

SAMACHAR



DEVELOPED VILLAGES DEVELOPED INDIA

Realizing the principle of Antyodaya of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, the Central Government has given quality and dignified life to rural India with a population of more than 80 crores by ensuring socio-economic development till the last mile of the society...



“The spirit of universal welfare is the identity and strength of India”

Our strength and resources play a big role in dealing with any disaster - but at the same time, our sensitivity and the spirit of holding each other's hands are equally important. This spirit of universal welfare is the identity and strength of India. In the monthly program 'Mann Ki Baat' aired on July 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with appreciating the collective efforts of the countrymen in the natural calamities of the past, also spoke on many other topics including water conservation. Here are the highlights of the 103rd episode of Mann Ki Baat...

- **WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** Our countrymen are making new efforts for 'water conservation' with full awareness and responsibility. Some time ago, I had gone to Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh. There I met tribal brothers and sisters of Pakaria village. I also had a discussion with them to save nature and water. Now I have come to know that they have also started working on it.
- **PILGRIMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD VISIT INDIA:** Now people from all over the world are coming to our pilgrimages. I have come to know about two such American friends who had come here from California for the Amarnath Yatra. These foreign guests had heard about Swami Vivekananda's experiences related to the Amarnath Yatra. This inspired them and they came for Amarnath Yatra.
- **PRACTICING YOGA:** Charlotte Chopin, a woman of French origin, is a yoga teacher and she is more than 100 years old. She has been practicing yoga for the last 40 years. She gives the credit of her health and age of 100 years to yoga only. She has become a prominent face of India's science of yoga and its strength in the world.
- **PROUD OF HERITAGE:** A few days ago a wonderful enthusiasm was seen on social media. America has returned to us more than a hundred rare and ancient artifacts. After this news came to the fore, there was a lot of discussion on social media about these artifacts. The youth showed a sense of pride in their heritage.
- **EMOTIONAL LETTER:** The letters written to me by some mothers and sisters of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand are very emotional. They have given lot of blessings to their son and brother. They have written that they have never imagined that 'Bhojpatra', our cultural heritage, could become a means of their livelihood.
- **HAJ PILGRIMAGE WITHOUT MEHRAM:** I have also received many such letters this time, which gives great satisfaction to the mind. These letters have been written by those Muslim women who have recently performed Hajj. These are the women who have performed Hajj without any male companion i.e. Mehram.
- **CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUGS:** Efforts to increase youth participation in the campaign against drugs give a lot of strength to the campaign against drugs in India. If we have to save the future generations of the country, then we have to keep them away from drugs.
- **MINI BRAZIL:** Bicharpur is a village in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. Bicharpur is called Mini Brazil because this village has become a stronghold of the rising stars of football today.



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'ANTYODAYA' SCRIPTING RURAL INDIA JOURNEY TO MODERNITY



COVER STORY

Special initiatives and schemes have empowered villages and made them self-reliant, which is the soul of India covering a population of more than 83 crores. Quality of life has been promoted. With the efforts undertaken to realize the dream of 'Antyodaya' as envisioned by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, the poverty has come down from 22 percent to 10 percent in the last few years and the rate of extreme poverty line has also remained below one percent...

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

HOLISTIC RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PARALLEL UPLIFTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, VILLAGES, AND REGIONS

Greetings!

Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India lives in its villages. The country cannot progress unless the villages are developed. India is a country of villages. Even today, about 65 percent of the population lives in rural India. However, for a long time after independence, the potential of the villages was not given the attention it deserved. More than 60 crore people in the country lacked bank accounts. After 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a new concept of rural development: parallel development of individuals, villages, and regions is possible, which he has also realised on ground too. There was a time when it was said that no change could occur in the village. However, villages have demonstrated that they can not only bring about change, but also lead it.

Today, every family has a bank account, and the economy of the village, the facilities in the village, and the welfare of the people of the village have received top priority. The village poor have gained security and respect for the first time in the country, and the rapid pace of development has reduced poverty. The Central Government's efforts to transform the country are wholly focused on alleviating poverty.

Rural development cannot be theoretical; it requires commitment. If this country is to be prosperous, convenient, and self-sufficient, the village must be prosperous, convenient, and self-sufficient as well. To achieve India's goal of becoming a 5-trillion-dollar economy, 70 percent

of the India's potential living in villages must be connected to the economy. The fulfilment of the resolve to provide rural India with a dignified and quality life has become our cover story this time. This also includes an interview with Union Rural and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh.

In the series of personalities, the inspirational story of Paramveer AB Tarapore, special content on the Fit India Scheme on National Sports Day, development gifts from the Prime Minister to the states, the inauguration of the International Exhibition-Convention Centre, the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam inaugurated on the completion of three years of National Education Policy 2020 at Bharat Mandapam, events related to the G-20, and salutations of the grateful nation on the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 16 are included in this issue.

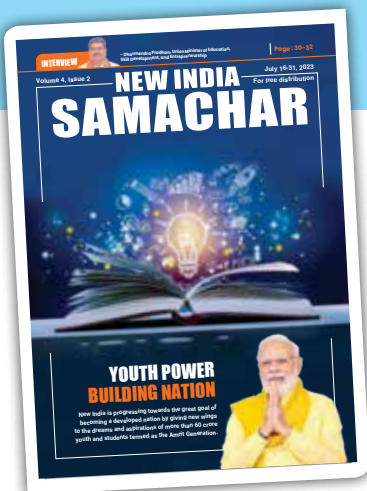
PS: To make India develop, it is necessary to develop the social systems of the villages. It is necessary to develop the economic systems of the villages in India. The soul of India resides in the villages, and considering this, the central government is moving towards Gramoday with full determination.

Keep sending your suggestions to us.

(Rajesh Malhotra)



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<https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/>



MAIL BOX

Pen is mightier than sword

The cover story published in the July 16 to 31 issue of New India Samachar titled 'Youth Power, Building Nation' is meaningful and apt in its name. The topics are extensively researched and present the work of the government very well. If this magazine reaches every youth of our country, it can reduce brain drain to a great extent. All topics covered in the magazine are excellent. In such a situation, the saying fits perfectly that the pen is mightier than the sword.



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Comprehensive and objective presentation of government policies and programs

Received the June issue of New India Samachar. Thank you very much for yet another excellent issue. The magazine provides a comprehensive and objective presentation of the implementation of the policies and programs of the Government. Along with this, relevant information is available about the administration and schemes of the government. Many congratulations to the entire team for publishing a quality magazine.



Dr. Mazhar Mehmood
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Articles published in New India Samachar are full of information

I am a regular reader of New India Samachar magazine. All the articles published are interesting and full of information, especially for people who live outside the country. I find the stories of freedom fighters and information related to their contribution to be most important. The younger generation might not have read in schools about the dedicated freedom fighters who fought and got us this freedom. The information given in the magazine about them is the biggest tribute to those freedom fighters. I would suggest publishing a book at an appropriate time from the compilation of stories published in New India Samachar. Hope you will consider doing so. Such a book can be kept in every library and home of a true Indian.



Dr. Arun Agarwal
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Read well-informed articles related to welfare schemes

I am reading New India Samachar magazine regularly. I feel very happy to read the articles published in this because it throws light on many welfare schemes of the central government for the common people of India. It also helps the students preparing for civil services to know about current affairs and general knowledge, science and technology.



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PM MODI HONoured WITH LOKMANYA TILAK AWARD; AWARDED MONEY CONTRIBUTED TO NAMAMI GANGE

The Lokmanya Tilak National Award, given by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust on the death anniversary of freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak, was given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for doing remarkable and extraordinary work for the progress and development of the nation. On August 1 in Pune, Chief Trustee Deepak Tilak presented the 41st award to PM Modi. Earlier this award has

been received by many dignitaries including Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Pranab Mukherjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Indira Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh. After receiving the honour, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Having received the honor in Pune is an unforgettable occasion of my life. I have decided to donate the amount given to me along with the award for the Namami Gange project. Lokmanya Tilak is the 'Tilak' on the forehead of our independence history. If the name of the award is associated with Lokmanya Tilak, then the sense of responsibility increases manifold. I dedicate the award to 140 crore countrymen. I also assure the countrymen that I will leave no stone unturned to serve them, fulfill their wishes and aspirations. Earlier in the year 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also dedicated an amount of Rs 1.30 crore, received at the Seoul Peace Prize in South Korea for international cooperation, to the Namami Gange project. The proceeds from the auction of the gifts that PM Modi receives in the country and abroad is also handed over to the Namami Gange project.



STEEL SLAG ROADS STRENGTHENING THE MANTRA OF 'KACHRE SE KANCHAN'

India has developed the world's latest steel road technology (Steel Slag Road) which is giving strength to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's waste to wealth mantra. This road is not only suitable for India but also 30 per cent cheaper and lasts three times longer.

Union Minister of State for Science & Technology (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh announced in New Delhi on 17 July that India has developed the world's latest steel road technology. The development of this technology has been pioneered by CSIR-CRRI which will facilitate large scale utilization of waste steel slag of steel plants in road construction. For the first time a road was made of steel slag in Surat, Gujarat, while the Border Roads Organization has used steel slag in a heavy duty road in Arunachal Pradesh. This technology has been successfully tested in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh.

- India is the second largest steel producer in the world.
- 200 kg of steel slag is generated per tonne of steel production.
- Present steel slag in the country is 1.9 crore tonnes annually, which is likely to reach 6 crore tonnes by 2030.

INDIA IMPROVES RANKING IN PASSPORT STRENGTH

India's passport has become stronger globally. As per the latest report of Henley Passport Index, the ranking of Indian passports has improved by 5 points from 2022. India ranks 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2023. With this passport, 57 countries of the world either give visa free access or the option of visa on arrival is given. In Visa on Arrival, passengers are given an immediate visa at the airport after reaching the respective country and its process is also easy. Indian passport holders need a visa to travel to 177 countries in the world, including the US, China, Japan, Russia, and European Union countries.

PM MODI TWITTER ACCOUNT HAS 9 CRORE FOLLOWERS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi now has nine crore followers on Twitter, making him one of the most followed active politicians across the world on the social media platform. With 9.03 crore followers PM Modi has more followers than United States President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Along with this, he is the most followed Indian on Twitter. His list of followers also includes Twitter chief Elon Musk who has the largest number of followers in the social network.



HIGHEST MEDAL TALLY ON FOREIGN SOIL IN A CHAMPIONSHIP

| Medal Tally : Asian Athletics Championship 2023 | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Rank | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total Medal |
| 1 | Japan | 16 | 11 | 10 | 37 |
| 2 | China | 8 | 8 | 6 | 22 |
| 3 | India | 6 | 12 | 9 | 27 |
| 4 | Sri Lanka | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | Qatar | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | Philippines | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 6 | Singapore | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

With an outstanding performance at the 25th Asian Athletics Championships 2023, the Indian contingent has created the record for winning the most medals ever in any championship held on foreign soil. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his appreciation for the outstanding performance in this championship, saying, "Our athletes won 27 medals, which is the highest medal tally of any championship on foreign soil. Congratulations to our athletes for this achievement. This makes our chest swell with pride." The 25th Asian Athletics Championships 2023 concluded on 16 July in Bangkok, Thailand. The Indian team won 6 gold medals, 12 silver and 9 bronze medals in this championship. India finished third in the overall medal table ranking behind China and Japan. This is the best performance ever on foreign soil. The previous best performance was in Bhubaneswar in 2017, where India won nine gold, six silver and 12 bronze medals. Jyothi Yarraji was the star for India, winning gold in the 100m hurdles and silver in the 200m final.

AMERICA RETURNS 105 ARTIFACTS TO INDIA



105 artifacts representing India's diverse regions and traditions that were smuggled out have been brought back from the United States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has thanked the United States for this. Responding to the Indian Embassy's tweet in Washington DC, PM Modi said, "This will make every Indian happy. Grateful to USA for this. These priceless artifacts have immense cultural and religious significance. Their return home is a testimony to our commitment to preserve our heritage and rich history."

The Indian Embassy informed that these antiquities have been handed over by the US side after the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It also includes a 12–13th century marble arch from Rajasthan, a 14–15th century Apsara from Central India, a 14–15th century Sambandar from South India and a 17–18th century bronze Nataraja statue. In the last nine years, 228 historical heritage antiques have been brought back to India from different countries of the world, while only 13 stolen idols were brought back before the year 2014. ■

AB TARAPORE

DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY IN THE 1965 WAR

BORN: 18 AUGUST 1923 | DIED: 16 SEPTEMBER 1965



In the 1965 war, Pakistan had to face defeat at the hands of India. There were many heroes of this victory. One of them was Lieutenant Colonel AB Tarapore of the Indian Army, who with his grit demolished every intention of the Pakistan Army. AB Tarapore not only displayed unparalleled courage, valour and unmatched gallantry for 6 consecutive days in the Indo-Pak War of 1965 but also made the supreme sacrifice for the country. For this extraordinary bravery, he was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra in the year 1965. His story of glory will always inspire future generations.

Although the full name of Lieutenant Colonel AB Tarapore, awarded with Param Vir Chakra, was Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore, he was fondly called 'Adi'. Tarapore was born on 18 August 1923 in Mumbai to Burzorji Tarapore and Nargish. His ancestor Ratanjiba served as a general under Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Tarapore started his military career in 1942 with the 7 Hyderabad Infantry. After independence, when Hyderabad merged with the Union of India, he was posted to the Poona Horse Regiment of the Indian Army. In the Indo-Pak War of 1965, the decisive battle took place at Phillora in Sialkot (Pakistan) from 7 to 11 September. The responsibility of taking control of this area was entrusted to the commanding officer of the Poona Horse Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel AB Tarapore. On 7 September, the regiment encountered Pakistan's Patton tanks at Phillora. In a direct fight in which Pakistan deployed Patton Tanks, considered very dangerous, the Indian Army defeated Pakistan.

Under the stewardship of Lt. Col. AB Tarapore, the snipers hit the targets so accurately that 60 tanks of the Pakistani Army were destroyed, while only 9 tanks of India were destroyed. Though wounded, he did not withdraw from the battlefield

and continued to lead the fight. During this the tank of Lt Col Tarapore was damaged, engulfed in flames. Lt Col AB Tarapore died a hero's death on 16 Sep 1965, after turning the outcome of the battle on the strength of his bravery. He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for his bravery in battle. Tarapore's last wish was that if he was killed in battle, he should be cremated there on the battlefield. According to his last wish he was cremated at Jasoran on 17 September 1965. During the battle, his commanding skills were also recognized by the Pakistani army facing him.

Giving due respect to the real life heroes of the country has always been a top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On 23 January 2023, it was decided to name 21 large uncharted islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra winners. An island in it was also named after AB Tarapore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on July 18, 2023, "We have named 21 islands after the brave sons who showed valour for the country and bestowed with Param Vir Chakra. Today, these islands of Andaman-Nicobar are giving new inspiration to the youth of the whole country for the development of the country. ■

Three years of the new National Education Policy

Wonderful confluence of antiquity-modernity

In the Amrit Kaal of Azadi, through the National Education Policy 2020, the country has started leaving behind the inferiority complex due to lack of knowledge of English. Now education from social science to engineering will also be done in Indian languages. If the youth have the confidence of the language, then their skills and talents will also come out in front. On the third anniversary of the National Education Policy 2020, which made education a part of practical learning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam at Bharat Mandapam on July 29 and released the first installment of PM SHRI Yojana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the first installment of Rs 630 crore to 6207 schools of PM SHRI Yojana and also released education and skill course books translated in 12 Indian languages. During the program, PM Modi after spending time with children in Bal Vatika said, "Some moments of joy with innocent children! Their energy and enthusiasm fills the mind with enthusiasm."

The National Education Policy 2020 has given a new identity to Holistic Development in three years of success, giving speed and new direction to the grand goal of developed India. Now there is neither the burden of heavy bags on the shoulders of the small children nor the nervousness of the long syllabus. The new policy has changed the definition of learning and teaching by turning the world of education upside down. It is a priority in the National Education Policy that education should not be limited to books only, but practical learning should be a part of it. This period is in the hands of those youth, who are taking school education or training today, they are going to prepare the country tomorrow



I speak in the Indian language at the UN. Listeners would take some time to clap. Let them.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

New books will be published in 22 Indian languages

In the new National Education Policy, the education system will now follow 5+3+3+4 pattern. Education will also start from the age of three. This will bring uniformity across the country. The National Curriculum Framework will also be implemented soon. The framework has also been prepared for children from 3 to 8 years. New textbooks are coming in 130 subjects of NCERT from 3rd to 12th. Now education has to be imparted in regional languages also, so these books will be in 22 Indian languages.

Equal education and equal opportunity

PM Modi said in the Shiksha Samagam that the priority of the National Education Policy is that every youth of India should get equal opportunity for education. Earlier, many children could not study because there were no good schools in remote areas. But today thousands of schools across the country are being upgraded as PM-SHRI schools. In this era of '5G', these modern hi-tech schools will become the medium of modern education for the students of India.

In 25 years time young generation should be like this

- Be free from the mentality of slavery.
- Be eager for new innovations.
- Brighten the name of India in every field from science to sports
- Understand the need of 21st century India, increase your potential.
- You are full of sense of duty, you know and understand your responsibilities.



SAHARA REFUND PORTAL LAUNCHED

MONEY CHEATED IN SCAM FOR YEARS FINALLY BEING RETURNED

The current central government is not only taking tough measures against corruption and corrupt people, but it is also returning the hard-earned money of small farmers and traders who have been victims of scams for years. With this action by the government, the common people's mistrust of the cooperative society will be wiped out. On July 18, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the Sahara Refund Portal to recover investors' stuck money in Sahara Group's societies.

The Ministry of Cooperation was formed with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now that there is transparency, a big beginning has also been made to return the money to the investors stuck in the scam. In consultation with all the stakeholders, efforts were made to create a system in which small investors could be thought of in a positive way, the results of which are now beginning to show. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the Central Registrar Sahara Refund Portal at <https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in> on July 18. The portal has been developed for the submission of claims by depositors of four cooperative societies of the Sahara Group, namely Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Limited,

Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited, and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited.

Such provisions have been made throughout the process to ensure that there is no room for confusion or injustice towards any genuine investor. The amount will be transferred directly to the Aadhaar-seed bank account of the depositors within 45 days of submission of their online claim after verification of their claims and uploaded documents. After the claims and uploaded documents are verified, the money will be transferred directly to the depositors' Aadhaar-seed bank accounts within 45 days of the online claim submission. Following the central government's initiative, a transparent process for returning Rs 5,000 crore to investors has begun.

Return of funds to investors begins on a trial basis

5,000

crore rupees refund initiated on a trial basis in a transparent manner

On the directives of the Supreme Court, a committee headed by a former judge was formed to oversee the start of the payment process in a transparent manner. A refund of Rs 5,000 crore was initiated in a transparent manner on a trial basis. When the payment of Rs 5,000 crore is made, an appeal will be made to the Supreme Court once again to return the amount to the remaining investors. Through the portal, the amount will be refunded first to those investors whose deposits are Rs 10,000 or more, out of which the amount up to Rs 10,000 will be paid.

Data for all four committees available online

Complete data of those four committees of Sahara for which it has been decided to return the amount of the investors has been made available online. There are about 1.78 crore small investors whose trapped money will be returned.



Applying process

The Common Service Centre (CSC) can be used to fill out the application. Investors have been asked to register themselves online through CSC. There are two key requirements for this procedure: first, the investor's Aadhaar card must be linked to his phone, and second, his Aadhaar number must be linked to his bank account. The applicant will receive notification via SMS or a portal within 45 days of the money being deposited in their account following online verification.

Entire payment process to be monitored

In accordance with the Supreme Court's instructions, former Supreme Court justice R. Subhash Reddy is overseeing and monitoring the entire payment process. To aid in the refund process for these four Sahara committees, four senior officers have been designated as officers on special duty.

The Ministry of Cooperation's website provides access to the portal. The entire payment process is now paperless and digital. The portal designed for claims submission is user-friendly.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said that the decision assumes significance in view of the fact that the people whose hard-earned money was stuck in these four cooperative societies of Sahara went unnoticed as often the agency does not think about the investors. This is the cause of the widespread mistrust and sense of insecurity that people had for the cooperative society. He said that crores of people in the country do not have capital but want to contribute to the development of the country; for this, there is no other way than the cooperative movement, so Prime Minister Modi formed a separate cooperation ministry for this. Cooperation are the only movement through which

work is being done on a large scale by combining small capital to create big capital.

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said that many times there are allegations of scams, and those who invest in them get stuck. The same is the case with Sahara. The case went on in the Supreme Court for many years, and the agencies sealed their assets and accounts. This erodes the credibility of cooperative societies. In this regard, an initiative was taken by the Central Government, and a meeting was held with all the stakeholders. It was decided that a system should be created in which everyone should rise above their claims and think about small investors. For the first time, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the work of returning the scam-ridden money of investors with transparency is beginning. ■





Rural India: To Modernity via 'Antyodaya'



India's development can only happen when the villages are developed. India can also become developed only when its villages develop. That is why today our government is working to provide every facility in the villages of India that is available in the cities.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Special rural India initiatives have empowered and made villages self-reliant, while also reducing poverty at the same rate. These initiatives cover the soul of India, i.e. more than 83 crore people.

The Union Government has consistently emphasised promoting quality of life in rural areas for equitable and inclusive growth. Its objective has been to bring about a dignified change in the lives and living standards of the villagers through socio-economic inclusion, integration, and empowerment. It is the result of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay's dream of 'Antyodaya' that the number of people forced to live in poverty has come down from 22 percent to 10 percent in the last few years, and the extreme poverty line rate has also remained below one percent.

"Let me tell you that those who know me, they also understand me. I am not for my loved ones or myself. I am here for the poor. I was born into poverty and have lived in poverty. I understand the pain of the poor."

This quote by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has frequently been reflected in his working style over the last nine years. There is no more accurate example of matching between words and deeds in governance or politics than the fact that, in recent years, the soul of India, i.e., rural India has become the basis of a developed India's resolution due to the speed with which it has developed.

"India lives in its villages", said Mahatma Gandhi at the turn of the 20th century. His words are just as relevant today, in the 21st century. Unfortunately, even after many decades, our villages continue to lack basic amenities. Even decades later, lakhs of families still lacked bank accounts and even an electric bulb in their homes, which was of great concern to any nation and its leader. The



I remember when the Jan Dhan Yojana was started, the old-fashioned people used to ask me questions like, If the poor did not have money, what would he do by opening a bank account? The burden on banks will increase. How does a bank employee work? Disappointment was expressed in different ways. But my colleagues in the banks worked day and night to open Jan Dhan accounts for the poor. If about 50 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts have been opened in the country today, it is due to the hard work of our employees working in the bank. They have a sense of service.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

reach of development could not be ensured. By the time it reached the village, 1 rupee was reduced to 15 paise. However, the change in 2014 provided the country with a powerful and strong decision-making leadership that had not only seen but also felt the problems of village poverty.

Therefore, whether it is the timely completion of the target of electrifying the remaining 18,500 villages of the country or providing LPG connection to the kitchen of every household, reaching the doorstep of more than 50 percent of the population who were away from the banking system, and providing free health insurance up to Rs. 5 lakh for better health, the list of such schemes is very long, which have freed the village-poor and deprived from decades of suffering. The principle of Antyodaya, which means upliftment of the person at the lowest rung of society, has been realised.

Rural India: The foundation of a developed India

Rural development has always been a priority for the central government. According to this year's economic review, 65 percent of the country's



population lives in rural areas, and 47 percent of the population relies on agriculture for a living. The central government is emphasising the promotion of a high standard of living in rural areas in order to achieve more equitable and inclusive growth in rural areas. Since 2015-16, the standard of living has changed continuously, according to data from the National Family Health Survey 2019-21. This year's Economic Survey data provides indicators that indicate an improvement in the villagers' standard of living. These include, among other things, people's access to electricity, the availability

Jal Jeevan Mission: Women get unique gifts

Raunak Jahan, a resident of Ramgarh in Jharkhand, said, "We have been facing drinking water problems for a long time. Since the tap has been installed, life has become easier, and time is also being saved". Janki Devi of Gorakhpur says, "The problem used to increase during the rains as it was difficult to fetch water from a distance, and sometimes there were injuries".

9.41 crore connections were made in 46 months after the launch of the mission.

- In 2019, about 3.24 crore households had connections, which increased to 12.67 crore in 2023, i.e., 65 percent of the 100 households have started getting tap water. The target is to provide tap water to all 19.46 crore households by 2024.
- A total of Rs 4 lakh crore will be spent on the Jal Jeevan Mission. Rs 5500 crore was given in 2019 budget, which became 70,000 crore in 2023.

Recent World Health Organization (WHO) Report says

- Provision of safe managed drinking water would prevent about 4 lakh deaths due to diarrheal diseases across the country.
- Universal coverage of safely managed drinking water is estimated to avert about 1.4 crore disability adjusted life years with a potential savings of Rs 8.2 lakh crore.
- If tap water is made available to every household, 6.66 crore hours of time spent in collecting water will be saved daily.



of better sources of clean drinking water, and the benefits of health insurance schemes. Women's empowerment has also gained traction. Women's participation in domestic decision-making is clearly visible. The women have their own bank accounts and use mobile phones.

The majority of the indicators relating to rural women's health and children indicate a positive change in their lives. These figures reflect steady, moderate-paced progress in rural living standards. Villages also participate in the rapid development journey, so modern infrastructure has also been developed in the villages. All-weather roads have become a witness to development due to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.



Our government also opened the vault for the development of villages. The residents of the village are my brothers and sisters. Our government started the Har Ghar Jal Yojana for the rural people. Due to this scheme in just 3-4 years, more than 9 crore rural families of the country have started getting tap water at home.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

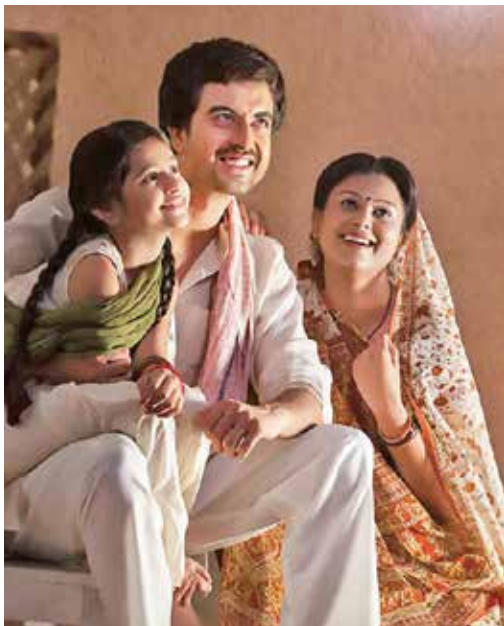
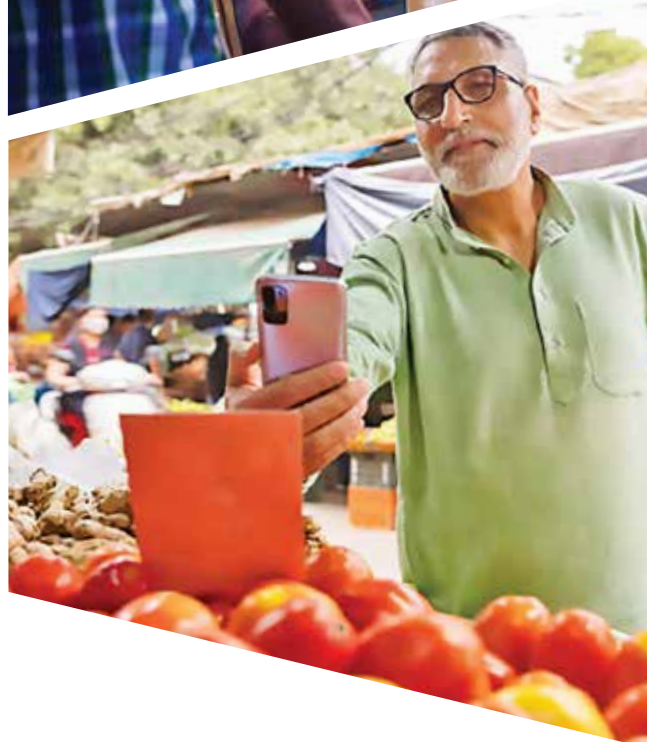
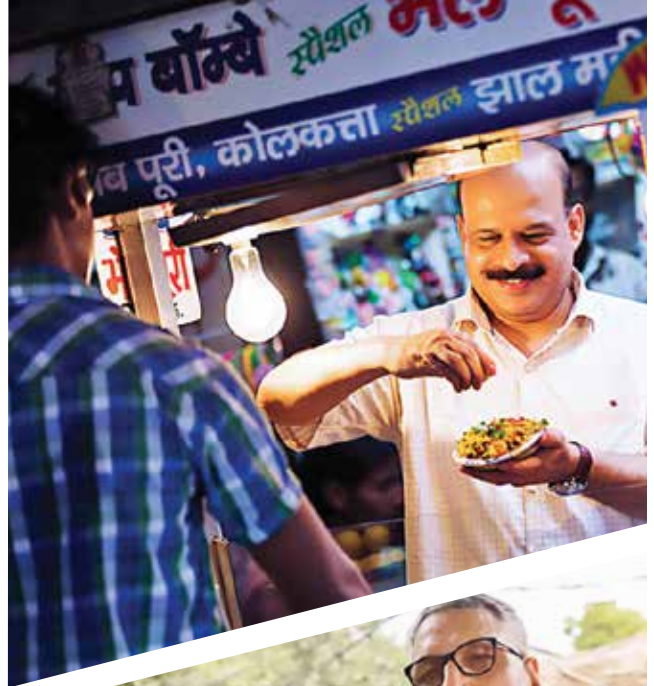
PM SVANidhi Yojana Boosts respect of street vendors

38.53

lakh beneficiaries under PM SVANidhi given 50.63 lakh loans amounting to Rs 6492 crore till July 20, 2023

Shiv Kumar says that for the second time I have received a loan of 20 thousand rupees from PM SVANidhi. With this I am able to expand my work. Our work has increased by making digital payments. Now it seems that if you stop taking money online then the work will reduce to half.

- In the PM SVANidhi Yojana, street vendors are given a guarantee-free first loan of Rs 10,000, the second loan of Rs 20,000 and the third loan of Rs 50,000.
- A mobile app has also been launched for street vendors to check application, application status, cashback details.
- The target set under PM SVANidhi Scheme for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd loans is 42 Lakh, 12 Lakh and 3 Lakh respectively by December, 2024
- Due to the promotion of digital transactions, they have done about 38 crore digital transactions.
- Loan beneficiaries in PM SVANidhi include 15.79 lakh women and 230 transgenders.
- SVANidhi Se Samridhi has been added to it, due to which their life is becoming easier by adding 8 welfare schemes.



Three-tier security of life: 55 crores got security cover

- 34.18 crore people got insurance under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana, 49% women.
- 16.19 crore people got insurance under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, 52% women.
- Atal Pension Yojana covered 5.13 crore people.

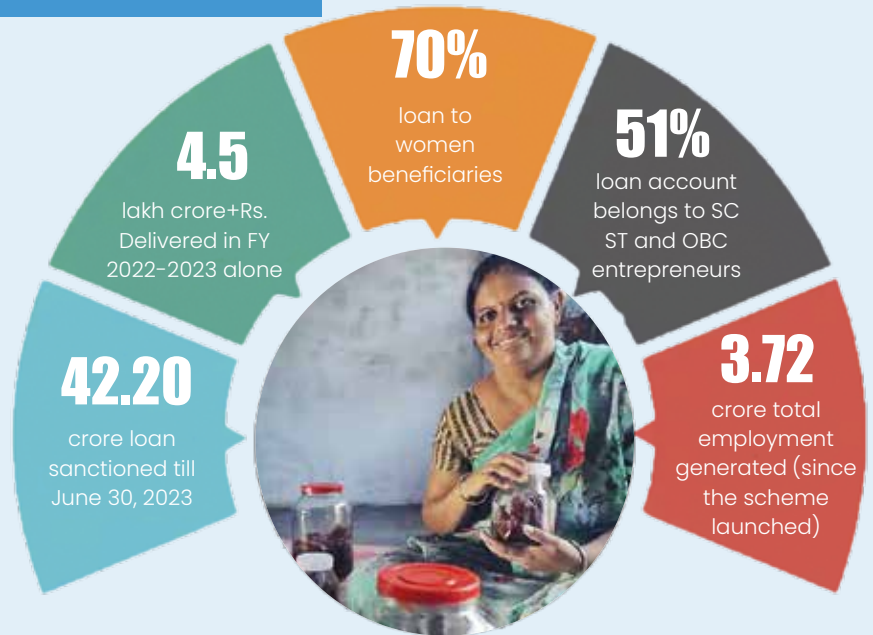
Constitutional status to National Backward Commission: Now grievance redressal too

On August 14, 2018 the present National Commission for Backward Classes was given constitutional status which has been constituted on August 11, 2018 under the Constitution (102nd Amendment) Act, 2018.

- The new Act has recognized that the backward classes need development apart from reservation.
- The present commission has been entrusted with the additional task of redressing the grievances of the backward classes.

PM Mudra Yojana: Big support for small farmer and businessman

- Tsewang Dolma of Leh-Ladakh runs a clothes shop. She says that my shop was very small earlier, then I expanded my business by taking Prime Minister Mudra loan. Now the shop is doing well. Rest of the shopkeepers can also take advantage of this scheme.
- The Mudra Yojana, which started on April 8, 2015, has helped crores of youth without bank guarantees. Under the scheme, loans are given for 50 thousand, 50 thousand to 5 lakh and 5 lakh to 10 lakh rupees under Shishu, Kishore and Tarun respectively.
- In the year 2016-17, loans for activities related to agriculture and means of income generation were included in the purview of this scheme.
- Up to Rs 10 lakh loan for the purchase of tractor and power tiller included under it in the year 2017-18.



Stand-up India: Fueled by Entrepreneurial Energy

Ankit of Noida, who always dreamed of doing something big, is an example of realizing his ambitions with help of Prime Minister's vision for Stand-up India. Ankit started printer cartridge recycling by taking a loan of Rs 70 lakh under this scheme. Ankit says "things which we could not earlier do due to lack of funds now the financial problem has been taken care of"

- Standup India Empowering SC, ST and Women entrepreneur was launched on 5th April 2016.

- The scheme is a significant achievement in the direction of promoting entrepreneurship among SC, ST and women. Entrepreneurship is being promoted under the scheme.
- Under the scheme, till March 30, 2023, a loan of Rs 43 thousand crore has been given to set up 1.90 lakh enterprises.
- Under the scheme, more than 80 percent of the loans ie Rs 34,751 crore have been given to women.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Account: The underprivileged became economically empowered

Girevva Hirgere Patil, a resident of Kathgere village, is a disabled person. He or any family member had to go 30 km away from the village to collect the pension. The whole day used to get wasted in this. After the appointment of 'Bank Mitra' under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, now money can be withdrawn in the village itself.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which became the cornerstone of people-centric initiatives, was launched on 28 August 2014. Currently Rs 2,00,590 crore is deposited in Jan Dhan accounts. A research conducted two years ago in the banking sector has revealed that in states where more Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, the crime rate has reduced.

56%
Jan Dhan account
holders are
women



- Rs 10,000 overdraft facility and accidental insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh on RuPay cards.
- Now the focus is on opening accounts of 'every adult' from 'every household'.
- There were 14.72 crore accounts in the year March 2015, increased three and a half times to 50 crores in July 2023.

Swachh Bharat Mission: Diseases reduced due to cleanliness, got dignity

Saparo Naya Sarai, a village adjacent to Ranchi in Jharkhand, had a dirty pond which people used for open defecation. But when toilets were built in all the houses of this village under the Swachh Bharat Mission, then people thought that the pond should also be made clean. Then people together built a park on its side and people started playing and doing yoga there.

Sanitation coverage for rural households was 43.8% in 2014 which increased to 100% in 2023. The World Health Organization report states that the Swachh Bharat Mission is capable of saving 3 lakh lives every year from diarrhea and protein malnutrition. A UNICEF report states that a family free from open defecation can save Rs 50,000 per year by reducing medical expenses.

11.5

crore toilets were constructed in 9 years.

The annual socio-economic benefits of sanitation were

727

dollar per household.

Food pollution reduced by

2.16

times and ground water pollution reduced by 12.7 times.

3.31

lakh villages became ODF plus. Solid waste management in 1.19 lakh villages and liquid waste management facilities in 2.68 lakh villages.



In the last nine years, technology has not only aided in the development of rural infrastructure, but internet consumption in rural areas has increased in comparison to cities. The number of Internet subscribers increased by 158 percent in urban areas and 200 percent in rural areas between 2015 and 2021.

Multi-pronged efforts have been made through various schemes to improve the villagers' standard of living and increase their income.

Means of livelihood have been made available through Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Apart from this, more than nine crore women have been empowered through self-help groups. During Covid, the production of masks by self-help groups was noteworthy. Rural women are participating holistically in economic activities. According to this fiscal year's Economic Survey, the rural Female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has

PM Awas Yojana: The Way To Housing For All

'Housing for All' target has been set by March 31, 2024 and to build 2.95 crore houses Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin was launched on 1 April 2016. By July 20, 2023, 2.92 crore houses have been approved, in which construction of 2.41 crore houses has been completed. Similarly, in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, the entire scheme except the credit linked subsidy scheme component has been extended till December, 2024. In this, till July 10, 1.19 crore houses have been approved.

4 crore houses have been given to the needy eligible people in rural and urban areas.

Over Rs
26
lakh crore was spent.

4.2
crore pucca houses with basic facilities has to be built



PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana: Providing food to the underprivileged

In order to remove the financial burden of poor beneficiaries and to ensure nationwide uniformity and effective implementation of the National Food Security Act, the Central Government has announced Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to the beneficiaries of priority families for a period of one year from January 1, 2023 who have started getting food grains free of cost. In the same scheme during the Covid-19 period, additional free food grains were distributed to 80 crore people.

80
crore beneficiaries received free food grains

1121 million metric tonnes of food grains were distributed in seven phases.

Over Rs
3.91 lakh crore was spent by the central government in this free food distribution.

risen from 19.7 percent in 2018-19 to 27.7 percent in 2020-21.

Housing for All has fulfilled the dream of a house with dignity. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, more than four crore-pucca houses have been made available to the people. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the great campaign to provide clean drinking water to 19 crore rural families is going on at a fast pace. The scheme of Amrit Sarovar under Amrit Mahotsav has given new life to the availability

of water in the villages. Be it the construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission or beyond that, the role of startups in sanitation management, the initiative of making Kanchan out of waste has changed the face of villages. Saubhagya Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Ghar Yojana has achieved a significant milestone in the direction of electrifying households without electricity in rural areas of the country and providing electricity supply to poor families in cities. In the past years,



The apprehension of mutual dispute has reduced on getting the property card under PM SVAMITVA Yojana. This will reduce the ever-increasing pressure on our police and judicial system. With this, it has now become easier for those who have got property papers in the village to get help from banks. The price of these properties in the village has also increased.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

about 40 crore cheap LED bulbs were given, due to which the electricity bill of the poor and middle class has reduced by about Rs 20 thousand crore every year.

Priority to serve the underprivileged paramount

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear as soon as he assumed power at the Centre that his government would be of, by, and for the poor. In

Demand for Khadi and village industry products strengthen Gramodaya

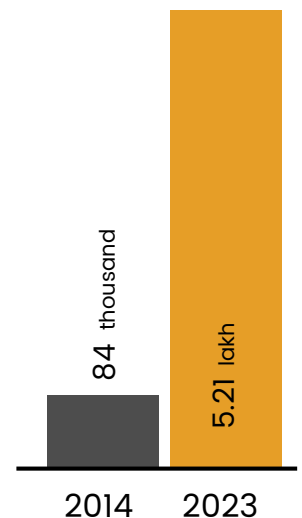
To promote Khadi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the people on many platforms including Mann Ki Baat to adopt Swadeshi and Khadi, which showed its impact. The demand for Khadi and village industry products increased, which strengthened Gramodaya.

- The year 2014-15 saw a sale of Rs 33,136 crore.
- In the year 2021-22, there was a sale of Rs 1,15,415 crore.
- Export made easy to 23 countries, Khadi trade mark registered.
- Between 2014 and 2022, 2 crore new jobs were created.
- Record sales of Rs 1.34 crore in a single day at New Delhi's Connaught Place outlet in 2022.

Common Service Center: One Stop Center of Services in Rural Areas



Launched in August 2015, the Common Service Center offers over 400 digital services. 5.21 lakh CSCs have been operationalized till May, 2023 of which 4.14 lakh are in rural areas.



short, PM Modi's central government will prioritise the welfare of the poor. This determination to eradicate poverty and bring about qualitative change in the lives of the country's villages and poor reflects economic reforms. There are numerous approaches to eradicating poverty in the country. Prime Minister Modi intends to overhaul the country, and the fabric of reforms is based on these various approaches. First, the government wants to set the country on a path of economic

Aspirational District-Aspirational Block: Partners in the Development Journey

The Aspirational Districts Program launched on 5 January 2018 covers 117 districts. In order to speed up the pace of development in the aspirational district, promising and dynamic young officers were appointed, due to which the aspirational district is reaching a better condition than the average.

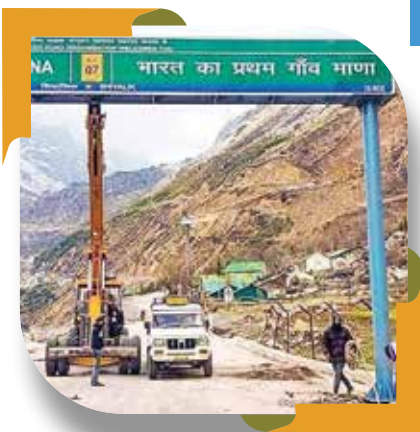


- The report of the United Nations Development Program has praised India's Aspirational District Program as a very successful model of local area development.
- This should be adopted as a best practice in other countries of the world as well.
- Based on the success of the Aspirational District Program, the Aspirational Block Program has been launched to accelerate the social development of 500 underdeveloped blocks.

Vibrant Village Program: Border villages are becoming India's first villages

Now people visiting the border area are recognizing it not as the last village but as the first village of India. The government has approved the 'Vibrant Village Programme' with a central contribution of Rs 4800 crore including Rs 2500 crore for road connectivity from the financial year 2022-23 to 2025-26.

- 'Vibrant Village Programme' launched in Arunachal Pradesh's border village Kibithu on April 10, 2023, to be completed in three phases.
- Identification of 2967 villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and northern border, their security will also be strengthened.
- This program will improve the standard of living of the border villagers, people will be encouraged to stay in the village, which will stop migration and strengthen the security of the border.



Amrit Sarovar: Increasing income generation with water

In the Amrit Mahotsav, 75 Amrit Sarovars are being built in each district under the resolution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give something to the future generation. Amrit Sarovar will not only fulfill the water requirement of the earth, but with these efforts drinking water facility will increase along with water availability, and activities like agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, afforestation are also increasing the income generation of the people.



- By August 15, 2023, a target was set to make 50 thousand Amrit Sarovar, whereas by July 27, 2023, 63,466 Amrit Sarovar have been completed.
- Amrit Sarovar is being built in at least one acre of land, which will hold at least 10,000 cubic meters of water.

development that will result in high growth rates over the next decade.

Another approach to alleviating poverty is how the current central government is helping the poor. The government is encouraging the poor to become self-reliant and capable of caring for themselves and their families. A bank account, multiple financial channels for credit and insurance, opportunities for higher education and skilling, health insurance, electricity, roads, and other essential infrastructure

facilities are now available to very poor families. On the one hand, the poor are empowered, and on the other, their social security is guaranteed. This is the third most important aspect of poverty alleviation. The government's social security fabric meets the poor's basic needs, including food (effective implementation of the Food Security Act), housing (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana), education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), healthcare, insurance (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana), and income



Our villages have maximum potential, labour power and dedication. Empowerment of villages is one of the top priorities of our government. Be it Jan Dhan Yojana, housing schemes, gas connection under Ujjwala, Har Ghar Jal Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, crores of villagers have got the benefit of all these schemes. The speed with which the country has worked for the welfare of the poor is unprecedented.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

assistance (MNREGA). No Indian should go to bed hungry or fearful of what will happen the next day. To give this motto meaning, the Modi government has used the powerful social security platform of JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile) to ensure that every person has a unique identity, a bank account, and access to government schemes via his mobile phone. Today, this social security platform provides the government's welfare services to its citizens, whose widespread influence can be seen. The lives of the poor in the country are changing dramatically. Today, every village and poor person believes that they will receive food and shelter, education and nutrition for their children, and necessary training for their youth. Almost every village is now electrified. The villages have been linked by pucca and all-weather roads, ensuring their and the country's bright futures.

The central government has made poor welfare its medium, and satisfaction, rather than appeasement, has become its base. This approach has created a protective shield for the rural poor and middle class of the country. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) has saved the country's poor from spending Rs 80,000 crore

Empowerment of women Played a key role in Covid period



The Government of India has taken several steps for the empowerment of women and girls. The present Central Government has included Mission Shakti, Mission Saksham Anganwadi, Poshan 2.0 and Mission Vatsalya with suitable modifications in the earlier running schemes.

- There are about 1.2 crore self-help groups in India, of which 88% are entirely women's self-help groups.
- Self-help groups have played a key role during the Covid 19 period apart from empowering women
- The economic empowerment of women has also had an impact on social and political empowerment. Women's participation in household decisions has increased, women have their own bank accounts and are also using mobile phones.
- During the Covid period, women self-help groups played an important role in making masks, sanitizers, distribution of essential commodities, running collective kitchens.
- The production of masks has been a significant contribution of self-help groups who have made about 17 crore masks by January, 2023.

Development of tribal areas From infrastructure to schools

- In the last 9 years, the focus has been on the economic upliftment, education and respect of the tribal society. In the current financial year, the budget for Scheduled Tribes has been increased by 5 times as compared to 2014.
- With better modern infrastructure and increased connectivity in tribal areas, tourism and income opportunities are also increasing.
- Thousands of villages which were once affected by Left Wing Extremism are now being connected with 4G connectivity.
- More than 3 thousand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been built. Lakhs of tribal people are getting benefited through more than 50 thousand Van Dhan self-help groups.
- Between 2004 and 2014, only 90 Eklavya residential schools were opened. From 2014 to March 2023, 690 Eklavya model residential schools were approved in tribal areas, of which 401 have started.
- There is a target of 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country for which recruitment of teachers has started.

Labour empowerment Received social and economic security

The reforms in labour policies in the last 9 years have ensured the empowerment of workers through minimum assured wages, job security, social security and health protection.

- 29 labour laws have been amalgamated into 4 simple labour codes.
- e-Shram Portal launched to create national data base of unorganized workers, 28.93 crore workers have registered in more than 400 occupations.
- There are 3.20 crore registered job seekers, 11.25 lakh active employers and 6.42 lakh active vacancies on the National Career Service (NCS) platform as on 31 May 2023.
- More than 1.39 crore vacancies have been mobilized on NCS. It has been integrated with e-Shram, Udyam and Skill India portals.
- Enrollment of 44.33 lakh beneficiaries till May 31, 2023 under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.
- Integrated Shram Suvidha Portal (SSP) related to labour and employment was launched on 16 October 2014.

that would have come out of their pockets. About 20 thousand crore rupees have been saved by the poor because of getting good and cheap medicines from PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra. This is not the only plan that can come in handy during a crisis. Rather, crores of families have also gotten the facility of free vaccination, free dialysis, accident insurance, and life insurance for the first time.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana is another safety net for the huge population of the country. During the Corona crisis, this scheme ensured that the poor did not go to bed hungry. The government is currently spending Rs 4 lakh crore on this food scheme. The One Nation, One Ration Card, and Jam-Trinity are all part of the security cover. Today, the poorest of the poor have the assurance that they will definitely get what is due to them. This is social justice in its truest sense. A working paper of the International Monetary Fund stated some time ago that, despite pandemics like Covid, India is on the verge of ending extreme poverty because of such schemes. This tells the story of revolutionary change and reform.

Villages handled the war against COVID

The Prime Minister had specifically mentioned the importance of the village in the war against COVID. He said that a country that has more than 6 lakh villages and 80–85 crore people living in villages effectively prevented the spread of COVID. This population is more even if the whole of Europe is merged. The Prime Minister said that if America, Russia, and Australia are combined, then the number of villagers living in India is greater. Every Indian can be proud of this. Our rural India's awareness has contributed to this success; our democratic system up to the panchayat level, our health facilities, medical centres and wellness centres, and our cleanliness campaign have all played important roles. He stated that if this had occurred in any other Western country, there would have been much discussion about this success on a global scale. However, some are hesitant because if India is praised, what will they say to the rest of the world? The Prime Minister praised the rural people and the Corona warriors for effectively working in the fight against COVID.

Prime Minister Modi's sensitivity and that time's effort surprised even the world. When the country went into lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

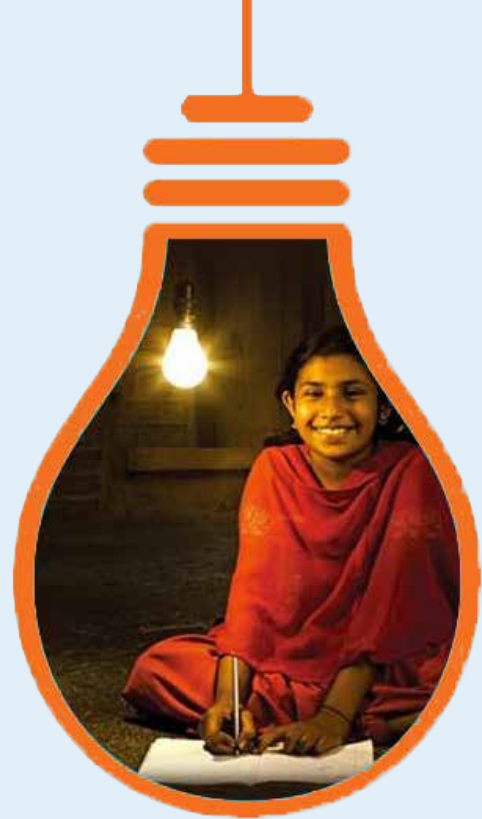


When someone has his own pucca house, how much his confidence increases, how much his ability to take risks increases. His dreams start touching the sky. The PM Awas Yojana has raised the confidence of the country's poor to a new height.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

announced a special poor welfare package worth Rs1.75 lakh crores the next day, March 26, 2020. After the country was unlocked and the economy began to recover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan on June 20, 2020, to provide employment and livelihood opportunities to migrant workers returning to villages because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Rural migrant workers' skills were identified to help provide work closer to home. As part of a campaign, projects worth Rs 50,000 crore were implemented in 116 districts across six states in 125 days. As a result of his thinking about changing the poor's lifestyle and providing them with a quality lifestyle, 25 categories of work have been identified under this campaign that can provide modern facilities in addition to basic facilities in the villages.

The goal of this campaign, which began in Telihar village in Bihar's Khagaria district, was to provide livelihood opportunities to migrant and local workers who had returned home in large numbers following the COVID pandemic. Infrastructure expansion in villages, including creating opportunities for roads, housing, anganwadis, panchayat buildings, various livelihood assets, community halls, and so on. The combination of different types of work will ensure that every migrant worker finds work based on his or her skills within 125 days. It focused on migrant workers who had returned home in 116 districts



Every house illuminates with electricity



2.86

crore houses were electrified under Saubhagya scheme.

40

crore affordable LED bulbs have been distributed over the years.



20

thousand crore rupees electricity bill of the poor and middle class was reduced

Smokeless fuel makes life pleasant



9.6

crore LPG connections were given under the Ujjwala scheme.

8.41

crore families got their cylinders refilled in the year 2022-23, in which 35 crore refills were done by PMUY families.



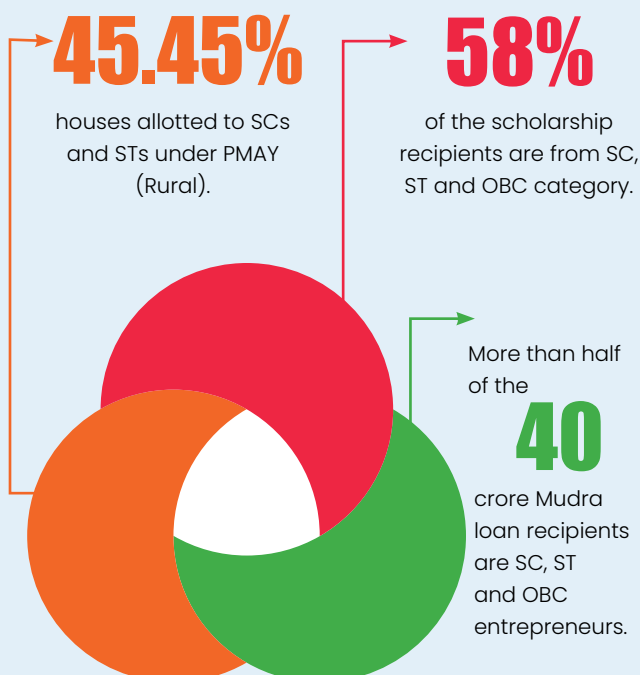
SC-ST and OBC classes are top priorities

Over
25,000

SC and ST entrepreneurs receives bank loans and business facilities under Stand Up India.



- 60% ministers are from SC, ST or OBC category in the present central government.
- Reservation of All India Quota seats in Medical Education for OBCs and EWS.
- The National Commission for Backward Classes was given constitutional status.
- 80% small and marginal farmers getting advantages from PM-Kisan are mostly from SC, ST and OBC category.
- 71% farmers covered under PM Fasal Bima Yojana from SC, ST and OBC category.



India can definitely develop. India can remove poverty. And the basis behind my belief is that it has been revealed in the report of NITI Aayog that in just five years, thirteen and a half crore people in India have come out of poverty. Other international agencies are also saying that extreme poverty in India is on the verge of ending. That is, the policies made by the country in the last 9 years, the decisions taken are taking the country in the right direction. The development of the country can happen only when the intention is clear, the policy is right, there is a suitable policy to bring meaningful change in the country.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

across six states: Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Odisha. Even then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in an interaction with the villagers, "Talking to you gave me a sense of your energy, respect, and trust that I am feeling. Such a big crisis as Corona, in front of which the whole world shook, suffered, but you stood firm. The way Corona has been fought in the villages of India; it has also given a big lesson to the cities."

Social Justice and the Welfare of the Poor

Realising the pledges of 'Garib Kalyan' made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, several beneficiary welfare schemes of the Central Government have transformed the lives of the village and the poor. According to reliable reports around the world, poverty in India has decreased rapidly. From bank accounts under Jan-Dhan Yojana to smoke-free kitchens under PM Ujjwala Yojana, from toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission



For decades, our villages and the poor were also left behind because there were no good schools for education in the villages. The children of backward and tribal society used to dream, but they had no way to fulfill them. We increased the education budget to a large extent, increased resources, opened Eklavya tribal schools. Our tribal youth have benefited a lot from this.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Identifying symbols of social empowerment Panchteerth, Tribal Day, Tribal Museum

Panchteerth means five memorials dedicated to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. These include the birthplace of Mhow, Shiksha bhoomi the place in London where he resided for studies, Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, the Mahaparinirvana site at Delhi and the Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai. Today, from India to England, all the places associated with Dr. Ambedkar are being developed as Panchteerth.

- Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary was celebrated as Constitution Day from 26 November 2015.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has so far approved the construction of 10 Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums. These museums will preserve the memories of tribal freedom fighters.



- From the year 2021, the beginning of celebrating the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda on November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas'.

to pure water taps through Jal Jeevan Mission, from providing financial support to small farmers through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, creating employment and self-employment opportunities by providing financial assistance to small and medium industries, many commendable work has been done in the last 9 years. Through them, the lives of the village and the poor have changed.

In the last nine years, under the leadership of PM Modi, work has been done in line with the basic spirit of social justice. The policies and schemes of the present Central Government have always been dedicated to the social and economic upliftment of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, women and economically

weaker sections. The work of establishing the places associated with the life of the great national hero Babasaheb Ambedkar ji, who raised his voice for the interests of the deprived society, as Panchteerth has been done during this period. These places inspire equality and harmony in society. If the steps of the Central Government are compared, then, in the interest of the Scheduled Caste-Tribe society, more steps have been taken in the last nine years than ever before. Year after year, there has been an increase in the budget for the social, educational, and economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Dalit and tribal communities have also been given priority in the beneficiary schemes of the central government.

Facilities for Divyangjan: The Accessible Way

Persons with disabilities have been one of the top priorities of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On December 27, 2015, in the Mann Ki Baat program, PM Modi talked about using the word Divyang for the first time instead of handicapped.

- Assistive devices are being distributed by organizing camps for Divyangjan, 13,528 camps have been organized since 2014. More than 24.45 lakh Divyangjans have been empowered through this.
- Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016, the existing types of persons with disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21.
- On December 3, 2015, the Accessible India Campaign was launched in which 1,630 buildings, including 1,030 central government buildings, were given accessibility features.
- 11.7 lakh schools given accessibility facility
- More than 600 government websites made accessible.
- 80 airports and 709 identified railway stations have been made accessible.



I applaud the perseverance and achievements of our Divyang sisters and brothers. Our Government has taken several initiatives, which have created opportunities for persons with disabilities and enabled them to shine.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

To ensure the economic empowerment of the Dalit community and their participation in self-employment, the central government is prioritising easy loans under the stand-up scheme, the Mudra scheme. Because of these programmes, people from the SC-ST community are emerging in education, industry, employment, service, and the social sector. Be it representation in the Union Cabinet or the initiative to elect Ramnath Kovind, a Dalit, as President in 2017 and Draupadi Murmu, a tribal symbol, as President in 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi prioritised rural India, and it has actually reflected his commitment to the overall development of the underprivileged society. The Central Government has granted the Backward

Classes Commission constitutional status, which has been pending for decades, in order to empower the socially and educationally backward classes. The policy decision of the Central Government has increased the opportunities for students coming from backward classes in the medical field. Great efforts have been made to ensure the participation of the OBC community in education and employment.

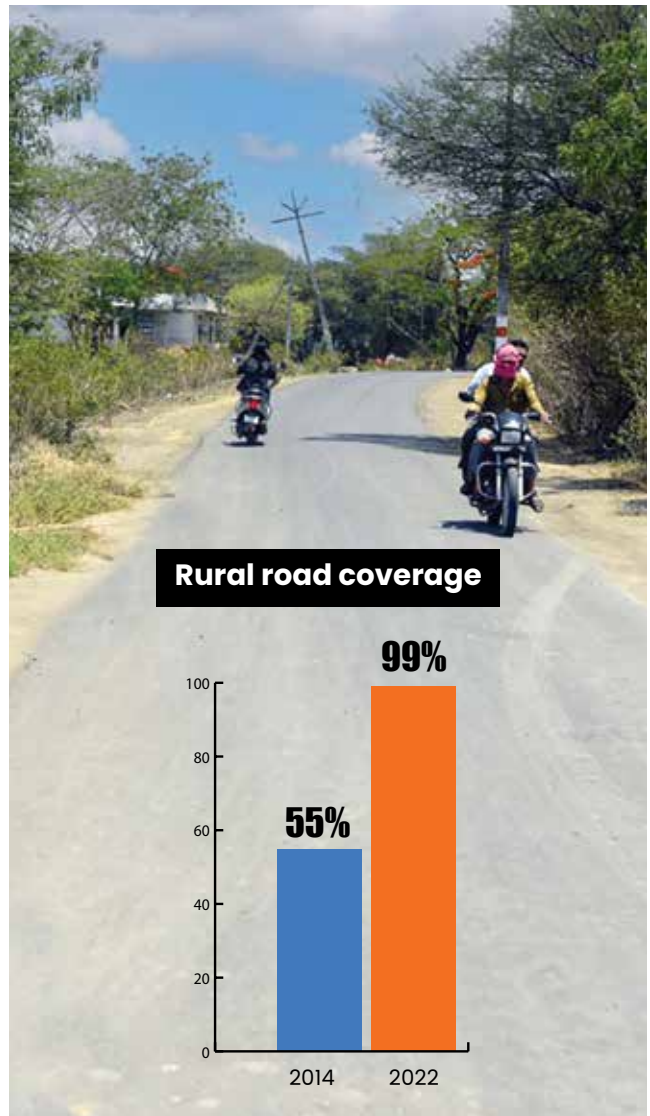
Poverty declining rapidly in rural areas

The Central Government's efforts have helped 13.5 crore Indians get out of multidimensional poverty in just the last five years. According to the NITI report, the number of multidimensional poor in India has

Burgeoning infrastructure in rural areas Increased connectivity to the farm

Now the road goes till my farm, this was told by Janakram, a resident of Penderbera village while talking about road connectivity in his village. When a village gets a good, 'all-weather road' network, it changes the fortunes of the entire village. They can go to towns and cities to sell their crops. Teachers and students reach school on time and government officials do not hesitate to visit the village. When an ambulance arrives, a precious life is saved. Roads lead people to business and employment.

- In the 10 years before 2014, about 6,000 panchayat buildings were built with the help of the central government. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has built more than 30 thousand new panchayat buildings in 9 years.
- Before 2014, less than 70 gram panchayats in the country were connected with optical fibre. The present central government has taken optical fiber to more than two lakh panchayats of the country.
- Prior to 2014, the Finance Commission grant for Panchayats was less than 70 thousand crore rupees. Now the grant received by the panchayats has crossed Rs 2 lakh crore.
- In the last 9 years, about 3,60,355 km of rural roads have been added, as against 3,81,315 km added in about 70 years.
- 7,41,670 km of roads have been built so far under the plan.



decreased from 24.85% in 2015-16 to 14.96% in 2019-2021. During this time, urban poverty fell from 8.65 percent to 5.27 percent, while rural poverty fell from 32.59 percent to 19.28 percent. In Uttar Pradesh, 3.43 crore people were lifted out of multidimensional poverty, representing the largest reduction in the number of poor. According to the report, which provides multidimensional poverty estimates for 36 states and union territories as well as 707 administrative districts, the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan have seen the greatest reduction in the proportion of multidimensional poor.

Improvements in nutrition, school years, sanitation, and the availability of cooking gas



No matter where we reach, settle in big cities or any corner of the world, if we have lived in village, our village will never leaves us. It resides in our veins, it is always in our thoughts. That is why we say that the soul of India resides in the village, because the village resides in our souls.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

According to a report by NITI Aayog, between 2015-16 to 2019-21, more than 13.5 crore people have come out of poverty.



The village culture, rituals and the struggles associated with us have shaped many people like us and strengthened our values. This is the strength of our democracy. In India even the poorest person born in a village can reach the post of President-Prime Minister-Governor-Chief Minister.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

have all contributed significantly to poverty reduction. This second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index based on the latest National Family Health Survey NFHS-5 (2019-21) captures India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between the two surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21). The National Multidimensional Poverty Index measures all three dimensions - health, education and standard of living. The 12 parameters include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, kitchen non-availability, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets and bank accounts

All of these have seen remarkable improvements in the last few years. All 12 parameters of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) have improved significantly. Flagship programmes like POSHAN Abhiyaan and Anaemia Mukta Bharat have helped to close health gaps, while initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have helped to improve sanitation across the country. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), which provides subsidised cooking gas, has positively impacted people's lives. Initiatives such as Saubhagya, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), and Samagra Shiksha have also contributed significantly to the reduction of multidimensional poverty.

A contemporary and futuristic vision of development

The present government at the Centre is a new energy-driven triumvirate, which has created an atmosphere of trust in the country through its policies, programmes, and schemes for a new India, for a developed nation, and for fulfilling the regional aspirations of the people. Its resolve, agenda, spirit, and path are also positive. When there is a stable government in the country, the country takes timeless decisions. In the true sense, under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the all-inclusive development of the country is taking place and a new story is being written. Work is being done for the welfare and upliftment of villages, the poor, farmers, Dalits, backward, deprived, tribals, youth, and women, so that all sections of society get an opportunity to move forward.

The Central Government's schemes have given even the poorest of the poor in the country a sense of respect and security. For the first time in the country, the poor have safety and dignity. Those who were made to realise for decades that they were a burden on the country's development are now speeding up the country's development. That is why, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, "When the government was launching these schemes, some people mocked us. However, these schemes have now given impetus to India's rapid development; they have become the basis for building a developed India." Poor, dalit, underprivileged, backward, tribal, general class, middle class—everyone's lives have changed dramatically in the last nine years. Certainly, in the country today, work is being done with a holistic approach and in mission mode. During this time, the government's thinking has changed, and the principle of service is being reflected on the ground. Rural India, known as the soul of India, is now the charioteer of a developed India's resolution because this journey of change is both contemporary and futuristic. ■



**INTERVIEW - GIRIRAJ SINGH,
UNION MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

“WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CHANGING SCENARIO AND CHANGING PATH”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government, dedicated to service-good governance and poor welfare, giving priority to the underprivileged, has transformed rural India. On these issues Senior Consulting Editor Santosh Kumar and Assistant Consulting Editor Akhilesh Kumar interacted with Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh. Here are excerpts from the conversation:

- **The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India resides in the village. What steps have been taken to empower the rural sector?**
- Rural India still has more than 80 crore population. According to the 2011 census, there are 19.5 crore households. Most of them are farmers and labourers. The Prime Minister has done the work of increasing the MSP for the farmers. Earlier there was only MSP for paddy and wheat. Today pulses and oilseeds also have MSP. The MSP has increased by about 70%. Not only this, the farmer does not have to bother that urea which he is sprinkling today is Rs.7 per kg or expensive because the government is making it available cheaply. About two and a half lakh crore rupees are being given as subsidies to the farmers. In the form of Kisan Samman Nidhi, farmers are being given assistance of Rs 6 thousand every year for fertilizers and seeds. Earlier, for fertilizers and seeds, they used to borrow money from moneylenders or any other person and there was a burden of repaying them. The Prime Minister has worked in the interest of the farmers. Encourages natural farming and setting up nano urea factories.
- **What kind of efforts have been made by the Center to strengthen the infrastructure in the villages?**
- I thank the late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who worked to connect the villages of India by bringing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Then Narendra Modi ji as the Prime Minister has taken it forward. When our government came in 2014, there were about 4 lakh km of roads, but now under this scheme the figure has reached about 7.5 lakh km. We are making an effort in the whole country to have the soul of a village and a system of a city. In order to strengthen connectivity, we are now trying to find out how to connect rural roads with national and state highways. Under MGNREGA too, wealth creation in villages has doubled as compared to earlier. When we came to the government, the budget for MGNREGA was Rs 35 thousand crore. If we look at the figures, there was a budget of Rs 62 thousand crore in 2019-20, but Rs 1.10 lakh crore was spent. In 2020-21, Rs 98 thousand crore was spent on a budget of Rs 72 thousand crore. It was Rs 90 thousand crores in 2022-23. Actually this is not only budget based. Transparency is the biggest thing under the leadership of Modi ji. Today almost 100 per cent MGNREGA accounts are linked to the bank. Nearly 97% beneficiaries have been given money by linking Aadhaar. Women's participation is around 56%. Today Amrit Sarovar has also been linked

with MGNREGA. Special campaigns are going on for water conservation. More Amrit Sarovars have been built so far than the target. Panchayats are being given 4 times more money than before. Panchayats are being made carbon neutral. Work is being done in the direction of Green Panchayat so that the water of the village goes to the village and the water of the fields goes to the fields.

- **In order to meet the basic needs of the village, how have the issues pending for decades been resolved?**
- Today, with the vision and cooperation of Prime Minister Modi, every household is being given toilets and water. We are engaged in making education-rich panchayats, carbon-neutral panchayats and employment-rich panchayats. About 10 crore women from every family in rural areas are being linked to self-help groups. Women are not only associated with this for livelihood, but have also become an example. Property is being digitized under SVAMITVA Yojana. The registry is being digitized. Now it is our endeavor to link the digitization of property with the courts so that the disposal of civil cases is quick. The role of panchayats is important in disaster management. For this, a letter has been written to the Chief Ministers of the states. Similarly, the world's benchmark regarding NPA is 2 per cent, it is 1.8 per cent in self-help groups. Whereas in earlier times it was up to 9 percent. Banking sector reforms and e-governance initiatives have made villages prosperous.
- **Recently, in a report of NITI Aayog, it has been revealed that in the last few years, due to the efforts of the Central Government, more than 13 crore population has come out of the poverty line, in which the fastest reduction in poverty has been seen in rural areas?**
- In fact, 13.5 crore people have come out of the poverty line, so people ask how it happened? Housing - In 29 years, Indira Awas has built only three crore houses and now in less than nine years, three crore houses have been built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Rural. Those who do not see poverty, they talk to those who were sleeping under the roof. Today, 2 lakh 15 thousand crore rupees have been spent in the village under MGNREGA in 9 years. Ujjwala provided cooking gas connections, Jan Dhan account linked all the families of the village to the bank. Look at Ayushman Bharat that if someone fell ill in the house



How do you see the road ahead for a strong rural India?

See, the Prime Minister has always been dedicated to the welfare of the poor and the villages. There is an experience of life in his every policy and plan, so he associates himself with the poor. He believes that India will develop only when the villages of India develop. In this direction, incomparable efforts have been implemented in the last 9 years. Now in the next five years, we have to walk on the path of changing picture of rural India, where no house will be found without a roof. Self-employment has got a new dimension and the definition of employment has changed at the village level. The village has benefited from the reach of technology and whether it is internet consumption or benefits of other schemes, the village is looking ahead. So I can say that we are moving forward with a changing picture and a changing path.

of a poor person, he had to sell his jewelery or farm, otherwise he would be suffering. Now for the first time insurance of Rs 5 lakhs was given. Modi ji has taken all measures to bring changes in the lives of the poor.

- **How is the principle of Antyodaya of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay being realized?**
- Antyodaya is a poor welfare scheme. Today, 80 crore people are being given food grains in the country. People who do not face hunger cannot experience it. See how the village became the biggest support during the Covid period itself. The Prime Minister himself said that the strength shown by the villages during the Covid period helped in winning the war against Corona. If the vaccine was available for 1200 or 12 thousand, then the capable people would have taken it. Would the poor be able to take it? Is there a record till date that the vaccine has reached before 22-25 years? There is a saying - the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. Some people go to Kalavati's house and understand poverty. No one can plan for poverty alleviation by learning from Kalavati's house. Prime Minister Modi himself has seen poverty, lived in poverty. That's why only one who has seen and lived poverty will make the right plan for the poor. ■

INAUGURATION OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION-CUM-CONVENTION CENTER (PRAGATI MAIDAN)

'BHARAT MANDAPAM' PROOF OF INDIA'S STRENGTH, STRONG WILL

Today the changing India is moving forward with a proper policy to bring about a clear and meaningful change. The revolution of rebuilding is going on in India by providing permanent solutions to the old challenges. In the last 9 years, about 34 lakh crore rupees have been spent for the construction of modern infrastructure. The speed and scale at which India is working on new airports, expressways, rail lines, bridges and new hospitals today is unprecedented. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Center 'Bharat Mandapam' complex in New Delhi on July 26.

To grow, we have to think big. Big goals have to be achieved. Therefore, adopting the principle of "Think Big, Dream Big, Act Big", India is moving fast today. At the inauguration of the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Center (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that 'Bharat Mandapam' is an invocation of India's potential, India's new energy. 'Bharat Mandapam' is a vision of India's grandeur and India's will. In the difficult period of Corona, when work was stopped everywhere, the labourers of our country completed its construction by working day and night. Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the new ITPO International Exhibition-cum-Convention Center and honoured the workers involved in the construction of the centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes that no country or society can move forward by thinking in pieces or working in pieces. 'Bharat Mandapam' is also a witness to how our government is working in a holistic manner with visionary thinking. E-conference visa facility is being provided to more than 160 countries so that big companies from India and abroad can come here. Arrangements were made for the entire supply chain for its execution. Delhi has got a modern and futuristic International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, which will give a boost to convention tourism in India, attracting people from all over the world. The economic and tourism related benefits of the center will also be manifold. This will help big exhibitors from India and abroad and will also become a medium to showcase our startups.

Key Features of the Convention Center

- Largest convention center in India: One of the 10 largest exhibition and convention clusters in the world (similar to Frankfurt and Shanghai).
- 1.5 lakh sq. mts covered area.
- 7,000 people can sit at one time which is equipped with a magnificent multipurpose hall and plenary. Seating facility for more people than the Opera House in Sydney, Australia.
- Friendly building for physically challenged and senior citizens.
- Global platform for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Artisans.
- Facility with fast 5G internet and 10G intranet bandwidth.
- Epitomizes Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat showcasing the country's finest artifacts and selected materials.
- More than 5,500 vehicles parking facility
- 7 new and excellent exhibition halls and 3 grand open area amphitheater.
- Excellent road connectivity and close to five star hotels.
- Equipped with Integrated Command & Control Room for 24x7 monitoring.
- Luxury, secure luggage movement, multi-cuisine food and beverages, all in one place.



Revolution of innovation in India

In 70 years only around 20 thousand kilometers of rail lines were electrified in India. Whereas in the last 9 years, about 40 thousand kilometers of rail lines have been electrified in India.

In the country before 2014

600

meter new metro lines were built every month

- There were less than 4 lakh km of rural roads.
- There were around 70 airports.
- City Gas Distribution System in only 60 cities.

Present

6000

meter new metro lines being built every month

- More than 7.41 lakh kms.
- Around 150.
- Now reached in more than 600 cities.

The world's largest museum of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat will be built in Delhi

Prime Minister Modi said in the program that soon the world's largest museum – Yuge-Yugeen Bharat National Museum is going to be built in Delhi. At the International Museum Expo 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the virtual walkthrough of this National Museum to be built in North and South Block. The museum is a comprehensive effort to highlight and showcase historical events, personalities, ideas and achievements from India's past that have contributed to the making of India's present.

- Today's new generation is getting a chance to know about all the former Prime Ministers of the country from the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in Delhi.
- Today Delhi has the National War Memorial, Police Memorial, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Memorial. Today, work is going on at a fast pace for the modern offices of the government around Kartavya Path.
- The constructions that have been done in Delhi in the past years are increasing the pride of the country. Seeing the new Parliament of the country, Indians are feeling immense pride.

In the program, Prime Minister Modi said, "We have set out with the dream of a capable India, a developed India. We have to give India that height, we have to reach that success, which every freedom fighter had dreamed of. The inspiration

behind 'Bharat Mandapam' is Lord Basaveshwara's 'Anubhav Mandapam'. Anubhav Mandapam means debate and democratic method of dialogue, Anubhav Mandapam means expression, opinion. ■





CENTER SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RAJASTHAN

NEW RECORDS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, FARMERS BECOMING PROSPEROUS

Today India is witnessing an unprecedented and unique journey of development. In the last 9 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become one of the top 5 economies of the world. With the contribution of the farmers, the agriculture sector is also contributing in this development journey. The Government of India has always been devoted to the welfare of the farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 14th installment of Kisan Samman Nidhi to farmers from Sikar, Rajasthan on July 27. Along with it 10 medical colleges were either inaugurated or foundation stone was laid apart from dedicating various development projects to the nation.

India's development can happen only when the villages of India are developed. This is the reason why many initiatives of the Government of India, from soil testing and irrigation to fertiliser, from seed and insurance to market, from credit card to Samman Nidhi and from FPO to Kisan Samriddhi Kendras, are also strengthening our farmers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given many gifts to the farmers. More than 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendras were dedicated to the nation. Along with this, Rajasthan also got many gifts of development. On the occasion of foundation stone/inauguration of various projects in Sikar, Rajasthan, Prime Minister Modi said, "Farmers will get seeds and fertilizers only at Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendras.

Apart from this, tools and other machines related to farming will also be available at these centres. These centers will give every information related to farming to the farmers. Other facilities related to farming such as fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, soil, seed testing, equipment and other information about government schemes will also be available at the Kisan Samriddhi Kendras, so that the farmers can do farming in a better way.

There was a time when a large population of the country was deprived of health services. Means, crores of people always used to live by risking their lives on luck. It was assumed that good hospitals are only in Delhi-Jaipur or big cities. Now this situation is changing. Today new AIIMS are opening in every part

Laying of foundation stone and inauguration of various development projects in Sikar, Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (PMKSK) to the nation. These kendras should contribute more effectively in enriching and empowering the farmers, therefore there is a plan to set up 2.80 lakh Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samriddhi Kendras at the district, block and village levels across the country.
- Prime Minister Modi launched Urea Gold. This is a new variety of urea, which will be coated with sulfur. Sulfur Coated Urea will solve the problem of sulfur deficiency in the soil right from the start.
- This innovative fertilizer, more economical and effective than neem-coated urea, improves nitrogen use efficiency in plants, reduces fertilizer consumption and enhances crop quality.
- PM Modi launched the inclusion of 1600 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) on the Open Network of Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- The 14th installment under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) was released. After Rs 17,000 crore of this instalment, till now an amount of Rs 2.60 lakh crore has been transferred to the farmers.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated five new medical colleges at Chittorgarh, Dholpur, Sirohi, Sikar and Sriganganagar. Also laid the foundation stone of seven medical colleges at Baran, Bundi, Karauli, Jhunjhunu, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer and Tonk.



- The five medical colleges inaugurated have been developed at a cost of over Rs 1,400 crore while the seven medical colleges for which foundation stones were laid will cost Rs 2,275 crore.
- With the establishment of these 12 new medical colleges, the number of MBBS seats in the state will increase to 6,275 as against 1,750 seats in 2013-14. Thus the number of seats will increase by 258 percent.
- As of 2014, there were only 10 medical colleges in the state of Rajasthan. With the efforts of the central government, the number of medical colleges in the state has gone up to 35, which shows an increase of 250 per cent.
- Inauguration of six Eklavya Model Residential Schools located in Udaipur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Dungarpur districts. During the program, PM Modi also inaugurated Kendriya Vidyalaya Tinwari, Jodhpur.

of the country, new medical colleges are opening. In the program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today the number of medical colleges in the country has crossed 700. Nearly 8-9 years ago there were only 10 medical colleges in Rajasthan. Today the number of medical colleges in Rajasthan has increased to 35. Due to this, good treatment facilities are being made available in and around your district, and a large number of doctors are also graduating from them. The new medical colleges that Rajasthan has got, will benefit many areas including Baran, Bundi, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Jhunjhunu, Jaisalmer, Dholpur, Chittorgarh, Sirohi and Sikar. Besides this, Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated six Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Rajasthan which will benefit the tribal population living here. ■

Rajasthan is a state whose splendor has enchanted the world for centuries. We have to preserve that heritage while taking it to the height of modern development. In the last few months, Rajasthan has got two modern expressways, which are writing a new saga of development. Vande Bharat Express train is being run from the state. Now, if Rajasthan calls out 'Padharo mahare desh' then expressways and better rail facilities will welcome the tourists.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister





INAUGURATION OF NEW TERMINAL BUILDING AT PORT BLAIR

AFTER BIG AND SMALL CITIES PACE OF DEVELOPMENT REACHES ISLANDS

Andaman and Nicobar is an island group situated in the Bay of Bengal which is famous for its white sand and tropical rainforests. This island is also famous for its natural beauty and adventure travel. Many tourists want to go there but change their destination plan due to limited connectivity here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 18 inaugurated the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport built at a cost of Rs 710 crore at Port Blair, giving a boost to development and connectivity.

In the past due to the slow pace of the working of the government, the scope of development in the country was limited to big cities for a long time. As a result, the people of small towns and rural areas started seeing their future in big cities only. With the change of government at the center came a change in the way of working and thinking. In the last nine years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

a new story is being written for the development of island groups along with big and small cities of the country. The pace of development in the Islands can be gauged from the fact that a budget of Rs 23,000 crore was allocated to Andaman and Nicobar in the nine years of the previous government, while the present government has allocated a budget of Rs 48,000 crore in the last nine years.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PORT BLAIR AIRPORT



Rupees

710

crore spent on new integrated terminal building



Now

40,800

square meters is the total built-up area of the new terminal

50

lakh passengers annual capacity has been developed

Rupees

80

crores Apron suitable for two Boeing-767-400 and two Airbus-321 types of aircraft has also been constructed at Port Blair Airport

- The architectural design of the airport terminal is designed like a conch shell structure depicting the sea and islands.
- Construction of a double insulated roofing system to reduce heat in the airport terminal building.
- An on-site sewage treatment plant with 100% of treated wastewater reused for landscaping.
- Rainwater harvesting in an underground water tank to ensure minimum negative impact on the environment.



Now a new model of progress has developed in India. This model is of inclusion, taking everyone along. This model is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

**-Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

At present every person in Andaman and Nicobar has a bank account. There is a facility of One Nation One Ration Card. The present central government also established a medical college in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman-Nicobar. Not only this, the internet on such islands would have been completely dependent on satellites, but as a result of the modern thinking of the present government, an initiative has been taken to lay optical fiber for hundreds of kilometers under the sea. Mobile connectivity, health infrastructure, airport facilities and roads boost tourist arrivals. This is the reason why the number of tourists has doubled compared to the year 2014. After increasing the facilities, there has been a rapid increase in the number of tourists coming here from different parts of the country for adventure sports like snorkelling, scuba diving and sea-cruise.

The new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport inaugurated by PM Modi is capable of handling about 50 lakh passengers annually. People who wanted to visit Andaman have been demanding for a long time to increase the passenger capacity at the airport here. Till now the existing terminal had the capacity to handle 4,000 tourists and the new terminal has increased this number to 11,000. Not only this, after the expansion of the airport, now 10 aircraft can be parked here at any time. With the increase in the number of flights, jobs in the tourism and aviation sector will increase here and it will also be easier to do business.

On this occasion, PM Modi said that the tribal and island areas of the country were deprived of development for a long time, but in the last nine years, the present government at the Center has not only rectified the mistakes of the previous governments with full sensitivity, but has also created a new system. A new model of inclusive development has emerged in India. It is the present government that has renamed Ross Island as Netaji Subhash Island, Havelock and Neil Island as Swaraj and Shaheed Islands. In addition, 21 islands have been named after Param Vir Chakra awardees. PM Modi believes that the development of the Andaman-Nicobar Islands has now become a source of inspiration for the youth of the country. ■





DREAM OF YOUTH POWER TAKING A NEW FLIGHT

India is the world's youngest country, moving forward on the strength of its youth's hard work and enterprise. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving a new identity to the nation's youth power. Over the last nine years, the central government has not only created job opportunities, but has also ensured that young people get jobs in a timely manner. On July 22, over 70,000 appointment letters were distributed to those newly recruited at the 7th Rashtriya Rozgar Mela.

Mukta Agarwal, who got the appointment letter through the job fair, says, "I have received the appointment letter. I have been selected for the post of Inspector through the SSC. I heartily thank the Government of India for this opportunity." Arjun, who got the appointment letter, has been selected as an Income Tax Inspector. He was given an appointment letter at a Rozgar Mela held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this," he says. The Government of India is creating lakhs of new jobs, and appointment letters are being distributed under the job fair. In order to fulfil the pledge of providing 10 lakh jobs, appointment letters are being given to the youth at different places across the country.

"Today, for those who are getting appointment letters, it is a memorable day and a very historic



Newly recruited employees will serve in different sectors

The new employees selected from across the country will be appointed in various ministries and departments of the government, including the Department of Revenue, Department of Financial Services, Department of Posts, Department of School Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Central Public Sector Enterprises, Department of Water Resources, Department of Personnel and Training, and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

So far, approximately 5 lakh youth have got jobs

| Rozgaar Mela | When | Joining Letter Given |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| First | October 22 2022 | More than 75 Thousand |
| Second | November 22 2022 | More than 71 Thousand |
| Third | January 20 2023 | More than 71 Thousand |
| Fourth | April 13 2023 | More than 71 Thousand |
| Fifth | May 16 2023 | More than 70 Thousand |
| Sixth | June 13 2023 | More than 70 Thousand |
| Seventh | July 22 2023 | More than 70 Thousand |

9 lakh government jobs in 9 years



The Modi government has given 9 lakh government jobs in nine years, from 2014 to 2023, as compared to 6 lakh government jobs in the period from 2004 to 2013.

- During 2004–13, the Union Public Service Commission gave 45,431 jobs, while during 2014–23, 50,906 candidates were recruited.
- 4, 00,691 candidates have been selected by the Staff Selection Commission in the last nine years, compared to 2, 07,563 recruitments from 2004–2014. In the last 9 years, up to March 2023, the recruitments made by SSC have increased by 58% to more than 4, 00,000.
- During the period 2004–2013, 3, 47,251 recruitments were made by the Regional Recruitment Boards, while during 2014–2023, 4, 30,592 youth were given government jobs.

day for the country. On this day, i.e., July 22, 1947, the tricolour was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in its present form," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while distributing appointment letters to about 70,000 new recruits in various government departments and organisations as part of the Rozgar Mela. In the last nine years, the Modi government has not only created employment opportunities for the youth but also promoted economic technology guidance and innovation to strengthen self-employment and enterprise. An important link in these efforts to empower the youth is also the employment fair.

While the selection process is being monitored continuously by a special online system, newly recruited youth are also receiving online training through the Karmayogi Prarambh module. Candidates from aspirational districts, women, and Divyangjans are

all receiving special benefits through this campaign. During Prime Minister Modi's speech, 44 locations across the country were linked to the fair. PM Modi said, "In this Amrit Kaal of independence, all the countrymen have taken a pledge to make India develop in the next 25 years. These 25 years are critical for India. We must capitalise on the world's attraction and trust in India today." At the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised the newly appointed employees that their top priorities should be to serve the people of the country and resolve their issues in order to improve their quality of life. "Whichever department you are posted in, whatever place you are posted in, always keep in mind that your work should reduce the difficulties of the common man, increase the ease of living, and at the same time be conducive to the dream of a developed India," he said. ■



RAJKOT IS BECOMING GROWTH ENGINE OF SAURASHTRA

The country is developing at a fast pace. For this, the central government is working in every field by making plans not just according to the needs of the country but also according to the needs of the world. Now apart from metro cities, the facility of direct air travel is becoming possible from other cities of the country to various countries. India is also making efforts to build a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem in partnership with the other countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semicon India 2023 and inaugurated the international airport and other development projects in Rajkot...



P rime Minister Narendra Modi on July 27 inaugurated the international airport in Rajkot, Gujarat apart from various development projects worth over Rs 860 crore. Now the facility of direct flight will be possible from here to many cities of the world. The opening of the airport will not only make travel easier, but will also greatly benefit the industries in the entire region. Now Rajkot is being recognized as the growth engine of Saurashtra. Industry, trade, culture and food is its identity. Now it will be easy for the farmers here to send fruits and vegetables to the mandis of the country and abroad. Since the inception of this airport, Rajkot has got a new powerhouse of development. PM Modi said that the day is not far when airplanes will also be made in Gujarat. This



We had come with the guarantee of good governance. Today we are showing by fulfilling the guarantee. Be it poor, Dalit, backward, tribal, continuous work is being done to improve the lives of all.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

India moving forward on the big vision of smart technology

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Semicon India Conference 2023 in Gandhi Nagar in which industry experts, policy makers, new companies, and startups participated. Here PM Modi said that the Semicon India conference is like updating the software. PM Modi said that earlier there used to be a discussion as to why one should invest in the semiconductor sector in India, whereas now it is being said that why one should not invest. Semiconductor is not only the need of the country, but the world also needs a reliable chip supply chain today. There can be no better and more reliable partner than India in this field. PM Modi said that India's democracy, demography, the dividend received from here is going to double-triple your business as well.

India's digital and electronic manufacturing sector is growing at a rapid pace. Today India's share in global electronics-manufacturing has increased manifold. In 2014, India's electronic production was less than 30 billion dollars, which has increased to more than 100 billion dollars today. Electronics exports from India have also more than doubled in just two years. Exports of mobile phones made in India have also doubled now. Before 2014, there were 25 crore internet connections in India, while now its number has increased to more than 85 crore.



Industry-trade will gain momentum from Rajkot airport

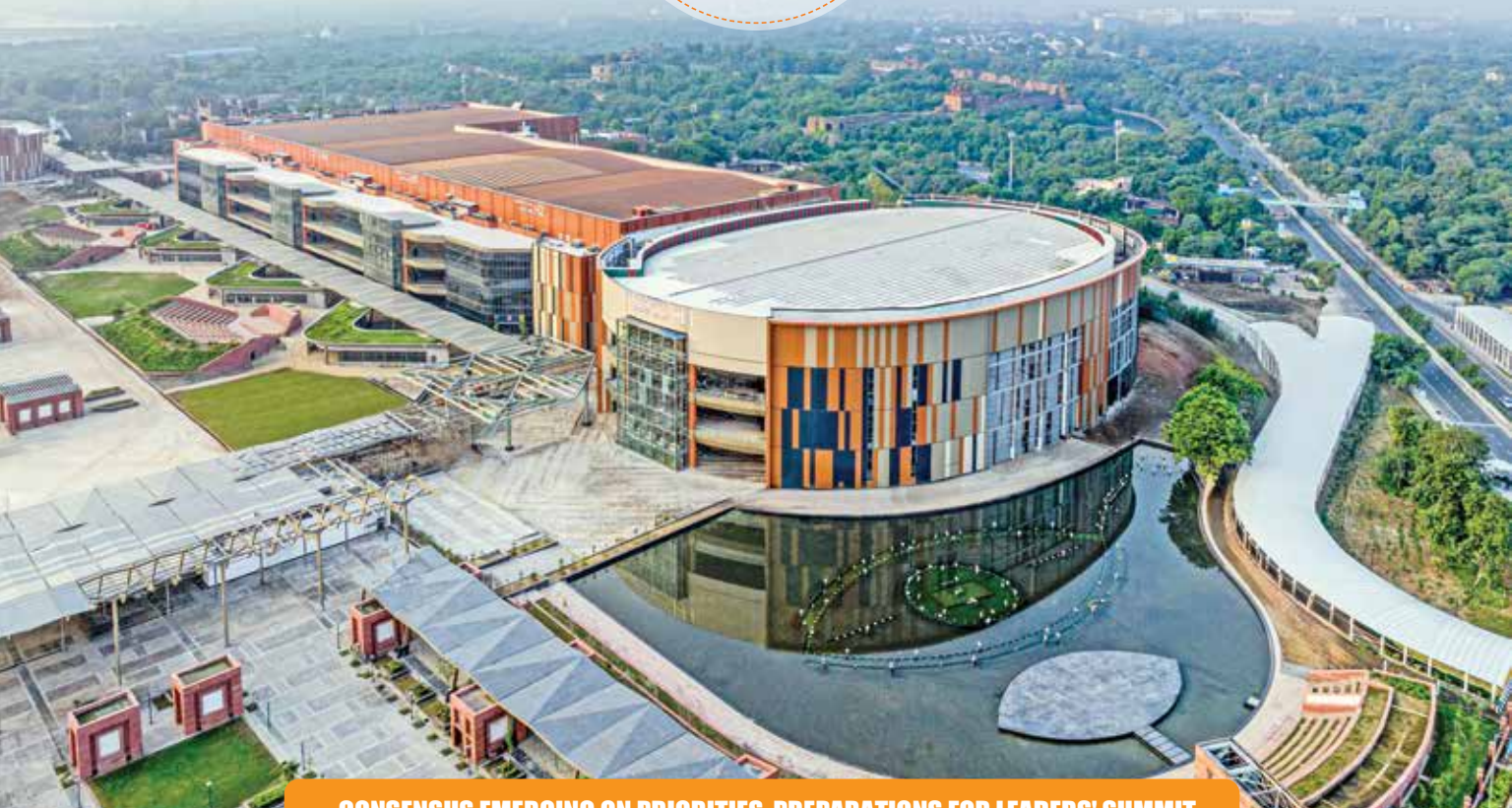
- The greenfield airport is spread over an area of more than 2,500 acres.
- Rs 1,400 crore has been the outlay.
- The design of the airport terminal inspired by the cultural vibrancy of Rajkot.
- Automobile industry, trade, tourism, education and industrial sectors will benefit from the airport.

state is moving fast in this direction.

In the last nine years, every possible effort has been made to remove the problem of transportation. Where only four cities had a metro network in 2014, today it has reached more than 20 cities in the country. Vande Bharat trains are running on 25 routes in the country. In 2014, there used to be around 70 airports in the country, but now the number has doubled. PM Modi says that the middle class people should have their own house, earlier this was not taken care of. The present government gave special subsidies to the middle class families to build houses under the PM Awas Yojana. Under this, assistance was given to families with an annual income of up to Rs 18 lakh. More than 6 lakh middle class families have taken advantage of this. When the old government was at the centre, there were frauds in the housing schemes. The possession of the house was not given for many years. There was no law and order. The present central government has saved people's money from being looted by enacting the RERA law.

PM Modi also inaugurated several projects under the SAUNI Yojana. The projects will provide irrigation and drinking water to the farmers of dozens of villages in Saurashtra. Package 8 and Package 9 of Link-3 under the SAUNI Yojana will help in further strengthening of irrigation facilities and drinking water supply in Saurashtra region. Upgradation of Dwarka RWSS will help in providing adequate and potable water through pipeline to the villages. Apart from this, Uparkot Fort conservation, phases one and two related to the revival and development, construction of water treatment plant, sewage treatment plant, flyover bridge and other schemes are included. ■





CONSENSUS EMERGING ON PRIORITIES, PREPARATIONS FOR LEADERS' SUMMIT

G-20: The world is getting a feel of Indianness

So far, under India's G-20 presidency, 180 meetings have been held in more than 50 cities. New facilities have been built in many cities for meetings, and old facilities have been modernized. It has benefited the country and the people. Consensus is being made on the priorities of the Indian presidency and preparations are in final stages for the leaders' summit to be held on September 9-10.

As the date of the G-20 Summit headed by India draws closer, the series of meetings are making the world aware about India's achievements, capabilities, diversity, knowledge, culture and potential. Under the presidency of India, 180 meetings have been held at about 70 venues and several ministerial level meetings are yet to take place before the G-20 Leaders' Summit on 9-10 September. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself addressed the meeting of G-20 Energy Ministers,

Labour and Employment Ministers, Environment and Climate Change ministers held in the second fortnight of July. PM Modi exhorted global leaders to take forward the mantra of One Earth, One Family with India's technological prowess, lifestyle for environment, yoga, UPI, disaster risk management and solar energy alliance and work unitedly for global good.

On the sidelines of the meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, India's

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Indonesia's Finance Minister Mulyani Indrawati also announced the launch of the 'India-Indonesia Economic and Financial Dialogue'. The progress on India's 'Act East Policy' has facilitated rapid growth in the commercial and cultural sector with Indonesia. The India-Indonesia trade sector has grown manifold and is expected to reach \$38 billion in the year 2022-23. The Finance Ministers concluded that this dialogue would not only deepen bilateral relations between India and Indonesia, but also contribute to the broader economic and financial stability of Southeast Asia and the world.

Transformational role of digital public infrastructure in rapid development

- The third meeting of the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) was held in Gandhinagar on July 17-18. The FMCBG was preceded by a meeting of G-20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies on 14-15 July.
- The meeting was jointly chaired by Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das. In the welcome address, the Union Finance & Corporate Minister reiterated the collective responsibility of the G-20 to lead strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
- In the meeting, the members discussed the global economic outlook and risks, as well as endorsed the G-20 report on climate change and emerging trade economic risks. Appreciated the efforts of the Independent Special Group constituted under the chairmanship of India to prioritize strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) whose first report has been published.
- The India's presidency has put forth the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) agenda in the G-20 discussions. Member States have appreciated India's efforts while acknowledging the transformative role of DPI in rapidly advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains.
- The G-20 FMCBG approved the new G-20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) for three years 2024-26 which India will lead as co-chair for the next three years from 2024.
- India has submitted a 'Presidency Note' to the G20 membership laying down important inputs for a roadmap on crypto assets



Call for preparing responsive and effective strategy for employment

- The fourth meeting of the Employment Working Group was held on July 19 and 20 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, which culminated in the unanimous adoption of three outcome documents at the Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting on July 21.
- Addressing the meeting chaired by Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear that the world is on the threshold of some of the biggest changes in the employment sector.
- India has the experience of creating a large number of jobs during technology based transformations. Skill, reskill and upskill are the mantras for the workforce of the future. India's 'Skill India Mission' is a campaign to connect with this reality. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana', more than 1.25 crore youth have been trained so far.
- While giving his perspective on the ever-evolving world of work, Prime Minister Modi emphasized that "mobile workforce is going to be a reality in the future. Therefore, now is the time to truly globalize the development and sharing of skills. G-20 should play a leading role in this.
- India made an 'e-Shram portal' in which more than 28 crore workers have been registered in a year itself. Prime Minister Modi said that with the international level of action now, it becomes important for each country to adopt common solutions. India would be happy to share its experience in this context.
- The three outcome documents adopted at the ministerial meeting include G20 Policy Priorities on adequate and sustainable social protection and decent work for Gig and Platform Workers and G20 Policy Options for Sustainable Financing of Social Protection



Invitation to join the Green Grid of the International Solar Alliance

- The fourth meeting of the Energy Transition Working Group in Goa was followed by the G-20 Energy Ministers' meeting on 22 July in which India's presidency adopted the summary and outcome document.
- While adopting the G-20 high-level principles on hydrogen for an ambitious and forward-looking outcome, all member countries agreed to take steps to combat climate change.
- The meeting stressed the need for technology sharing and low-cost financing, especially for developing countries, so that no one is left behind from its benefits.
- Addressing this meeting of energy ministers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited all countries to join the Green Grid of the International Solar Alliance, initiated by India.
- 20 Energy Ministers agreed that free trade will be



Realizing the vision of an interconnected green grid will help us all meet our climate goals, encourage green investment and create millions of green jobs. I invite all countries participating in the meeting to join the International Solar Alliance's green grid initiative – 'One Sun, One Earth, One Grid'.

–Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Our thoughts and actions should always be helpful in preserving our 'One Earth', protecting the interests of our 'One Family' and moving towards a greener 'One Future'.

–Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

encouraged so that zero and low-carbon hydrogen can be used more and more.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the G-20 Energy Ministers made it clear that any talk about future, stability or growth and development cannot be complete without energy. It affects development at all levels, from individuals to nations. Even though each country has a different reality and a different path in terms of energy sector transformation, I believe that each country has the same goals.
- India has become a leader in the direction of climate change. Achieved the target of non-fossil installed capacity nine years in advance and plans to achieve 50% non-fossil installed capacity by 2030.
- India has connected 19 crore people with LPG in the last nine years, and has connected every village with electricity. India started the program of LED light usage in 2015, today it has become the world's largest LED distribution program and saved 45 billion units of energy. In the same year 20% ethanol blended petrol was started. Working in mission mode on Green Hydrogen to create a carbon neutral energy destination.



G-20 ministers united in commitment to building an eco-friendly sustainable future

- The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Sustainability and the G-20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting concluded on 28 July in Chennai.
- The meeting concluded with the adoption of several documents including an outcome document, the Chennai High Level Principles for a Blue Economy, where the G-20 ministers united in their commitment to build an eco-friendly, sustainable and resilient future.
- Important achievements and findings focused on land and biodiversity, blue economy and water resource management and circular economy were highlighted in the meeting.
- The main goal of this group is to increase cooperation among G-20 countries with the aim of developing state-of-the-art solutions for sustainable management of oceans and conservation of marine biodiversity.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav said that the launch of Industry-based Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) under the chairmanship of India is a milestone. The G-20 Ministers are invited to engage with RECEIC and take advantage of the synergies in the future.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the address that climate action should follow 'Antyodaya' ie we have to ensure the upliftment and development to the last mile. Countries in the Global South in particular are affected by climate change and environmental issues. We need to act in line with the commitments made under the 'UN Climate Convention' and the 'Paris Agreement'.
- The Prime Minister said that India is moving forward through its ambitious 'Nationally Determined Contribution'. India has achieved the set targets 9 years ago. India is among the top 5 countries in the world in terms of installed renewable energy capacity. India continues to collaborate with its partners through alliances including the International Solar Alliance, CDRI and the 'Leadership Group for Industry Transformation', aiming for 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2070.



India launched DRRWG, Brazil will take it forward

- The third and final meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group launched under the Indian presidency was held in Chennai on 26 July in which the members adopted action points on relevant five priority areas. Brazil's presidency in December 2023 will also take forward this grouping, India's legacy to the G-20.
- Priority areas include global coverage of early warning systems, disaster and climate resilient infrastructure, financing framework for disaster risk reduction, disaster response systems and ecosystem-based approaches to DRR. It reflects the commitment of members to the Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) to prevent new disaster risks and reduce existing disaster risks

Commemorative coins and postage stamps issued

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative postage stamps and coins commemorating India's G-20 presidency during the inauguration program of Bharat Mandapam.
- The designs of the coins and stamps draw inspiration from India's G20 Logo and theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth · One Family · One Future'. A series of G-20 meetings will be followed by the 18th G-20 Leaders' Summit on September 9-10 at the Bharat Mandapam convention and exhibition centre, India's largest such centre.
- Postage stamps are worth Rs 20. The gold-coloured postage stamp released to commemorate India's G-20 Presidency represents India's diversity, inclusiveness and rich cultural heritage.
- The seven petals of the national flower of India, the Lotus, represent the seven continents. The second ticket reflects the solidarity and collective will of the G-20 members.
- Prime Minister Modi also released two coins of Rs 75 and Rs 100, marking India's G-20 presidency. The Rs 75 coin marks the completion of 75 years of India's independence and the Rs 100 coin marks India's journey to 100 years of independence, with the coin marking the beginning of Amrit Kaal. ■



FOUR YEARS OF THE FIT INDIA CAMPAIGN

THE FIT INDIA PLEDGE GETS A BOOST IN NEW INDIA

Success and fitness are closely linked. Today, look at the icons of any field and their success stories—most of them are also fit. This is not just a coincidence; fitness is a common feature of the lifestyle of every successful person. To make this mantra of fitness a mass movement, the Fit India Campaign was launched on National Sports Day on August 29, 2019. On National Sports Day, let's understand how the players are creating new history with the opportunities given in Fit India, Khelo India, and TOPS.

In the Ayurveda scriptures, it is said: - सर्व प्राणि भूतम् नित्यम्, आयुः युक्तिम् अपेक्षते। दैवे पुरुषं करे च, स्थितम् हि अस्य बलं बलम्॥ That is, in the world, hard work, success, luck—everything depends on health. Where there is health, there is luck and success. When we exercise regularly and keep ourselves fit and strong, a feeling is created within us that says, yes, we are creators of ourselves. Self-confidence is developed. This person's self-confidence also helps him achieve success in various spheres of life. The same applies to family, society, and country. How

India is making fitness a mantra of lifestyle is being witnessed by the participation of more than 9 crore people in the Fit India Freedom Run in 2022, the Fit India Quiz, and Fit India School Week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says investment in fitness is zero, but the returns are unlimited. Healthy individuals, families, and societies are the key to making New India a Shreshtha Bharat. That is why, for thousands of years, sports have been a part of India's heritage and development, which the nation is reviving with pride in its



TOPS HELPING YOUNGESTERS BECOME CHAMPIONS

The Asian Athletics Championships 2023 set a record for the most medals won in any foreign championship, with 27. Jyothi Yarraji, Abdulla Aboobacker, Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, Shaili Singh, Priyanka Goswami, Murli Sreeshankar, and DP Manu, as well as Tejaswin Shankar, who won the bronze medal, were supported by the central government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). TOPS is a programme in which the government assists top athletes in preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Currently, this scheme supports 269 players. With the target of 2028 in TOPS, the government is currently only taking forward the proposal of sports that are part of the Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Paralympics, and Para Asian Games. The TOPS is likely to cover the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics and the 2026 Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and Para Asian Games.

FIT INDIA PROGRAMMES

- The first plog run was conducted on October 2, 2019, in which **30 lakh** people participated.
- Fit India Cyclothon, Fit India School Week, and India Freedom Run "are also organised. In the Fit India Freedom Run alone, more than seven crore people covered a distance of **18, 40, 69,332 km** in 2022.
- There are about **11 lakh** schools registered in Fit India, out of which about 5 lakh have been verified by classifying them into three and five-star categories.

TAKE THE PLEDGE ON NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

Today let us take a pledge that we will keep ourselves fit and encourage our family, friends, neighbours, and everyone else we know to stay fit. They should give priority to sports and healthy activities, which will contribute towards creating a healthy India. If I am fit, India is fit.

KHELO INDIA PROGRAMME

Launched in the financial year 2016-17, the programme aims for public participation and excellence in sports. Khelo India Academies are given an assistance of Rs. 6.28 lakh per athlete per year for the training of athletes. Under Khelo India, 297 infrastructure projects have been launched, 733 Khelo India centres have been opened, and 266 academies have been recognised.

heritage in the Amrit Kaal of independence. To strengthen this, the 'Fit India Movement, which started, is actually the 'Hit India Movement'. As a result, the more fit India is, the more India will be hit. In just four years, the Fit India Movement

SPORTS ECOSYSTEM BECOMES FIT



When it comes to sports, naturally, the entire young generation comes to the fore. When we look at the younger generation closely, we see that today's young minds want to do something new with the worn-out old ways and create new paths. The current central government is encouraging young people to pursue a career in sports by increasing funding for Khelo India and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Due to this strength of the sports ecosystem, where nine years ago less than 100 players used to participate in international games, now their number has increased to more than 300.

“Sports and sportsmanship in the country do not have to stop now. This moment has to be made permanent in family, social, and national life. Be it a city or a village, our playgrounds should be full. Let everyone play, let everyone blossom. It is only through everyone's efforts that India will achieve the heights in sports that it deserves.”

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

has grown into a mass movement. To support this movement, the country's sports budget has been steadily increased. Players are also being given more and more resources and getting more and more opportunities. ■



BORDER ROADS ORGANIZATION MAKES PILGRIMAGE SIMPLE AND EASY AMARNATH YATRA

The work done by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 9 years to redevelop the cultural and spiritual sites of the country is truly inspiring. Baba Vishwanath temple complex in Kashi, redevelopment of Kedarnath Dham, gifts of development to Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar and work done for Somnath temple area are providing a lot of facilities to the devotees. Efforts have been made to make the Amarnath Yatra more accessible and smooth. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has completed all the scheduled works by June 15, 2023, much before the start of the Yatra this year and has eased the way for Amarnath Yatis. BRO Director General Lt Gen Rajeev Chowdhary is telling how and what efforts were taken to make the Amarnath Yatra smooth

Baba Bafarni Amarnath is a holy Hindu pilgrimage center located in Pahalgam tehsil of Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. The holy cave in the Sind Valley is situated at an altitude of 12,756 feet and is surrounded by glaciers and snowy mountains. It remains covered with snow for most of the year except for a brief period during the summer when it is open to pilgrims. The holy cave of Amarnath is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year during the months of June (Jyeshtha Purnima) to August (Shravan Purnima). The holy cave is connected by footpaths from Baltal and Pahalgam side.

The route to Baltal originates from Domel which is situated at an altitude of 9,580 feet. The route that starts from Domel proceeds along the Amaravati river and reaches the holy cave via Rayal Pathri, Barari Marg and Kalimata Temple. This road is on a steep slope. The length of this route till the holy cave is 11.75 km.

Every year a large number of devotees travel through these routes to have a holy 'darshan' of the cave. Last year the yatra was held from June 30 to August 11, 2022 and a total of 3.60 lakh pilgrims participated in it. Till last year, the road towards Baltal was maintained by the R&B department of J&K. On the other hand, the responsibility of Pahalgam route was with the Pahalgam Development Authority. In view of BRO's expertise in development and maintenance of roads in J&K region, in September 2022, the Government of J&K had decided to hand over the responsibility of development and maintenance of these routes to BRO.

BRO took up this onerous responsibility with commitment and completed the work well before the commencement of the 2023 Yatra. The BRO was entrusted with the work of maintenance and repair of existing routes, widening of roads, reconstruction of steep slopes and active landslide-prone stretches.

In order to start the infrastructure work on time, the snow clearance work was started.



Then the necessary machinery including equipment for construction and maintenance of roads was brought to the construction site using Chinook helicopters of the Indian Air Force. The width of the route was increased from 8 feet to 12 feet by using rock breakers and hydraulic rock splitters for smooth movement of devotees. New routes were also constructed at many places to save the devotees from steep slopes and places prone to active landslides. BRO also installed 34 kilometer long guardrail for the safety of the devotees. Apart from this, eight bridges on Baltal road and 10 bridges on Chandanwadi road were also repaired by BRO.

To provide shelter to the devotees during monsoon, 25 rain shelters were also constructed on both the routes. Despite all the challenges and difficulties, the BRO completed all the scheduled works by 15 June 2023, well before the commencement of the Yatra. BRO contingents have been deployed on the routes to keep the system smooth even during the yatra.

'Karmayogis' of BRO are feeling extremely proud and satisfied by completing this task. Precise planning, determination, sincere efforts, sensible guidelines, efficient execution and conversion of challenges into opportunities resulted in timely and quality completion of work. The results are in front of the world as devotees praise the quality of work performed by the inspired Karmayogis. ■

'SKILL INDIA' REVIVES KASHMIR'S 'NAMDA' ART

'Namda' art has become an example of how skill development can transform people's lives. The almost extinct Namda craft of Kashmir has got a new lease of life again from the Skill India project of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The extraordinary results of this project are now becoming evident. It is not only helping in providing employment but its expansion has also increased the possibilities of creating new opportunities and prosperity in the country. It also reflects the government's commitment to skilling, reskilling and upskilling the youth under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi...



Razia Salim, instructor of Namda art, says that I am currently teaching this art to 10 girls. After learning they will train 10 more girls. In this way, slowly this art will revive. There are many boys and girls who are getting a platform. There has been a huge benefit from the training program of the government.

This 11th century art is being revived once again through the Skill India program and Kashmir is witnessing its revival. The training work started here two years ago. Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar recently launched the export of Namda art products to the UK. Nearly 2,200 artisans from J&K have been trained in Namda craft to create new employment opportunities and promote entrepreneurship, a significant milestone in preserving this traditional craft, empowering local weavers and artisans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently tweeted and shared an article on the revival of Kashmir's

age-old 'Namda' art and said, "Delighted that Kashmir's age-old 'Namda' art is being revived. Now reaching the global stage after years! It is a testimony to the skill and passion of our craftsmen. This is good news for the revival of our rich heritage."

Namda craft has been a unique heritage of Kashmir, which gradually became moribund due to lack of raw material, trained man power and market. Knowledgeable craftsmen used to make rugs from sheep's wool. In this, instead of traditional weaving, rugs were made by compressing the wool after a difficult process. The project is a great example of the Public-Private Partnership model in the skill development sector. The project has successfully trained persons in six districts of Kashmir, Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam and Anantnag. According to an estimate, the number of Namda artisans will increase to 6 to 7 thousand in the next two-three years. ■

Heartfelt tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the
occasion of his death anniversary on 16th August...

Atal Adarsh: The basis of AatmaNirbhar Bharat

The thoughts and vision of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee are a source of great inspiration to the people of the country. How to live life, how to be useful to the nation, he taught others through his life. Atal ji used to say, "We should not live only for ourselves, we should live for others also... We should sacrifice more and more for the nation. If the condition of India is pathetic then we cannot be respected in the world. But if we are prosperous in every field then the world will respect us."



The country and the world know Atal ji as a statesman, eloquent speaker, sensitive poet, ardent journalist and visionary mass leader. But for me his place was even higher. Not only because I got the opportunity to work with him for years, but the impression he left on my life, thinking, ideals and values, the faith he instilled in me, has shaped me, taught me to be firm in every situation. On behalf of myself and countrymen, I pay tribute to Atal ji and bow down to him for his determination and spirit of New India

– Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

