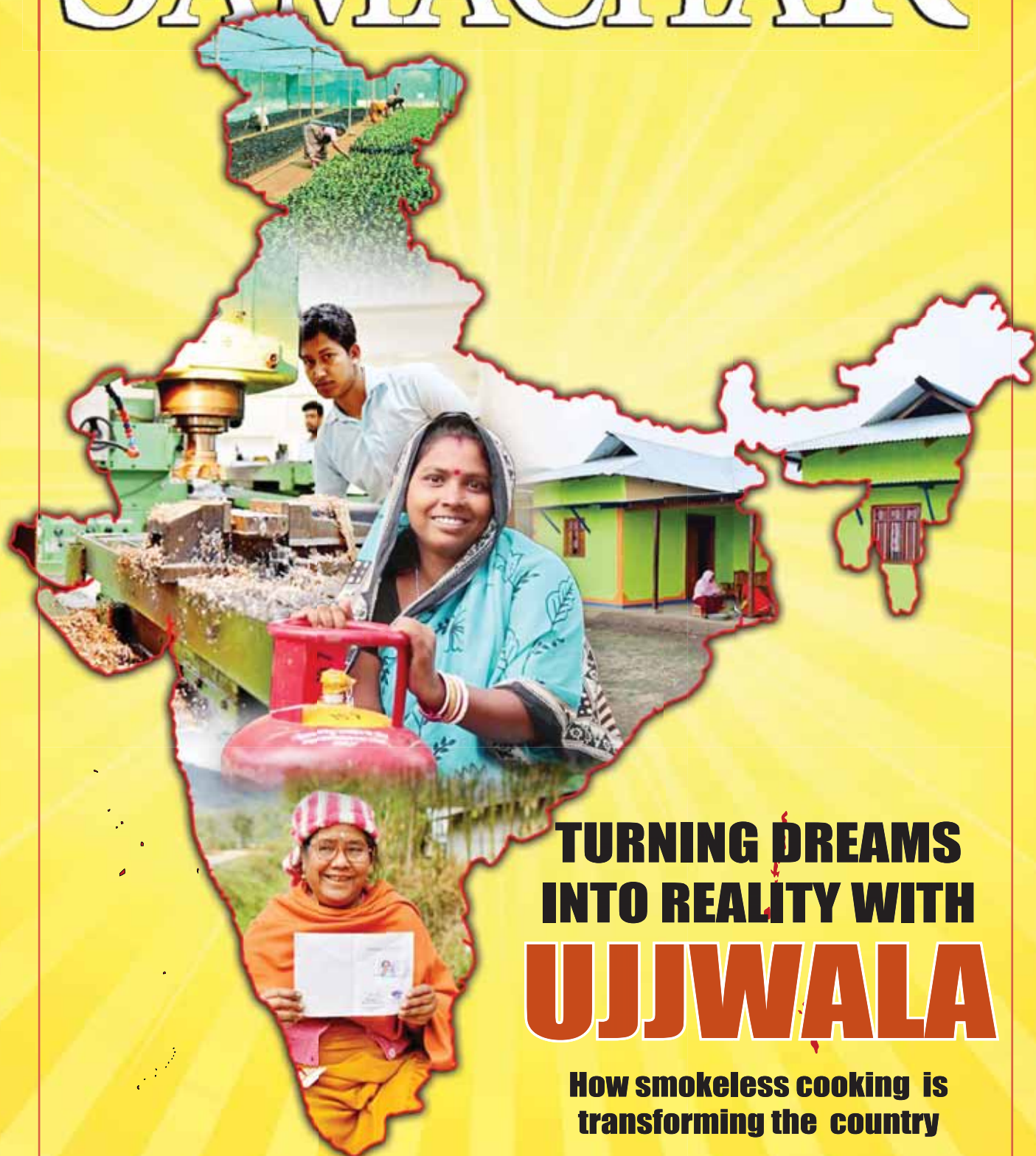


Volume 1, Issue 21

May 1-15, 2021

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New India SAMACHAR



**TURNING DREAMS
INTO REALITY WITH
UJJWALA**

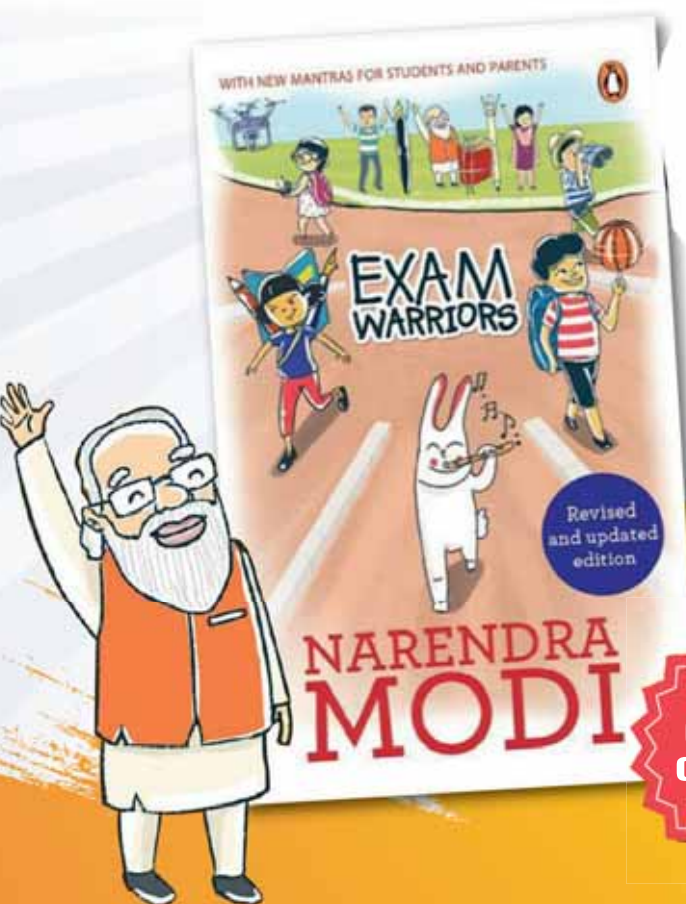
**How smokeless cooking is
transforming the country**

Sankalp Se Siddhi...

Exam Warriors in a new Avatar

Aleena Taayang: I hail from Roing, Arunachal Pradesh. When my exam result was declared, some people asked me if I had read the book Exam Warriors! I replied in the negative. But on purchasing the book, I read it 2-3 times. I felt that had I read the book before the exams, I would have benefited a great deal. I noticed that it contains many mantras for students, but for parents and teachers, this book does not have much. I wish; if you are thinking about bringing out a new edition, do include information and a few mantras for parents and teachers.

Prime Minister: Even my young friends trust that whatever they ask the Pradhan Sevak of the country to do; it will be done. My little friend has entrusted me with a task, I shall certainly comply with your directions.



This is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi included some interesting mantras for students, parents and teachers in the latest edition of Exam Warriors so that students are able to take stress free exams

Grab your copy now...



<https://www.narendramodi.in/examwarriors>
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New India SAMACHAR

Volume 1, Issue 21

May 1-15, 2021

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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar,

I hope that all our readers are hale and hearty. Last year, India defeated Covid-19 in a collective manner. And once again we shall overcome the pandemic together. Our scientists and healthcare experts have toiled hard to come out with Covid-19 vaccines which provide us with ammunition to fight with this fiendish disease. Till the time our country is 100% Coronavirus-free, it is our duty to follow all the guidelines such as to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. India's leadership has shown an extremely sensitive approach, ensured regular supply of medicines and availability of medical facilities at healthcare centres throughout India. The goal is to not panic and take precautions to protect one's self from Covid-19.

Whether it is the fight against the pandemic or bringing a positive change through various initiatives, the peoples' participation has provided a propitious direction to such endeavours. An excellent example can be seen in how LPG is changing lives across India. LPG supply, which was traditionally limited to a certain section of the society, has been extended across each nook and corner of India. Underprivileged people, who had earlier relied on primitive sources, such as wood, for cooking purposes, now have unrestricted access to LPG. This has been made possible through the grand success of Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana. It has not only enhanced the health and quality of life for the common man but also added to India's commitment towards a cleaner and greener environment.

PM Ujjawala Yojana, which was unveiled in 2016, is on the cusp of completing six extremely successful years. The scheme has also helped India's cause in the Ease of Living Index tremendously, which is also our cover story for this issue. A plethora of Government schemes in the Insurance sector have helped empower the common man extensively and our readers will enjoy the anthology of stories on this theme in this edition.

Be it the struggle for Independence or the expulsion of foreign invaders, India has always stood its ground. A part of this issue is dedicated to the heroics of the likes of Maharana Pratap, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and many unsung warriors who dedicated their lives for the betterment of the nation.

The edition also includes inspiring bites from 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', a recent interaction that the Prime Minister had with the young generation on how they can overcome various challenges in their lives.

The emphasis on being AatmaNirbhar has borne fruit in the past one year through the participation of 137 crore Indians across industries, businesses and sectors. The positive approach of the people towards the initiative will guarantee a successful future for India in the coming times.

Keep writing your feedback to us with the same affection and trust...

Address : Bureau of Outreach and Communication,
11nd Floor, Soochna Bhawan, New Delhi - 110003
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(Jaideep Bhatnagar)



New India Samachar is a great magazine. Like all other previous issues, this issue of the New India Samachar too is fabulous. The magazine covers a wide range of articles that enrich us with enormous information and data related to India and its development. Thank you New India Samachar team for providing such a great and valuable magazine.



Prof Subir Sinha
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Digital Calender



The Government of India's digital calendar and diary provides latest information on various schemes, events and publications of the Government along with a list of official holidays and various important dates

It can be downloaded from Google Play Store and iOS

Google Play Store link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.gov.calendar>

iOS link

<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/goi-calendar/id1546365594>

<https://goicalendar.gov.in/>

I have been reading NIS since February this year. I am grateful to the Government for the meticulous work of aggregating every important scheme, affairs and Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat. This is helping numerous people by providing authentic information. I would like to know if there is a hardcopy of the magazine too, and if there's a way to subscribe it.



Kriti Srivastava
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We have been reading the magazine that provides a lot of information. We get every information which could be of great help for competitive examination and for our day to day life. I am very thankful to the New India Samachar team. I want to know about such kind of other magazines which are helpful for information purposes.



Rinkoo Kumar
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New India Samachar is a very good and authentic source of information about different events taking place in various domains in the country. I would like to thank Bureau of Outreach & Communication for publishing this magazine. My best wishes for the entire team behind its publication.



Er.Basaam Quyoum
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I am an aspirant of competitive examination. I read this magazine for the first time and I find it is very useful to enhance our knowledge about the initiative and schemes of the Government. I eagerly wait for the next edition.



Rani Sharma
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Nominations begin for PM Yoga Awards 2021

Throwing light on the importance of Yoga, one of its most popular exponents Tirumalai Krishnamacharya says: "Where is confusion, if truth is revealed? Where is disease if the mind is purified? Where is death if breath is controlled?" So get dedicated to Yoga! His disciples included Yoga Guru like BKS Iyengar. International Yoga Day has started with the herculean efforts made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and today the entire world is praising Yoga and contribution made by India for its expansion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of second International Day of Yoga in 2016, had announced two categories of Yoga awards – one being International and other being National – to be announced on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga (IDY). The process of nomination for the award to be given on IDY on June 21, 2021 has already started. Winners will be felicitated by the means of a trophy, certificate, and a cash award of Rs 25 Lakh. As per Yoga Guru K Pattabhi, Yoga is a true self-realisation which helps inward cleansing.

Stand-Up India making villages and small cities self-reliant

Stand-Up India, which was launched five years ago with an aim to empower women and SC & ST communities by encouraging them to start their own business, is yielding very promising results. The scheme seeks to promote the entrepreneurial skills of the targeted community who could, in turn, become job creators. As per data up to March 23, 2021, over Rs 25,000 Crore have been sanctioned for 1.14 account holders under this scheme. The scheme was launched on April 5, 2016, with the goal of making a Self-Reliant India. Now, it has been extended up to 2025 following its huge success and popularity. The Government is eyeing the rural heartland and smaller cities of the country to propagate out-of-the-box schemes like Start-Up India to solve the problem of unemployment.

India surpasses China and US in digital payment



The digital payment methods in the country gained immense popularity, especially during the COVID pandemic period. Digital payments in India have touched a new global high as the country surpasses China and the US to notch up the top position in the global tally for 2020 in digital payments. India registered over 25.5 Billion real-time online transactions last year. India was followed by China with 15.7 Billion, South Korea (6 Billion), Thailand (5.2 Billion), and Britain (2.8 Billion) online transactions. The US barely secured a position in the list of top 10 achieving the ninth spot with 1.2 Billion transactions.

DD Free Dish reaches out to **4 Crore** families with its free 'infotainment' programmes

DD Free Dish has set a new record by reaching over 4 Crore connections and is expected to cross the 5 Crore milestone by 2025. Over 161 free channels including Star, Sony, Colors, News, Sports, and education channels are part of the bouquet offered by it. One of the DD Free Dish channels, DD Retro, based on the film and music of olden days has become very popular in a short span of time. This is a multi-channel free-to-air and direct-to-home (DTH) service. The purpose of this channel is to provide an alternative for quality entertainment and information. DD Free Dish has become a boon for the lower and middle class with its huge network across the country.

International market accessibility for spice farmers to be made easy

The UNDP and the Spices Board of India are working together to provide easy access to the international market for the spice farmers in India by integrating Blockchain Traceability Interface with the e-Spice Bazaar portal developed by Spices Board of India. The design of the Blockchain interface is expected to be completed by May 2021. The project will be piloted with over 3,000 farmers engaged in chilli and turmeric farming in select districts of Andhra Pradesh. India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices in the world. Spice exports in 2019-20 crossed \$3 Billion mark.

Pucca houses for 2.14 Crore beneficiaries ahead of Amrit Mahotsav closure



Plans are afoot to provide pucca houses to everyone under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Rural in the rural pockets of the country before wrapping up of the Amrit Mahotsava. On the basis of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census- SECC a Permanent Wait List (PWL) was prepared under this flagship program of the Government. As against the existing PWL identified using the SECC database of 2011, a total of 2.14 Crore beneficiaries have been found to be eligible. ■

Record highway construction at 37 km per day!

India has made tremendous progress in highway construction across the country in the last few years. Over the last 7 years, the length of National Highways has gone up by 50 per cent from 91,287 km as of April 2014 to 1,37,625 km as of March 20, 2021. The share of highways out of the total roadways is just 2.2 per cent but they bear the burden of 40 per cent total traffic. The Government with an aim to create a robust network of highways across the country has increased its budget allocation by 5.5 times, from Rs 33,414 Cr in Financial Year 2015 to Rs 1,83,101 Cr in Financial Year 2021- 2022 while 5,865 projects were approved between 2010 and 2014, this number reached 10,855 between 2015 and 2021.



Gokhale: Mahatma of Mahatma

When Gopal Krishna Gokhale took his last breath on February 19, 1915, Gandhiji said, "He seemed to me all I wanted as a political worker — pure as crystal, gentle as a lamb, brave as a lion and chivalrous to a fault." Gokhale was the only leader of India's Freedom struggle who has the honour of being recognised as Guru of two diametrically opposite personalities. While Mahatma Gandhi took inspiration of non-violence from him Mohammad Ali Jinnah learnt intricacies of law from him



Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born in a Brahmin family in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra on May 9, 1866. Though Gokhale belonged to a family of modest means, he was provided with good education. He can be listed among the first generation Indians who graduated under modern British education system. He passed out of Mumbai's Elphinstone College in 1884. Later he became a professor at the Poona College. During this time, he got the opportunity to interact with Mahadev Govind Ranade and Pherozeshah Mehta. He became member of the Congress while learning legal intricacies from them. Mehta was the member of Bombay Legislative Council. Gokhale too became its member. During one of the sessions when British Finance Secretary Edward Law presented a budget claiming to have saved Rs 7 Crore which was applauded all across. This was the time when parts of the country was struck by famine. Gokhale with his arguments proved that the British Government imposed more taxes, splurged on defence and cut the budget on education, exposing the dubious intentions of the Government. This incident catapulted him to fame and his stature in the Congress grew further. He was made President of the Congress at the age of 39. The Congress then had two factions — the Extremists led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Moderates led by Gokhale. His college

“ Remembering Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his birth anniversary. A remarkable personality blessed with immense wisdom, he made outstanding contributions towards education and social empowerment. He also provided exemplary leadership to India's freedom movement. ”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

mate, Tilak always remained his staunch political opponent.

Gokhale fought against casteism and untouchability and started Servants of India Society. He emphasised on constitutional reforms which led to the famous Morley-Minto reforms under which Indians were given a place in the executive council of Governor General. The concept of Swadeshi was said to be first practiced by Gokhale which was later made a movement by Mahatma Gandhi.

Gokhale died on February 19, 1915 at the age of 48. Mahatma Gandhi wrote: "Sir Pheroze Shah (Mehta) seemed to me like the Himalaya and the Lokmanya (Bal Gangadhar Tilak) like an ocean but (Gopal Krishna) Gokhale was the Ganges. The Himalaya was unscaleable, one could not easily launch forth on the ocean but one could have a refreshing bath in the holy Ganges." ■

'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign' a script for India

Amidst the Corona pandemic when the economy and employment in the country were hit hard due to lockdown and other restrictive measures, the Government came out with its long-term vision of 'Vocal for Local' to make the country self-reliant



The 'Vocal for Local' call, which was made on May 12 last year to promote Indian products, has become very popular in a short span of time. Now, it has become a mass movement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's astute thinking is now paying off rich dividends with India emerging as the top destination for investment. 'Vocal for Local' call has in the real sense given wings to Indian aspirations with 'Make in India' and 'Made for World' becoming a reality.

Once in a while in a century comes a period of reckoning which overcomes the gap between rich-poor, youth-old, and women-men to inspire everyone to work towards nation-building.

The clarion call made by the Prime Minister proved to be a game-changer which not only allowed India to be self-reliant but also demolished the myth of attraction for foreign goods by the domestic consumers. Enthusiasm of the common buyers for the Indian goods made it a people's movement.

The mood of the nation can be gauged from

one of the letters of Venkat Murali Prasad from Visakhapatnam who has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi a few months ago. He writes, "I am enclosing my ABC with this letter for the year 2021." At the first instance Prime Minister also could not fathom out the intricate message. But when the Prime Minister saw the letter enclosure then he realised that Prasad implied ABC for AatmaNirbhar Bharat Chart. Prasad has encapsulated a list of all products he uses in daily life in the letter enclosure. He has mentioned about all the electronics, stationery, and daily use products on the list. He shares his resolve with the Prime Minister that he will use only those products in which the sweat and toil of the countrymen are involved. He further writes, "Unwittingly we use those foreign-made goods which have its alternatives easily available in the country."

The Prime Minister supporting his idea notes, "We must cherish this spirit and explore it further. I urge the countrymen to prepare a list of daily use commodities and deliberate on the

What is AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package....

Corona has not only restricted the movement of common life but also impeded the economic growth of the country. With an aim to reverse the declining economic trend and give impetus to the economy AatmaNirbhar Bharat package was announced. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the first relief package under AatmaNirbhar package 1.0 amounting to Rs 20.97 Lakh Crore from May 13 till May 17 in five tranche. Subsequently, on October 12, 2020, an additional package of Rs 73,000 Crore was announced under AatmaNirbhar package 2.0.

AatmaNirbhar Bharat 1.0

- **One Nation, One Ration Card:** Ration could be purchased from any ration shop through one single ration card across India
- **PM Svanidhi Yojana:** Around 23.97 Lakh street vendors have been given loan
- **Kisan Credit Card Yojana:** Under this scheme 157.44 Lakh farmers have been given loan
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:** As of December 9, 2020 projects worth Rs 2,182 Crore have been sanctioned.
- **Emergency Working Capital Funding for Farmers through NABARD:** Under this scheme Rs 25,000 crore have been distributed among the farmers
- **Special liquidity scheme for NBFC/HFC:** For this scheme, Rs 7,227 Crore has been distributed so far
- **Liquidity injection for Discoms:** Under this scheme Rs 1,18,273 Crore of loan has been sanctioned so far out of which Rs 31,136 Crore the worth of loan has been distributed
- **Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme:** Under this scheme, till now the public sector banks have sanctioned Rs 26,899 Crore for the purchase of portfolios
- **ECLGS 1.0:** Under this scheme Rs 2.05 Lakh Crore has been distributed among over six million beneficiaries

AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0

Festival Advance: Under this scheme SBI UTSAV Card has been given to the beneficiaries.

LTC Cash Voucher Scheme: This scheme was launched with an aim to give fresh impetus to the economy.

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Defence Ministry have been given Rs 25,000 Crore for additional capital expenditure.

AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 3.0

- Sought to provide impetus to job creation in the organized sector through Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana.
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme was announced with an aim to ameliorate condition of healthcare and other 26 sectors.
- Announcement of Production Linked Incentive Scheme to encourage domestic manufacturing. PLI scheme has been announced for the 13 sectors which include 10 new sectors.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) an additional outlay of Rs 18,000 Crore has been provided for completion of real estate projects so as to give impetus to employment generation.
- The companies working in the construction and infrastructure sector have been allowed a bank guarantee of 3 per cent instead of 10 per cent till December 31, 2021
- Provision for rebate on income tax for home buyers and those who are constructing their own houses
- For the benefit of 14 crore farmers of the country a provision for Rs 65,000 Crore has been made for subsidy on fertilizers. A provision for additional Rs 10,000 Crore under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- The Exim Bank will be given Rs 3,000 Crore to facilitate export promotion through providing loans.
- A contribution of Rs 900 Crore has been made for the R&D of the Covid vaccine.

foreign-made products that have entered in our life or have made us dependent on them. We must seek to find out the alternative of these foreign-made products in India and use Indian goods in which the toil and sweat of the people of India are involved. It's important to take a vow

for the country as well."

Significantly, the Prime Minister not only provided the stewardship in staving off the adverse effect of Corona but nevertheless seized the momentum to save the economy from turmoil and set a road map for the fast growth



The impact of reforms

The economy makes a fast recovery...

- The announcement of Rs 29.87 Lakh Crore package by the Government was nearly 15 per cent of the GDP. Many other countries also announced an economic package to fuel the engines of economic growth. Japan, the US, Sweden, Germany, Spain, and China earmarked an economic package worth 21.1 per cent, 13 per cent, 12 per cent, 10.7 per cent, 7.3 per cent and 3.8 per cent of their GDP, respectively.
- The GDP contracted to -23.9 per cent due to restrictions imposed during Corona lockdown and the economic experts were prophesising about the recession. But because of the farsighted vision of the Government, Indian Economy made a 'V-shaped' recovery to end on a positive note at 0.4 per cent at the close of the third quarter of the economy.
- India received Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) worth \$72.12 Billion in the 10 months period of April 2020 till January 2021. This was the highest FDI recorded in the first 10 months of

of the economy. In his address to the nation on May 12, 2020 in the aftermath of the third lockdown, the Prime Minister highlighted on the post-Covid world order. He set out a course of a future action plan with a special focus on the economy, infrastructure, and high demand for the country to become self-reliant. With an aim to give international recognition to Indian made products, the Prime Minister gave the clarion call for 'Vocal for Local'. As a result, foreign investors are now more attracted to Indian market and the exports have also increased.

The local commodities are now in high demand. This has also encouraged the local companies to come up with quality finished products which are globally competitive.

The first lockdown was announced on March 25, 2020, and on the very next day the Government came up with a relief package of

Summary of incentives announced so far

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana	Rs. 1,92,800 Crore
AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign 1.0	Rs. 11,02,650 Crore
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana	Rs. 82,911 Crore
AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign 2.0	Rs. 73,000 Crore
AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0	Rs. 2,65,080 Crore
Various announcements by Reserve Bank of India	Rs. 12,71,200 Crore
Total	Rs. 29,87,641 Crore

any financial year.

- Just before the Lockdown in March 2020, India's total export was \$21.49 Billion which jumped to \$34 Billion registering 48.23 per cent growth in March 2021. During this period, imports of India's top 5 commodities declined by 13 to 90 per cent.
- In March 2021, there was a record GST collection of Rs 1.23 Lakh Crore. This is the sixth consecutive time since October 2020 that GST collection has crossed Rs 1 Lakh Crore mark.

Rs 1.75 Lakh Crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to provide succor for the villages and poor people of the country. Also, ahead of the announcement of an economic package of 20 Lakh Crore on May 12 lots of deliberations were done during the lockdown. Before the announcement of the package, the Prime Minister took the industry into confidence and reached out to pharmaceutical companies, health workers, and NGOs of the country. He also held virtual consultations with the people associated with agriculture, energy, education, IT, and other sectors. On five occasions, he held high-level meetings with the Chief Ministers of various states to take their point of view. Certainly, the farsighted pragmatic vision of the Prime Minister for an AatmaNirbhar Bharat is helping India to make a promising transition from present to future. ■



Tika Utsav: **The second battle against Corona**

Cases of Coronavirus infection have started increasing once again across the world. In the second wave, the number of cases has crossed the dangerous mark in several states. The pandemic that appeared to be petering out in February this year was looking even more frightening. The Government has further intensified vaccination drive besides taking measures to help people to get proper treatment. India launched its Corona vaccination drive on January 16, 2021 with healthcare workers getting vaccine administered on priority. Frontline workers started getting vaccine administered after February 2. The next date was March 1 for people above 60 years of age and people between 45 and 59 years with co-morbidity started getting inoculated. Meanwhile, the second wave of Corona

Everyone over 18 years to get vaccine

The second wave of Corona pandemic has taken fatalities to the most dangerous mark. New patients, active cases and infection rate... every number has touched a new peak. So, the country has decided to break the chain of Corona infection by observing Tika Utsav

swept across the country and the Government included people above 45 years of age without any co-morbidity from April 1. Now, a call has further been taken to administer vaccine at work places to people above 45 years of age from April 12. Now, people above 18 years of age will also be administered vaccine from May 1.

SINGLE-DAY INFECTION TOUCHES A NEW RECORD

As per the data released on April 19, India recorded 2.75 Lakh cases in the last 24 hours. This is the maximum number of cases of infection in one day. Around 80 per cent of the total number of cases found in one day belongs to these 10 states and one UT – Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala.

Sputnik V gets Government nod; some more to be approved soon!

The Government has approved use of Sputnik V of Russia and is considering to give approval for the emergency use of some other vaccines. Sputnik V has been approved for emergency use after Covaxin and Covishield. Covishield was developed by Oxford University and Astrazeneca jointly. Serum Institute of India in Pune is producing it. Covaxin was developed by Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology. Sputnik V will be produced by Dr Reddy's Laboratories. The efficacy of this vaccine was revealed to be 91.6 per cent.

Continue to follow safety protocol along with vaccination

19,29,329

Active Cases

1,29,53,821

Recovered Cases

1,78,769

Total Deaths

86.00%

Recovery rate

Death rate (1.19%) till 18 April

RECORD 10 CRORE VACCINATION IN 85 DAYS

India achieved a major milestone on April 10 in Corona vaccination drive. The vaccination drive that started on January 16, over 10 Crore vaccine doses have been administered in 85 days. This is the fastest vaccination drive. The US vaccinated 9.2 Crore doses in 85 days while China 6.14 Crore doses. On April 5, record 43 Lakh doses were administered in 24 hours.

EXPORT OF REMDESIVIR BANNED

The Government has banned exports of Remdesivir injection. As per health experts, Remdesivir injection is administered when Oxygen level in the Corona patient goes down. The Government has taken this decision in view of the growing demand of the injection due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases. There are seven companies in India that produce this injection. They have the capacity of producing 38.80 Lakh injections per day. Moreover, the Government has also banned export of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) till situation improves in the country. Moreover, every domestic producer will have to provide information about its stockist and distributor on its website. ■

Emphasis on Testing, Tracking and Treating

The maximum number of Coronavirus cases are found in Maharashtra. Partial lockdown has been imposed at some places. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on Testing, Tracking and Treating in his meeting with representatives of states and Union Territories on April 8, 2021. The Prime Minister said, "Just imagine what was the situation last year. We didn't have testing labs. The availability of masks was also a matter of concern and there were no PPE kits. And the only way we could escape at that time was lockdown, so that we could ramp up arrangements as fast as possible and that strategy was very beneficial. We could create arrangements and resources and increase our own capability. But today, when we have all the resources, it is the test of our governance and our emphasis should be on micro containment zones."

PRIME MINISTER'S EMPHASIS ON SOME POINTS...

- The very big part of COVID-19 management is prevention of vaccine wastage
- We need to repeatedly tell people that it is essential to follow rules, like wearing masks and other protocols, even after vaccination
- From the birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule on April 11 to birth anniversary of Baba Saheb on April 14, "Tika Utsav" or vaccine festival was organised
- There is a need to focus on four things. First – Each One, Vaccinate One. It means uneducated people, senior citizens who are helpless to get themselves vaccinated, they must be lent helping hand
- Second – Each One, Treat One which means people with less resources and lacking information must be assisted to get treatment for Corona
- Third – Each One, Save One which means I myself wear a mask to save others as well
- Fourth important thing is that if anyone gets Corona infection, people from the society must build micro containment zone wherever there is Corona positive cases.



Bhima challenged the British while Jhansi is proud of Jhalkari

May 10, 1857 led to the emergence of a new era. It was a moment of truth in a sense that there was a new leader, a new flag that catapulted the military rebellion for British into a national struggle. Its impact is so lasting that we are recalling it even after 164 years

There are so many countless stages in India's freedom struggle that we draw inspiration and energy from. There are legions of fighters to whom the country expresses its gratitude every day. When we imagine the period of servitude when millions of people waited for the dawn of Independence for centuries, the realisation grows as to how historic the occasion of 75 years of freedom is and how glorious it is. To quote Prime Minister Narendra Modi: "History is witness to the fact that the glory of a nation has a tradition of eternal India, shadow of the freedom struggle, and the privileged progress of Independent India. Similarly, there are inspirations and

“ No sankalp is successful without celebration. When a sankalp takes the form of celebration, pledges and energy of million is added. The celebration of 75 years is to be done with the participation of 130 Crore Indians and this people's participation is at the core of this celebration. This participation involves the feelings, suggestions and dreams of 130 Crore countrymen.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

messages from different battles and events in the freedom struggle which India can imbibe and move forward.



Jhalkari Bai

The alter ego of Rani Lakshmi Bai

Does Lakshmi Bai, the queen of Jhansi, need any introduction? An inspiring symbol of the anti-colonial struggle, she fought gallantly against the colonial forces and shook the foundations of the British rule. Considered to be the incarnation of Durga in terms of valour, Rani Lakshmi Bai owes her success and fame to Jhalkari Bai. Jhalkari Bai was the commander of the Durga Dal, or women's brigade, in Rani Lakshmi Bai's regular army. It is said that Jhalkari Bai, born in a poor and Dalit family, had a close resemblance to Lakshmi Bai. In fact, she would often disguise herself as a queen and enter the battlefield to fool the British. When Rani Lakshmi Bai was trapped in her Fort, it was Jhalkari Bai, who plotted her escape. When the Fort was seized by the British Army, Jhalkari Bai asked Rani Lakshmi Bai to escape and mobilize the forces while she disguised herself, wore the queen's battle attire and fought with fierce determination until she was captured. In Bundelkhand, it is very popular that Jhalkari reached in front of British General Hugh Rose. The British mistook Jhalkari as queen. They asked - what should be done with you? Jhalkari disguised as a queen said- hang me. It is said that upon hearing this reply, it suddenly came from the mouth of British General- "If 1 per cent of the women of India become like her then the British will have to leave India soon." The saga of Jhalkari Bai, who gave a tough fight to the British, is still alive in the minds of the people of Bundelkhand.



Though Khargone in Madhya Pradesh is known for its beauty and grandeur, but it is also associated with the valour of the tribal leader Bhima Nayak. It was from here that Bhima Nayak led the first battle of India's freedom struggle in 1857 and shook the roots of the British rule. He united tribals of the region and led a movement against the British atrocities. His influence spread

Bhima

The Robinhood of Nimar

from Barwani in Madhya Pradesh to Khandesh in Maharashtra. His army is believed to have consisted of 10,000 fighters who confronted English guns with bow and arrow. It is said that when the British could not arrest Bhima, they resorted to fraudulent means. Finally, he was arrested when somebody close to him tipped off the British. He was sent to Port Blair (*Kala Pani*) in Andaman and Nicobar where he attained martyrdom on December 29, 1876. There are innumerable stories of Bhima Nayak's valour which the people of Khargone tell with pride. Since he would loot the treasury of the British and distribute it among the poor people, he was called the Robinhood of Nimar. ■



Prime Minister ignites young minds with

‘PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes the transition between the role of an international leader tending to ‘realpolitik’ exigencies to a caring and effective mentor for the children facing the pressure of examination and studies in these uncertain times. The Prime Minister's address at the fourth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was one such occasion that underscores his unwavering commitment towards empowering the student community through sharing the ideas and suggestions from his vast experience

In the fourth edition of the Pariksha Pe Charcha this year Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students, their parents, and teachers as a friend and guide with the aim to infuse confidence in students so that they can face the exams with aplomb.

Does passing out with flying colors is the only indicator of success? This is one of the most pertinent questions that bemuses students every time. In the present scenario, exam results remain the only criterion against which students are judged for their success. But now this trend is slowly making a way for realism. Exams are not about taking the stress but it is an opportunity to groom ourselves for the new challenges through overcoming various difficulties.

While addressing students for the fourth

consecutive year of ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’, the Prime Minister said, “Students should not consider these exams as their ultimate destination but it is one of the stops in life. We should be fully prepared to fight the challenges of life.” Under the looming crisis of Corona, this programme for the first time was organised virtually. During the event lakhs of students, their parents and teachers participated in it. Slipping into the role of a true friend while addressing students and parents, the Prime Minister said, “We share the same thinking and we have the same resolve.”

He further adds, “Good books, films, stories, poems, idioms, healthy experiences are all the means of training. This is ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’ but here we will discuss many more things apart from exams.”

“ Things that are internalized and become part of the thought flow are never forgotten. One should internalize instead of memorize.

Prime Minister
Narendra Modi

EXAMS CALLED OFF, BUT IMPORTANT LESSONS TO DRAW FROM 'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA'

The Prime Minister while chairing a high-level committee meeting on CBSE exams in the backdrop of increasing Corona cases assumed the role of a caring guardian where he discussed many issues concerning health of students. There were suggestions for postponing exams in the meeting. But the Prime Minister emphatically rebuffed any such suggestion which could endanger the lives of students. Under the present scenario exams have been called off but just a week before it, the Prime Minister shared his mantra for de-stressing during exams with students in his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' discussion. He undertook the task to educate students about adopting such a lifestyle for their promising future that helps them to fulfill their dreams.

PRIME MINISTER SHARES HIS MANTRA WITH STUDENTS

HOW TO FACE EXAMS FEARLESSLY AND STRESS-FREE?

NEVER FEAR THE EXAMS: Exams are not happening for the first time or came abruptly. Every year in the month of March-April, the exams are carried out. Apparently, it seems that it is the fear of the exams but in reality, malaise is deeper which only focuses on the preeminence of academic results.

LEAVE THE STRESS OUTSIDE THE EXAMINATION HALL: Students should be self-assured that they have done adequate preparation and should leave behind tension outside the examination hall. While in the examination hall, the focus should be on writing good answers.

ALLOT EQUAL TIME FOR EVERY SUBJECT: Students should expend their time and energy in all subjects equally. If you have two hours for studies then distribute that time among all the subjects equally.

RESOLUTION SHOULD BE CLEAR: The resolution to achieve the dreams is very important. Which is that one dream that you would like to choose as a resolution for your life? Once you decide on that resolution, the path ahead will be very clear.

REMAIN PRESSURE-FREE: The academic lessons are not the only yardstick of success and failure in life. Your life will be shaped by what you do in life. So try to get out of the pressure of society and your parents.

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM REVOLUTIONARIES: Find out 75 incidences from your state which is related to the independence struggle of the country. This may be associated with any revolutionary personality. Write about these incidences in your mother tongue.

MAKE A PLAN FOR THE WHOLE YEAR: Plan out a project for the whole year which you should undertake to do through the digital medium. For this purpose take advice and suggestions from your teachers, parents, and grandparents.

LEISURE TIME IS A TREASURE: Never consider leisure time as unproductive. This is an opportunity because if you do not have leisure time then life becomes robotic.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE SELF-TRAINING: Follow the footsteps of matriculation and intermediate students to prepare for the job skills and observe the changes in the lifestyle in your surroundings to begin training yourself accordingly.

LET THE SUBJECT FIND A PLACE IN YOUR THOUGHTS: When you imbue any subject then it becomes part of the thought process which never disappears from the memory.



MAKE AATMANIRBHARTA A MANTRA FOR LIFE: Today I want to prepare you for a very important examination. In this exam, everyone has to pass out with flying colors. This exam is about making India AatmaNirbhar for which we have to embrace Vocal for Local.



TEACHERS TO TRAIN ON TIME MANAGEMENT AND PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

TEACH THE TRICKS OF TIME MANAGEMENT: Train students with time management skills and its methods. Go beyond the strict realm of curriculum and accordingly guide them.

NEVER BE DIDACTIC BUT SHARE A PRAGMATIC APPROACH: The children may not heed to all your advice. The children are guided more by the actions of their parents and try to emulate them. So it is advisable not to be didactic but lead by good behavior to sow the seed of good habits in them.

Parents and Guardians to become role model



DON'T PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR CHILDREN: Life is very long in which exams are a very small stop. We should not exert any undue pressure on children. Once this pressure is removed then the students will not face the heat of the exams. Try to provide a stress-free environment to children at home which will infuse them with self-confidence.

PARENTS ARE THE ROLE MODEL FOR CHILDREN: Children are very smart. They may not follow what they are being told to do but they observe their parents closely and try to emulate whatever you have been doing.

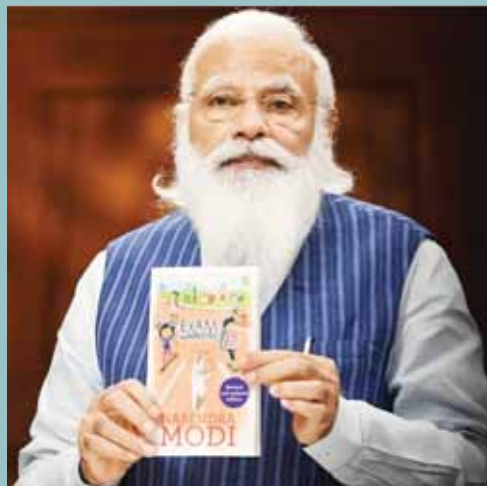
UNDERSTAND THE LIKES AND DISLIKES OF YOUR CHILDREN: Stay connected to your children and try to understand their likes and dislikes. This will help in bridging the generational gap.

YOUR CHILDREN WILL ILLUMINATE HIMSELF: One lamp illuminates the other. The light that you want to see in the child should come from within which is possible only through your efforts.

MAKE YOUR CHILD FEARLESS: Never allow the child's result to be result-driven. This is a wrong way which raises the possibility of negative motivation.

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TOWARDS TRADITIONAL FOOD: We should take pride in our traditional cuisines. We should discuss about its qualities and benefits.

BECOME CLOSER TO YOUR CHILDREN: If you wish to continue with the journey of your new life and want to remain a youth by reducing the effect of age then close the gap with your children and come closer to them. This will help immensely. ■



THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOOK THE QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ON THE OCCASION



Pallavi, a student of Andhra Pradesh, and Arpan Pandey, a student of Kuala Lumpur, asked the Prime Minister how to reduce the fear of examination?

This is not just the fear of the examination but it is the making of the outside environment. That's why you feel it is everything and this is the only by-product of life. This makes you over-conscious. Life is very long and the exams are simply a stage in your life. Parents, teachers, and masses should not exert undue pressure on children. Exams should be taken as an opportunity to test someone but they should not be made larger-than-life phenomena. Those parents who are involved with the study efforts of their children are more likely to know about the strengths and weaknesses of their children.

Today it has become a bit difficult for parents to raise a child. The reason being the changing lifestyle. Under these circumstances, how can we ensure that the behavior, habit, and character of our children are good?

Praveen Kumar is asking this question as an enlightened father, but this is very difficult for me to answer. I will suggest you to first ruminate on it. It's simply not the way that the lifestyle you chose should be also followed by your children. If there are little aberrations then we think it is the downfall. I remember that once I was talking with the youths associated with Startups when a daughter from Bengal sharing her experience said I left my job to establish my own Startup. But when her mother came to know about it she quipped 'disaster!' This has shocked her mother but later that daughter became very successful in her Startup. You should seek to ponder whether you are imprisoning your children in your perception. We must identify that how our families and traditions can strengthen the basic values.

India to become a manufacturing hub; to create over one crore jobs

The Government with an aim to make India a manufacturing hub has launched 13 Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes in sectors that include food processing, pharmaceuticals, and IT hardware that will generate additional manufacturing output worth \$500 Billion in the next five years. The scheme is expected to boost employment scenario in the country by creating over one crore jobs for the youths in the country

The scheme is part of the Government's flagship programme, AatmaNirbhar Bharat. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme which has a budget provision of Rs 2 Lakh Crore with a target of production worth \$520 Billion in the next five years. The Union Cabinet has already approved PLI in the 9 sectors so far which is attracting the interest of the industries and investors. The process for the approval of the rest of the four sectors by the Union cabinet is also on the cards.

Background and Benefits of PLI Scheme

- In the last seven years, a lot of attention has been given to augmenting production capacity, allowing the manufacturers to play a more active role and creating job opportunities for the youths. In a first-of-its-kind initiative under the self-reliant India campaign, the Government is taking many reformative steps to encourage the manufacturing sector.
- The scheme envisages making India one of the best manufacturing destinations in the world which will make the country more competitive globally besides becoming a global manufacturing leader.

The scheme seeks to create a robust industrial ecosystem to give impetus to the progress of the manufacturing sector by envisaging to take up its share to 25 per cent of the GDP. It provides elbow room for making the country self-reliant in manufacturing and accelerates exports with a focus on the twin mantras of 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World'. PLI has the potential to position India as a global economic leader by making manufacturing competitive, investment-friendly, and integrating India as an integral part of the Global Supply Chain. ■

The Union Cabinet has already approved **PLI** in the following 9 sectors:



Food Processing Industry

Provisions of Rs **10,900** Crore
Approximately employment generation 2.5 Lakh



Pharmaceutical Industry

Provision of Rs **15,000** Crore
Approximately one Lakh employment generation



IT Hardware Products

Provision of Rs **7,350** Crore
Around 1.8 Lakh employment generation



For Solar PV module

Provision of Rs **4,500** Crore
1.5 lakh employment generation



For Telecom Manufacturing

Provision of Rs **12,195** Crore
40,000 employment generation



AC and LED or white goods

Provision of Rs **6,238** Crore
4 Lakh employment generation

PLI announced last year

Rs. 6,940
Crore
Pharmaceutical-
API

Rs. 40,951
Crore
Electronics
Manufacturing

Rs. 3,420
Crore
Medical
Equipment



HOPE BRIGHTENS Making Clean Energy Accessible to All



Impact of Ujjwala Yojana has not been limited to just making clean energy accessible to all but, in the process, It has brought about unprecedented improvement in the ease of living of the common people and their health besides protecting the environment. Earlier these advantages were confined to affluent urban class only. In the six years since the launch of the revolutionary Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) penetration has reached 99.6 per cent, largely on account of the free LPG connections to 8 Crore households. The success of the programme can be gauged from the fact that countries like Ghana and Bangladesh are also replicating India's growth story



I am reminded of a childhood story. All of you mothers and sisters who have gone to school must have read about it. Munshi Premchand was a very learned writer of our country. His very famous story - Idgah, was written by him in 1933. The main character in this story was a small boy Hamid. He buys a tong for his grandmother without eating sweets at the fair so that his grandma's hands do not burn while cooking. Munshi Premchand's story inspires me even today. I think if one Hamid can do (something like this), why can't the Prime Minister of the country do it?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with Ujjwala beneficiaries



"Earlier, when there was no gas stove, half of the day was spent on burning firewood in the kitchens for cooking. During rains, the earthen stove would often get filled with water. The firewood would also get drenched and it would not burn. Children were unable to eat food and starve when it rained. "I could not even spend time with my children and family. Since we have been provided with gas connection, I don't face any problems in the rainy season and I can also give time to my children and family," says Sushmita from Mayurbhanj in Odisha, with peace writ large on her face. Sushmita's story is not solitary.

"It saves our time. There was danger earlier when we used to burn the stove as children could go near the fire," says Arjuman Ara of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir. "It used to take us a lot of time to clean the utensils which would turn black due to smoke. And if a child fell ill, the entire day was spent in hospital and as a result, we could not cook one meal of the day. But Ujjwala gas eased our life, particularly in the month of Ramadan. It hardly takes 15-30 minutes to cook and eat the meal in the morning. Earlier, when we used to fast, we had to get up as early as 1 a.m. to cook meals. There were problems in the evening also as we had to go out to collect wood. The children had to suffer a lot due to smoke and they could not sleep in peace. Now that our time has been saved considerably, I have learnt the sewing work and now I earn as well which helps us in buying gas cylinders."

The household expenses of Meena Nirmalakar from Raipur in Chhattisgarh have come down since she has started using a gas stove besides improving

REACHING THE MILESTONE BEFORE THE DEADLINE

8th Crore connection



Earlier the cooking was very difficult for me. But after receiving the cylinder and stove my lot of energy will be saved.

Ayesha Sheikh, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
(September 7, 2019)

5th Crore Connection



Now, the smoke will not enter my eyes. Thank you for the cylinder Modi ji

Takdeeran, Delhi
(August 3, 2018)

First Connection



Earlier the smoke used to enter my eyes while cooking. In addition, I had to bring the wood for cooking. Ujjwala has changed the life of me and my family.

Guddi Devi, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh
(May 1, 2016)



The scheme was launched from Ballia on May 1, 2016.

Total social investment on the scheme stood at **Rs 12,800 Crore** (\$1.8 Billion)

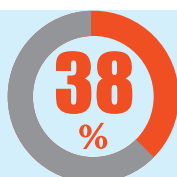
Target of **8 Crore** free connections was completed on 7th September, 2019 ahead of the stipulated period

27.12 Crore subscribers have been linked to the PAHAL Scheme and so far a subsidy of over

Rs 1.37 Lakh Crore

have been transferred directly to bank accounts through DBTL

- 1.08 Crore people joined the 'Give It Up' campaign
- Enthusiasm for refilling, more than 80 percent of the beneficiaries took refills for the second time after first use



Out of 8 Crore beneficiary families, 3.05 Crore (38%) are from SC/ST communities

the atmosphere in the neighbourhood. For Rutaramma in Tamil Nadu, it has become easier to make idli-dosa on a gas stove. Gita Devi, Julie, Rajjo Devi from Bihar have also been relieved of the difficulties of collecting wood and smoke caused by burning wood. They don't suffer from eye irritation, headache and there is no delay in sending children to school. Similar success stories that lead life from darkness to light exist in every nook and corner of the country, making life easier for the common people. And it's all due to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

ANTYODAYA SCHEME AND IT'S CHALLENGING JOURNEY

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) data, about 5 Lakh deaths were reported in India every year by smoke from cooking on traditional kitchen fuels such as wood, coal, cow dungs, etc. Most of them were women whose ill health had a natural effect on the entire family. It also had an impact on air pollution. Nevertheless, clean fuels like LPG were restricted to a particular category of people for such a long time since Independence, whereas the previous Governments could have made it available to people across the country. While there were only 13 Crore gas connections in the country till 2014, the Ujjwala Scheme of the Government has changed the picture of the country and the number of families with active gas connections has more than doubled to 29 Crore in the last six years. LPG connections may have become a part of everyone's daily life today, but there was a time when it used to be a 'status symbol' of a particular class. MPs were given 25 coupons every year and they took pride in providing gas connections to



Ease of Living: Revolutionary Change

The Ujjwala scheme has substantially improved the 'Ease of Living' in the country. This scheme has given a leg up to improving the health condition of women and providing enough leverage to the environmental conservation efforts. In the World Economic Forum's Global Energy Transition Index and Climate Change Performance Index India has improved its ranking very significantly.



**India
becomes the
largest LPG
consumer in
the world**

99.6

per cent of households started using cooking gas, compared to only 55 per cent of households in the country six years ago. That is, there is an increase of more than 43 per cent

- Women saved their cooking time. Now, with self-employment, they started contributing to the family income.
- There has been a sharp increase in the number of households cooking on clean fuel, i.e., LPG. They have led to reduction in health related diseases.
- Liberation from wandering in the forest to collect wood.

25 families in their parliamentary constituencies. The black-marketing of gas connections often made headlines in newspapers! But now 8 Crore connections have been provided free of cost to the poor under the PM Ujjwala Scheme. In terms of penetration, where LPG reached 55 per cent of households in 60 years since independence, it increased by over 43 per cent in 6 years to 99.6 per cent.

It was not that easy for the Government, which is trying to realize Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's dream of Antyodaya, to deliver clean fuel to kitchens across the country. The biggest challenge was financial resources, which could have been addressed by previous governments as well. But they lacked in the intent to expand subsidized LPG. It is to the credit of the bold decision of the Government that the scheme has achieved the target of providing 8 Crore free connections seven months ahead of schedule. The scheme is being appreciated all over the world. Impressed by the success of the scheme, countries like Ghana and

Bangladesh are also implementing it. It is also important to understand the successful journey of Ujjwala Yojana as it completes six years.

A NEW BEGINNING WITH PAHAL

The change in the approach of the Government became evident after the change of power in May 2014 at the Centre. The Government initiated work on a policy to raise financial resources for the subsidized LPG to cover the entire country. The Government took the first step in this direction by abolishing the subsidy on diesel and linked it to the market. Then, it was a pleasant coincidence that crude oil prices in the international market, which had earlier reached about \$150 a barrel, came down to \$26 a barrel. This was followed by a policy framework for the Aadhaar card system. The introduction of the Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) Scheme on January 1, 2015, along with the provision of 'JAM', the 'Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile' trinity proved to be a gamechanger. Named 'PAHAL', the scheme became the world's

UJJWALA GOES GLOBAL

- Countries like Ghana and Bangladesh have studied the model of Ujjwala Yojana to implement a similar scheme for the needy.
- Ghana has entered into an agreement with Indian Oil as only 23 per cent of the population in Ghana has LPG connections and people have to line up for hours to fill cylinders.
- The World Petroleum Council Excellence Award was awarded in 2017 for the initiative and effective implementation of smoke-free kitchens through Ujjwala Yojana.
- World LPG Association, Paris published Ujjwala's success stories on its website titled "Charting the Success of LPG distribution in India".
- The International Energy Agency praised India for its great achievement towards environmental protection and improving women's health.



largest financial assistance programme and was included in the Limca Book of Records. The DBTL scheme helped the Government in saving Rs 13,000 Crore by identifying 4.11 Crore fake connections. The leakage-proof digital system gave the Government a financial basis to provide LPG facilities to the entire country.

The digital system was created simultaneously while preparing the groundwork for the DBTL scheme so that the poor did not have any inconvenience. All they had to do was to go to the distributor and ask for the Ujjwala connection. After that, it was the responsibility of the distributor to provide the Ujjwala connection to the consumers.

THUMBS-UP TO THE SCHEME BY THE AFFLUENT SECTION

The policy of taking the people-centric scheme to the people through their participation is synonymous with the good governance of the Narendra Modi government. After preparing the ground structure for the scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for 'Give It Up' at the 'Urja Sangam' programme of the Ministry of Petroleum on March 27, 2015. He urged the affluent to give

up subsidized LPG cylinders and said that the money that would be saved from this campaign will not go to the state exchequer but will be used for providing free LPG cylinders to the poor. The Prime Minister's call was readily supported by the affluent section and in no time 1.08 Crore consumers voluntarily surrendered LPG subsidy. With the support of the people, Ujjwala became a people's movement and the lifeline of the poor and middle class. The scheme, which was launched by the Prime Minister from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh on May 1, 2016, has completed six years.

ASPIRATIONS GET WINGS, LIFE BECOMES SMOOTH

The Ujjwala Yojana has changed the standard of living of the poor, the deprived, the middle class, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and especially the women. Ease of Living has now become a mantra of the Government and the Ujjwala Yojana has come up as a pillar of support in realizing this mantra. It has also given a new flight to the aspirations of the common man. Cooking on gas stoves has made life much simpler for women who now also have spare



Healthy Family, Healthy Society

- According to the World Health Organization, 500,000 people used to die every year in India due to pollution caused by cooking on conventional fuels.
- Now, the WHO, Indian Chest Society and the Chest Research Foundation have found that the Ujjwala scheme has reduced respiratory and lung diseases by 20 per cent.
- Ujjwala has ensured better health, especially for women.
- Smoke-free kitchen has relieved women of headaches and eye irritation.
- Women started getting employment with the help of self-help groups. With a lesser amount of time spent in the kitchen, they now have time for discussions on social issues with the people in the neighbourhood.
- Improved the lives of the poor, deprived, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe communities and became the basis of social empowerment.

time for themselves and their families. As a result, women are utilising their free time in self-employment, skill training and other activities. "Providing LPG facility to all in India by 2020 is a great achievement," says Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency. "It is not just a matter of delivering clean energy; it is a financial and social initiative."

In order to realise the importance of the ease of life and the thinking of the country's top leadership behind this scheme, one will have to understand the pain of Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he said: "The house where I was born was like a very small corridor. There was no window. There was only one door and the mother used to burn wood to cook food. Sometimes there was so much smoke that we could not see her while she was serving food. This is how I used to eat in smoke in my childhood. Therefore, I can relate the pain of those mothers and children. I have lived that pain and I have to liberate those poor mothers from this painful life. Therefore, I have taken a pledge to provide free LPG cylinders to 8 Crore families." The scheme has provided a healthy life to the common man which is also proving to be helpful in building a healthy society.

HEALTHY FAMILY, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

According to scientists, when a woman cooks on a wooden stove, she inhales about 400 cigarettes' worth of smoke in a day, affecting children and other members living in the house. Irritation in eyes, headache, asthma, respiratory diseases are common. The Ujjwala Yojana is turning the lives of women in rural areas of the country better. The figures from the World Health Organization, the Indian Chest Society and the Chest Risk Foundation illustrate how the Ujjwala Yojana has stepped in to build a healthy society by making the family healthy. While 5 Lakh deaths were being caused annually from this traditional fuel, the Ujjwala Yojana has now played an important role in reducing respiratory diseases by 20 per cent. Not only that, the scheme is also proving to be effective

Access to the poor of all sections of the society

- When Ujjwala Yojana started picking up pace, the country's top leadership decided to expand it further. Earlier, the target of the scheme was to provide 5 Crore free connections. But in view of its growing importance and public sentiment, its target was revised to 8 Crore in 2018
- The first target was set on the basis of the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census. But when the target was expanded, other categories were also added to it.
- In addition to beneficiaries from the socio-economic census, all SC/ST families, beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, forest dwellers, tea garden tribes, people living in islands, persons belonging to Most Backward Classes and economically weaker sections were added to the scheme.
- Out of 8 Crore beneficiaries, SC-ST category beneficiaries alone constitutes over 3.05 Crore i.e. 38 per cent. The Government's intention is not just to provide LPG facilities. The Government intends to expand the availability of LPG so that people do not stop using it due to distance.
- Geo tagging technology was used to increase the number of gas distributors to increase the supply chain and create new distributors within a radius of 15 kms.
- Earlier there were 13,500 LPG distributors which have now increased to more than 25,000. This has benefited especially eastern and North East India,



where both consumers and distributors were less. The annual import of LPG has also been increased from 16 Million metric tonnes to 26 Million metric tonnes to meet the demand.

- Moreover, a major challenge in the scheme was as to how a poor man would pay Rs 800 for a 14 kg cylinder. The Government introduced a smaller 5 kg cylinder for this purpose. But not many people liked it.
- The Government had loaned Rs 1,600/- to the people while granting the connection which was to be deducted through subsidy. But the Government has extended the moratorium on Rs 1,600 loan so that people don't have to face any problem. The decision regarding it will be taken in future.

in the direction of environment protection. Prof. S.K. Barua of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, who carried out his study by visiting several rural areas, has admitted that LPG has drastically reduced household pollution, which has naturally benefited the health of women and children. Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), also says there is less pollution in homes now. Methane, black carbon and organic carbon emanated by burning of conventional fuels, which play a big role in global warming, are declining. The UN Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index talks about the decline in deforestation. As a result of the various energy reform initiatives taken in the last few years, India jumped two positions to stand at 74th spot in the Global Energy Transition Index of the World

Economic Forum. Whereas in the Global Climate Change Index India secured a position in the list of top 10 performers grabbing the 10th spot. In the year 2014 India's ranking was at 31st place. World Health Organization has been praising the scheme since 2018. According to it, when the situation of air pollution in other countries of the world is becoming alarming, India has given a very positive indication with this scheme. The Ujjwala Scheme has also emerged as a pillar in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CORONA PERIOD AND THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

The Garib Kalyan Package is a direct example of how the Ujjwala Yojana took care of the villages and the poor during Corona. When there was a

LPG PANCHAYAT AND FIVE MANTRAS

Efforts to make Ujjwala a success were not confined to villages alone, but it was expanded by organising LPG Panchayats. It aimed at spreading awareness among LPG users about how to properly use clean fuel and its useful benefits. It also provided a platform to trigger discussion through sharing of personal experiences on the benefits of use of clean fuel compared to traditional fuels like cow dung, charcoal or wood. The unique concept of LPG Panchayat was worked out in October 2017, nearly a year after the launch of the scheme. It had five important objectives:

Although no one can buy time, but because of Ujjwala it seems as if we have bought time itself



The Panchayat was aimed at continuous use of clean fuel and addressing safety concerns. The theme of this Panchayat was 'Learn Something, Teach Something'. More than 1.25 Lakh such Panchayats have been organized in the country so far since the first Panchayat which was held in Gujarat.

SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY: Safe, instant and reliable assistance.

HEALTH: Benefits of smoke-free indoor cooking.

EMPOWERMENT: Improvement in quality of life.

ENVIRONMENT: Reduces air pollution, deforestation and desertification.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Cheaper fuel leads to better income opportunities.

lockdown in the country, the Government gave free LPG cylinders for cooking alongwith the Anna Yojana to ensure that the stove of the poor kept burning. The Government spent Rs 9,600 Crore during the Corona period and gave 14.17 Crore cylinders free of cost to the poor. One of the major reasons behind the success of the Ujjwala Scheme and meeting its target ahead of time was that the scheme was conceived based on the ground realities and the entire machinery was running directly under the control of the Government. Oil companies under the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas deployed District Nodal Officers (DNOs) in 750 districts of the country. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan used to interact with these young officers every week through video conferencing to boost their morale and

also monitor the implementation of the scheme. A set goal and dedication towards it made the Ujjwala Scheme so synonymous with clean fuel, environmental protection and improvement in healthcare that the world also took note of it.

The success of the Ujjwala Yojana is there for all to see, but the Government has not paused. The Government, which has taken LPG coverage to 99.6 per cent of the population, has set a target of providing 1 Crore more free connections in this General Budget so that the remaining 0.4 per cent of the excluded sections in cities who have no permanent address are identified and given LPG connections. That is why the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, built with a long-term approach is today seen as an important warrior in making India self-reliant. ■

Interview

“Ujjwala Scheme has given a people connect to the corporate Petroleum Ministry”

The cooking in the kitchens of the poor is becoming smokeless. *Mera Desh... Mera Desh... Mera Desh Badal Raha Hai*. This 2.46 minute song which was released at the completion of two years of the first term of the Narendra Modi Government became an anthem for the masses which was made possible by the success of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. This Yojana has presented an ideal example for social empowerment before the country and the world. **On May 1, this Yojana completes six years in the backdrop of which New India Samachar Consulting Editor Santosh Kumar catches up with Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for a candid interview**

“I will only say that Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry was earlier identified with the corporate world. But Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala scheme has given it a new meaning and made it a tool of social empowerment through economic investment. Ujjwala has brought women to the pivotal position in energy policies.

Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Petroleum Minister

Q Has the Government carried out any study ahead of the launch of Ujjwala Yojana to find out its applicability for the people using kerosene oil, dung cakes, and wood? What was the idea behind the launch of the programme?

A I will answer it in the words of a beneficiary. In 2017 an Ujjwala beneficiary Phulo Devi from Chhatariya village in Darbhanga district of Bihar said, “Now gas supply reaches to our doorsteps. Previously we could not think about it.” Many a times experts working on clean fuel energy ask me, why such initiatives were not introduced earlier. For many decades in the countryside, a lot of emphasis was given on the propagation of alternative cooking methods. But in my opinion cooking on LPG is very easy which is also very accessible as compared to any of its alternatives. LPG has met the expectations of the women of the country. For a long period from the time of Independence, the LPG was made available to only a certain class of the society, when everyone has an equal rights over the resources of the country. We have achieved the target of reaching out to 8 Crore beneficiaries before the deadline. In the first 60 years, only 55 per cent of the households or 13 Crore families had LPG connections. But because of the clear vision of the Prime Minister, in six years, the families with LPG connections have doubled to 29 Crores covering 99.6 per cent families of the country. In the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala 2.0, we are especially



aiming to include the urban poor and the migrant laborers. We will soon announce the procedure for its rollout before the country.

Q Many schemes are announced but their execution is more important? Kindly throw light on the feasibility of the programme and its various challenges as the Government undertook to ensure LPG connection to everyone?

A In my opinion, PAHAL scheme set the stage ahead of the massive roll-out of the programme to take the LPG connection to every doorstep. After which as you know through various efforts all the stakeholders were brought on the same platform. The way the affluent section also got associated with lots of zeal and enthusiasm in the 'GiveltUp' campaign to encourage the fair distribution of LPG gas to the poor also motivated the Government. This is the reason why the Ujjwala scheme has made inroads into the most needy person of the country. This is also true that in a country like India having so much diversity it is very challenging to roll out such large schemes. We worked out on various issues including increasing gas supply, widening bottling plant networks, and production of cylinders apart from ensuring the robust supply of regulators and gas stoves.

Q The villages faced the problem of refueling as the distributors were very far away? How the Government addressed this issue?

A You look at the list of the distributors, nearly 10,000 distributors have been added. As a result of Ujjwala scheme the number of LPG connections have soared which has also benefited the distributors with high profit. Because of the initiative from Common Service Centers and Ujjwala Didi, there are possibilities of better services in the future.

Q Consumers at times have to pay the lump sum amount for the cylinders which burdens the poor families? What steps have been taken in this direction and what are the plans for future?

A Look, the main aim of the Ujjwala scheme was to ensure LPG connections to every household. For solving the problem of refilling we worked out on the small cylinders. But most of the people showed keenness for the 14 kg cylinders. If you remember under the Ujjwala scheme a loan of Rs 1,600 was given to the consumers which have to be deducted from the subsidy given on the cylinder. With an aim to ensure that poor are not burdened and clean energy is promoted, the Government has also extended the



How far it has helped to address the health-related issues in women and boost the environment conservation efforts?

In this respect an expert can throw light better rather than a minister. Studies undertaken after the start of this programme by World Health Organization, Chest Society, IIM Ahmedabad, World Petroleum Council and the universities from India and abroad clearly point out that after the cooking has become smokeless there has been a decline in the pollution related diseases. There has also been a decline in the activities of tree cutting in the forests. It is very clear from various studies that women and their families have immensely benefited from it.

loan period.

Q Amidst the Corona pandemic how far the Ujjwala scheme is helpful in providing direct relief to the poor?

A You must have seen when the country was inching towards the lockdown, the Government had studied the conditions prevailing during the Spanish Flu very closely. On the basis of which just a day after the lockdown a relief package of 1.75 Lakh Crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana was announced. Our intentions were very clear from the outset that no poor family should remain hungry. The state exchequer was overburdened by Rs 96,000 Crore but the Government ensured that 14 Crore cylinders were supplied to the doorsteps of the poor.

Q Many countries including Ghana have asked for expert help from India after the roaring success of Ujjwala scheme?

A This is reflective of India's new thinking. The world is witnessing that once India takes the resolve with new energy and new wisdom then it makes it successful. Under the Ujjwala scheme, we have achieved the targets before the deadline and encouraged the consumers to use the clean energy. This thinking has also convinced the world to look towards India. Look at the various contemporary studies on energy, environment, health and you will find that everywhere the success of the Ujjwala scheme is being discussed. ■

NATION'S PROGRESS HINGES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN INDIA



India's golden age was when the East used to lead India, whether it was Odisha, Bihar or Kolkata. These were the central points leading India. Speaking at the release of the Hindi adaptation of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab's book – 'Odisha Itihaas', Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message was a kind of a resolve to take India to newer heights blending the potential of the youth while absorbing the lessons of the history of Independence

“If there is no balanced development in India, perhaps we will not be able to make full use of our potential. You see progress and prosperity in the Western region these days. There are so many natural resources, creative minds, wonderful human resources in the East, whether it is Odisha, Bihar, Bengal or Assam. If this region, which has abundant potential, is developed, India cannot lag behind.” This is the reason why the Government has put maximum emphasis on the development of the eastern India in the last six years so that there is a balanced growth in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his resolve to develop eastern India on the occasion of the release of the Hindi adaptation of Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab's book.



THE GLORIOUS TRADITION OF UTKAL

Utkal has always given birth to great men who nurtured India's freedom struggle with their blood and made the flowers of freedom blossom. One of them was Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab

Odisha is the holy land of Lord Jagannath, the heritage of art and culture, the homeland of heroes and great men. There is a mention of the Kalinga kingdom in the *Mahabharata*. Stones also tell its story on which the name of the majestic King Kharavela is engraved. The Kalinga War itself is proof of how self-respecting, patriotic and courageous the inhabitants of Odisha are. Instead of accepting the subjugation of the powerful Emperor Ashoka, Kalinga's sons embraced glorious death in the war. The war left a deep impact on the life of Emperor Ashoka, who later began disseminating the teachings and knowledge of Buddhism. The first bugle of war was sounded from here with Paika War for independence led by Jayi Rajaguru (Jayakrushna Mohapatra) in 1804 followed by Bakshi Jagabandhu (Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra), Chakra Bisoi and Rindo Majhi in 1817.



Dr. Mahtab – the creator of modern Odisha

One of the few names that come to mind who are proud of their motherland is Utkal Keshari Dr Harekrushna Mahtab. When there was a call of duty for the country, the young Harekrushna dropped out of college to join the forces against the British. On April 23, 1946, he became the Prime Minister of Odisha and formed greater Odisha by integrating 25 provinces. He was greatly helped by Sardar Patel in his efforts. He later became the first Chief Minister of the state. Dr Mahtab was known for his high stature, but his character was even more exalted. Not only did he define the boundaries of New Odisha but also dreamt for its future and worked for it. He laid the foundation of modern Odisha with the construction of Hirakud Dam, Paradip Port and Rourkela Steel Plant and played a key



role in replacing Cuttack with Bhubaneswar as the new capital. Mahtabji played an important role in taking Utkal history to the national stage. The museum, archives or archaeological sections built in Odisha have all been made possible through his vision and contribution. Whether it is the rejuvenation of Dhamra and Paradeep ports or Urja Ganga pipeline project, proper use of minerals or making the state a hydrocarbon hub, Odisha is constantly on the path of development.

Dr Mahtab brought about the vast history of Odisha before the world, the Hindi edition of which was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 9. The Prime Minister made an important point on the occasion that the history of India is not the history of palaces.

IMPETUS TO THE PROGRESS OF EASTERN INDIA

Infrastructure is key to trade and industries. Thousands of kms of National Highways and coastal highways are being constructed in Odisha which will connect ports. Hundreds of kms of new railway lines have been laid in the last 6-7 years. Thousands of crores of rupees are also being spent on the Sagarmala project. The next important component after infrastructure is industry! Work is being done to encourage industries and companies in this direction. Thousands of crores of rupees have also been invested for the huge oil and gas potential that exists in Odisha. Similarly, the potential of the steel industry is also being

tapped. Odisha also has immense opportunities from maritime resources. It is the endeavour of the country to make these resources the basis of Odisha's progress through Blue Revolution, so that living standards of fishermen and farmers improve. In order to ensure the maximum benefit of this development for the youth of Odisha, the foundation stone of institutions like IIT Bhubaneswar, IISER Berhampur and Indian Institute of Skill has been laid. In January this year, the foundation stone of IIM Sambalpur in Odisha was laid which will build the future of Odisha in the coming years and give a new impetus to development. ■



POKHRAN II: When the world realised the might of India

Sometimes *modus operandi* of any accomplishment becomes more significant than the actual work itself, this is what is true about Pokhran Nuclear Test conducted 23 years ago on May 11, 1998. Though India had earlier conducted nuclear test on May 18, 1974 but May 1998 tests were conducted when India was under the surveillance of many countries. Still, it went ahead conducting five nuclear tests to make the world realise its strength. The decision also showed the political willpower of the then Central Government which had come to power barely three months ago

Peaceful coexistence has been guiding principle of India with the sole objective of global peace without compromising self defence, self-respect, and interest of the nation. Pokhran nuclear tests are testimony to the glorious saga and self-respect when India joined the select nuclear-powered nations on May 18, 1974, which was further repeated on May 11, 1998. Indeed, this was the beginning of making India self-reliant in nuclear power capabilities, the blueprint of which was actually prepared by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his 13-day Government. But the plan could not be implemented.

It was a scorching sunny afternoon on May 11, 1998 when at the official residence of the Prime Minister at 7 Race Course Road (as it was earlier known) at around 3.45 pm a press conference was organised on the lawns.

“ This is a different India. It wants to move along with the world community with a sense of cooperation on the basis of equality. It will not bow before any threat of sanctions. Our nuclear weapons are not against any other country but for ensuring peace and security.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister speaking in Parliament after nuclear tests

No one knew about the subject for which the press conference was called. Suddenly Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee started speaking on camera: “Today, at 3.45 PM, India conducted three underground nuclear tests at the Pokhran range. Today one fusion, one low yield device and one thermonuclear device tests were conducted.”

INDIA SUCCEEDED DESPITE GLOBAL SURVEILLANCE



The first nuclear test was conducted by India on May 18, 1974, and the day happened to be Buddha Purnima. So the operation was named as 'Smiling Buddha'. Operation conducted in May 1998 was named as 'Operation Shakti' by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. At that time in the media reports, the behind the scenes preparation of operation was something like this...

- Earlier, attempts were made to conduct nuclear tests in 1995 but it was aborted at the last moment under US pressure. US kept turning the heat on India with high surveillance at the Pokhran test site and four satellites were constantly keeping a vigil.
- Indian scientists tried to know the real-time activities of the US reconnaissance satellites to evade them from getting any information. Finally, Indian scientists succeeded to know the timing of US surveillance satellites passing through Pokhran and coming back again in the day
- Reconnaissance satellite of the US was focusing on Pokhran test range twice or thrice in 24 hours. So Indian scientists avoided doing anything during those hours
- Scientists involved in the project were so conscious and alert that they used code words while talking to each other. They addressed each

other with pseudonyms. People involved in the project were taken to the nuclear test site in army uniforms so that intelligence agencies were deceived that army jawans were being brought on duty

- The confidentiality was such that the then Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr R Chidambaram was in the uniform of a Major General with a nameplate Natraj, DRDO Chairman Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was in the uniform of Major General Prithviraj. Nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar and K Santhanam too were present at the test site in army uniform
- Giving final shape on the night of May 10, the operation was named as 'Operation Shakti'. Around 3 in the morning, nuclear devices were taken to the venue in four army trucks. Earlier they were brought to Jaisalmer base from Mumbai by a plane of Indian Air Force
- During the entire operation, the Delhi office was talking in such a manner like -- Has the store reached? One of the squads of nuclear devices was named as Taj Mahal. Other code names were like White House and Kumbhakaran
- Deep wells were dug in the desert on instructions of scientists. Nuclear devices were kept in these wells. Huge sand mounds were made over these wells to hide thick wires
- When the nuclear test happened on May 13, thick mushroom-shaped smoke emerged and a huge pit was created at the test site. A group of 20 scientists was keeping a watch on the entire development
- India became the only country after the Pokhran test that was not a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Sanctions were imposed on India, but the country has achieved a place that can fill the heart of people with pride

These words of the Prime Minister were just the beginning of catapulting India into the league of the most powerful nations in the world. Now, the country is treading on the same path to emerge as a New India. Two more nuclear tests were conducted around 45 hours after the press conference addressed by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Ever since May 11 is observed as National Technology Day.

In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "The month of May, 1998 is not just important for the country from the

angle that nuclear tests were conducted this very month, but the manner in which they were carried out is also important.

It revealed to the entire world that India is the land of great scientists and with strong leadership. On that day, Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji had given the mantra - "Jai-Jawan Jai-Kisan, Jai-Vigyan." The mantra of 'Jai-Vigyan' is given by Atalji for enhancing the might and the power of India, to build a modern India, a powerful India and a self-reliant India. Synergize your energy with the strength of India." ■



GUARANTEE TO PROTECTION OF LIFE



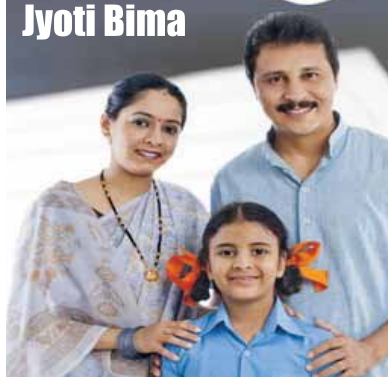
Everybody, especially those on the margins, is concerned about old age and the adverse conditions that come suddenly in life. They always have a sense of economic insecurity. The Government has launched several social security schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna and the Atal Pension Yojana, to provide guarantee to protection of life

“At the core of all schemes, two things are important: First, everyone should get insurance cover and at a minimum premium, so that even the poorest of the poor can take advantage of it. Our Government is sensitive to the poor, values the poor and is constantly making efforts to empower them

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Kanta Devi, a resident of Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh, was at a loss when her husband passed away. She was not aware that her husband had taken the insurance policy under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. Then someone told her that her husband had taken the insurance and she should check with the bank. The bank confirmed that her husband had indeed taken the insurance policy and she could receive the insured amount after completion of some formalities. Once the formalities were completed, Rs 2 Lakh were deposited into Kanta Devi's account. Kanta Devi was, thus, saved from the troubles due to the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. “The Prime Minister has launched this scheme which is really very good and it helps the family in distress,” she

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima



- An insurance of up to Rs 2 Lakh is available at a premium of only Rs 330 a year and no medical examination is required
- The scheme can be availed by any Indian citizens in the age group of 18-50 years. This term plan has to be renewed every year. It matures at the completion of 55 years
- You can avail this insurance by visiting any bank branch or through net banking from home. You can also apply by visiting the portal of this scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana



One can get insurance up to

₹ 2 Lakh

by paying a premium of

₹ 12

a year only

- It is an accident policy under which coverage of Rs 2 Lakh for death or permanent disability in an accident and Rs 1 Lakh in partial disability is available
- Anyone between 18 years to 70 years can avail this insurance. This insurance will be terminated when the insured person turns 70. The scheme requires a bank account
- Must have a balance in the account when premium is to be deducted from the account holder's bank account. The policy will be cancelled on its own if there is no balance in the account.
- The policy will also be considered cancelled in the event of closure of the bank account.

Atal Pension Yojana

- To avail this scheme, investment has to be made for 20 years. This investment can be made by anyone from the age of 18 years to 40 years.
- The beneficiary is given pension amount after the age of 60 years. Under this scheme, pension amounting to Rs 1,000, Rs 2,000, Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 can be availed.
- Pension amount depends on the premium you have paid per month and the age at which you have started investing.

During the first two years of its launch, about 50 Lakh subscribers were registered which doubled to 1 Crore in the third year and reached 1.50 Crore in the fourth year. About 70 Lakh new subscribers were enrolled under the scheme in the financial year 2019.

says. Then there is Sunita, who has also taken the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana policy. Sunita says, "My sons are not working. When this scheme was launched, I bought this insurance policy. I was not sure that money gets transferred directly to bank account. But now I know that when I will get the money, it will be very helpful to me. I did not have any insurance policy. This is the only policy that I have. I had some doubts earlier, but now I tell everybody

about the importance of the policy." Today, if crores of people have come under the ambit of social security, it has been possible because of the schemes like Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. Before the launch of these schemes, there were 80 to 90 per cent of the people in the country who had no insurance policy and who were not likely to get any pension benefits. ■



USTTAD: Reviving art, supporting artisans, and saving culture

The development of any section of the society will bring growth for the country. So the Government has come up with USTTAD scheme to bring artisans into the mainstream who were neglected by the successive governments so much so that they slipped into penury and their art forms were disappearing. Due to the Government intervention with the USTTAD Scheme, not only interest of artisans are protected but a new dawn is coming up for them

From Chikankari artisans of Lucknow to brass workers of Moradabad to Ajrak of Gujarat to Papermashi from Jammu and Kashmir, countless art forms from across the country were in shambles. But the Government seized the moment for the goods of artisans on May 14, 2015, when it launched Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts-Crafts for Development (USTTAD) from Varanasi which is famous for artistic Benarsi sarees. The epoch-making decision is not only saving traditional artistry that is found in every nook and corner of the country but is also reviving them.

The family tradition of artistry predominantly among minorities was diminishing and artisans were driven away from adopting their traditional family skills passed on through generations as neither was it able to help to eke out to make two ends meet for the family nor the family was getting recognition for carrying forward the family traditions. The all-encompassing mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-- Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Make in India – lent a helping hand to these artisans by providing the right information and training besides introducing them to the market where their products were rightly valued. The Government has virtually become their brand ambassador in the international market to bring them better remunerations. The Government is also facilitating to showcase traditional arts and crafts besides culinary skills of the minority community through regular exhibitions at Hunnar Haat and Shilp Utsav. North East has been a special focus. ■

- Under USTTAD Scheme, artisans and weavers are trained for skill development besides helping them to sell their products in the market
- The Government provides a stipend of Rs 3,000 per month during training of people up to 45 years of age belonging to minority communities. There is a 33 per cent reservation for women under the scheme. Special attention is on North East and Jammu and Kashmir
- A goal has been set to train 33 traditional art forms from across the country like Chikankari and glasswork from Uttar Pradesh, Papermashi from Jammu and Kashmir, Fulkari of Punjab, Laharia of Rajasthan, and Ajrak of Gujarat
- Support to minority craftsmen/artisans through Hunar Haat and Shilp Utsav for marketing their products through exhibitions throughout the country and abroad
- To support ministry and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) technical inputs for capacity building of master craftsmen/artisan upgrading their traditional skills, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Sectoral Export Councils, Ministry of Textiles, the Ministry of Culture, and other Expert Agencies are involved as knowledge partners
- Maximum 10 USTTAD Samman of Rs 1 Lakh in a year to outstanding Master craftspersons & Artisan/Culinary expert

All scheme related information is available at <http://usttad.minorityaffairs.gov.in> and www.minorityaffairs.gov.in



MIGHTY PRATAP

Indian history resonates with the stories of many warriors whose courage is cherished even today. But there are quite a few warriors whose courageous saga is the quintessential of story-telling for the populace. Maharana Pratap belongs to that exclusive genre whose name is synonymous with grit and determination. He chose a tough life of frugal means but refused to budge into slavery. Till his last breath, he fought for the protection of his motherland Mewar and left behind a legacy of courage which is exemplified even today and without which the meaning of patriotism, sacrifice, and freedom remains incomplete.

He is a revered figure in Rajasthan including Mewar where he is worshiped in every household and his story of courage, patriotism, and sacrifice is told even today. In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-“The life of Maharana Pratap is a symbol of courage, honour, and dignity which will always inspire the citizens for patriotism. This land of Mewar is illuminated by the valiant sacrifices of many warriors. Maharana Pratap who shares the family lineage with Rana Sanga and Rana Uday Singh is one such towering personality in history. He was born as the first child of Chittor King Rana Uday Singh on May 9, 1540. Despite being born in a royal family Pratap’s childhood days were spent amongst the Bhils. His father Uday Singh died on February 28, 1572. Rana Uday Singh had declared his son Jagmal from his youngest wife as his successor. However, due to the Mewar’s continued struggle with the Mughals, the courtiers ascended Pratap to the throne. A miffed Jagmal joined forces with Akbar. Maharana Pratap vowed to not eat in the golden plates and sleep on the ground unless he did not win back the Chittor from the Mughals. After Pratap ascended the throne, Akbar sent proposals for a truce on four occasions. But

instead of accepting the slavery of the Mughals, he chose the path of struggle which led to a flashpoint at the Haldighati in 1576 with Mughals. Despite being outnumbered by the huge Mughal army which had a troop strength of over 10,000 soldiers Maharana Pratap with a modest cavalry contingent of 3,000 supported by a few of the Bhil soldiers gave a befitting reply to the Mughals. During this battle, his beloved equine Chetak was grievously injured. On seeing Pratap being surrounded by the enemy his confidant Jhala Mann Singh tricked the enemy by displaying the royal canopy on himself and made the sacrifice. Pratap lived in exile in a forest. Six years after the battle of Haldighati, Maharana Pratap defeated the Mughals in the Battle at Dewair. Later on bit by bit, he seized many territories from the Mughals. He left for the heavenly abode on January 19, 1597, after continuing with his long struggle for his motherland.

अस लेगो अणदाग पाग लेगो अणनामी
गो आडा गवड़ाय जीको बहतो घुरवामी
नवरोजे न गयो न गो आसतां नवल्ली
न गो झरोखा हेठ जेठ दुनियाण दहल्ली
गहलोत राणा जीती गयो दसण मूंद रसणा डसी
निसा मूक भरिया नैन तो मृत शाह प्रतापसी

The poem in colloquial language, tells about the persona of Maharana Pratap that how even his enemies admired his valour. ■



Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan: Turning the slogan into reality

The decades-old catch-phrase of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan keeps adding new dimensions to itself. In a recent example a military force CRPF is taking environmental initiatives on the other, a farmer from Gujarat developed a high-quality seed of Drumstick which is showing encouraging results

FROM SECURITY TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS...



Taking inspiration from 'Catch the Rain' campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CRPF Group Centre, Ajmer has decided to dig a deep pond for water conservation. The work is underway in the leadership of CRPF IG Vikram Sehgal. A natural pit between the hill and the forest adjoining the CRPF camp is being dug deep by CRPF personnel and embankment was erected from the two sides. The natural pit used to get submerged with water during the rainy season which was used by animals, birds, plants and even by the CRPF. The water of this pond was used for irrigation and horticulture. Vikram Sehgal said that recharge of the pond and overflowing water is replenishing ground water level. It is also helping to get 12 tube wells recharged. CRPF has also dug many small ponds to store water in them. This initiative to conserve water was taken on the appeal of the Prime Minister to join the 'Catch the Rain' campaign.

DRUMSTICKS TO BRING PROSPERITY FOR FARMERS



In a true example of self-reliance, a farmer from the Patan district in Gujarat has developed seeds of Drumstick which is yielding better produce and quality. Kamraj Choudhary's prosperity has grown immensely with Drumstick cultivation. He sells his produce outside the state of Gujarat like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and other parts of the country for better remunerations. He is now planning to expand its cultivation. Choudhary said that he was growing this crop for the past 10 years and its future is very good. He is earning Rs 1 to 1.25 Lakh per Bigha from the crop. More compost is used for the cultivation of Drumstick. Actually, Drumstick is very much in demand for Ayurveda. It is said that Drumstick is used for the treatment of over 300 ailments in Ayurveda. Drumstick is known with various names like Sahjan, Sargava and Moringa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Kamraj Choudhary for developing high-quality seeds of Drumstick in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme recently. ■



Narendra Modi @narendramodi
Reviewed preparedness to handle the ongoing COVID-19 situation. Aspects relating to medicines, oxygen, ventilators and vaccination were discussed. Like we did last year, we will successfully fight COVID with even greater speed and coordination. pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...



Rajnath Singh @rajnathsi...
Tributes to our courageous security personnel who were killed in action while fighting against the Left Wing Extremists at Sukma-Bijapur border in Chhattisgarh. They fought with utmost courage and their sacrifice will never be forgotten. My deepest condolences to their families.



Amit Shah @AmitShah
रेमडेसिविर का प्रोडक्शन अभी भी हमारे यहाँ प्रयाप्त मात्रा में हो रहा है, हमने एहतियातन एक्सपोर्ट को बैन किया है।

लेकिन जब आपा धापी होती है तो लोग panic buying करते हैं जिससे shortage आती है।

मैं सभी से अपील करता हूँ कि अगर डॉक्टर ने आपको कहा है तभी इस इन्जेक्शन को लें।



Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
For Odisha - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned 14 Projects of 314.17 Km worth Rs. 1144.29 Cr & Road safety work worth Rs. 1.42 Cr for the state of Odisha during 2020-21. @pcsarangi @dpradhanbip @Naveen_Odisha @SamirMohantyBJP @BJP4Odisha



Sadananda Gowda @GVVSadanandGowda
In a huge relief to people in this crucial time, after Govt's intervention, the price of #Remdesivir is now reduced! I am grateful to Pharma companies for standing along with PM @narendramodi's fight against #Covid. Revised prices of major brands of #Remdesivir 100 mg/vial are



Dr. S. Jaishankar @DrSJaish...
Underlined that in diplomacy today, doing good is being smart. Vaccine Maitri reflects the larger outlook of Vaisudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Health security is now integral to national security. No one is safe till everyone is safe.

RAISINA DIALOGUE: VACCINE MAITRI TO ENSURE NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND, GAVE 14THANKKAR

Gave vaccine to 80 countries, will continue: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 13

INDICATING THAT New Delhi will supply Covid vaccines to other countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India will continue to share its resources in the fight against the pandemic.

The Prime Minister's remarks came after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar defended India's decision to supply Covid vaccines to other countries and said there is a need to ensure equitable access to it across the world. "I think equitable access (to vaccines) is critically important in this. Because we all know that no one will be safe till everyone is safe," Jaishankar said.

Both Modi and Jaishankar spoke at the Raisina Dialogue, a two-day event that will focus on the theme of 'Global Synergy to Face Pandemic Challenge'.

India have tried to walk the talk. We have tried to protect our own 1.3 billion citizens from the pandemic. At the same time we have also tried to support the pandemic response efforts of others. In our neighbourhood, we have encouraged our coordinated regional response to the crisis. Last year we shared medicines and protective equipment with over 250 countries. We understand fully that mankind will not defeat the pandemic unless all of us, everywhere, regardless of the color of our passports, come out of it."

"That is why, this year despite many constraints, we have supplied vaccine to over 80 countries. We know that the supplies have been modest. We hope that the demands are large. We know that it will be a long time before the entire humanity can be vaccinated. At the same time, we will continue to share our experience, our expertise and also our resources with the entire humanity in the fight against the pandemic," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the Raisina Dialogue, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

continue to share our experience, our expertise and also our resources with the entire humanity in the fight against the pandemic," he said.

Jaishankar, who said that the health security is now not reduced in people's lives. With a number of primary ways and expanding terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present, he said.

Calling for a more human-centric approach, the Prime Minister said, "It is not one or two even now. The mistakes and misdeeds of the past never decades need not constrain our thinking for the future. The Covid-19 pandemic has put us in an opportunity to re-shape the world order, to re-think our thinking. We must create systems that address the problems of today and the challenges of tomorrow. And we must think of the entire humanity and not merely of the few who are on our side of the ledger. Humanity as a whole must be at the center of our thinking and action."

"While we may be used to having Plan A and plan B, then not reduced in people's lives. With a number of primary ways and expanding terror attacks, the prospect of violence is ever present, he said.

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PM: Celebrating Guru Tegh Bahadur's birth anniv 'spiritual privilege' for me

TAKES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chairing a high-level committee formed to decide how India will celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh, PM Narendra Modi said on Thursday that celebrating the Guru's 400th Prakash Purb was a "spiritual privilege" and "a national duty" for him.



Shah, leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Punjab CM Amrinder Singh among others, Modi said the country drew inspiration from Guru Tegh Bahadur.

He said the government felt privileged to have the opportunity to celebrate the 550th Prakash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the 400th Prakash Purb of Guru Tegh Bahadur and the 350th Prakash Purb of Guru Gobind Singh. He said the year-long activities should be such that

the entire Guru tradition is propagated the world over.

Kharge urged Modi to reach out to farmers protesting against the contentious farm laws, who he said are from Punjab and represent the Guru. "With this, the 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji will be celebrated with more enthusiasm," he said. Punjab CM Amrinder Singh presented the government's plans to publicise how the Guru believed that religious harmony was only possible when one is not forced to change religion.

Modi for global synergy to face pandemic challenge

PM NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cautioned that in the fight against corona pandemic the world is still "underprepared" and called for a united global approach to face the challenge.

He also called for changing the mindset in bracing for future threats and called for human-centric approach in dealing with them.

Making this assertion here while inaugurating the sixth edition of the Raisina Dialogue, he also said the world still faced violence in many facets, especially proxy war and terrorism.



place at a watershed moment in human history. "A global pandemic has been ravaging the world for over a year. The last such global pandemic was a century ago," he said.

from the pandemic. At the same time, we have also tried to support pandemic response efforts of others," he said.

Highlighting India's role in the fight against corona pandemic, the Prime Minister said, "We understand fully that mankind will not defeat the pandemic unless all of us, everywhere, regardless of the colour of our passports, come out of it. That is why, this year, despite many constraints, we have supplied vaccines to over 80 countries."

In his nearly two-minute address, Modi said, "Although, humanity has faced many infectious diseases since then.

Tika Utsav beginning of another major war against corona: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 11

INDIA ON Day 1 of the 'Tika Utsav' administered 27,591 lakh doses of the Covid-19 vaccine last Sunday evening, the Health Ministry said, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling the drive the "beginning of another major war against corona".

The special vaccination drive was launched after Modi had said last week that over the four-day festival - from April 11, which is the birth anniversary of Jyotiba Phule, to April 14, the birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar - the country will try to achieve maximum



PM Narendra Modi

The PM said that as part of the war against the virus, the country must keep four important issues in mind - "Each One-Vaccinate One, that is, help those who are less educated and elderly, who cannot go and get vaccinated themselves. Each One-Treat One,

way I save myself and save the lives of others also.

"The fourth important thing is that in the event of someone contracting corona, the people of the society should lead in the creation of micro-containment zones. Family members and people of the society should create a 'micro-containment zone' wherever a Corona positive case has been reported," Modi said.

In his message, the PM reiterated that in densely populated country like India, micro-containment zones is also an important way to fight corona. "In the event of detection of a single positive case, it is very important for all of us to be alert and to test the rest of the people. At the



Second shot: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged all those eligible to get vaccinated soon.

PM gets second dose of Covaxin at AIIMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

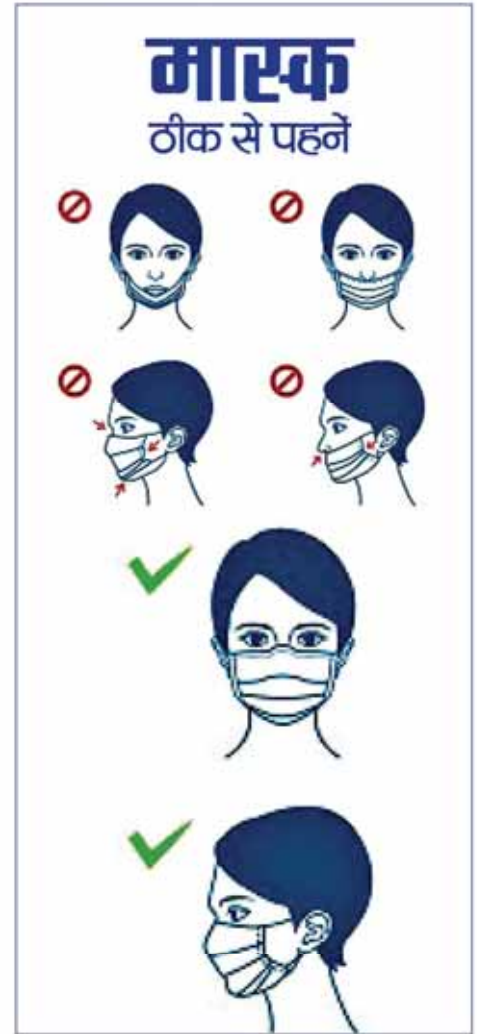
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He received the first dose of

dose of the vaccine and said: "Get my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at AIIMS. Vaccination is among the few ways we have, to defeat the virus. If you are eligible for the vaccine, get your shot soon. Register on CoWin.gov.in."



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