

Volume 1, Issue 14

New India

January 16-31, 2021

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

SAMACHAR



EMPOWERING WOMEN

**A VISION OF SAFE, STRONG AND CONFIDENT WOMENHOOD
IS TAKING SHAPE IN NEW INDIA**

अभी तो सूरज उगा है

आसमान में सिर उठाकर
घने बादलों को चीरकर
रोशनी का संकल्प लें
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।

ठढ़ निश्चय के साथ चलकर
ठढ़ निश्चय के साथ चलकर
हर मुश्किल को पार कर
घोर अंधेरे को मिटाने
घोर अंधेरे को मिटाने
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।

विश्वास की लौ जलाकर
विश्वास की लौ जलाकर
विकास का दीपक लेकर
सपनों को साकार करने
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।

न अपना न पराया
न अपना न पराया
न मेरा न तेरा
सबका तेज बनकर
सबका तेज बनकर
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।

आग को समेटते
प्रकाश को बिखेरता
चलता और चलाता

अभी तो सूरज उगा है।
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।
अभी तो सूरज उगा है।

With the advent of the year 2021, words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi laced together in a poetic expression were shared in his own voice. Let's join him in his pledge!



New India SAMACHAR

Volume 1, Issue 14

January 16-31, 2021

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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar,

New India Samachar is getting a good response and you must be waiting for the next issue eagerly. Amid all gloom, the New Year has given a new hope as the Government is ready with its plan to administer free COVID-19 vaccine to over 3 Crore people in the first phase.

Women empowerment has always been at the core of policy formulation of the Government to realise the dream of New India. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign completes six years on January 22, 2021, and January 24 is observed as National Girl Child Day. In view of this, there is a need to understand that various campaigns rolled out by the Government have changed stereotypes about women who are not only revered in Indian culture but have always shown limitless potential.

In the past six years, the Government has formulated lots of policies focusing on women, so that they can live up to their aspirations. Women have carved a niche for themselves whether in the fields of education, science, economy, self-employment, politics, entrepreneurship, sports and even being part of the combat operations of the defence and paramilitary forces. The cover story of the current issue outlines the story of honour, self-respect and self-reliance of women. This is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowered and self-reliant women.

January 23 is the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the Government has a year-long plan to celebrate it. A special report on his life and the Government decision of declassifying documents related to Netaji is part of this issue.

There is an inspiring report about the braveheart and first Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Somnath Sharma in the magazine. The tourism sector and Startup India are also covered besides other regular features.

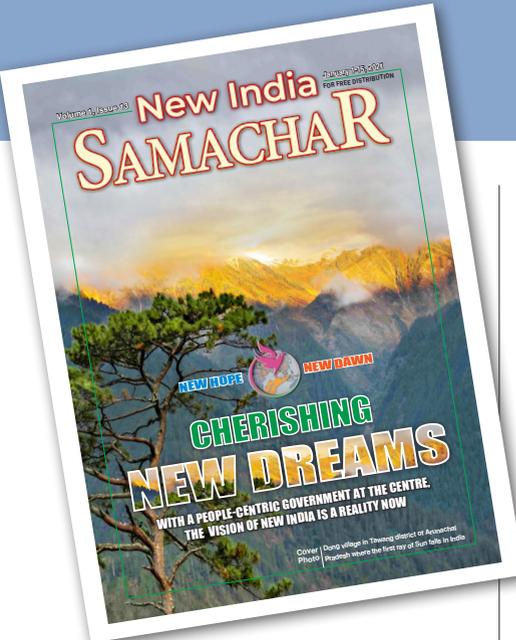
Keep writing to us with your suggestions and feedback...

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(K S DHATWALIA)



Mail Box



Sir,

This magazine is very helpful for UPSC and other comparative exam aspirants. I am very thankful to all...



ps9610022@gmail.com

New India Samachar magazine is not only encouraging but also presents the true picture of the country. It tells about the schemes of the Government and brings ideas of the Prime Minister in front of your eyes.

I want to read this magazine regularly. Please send this to me regularly at my address.

Regards



Kanika Jain
Ratlam, MP

Sir,

It's a great pleasure to inform you that the digital issues of New India Samachar were very informative and inspiring. I wish to subscribe the hard copy of magazine for senior Citizens. Kindly help me.



ANEESH TIRUR
aneeshtir@gmail.com;

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very thankful to the magazine namely New India Samachar. It is very useful and in a single compilation. It updates me about policies, plans, new schemes of the Government. Please send us that magazine on a regular basis.



Thanks a lot.
Umesh Chand Garg
umeshchand90@gmail.com;

I recently received the Magazine named New India Samachar Dec 1–15, 2020 by post. Congratulations for starting very useful Magazine in the current situation . This Magazine is most valuable and constructive for all types of persons. It is compiled in a nice manner.

We need New India Samachar in English and Bengali versions on regular basis .We wish the entire team all the best.

Thank you

Dr Chandan Basu

Email id outlineofindia@gmail.com



Best regards.

Let me wish a HAPPY NEW YEAR to the entire team of New India Samachar.

I have to express my gratitude towards you all for making me available the latest updates, in a number of regional languages together, regarding various newly launched schemes by the Government.

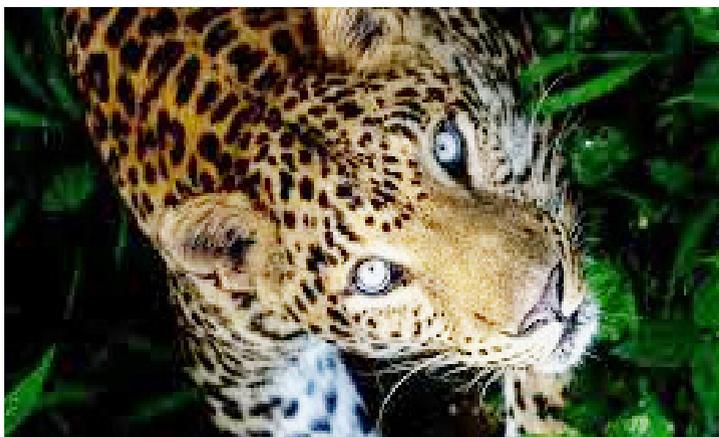
I have to suggest you humbly that if possible, this fortnightly may please be made available in the printed form also.

Finally, I have to thank you once again for facilitating and encouraging me to read this magazine in the regional languages and to send my feedback in them.

Yours faithfully
Kishor K Shevde



LEOPARD POPULATION IN INDIA RISES BY 60%



After the increase in tiger and lion numbers, India has now witnessed an increase in leopard population. At the moment, there are 12,852 leopards as compared to the previous estimate of 7,910 conducted in 2014. This is a growth of 60 per cent. Madhya Pradesh (3,421), Karnataka (1,783) and Maharashtra (1,690) recorded the highest number of leopard estimates. A total of 5,240 adult individual leopards were identified out of 51,337 leopard photographs using pattern recognition software. Statistical analysis estimates the leopard population at 12,800 within the tiger ranges.

NOW, DELAY IN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION TO BE PUNISHABLE

ushering in a new era of empowering consumers, the Government has put in place some new rules which will enable them to apply for new electricity connection and pay bills online. The Government has laid down Rights to the Electricity Consumers through Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. Now, the consumers will get electricity connection in prescribed timeline which is 7 days in Metro cities, 15 days in other cities and 30 days in rural areas. The violations will result in penalties. The new rules will benefit about 30 Crore existing and prospective consumers in the country. These rules will ensure that new electricity connections, refunds and other services are given in a time-bound manner.

HIGHEST-EVER GST IN DECEMBER 2020

Due to the combined effect of rapid economic recovery and nationwide drive against GST evaders, gross GST revenue collection in the month of December 2020 has gone up to Rs 1.15 Lakh Crore. This is 12 per cent higher than the GST collected in the same month last fiscal. The GST during December 2020 has been the highest since the introduction of GST. This is the first time that it has crossed Rs 1.15 Lakh Crore. The highest GST collection till now was Rs 1.13 Lakh Crore in the month of April 2019. The December 2020 revenues are significantly higher than November's revenues of Rs 1.04 Lakh Crore. This is the highest growth in monthly revenues in last 21 months.

INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK LAUNCHES 'DAKPAY' APP

As part of the ongoing efforts to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across the country, Department of Posts (DoP) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) unveiled a new digital payment App 'DakPay' on December 15, 2020. The launch of DakPay will enable a lot of services like sending money to loved ones by domestic money transfers (DMT), making payment for services/merchants digitally with debit card and with UPI, enabling cashless ecosystem through biometrics, providing interoperable banking services to customers of any bank with Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) and Utility Bill Payment services. DakPay is not just a digital payment App but a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post and IPPB.



'LEGION OF MERIT' AWARD FOR THE PRIME MINISTER



The President of the United States of America conferred the highest decoration, 'The Legion of Merit' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. The award is in recognition of the Prime Minister's steadfast leadership and vision for India's emergence as a global power, and exemplary contribution made by him for the advancement of the India-US strategic partnership and promoting global peace and prosperity. The Legion of Merit is a prestigious award conferred by the US President, typically upon Heads of State or Heads of Government of other countries. The award was received by the Ambassador of India to the United States, Taranjit Singh Sandhu on behalf of the Prime Minister.

TOLL BOOTH FREE HIGHWAYS SOON

The Government is committed towards its motto of 'Ease of Living' for its citizens. Now, long queues at the toll gates at national highways would be a thing of the past, as the nation will be 'toll booth free' in next two years. Informing this Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari said that the Government has finalised GPS-based technology toll collection to ensure seamless movement of vehicles across the country. The toll amount will be deducted directly from the bank

EPFO ADDS 11.55 LAKH NET SUBSCRIBERS IN OCTOBER



The number of EPFO subscribers added in the month of October 2020 tells a buoyant story of employment generation in the country. Provisional payroll data of EPFO released on December 20, 2020, has revealed that EPFO has added 11.55 Lakh net subscribers in the month of October 2020. The data published comprises of members who have joined during the month and whose contribution has been received by EPFO for the wage month. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, EPFO has added around 39.33 Lakh subscribers during the current financial year (from April to October 2020). State-wise comparison of payroll figures shows that Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Haryana continue to remain at the forefront of the employment recovery cycle. They added approximately 53 per cent of the total net payroll addition (total of 39.33 Lakh) in the first seven months period of current FY from April to October 2020, across all the age groups.



account based on the movement of vehicles. Now all commercial vehicles are coming with vehicle tracking systems, the Government will come up with a plan to install GPS technology in old vehicles. The toll collections may reach Rs 34,000 Crore by the coming March. By using GPS technology, the toll income in next five years will be Rs 1,34,000 Crore. ■



A Tribute to the **GREAT LEADER**

If asked to name the first Prime Minister of India, most people would answer Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But how many would know who formed the first Provisional Government of India? Before India gained Independence, the first Provisional Government of the country was formed by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was also the Prime Minister in this Government. On October 21, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort to commemorate the 75th anniversary of formation of Azad Hind Government. On January 23, 2021, celebrations to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji will take place across the country

On January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha, Janakinath Bose made a diary entry saying, “A baby boy was born in afternoon.” The father wanted his son to grow up to become an ICS officer. In the year 1920, his son fulfilled his wish by securing fourth position in the country in ICS exam. But perhaps he was destined to serve his motherland instead.

At the age of 15-16 years, he wrote to his mother asking, “Is there not a single son of the poor Bharat Mata who shall dedicate his life to the service of the motherland by giving up his vested interests? Tell me mother, when will we wake up from the slumber?” Maybe it was because of this love and patriotism he had towards his country that he could not serve the British Government in his stint as an ICS officer. In 1921, as he was on the verge of taking the plunge by resigning from the Indian Civil Service, he wrote to his elder brother



Netaji Subhas Bose's bravery is well-known. A scholar, soldier & statesman par excellence, we are soon to commence his 125th Jayanti celebrations. For that, a high-level committee has been formed. Come, let us mark this special occasion in a grand manner!



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a Tweet on December 21, 2020



Sarat Chandra Bose, "Only on the soil of sacrifice and suffering can we raise our national edifice." After resigning from the office, he came to meet Mahatma Gandhi on the advice of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. He became a great freedom fighter and thinker who devoted his entire life to the cause of Indian freedom struggle. The nation knows him by the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji was the one who had first addressed Mahatma Gandhi as 'Father of the Nation'. During the period of 1921 to 1941, he was imprisoned by the British at least 11 times.

It was on October 21, 1943, that Subhas Chandra Bose announced the formation of

EFFORT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE NETAJI'S HERITAGE...

Since 2014, the Government has taken several measures towards preserving and conserving the precious heritage of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

On October 21, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of formation of the Azad Hind Government in honour of Netaji. This was the first time that apart from Independence Day the National Flag was hoisted at the Red Fort. Marking the occasion, Prime Minister Modi had said, "This is the same Red Fort where 75 years ago Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had dreamt of a victory parade. Taking oath as the first Prime Minister of the Azad Hind Government, Netaji had announced that the Tricolor would be hoisted with full glory one day at the Red Fort. Today India's 125 Crore people are moving ahead with the resolution of a New India; a New India that was also envisaged by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose." Not only this, during his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had joined the programme to mark 75th anniversary of hoisting Tricolour by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Ittehad, Itmad and Qurbani

- Bose wrote a two-part book titled 'The Indian Struggle'
- In November 1941, Subhas Chandra Bose established the Free India Centre and Azad Hind Radio also known as the Free India Radio in Berlin
- Ittehad (Unity), Itmad (Faith) and Qurbani (Sacrifice) encapsulated the motto of the Azad Hind movement



YEAR-LONG CELEBRATIONS TO MARK 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This High Level Commemoration Committee is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also includes experts, historians, authors and family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. This also includes eminent persons associated with Indian National Army. The committee will decide on the activities for year-long commemoration starting from January 23, 2021. Activities to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Bose will be held in Delhi, Kolkata and other places associated with Netaji and Indian National Army, both in India as well as overseas. The 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji would include a grand exhibition on Netaji at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata. Celebrations would also include cultural programmes in West Bengal under the “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” theme.

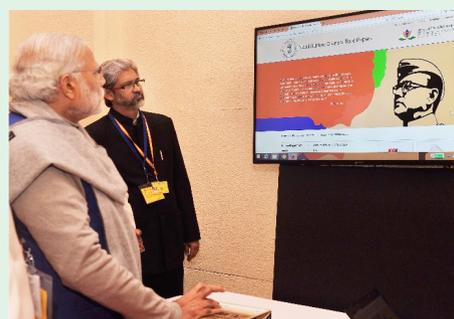
the first Provisional Government of India. He became its Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Foreign Minister. Lt. Col. A.C. Chatterjee was the Finance Minister, A.S. Aiyar was the Publicity and Propaganda Minister and Rash Bihari Bose was the Supreme Advisor in this Azad Hind Government.

Nine countries gave recognition to the Bose Government at that time. Japan was the first one to recognise his Government on October 23, 1943. After that Germany, Philippines, Thailand, Manchuria and Croatia recognised the Government. The Azad Hind Government in collusion with Japan had formulated a plan to enter the North Eastern part of India via Burma (now Myanmar). Bose made Rangoon, the capital of Myanmar, his headquarters which was then under the occupation of Japan. On March 18, 1944, Bose and cadres of his Indian National Army entered Kohima in India.

DECIDING UPON THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, NATIONAL FLAG

Bose decided upon Rabindranath Tagore’s song *Jana Gana Mana...* as the Anthem of

AFTER 60 YEARS, FILES RELATED TO NETAJI DE-CLASSIFIED



At least three committees were formed to investigate the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. But each committee's report was left to gather dust. After taking charge in 2014 Prime Minister Narendra Modi took initiative in this direction. On October 14, 2015, 35 family members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called on the Prime Minister. After meeting them, the Prime Minister said, "The nation that forgets its history also loses the power to create history. I see no reason to strangle history. That is why the Government will initiate the process of declassification of files." And with this, the first lot of 33 files related to Netaji were handed over to the National Archives of India on December 4, 2015. On January 23, 2016, on the occasion of Netaji's birth anniversary, digital copies of 100 files were released by the Prime Minister. All the files related to Netaji can be viewed at the web portal www.netajipapers.gov.in

- A museum on Subhas Chandra Bose was established at the Red Fort. Apart from this, the Government is planning another museum in Kolkata
- In 2018, three islands in Andaman and Nicobar were renamed. The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep; the Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep; and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep
- In 2018, the Government instituted an annual award known as Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to recognise the excellent work done by individuals and institutions in India in the field of disaster management

Indian National Army — a choice that was ratified by the Indian Government after Independence.

He also decided that *Jai Hind* would be adopted as a common greeting. He had asked his followers to find a common national greeting that would be acceptable to all religious communities and also have a nice

ring to it. The phrase *Jai Hind* was suggested by Abid Hasan, his personal secretary and interpreter. It sounded perfect to Bose, and it was adopted as the formal manner of greeting for cadres of the Indian National Army. And the green, saffron and white Tricolour of the Indian National Congress was adopted as the national flag of the Azad Hind Government. ■



EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspired students of prestigious central universities – Aligarh Muslim University and Visva-Bharati University – by stressing upon their crucial role in the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign

Now, the country is proceeding on a path where every citizen is assured of his or her constitutional rights, no one should be left behind due to one's religion and this is the basis of the pledge 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. India is heading towards a stage where AatmaNirbhar Bharat will be a priority through this thought process. Echoing these sentiments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed students and teachers of India's two most prestigious Central Universities – Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and Visva-Bharati University. The Prime Minister said, "Today, the country is also moving on a path where every citizen gets the benefit of development in the country without any discrimination. The country is moving today on a path where every citizen is assured of his rights from the Constitution, and about his future. The country is moving today on a path where no one is left behind because of religion, everyone has equal opportunities to move forward and everybody can fulfil his dreams. 'Sabka Saath,

DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION



Bank accounts of more than **40 Crore** poor were opened



More than **2 Crore** poor were given pucca houses



More than **8 Crore** women got LPG gas connections

During corona pandemic, **80 Crore** countrymen were ensured free ration



50 Crore people were able to get free treatment up to Rs 5 Lakh

FROM MUHAMMADAN ANGLO-ORIENTAL COLLEGE TO AMU

AMU was established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in 1877, which was earlier known as Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College. It became AMU in 1920 under the Aligarh Muslim University Act. It has three off-campus centres in Malappuram (Kerala), Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Kishanganj (Bihar). The Prime Minister released a postal stamp to commemorate its centenary celebration on December 22, 2020



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS FROM PM'S SPEECH

- When we talk about the vision of New India, it is also at its core that the development of the nation and the society should not be seen with political prism
- Today, the country is moving on a path where every citizen gets the benefit of development without any discrimination
- The Government is paying a lot of attention on the education of Muslim daughters and their empowerment. In the last six years, about one Crore Muslim daughters were given scholarships by the Government
- There was a time when the drop-out rate of Muslim daughters in the country was more than 70 per cent due to lack of toilets. When Swachh Bharat Mission began, toilets were built in the villages. Drop-out rate has now come down to about 30 per cent
- Efforts to build a modern Muslim society have been taken forward by the country by ending the evil practice of triple talaq

VISVA-BHARATI UNIVERSITY: EMINENT INSTITUTE OF LEARNING

Visva-Bharati is the oldest Central University in the country, established in 1921 by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. In May 1951, it was declared a Central University and 'Institute of National Importance' by an Act of Parliament. On December 24, 2020, centenary celebrations of the university were observed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being part of it.

- Visva-Bharati's 100-year-old journey is very special. Visva-Bharati is a true embodiment of Gurudev's ideals, vision and hard work for Mother India
- The vision of Gurudev for Vishva-Bharati is also the essence of a Self-Reliant India
- AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is also the path of India's welfare for the entire world's welfare
- The country is spreading the message emanating from Visva-Bharati to the whole world. India today is leading the world in environmental protection through the International Solar Alliance
- India is the only major country on the right path to achieve the environmental goals of Paris Accord
- As per Gurudev's vision, the world should benefit from what is best in India and India should also learn from all the good in the world
- The country is also trying to fulfil this objective through the new National Education Policy. Visva-Bharati is playing a major role in implementing NEP

Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' is the basis of it. This resolution is reflected in the country's intentions and policies. The schemes that the country is formulating for the poor today are reaching every section irrespective of religion or belief." India's rich legacy of education is reflected in these universities like Visva-Bharati, Banras Hindu University (BHU), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Mysore University, Delhi University, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Gujarat Vidyapeeth etc. These institutions of

learning were established during that time frame when India was heading towards a new era of intellectual growth and they established it firmly. Thus, the importance of these institutions has become more relevant when the country is heading towards a vision of 'New India'. These institutions provided the much needed intellectual stimulus to the Indian National Movement during that time. Similarly these institutions will now play a crucial role in realising the dream of Self-Reliant India. ■

HARBINGER OF A GOLDEN FUTURE



THIS IS THE THIRD ACCORD IN PAST 27 YEARS WITH NO DEMANDS PENDING NOW

After the historic agreement among the Central Government, State Government and the Bodo Cadres, in a programme held in January 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, "For those who continue to have faith in arms and violence either in the North East, or Naxal areas or Jammu Kashmir, I request them to learn and draw inspiration from the Bodo Youth and return to the mainstream. Come back and start celebrating life". It is the effectiveness of these

the agreement was inked among the Central and State Governments and representatives of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), United Bodo People's Organization (UBPO), all the four factions of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and All Bodo Students Union (ABSU). Hailing the accord, the Prime Minister said, "After a wait of 50 years, agreement with our Bodo friends heralds a new beginning. It will strengthen Assam's unity, bring development and usher in a bright future." In the past, not being satisfied with the settlements of 1993 and 2003, Bodos have been consistently demanding more powers. A comprehensive and final resolution to their demands has been arrived at. With this agreement, around 1,615 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream. A Special Development Package of Rs 1,500 Crore over three years is to be given by the Central Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Bodo areas.

WHAT IS BODO ACCORD

In 1972, All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) had started a movement demanding a separate state of Bodoland. Similarly in 1974, the Plain Tribal Council of Assam (PTCA) had also put forth a demand for a separate state for the Bodos. These organisations have many times also resorted to violence and shutdowns in the past. After 1991, violence and insurgency had claimed a lot of lives including those of cadres, security personnel and other people. ■

THE SOLUTION

ENDING
THE

50

-year
old Bodo
crisis and
finding a
permanent
solution to
the problem,

the Bodo representatives signed the historic agreement with the Government of India and Government of Assam in January 2020. According to this, before the inking of the accord, the name of Bodoland Territorial Council was changed to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). As a result of this development, BTR was given more rights, an increase in the number of seats from 40 to 60 and several new districts. On January 30, 2020, 1,615 cadres surrendered. Compensation was announced for people who lost their lives due to the Bodo movement violence.

words that peace is prevalent in the once volatile region of North East and insurgency is declining.

This is the third time in the 27-year period from 1993-2020 that such an agreement has taken place with the Bodo representatives. Before this, two agreements had taken place in 1993 and 2003 but every time some or the other demand remained unaddressed. But this time around

FOR BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS

Startup India, one of the most successful schemes of the Government, has done a remarkable turnaround with more than 50,000 Startups creating millions of job, improving state of the economy and standard of living of the people

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Startup India Campaign from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2015, the entire nation supported the cause and within four years after the launch of the scheme on January 16, 2016, India is among the largest countries of the world with more than 50,000 Startups at the moment. The scheme is not only preparing young entrepreneurs for future business challenges but is also providing ample job opportunities to the youth.

Announcing the Startup plan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We have to make India number one among Startups. Banks will provide easy loans to new entrepreneurs. The 1.25 Lakh bank branches of the country will make special schemes for the downtrodden. More help will be given to those Startup projects which will generate more jobs."

Through this flagship scheme, the Government intends to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.



I see Startups, technology and innovation as exciting and effective instruments for India's transformation



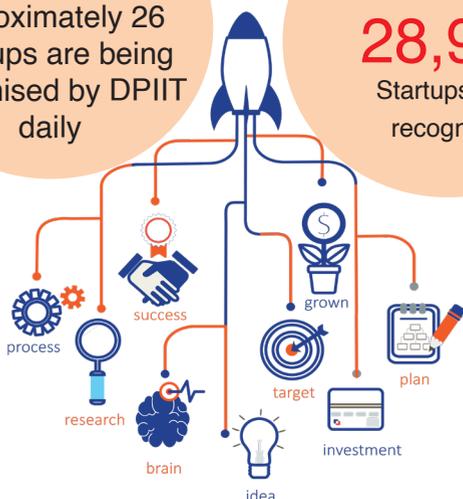
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

According to a tweet by Invest India, approximately 26 Startups are being recognised by DPIIT daily

Between January 2016 and February 2020,

28,970

Startups were recognised



Creation of **3.3 Lakh jobs**
(as reported by 26,952 Startups)

What classifies as Startup...

- If it is incorporated as a private limited company or registered as a partnership firm or a limited liability partnership in India
- Up to a period of 10 years from the date of incorporation/registration
- If its turnover for any of the financial years since incorporation/registration has not exceeded Rs 100 Crore
- Entity is working towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or if it is a scalable business model with a high potential of employment generation or wealth creation

POINTS TO NOTE

- But if an entity is formed by splitting up or reconstruction of a business which is already in existence, it shall not be considered a Startup by the Government
- Also, Startups which register on the Startup India portal don't automatically qualify for the benefits. They have to apply separately with DPIIT to avail benefits of the various schemes like intellectual property services, relaxation in public procurement norms, easy winding of company etc

SUCCESS STORIES

INDIAN APP FOR INDIAN CHILDREN



KUTUKI: Started by Sneha and Bharath, a husband-wife duo, Kutuki is truly an example of 'Made in India' as it is an App for early learning and content for young Indian children. Everything about Kutuki is 100 per cent Indian, and it caters exclusively to Indian children. Ranging from rhymes, stories, animations and illustrations, it always has something new for the children to learn. The App came to limelight after winning in the Government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge in the e-learning category. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi was so much impressed with this App that he mentioned it during his 'Mann Ki Baat' session held on August 30, 2020.

Several programmes were undertaken since the launch of the initiative to contribute to the Prime Minister's vision of transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers. These programmes are managed by a dedicated Startup India Team, which reports to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). These programmes have catalysed the Startup culture, with Startups getting recognised through the Startup India initiative and many entrepreneurs availing the benefits of starting their own business in India.

The Scheme has proven to be a boon by providing an environment conducive to their growth. A number of Startups have come up across the country in various sectors. The top 10 highlighted sectors in terms of number of Startups are: IT services, Healthcare and Life Sciences, Education, Professional and

Success through Ayurveda

NADI TARANGINI: This healthcare-based Startup has its root in Ayurveda. Founded by Dr Aniruddha Joshi, an IIT alumni, Nadi Tarangini is a tool to detect and analyse information about a person's inner health. Nadi Tarangini is a perfect combination of hardware and artificial intelligence-based, intuitive software that makes the first move in the new age Nadi Pariksha system. Using three pressure sensors to record the pulse on wrist at *vata*, *pitta* and *kapha* locations, it mimics the way a Vaidya takes nadi manually. Initial journey was not easy but once his product got recognition by the Government, the path became smoother. The Startup is very successful and has been the recipient of Silver Award for excellence in IT by Ministry of Ayush and the winner of Lexus Design Award (Jury's choice), 2019.



BENEFITS OFFERED TO RECOGNISED STARTUPS

➤ **SELF-CERTIFICATION:** Self-certify and comply under three Environmental and six Labour Laws

➤ **TAX EXEMPTION:** Income Tax exemption for a period of three consecutive years and exemption on capital and investments above Fair Market Value

➤ **EASY WINDING OF COMPANY:** In 90 days under Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016

STARTUP PATENT APPLICATION & IPR PROTECTION: Fast track patent application with up to 80% rebate in filing patents

➤ **EASIER PUBLIC PROCUREMENT NORMS:** Exemption from requirement of earnest money deposit, prior turnover and experience requirements in the Government tenders

➤ **SIDBI FUND OF FUNDS:** Funds for investment into Startups through Alternate Investment Funds

Commercial services, Food and Beverages, Agriculture, Finance Technology or FinTech, Green Technology, Technology Hardware and Renewable Energy. According to the data available on the Startup India portal, so far 4,47,343 Startups have registered on the Startup India Hub which is a one-stop platform for all stakeholders in the Startup ecosystem to interact with each other in a highly dynamic environment. Around 38,756 Startups have been recognised by DPIIT. And 264 Startups have been funded by SIDBI while 221 Startups have availed tax exemption benefits. In order to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country, the Government has also launched the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) with Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) Programmes under the Startup India initiative. It will serve as a platform for promotion of world-

class innovation hubs, grand challenges, Startup businesses and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology driven areas.

So far, 14,916 schools across the country have been selected for Atal Tinkering Laboratories, out of which 4,875 have received Rs 12 Lakh grant each and are operational. AIM has selected 86 incubators across the country to provide financial support through grants in aid and has already disbursed grants worth Rs 201 Crore to 68 incubators so far. In the last three years, over 1,250 Startups have been incubated in the Atal Incubation Centers, out of which 500 are women led Startups.

Due to the Startup India Initiative by the Government, India has emerged as the third largest ecosystem for successful Startups and has also become the third largest unicorn community. ■



Women Power at the centre of New India

*“Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devata,
Yatraitaastu Na Pujyante Sarvaastatrafalaah Kriyaah”*

It means where women are revered, divinity blossoms there; and where they are dishonoured, all actions remain unfruitful. The importance laid upon respecting women, in Indian culture, is clear from this Shloka itself. In such a scenario, the dream of a ‘New India’ is incomplete without the empowerment of half of its population. The aspiration to empower women is the driving force behind various schemes and ideas propagated by the Government. And today women’s sphere of influence is increasing across fields like education, science, politics, business, sports etc.



Six years back, on January 22, 2015, this appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was an effort towards development of a woman-centric New India, a pledge devoid of any calculative political move which was shaking the narrow mindset of the society. The concept of a New India is incomplete without woman power. The Government has been working towards this goal by taking efforts keeping in mind aspirations of women. It is the result of consistent efforts by the Government that women are not only walking shoulder-to-shoulder with men, but are going even further. Be it leading parade on Republic Day, or flying Rafale, or fighting at the border, or gaining accolades in the sports world or contributing to the country's GDP through self-employment opportunities, they are becoming pride of the nation. Women have proved that if provided with equal opportunities, they can contribute in development of a prosperous and glorious nation. In this scenario, when the country will observe the 6th anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme on January 22, 2021, and celebrate the National Girl Child Day on January 24, it can be said that behind this women power is the Government's women-centric holistic thinking which forms the basis of several such schemes.



The Prime Minister of the country stands here begging you to spare the lives of the girls.

Consider the daughters the pride of your families and of the country. You will see that soon we will get out of this mindset. Both sons and daughters are like the two wings who can help us soar high in life. And for us to scale new heights, it is necessary that we give our children wings. Then only the dreams will be realised.



Breaching Traditional Barriers

Women empowerment is key to a better nation and a better polity. This is the reason that women are scaling new heights. With the highest ever representation of women in various spheres like military, police, paramilitary forces and politics one can certainly see the path towards a new, better India being tread with giant strides. In January 2016, the Government announced 33 per cent reservation for women in CRPF and CISF at the constable posts. This is a novel step to improve the representation of women in the police forces and also make them more women-friendly. The 2019 General Elections saw the highest-ever number of elected women Members of Parliament (78), and women representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions has already touched the highest ever mark at 46 per cent.

Healthy Women, Flourishing Families

If a man falls ill, the woman can take on the dual responsibility of managing her home and livelihood. But if a woman falls ill the entire household goes into chaos. That's because women are the epicentre of the society and their families. The Government has made women health a priority since 2014. Considering the importance of antenatal care in improving the new-born and maternal health and wellbeing,

Stand Up Women, Stand Up India

The unfair notion that women are an economic burden is losing ground. Women have carved out their space in the Startup sector, enabled by the Government's Stand Up India scheme which helps in securing loans between Rs 10 Lakh to 1 Crore. Till April 30, 2020, over Rs 17,000 Crore were sanctioned to 76,451 female entrepreneurs. Women are breaching traditional barriers and marching ahead in the MSME sector too. The Government is ensuring that at least 3 per cent of all procurement is sourced from women led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This has been achieved through the successful registration



of over 8,000 women entrepreneurs who are operating from GeM platform successfully. Features like 'Womaniya' and 'SWAYATT' have been provided specially for women in GeM. Under the MUDRA scheme too around 70 per cent beneficiaries are women. In rural India, 66 Lakh Self Help Groups have been promoted under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, alleviating poverty and providing them with good standard of living. More than 54 per cent of 38.73 Crore Jan Dhan Yojana beneficiaries are women. Online e-marketing platform Mahila e-Haat, supports over 32,000 women entrepreneurs/SHGs/NGOs offering more than 7,000 products and services.

Learn the skill of winning from them...

Co-founders of Green Biotech Solutions Pvt Ltd Geetashori Yumnam and Dr Asem Sundari Devi belong to Imphal in Manipur. They are the winners of the National Entrepreneurship Award for 2019 for category A2 of Food Processing, Agriculture and Forestry. They struggled to realise their dreams of setting up an Organic-based company in the state. Their company provides free advice to farmers on bio fertilizer, bio pesticides, aquaculture, animal husbandry and environment management. They have given employment to 25 women to make them self-reliant

Co-founder of Early Foods Private Ltd Shalini Santosh Kumar and Vijaylakshmi Nagaraj are from Maharashtra. They are the winner of National Entrepreneurship Award for 2019 in the A1 category. Shalini started Early Foods with her mother from a small room. When she started this work, she was the mother of a seven-year-old child. Early Foods is an organic food company which produces pearl millet-based porridge and other snacks of 25 kinds. The company gets over 15,000 orders per month

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan was launched in 2016. The scheme provides assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. The scheme has led to a fall in maternal mortality ratio. As per the official statistics, maternal mortality ratio (per 1,00,000 live births) has fallen significantly from 167 in 2011-13 to 122 in 2015-17. Further, the neonatal mortality rate (per 1,00,000 live births) fell from

28.3 per cent to 22.7 per cent from 2013 to 2018. Over 1.82 Crore women have been benefitted from Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. Understanding the importance of skilled professional to attend all pregnancies, there are many other schemes such as Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative, Mission Indradhanush, POSHAN Abhiyan, and Kilkari that works for the betterment of maternal health by providing women timely guidelines and medications.

New initiative towards economic and social empowerment



Women have been given loan from Rs 50 Thousand to Rs 10 Lakh for self employment under MUDRA Scheme.

70

per cent beneficiaries of this scheme are women

- To encourage self-reliance among women, over 6.60 Crore women have been linked to self-help groups
- Over 22 Crore bank accounts of women were opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana. Three instalments of Rs 500 each were transferred in these accounts during Corona period
- Under Stand Up India Scheme, providing loan to a woman entrepreneur from Rs 10 Lakh to Rs 1 Crore to start a business has been made mandatory for every branch of a bank
- Future of daughters in the country is being secured by the Government's Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme. Under this scheme, accounts of girls from 0-10 years of age are opened in post offices. Rate of interest on deposits in these accounts will be given at 8.1 per cent per annum

26.75

Lakh women were trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. There is an increase of 97 per cent in the enrolment of women in ITIs

For the first time women have been allowed in the combat duties of all the three wings of armed forces. 33 per cent seats of constable in CRPF and CISF have been reserved for women

Preference will be given to women in Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna. Relaxations are also given to single mother in the process of issuing of passport

PM Ujjwala – A Boon for Women

Cooking over firewood was detrimental not only to the health of women but also to environment. Ujjwala Scheme proved to a boon for women. Five years ago only 55 per cent of households had access to LPG connection. But now this number has reached 98 per cent. Around 8 Crore poor households have been given LPG connections. The Government is aiming to raise

this number to 10 Crore households. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), cooking over coal or wood used to account for nearly 10 Lakh deaths in a year in India.

From sports to science, making India proud

Be it the field of sports or science, women are claiming their place in the sun. There is a new dawn of gender equality in every field. In the Sports arena, the Government has developed

Growing Love for Daughters

When Brahma created life, Manu and Shatrupa were born from his body. Later, five children were born due to their union. Of these, three were daughters and two sons. Daughters were named as Aakuti, Devhuti and Prasuti. Names of the sons were Uttanpaad and Priyavrat. These five were the first children in the world. It is to be noted that among the first five children, three were daughters. This means that Nature and God also give more importance to daughters. God has never differentiated between sons and daughters, these distinctions are made by man. That is why, now, with the educated society, this difference is also breaking down. Looking at the various social malpractices like female foeticide and killing or abandoning newborn girls, the level of consciousness has increased in a section of society, so now the couples are setting a precedent by adopting girls. Vivek (name changed), a hotel manager from Vadodara considers it correct. He himself gave priority to a girl child while adopting. Data from the Central Adoption Resources Authority (CARA), under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, show how people's thinking is revolutionised at a large scale. According to CARA, in 2015-16 Indian couples adopted a total of 3,011 children. Of which, the number of boys adopted was 1,156 and the number of girls was 1,855. The figure has been continuously increasing till 2018-19.



Indian Couples

Year	Number of Adoptions	Male Child	Female Child
2015-16	3,011	1,156	1,855
2016-17	3,788	1,443	2,345
2017-18	3,823	1,483	2,340
2018-19	4,027	1,629	2,398
2019-20	3,745	1,558	2,187
2020-21	2,285	954	1,331

upto
(5th Dec. 2020)

basic infrastructure to provide opportunity to new talent. Science and technology has become another area where women are taking lead. Sixteen Women Technology Parks were set up to foster innovation and scientific learning, while KIRAN fellowship allows women scientists to overcome obstacles.

Safe and Secure Women, Empowered Nation

Assuring the women of their safety is critical to enable their prosperity. To that end, no stone has been left unturned by the Government. It was a long-standing demand from the various quarters of the society to mete out strict punishment for crimes against women. For this, Parliament passed amendment to the Indian Penal Code that allows death penalty for rape of a girl child younger than 12 years. The punishment for the rape of girl child below 16 years was also increased from 10 years to 20 years. To ensure fast justice, the law states that both investigation and trial of such a heinous crime should be completed within two months. The speedy trial also ensures safety of the victim and their family as well as

BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO SCHEME



Due to Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme, there has been a substantial rise in sex ratio. The all-India sex ratio has risen from 918 girls in 2014-15 to 934 per 1,000 boys till 2019-20. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his #SelfieWithDaughter and #BharatKiLaxmi campaigns has changed the decades-old perceptions of the society

95.06

per cent
functional toilets
in 2018-19 as
compared to
92.10 in 2014-15
This has reduced
the dropout rate.

Source: Ministry of
Education

- 19.72 Lakh daughters were given incentive under Beti Padhao campaign. Over 1.5 Crore daughters belonging to the minority communities were given scholarship to the tune of Rs 2,315 Crore
- After the launch of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme, enrolment of girls increased at every level of education
- Self-defence training is being provided to daughters in every Government school

Out of
405
multi-sectoral
districts,
282
districts showed
improvement in SRB
from
2014-15 to 2019-20

Projects worth Rs 5,600 Crore were approved by the Government under the Nirbhaya Fund. Rs 100 Crore were allocated for setting up and strengthening Women Help Desks in police stations

For financial inclusion of daughters, Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme was started. Under this scheme, Rs 47,694 Crore have been deposited in the 1.56 Crore bank accounts so far

witnesses. Initiatives such as universal women helpline number 181 to help women affected by violence or launching She-Box facility in both Government and private workplaces have been undertaken.

One Stop Centres (OSC) for grievance redressal have been made for victims of domestic violence. Up to December 2020, 733 Centres in 730 districts have been approved. Out of these , at

700 Centres more than 3.00 Lakh women have been assisted.

Utilising the Nirbhaya Fund, 1,023 fast track courts have been set up and Rs 100 Crore have been allocated for setting up and strengthening Women Help Desks in police stations, and with an allocation of Rs 16.23 Crore HIMMAT mobile App was set up to act as link between women and the police.

Addressing the serious issue of trafficking among women and children, the Anti-Trafficking Law was passed by Parliament. It ensures that the different forms of trafficking are tracked and speedy justice is delivered. It lists out various forms of trafficking like forced labour, prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, etc. and lists punishments for them.

Educated Woman: Basis of a strong society

When you educate a woman, you educate a family. Taking cognizance of this axiom the Government stepped in this direction and studied in depth the problem of girls dropping out from schools. It was found that hurdles such as lack of proper toilets and the unfair notion that girls are an economic burden contributed to the dropping out of the girls from schools. Hence, the Prime Minister announced Swachh Bharat Mission during his address from the Red Fort. It has led to the construction of 4.17 Lakh toilets for girls in schools and 10.29 Crore toilets in rural India. This has reduced the dropout rate. The percentage of girls enrolled in schools is 94.23 while the percentage of boys is 89.28. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and various other scholarship schemes have helped in ridding the unfair notion that girls are an economic burden. In the field of technical education also, girls are coming forward and admission to ITI has doubled as compared to 2014. Figures by World Bank show that in 2011, around 59 per cent (above 15 years) of girls were educated, which rose to 66 per cent in 2018.

Campaign for Women's Dignity

Construction of toilets in every household is not just about cleanliness but it is also a major campaign to uphold women's dignity. Today over 6 Lakh villages are open defecation free (ODF). Dignity is not just delivered through toilets; ownership of houses empowers women in the society. With the focus on ownership of women under the PM Awas Yojana, ownership of more than 38 Lakh houses was sanctioned exclusively to women in rural India, while another 55.7 Lakh saw joint ownership between

Safety ensured by new laws

- Death penalty for rape of a girl child younger than 12 years. The law has provisions to complete hearing of rape cases in two months
- Practice of instant triple talaq was stopped by making legal provisions against it. Compulsion of Mehram (male guardianship) for Muslim women observing Haj was discontinued
- To identify people involved in the crime against women, a National Data Base is prepared. Over 1,023 fast track courts are being set up across the country to hear such cases
- A women help desk has been started in every police station of the country. Over 700 One Stop Centres have been started across the country. Important changes are made in the laws for working women

The 'Nari' portal for women was launched by the Center and State Governments with the aim of making more than 350 schemes accessible at one place

wife and husband. The Government passed the law banning the archaic practice of instant Triple Talaq and ensuring that Muslim women can live with dignity. Draconian, discriminatory provisions of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir that prohibited right to transfer property to children in case a woman marries a non-Kashmiri and

Special attention on health & nourishment

- To promote better health in women, the Government is selling sanitary pads at Re 1 each. Pradhanmantri Janaushadhi Kendras sold more than 7 Crore sanitary pads so far which are now being made GST free
- Under Mission Indradhanush, over 90 Lakh pregnant women were vaccinated. Every household was provided with toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission for the dignity of women
- Maternity leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. For the first time crèches were started in every office for the working women
- Since 2017, Rs 7,411 Crore have been disbursed under Poshan Scheme
- Maternal mortality rate was reduced to 113 during 2016-18 from 122 during 2015-17 and 130 during 2014-16
- More than 1.82 Crore women have been benefitted from Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana with over Rs 7,849 Crore directly transferred to their accounts

Over 32,000 women entrepreneurs are registered on Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal which has ensured participation of women in small and medium industries

the lack of an anti-child marriage law were done away with, by making Article 370 and Article 35A inoperative. Further, strict action will be taken against those non-resident Indians who abandon their wives post marriage.

Social Empowerment

The women centric initiatives of the Government

provide the new definition of social perceptions. The Government has constituted a task force to change the Sarda Act-1978 in order to give equal opportunities to women. The task force is charged with determining the minimum age of marriage; presently minimum age for marriage of girls is 18 years. With an aim of providing relief to women suffering from violence, the Government has recently approved the Medical Termination Pregnancy Act, wherein the deadline for abortion has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks. Paid maternity leave has been extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. Breaking social taboos, for the first time, the Prime Minister mentioned sanitary pad from the Red Fort. Addressing the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "This Government has also been persistently concerned about the better healthcare for poor sisters and daughters. We have done a huge job of providing sanitary pads at Re 1 each at Janaushadhi Kendras. In a short span of time, more than 5 Crore sanitary pads have been delivered to these poor women from 6,000 Janaushadhi Kendras." Today, women are free, economically empowered, equipped with determination, have a sense of security and are not just dreaming, but also realising it, the major reason behind this is the change in the mindset considering women as inferior beings. Times have changed from "What if it's a girl" to "Wow! It's a girl!" Try and feel this new change of thinking towards women empowerment like this. Imagine you are the elected leader of 1.3 Billion people, a global statesman with the highest following on various social media platforms and you make seven women, each with her own inspiring tale of determination, passion and service, take over your accounts. How would you feel then? Such a scenario may seem unheard of. But this is how the Prime Minister chose to celebrate the International Women's Day. This act, itself, was symbolic of the way in which the women of New India are scaling new heights, encouraged in word and in action by the Government at every step. ■

Time to get Vocal for LOCAL TOYS!

Several toys were recovered from the excavation of Harappan site. So the story of toys goes back to ages telling that toys played an important role in the mental development of children even then. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his *Mann Ki Baat* recently emphasised on the importance of toys aligned with culture and ethos of India and stressed that they should be used as pedagogical tools across all Anganwadi Centres and Schools for all-round development of children. This is the time to motivate Indian toy industry for Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat initiative. This is also the time to get Vocal for Local for Indian toys.

Toys have their own importance for the mental, social, physical and emotional growth of a child. But only 15 per cent toys available in the country are Made in India. Not only this, the contribution of India in Rs 7 Lakh Crore global market of toys is just 0.5 per cent. So Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the toy industry to join the Self-Reliant India campaign

So that children are kept away from hazardous toys...

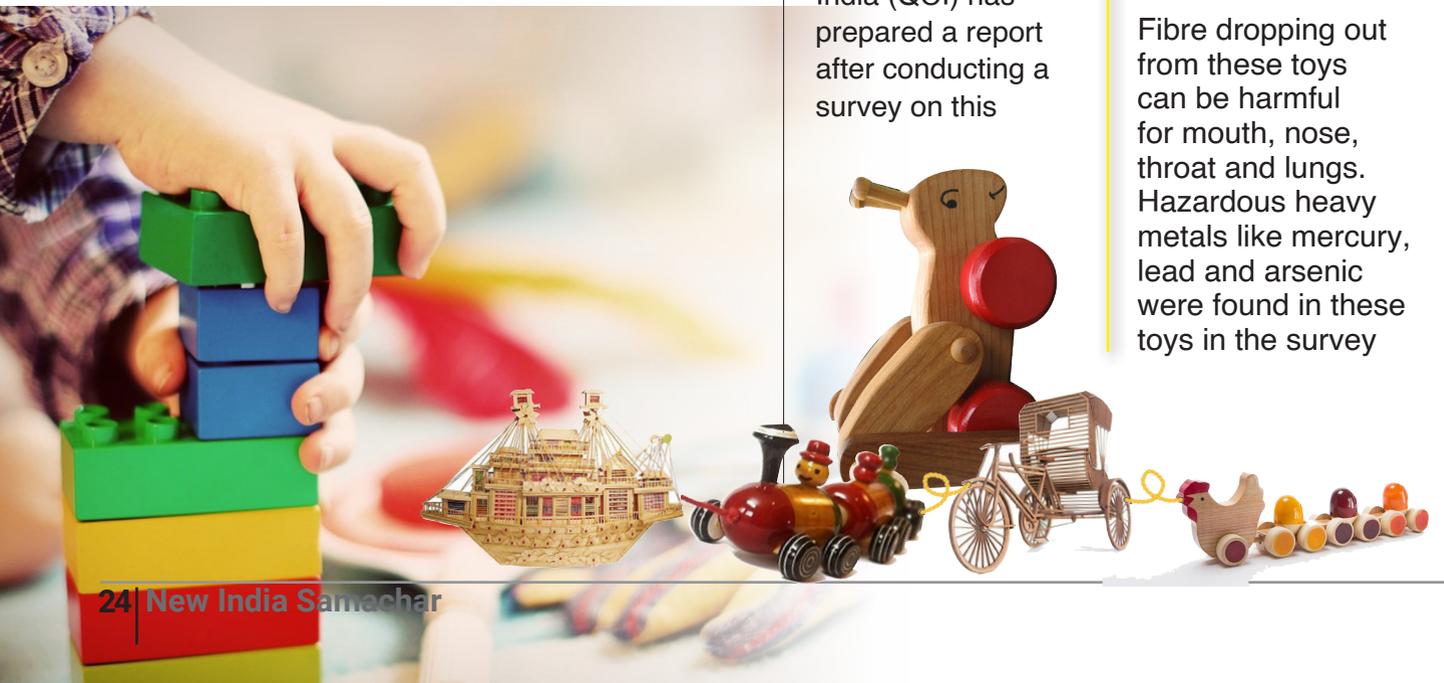


Harmful toys

Around 66.9 per cent imported toys are hazardous. Quality Council of India (QCI) has prepared a report after conducting a survey on this

Over 93 per cent toys in India are imported and many plants to manufacture these toys are in China. As per the QCI report, soft toys meant for small children contain a chemical called phthalate which is cancerous

Fibre dropping out from these toys can be harmful for mouth, nose, throat and lungs. Hazardous heavy metals like mercury, lead and arsenic were found in these toys in the survey



Why do we need Indian toys ?

There is a need to understand global and Indian toy market before trying to understand initiative taken by the Central Government to become self-reliant in the toy industry

- As per data provided by market research firm IMRC, the global toy market size is estimated at \$105 Billion. China controls 85 per cent market share followed by Europe, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and India

- In the Rs 7 lakh Crore global market of toys, India has just 0.5 per cent share. The global toy market is expected to reach \$135 Billion

- Indian toy industry has reported a growth of 15.9 per cent from 2011-18 and has a market size of \$1.5 Billion

- The organised toy industry in India is estimated to be worth Rs 3,500-4,500 Crore with local manufacturing at 15 per cent and rest of the 85 per cent demand is met from imported toys



What are the initiatives taken by the Centre...



4,000 manufacturing units

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Commerce said that the MSME segment has about 4,000 manufacturing units comprising 75 per cent micro, 22 per cent small and medium and 3 per cent large units

The Government is working on two-pronged strategy. The first is to make local toy industry better. The second is to provide competitive environment to Indian toys with foreign toys in Indian market. Indian toys are being made healthy considering health concerns of children

- DPIIT has taken several measures to restore Indian toy industry and improve quality of toys available in India
- To ensure that toys manufactured or imported in India conform to standards issued by BIS, certification of toys being sold in India is made mandatory. As per the new order, handicraft and GI toys will be exempted from this provision
 - Import duty on foreign toys is increased to support Indian toy industry in the domestic market
 - Special attention is being paid on Channapatna in Ramnagaram district in Karnataka, Kondapalli in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu, Dhubari district in Assam, Varanasi and Gautam Buddha Nagar districts in Uttar Pradesh which are emerging as toy clusters. We can count many other such names
- The Education Ministry has prepared a 14-point programme to encourage Indian toys. Under this programme, science exhibition based on themes of toys will be organised by NCERT, CBSE, Central School and Navodaya Vidyalaya for the next two-three years
- NCERT and other nodal authorities have been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing a new curriculum to include such toys that help understand history, science and mathematics along with having library of toys. This is being linked to the National Education Policy



How will these initiatives benefit...

- 1.** It is expected that Toy industry policy will generate employment for unskilled, semiskilled and skilled workers especially women
- 2.** Cultural heritage of the country will be promoted through local toys. Anganwadi and schools are being linked to it considering the importance of toys in children's mental development
- 3.** Children will get good quality of toys, which are better in terms of health ■



A PROMISING ASSURANCE

Remembering former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of Good Governance Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he was the architect of agricultural reforms in the country. The present Government is committed to double farmers' income by 2022

Not only to double their income by 2022 but also to mete out risk of farmers for their crop loss, the Government launched the crop insurance scheme — Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). Besides this, ever since PM KISAN Samman Nidhi Scheme was launched, more than Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore have reached the accounts of farmers and that is what good governance is all about. Good governance has been used through technology. More than Rs 18,000 Crore have been deposited directly into the farmers' bank accounts in a moment.

Speaking on the occasion of Good Governance Day Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “No commission, no cut, no rigging. Using technology, the PM KISAN Samman Yojana has ensured that there is no leakage. The system has been created after the online registration of farmers, verification of their Aadhaar number and bank accounts through the state governments.” Except more than 70 Lakh

Today, the entire country is remembering him and bowing down to Atal ji. In a way, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also the architect of the agricultural reforms that the country has brought to fruition. Atal ji considered corruption in all schemes in the interests of the poor and the farmers as a national disease

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

BENEFITS OF PMFBY



- No upper limit on Government subsidy, even if the balance premium is 90 per cent, it will be borne by the Government
- The scheme, implemented in February 2016 had a budgetary allocation of Rs 5,500 Crore for 2016–17. It was increased by 154 per cent, as announced in the interim Budget of 2019
- Since its implementation, the PMFBY has achieved 41 per cent coverage of farmers

PM KISAN SAMMAN YOJNA

- Rs 18,000 Crore deposited directly in the bank accounts of more than 9 crore farmer families in the country
- Ever since the scheme started, over Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore reached into the accounts of farmers
- The Government is ensuring that farmers get a fair price for their crop
- The Government fixed one-and-a-half times the production cost as MSP for the farmers as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee report

KISAN RAIL: FOR GREENER PASTURES

The Government's commitment for an all inclusive growth of farmers is reflected in the initiatives taken so far. Creation of Rs 1 Lakh Crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for the uplift of agriculture sector will boost AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign to strengthen the inter linkages in the sector. It is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is realised through the Government's another ambitious project of Kisan Rail besides others. Now, flagging off the 100th Kisan Rail from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal by the Prime Minister once again asserted his resolve to strengthen farmers of the country.

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that even during Corona pandemic, 100 Kisan Rails were started in the last 4 months. No minimum quantity has been fixed to transport through Kisan Rail so that even the smallest produce will be able to reach the big market properly at a low price.

- Kisan Rail has given millions of small farmers of West Bengal a huge leverage
- The Government's priority is on storage-linked infrastructure and processing industries associated with value addition in farming products
- About 6,500 such projects are approved under Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain Infrastructure and Agro Processing Cluster, under the PM Krishi Sampada Yojana. Rs 10,000 Crore have been sanctioned for micro food processing industries under AatmaNirbhar Abhiyan package
- Over 80 per cent of the small and marginal farmers will be benefitted through Kisan Rail



- A parcel of 50-100 kg too can be sent
- A 3 kg packet of pomegranate, which is the smallest consignment of the railway till now was sent by rail. Not only this, a poultry farm owner also sent 17 dozen eggs through it
- With Kisan Rail and Krishi Udan (flight), the Government is expanding reach of its farmers to far-flung areas of the country as well as the international market
- It is also a kind of 'moving cold storage'. That means fruits, vegetables, milk, fish and other perishable items are now safely reaching from one place to another with complete security

farmers in West Bengal, the scheme is benefiting the farmers of the entire country. Besides this, PMFBY is one of the largest risk-mitigation programmes by the Central Government for providing a protective shield to farmers from all natural risks over the entire crop cycle.

This scheme is the first of its kind in terms of

the lowest premium payable by farmers and the highest value of crop insured.

With the changes, it is expected that farmers would be able to manage risk in agriculture production in a better way and will succeed in stabilising the farm income. Further, it will increase coverage in North Eastern region. ■



Government gears up for **COVID-19** **VACCINATION**

The Central Government is preparing itself to administer COVID-19 vaccine across the country. In the first phase of the vaccination drive, around 30 Crore people will be vaccinated. **India will emerge at the forefront in the fight against Coronavirus**

The wait is finally over for COVID-19 vaccine! In the fight against Coronavirus pandemic, India has emerged as a role model for the entire world. The Government extended its full support to scientists working on developing the vaccine and took every measure to ensure that once vaccine is ready, it is made available to people without any delay. The Government has already started dry run to test vaccine delivery system.

Operational instructions have been issued with respect to COVID-19 vaccination programme. People will be kept under observation for about 30 minutes after being vaccinated. Around 30 Crore people will be vaccinated in the first phase. This will include healthcare and frontline workers, people above 50 years of age and people with co-morbidities.

PRIORITISED POPULATION GROUPS TO BE INCLUDED

On the advice of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC), following are the people identified for vaccination in the first phase:

- 1 HEALTHCARE WORKERS:** About 1 Crore healthcare workers in both the Government and private healthcare facilities
- 2 FRONTLINE WORKERS:** About 2 Crore frontline workers including personnel from state and central police department, armed forces, home guard, civil defence organisations, disaster management volunteers and municipal workers
- 3 PRIORITISED AGE GROUP:** About 27 Crore people in the prioritised age group, which includes those aged above 50 years and those with co-morbidities



PROCESS FOR VACCINATION



A five-member team called as Vaccinator Officers will be formed for vaccination



96.19 %

RECOVERY RATE

1.45%

DEATH RATE

Total test so far
17,56,35,761

Two yards Distance



Recovered Patients- **99,46,867**

Active cases	Total patients	Total deaths
2,43,953	1,03,41,416	1,50,858

Data Up to January 4; Source: Health Ministry

FREE VACCINATION FOR 3 CRORE PEOPLE

- An end-to-end mock drill on the vaccine administration was conducted on January 2, 2021
- This dry run was aimed at testing the laid out mechanisms for COVID-19 vaccination roll out in the health system and to assess operational feasibility
- The activities starting from beneficiary data upload, session site allocation and micro planning, vaccine allocation, session site management with test beneficiaries, reporting mechanism etc. were covered in this one-day dry run
- Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said, "Just like we prepare during elections, the same way we need to train each member of all medical teams responsibly."
- One Crore health workers and two Crore frontline workers to be vaccinated free of cost
- Subject Expert Committee grants permission for restricted emergency use of vaccine to Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech for their vaccines COVAXINTM and Covishield, respectively

REGISTRATION FOR VACCINATION

- Registration for the vaccination is likely to take place through the Co-WIN App. It can be uploaded by the Central Ministry, State Governments or District Administration
- If someone is registering on his/her own then they will have to submit any 1 of the 15 documents listed
- These documents include Aadhar Card, Driving License, Health Insurance, Smart Card issued by the Central Labour Ministry, MNREGA Job Card, Pan Card, Bank Passbook, Passport, Post Office Passbook, Pension Papers, Identity Card issued by the office, Voter ID Card etc
- State Governments were given important instructions regarding vaccination process. State level and District level committees have already held meetings for this purpose

It is the result of the Government's preparedness pre- and post-lockdown that while the COVID-19 situation around the world is becoming worrisome, India is seeing a steady and continuous decline. The Central

Government's preparedness can also be gauged from the fact that it has already issued necessary instructions for the disposal of syringes and other medical waste after the vaccination drive. ■



Developing Tourism for an Incredible India

Tourism sector has witnessed a healthy growth in the last six years. By tapping into the potential of India's beauty, diversity and architectural genius, the sector has managed to thrive successfully. After a lean phase in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, the sector is all set for repeating the success story in the days to come

With one of the New Seven Wonders of the World Taj Mahal being in India and the Statue of Unity becoming a new rage for hodophiles, tourism in India has unlimited scope, strength and places to showcase. India's beauty is its diversity. The variety of landscapes like mountains, sea, sand dunes, peninsulas make it unique, attracting tourists from across the globe. It is an economic powerhouse with a potential to spearhead growth besides improving quality of life of people with its inherent disposition to generate large scale employment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019 said: "I am asking you one thing. This is to generate



If we, 125 Crore Indians, decide that we have to give importance to our tourism sector, we can attract the world. We can draw a very large number of tourists to our side. Through this we can provide new employment opportunities to several million young people in India. Be it the government, institutions, society, citizens – we all have to come together to make this happen. Come, let's make an endeavour in this direction



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mann Ki Baat,
March 27, 2016**

employment of the youth, to build an image of India in the world and to tell the world what India is capable of. It is time you decide that before 2022, when India will be celebrating the 75th Year of its Independence, we take our families to at least 15 tourist destinations in the country.”

Even during the Howdy Modi programme held in Houston, Texas, the PM had appealed to the expatriate community there to inspire at least five families of foreign origin to visit India.

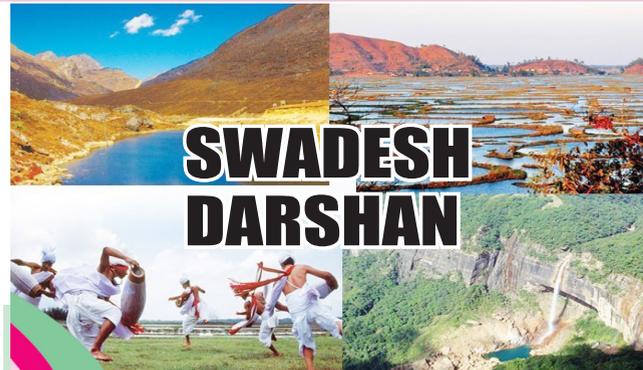
The Government with its resolve for Self-Reliant India is focusing on this sector and efforts are yielding results too. As per a report of World Economic Forum on Travel and Tourism Competitiveness 2019, India ranked 34 out of 140 countries by improving its ranking by 6 places over the 2017 report. India has good air transport infrastructure (ranked 33rd) and a reasonable ground and port infrastructure (ranked 28th). The Central Government is adding 100 new airports in the country under the ‘Udaan’ scheme. Initiatives like this will also provide boost to tourism industry.

In terms of GDP, tourism sector comes in the top 10 category. It is also the biggest source of foreign investment in the country. According to latest data, tourism industry is responsible for around 13 per cent employment in the country. Around 10 Crore people get employment directly or indirectly through this industry. According to a report by FICCI, the Indian tourism industry will grow to be worth \$35 Trillion by 2029. The Government came out with various initiatives to augment tourism infrastructure in the country. The two most crucial schemes which have the potential to improve socio-economic scenario of the region

BUDDHIST CIRCUIT



- ▶ One of the most ambitious schemes of the Government is the development of Buddhist Circuit. It has been identified as one of the 15 thematic circuits for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- ▶ Through this, Government's objective is to showcase journey of Gautam Buddha through the various phases of his life to the tourists
- ▶ The Government has sanctioned five projects for Rs 355.26 Crore under the Buddhist Circuit theme covering the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh



SWADESH DARSHAN

The scheme launched during 2014-15 focuses on integrated growth of theme-based tourist circuits by building required infrastructure so that it can harness the potential of the region and can create employment opportunities for the people there. Fifteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: North East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit. An amount of Rs 6,035.70 Crore has been sanctioned for 77 projects



ADOPT A HERITAGE: APNI DHAROHAR, APNI PEHCHAAN: This scheme aims at developing

heritage sites and making them tourist friendly in a planned and phased manner. It aims to encourage private/public companies/organisations and individuals to adopt monuments, natural heritage sites and other tourist sites in the country, primarily under CSR

PILGRIMAGE REJUVENATION AND SPIRITUAL, HERITAGE AUGMENTATION DRIVE (PRASHAD): With an objective of promoting pilgrimage tourism, the scheme has



identified 51 sites in 28 States for development. Since the inception of the scheme, an

amount of Rs 840.02 Crore has been sanctioned for 28 projects in 17 States

DEVELOPING NICHE TOURISM PRODUCTS:

Ministry of Tourism has taken up the initiative of identification, diversification, development and promotion of niche tourism products



of the country like Cruise, Adventure, Medical, Wellness, Golf, Polo, Meetings Incentives Conferences & Exhibitions (MICE), Eco-tourism, Film Tourism, Sustainable Tourism etc. to overcome 'seasonality' challenge in tourism and to promote India as a 365-day destination

as well as the overall health of the economy are Swadesh Darshan and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD). Tourism industry is badly impacted due to Corona pandemic. According to CII, number of foreign tourists has decreased by 58-78 per cent. But during the pandemic too, the Government remained persistent in its efforts to promote tourism through its webinar series—Dekho Apna Desh. This virtual series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme. Through this webinar series, the Ministry of Tourism initiated



MEDICAL TOURISM

- Medical tourism has made it to the top in terms of foreign exchange earnings
- As per reports in 2020, India's medical tourism sector is estimated to be worth \$5–6 Billion
- Since August 30, 2019, foreigners can receive any medical treatment in India with the exception of organ transplants without a medical visa

RISE IN NUMBER OF TOURISTS ARRIVALS

- Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during 2019 were 10.89 Million (Provisional) with a growth of 3.2% over same period of the previous year
- During the year 2019, the estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism was Rs 2,11,661 Crore with an annual Growth Rate of 8.6 per cent
- During 2019, the number of domestic tourist visits to the States/UTs was 2321.98 Million as compared to 1853.79 Million in 2018 registering a growth of 25.3 per cent

e-VISA AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS

- e-Visa facility is now available for citizens of 165 countries. It is now available at 25 airports and 5 sea ports
- A multi-lingual 24-hour helpline started for tourists
- Validity of e-Visa increased from 30 to 60 days. Welcome Cards are being given to tourists visiting India. It will provide all important information at one place
- Visiting hours for 10 important historical monuments in the country revised. They will now remain open from 9 AM to 9 PM

different programmes like 'India's Hidden Gems' which focused on less visited but attractive destinations. Another was 'Birding in India', centred around birds and birding opportunities in the country. India is truly like a kaleidoscope, where every twist and turn presents one with a different pattern of landscape, colour, cuisine and culture. The best way to experience this is by travelling to destinations as much as you can that are not popular on the internet.

Thus, one can say that Indian tourism is now more than welcoming for the world to come and enjoy the wonder that is India. ■

EMPOWERING STUDENTS, WOMEN AND FARMERS



From increasing scholarship amount of SC students to revising guidelines for DTH services to creating more jobs with various measures, here's a look at some important decisions taken by the Union Cabinet

DECISION: Five time increase in the share of the Centre in the post-matric scholarship approved

BENEFITS:

- Rs 59,048 Crore worth scholarship has been approved to benefit over 4 Crore SC students
- This will help reducing dropouts. Over 1.36 Crore extremely poor students will be made part of this scheme by launching a special drive
- Scholarship's 60 per cent (Rs 35,534) share provided by the Centre to be transferred directly into the beneficiary account

DECISION: Industrial Corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru under CBIC approved

BENEFITS:

- The approved proposals have a total estimated cost of Rs 7,725 Crore and an estimated employment generation of more than 2.8 Lakh persons
- This will facilitate manufacturing investments into the country by providing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to industries
- This will also position India as a strong player in Global Value Chains with developed land parcels in cities for immediate allotment for attracting investments

DECISION: Revision in guidelines for providing DTH Services in India approved

BENEFITS:

- License for the DTH to be issued for a period of 20 years in place of present 10 years. Further

the period of license may be renewed by 10 years at a time. License fee has been revised from 10% of GR to 8% of AGR

- The cap of 49% FDI in the existing DTH guidelines to be aligned with DPIIT's policy on FDI as amended from time to time

DECISION: Expansion of interest subvention scheme to provide financial assistance for enhancement of ethanol distillation capacity from grain-based distilleries along with molasses-based distilleries approved

BENEFITS:

- The expanded interest subvention scheme will fuel investment of about Rs 40,120 Crore in the ethanol value chain, encouraging 'Urja Kheti' which will augment farmer's income, transform 'Annadatas' into 'Urjadatas' and contribute to the overall vision of AatmaNirbhar Bharat
- The price of ethanol procurement has also gone up from around Rs 39 per litre in sugar year 2013-14 to an average price of Rs 58 per litre in sugar year 2020-21

DECISION: Deepening and Optimisation of Inner Harbour Facilities including Development of Western Dock on BOT basis under PPP mode to handle cape size vessels at Paradip Port approved

BENEFITS:

- The project will facilitate (i) de-congestion of the Port, (ii) reduce Sea freight making coal imports cheaper, and (iii) boost the industrial economy in the hinterland of the port leading to creation of job opportunities. ■

THE SAVIOUR OF KASHMIR

A tribute to Param Vir Chakra Major Somnath Sharma on his birth anniversary whose valour redefined the courage under fire in a ferocious and decisive battle at Budgam in Jammu & Kashmir which saved the state from Pakistan



BORN: JANUARY 31, 1923
DIED: NOVEMBER 3, 1947

HIS CITATION READ:

“His leadership, gallantry and tenacious defence were such that his men were inspired to fight the enemy outnumbering them. Major Sharma set an example of courage and qualities seldom equalled in the history of the Indian Army.”

“The enemy is only 50 yards from us. We are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire. I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to the last man and the last round.” This was the last message of Major Somnath Sharma which is a testimony to the courage and bravery of men in Indian Armed forces. Major Sharma laid down his life saving his post in Srinagar in 1947. The 4th Kumaon Regiment led by him kept the tribal raiders engaged for six hours thus, gaining time for reinforcement.

The enemy design was foiled as the battle changed the course of history forever, with tribal raiders losing over 200 men and their leader. Major Sharma in the command of 4th Kumaon Regiment prevented the fall of Srinagar and Kashmir Valley. For his bravery and courage, he was awarded Independent India’s highest wartime gallantry award Param Vir Chakra posthumously. His actions in the battlefield are an epitome of transcended heroism.

Born on January 31, 1923, at Dadh in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, his family had a long tradition of military service with his father Amar Nath Sharma, served as a Major General in the Indian Army. On February 22, 1942, he was commissioned into the 8th Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment (later named as 4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment) of the Indian Army.

When attack from Pakistan began on October 22, 1947, Major Sharma had his right hand in a plaster cast due to a fracture suffered while playing hockey. Though he was advised rest,

but he insisted on being with his company in the battlefield. He was given permission to command his unit with a mission to hold the Kashmir Valley, repel all invaders and defend J&K.

On November 3, 1947, the enemy reached Budgam, a small town just a few miles away from the Srinagar airfield. Major Sharma reached there with his troops and took up position immediately. It was 2:30 PM in the afternoon when a 500-strong force of tribal raiders, supported by powerful mortars, attacked his company of 50 jawans. Surrounded by enemy from three sides, 4 Kumaon sustained heavy casualties from mortar bombardment. Sharma immediately sent a request for reinforcements.

He knew the importance of holding onto his position. The Srinagar airfield was the only lifeline the Army had between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of India. Major led his company to fight bravely. Major Sharma himself took up the task of filling magazines and issuing them to the light machine gunners. Despite his fractured arm, he ensured that casualties didn’t affect the speed and effectiveness of his gunners. However, by the time the reinforcement reached Budgam, Major Somnath Sharma, one Junior Commissioned Officer and 20 other soldiers were martyred. But their sacrifice did not go in vain. ■

REFORMS AND NEW INITIATIVES WINNING CONFIDENCE OF PEOPLE

From legal assistance to agriculture reforms initiated by the Government are proving to be helping hands for people across the country. These initiatives are bringing change in the lives of people and empowering them

TELE LAW BRINGS JUSTICE TO VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Tele Law service has emerged as one of the most popular platform to bring justice to people. The service, launched in 2017 is made available in 260 districts and at 29,860 community centres across the country. It provided legal assistance to over 2.75 Lakh people so far from the far off places of the country with the help of telephone and video conferencing. One such woman Syeda Rizvi was provided legal assistance under the Tele Law Scheme. Syeda belonging to Gundipora village of Budgam district of J&K failed to bear child which became the reason for her ordeal as her in-laws started harassing her physically and mentally. Once she was locked up in a room for two days but she somehow managed to escape to reach her parents and there she was informed about Tele Law by an Asha worker. She complained against people harassing her with the help of Tele Law. The matter was resolved within a month of filing the complaint and Syeda's husband accepted his guilt. He agreed to compensate his wife and also providing a separate house. So Tele Law helped Syeda to save herself and also helped protecting her rights.

FARMERS GETTING BENEFITED BY NEW FARM LAW



The story of a farmer from Samastipur district in Bihar has become a rage on social media. Actually the farmer's cauliflower crop was not getting proper price but when the matter somehow reached the digital platform Common Service Centre, a businessman from Delhi offered him ten times more than the price he was getting. The Central Government has made this digital platform for farmers to sell their crops. So the cauliflower that was being sold at Re 1 per kilogram was offered Rs 10 per kilogram. The buyer sent advance payment to the bank account of farmer after an agreement between them. This was made possible only due to the new farm laws. With the help of this law, farmers can sell their produce anywhere in the country. ■

GOING GLOBAL WITH LOCAL PRODUCTS



There are many lessons to be learnt from the year gone by especially during the COVID-19 crisis, which actually helped the country to become self-reliant and make 'Self-Reliant India' a movement to cherish. Drawing inspiration from Sikh Gurus, compassion and service to others can become New Year resolution for the people. Some excerpts from Mann Ki Baat:

TURNING CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY: The world faced numerous hurdles in terms of supply chains on account of Corona. But we learn a new lesson from every crisis. The country was blessed with newer capabilities. This capacity is termed as "Atmanirbharta"- Self Reliance.

INDIAN TOYS: Jhandewalan market in Delhi is known for bicycles and toys. Earlier expensive toys there would mean imported ones; cheaper toys too would come from elsewhere. But now many shopkeepers are selling toys to customers emphasising on the quality, saying those are better toys since they are 'Made In India'. Customers too are demanding Made in India toys.

SWADESHI: This is an opportune moment to work with the ethos of 'zero effect, zero defect'. It is time to ensure that Indian products meet global standards. Whatever is the global best, we should make it in India and prove it. For that, entrepreneurs have to come forward. Startups too have to come forth.

SIKH GURUS: We will always be indebted to Sri Guru Teg Bahadurji, Sri Gobind Singhji, Mata Gujriji and the four Sahibzadas. They never compromised with their ideals and always worked towards building a compassionate society.

RISING NUMBER OF LEOPARDS: The number of leopards has risen by more than 60 per cent between 2014 and 2018 in India. In 2014, the number of leopards in the country was about 7,900, whereas in 2019 it increased to 12,852. Population of lions in India has also risen; the number of tigers too has increased.

COW PROTECTION: Prison inmates in Kaushambi district in Uttar Pradesh are making covers from old and torn blankets to protect

cows from cold. They are sewing several covers every week. Let us encourage such acts of care with a sense of service to others.

YOUTH POWER: Youth of the country has the 'Can Do' approach and the 'Will Do' spirit in them. No challenge is too big for them. Nothing is out of reach for them. A teacher from Tamil Nadu, Hemalata N K, teaches the oldest language of the world Tamil at a school in Viddupuram. Even the COVID-19 pandemic could not create hurdles in her teaching work. She recorded all the 53 chapters of the course, created animated videos, put them in a pen drive and distributed it amongst her students.

SAFFRON GOING GLOBAL: In May this year, the Kashmiri saffron was given the Geographical Indication Tag. Kashmiri saffron is globally famous as a spice that has many medicinal properties. It has a strong aroma, its colour is deep dark and its threads are long and thick which enhances its medicinal value. Now its exports will get a boost. This will further strengthen our efforts to build an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

ECOLOGICAL WARRIORS: Gurugram's Pradeep Sangwan has been running a campaign 'Healing Himalayas' since 2016. He goes to different areas in the Himalayas with his team and volunteers where they clean plastic waste dumped there by tourists. Similarly, a young couple from Karnataka, Anudeep and Minusha decided that they would clean up the garbage that people have left behind at the Someshwar beach. Together they cleaned up more than 800 kg of waste from Someshwar beach. ■

 Tune in to Mann Ki Baat by scanning QR Code





Narendra Modi @narendramodi
30th December 1943...a day etched in the memory of every Indian, when the brave Netaji Subhas Bose unfurled the Tricolour at Port Blair. To mark the 75th anniversary of this special day, I had gone to Port Blair and had the honour of hoisting the Tricolour. Sharing some memories.

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
Under the #AtmaNirbharBharat, India is growing in its capabilities of manufacturing wide variety of Defence platforms & missiles.
The Cabinet chaired by PM @narendramodi ji today approved the export of Akash Missile System and a Committee for faster Approvals has been created.

Amit Shah @AmitShah
I congratulate PM @narendramodi ji, for approving proposals for Industrial Corridors worth ₹7725 crore in today's cabinet, which will generate more than 2.8 lakh jobs. These projects will provide an impetus to "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and boost investments across the country.



Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
2020 challenged us with pandemic and changed our lives. But, during this time we have renewed our efforts towards #AtmaNirbharBharat by supporting #Vocal4Local & entrepreneurship. It has again proved that we as a country are resilient and can collectively win over any challenge



Smriti Z Irani @smritiirani
PM @narendramodi Ji gaining highest approval ratings among world leaders in a survey done by US based Data firm Morning Consult is a matter of great pride for India. It is testimony to Hon PM's rising popularity and people's trust in his leadership & vision for the Nation.

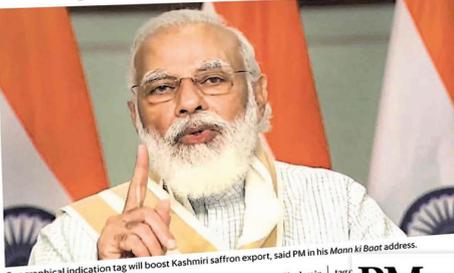


Dr Harsh Vardhan @dhrharshv...
#CovidVaccine तैयार, आखिरी प्रहार का इंतज़ार !
जिस तरह चुनाव के समय प्रत्येक बूथ पर तैनात कर्मियों को प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है, ठीक उसी प्रकार से health workers को भी प्रशिक्षण दिया गया है।
#vaccination के लिए विस्तृत guidelines भी तैयार करी गई हैं।

PM urges India Inc to ensure global best is locally created

Local manufacturers should adopt best practices in global manufacturing, said Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it was important to make world-class products to ensure that domestic manufacturing achieves the desired results. In his monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat*, the PM said the masses have supported the "vocal for local" initiative, and that demands for India-made products was increasing. He urged manufacturers and industry leaders to adopt the best practices in global manufacturing to ensure equality. He said Indians must take a New Year resolution and betterment of the country and encourage the use of more local products in their day-to-day lives.



Geographical indication tag will boost Kashmiri saffron export, said PM in his Mann Ki Baat address.

In 2020's final 'Mann ki Baat', PM tells industry to create 'world class products'

Appeals to citizens to take New Year resolution that they will use only 'Make in India' products

OUR BUREAU New Delhi, December 27 Building on his much talked about philosophy of 'Aatmanirbharata' or 'self-reliance', the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday exhorted Indian industry leaders and entrepreneurs to ensure that the global best products are manufactured in India even while scaling up the quality quotient of the products being made here to a level of 'world class'. Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann ki Baat', the last edition for year 2020, Modi also appealed to the people to make a list of goods of daily use and analyse

which imported articles have unconsciously become part of our lives and made us their captive. Let us find out their Indian alternatives and resolve to use products produced in India by the hard work and sweat of Indians. This should be everyone's New Year resolution for the sake of the country, Modi said. He also said that time is ripe for manufacturers and MSMEs to achieve 'zero defect zero effect'.
"Vocal for local" "I call upon manufacturers and industry leaders that when people have taken determined step forward and

Delhi's Jhandewalan market-famous for toys—are now selling India made toys with great pride. This big change in one year is noticeable, he added. Modi said there can be nothing better than the country reaching greater heights in 2021. He highlighted that the nation developed 'Aatmanirbharata' during coronavirus crisis. The PM said supply chains got disrupted due to the pandemic all across the world, "but we learnt new lessons from each crisis." The Prime Minister also gave his address to share the good news of 60 per cent increase in population of leopards in the country between 2014 and 2018.

PM Modi to flag off Metro's first driverless train today

comfort and enhanced mobility for Delhi-NCR residents. With the commencement of driverless trains on the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line, DMRC will enter the elite league of 7% of world's Metro networks, which can operate without drivers," the DMRC statement read.

Soumya Pillai soumya.pillai@htivive.com
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday will inaugurate India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line — which connects Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden — along with launching the fully operational National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) services on the Airport Express Line. In a statement issued on Sunday, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said that the inauguration will be held via video conferencing at 11am on Monday. "These innovations are going to herald a new era of travelling,

DMRC also announced that after the 37-km Magenta Line, they are also preparing to introduce the driverless technology on the 57-km Pink Line (Shiv Vihar-Majlis Park) by mid-2021. The driverless trains will be fully automated, which will require minimum human intervention and will eliminate human errors," the Metro said. Officials explained that the driverless train technology has set standards for automation

called grades of automation (GoA). In GoA 1, trains are run by one driver and, in GoA 2 and GoA 3, the role of the driver is reduced to operating doors and for taking over in case of emergencies — the starting and halting of trains is automated. Finally, in the GoA 4, trains are set on a completely unattended operations mode. Beginning tomorrow, at the Magenta line between Janakpuri West and Botanical Garden, GoA 3 will be adopted for the services. Apart from this, the Metro on Monday will also begin use of National Common Mobility Card, an Airport Express Line. This will allow passengers carrying a RuPay-debit card issued in last 18 months by 23 banks to swipe these for Metro travel.

Brexit: India could gain as of now

The longest political divorce in recent history is near completion, with the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) agreeing to a minimalist Brexit treaty. The treaty still needs acceptance by a slew of governments across Europe. But since the alternative is a divorce without mitigation at year-end, green signals are inevitable. Indian industrial firms will be relieved that the Brexit agreement will allow them to continue to treat the UK as their investment gateway to Europe. London's plans for becoming the financial gateway for the large capital flows coming into India are less certain. New Delhi was never enthusiastic about Brexit, seeing it as a weakening of western unity and a geopolitical gain for a rising China. More recently, however, it has seen opportunity in Britain's desire to orient itself away from Europe and take a hard stand against China. The real test for India will be whether it can leverage the UK's desire for some quick trade agreement successes and put together a services, aligns data standards, and incorporates immigration. Brexit has given India an opportunity to show that it is not protectionist as much as forward-looking when it comes to trade, technology and investment. The question is whether the Modi government has a strategic enough sense of trade policy to grasp this chance.

PM recalls sacrifices of Sikh Gurus

Pitches for 'made in India' goods | Listen to our 'Mann ki Baat' too, say farmers

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27 Amid the farmers' protest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to the Sikh Gurus, including the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, saying their sacrifices helped keep the country's culture safe. On his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, the PM said, "We pay tributes to the brave Chas Sahibzade, we remember Mata Guji, we recall the goodness of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur ji, Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji. We remain indebted to them for their sacrifices and spirit of compassion."



Farmers dang ulanals to protest PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, at Singhu border on Sunday. PH

There has been no breakthrough after five rounds of talks between the Centre and the protesting farmers unions, which have rejected a government proposal to amend the laws and provide a written assurance on the MSP issue. Security remained tight at the Delhi borders with hundreds of personnel deployed at Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri where the farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh, have been camping since the last week of November. Protesters clanged plates and other utensils at the sit-in sites during PM Modi's 'Mann ki baat' monthly radio address following a call by agitators unions.

Street vendor scheme a hit, govt plans next phase: digital payments

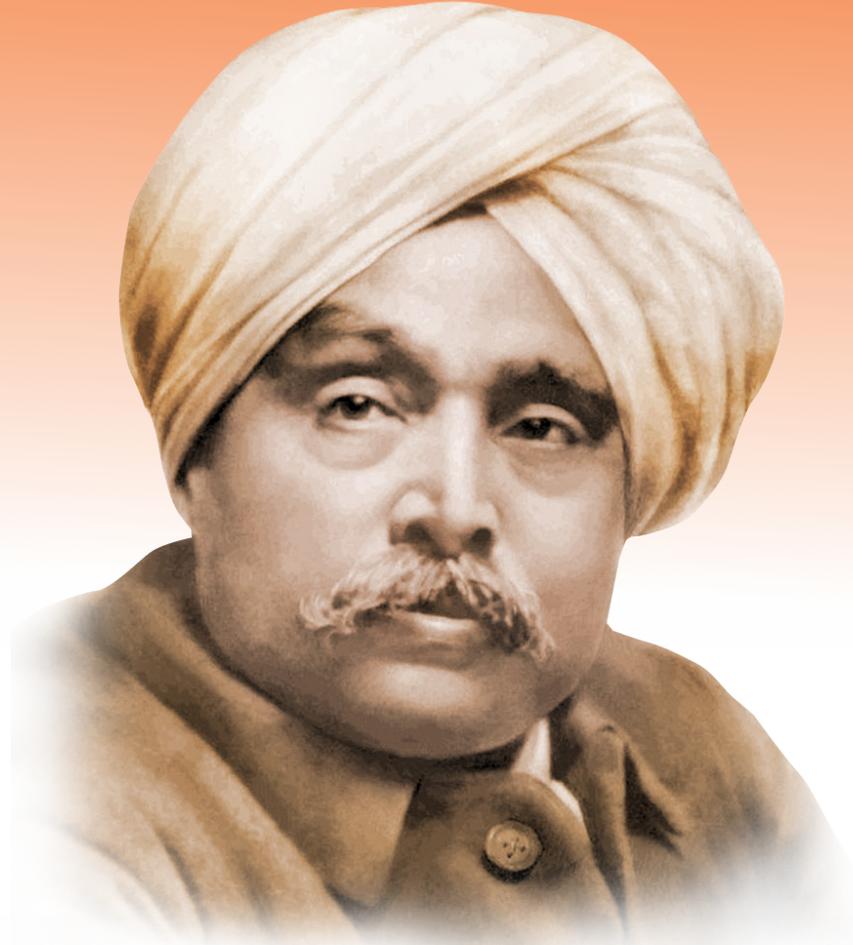
APPEAL IGNORED, 176 MORE TOWERS ATTACKED
UP TO OBSERVE DEC 27 AS SAHIBZADA DIWAS
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STARTING NEW YEAR, over a million street vendors across India will accept and make payments digitally, having come on board for the 'Main Bhi Digital' (me too digital) drive designed by the Centre for them. The drive has been prompted by the success of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi) scheme. Launched in the wake of the Covid-19 lockdown, to provide vendors microcredit. As part of the new drive, between

EXPLAINED
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LION OF PUNJAB



**Salute to the brave son of Mother India, Punjab
Kesari Lala Lajpat Rai on his birth anniversary. His
saga of sacrificing his life for the independence of
the country will always inspire the countrymen**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi