

Volume 1, Issue 13

New India

January 1-15, 2021

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

# SAMACHAR

NEW HOPE



NEW DAWN

CHERISHING

NEW DREAMS

WITH A PEOPLE-CENTRIC GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTRE,  
THE VISION OF NEW INDIA IS A REALITY NOW

Cover Photo | Dong village in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh where the first ray of Sun falls in India

# CHAMPIONS OF AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT



## DHANI RAM SAGGU

*An Innovative Carpenter*

A carpenter from Punjab's Zirakpur, crafted a bicycle from wood to beat lockdown blues

His eco-friendly innovation got him orders from as far as Canada

Within 4 months, he produced a finished product now being sold for ₹15,000



## ROSHAN RAY

*Innovative Eco-Friendly Initiative*

Seed Paper India founded by Roshan Ray has been converting old clothes into a Biodegradable Paper that has seeds artfully embedded in it

The paper is used to make visiting/wedding cards that can later be sown in a pot to produce plants, vegetables or flowers



## ALOE VERA VILLAGE

*Inspiring Story of Dewri Village in Ranchi*

With planting a number of medicinal plants, Dewri village has been rechristened as 'Aloe Vera village'

The villagers, who used to earn around ₹3,000 per month from paddy cultivation earlier, are now happy with their new financial prospects

This year, apart from working in paddy fields, they were able to boost their income by selling aloe vera leaves that almost doubled their income during the lockdown



## AMMA BAGHI

*An Entrepreneur, Empowering Women in Arunachal Pradesh*

Baghi from Itanagar is providing training to women of remote villages in making handicrafts and toys

During the lockdown, they focussed mainly on making dolls & toys to promote local traditional toys

She is not only an example of hard-work & determination herself but has also empowered other women along the way

# New India SAMACHAR

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# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>EDIT</b>	Pg. 02
<b>2</b>	<b>MAIL BOX</b>	Pg. 03
<b>3</b>	<b>VISION</b>	Pg. 04-05
<b>4</b>	<b>SWACHH BHARAT MISSION</b>	Pg. 06
<b>5</b>	<b>YOUTH AFFAIRS</b>	Pg. 07-09
<b>6</b>	<b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT</b>	Pg. 10
<b>7</b>	<b>UJJWALA SCHEME</b>	Pg. 11
<b>8</b>	<b>RAILWAYS</b>	Pg. 12
<b>9</b>	<b>JAL JEEVAN MISSION</b>	Pg. 13
<b>10</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE REFORMS</b>	Pg. 14
<b>11</b>	<b>ENERGY REVOLUTION</b>	Pg. 15
<b>12</b>	<b>SVAMITVA SCHEME</b>	Pg. 16
<b>13</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	Pg. 17
<b>14</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	Pg. 18-20
<b>15</b>	<b>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	Pg. 21
<b>16</b>	<b>GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY</b>	Pg. 22-23
<b>17</b>	<b>ECONOMY</b>	Pg. 24-26
<b>18</b>	<b>KASHI VISHWANATH DHAM</b>	Pg. 27
<b>19</b>	<b>PASSPORT SEVA PROGRAMME</b>	Pg. 28-30
<b>20</b>	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	Pg. 31
<b>21</b>	<b>LEGAL REFORMS</b>	Pg. 32
<b>22</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	Pg. 33
<b>23</b>	<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR AND LADAKH</b>	Pg. 34-35
<b>24</b>	<b>SAFFRON CULTIVATION</b>	Pg. 36
<b>25</b>	<b>SECURITY</b>	Pg. 37-39
<b>26</b>	<b>CABINET DECISIONS</b>	Pg. 40

## FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Namaskar!

Wishing you all a very happy New Year! This year is special for everyone as we are entering into the first year of a new decade, leaving behind some bitter memories of the last year of the past decade which everyone would like to forget. However, in every crisis there is a new learning. Hence, our approach should be optimistic in every situation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outlook has always been optimistic and he has on many occasions reiterated that a glass should always be seen as half full, and not as half empty. He affirmed this by turning a crisis into an opportunity, and it is because of his efforts that AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign has turned into a mass movement and people are getting 'Vocal for Local'. It is the result of taking strong decisions and their deft implementation by the Government over the past six years that the country is witnessing a new dawn.

In all these years, 450 schemes of the Government have been implemented on the ground level, but this time we are focussing on 21 selected issues in our 'New India Samachar' magazine to illustrate how a new dawn of development and hopes is rising in the country.

India's success is not only limited within the country, but in the new decade of the 21st century it is also emerging as a harbinger of hope for the entire world.

To fulfil these expectations, the support of its 130 Crore people is required so that the country, which is witnessing a new dawn of development, can continue to fulfil hopes and expectations of its people.

Once again, wishing you all a very happy New Year!

Please share all your feedback and suggestions...

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(K S DHATWALIA)



## Mail Box



New India Samachar is a well designed and an informative magazine. Hope, this is available abroad also. Let's spread these excellent thing around the world. I would like to make one small suggestion. In every issue, please interview one top Industrialists like Mukesh Ambani, Mallika Srinivasan, Venu Srinivasan, Anand Mahindra, Sonalika Mittal, Escorts Nanda, Murugappa CEO, etc. to get their views on how they could add value to the Indian economy. This will be a very great booster for Startups and small entrepreneurs.



**Thanks & Regards**  
vsp@tafe.com

Accept my appreciation for such an effort to provide information to common people about various Government's welfare works for people. The design of the magazine is very good and it is very reader friendly.

Also, a big thank to you for choosing me to send the copies.

Can I forward your mail to my contacts to spread the readership?



msk141958@gmail.com

I wish to congratulate the team of New India Samachar. I would like to make a request for sending PDF copy of news in mail so that we can easily read it.



hardie.desai@gmail.com

Thanks for your valuable information on the state of economy. The issue is a tribute to the commitment of the Government to bring the economy on the growth path with the true spirit of *Jaan Bhi Aur Jahan Bhi* and turning crisis into opportunity.

Tribute to Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya was an excellent read.



Thanks & Best Regards  
sahab\_singh2006@yahoo.com

A very good magazine for providing information on Government works. I would like to suggest a low cost Bhartiya Kisan Patrika (monthly) where a platform can be provided to sale/purchase of crop and many more activities which is profitable for both retailers and wholesalers for various agro-based products. It should throw light on new technology for farmers and what Government can do for Agro industries.



regards  
bhilaicalibration@gmail.com



# WELCOMING HOPE!

The year 2020 that started with COVID-19 pandemic has not only impacted lives of people across the globe. Its impact on the economy was no less severe. Turning this crisis into opportunity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to people to be Vocal For Local as only this could lead to a Self-Reliant India. People followed words of the Prime Minister and the result is visible in a V-shaped economic recovery that the country is witnessing



**M**ost would like to forget 2020 in a hurry given the kind of devastation COVID 19 pandemic unleashed on humanity during the last nine painful months. India should look at 2021 as a year of new hope transcending 1.34 billion of its populace into a new phase of socio-economic development and prosperity.

Picking up threads from March 2020, for men and women, for the elderly and the kids, from metropolis to hinterlands, the task on hand would be to bring about a semblance of normalcy.

As reports suggest, hectic preparations to vaccinate the entire population in phases have been in full swing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the lead. While warriors in the healthcare sector continue their round the clock vigil to save as

many lives as possible, pinning on new hope and opportunity to move forward may be easier said than done. Being eternal optimists, you can bet on the quintessential Indians to drive changes in the post-COVID era.

World will not be the same as we get ready to ring in the New Year. From lifestyles to economy, behavioural changes in life seem inevitable. India would be no exception to these changes. Making this transition possible with minimal fuss would be an obvious priority of the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Stable and strong leader in him has left no stone unturned in managing the pandemic induced crisis and leading the country in arguably one of its most difficult times post-Independence.

# THE SILVER LINING

- **On exports and services fronts, the New Year could herald a new beginning of sorts**
- **Indian merchandise exports that were valued at \$27.58 Billion in September 2020 with a growth of 5.99 per cent over the same month previous year instil some hope**
- **Indian service providers that fought a valiant battle against COVID-19 propelled cancellation of orders have already moved into the positive zone with expansion reported in October 2020**
- **With COVID-19 related restrictions scaled down globally, service providers are bound to offer their best to the world**

Every vulnerable section was given some relief or other from the three AatmaNirbhar packages and they would obviously continue to get support as the Prime Minister had reassured in various interactions with different sections of the society. From food grains to cash support, credit to subsidies, the Government has walked the talk as it moved about business like while remedying health disaster related adverse impact.

During six years of the Government, the way policies have been formulated keeping the welfare of poorer sections, all socially beneficial schemes, last mile deliveries with maximum transparency, corruption in high places negated, digitisation of public services ensuring that corruption at lower level was minimised. This has generated an unprecedented popular faith and belief in leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Dawn of New Year would bring greater fulfilment of hopes and aspirations.

Signs of the economy bouncing back on the strength of the Rs 29.87 Lakh Crore AatmaNirbhar Bharat package beginning May 13, are already there. Resilience of Indian people and the strong

economic fundamentals only helped the government chart a new course for development. Beginning with reconstruction and rebuilding different sectors disrupted by the pandemic, priority would obviously centre around putting the economy on a high growth trajectory. AatmaNirbhar Bharat campaign initiated by the Government a few months back could be the starting point to rev up all engines of the economy, spur demand and bring jobs back especially in micro, small and medium enterprises. On the back of the emergency credit guarantee scheme, over 45 Lakh small businesses have revived their operations protecting a huge number of formal and informal jobs. Over Rs 2,05,563 Lakh Crore have been sanctioned to 80.93 Lakh borrowers.

Out of this, Rs 1,58,626 Crore have already been disbursed. More seems to be on the way. This is just one data spec that points to on-going efforts to ensure full economic recovery as the New Year unfolds pristine surrealism. This surrealism is also reflected in independent consultancies' notes on India's economic growth prospects.

While challenges are many, this Government is known for turning most difficult situations into opportunities for making a mark on the global canvas like unfurling path-breaking reforms in labour and agriculture sectors.

These reforms were intended to bring about transformational change in the lives of New India's workforce and farmers. Four new Labour Codes and liberalised agricultural markets provide the perfect springboard to spreading prosperity to our hardworking industrial workforce and the farmers.

Without their participation, a healthy 3.6 per cent agriculture growth would not have been possible in the first half of this financial year. Similarly, the industrial growth that saw a downturn in April – September 2020, sprung back to life with 3.6 per cent growth in October 2020 thereby pointing to a firm manufacturing recovery going forward.

Backing prudent policies of the Government that seeks to be part of high value global supply chains could break the jinx in 2021. Trade surplus of \$17.74 Billion and exports at \$221.86 Billion achieved during April – September 2020 could be the perfect matrix to move forward. As Swami Vivekananda said, "Hope and positive ideals are very good motive powers for our lives". Let's hope for the best in the New Year! ■



**NEW HOPE  
NEW DAWN**

**SWACHH BHARAT MISSION**



# TOWARDS A CLEAN INDIA

On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission. Since then following the footsteps of Gandhiji India is heading towards becoming a clean nation by adopting and practicing all hygienic norms. More and more people extended their support to this initiative and it became a mass movement. India was able to provide more than targeted households and public toilets. All panchayats became open defecation free. In total, toilets were provided for more than 60 Crore people. There has been a drastic change in the attitude of the people as well. Now, not just authorities but people too are participating in keeping the locality clean

## HEADING FORWARD WITH NEW AIMS



- With ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) as the aim the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) was launched. It would be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 in a mission mode with a total outlay of approximately Rs 1.40 Lakh Crore
- For cleanliness in rural areas, a 10-year-action-plan was launched in September 2019
- With ODF+, ODF++, star rating for garbage-free cities and annual survey, cleanliness is maintained
- The Swachh Survekshan Survey 2021 will be conducted from January 4 to 31, 2021
- Now, about 60,000 toilets can be located on Google maps in 2,900 cities

## MEETING EXPECTATIONS

- Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), the aim was to build 5,89,967 domestic toilets. It managed to build 62,28,372 toilets which is 106 per cent of the target
- Similarly, more public toilets were built than the target. The aim was to build 5,07,589 community toilets. So far, 59,556 toilets are constructed which is 117 per cent of the target
- Garbage collection from home is taking place in 4,372 cities and 8,434 wards
- As per Swachh Survekshan 2020, more than 12 Crore citizens of 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 97 towns along the Ganga River participated in the survey. Indore was declared as India's cleanest city for the fourth time in a row
- With social welfare schemes, more than 5.5 Lakh sanitation workers and 84,000 rag pickers were added into the mainstream
- In more than 77 per cent wards in the country, garbage separation is being done with machines
- Between October 2, 2014, and December 15, 2020, a total of 10,72,35,435 domestic toilets were constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
- Across India, more than 6 Lakh villages in 706 districts are ODF
- As per a 2018 report from the World Health Organisation, more than three Lakh lives were saved from diarrhoea
- As per a 2019 report from the UNICEF, 75.5 Lakh full time jobs were created under the Swachh Bharat Mission between October 2014 and February 2019 ■

Out of  
**4,340**  
ODF cities,  
**1,319**  
are declared  
ODF+ and  
**489**  
are made  
ODF++





# India's driving FORCE



“ I always say the young dreams and aspirations should not be curbed. They should be let loose in the sky, because the youth is overflowing with new ideas, he has freshness, energy, vigour, sharpness, and he does not carry the baggage of the past. Therefore, he is more capable in tackling challenges and problems ”

**Prime Minister  
Narendra Modi**



India is a young country with 800 million youth. About 65 per cent of the population in India is under 35 years of age. Youth is one of India's major strength. Be it reminding them to **skill, reskill** and **upskill** or inspiring them with his words, Prime Minister Narendra Modi always asserted his faith in the youth for country's growth

**T**ime and again, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about the power and potential of the youth. A large number of schemes of the Government are designed in such a way that they cater to the needs of today's youth. Be it Digital India Mission, Make in India

or Skill India Mission, the Government is of the view that the youth is the driving force for the nation.

Unveiling the statue of Swami Vivekananda at the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus in New Delhi, Prime Minister said in November 2020 that the youth is the



**YOUNGEST COUNTRY WITH AN AVERAGE AGE OF 29 YEARS**  
**THE YOUNG AVERAGE AGE OF 29 YEARS IS THE GREATEST**  
**STRENGTH. THROUGH THIS POWER OF YOUTH ONLY,**  
**INDIA'S GROWTH RATE CAN INCREASE UPTO 2 PER CENT**

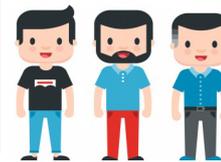
## HOW OLD IS INDIA

50

per cent or more of the population is under 25 years of age

65

per cent or more population is under 35 years of age



62 per cent of the population is between the age group of 15 and 59 years (work force)

## A NEW APPROACH TOWARDS YOUTH

- Starting from providing good education to the youth to ensuring that they get multiple options for shaping their future, the Government has come up with a range of schemes and programmes for them
- Startup India was launched to catalyse the startup culture in the country. It has helped in building a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship
- National Education Policy (NEP) was formed to create a young India with confidence, conviction and character. It has been ensured that the poorest of the poor get the right to better education according to their needs and convenience
- To help the poor youth belonging to the general category, 10 per cent reservation was given for the economically weaker section in education and government services
- Skill India Mission was launched to create convergence across sectors and States in terms of skill training activities. It seeks to provide the institutional capacity to train a minimum 40 Crore skilled individuals by 2022. Further to achieve the vision of Skilled India, the Mission would not only consolidate but would also coordinate skilling efforts to expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling with speed and standards
- National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) was launched in July 2015, to provide a strong institutional framework to implement and scale up skill development efforts across the country and to impart training to one Crore youth every year. For 2019-20, Rs 1,749.22 Crore was allocated for the scheme
- The Government has launched YuWaah – a multi-stakeholder platform to make young people career ready. Under this, the young people will be given entrepreneurship classes (online and offline) with successful entrepreneurs and experts, towards establishing entrepreneurial mindset among young people
- National Career Service (NCS) was launched to offer jobs. As of December 2020, the portal has 1,02,74,899 active job seekers. A total of 81,158 employees were offered 71,024 vacancies till December 2020
- Make in India was launched to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property and build best in class manufacturing infrastructure

## THE JOURNEY AHEAD

- Starting from better education to improve income opportunity, the Government remains committed to the welfare of the youth. It is providing sufficient resources for the better health and nutrition of the youth
- The Government has formed five zonal committees to hunt sports talent across the country. One for each zone - north, south, east, west and north east. Committees will be formed under the Khelo India Programme of Sports Authority of India
- Several reforms brought into the traditional fields, including agriculture sector. With emerging possibilities, youth are now engaging themselves in these fields
- With the aim to transform poor rural youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana was launched. Under this, the Government has aimed for training 28,82,677 youth by 2022. Till December 9, 10,80,900 youths were trained and 6,28,124 got placements



- Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) offers opportunity to those above 18 years of age and Class 8 pass for projects costing above Rs 10 Lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs 5 Lakh in the business or service sector
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs 10 Lakh are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to set up or expand their business activities



# 50,000

**India ranks third in the world in terms of Startups**

It has not only paved the way for young to dream, but the help of the Government is also being provided to Startups



# ₹ 10,00,000

**More than 26 Crore new loans sanctioned under Mudra scheme**

According to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy, the number of self-employed youth in India has increased by about 2.5 Million. The number of self-reliant youth increased from 5.30 Crore (2016) to 5.60 Crore in 2019

brand ambassador of Brand India across the world.

“Our youth represent the culture and traditions of India. Therefore, the expectation from you is not only to feel proud of the thousands-

years-old identity of India, but also to forge India’s new identity in the 21st century. To remember and tell what we have given to the world in the past enhances our self-confidence. We have

to work for the future on the basis of this self-confidence. It is our collective responsibility to innovate what India would contribute to the world in the 21st century,” he said. ■



# From women safety to Self-Reliance

Growth and development of any society or country is possible only with the empowerment of women. Women in India have expanded their roles from household chores to defending borders including flying sophisticated jet like Rafale and being part of the space mission. The Government is tirelessly working for their security, welfare and empowerment by taking decisions that are helping them



- Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) is made compulsory to ensure security
- Bank accounts of 22 Crore women were opened through Jan Dhan Yojana
- More than 7 Crore sanitary napkins were provided at Re 1 each from the Jan Aushadhi Kendra

## FAST TRACK COURTS

- Created a national data base to identify perpetrators against women. Around 1000 fast track courts are being set up across the country to hear such cases

## New Dawn for women...

- Since 2014, several new laws were introduced to ensure women empowerment
- For protection of girls, the Criminal Law (Amendment) bill was enacted. It provides death penalty for rape of a girl less than 12 years of age
- Law against Triple Talaq made the practice of 'instant divorce' a criminal offence. The compulsion of having a Mehram (male relative) was also removed for Haj pilgrims
- In every police station, a help desk was created for women. More than 600 One Stop Centres were also started
- To check cybercrime against women, a portal was launched. It was made compulsory for every taxi to have GPS and a panic button
- Women were allowed to work in night shifts and a permanent commission for women in the Indian Armed Forces was allowed
- More than 6.60 Crore women were added in different self-help groups
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana, a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 is being provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers for first living child. So far, 1.20 Crore women were given the amount
- Under Mission Indradhanush, 90 Lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, toilets are being built in every household

## New Hope

- The Government launched the National Repository of Information for Women (NARI) portal. It contains information about 350 Government schemes
- *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*, launched to address the declining Child Sex Ratio, is showing promising results. An improving trend is indicated in 104 districts
- Duration of paid maternity leaves for women employees is increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks
- The Centre is giving 8.1 per cent annual interest for saving accounts at post offices under the Sukanya Samridhi Scheme for girls between 0 to 10 years ■





# SMOKE-FREE KITCHEN FOR HEALTHY WOMEN

**H**ealth is wealth! And taking care of the health of women and environment is the biggest wealth creation that the Government is doing with the launch of Ujjwala Scheme. Under this scheme free LPG connections are given to BPL families. So far, over 8 Crore households were given free LPG connections through the Scheme covering around 98 per cent kitchens in the country.



Over 100 women beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shared how free LPG connections changed their lives for the better. Pic Source: <http://ddnews.gov.in>

## DREAMS GETTING REALISED

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on May 1, 2016. The target to provide 8 Crore new LPG connections was achieved on September 7, 2019
- Around 98 per cent households are using LPG gas cylinders in their kitchens after the launch of Ujjwala which was just 55 per cent five years ago. There is an increase of 42 per cent
- Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have issued 1,306.87 Lakh LPG refills to PMUY beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) till August, 2020
- In 2016-17, 200.3 Lakh connections were provided. In 2017-18, 155.7 Lakh connections were given free of cost. In 2018-19, 362.9 Lakh LPG connections were released. In 2019-20, 82.64 Lakh connections were issued

## NEW HOPE FOR BETTER FUTURE

- Now, the Government has raised the target of providing free LPG gas connection from 8 Crore to 10 Crore and for that provisions of Ujjwala are being changed. The Government has plans to provide LPG connections to all 28 Crore families of the country
- Under the Scheme, Rs 9,709.86 Crore was transferred directly into the bank accounts of Ujjwala beneficiaries during April-June 2020
- This is amongst the largest clean energy drives globally
- Steps are being taken to provide piped natural gas (PNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the poor families
- According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is like burning 400 cigarettes an hour ■



**MORE THAN 11.97 CRORE PMUY CYLINDERS WERE BOOKED AND ALREADY DELIVERED FOR APRIL AND JUNE 2020**



# OFFERING SERVICES, SAFETY AND SPEED

Indian Railways are being moulded into aspirations of New India and expectations of a Self-Reliant India. In the last six years, it has offered better safety, more cleanliness and has witnessed substantial improvement in reducing the travel time. A network of semi-high speed trains is being developed. Vande Bharat is an example of transformations taking place in Indian Railways. Taking Railways to the unserved areas, 100 per cent electrification of trains and zero carbon emission are Government's aims in the coming year

## NEW DAWN



## NEW HOPES

-  Railways completed electrification of 18,065 kilometre railway line in the period 2014-20. This was 371 per cent increase compared to the five years between 2009-14
-  Railways have launched a completely digitised online Human Resource Management System. Between April 2019 and June 2020, no lives were lost in train accidents. Since 1853, this is the first such achievement
-  Record 1,274 Manned Level Crossings were eliminated in 2019-20 compared to 631 in 2018-19
-  Railways saw the highest- ever renewal of rails for 5,181 track km (TKM) in 2019-20 against 4,265 TKM in 2018-19. Total 505 pairs of trains were converted to Head on Generation (HOG), unleashing approximately 70 million litre diesel and Rs 450 Crore per annum potential saving
-  In the field of green initiatives, a total number of 69,000 coaches were fitted with more than 2,44,000 bio-toilets in Indian Railways

-  Railways have entrusted National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) with the work of preparing detailed Project report for 865-km-long Delhi-Varanasi High Speed Rail corridor
-  NHSRCL will be adopting Light Detection and Ranging Survey (LiDAR) technique using Laser-enabled equipment mounted on a helicopter for conducting ground survey
-  Railways have aimed for electrification of the entire 28,143 kilometre of broad gauge by December, 2023. Around 66 per cent work was completed by November 2020
-  The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), Vadodara, a deemed to be University established under the Railway Ministry, has announced seven new courses for the Academic year 2020-21
-  It is offering Master of Sciences course in Systems Engineering in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UK
-  Railways are aiming for zero carbon emission by 2030. It will be installing Solar panels on the less used land
-  Railways are fitting radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) in all wagons for tracking.
-  Railways have announced recruiting 1.4 Lakh new vacancies ■



# Tap connection FOR EVERY RURAL HOUSEHOLD

Even after seven decades of India's Independence, every household does not have the basic necessity of piped water supply. People have to walk miles for this very basic necessity. But since 2014, the Government has accorded top priority to assure basic services to the people living in the rural areas of the country to improve their living standards



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August, 15, 2019, announced Jal Jeevan Mission. While the Government was aiming for about 88,000 tap connections on a daily basis, currently about 1 Lakh households are being provided with tap connections daily. The Government launched a special mission mode campaign to provide potable piped water supply in all schools and Anganwadi Centres within 100 days

## Fulfilling the dreams

- The aim of Jal Jeevan Mission is to give tap connection to over 15 Crore rural households
- Till December 2020, six Crore families were provided piped water connections
- Goa became the first state to provide piped water to each and every household. Srinagar and Ganderbal districts of J&K also achieved 100 per cent target
- The Mission has to cover about 16 Crore households in a time-bound manner. This means 3.2 Crore households to be covered every year, which means about 88,000 tap connections to be provided on a daily basis
- During pandemic, about 45 Lakh tap connections were provided in 45 days. This means about one Lakh households are being provided with tap connections daily
- For ensuring transparency, every asset created is being geo-tagged and connections are being linked with the Aadhar

## Fulfilling New Hopes

- The mission aims at universal coverage of provision of tap water connection to every rural home by 2024
- By 2022, Haryana, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim are expected to complete the mission
- Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh have kept 2023 as the target year
- By 2024, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal will provide tapped water to each and every household
- The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan has also been linked to the mission. Migrant labourers will be provided employment in 25,000 villages in six states ■



# FARMERS NOW THE REAL OWNER OF FARM PRODUCES



## A GIFT OF HAPPINESS

- So far, 22.39 Crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed enabling farmers to opt for the right crop
- The cost of fertilizers has reduced. Subsidy for fertilizers was also provided under the Direct Benefit Transfer. About 9 Lakh farmers were given training for horticulture. Also, farmers were provided loans on lesser interest rates
- Irrigation facilities were ensured and the farmers were given expert advice on crops over calls and text messages

Under the Kisan Samman Nidhi, every year, a farmer gets **Rs 6,000** directly into the bank accounts

So far, **10.19 Crore** farmers were given **Rs 94,000 Crore**

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana ensured crop insurance at a minimum cost. This helped in compensating crop loss
- National Agriculture Market, e-NAM, was launched for inter-State trading of farm products
- Micro irrigation facilities are provided. This has reduced the cost of irrigation by 50 per cent. The requirement for fertilizers also dropped by 42 per cent

## DREAMS GETTING REALISED

- The Government is encouraging Startups in the agriculture sector to enhance job opportunities for youth and to provide better income to farmers. At least 346 Startups related to agriculture and allied fields were started. These Startups will also help in new innovations
- For improving agriculture-related infrastructure, agri infra fund worth Rs 1 Lakh Crore was established in August 2020. Basic agri infrastructure, including warehouse, transport system, processing and packaging is being developed with this fund

**10** years, under the Kisan Samman Nidhi

**Rs 7 LAKH CRORE** to be disbursed among farmers

So far, farmers were given **Rs 94,000 CRORE**

- During Coronavirus, while all the sectors were facing recession, the farm sector had a record production. It has reported a growth of 3.4 per cent in the first two quarters. It is expected to improve further in the upcoming year
- This year, there will be a lot of improvements in the infrastructure. The pace of this development will be fast so that by 2022, the Government can fulfil the promise of doubling the income of farmers ■



# India to emerge as the GLOBAL POWERHOUSE

To attain the goal of 'One Nation, One Grid and One Frequency', Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in 2019 proposed the concept of a 'One Nation, One Grid'. At present, the country is divided into five grids. Power Grid Corporation of India says that by the end of 12th Five Year Plan, the country had total inter-regional transmission capacity of about 75,050 MW. It is expected to be enhanced to about 1,18,050 MW by the end of 13th plan. Synchronisation of regional grids will help in optimal utilisation of scarce natural resources from resource-centric regions to load-centric regions. With more focus on renewable energy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi talking about 'One Sun, One World, One Grid', India having 36 per cent share of renewable energy is likely to emerge as the energy hub of the world

- With Pradhan Mantri - Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), uninterrupted power supply could be ensured in villages, which aims to install a total solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022

- India is the 4th largest in renewable power capacity and is growing at the fastest speed. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 GW which is about 36 per cent of the total installed capacity

- The Government believes that if solar energy is used in all irrigation pumps of the country, then not only will the electricity be saved but 28,000 MW additional power will also be generated

- The Government will allow farmers to make solar power by installing solar panels on their fields or on the ridges of the fields in the next phase of KUSUM. Under this scheme, 10,000 MW solar energy plants will be set up on the wastelands of farmers



## A NEW DAWN FOR ENERGY SECURITY

- More than 7,600 Billion Units of electricity were generated since 2014 and 100 per cent village electrification completed
- Over 199 Crore LED bulbs distributed under UJALA which has reduced LED procurement cost by 87 per cent. Use of LEDs is saving nearly Rs 24,000 Crore every year
- Over 2.5 Crore households were electrified under Saubhagya Scheme. India improved its ranking in the availability of electricity from 137 to 22
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) in the field of renewable energy is the contribution of India to the world
- Over 136.37 Billion units electricity saved and reduction of CO2 emission to the tune of 151.7 Million Tonnes. Procurement of 10,000 e-vehicles for Government institutions is initiated

## FOCUS ON CLEAN ENERGY

- Out of total power generation of 3,73,436 MW till October, 2020, the share of renewable energy is 89,636 MW. The Government has set the target of 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW till 2035
- The Government's commitment towards other sources like wind, bio and hydroelectricity reiterates the fact that the country will meet the target by 2035
- India's initiative towards ISA is a major landmark. As per National Solar Mission, focus is on manufacturing solar equipment that will help in making country Self-Reliant by 2030 ■





# Digitisation of property for development

Ownership record of land and houses plays a big role in the development of community and the country. When there is a record of property available, citizens gain confidence and new avenues of investment are open. Loan is easily available from the bank on the basis of record of property for self-employment. Social reformer and politician Nanaji Deshmukh had said that when people of a village remain trapped in disputes, neither will they be able to develop themselves nor the society. Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to give property cards to every household in every village of the country under SVAMITVA Scheme by 2024

## NEW BEGINNING

- SVAMITVA Scheme launched in April 2020 would register every residential property by mapping it digitally with the help of drone
- This will facilitate selling and buying of property. This will also help the family to prove ownership over the property
- The Government registration will help in ascertaining the cost of the property. Geo tagging of over one Lakh properties has already been done
- Around one Lakh villages in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, and a few border villages of Punjab and Rajasthan are being covered in the pilot phase (2020-21)
  - The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners and issue property cards
    - One can check property record under SVAMITVA Scheme and take printout. This will also help in solving dispute of Waqf and other properties
    - Governments and other local bodies will be able to fix circle rate
    - It has enabled around one Lakh property holders to download their Property Cards through phones

## NEW HOPE

- Digitisation of property under SVAMITVA Yojna was launched on April 24, 2020, on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Diwas
- The Scheme is being implemented across India in a phased manner over a period of four years (2020-2024) and would eventually cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the country
- The survey is being conducted at a fast pace with a target of providing 50 Lakh property cards to land owners
- This will eliminate middleman and transferring property from one generation to other will be made easy
- Digitisation of property and information related to it will be made available at e-Gramswaraj portal. Status of the property can be checked there only
- Place of school, market and other public utility in villages will be decided on the basis of available land ■





## India to lead in KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

**P** rime Minister  
Narendra Modi  
asked Indians to work

hard to ensure that the 21st Century belongs to India. Knowledge economy can play an important role in achieving this objective with the launch of National Education Policy (NEP). This will make way for a large-scale transformational reforms in both school and higher education sectors to make India a self-reliant Nation on the line of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. The school education, higher education curricula and pedagogy aim for holistic development of students by equipping them with the key 21st century skills. The Government has also changed name of the HRD Ministry to Ministry of Education.

### EDUCATING ALL

- About 2 Crore dropouts to be brought back into the mainstream
- The 10+2 structure of school curricula to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years, respectively
- Uncovered age group of 3-6 years to be brought in under school curriculum, which is recognised globally
- Mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5 but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond
- The Centre and State Governments will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6 per cent of GDP
- Union Minister of Education inaugurated 46 online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) to train teachers of higher education institutions
- The Government launched 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness Education campaign to bring awareness towards patenting of inventions

### MAKING EDUCATION INCLUSIVE

- National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy to be set up by Shiksha Mantralaya
- Sanskrit to be offered from school to higher education as an option for students. Other classical languages of India to be offered as options as well
- National Assessment Centre, Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) to be set up
- Setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups
- National Educational Technology Forum will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration ■



# Ayurveda

## The essence of life

The Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, initiated an effort of integrating other traditional medical practices like Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy by creating a separate Ministry of Ayush. It is the effort of the Government that culminated in observing June 21 as International Yoga Day in 2015. Moreover, it attracted the entire world towards Ayurveda and now the ancient medical practice has achieved a global recognition with its market spreading

“ Ayurveda is a heritage of India whose expansion is important to the well-being of the entire humanity. Which Indian will not be happy to see that our traditional knowledge is now enriching other countries as well?”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement speaks volumes about the importance of Ayurveda in today's lifestyle. This alternative medicine is practiced in India since ages. It demonstrated its worth during the Coronavirus pandemic when it was proven beyond doubt that Ayurveda and Yoga could be a major immunity boosters in the absence of any available treatment of COVID-19. Moreover, it was acknowledged by the medical experts across the globe as well. The entire world remained glued to India during the pandemic for its apt handling.

Now the scenario raises a relevant question about modern medical practitioners'

conservative approach towards Ayurveda. This is an assertion phase for Ayurveda where it has been seen that more and more people are now embracing and adopting it as a crucial medicine for their ailments.

### AYURVEDA WITH NO SIDE EFFECTS

Ayurveda has its reach across every household of the country in some or the other way. One can easily find all kinds of Ayurvedic medicines in almost every Indian family. Side effects from Allopathic medicines is the major reason for the use of Ayurvedic medicines and the system gaining popularity. From beauty products to eatables, one can find the use of Ayurveda in the day to day life of the people.

# UNIQUENESS OF AYURVEDA

This ancient medical practice has found its way in the modern life through its various features which includes meditation to medication

## TOURISM

To counter stress more and more people are getting inclined towards yoga, meditation and Ayurveda. Now, places like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are becoming hot spots for Ayurvedic tourism

## FACILITIES

There has been a substantial increase in the number of Ayurvedic hospitals and medicine stores. Even AIIMS like institute in Ayurveda are working on researches since 2016

## PANCHAKARMA

Toxic substances are stored in our body. In such a situation, Panchakarma is an effective method which cleanses our body through vomiting, nasal, vasti and blood pressure

## MARKET

Ayurveda has a global market share of \$80 Million. It is expected to reach Rs 6 Lakh Crore by 2050

## WONDER OF AYURVEDA

The importance of Ayurveda can also be gauged from the story of 8-year-old Mohd Musa from Afghanistan. In July 2015, Musa came from Afghanistan. His neck could not support itself. After several unsuccessful attempts to get treated from the costliest and the biggest hospitals in Afghanistan and India, his father Yusuf Naimi resorted to Ayurveda. Within just six months of Ayurvedic treatment, Musa who could not stand and walk for even two minutes was able to walk for around 6 to 8 minutes

## EIGHT BRANCHES OF AYURVEDA

Ayurveda is complementary to Allopathy. While the latter provides an immediate relief, Ayurveda works on weeding out the root cause of the disease. Ayurveda has been divided into eight branches from 1000 BC. It has medicine, child care, neurology, surgery, ENT-dental, toxicology, chemical medicine and traditional medicine. Every branch has different manuscripts with a detailed study. Apart from that, it has separate treatments for animals and vegetations. But the question remains why Ayurveda is lagging behind in India for so long despite being so vast? In 11th and 12th centuries, external aggressions dealt a blow to it and in 1835 under British rule, the Ayurveda College in Kolkata was closed and was

converted into a modern medical college. The Vaidyas (Ayurveda practitioners) were declared untrained. Britishers brought out a law making Allopathy mandatory excluding Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy medicine.

## THE JOURNEY OF YOGA & AYURVEDA

Two decades after independence, Ayurveda and Unani practitioners got legal protection through a law in 1970. It was made a separate department in 1995 and renamed as Ayush in 2003 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 made a separate Ministry of Ayush and brought international recognition to Yoga by advocating it at the United Nations (UN) on September 27, 2014. UN unanimously decided to observe June 21 as International Yoga Day



## CHANGING FACE OF AYUSH

- There is a substantial increase in the number of Ayush colleges in the six years from 200 to 711
- Around 435 new Ayush hospitals are opened taking their numbers to 4035
- Nearly 1821 new dispensaries established between 2014 and 2018. There are now 27,951 Ayush dispensaries across the country
- Country has 8 Lakh Ayush practitioners now
- Around 18 Crore patients benefitted through Ayush facilities
- Country has 9,000 licensed Ayush shops

## CORONA VACCINATION

- Scientists across the globe are working relentlessly towards realising their biggest goal – the Corona vaccine. In India, Serum Institute is working on Covishield, Bharat Biotech and ICMR are working on Covaccine and Zydus Cadilla is working on Zycov-D
- By January 2021, the nation will get its vaccine. The Government is getting ready for its transportation, storage and vaccination on a war scale. The entire campaign is under supervision of the Prime Minister
- National Vaccine Committee has prepared a blue print for it under the leadership of Dr V K Paul. Around 31 Crore people are being identified to get vaccinated from March to May, 2021

## PRADHAN MANTRI JANAUSHADHI YOJANA

- Today, more than 6,600 Janaushadhi Centres in around 700 districts of the country are providing medicines to people which are 90 per cent cheaper than the market price
- These centres have 1,250 types of medicines and around 204 surgery equipment. These centres are also selling sanitary pads to women at Re 1 per pad

## NEW HOPE

- This year the nation will have its own vaccine against Corona. The Government is geared up for vaccination programme
- The Government has accorded Yoga a status of competitive sports. This will encourage more people towards Yoga
- As per Khelo India Campaign, efforts are on to make Yoga an essential part of University Games. Around 51 medals are proposed for seven categories in four events of Yoga
- Janaushadhi centres will be opened up in almost all districts. The scheme of providing sanitary pads at Re 1 will be extended across the country

with the support of 193 member countries. Another feat was accomplished when the first International Yoga Day was organised on June 21, 2015, at New Delhi's Raj Path with 35,985 participants and it created two world records with participation of 84 countries. It is registered in Guinness Book of World Records.

### AYUSHMAN BHARAT

The Government came up with World's largest Health Care Scheme to make its mark towards

universal health care. More than 50 Crore people are getting free treatment upto Rs 5 Lakh.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Health sector is becoming a major source of employment generation after Railways. It is evident from the fact that the country has become the second largest producer of PPE kit in the world during Coronavirus pandemic. The same story is being repeated in the production of N-95 masks. ■



# After Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, it is Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan

*In tandem with the thought of 'technology first', the Government is providing high speed optical fibre Internet to every village in the country. Only five dozen panchayats were connected with optical fibre cable before 2014, but in the last five years, nearly 1.5 Lakh gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre cable. Schemes like Atal Innovation Mission and Startup India are giving wings to New India in terms of innovation*



## NEW ERA OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Nearly 1.5 Lakh gram panchayats are connected with optical fibre cable under the 'BharatNet' project
- In rural areas, consumption of Internet is more than the urban areas
- Price of Internet connectivity has reduced 56 times in the past five years
- Under UMANG App with 3.75 Crore users, 2,039 services of the Centre and State Governments are just a click away
- Free WiFi is being provided at 5,682 railway stations. More than 70 per cent railway stations in the rural areas are covered

## COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

- In 2021, every day 600 villages will be connected with high speed Internet
- Initially, the Government aimed at connecting gram panchayats with the Internet. Now along with 80,000 remaining panchayats, even villages will be covered
- As per a report, the Internet users in India will reach 83.50 Crore by 2023



## FULFILLED DREAMS

- India completed Mars Orbiter Mission in the very first attempt. The expenditure incurred was Rs 7 per kilometre – cheaper than the auto fare
- India has proven itself to be capable of intercepting a satellite in outer space and became the fourth nation to do so
- India has created history by successfully launching 104 satellites on a single mission
- With more than 50,000 Startups, India is the third largest Startup economy
- Under the Atal Incubation Centre, 69,000 Startups were registered in just two years

## FUTURE AHEAD

- Under the Digital India mission, Google will invest Rs 75,000 Crore in the next 10 years
- In the next 15 years plan to attract investment of Rs 7 Lakh Crore in Artificial Intelligence
- Approval granted for Gaganyaan Mission, under which three Indians will be sent to space by 2022 ■



**NEW HOPE**  
**NEW DAWN**

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY



# NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING FOR NEW INDIA

“ Old Parliament building gave a new direction to India after Independence. New building will be a witness to building of Aatmanirbhar Bharat ”

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing Bhoomi Pujan at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the New Parliament Building at Sansad Marg, New Delhi on December 10, 2020**



(Scan the QR code for full text of Prime Minister's speech)



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiling the plaque to lay the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building at Sansad Marg, New Delhi on December 10, 2020**



# ECONOMY SURGES AHEAD



**For seventeen-and-a-half centuries between 1 AD and 2000 AD, India's contribution to the world economy was one third but it barely managed to reach \$3 Trillion after seven decades of Independence. With certain measures taken by the Government, the country is on the path of becoming a \$5 Trillion economy soon. There is a substantial increase in the standard of living of common man due to economic reforms unleashed by the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who took over the reins in 2014**

## NEW DAWN

Decisions such as pan-India uniform indirect taxation system i.e. Goods and Services Tax (GST), lowest Corporate Tax in 100 years, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), demonetisation to weed out black money, tax reforms and single window clearance for trade have made a huge impact on the Indian economy. This is evident from the rising graph of foreign investments and rise in the Ease of Doing Business Index ranking of India across the world.

The Prime Minister made a Clarian Call *Jaan Hai To Jahan Hai* when Corona pandemic hit the country and took decisions like imposing lockdown to deal with the menace. But, once the country was prepared to check the spread, he

### INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC): STRICT REDUCTION OF NPA ON DEBTORS

- When a debtor is unable to repay loan taken by him, loan is being declared as Non Performing Asset (NPA)
- Being unable to repay the debt by a businessman not only worsens the health of the banking system, but also weakens the economy. It is the Government's treasury which ultimately bears the losses of public sector banks and financial institutions
- To settle this issue, the Government implemented IBC in 2016 for the first time. Rate of NPAs got reduced by 9 per cent after this code
- India was at 137th rank in global resolving insolvency index in 2014. Now, the country is at 52nd rank

### GST: ONE NATION, ONE TAX

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented as the 101st Constitutional Amendment. The Bill was passed by calling Parliament session at the midnight of June 30, 2017
- Before GST, tax rates lacked uniformity and were confusing and complex. GST is the most revolutionary step towards economic integration of the country
- Rates of tax levied were kept at four different rates of 5,12,18 and 28 per cent, ranging from essential items for life to luxury items. GST is proving to be a milestone in improving the overall investment climate in the country
- It is providing impetus to the Make in India campaign

### DEMONETISATION: A REVOLUTIONARY STEP TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY

- Decision of demonetising currency taken on November 8, 2016, laid a strong foundation of making economy cashless. It is a revolutionary step towards a strong and transparent economy
- It resulted in the increase of number of IT returns from 4.04 Crore to 6.79 Crore
- Net direct tax collection increased from Rs 6,95,792 Crore in 2015 to Rs 10,50,678 Crore in 2020
- UPI transactions were Rs 6,952 Crore in 2016-17, which had crossed Rs 21 Lakh Crore in 2019-20. In November 2020 alone, the number crossed Rs 3.90 Lakh Crore
- Rise in the number of Corporate Tax returns from 8 Lakh in 2016 to 9.34 Lakh in 2019
- In November 2016, currency notes worth Rs 17.74 Lakh Crore were in circulation which increased to 22.35 Lakh Crore by December 2, 2019
- Income Tax department raids resulted in the recovery of Rs 3,950 Crore worth of undeclared assets from April 2017 till September 2020
- Undisclosed income of Rs 45,218 Crore recovered through IT Department raids
- Rs 3 Lakh Crore returned to the banking system post demonetisation

### CORPORATE TAX: REDUCING TAX BURDEN ON COMPANIES

Earlier 30 per cent Corporate Tax levied on domestic companies, apart from surcharge. Now, it has been reduced to 22 per cent. With effective rates and surcharge, it comes to around 25.17 per cent. It will be beneficial to the trade. It will benefit manufacturing units and will create employment opportunities



## **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS: INDIA IS FORGING AHEAD**

- As per World Bank report, India is now at 63rd position, with a jump of 14 places from 77th position last year. India's ranking was 142nd in 2014
- The ranking in Ease of Doing Business is decided on the basis of getting construction permits, credit, protection of small investors, paying tax, applying for overseas trade, contract, obtaining power, registering property, protecting minority investors and the insolvency redemption process etc

### **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): A new record for nation**

- FDI increased by 55 per cent in 2014–20 compared to \$231.37 Billion in 2008–14. India was ranked ninth among the countries receiving FDIs in the year 2019
- The country received FDI of \$27.1 Billion in April-August of the financial year 2020-21. It is 16 per cent more than the FDI of same period of the last financial year

### **Tax reforms: Honouring the honest tax payers**

- A new platform for Transparency in Taxation, 'Honoring the Honest' was launched in August 2020
- Duties of the taxpayer along with the income tax officer and the department are fixed under the charter

### **PMJDY: Bank Account for over 40 Crore people**

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on August 28, 2015
- More than 40.38 Crore bank accounts have been opened so far. Out of this, 55.2 per cent account holders are women

### **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**

- From the year 2014 till now, an amount of Rs 13.23 Lakh Crore was sent directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries
- It has curbed corruption and fraud. The Government has so far saved Rs 1.78 Lakh Crore

invoked *Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi* and phases of unlock saw the economy returning on track once again.

Most of the economists have estimated that growth would be over 10 per cent in 2021-22 putting the nation back on a high growth trajectory. Worst on the economic front due to COVID-19 seems to be over while recovery leading to a double digit growth in the next few quarters seems to

be on cards. As per monthly economic review of November 2020, by Department of Economic Affairs, economy is now on a V-shaped recovery path. The Government's resolve resulted in the positive ratings by global economic agencies. Moody's has raised India's economic growth forecast for the year 2021 from 8.1 per cent to 8.6 per cent. Goldman Sachs and Barclays have also improved upon

## **New Growth Goals**

- The GST system was made more flexible. The average tax rate, which was earlier 14.4%, is now reduced to 11.8%. The effect is evident from the fact that after the unlock phases, GST collections in October and November were above Rs 1 Lakh Crore
- Now, with the introduction of Faceless Assessment, an effort is being made to resolve any grievance of the income tax payer immediately
- Under PMJDY, more than 40.38 Crore bank accounts were opened till December. When the scheme was launched, the goal was to ensure that at least one member of a family should have a bank account. A target has been set to open bank account for every adult member of the family
- Now, economy is witnessing a V-shaped recovery. The IMF says in its report that India's economy would be the world's fastest growing economy in the coming years

their forecasts. According to a report by Oxford Economics, Indian Economy is recovering faster than expected. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest report on the world economic scenario has described India as the fastest growing economy. According to the IMF, growth rate of the Indian economy in the year 2021 will be at around 8.8 per cent, which will be the highest in the world. ■

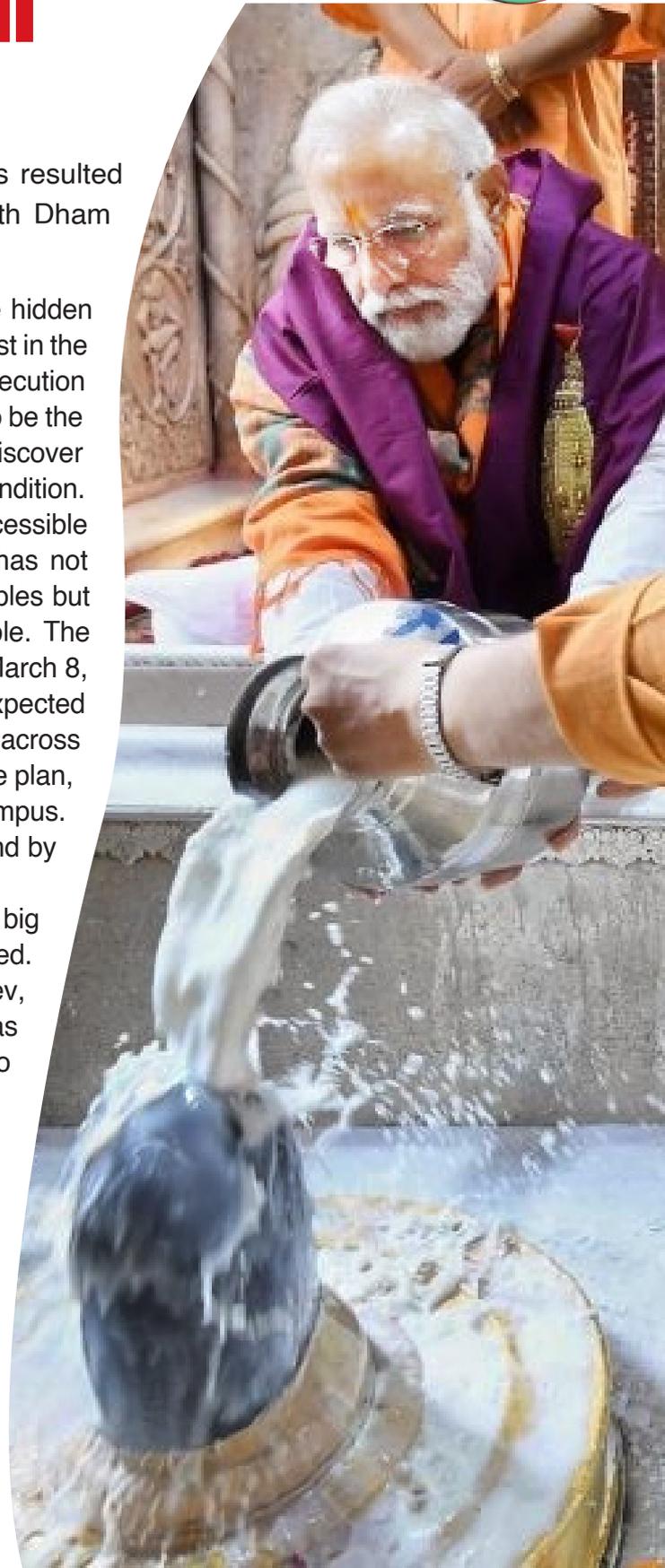


# A FACELIFT FOR **KASHI** **VISHWANATH DHAM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special focus has resulted into planning and execution of Kashi Vishwanath Dham corridor in Varanasi which would be ready by 2021

**V**aranasi, the oldest city in the world, has some hidden treasure troves inside the city, but they all are lost in the concrete jungle. The initiative, planning and execution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who also happens to be the Member of Parliament from the city, have helped discover some real architectural marvels albeit in a dilapidated condition. These temples and other buildings were almost inaccessible due to encroachments. Kashi Vishwanath Corridor has not only given a new lease of life to over 63 ancient temples but has also given a facelift to Kashi Vishwanath Temple. The Prime Minister laid the foundation of the corridor on March 8, 2019, and the work is going on in full swing which is expected to be complete by August 2021. The project is spread across in approximately 50,261 square metre area. As per the plan, 24 buildings are being constructed in the entire campus. Around 28 per cent work of the project is complete and by August 2021, this will be open for public.

- Under this project, around 63 small, medium and big sized temples will be renovated and rehabilitated. They include Panch Pandav, Gangeshwar Mahadev, Manokameshwar, Neelkanth Mahadev, Dwadas Ling and some other temples. The work is also on to modernise Goenka Library
- Special care is being taken for the rehabilitation of people residing in 314 identified buildings which would be affected by the renovation work of the project
- The main attraction of this project is the temple premises with an area of 3,175 sq metre
- Besides this Mandir Chowk, City Museum, Varanasi Gallery, Multi-purpose Building, Tourist Service Centre, Mumukshu Bhawan, Guest House, Neelkanth Mandap, Security Office, Bhogshala, Aadhunik Book Store, Refreshment Centre and Vedic Kendra are being made accessible to Divyangjan ■





# GROWING STRENGTH OF INDIAN PASSPORT



*Following the mantra of 'Reform-Perform-Transform', the story of Indian passport is getting stronger by the day. It has transformed lives of millions of citizens of India*

In the changing global order, the importance of India has increased immensely and so has grown the strength of Indian passport. In the past six years, the Government unleashed various changes and initiated various reforms all across. Some of the important decisions bore fruits when ranking of India in various global parameters went up considerably. Passport Seva Programme of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is one such Mission Mode

project under the National e-Governance Plan. The issuance of passports is one of the most successful citizen-centric activities of the MEA. In 2019, the MEA issued over one Crore passports. As a result of the increased capacity, the MEA was issuing 10 Lakh passports per month on an average before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country. To enhance the security, Lotus, the national flower, is being imprinted on the passports. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said: "Maybe the people who live abroad and those people who keep travelling abroad, they will know the respect that the Indian passport carries today. I don't think earlier anybody experienced the strength of the Indian passport."

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE**

- Passport Seva Project in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is providing quality

service to the people from Passport Seva Kendras (PSK)

- The MEA has eased the passport issuing process and has made it an online procedure including online filing of passport application and getting appointments for submission of documents for passports
- An applicant can now apply for a passport from anywhere in India. Police verification would be conducted at the address mentioned in the form and the passport will also be dispatched at the same address
- mPassport Seva Mobile App was launched in 2018. It enables applicants to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services. It also provides passport related information including PSK and POPSK location, fees, mode of submission and tracking of passport application status on smartphones
- The current provision is allowing applicants to choose any appointment date from the earliest five available dates for scheduling/rescheduling an appointment for passport related services
- Lotus, the national flower, has been imprinted on the passports as part of the enhanced security features to check fake passports

## GROWING GLOBAL CLOUT

### EASE OF TRAVEL RATING

- India improved its Ease of Travel rating by one place to 80th in the Henley Passport Index for 2019. It was ranked 81st last year and 88th in 2015 when e-visa was introduced for the first time. India's ranking in Global Passport Index stands at 48, which was 71 in 2019

### EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKING

- As per World Bank's annual report on the Ease of Doing Business (EODB), 2020, India ranks 63rd out of 190 countries. The ranking has moved up by 14 spots this year

### WORLD DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS RANKING

- Improvement in terms of knowledge and future readiness to explore new technologies has helped India to jump four places to the 44th position in Digital Competitiveness Ranking in the world in IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019. The report measures the capacity of 63 countries to adopt digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in businesses, governments and society

### GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

- Innovation is a key to development and this is one of the guiding principles of the Government of India. India's Global Innovation Index 2020 rank is 48 among 131 economies, which is four positions up since 2019. India tops the list in innovation economies ranking in the Central and South Asia

### WORLD COMPETITIVENESS RANKING

- India, which is an emerging power in Asia-Pacific region and also globally, continues to remain on 43rd rank on annual World Competitiveness Index by Institute for Management Development (IMD). It was on 45th in 2017 and improved to 44th in 2018 and then to 43rd in 2019

### GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX

- India has moved up two positions to rank 74th on a global 'Energy Transition Index' in 2020 with improvements on all key parameters of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability. The World Economic Forum (WEF) said that for India, gains have come from a Government-mandated renewable energy expansion programme, now extended to 275 GW by 2027

### EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER

- Edelman Trust Barometer 2020 conducted by an independent PR firm in the US graded people's trust levels in the Government. India ranked 2nd in the list. Trust levels on the Government of India have shot up by 7% since January 2020. Very few countries such as India showed evidence of a sustainable double-digit gain in trust, backed by consistent growth over the years, some like China have large trust gains often but they are quickly lost



### GLOBAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

- India stands at the 2nd place of Global Consumer Confidence in 2020. As per Nielsen survey, Consumer Confidence in India is the highest. The country was on the top for two consecutive years in the past

### GLOBAL FIRE POWER RANKING

- For 2020, India is ranked 4 out of 138 countries considered for the annual GFP review. India is one of the top four powers in the world after the US, Russia and China

### CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

- India joins the top 10 countries in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) for the first time. This is a result of efforts made to bring down India's carbon emission. On the other hand, the United States was included in the worst-performing countries for the first time

### THE INDIAN PASSPORT HAS STRENGTHENED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND HAS JUMPED 10 RANKS ON GLOBAL INDEX – FROM 77 IN 2015 TO 67 IN 2019

- Foreigners of Indian origin can also avail e-Visa facility, which is available for the nationals of 166 countries
- The Ministry proposes to link and integrate all Embassies and Consulates abroad with PSP
- The Government intends to open up POPSKS in every Lok Sabha constituency where no PSK exists

- The Government looked at the process of integrating Indian Missions and Posts abroad into the Passport Seva Programme
- Those applying for a passport under the 'tatkaal scheme' are no longer

required to submit a verification certificate from a gazetted officer

- The Government has reduced the number of documents and eased the passport issuance process for minors, minors with single

parent and applicants who are separated or divorced

- In another ranking, Indian passport, ranked 84th in the world's most powerful passport index 2020, can get you visa-free entry to 58 destinations worldwide ■



### THE NEW AGE PASSPORT

- The MEA is working on e-Passports with the aim to prepare a new passport booklet with modern security features
- After issuing 20,000 official and diplomatic e-Passports on a trial basis with such chips, the Government has now begun the process for issuance of e-Passports for all citizens
- This will make passports difficult to forge and facilitate quick immigration for international passengers
- Rationalisation and simplification of the Visa regime is a continuous process. Foreigners of Indian origin can avail Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme
- As per the provisions of the scheme, OCI card holders get benefits of a multiple entry life-long visa for visiting India for any purpose
- Further, foreigners of Indian origin may also obtain multiple entry visas for the period of five years
- In addition, the spouse and children of an Indian citizen/Person of Indian Origin/OCI card holder may obtain multiple entry Visa for a period of five year



# FAST INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

**W**ith enhanced infrastructure, even small towns and villages in the country are moving towards development. On the one hand national highways and better roads are connecting far flung areas, on the other metro rail network has reached 27 cities. This has doubled in the last six years. Also, National Infrastructure Pipeline Project will be getting an investment of over Rs 100 Lakh Crore. In addition, the country will also get e-Highways and there will be a 14-lane Delhi-Meerut expressway. This will surely give a big boost to the development and will generate employment opportunities for millions of people across the country.

14.2-kilometre-long Zozila Tunnel, 1,100kilometre-long national highway and 1,000-kilometre-long metro corridor to boost multimodal connectivity



“ We are moving towards a multi-modal connectivity infrastructure for the new century. And this will give a new dimension. We have started the work with a great dream. And I believe that by eliminating silos, we will give a new strength to all these systems ”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## DEVELOPMENT AT A FASTER PACE

- Compared to 225 kilometre till 2014, the metro rail network was expanded to 450 kilometres in the last six years
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aims to provide basic services – water supply, sewerage, urban transport – to households and build amenities in cities which will improve quality of life
- Length of National Highways increased from 91,287 kms in 2014 to 1,32,500 kms in 2020
- In Uttar Pradesh, National Highway projects worth Rs 7,500 Crore were inaugurated for more than 500 kilometre roads in November 2020 alone

## HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

- Between 2020 and 2025, India will be needing investments worth **Rs 111 Lakh Crore** under the National Infrastructure Pipeline Project
- By 2025, India is expected to become a \$5 Trillion economy. So far, 7,398 projects worth Rs 133.28 Crore have already been displayed at the Government’s dashboard
- The Government is working on developing Delhi-Mumbai expressway as an e-Highway
- Under the Sagarmala Programme, 415 projects worth Rs 8 Lakh Crore are identified to develop the logistic sector. Under this, 108 new national waterways were announced



# FREEDOM FROM THE COBWEB OF ARCHAIC LAWS



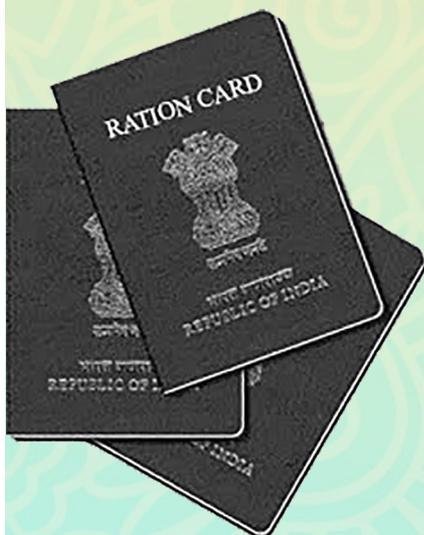
The work culture of the country is changing with the focus on owning responsibility with transparency. To realise this objective, the Government has done away with many redundant archaic laws and has come up with new laws to make lives of people easy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "In order to make a New India, we have been developing a transparent ecosystem in the country which is least dependant on the Government machinery. In order to achieve it, the rules have been simplified, and the laws have been amended if there was a need to amend them. And the laws have been repealed where there was a need to repeal them." The e-Committee of the Supreme Court is working towards ensuring justice at the doorsteps with the help of e-Chalan and virtual court.

## OLD LAWS SCRAPPED

- Successive Governments could remove just 1,301 obsolete laws which came in the way of smooth administration in 66 years, the present Government has managed to weed out as many as 1,500 laws in six years
- Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution that granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir are made inoperational. Despite nationwide protests, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act came into force on January 10, 2020
- The Government has computerised 16,845 district and subordinate courts and has released Rs 1,459.52 Crore for the implementation of the project. The project was approved in July 2015
- The Supreme Court has reportedly heard more than 15,000 matters through video conferencing since the lockdown was enforced on March 23. The Apex Court completed 100 days of virtual court hearings and disposed of approximately 4,300 cases till now. Around 1,022 benches were constituted to hear the cases and over 50,000 advocates appeared before the virtual courts
- From June 2020 to October 2020, 27 e-Lok Adalats were organised in 15 states wherein 4.83 Lakh cases were taken up and 2.51 Lakh cases were disposed of resulting in the settlement of Rs 1,409 Crore

## NEW LAWS PASSED

- e-Committee of the Supreme Court has decided to give training to lawyers to argue court cases via video conferencing. Lawyers will get training for e-case filing and contesting cases in virtual courts
- Following the Centre's decision to scrap redundant laws as a model, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Aadiyanath has made an announcement to prepare a proposal to scrap laws which are over 100-year-old
- Chairman of e-Committee of Supreme Court Justice D Y Chandrachud informed while virtually inaugurating an e-Court in Madras High Court that the Committee has taken the responsibility to ensure e-Service centre in every court of the country
- Under the e-Court project, 2,927 court premises of the country will be connected to high-speed Wide Area Network (WAN). Work is in progress in rest of the courts
- The number of e-Courts is being increased. There are two virtual courts in Delhi, two in Maharashtra, and one each in Haryana, Chennai, Karnataka, Kerala and Assam. Around 30 Lakh cases were disposed of ■



# 1 Nation Ration Card Exam Election



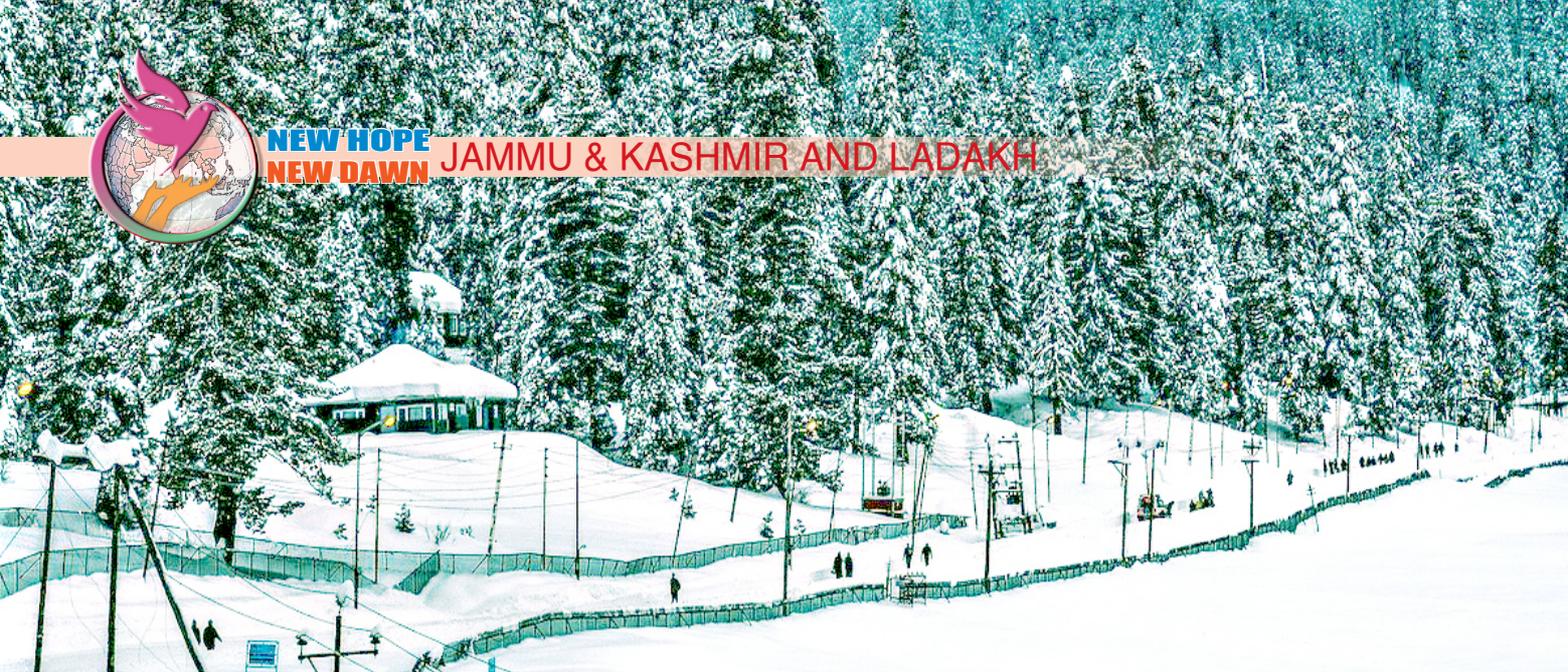
**E**mpowerment of citizens started right from the start by the Narendra Modi Government when provisions of self-certifications were adopted in 2014. Similar decision was made when the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on Independence Day stressed upon the need to discontinue holding interviews for recruitment of junior level posts where personality assessment is not an absolute necessity. 'One Nation, One Ration Card' is yet another decision that takes care of the need and welfare of the poor. With 'One Nation, One Tax' already in place, the Government also envisages to take a call on 'One Nation, One Election' which will translate into welfare of the poor as money saved from frequent elections could be used for the welfare of people

## CITIZEN-FRIENDLY GOVERNANCE

- The Government adopted provision of self-certification of documents like mark-sheets, birth certificate, ID proof and photographs etc by applicants instead of attested copies of documents by Gazetted Officers
- The Government approved creation of National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which will conduct a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts
- The Government has already taken a decision to discontinue interviews at the junior level posts at Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted), Group 'C', Group 'D' (which are now reclassified as Group 'C') and all such equivalent posts
- 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) provides an option to ration card holders/beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act to access their entitlements from anywhere in the country

## GETTING READY FOR BETTER FUTURE

- NRA will give relief to poor candidates; benefit women candidates; and will prove to be a bonanza for candidates from rural areas. CET Score to be valid for three years from the date of declaration of the result and there is no bar on number of attempts
- 'One Nation, One Ration Card' plan has been seamlessly enabled in an integrated cluster of 24 States/UTs w.e.f. August 1, 2020, covering approximately 65 Crore beneficiaries that is 80 per cent of the total NFSA population
- The Prime Minister says, "One Nation, One Election is not just a topic of discussion, but the necessity of India." There are some elections taking place somewhere in India every few months which affect developmental works. A thorough study and debate on 'One Nation, One Election' is on the cards ■



# COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF J&K

*Pulwama is now known for pencil slats. People outside Jammu & Kashmir can now buy land in the region; women marrying outside the State will not lose their property rights; various employment generation schemes and several developmental projects are helping the newly carved out Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh – to shed its traditional image of being a terrorist-infested region to take up its rightful place in New India by treading on the new growth path*

**M**aking Article 370 and 35A inoperative has not just completed the political but also social, cultural and economic integration of Jammu & Kashmir. Over a year ago, the State was split into two Union Territories – J&K and Ladakh. Earlier, various laws like Prevention of Child Marriage Act, Right to Education, Land Acquisition Act, Multiple Disability Act, Senior Citizens Act, Delimitation Act, Whistle Blower Protection Act, laws enacted for empowerment of tribals, National Commission for Minorities, National Council for Teacher Education, among others could not be applied to J&K due to Article 370. In the post Article 370 scenario, the implementation of developmental projects and programmes are not only empowering them but

are also bringing prosperity to the region.

## A NEW DAWN FOR PARADISE ON EARTH

- All discriminatory and unjust State laws are repealed or modified. More than 170 Central laws are now applicable to protect SC/STs, forest dwellers, juveniles and aged
- Lakhanpur toll abolished – One Nation, One Tax implemented in J&K
- Domicile Law implemented to protect people's interest. All erstwhile Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders became eligible for Domicile Certificate which discriminated against West Pakistan refugees, Gurkhas, safai karamcharis and women married outside

the state

- All undue privileges of ex-ministers have been done away with, pension for politicians has upper ceiling now
- Government has paved way for people from outside J&K to buy land in the UT by amending several laws, more than a year after nullification of Articles 370 and 35A
- Hundred per cent achievement in flagship schemes. Under SAUBHAGYA 3,87,501 beneficiaries were catered
- PM Ujjwala Yojana: 12,60,685 beneficiaries; UJALA: 15,90,873 beneficiaries covered
- Mission Indradhanush (Jammu): 1,353 children and 381 pregnant women vaccinated
- Mission Indradhanush Aspirational Districts under GSA (Baramulla and Kupwara): 2,259 children and 320 women vaccinated
- J&K marches ahead under Swachh Bharat Mission, declared 100 per cent ODF

● **As per Union Home Ministry, 257 terrorists were killed in 2018, 157 in 2019 and 180 till September 2020. There was a decline of 35% in terrorist activities in J&K.**

● **Stone pelting reduced drastically**

- In one year, pension benefits extended to 7,42,781 beneficiaries including those of State ISSS Scheme, minority pre-matric scholarship given to 4,76,670 beneficiaries
- Under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, 11.41 Lakh gold cards generated; 3,48,370 families benefitted
- J&K leading in implementation of PM Kisan Yojana; 9.86 Lakh beneficiaries covered in only one year
- Land Registration Process moved from courts to executive; 77 Sub-Registrars appointed and e-stamping rules framed
- Power Department unbundled; five Corporations set up
- Kashmir Saffron gets Geographical Indication Tag status ■

## NEW HOPE FOR PEOPLE

- Oukhoo village in Pulwama district has emerged as the 'Pencil Village' of India contributing nearly 90 per cent of slats produced in the country
- World's highest 467-metre-high railway bridge coming up under PMDP over Chenab River
- IIT Jammu starts functioning from its own campus; Work on AIIMS Jammu started; the other AIIMS will be in Kashmir
- Number of hydro projects expedited. All contracts of 1,000 MW Pakal Dul Project and 624 MW Kiru Project awarded
- Largest-ever recruitment drive with 10,000 posts advertised; special recruitment rules enacted, 25,000 more jobs in the pipeline
- Implementation of HIMAYAT scheme, which was lauded by the Prime Minister in his *Mann Ki Baat*, nearly 74,324 candidates were approved for training. Number of training centres trebled in last two years
- Global Investment Summit being organised; 168 MoUs for Rs 13,600 Crore signed; 6,000 acres of Government land identified for industry, land transferred for setting up 37 industrial estates
- Elections for Block Development Councils held for the first time in J&K; 98.3 per cent turnout recorded
- Unique Market Intervention Scheme for apple, remunerative prices paid through DBT and transportation by the central procuring agency
- The Government has approved a Special Package worth Rs 520 Crore in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years till FY 2023-24
- DPR for Metro between Jammu and Srinagar is ready



# GOING SAFFRON WAY

*National Mission on Saffron focuses on several measures to improve farming of Saffron as 'Saffron Bowl' of India extends to the North Eastern state of Sikkim*

To achieve twin objectives of diversifying agriculture sector to double the income of farmers and making AatmaNirbhar Bharat a reality, Saffron cultivation is being extended to the North-Eastern region of the country.

Earlier, Saffron production was restricted to Pampore region of Jammu & Kashmir, which is commonly known as 'Saffron Bowl'. Budgam, Srinagar and Kishtwar are some other districts where Saffron is cultivated. Plants from seeds were transported from Kashmir to Sikkim and were acclimatised in Yangyang village in southern part of Sikkim.

India produces 6-7 Tonnes of saffron while demand is for 100 Tonnes per annum. To meet the growing demand, the Ministry of Science and Technology, through the Department of Science and Technology (DST), decided to extend its cultivation to some states in the North East (Sikkim now, and later to Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh). There is a huge similarity of climate and geographical conditions between Kashmir and a few regions of the North East.

North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), an autonomous body under the DST in collaboration with the Botany and Horticulture departments of Sikkim Central University implemented a pilot project in Yangyang village of south Sikkim.

The university department carried out tests to understand the soil and actual pH conditions of Yangyang and found it comparable to saffron growing places of Kashmir. Saffron seed/corms were air transported from Kashmir to Yangyang

site by the department. One saffron grower was engaged and stationed to look after the complete growing process, along with the university faculty.

The corms were irrigated during the months of September and October, which ensured timely corm sprouting and good flower yields. Similar climatic and geographical conditions in Pampore (Kashmir) and Yangyang (Sikkim) led to the successful sample farming of saffron in Yangyang. ■

## BENEFITS

- Extension of Saffron production will help in meeting the annual demand in India. It will help in reducing imports
- It will also help in diversifying agriculture and provide new opportunities to farmers in North East
- India cultivates about 6 to 7 Tonnes of saffron while the demand is for 100 Tonnes



# INDIA'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

Border Security Force is celebrating 55 years of Service to the Nation and protecting India's Borders



## A Borderman's Pledge

I will not Disgrace the Borderman's Arms, nor Abandon the Comrade, who stands at my side. Whether alone or with many, I will defend everything that my Country holds sacred

**B**order Security Force (BSF) is an elite border guarding Armed Force of the Union for ensuring security of Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders. Raised on December 1, 1965, after the Indo-Pakistan War, BSF is the only force with a distinctly defined war-time as well as peace-time roles and has successfully proved its mettle in accomplishing every task assigned in times of War, Peace and No-War-No-Peace (NWNP) situation. BSF is also tasked

with ensuring policing of border areas during peace and check trans-border crimes thereby inculcating sense of security among the border population.

BSF has 192 Battalions including three Disaster Management Battalions, with a strength of more than 2.65 Lakh brave men and women supported by an Artillery Regiment, Air & Water Wings, Camel Contingent & Dog Squads, Commando units, Communication set-up, robust training infrastructure and



## THWARTING NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES

- BSF has expanded its strategic capabilities through modern technology and equipment. BSF is also taking all necessary steps towards finding technical solutions to drones used by anti-national forces on the western borders of the country
- The last few months of 2020 have seen heightened activity by Pakistan in abetting cross border terrorism, ceasefire violations, use of drones to drop weapons for aiding anti-national elements, narcotics smuggling and infiltration attempts through tunnels
- On June 20, 2020, BSF troops shot down a Pakistan drone in the bordering area of Kathua district in Jammu region
- On August 22, 2020, BSF troops successfully thwarted an attempt of arms and narcotics smuggling from across the border in Khemkaran area in Punjab and killed five militants and seized huge quantity of arms, ammunition and narcotics
- On September 9, 2020, BSF troops foiled an attempt of infiltration in Ganganagar area of Rajasthan and killed two Pakistani infiltrators
- On November 8, 2020, CT Sudeep Sarkar while performing duty on LoC in Kashmir, foiled an attempt of infiltration and killed two militants. Sarkar attained martyrdom in this encounter
- On November 22, 2020, BSF troops stationed along international border in Samba area of Jammu region detected a tunnel from Pakistan side which was used by terrorists killed on November 19, 2020, at Nagrota
- On the eastern border BSF troops, deployed in Mizoram foiled an attempt of arms smuggling by anti-national elements on September 28, 2020, and seized 29 AK Series Rifle and huge quantity of ammunition. Despite all the odds, BSF has successfully thwarted all such attempts

a well-equipped medical set up. BSF is the world's largest border guarding force hailed as "India's First Line of Defence".

Guided by its motto "जीवन पर्यन्त कर्तव्य", BSF has significant contributions to its credit for its role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War while still in nascent years of its raising. The force was tasked to assist preparations of Mukti Vahini well before hostilities broke out. During the May-July 1999 Kargil conflict, the BSF remained on the upper reaches of the mountains defending

the integrity of the country with all the might at its command in unison with the Army. The force is guarding International border with both Pakistan and Bangladesh which includes the most inhospitable snow clad mountains in Jammu & Kashmir, deserts in Rajasthan, creek areas in Gujarat, Sunderban delta in West Bengal, flood prone area of Assam and deep forests coupled with malaria menace in Mizoram and Tripura. BSF is also deployed at the Line of Control alongside Indian Army.

Furthermore, BSF is extensively deployed for internal security & counter insurgency duties all over the country since its raising in 1965. In March 1990, BSF was inducted for Counter Insurgency Operations in J&K. The force remained engaged in anti-militancy operations during the most difficult phase of Insurgency from 1990 to 2005 and neutralised a large number of militants, successfully apprehending more than 11,000 militants, apart from surrender of more than 1,000 militants. In the hinterland, BSF troops are

# MODERNISATION OF THE FORCE

To meet challenges to national security, BSF has embarked on the path of modernisation and is adopting new technology through major programmes covering all fields of operations including acquisition of latest weaponry, communication and surveillance systems, modern gadgets and technologies to stay abreast with time for better management and domination of border. The common themes of modernisation include:

- Protective Equipment Solutions
- Surveillance Solutions
- Night Fighting Dominance
- Better Fire Power
- Non-Lethal Riot Control Equipment
- Fool-Proof Communication
- Battle Field Management System
- Training Aids

Further, as part of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), technological solutions are being used for vulnerable areas.

It involves integration of various sensors and surveillance equipment with suitable command and control system

## A HELPING HAND FOR PEOPLE IN NEED AND DISTRESS

In the current environment of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dedicated effort of bordermen has been commendable. The manner in which members of the force located in different areas of the country have made people aware as well as ensured participation in the formidable task of providing free ration distribution, medical camps and plasma donation is highly commendable

In order to achieve objectives to be run by the Central Government, BSF is carrying out special operations at the ground-level. In addition to its primary responsibility of border guarding, this force is also providing necessary facilities to the youth of the border towns and villages by making them aware of the recruitment opportunities in the force

also deployed in Chhattisgarh and Odisha to quell the Left Wing Extremism in these states since December 2009. BSF has also carved out a niche among the security establishments of the nation in Internal Security, Counter Insurgency and Anti Naxal Operations through its dedication and unflinching professionalism. Over the years, 1922 personnels have laid down their lives in the line of their duty. Every year, BSF contributes a number of troops for services in UN Missions as mandated by India's commitments to International Peace Keeping. The world's largest border guarding force is marching ahead by equipping

itself with modern resources while keeping pace with the changing times and technology. BSF has defended our borders with courage and hard work, earning not only laurels but also the faith and cooperation of border population. Due to the prevailing geopolitical scenario of South Asia, threats to our country are no longer merely conventional. Our adversaries and anti-national elements within the country are using and adopting rapidly changing technologies, equipment and strategies to destabilise the overall security situation in the country. Owing to the high morale and levels of training, BSF is able to successfully

compete with the geographical and strategic challenges of the boundaries since its inception year. At the same time, the BSF has efficiently executed internal security duties of the country in the North Eastern states, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir etc. In recent elections held in various states of the country, the force has played an important role in establishing a fair democracy. As a result of Pakistan's nefarious intentions, the western border is very sensitive. Continued failure of the anti-national elements due to the deployment of BSF on the border, is causing frustration among the militants, intruders and smugglers. ■



# TAKING DEVELOPMENT TO EVERY CORNER

Connectivity is a key to development and the Government initiatives to take development to far flung areas like Lakshadweep Islands and North East will certainly pave the way for fulfilling objectives of AtmaNirbhar Bharat

## **DECISION:**

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved subsidy of about Rs 3,500 Crore for sugarcane farmers

## **BENEFITS:**

- The Government has allowed export of 60 LMT surplus sugar benefitting sugarcane farmers as export earnings will be directly transferred into their accounts
- This will enable payment of dues of the sugarcane farmers. The assistance would be directly credited into farmers' accounts on behalf of sugar mills against cane price dues and subsequent balance

## **DECISION:**

- Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,700 Crore approved

## **BENEFITS:**

- This will strengthen Intra-State Transmission and Distribution systems which is a major step towards economic development of North Eastern region benefitting six North Eastern States namely Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura
- The scheme will increase per capita power consumption of these States, and shall contribute to the total economic development of the North Eastern region

## **DECISION:**

- Setting up of public Wi-Fi networks by Public Data Office Aggregators to provide Wi-Fi service without levy of any License Fee approved

## **BENEFITS:**

- This will promote growth of public Wi-Fi networks and will help in proliferation of Broadband Internet
- COVID-19 has necessitated delivery of stable and high speed Broadband Internet (data) services to a large number of subscribers including areas which do not have 4G mobile coverage. This can be achieved by deployment of public Wi-Fi

## **DECISION:**

- Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands approved at a cost of Rs 1,072 Crore

## **BENEFITS:**

- The project will provide a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Kochi and 11 islands of Lakshadweep
- This will have vital role for delivery of e-Governance services at the doorstep of citizens, development of fisheries, coconut based industries and high-value tourism, educational development in term of tele-education and in health care in terms of telemedicine facilities



**Narendra Modi** @narendramodi · Every Indian has worked to strengthen the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' movement and has become vocal for local.

It shows that the country has full faith in the abilities of our private sector, not only to fulfil our domestic needs, but also to make a mark globally.



**रक्षा मंत्री कार्यालय/ RMO India** ... Today's India is different from 1950s or 1960s. Our businesses, people like all of you, are champions in your sectors. You have the confidence – that has come from great success in India and overseas – as well as the global reach to influence decisions: RM



**Amit Shah** @AmitShah · Cabinet has approved the Revised Cost Estimate of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) at an estimated cost of ₹6,700 crore.

This decision reiterates PM @NarendraModi's firm commitment towards the overall economic development of our North East region.



**Nitin Gadkari** @nitin\_gadkari · Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Information Technology and Successful Practices are commonly referred to as knowledge and the future of the country lies in transforming this knowledge into wealth, money and sustainability from waste.



**Narendra Singh Tomar** @nsto... गन्ना किसानों के हित में मोदी सरकार का महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय। गन्ना किसानों के लाभ के लिए चीनी के निर्यात पर दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी को सीधा किसानों के बैंक खाते में भेजा जायेगा। इसके तहत 5 करोड़ किसानों को कुल ₹3500 करोड़ का भुगतान किया जायेगा।



**Piyush Goyal** @PiyushGoyal · Milk transported via Doodh Duronto, from Renigunta to Delhi crossed 5 crore litres mark, carrying 1 crore litres in 37 days

# PM sets off 50th jubilee fete of victory over Pak

## Lights victory torch; Year to be called Swarnim Vijay Varsh

PAWAN BALLI | DC NEW DELHI, DEC. 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lit the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' from the National War Memorial's eternal flame to mark the launch of the 50th anniversary celebrations of India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh.



This year is also being celebrated as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.

"On Vijay Diwas we recall the unwavering courage of our armed forces that resulted in a decisive victory for our nation in the 1971 war. On this special Vijay Diwas, marking the launch of the 50th anniversary celebrations of India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh. This year is also being celebrated as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lights the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' on Vijay Diwas which commemorates the victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that led to the independence of Bangladesh, at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

Each year, December 16 is celebrated as 'Vijay Diwas' to commemorate the military surrender after the 1971 war.

of world history. It was on this day that the largest military surrender place in history took place in Bangladesh.

# 'Great honour': UK PM to be R-Day chief guest

Prasanna Sonwalkar | London, December 16. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accepted India's invitation to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 – the second UK prime minister to attend the event after John Major in 1993 – and has asked India to join the G7 summit to be hosted by the UK next year.

# Modi, UK Foreign Secretary discuss 'vaccines hub' launch

NEW DELHI, December 16. UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and discussed issues related to the strategic partnership between the two countries including the collaboration on tackling the Covid-19 virus.

The Foreign Secretary met PM Modi to discuss the UK and India working together as a force and launching the pioneering new vaccines hub, which will share best practice for regulation and clinical trials, and foster innovation. He also visited a Oxfordi/ will be a British New De Expe UK will

# Govt clears ₹3,500 cr aid for sugarcane farmers

## Move to benefit 5 crore farmers, 5 lakh workers in sugar mills

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 16

The government on Wednesday cleared financial assistance of ₹3,500 crore to sugar mills for the export of 60 lakh tonnes of sweetener during the ongoing marketing year 2020-21 as part of its efforts to help them clear outstanding dues to sugarcane farmers. Briefing media after the meeting, information and broadcasting minister Prakash Jadhav said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a subsidy of ₹3,500 crore on exports of 60 lakh tonnes of sweetener.

THIS SUBSIDY aims at covering expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport.

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Farmers sell their sugarcane to the sugar mills, however, they don't get their dues from the sugar mill owners as they have surplus sugar stock. To address this concern, the government has facilitated the export of surplus sugar.

The CCEA has approved the subsidy at the rate of ₹6 per kg for the current year, much lower than about ₹10.50 per kg in the 2018-20 marketing year keeping in view favourable international prices.

According to official sources, the government will incur about ₹3,500 crore for this purpose, and this assistance would be directly credited into farmers' accounts on behalf of the sugar mills.

The decision will benefit five crore farmers and 500,000 workers employed in sugar mills and related ancillary activities. Sugar mills will be able to earn the export, said Jadhavkar, who is also Union environment minister.

This subsidy aims at covering expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport and freight charges on the export of up to 60 lakh tonnes of sweetener.

# PM: Oppn misleading tillers, govt ready to clear doubts

## 'Farmers' Interest Top Priority, New Laws Brought In With Honest Motive'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dhordo (Kutch): As the farmers' agitation against the new central farm laws entered Day-20 with no signs of the deadlock getting resolved, PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday accused the opposition of "misleading" them and said that the same political parties that have now united to "confuse" the peasants were in favour of ushering in these reforms when they were in power.

"There is a big conspiracy by opposition parties to provoke and mislead farmers and try to scare them that the new farm laws will result in their land being usurped. I reiterate that our government is ready 24 hours to clear all their doubts and concerns," Modi said at Dhordo.



PM Narendra Modi meets people from all walks of life in Kutch on Tuesday

park, a desalination plant and a milk processing plant. The PM reiterated that the demand for farm reforms was being voiced for years and several peasant organisations had been demanding that they get an option to sell their grains anywhere as per their choice. "The same bar-

the cattle breeders to do their business. "Dairy industry accounts for 25% of India's total agriculture sector produce in value terms and it is about Rs8 lakh crores. This much more than the contribution of cereals and pulses," he said. "Today the country is asking why the small and marginal farmers cannot be given similar freedom," he said.

Stating that the new farm laws have been brought in with "honest intention", Modi excluded confidence that the farmers will defeat all those elements who are trying to mislead them and playing politics by using them as a tool. "From the very first day in the office, farmers' interests have been the top priority of the government. We have been constantly striving to see how

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**Prime Minister  
Narendra Modi**

Statue of Swami Vivekananda at JNU Campus which was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 12, 2020



(Scan QR code for full speech of the Prime Minister)

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