We must all join hands, embrace change, and be a part of this inspiring journey towards progress and empowerment. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Women and Child Development, GoI)



ATALJI: A CONFLUENCE OF PURITY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEDICATION

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a remarkable confluence of honesty in personal life, decency in behavior, simplicity in nature, purity in politics, good governance in administration, and unwavering dedication to the nation. As we celebrate the birth centenary of this extraordinary leader—an inspiration to millions, a sensitive writer, a great patriot, and an 'Ajatashatru' (one without enemies)—his influence continues to resonate deeply in the lives of every Indian citizen



TARUN CHUGH

Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a remarkable confluence of honesty in personal life, decency in behavior, simplicity in nature, purity in politics, good governance in administration, and unwavering dedication to the nation. As we celebrate the birth centenary of this extraordinary leader—an inspiration to millions, a sensitive writer, a great patriot, and an 'Ajatashatru' (one without enemies)—his influence continues to resonate deeply in the lives of every Indian citizen. As a visionary Prime Minister, his contributions to economic development and social welfare continue to guide 21st-century India. Today, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is following his footsteps, striving to build a capable and prosperous India.

Atalji's legacy and contributions will forever remain immortal in the history of the nation. He was truly a gem of India, engaging in politics at the grassroots level and

securing a place in the hearts of the people. His vision for India's development is being actively carried forward by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji is recognized as a visionary statesman who re-established values and ideals in Indian politics. Whether it was instilling dedication among his supporters or earning the respect of his political opponents, he was unique in both aspects. His public life was dignified, cultured, and unblemished, which is why even his adversaries admired him. National interest was always his foremost priority. When he spoke in Parliament, even his opponents listened in silence, captivated by his logical and eloquent speeches. As a poet, he used his verses to critique social evils and inspire

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patriotism in younger generations.

This great leader, who journeyed from being an RSS Pracharak to becoming the Prime Minister of India, was born on 25 December 1924, in Gwalior. He completed his graduation from Victoria College (now Lakshmbai College) in Gwalior and obtained his post-graduate degree in first division from DAV College, Kanpur. He inherited his exceptional oratory and poetic talents from his father.

During his student life, he became a volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and later worked as a journalist. He successfully edited nationalist newspapers and magazines like 'Rashtradharma,' 'Panchjanya,' 'Swadesh,' and 'Veer Arjun' for a significant period.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji was a founding member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He worked alongside nationalist leaders such as Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. His organisational skills, intellectual prowess, and eloquence helped him carve a distinct identity. He served as the National President of the Jana Sangh from 1968 to 1973.

In 1957, he entered Parliament

for the first time, winning from the Balrampur Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh as a Jana Sangh candidate. From 1957 to 1977, he led the Jana Sangh Parliamentary Party. Even India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was impressed by his powerful speeches.

Atal Ji's personality was inclusive and amiable. In 1975, he vehemently opposed the Emergency. When the first non-Congress government was formed in 1977, he became the Foreign Minister in the Morarji Desai government. He holds the distinction of being the first Indian leader to deliver a speech in Hindi at the United Nations.

After the split of the Janata Party in 1980, Atalji, along with his colleagues, founded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and became its first National President.

In 1996, the BJP emerged as the largest party in the Lok Sabha, and he became the Prime Minister. However, this government lasted only 13 days. Despite this setback, he remained committed to strengthening the party. In 1998, the BJP once again emerged as the largest party, and Atal Ji became Prime Minister for the second time, leading a government that lasted 13 months.

During this short tenure, he demonstrated India's strength to the world by conducting nuclear tests. Despite sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union, Atal Ji faced these challenges with remarkable courage and determination.



In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections, held after India's victory in the Kargil War, the BJP emerged as the largest party once again. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji formed the government by uniting 13 parties under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). His leadership ensured that the BJP completed a full term for the first time. During this tenure, the country witnessed unprecedented progress.

During this short tenure, he demonstrated India's strength to the world by conducting nuclear tests. Despite sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union, Atal Ji faced these challenges with remarkable courage and determination

Atal Ji initiated the ambitious Golden Quadrilateral project to connect the four corners of the country—Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai—via highways, revolutionising India's road infrastructure. Under his leadership, the nation reached new heights in economic reforms.

Atal Ji was honored with numerous prestigious awards in India and abroad. In 2015, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, conferred upon him the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour.

As we commemorate his birth centenary, I pay tribute to him by recalling his inspiring words:

देखो हम बढ़ते ही जाते

**उज्ज्वलतर उज्ज्वलतम होती है
महासंगठन की ज्वाला,
प्रतिपल बढ़ती ही जाती है
चंडी के मुंडों की माला ॥**

**यह नागपुर से लगी आग
ज्योतित भारत मां का सुहाग,
उत्तर दक्षिण पूरब पश्चिम
दिश दिश गुंजा संगठन राग ॥**

**केशव के जीवन का पराग
अंतस्थल की अवरुद्ध आग,
भगवा ध्वज का संदेश त्याग
वन विजनकान्त नगरीय शान्त
पंजाब सिंधु संयुक्त प्रांत ॥**

**केरल कर्नाटक और बिहार
कर पार चला संगठन राग
हिन्दु हिन्दु मिलते जाते
देखो हम बढ़ते ही जाते ॥ ■**

(The writer is the BJP National General Secretary)

Make Assam a leading hub for industry, trade and sustainable growth: PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25 February 2025 inaugurated the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati, Assam. Welcoming all the dignitaries to the event, Shri Modi said “East India and North East India are embarking on a new journey of future today and Advantage Assam is a mega initiative to intertwine the incredible potential and progress of Assam with the world”.

He said that Advantage Assam was a representation of the same spirit and congratulated the Government and Chief Minister of Assam for organising such a grand event.

Assam's Economic Growth

Shri Modi underscored Assam's economic progress, noting that since the first Advantage Assam Summit in 2018, the state's economy has doubled from 2.75 lakh crore to nearly 6 lakh crore. He attributed this growth to policy continuity, governance reforms, and substantial investments in infrastructure, education, and industry. He highlighted Assam's ambition to become a \$150 billion economy by 2030, positioning it as a gateway to Southeast Asia.

Strengthening Connectivity

- **Bridges:** Assam had only three bridges over the Brahmaputra for 70 years. In the last decade, four new bridges have been built, with more in progress.
- **Railways:** The rail budget increased from 2,100 crore (2009-2014) to 10,000 crore, modernizing over 60 railway stations. Assam now boasts the first semi-high-speed train between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri.
- **Air Travel:** Flights on nearly 30 routes (up from just

seven in 2014) are boosting economic growth and tourism.

Industry and Manufacturing

PM Shri Modi emphasized the North East Transformative Industrialization Scheme, 'Unnati,' which aims to accelerate investments across Assam and the Northeast. He encouraged industries to explore sectors such as:

- **Petrochemicals and Natural Gas:** Assam accounts for 50% of India's onshore natural gas production.
- **Electronics and Semiconductors:** The Tata Semiconductor Assembly & Test facility in Jagiroad is positioning Assam as a key player in India's semiconductor ecosystem.

Tourism and Agriculture

PM Shri Modi recognized Assam's rich tourism and agricultural potential, highlighting the government's focus on these sectors:

- **Tourism:** Assam is being developed as a key tourism hub with infrastructure upgrades and heritage conservation projects.
- **Tea Industry:** Assam tea, a global brand for over 200 years, serves as a model for expanding Assam's agricultural exports and rural entrepreneurship.

Assam as a Key Growth Engine for India

PM Shri Modi reaffirmed Assam's strategic importance in India's economic future, urging businesses to take full advantage of its potential. He concluded by calling for collaborative efforts to make Assam a leading hub for industry, trade, and sustainable growth, reinforcing its role as a gateway to Southeast Asia and a pillar of India's economic expansion. ■



'MP AJAB HAI', 'SABSE GAJAB HAI': PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 24 February inaugurated the Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Addressing the gathering, he apologised for the delay of his entry to the event as there were board exams for the 10th and 12th standard students and his security measures enroute to the event could have caused inconvenience to the students. Shri Modi said it was his immense pride to welcome the investors and business leaders in the land of Raja Bhoj. He added that today's event was important as a Viksit Madhya Pradesh or developed Madhya Pradesh is necessary in the journey towards Viksit Bharat. He congratulated the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a wonderful organization of the summit.

the state is poised for rapid industrial growth. Modernization of airports in Gwalior and Jabalpur is further strengthening its connectivity. Additionally, 80 railway stations in MP are being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Discussing India's energy transformation, Shri Modi stated that over \$70 billion has been invested in renewable energy over the past decade, generating over 10 lakh clean energy jobs in the last year alone. Madhya Pradesh has benefited significantly, with a power generation capacity of 31,000 MW, 30% of which is from clean energy. He praised the Rewa Solar Park and the floating solar plant in Omkareshwar, along with a 50,000 crore investment in the Bina Refinery Petrochemical Complex, which aims to make MP a petrochemical hub.



Highlighting global confidence in India, Shri Modi cited statements from global institutions, including the World Bank's prediction that India will remain the fastest-growing economy and the OECD's remark that "The future of the world is in India." He mentioned India's recognition as a solar power superpower and its emergence as a crucial part of global aerospace supply chains. This growing international trust, he said, is fueling investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Modi highlighted the state's infrastructural progress, particularly the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway passing through MP, improving connectivity to ports and markets. With a road network exceeding five lakh kilometers and a fully electrified rail system,

The Prime Minister underlined water security as a key factor for industrial growth. The Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project, worth 45,000 crore, is set to improve irrigation for 10 lakh hectares of agricultural land and strengthen MP's water management. This initiative will boost the food processing, agro-industry, and textile sectors.

On tourism, he referenced MP's campaign, "MP Ajab Hai, Sabse Gajab Hai," and its efforts to develop tourism infrastructure along the Narmada River and in tribal regions. He emphasized the state's national parks and its growing health and wellness tourism potential, particularly in Ayurveda and traditional treatments. The government is promoting medical tourism under the "Heal in India" initiative, with special AYUSH visas.

Concluding his speech, Shri Modi reiterated his call for investment in Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing that now is the best time to capitalize on the state's growth trajectory. The event was attended by Madhya Pradesh Governor Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, Chief Minister Shri Mohan Yadav, and other dignitaries. ■

ENSURING FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR INDIA'S UNORGANISED WORKFORCE

“PM-SYM will assure monthly pension for the enrolled unorganized sector workers during their old age. It is for the first time since independence that such a scheme is envisaged for the crores of workers engaged in the informal sector.” - PM Shri Narendra Modi

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM), is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme launched by the Government of India to provide social security to unorganised workers. This scheme ensures a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 after the age of 60 for workers who belong to the unorganised sector and have a monthly income of up to Rs. 15,000. The scheme is a tribute to the workers in the Unorganized sectors who contribute around 50 per cent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Unorganized Workers are mostly engaged as home-based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless laborers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers or workers in similar other occupations. As per the e-Shram portal, there are over 30.51 crore unorganised workers registered, as on 31 December 2024.

Key Features of PM-SYM

The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme provides numerous benefits, ensuring financial security in old age for unorganised sector workers.

- **Minimum Assured Pension:** Rs. 3,000 per month after 60 years of age.
- **Government Contribution:** The Government of India matches the worker's contribution on a 1:1 basis.
- **Voluntary and Contributory:** The scheme is voluntary, allowing workers to contribute based on their affordability and requirement.
- **Family Pension:** If the beneficiary passes away, the spouse receives 50% of the pension amount as a family pension. Family pension is applicable only

to spouse.

- **Exit Provisions:** Participants can exit the scheme under specified conditions (detailed in section 9).
- **Easy Enrolment:** Eligible workers can register at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or through the Maandhan portal.
- **Fund Management:** The scheme is administered by LIC, ensuring financial stability and credibility.

Eligibility Criteria

To enroll in PM-SYM, individuals must meet the following eligibility conditions:

- **Age Requirement:** 18 to 40 years.
- **Income Limit:** Monthly income should be Rs. 15,000 or less.
- **Unorganised Sector Employment:** Workers engaged in professions such as:
 - Street vendors, rag pickers, rickshaw pullers
 - Construction workers, daily wage labourers
 - Agricultural workers, beedi workers
 - Domestic workers, weavers, artisans, fishermen, leather workers, etc.
- **Exclusion Criteria:**
 - Should not be covered under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), or National Pension Scheme (NPS).
 - Should not be an income taxpayer.
 - Should not be receiving benefits from any other government pension scheme.
- **Documents Required:**
 - Aadhaar Card
 - Savings bank account or Jan Dhan account details with IFSC
 - Mobile number

List of professions/occupations covered under this scheme can be accessed at: (<https://labour.gov.in/list-professions-occupations-covered>)

Contribution Structure

The contribution amount varies based on the age at the time of enrolment. The earlier a worker enrolls, the lower the monthly contribution.

Age at Entry	Monthly Contribution (by Worker)	Equal Contribution by Government
18 years	Rs. 55	Rs. 55
20 years	Rs. 65	Rs. 65
25 years	Rs. 80	Rs. 80
30 years	Rs. 105	Rs. 105
35 years	Rs. 150	Rs. 150
40 years	Rs. 200	Rs. 200

Upon reaching 60 years of age, beneficiaries start receiving a fixed pension of Rs. 3,000 per month for their lifetime.

Enrolment Process

Enrolment in PM-SYM is facilitated through Common Service Centres (CSCs) across India. The steps include:

- Visit a CSC with Aadhaar and a savings bank account.
- Provide biometric authentication using Aadhaar.
- Fill the online registration form.
- First subscription is to be paid in cash.
- Choose the auto-debit facility from the bank account.
- Receive a PM-SYM card upon successful enrolment.

All the Labour offices of State and Central Governments, all the branch offices of LIC, the offices of ESIC/EPFO will act as Facilitation Centres to give full information to the unorganised workers about the Scheme.

Implementation and Current Status

The steps taken by government to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the unorganized sector workers are:

- Holding periodic review meeting with States/ UTs.
- Regular meeting with state Common Services Centre (CSC) heads.
- Launch of new features such as Voluntary Exit, Revival Module, Claim Status and Account Statement.
- Extension of revival of dormant accounts from 1 year to 3 years.

- Two-way integration of PM-SYM and e-Shram.
- SMS campaign to create awareness.
- Communication with Chief Secretaries of States/UTs regarding enrolment under PM-SYM scheme.
- Launch of Donate-a-Pension Module to encourage the employer to pay the premium of their staff under PM-SYM pension scheme and increase the enrolment.

Exit and Withdrawal Provisions

Considering the hardships and erratic nature of employability of unorganised workers, the exit provisions of scheme have been kept flexible.

- Exit Before 10 Years: If a worker exits the scheme before 10 years, the contributed amount is refunded with savings bank interest rate.
- Exit After 10 Years but Before 60 Years: The beneficiary receives his/her share of contribution along with accumulated interest as actually earned by fund or at the savings bank interest rate, whichever is higher.
- Death Before 60 Years or Permanent Disability caused by an accident:
- The spouse can continue the scheme or
- Withdraw the contributed amount with interest as actually earned by fund or at the savings bank interest rate whichever is higher.
- Death After 60 Years: The spouse receives 50% of the pension as a family pension.
- After the death of subscriber as well as his/her spouse, the entire corpus will be credited back to the fund.

Situation of Default: If a subscriber has not paid the contribution continuously, he/she will be allowed to regularize his contribution by paying entire outstanding dues, along with penalty charges, if any, decided by the Government.

Conclusion

PM-SYM is a landmark initiative that provides financial security to millions of unorganised workers. By ensuring a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000, it helps workers lead a dignified life post-retirement. With large number of enrolments and ongoing promotional efforts, PM-SYM aims to provide universal pension coverage, creating a more inclusive social security framework in India. ■

8 Lakh Devotees Benefit with Ayush at the Maha Kumbh

Ensuring the health and safety of millions of devotees, the Ministry of Ayush on 27 February has extended comprehensive healthcare services to over eight lakh pilgrims, making their sacred journey safer and healthier during the Maha Kumbh Mela.

From setting up 20 Ayush OPDs to deploying mobile health units, over 90 doctors and 150 healthcare workers have been working tirelessly to provide continuous medical care throughout the grand spiritual event. These dedicated efforts ensured that devotees, kalpvasis, and saints could participate in the holy festivities without health concerns, particularly during the sacred Mahashivratri bath.

To ensure seamless healthcare access, three Ayush Convention Halls were setup in Sector-2, Sector-21, and Sector 24, where daily yoga and wellness sessions educated pilgrims on preventive healthcare, disease management, and holistic living. Special attention was



also given to the revered sadhus and saints, with dedicated health screenings in prominent Akharas such as Juna, Anand, Niranjani, and Vaishnav Akharas.

To further safeguard devotees from common ailments, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) launched a special initiative, distributing 10,000 Ayush Raksha kits packed with essential Ayurvedic medicines and wellness products. This initiative

was complemented by a week-long health camp, benefiting 15,000 pilgrims, reinforcing the Ministry's commitment to preventive and holistic healthcare.

Adding a green touch to the event, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) distributed over 25,000 medicinal plants—including Tulsi, Ashwagandha, Shatavari, Neem, Amla, and Curry Leaf—to devotees, promoting natural healing and reinforcing the importance of medicinal plants in daily life. ■



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



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 E-mail :

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

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PM Shri Narendra Modi visits Gir National Park on the occasion of World Wildlife Day, in Gujarat on March 03, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates and visits the wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation centre at Vantara in Gujarat on March 04, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi attends the public function to marking the International Women's Day held at Navsari, in Gujarat on March 08, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in the Public Function to marking the 'Winter Tourism Program' at Harsil in Uttarakhand on March 06, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula Von Der Leyen at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on February 28, 2025



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the inauguration of Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment & Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati, Assam on February 25, 2025



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