

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



For e-copy

Prosperous India Empowered Farmers

The resilience of the agricultural sector is the cornerstone of an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Empowered farmers not only ensure their own prosperity but also contribute to the country's food security, rural development, and economic stability...

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

On his death anniversary, 11 February, the nation pays tribute

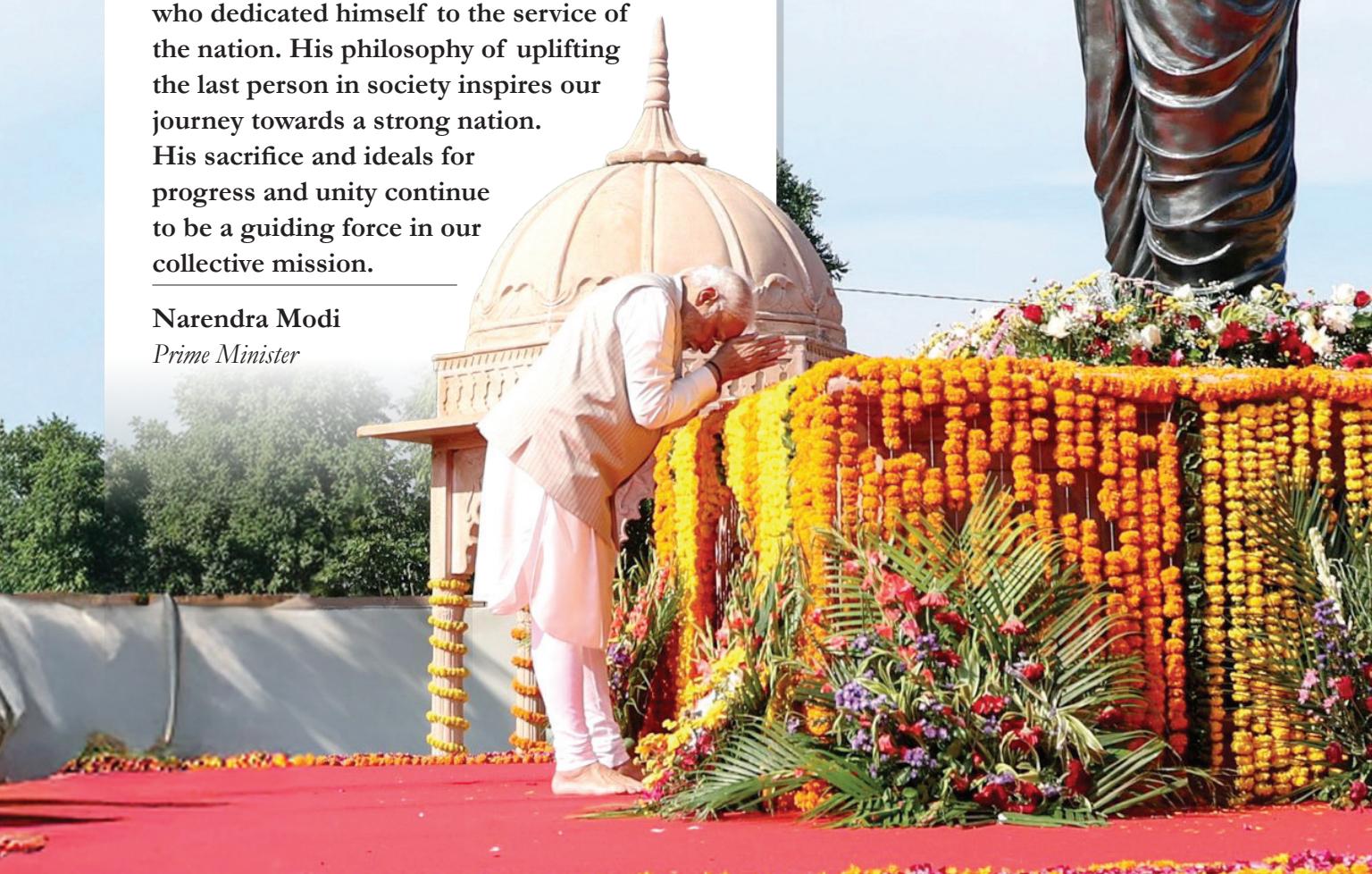
Pioneer of Antyodaya

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, who lived his life on the principle of "सर्वजनहिताय-सर्वजनसुखाय", was born on 25 September 1916 and died on 11 February 1968. He established unparalleled ideals in Indian politics through his thoughts and dedication. His philosophy of Integral Humanism is capable of providing solutions not only to India's problems but also to those of the world. He envisioned Antyodaya, believing that the measure of India's progress would be the smile on the face of the "last person" standing in the last row. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded this Antyodaya to encompass saturation coverage. The effort to reach the last person in the queue and the pursuit of justice in line with Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya vision has been ongoing for the past 11 years...

“

On the death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, we pay him our heartfelt tributes. He was a visionary thinker who dedicated himself to the service of the nation. His philosophy of uplifting the last person in society inspires our journey towards a strong nation. His sacrifice and ideals for progress and unity continue to be a guiding force in our collective mission.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



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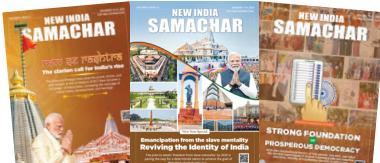
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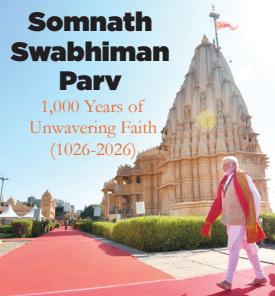


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PM's Special Article

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

India's 'Annadata' shaping Development Journey

Greetings,

The Indian farmers has become an active and reliable partner in the country's development journey. Our famers have not only nourished the nation but also the world when needed. India is the world's largest producer of rice, pulses, milk, and several other agricultural products. This achievement is the result of years of continuous hard work, clear policy direction, and the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has given new dimensions to the potential of Indian agriculture. In this journey from seed to market, India has consistently increased its production capacity, even while facing global crises, pandemics, and natural disasters.

The holistic approach adopted in the agricultural sector over the past 11 years has placed the farmer at the center of the system. Today, the availability of high-quality seeds is being ensured for farmers to strengthen the foundation of production. Regular financial assistance is being provided through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, empowering small and marginal farmers. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana provides a safety cover against losses due to natural calamities, reducing risk and increasing confidence in farming.

Along with this, special attention has been given to strengthening agricultural infrastructure through initiatives like the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The expansion of storage, cold chain, and processing facilities is enabling farmers to get better prices for their produce. Digital platforms and initiatives like the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) have connected farmers to a transparent and wider market. This reduced dependence on middlemen, allowing farmers to connect directly with buyers.

The government has viewed agriculture not merely as a traditional activity, but as a strong foundation for rural prosperity. By promoting sectors such as animal

husbandry, dairy farming, fisheries, beekeeping, and natural farming, alternative sources of income have been developed for farmers. This has infused new energy into the rural economy and increased employment.

The dream of a developed India can only be realized when agriculture is empowered and farmers are prosperous. Through the hard work of our farmers, clear policies, and the integration of technology, Indian agriculture is moving forward with renewed confidence. This confidence not only makes India self-reliant but also strengthens its role in global food security.

This February 1st marks the 7th anniversary of the announcement of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, one of the biggest steps taken to empower farmers economically. In this context, the transformative 11-year journey of agriculture and farmer welfare has become the cover story of this issue.

In addition, read about Tilka Majhi, the hero of the Santhal rebellion in the personality section. A feature on the PM Surya Ghar Yojana; the milestone of Vande Bharat Express; and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special articles on Somnath and the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, are the other highlights.

A tribute from a grateful nation on the death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the pioneer of Antyodaya, on February 11th on the inside cover and special content on the 50th raising day of the Indian Coast Guard on February 1st, 2026 are also part of this issue.

Keep sending us your suggestions.

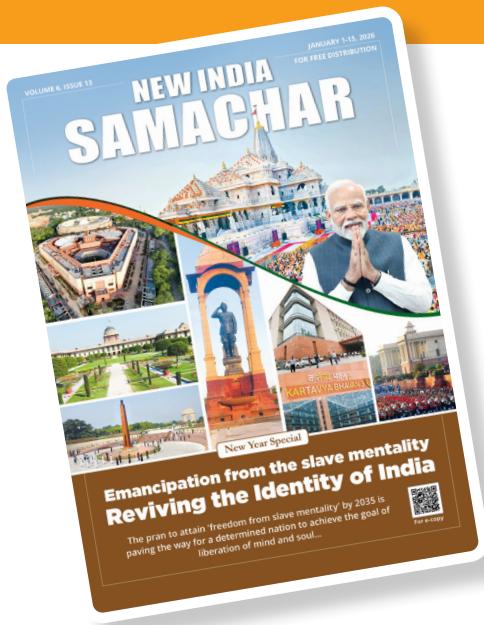


(Dhirendra Ojha)



Read/Download the magazine available in Hindi, English and 11 other languages.
<https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/>

MAIL BOX



A Useful Source of Information and Public Awareness

Recently, I came across the New India Samachar magazine in a library. It is a very informative magazine. This magazine is a useful source of information and public awareness. It is reaching a high number of readers.

arunendu.k11@gmail.com

A Great Way to Learn About Social Schemes

New India Samachar magazine is a great medium for people from all walks of life to learn about various social schemes and important programs for the country. It connects people with the government and strengthens our resolve to achieve our Prime Minister's vision of a developed India by 2047.

Sourav Sharma
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Clear, Well-Organized, and Easy to Understand

I found New India Samachar to be a promising and informative magazine. It attempts to connect citizens with government initiatives and national priorities. Its content appears clear, well-organized, and easy to understand. The articles published in it explain policies, welfare schemes, and development programs in simple language. This helps first-time readers understand complex issues effortlessly. Readers gain insight into national endeavors. Articles on progress and public service clearly define the magazine's objective.

A. Myilsamy
myilsamia@gmail.com

May New India Samachar Continue to Flourish

I had the opportunity to read an issue of New India Samachar magazine. It is a very well-written issue. This issue features an article about the internationally renowned painter Nandalal Bose. My chest swells with pride when I think that he illustrated every part of the Constitution. The article on Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's 'Vande Mataram' also touched my heart. The most important article in this issue is the report titled 'Cooperatives - Building a Happy Society'. This articulate report on the cooperative movement has reached readers like me. May New India Samachar continue to flourish in this way.

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Major Public Relief by NHAI: KYV Discontinued

In a major step to enhance public convenience and eliminate post-activation harassment faced by highway users, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to discontinue the Know Your Vehicle (KYV) process for cars (Car/Jeep/Van category FASTag) for all new FASTag issuances with effect from 1st February 2026. For existing FASTags already issued to cars, KYV will no longer be mandatory as a routine requirement. KYV will be required only in specific cases where complaints are received, such as issues related to loose FASTags, incorrect issuance, or misuse. In the absence of any complaint, no KYV will be required for existing car FASTags.

Strong Pre-Activation Safeguards Introduced

- **Mandatory VAHAN-based validation:** FASTag activation will be permitted only after validation of vehicle details from the VAHAN database.
- **No post-activation validation:** The earlier provision allowing validation after activation has been discontinued.

- **RC-based validation only in exceptional cases:** Where vehicle details are not available on VAHAN, issuer banks must validate details using the Registration Certificate (RC) before activation, with full accountability.
- **Online FASTags covered:** FASTags sold through online channels will also be activated only after complete validation by banks.



India Census 2027

Self-enumeration available before house listing

The India Census 2027 will be different in several aspects, and the notification for its first phase has already been issued. The first phase, which involves house listing, will be conducted over a 30-day period between April 1, 2026, and September 30, 2026. For the first time in the history of the census, a self-enumeration option will be available for a 15-day period before the house listing, according to the notified schedule for each state and union territory. During this period, citizens will be able to fill in their information through a designated digital platform, which will expedite the process. The India Census 2027 will be the first census in the country to be conducted digitally. A mobile application will be used for data collection, ensuring that the Census 2027 data is available across the country in the shortest possible time. The Union Cabinet has already approved the electronic inclusion of caste data



in the second phase of the Census 2027, i.e., the population enumeration. The Census 2027 will be the 16th census in the country and the 8th census since independence.

4 Guinness World Records Set During NH-544G Construction

Highlighting its engineering prowess and execution excellence, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in a landmark achievement, has successfully created four Guinness World Records on the under-implementation Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor of NH-544G.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), showcasing its engineering prowess and execution excellence, has set not one or two, but four Guinness World Records in collaboration with a construction company, becoming the first in the world to achieve this feat under a 6-lane national highway project.

NHAI set two Guinness World Records near Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh on January 6, 2026. The first was for the longest continuous laying of

- Record for the longest continuous laying of bituminous concrete, covering **28.89** lane km in 24 hours
- Record for continuous laying of the highest quantity of **10,655** metric tonnes of bituminous

bituminous concrete, covering 28.89 lane kilometres or a 9.63-kilometre-long section of a 3-lane-wide road within 24 hours. The second record was for the highest quantity of bituminous concrete continuously laid in 24 hours, totalling 10,655 metric tonnes.

Following this, two more Guinness World Records were set on January 11, 2026. These include the record for continuously laying 57,500 metric tonnes of bituminous concrete and the record for continuous paving of 156 lane kilometres, or a 52-kilometre-long section of a 3-lane-wide road, surpassing the previous world record of 84.4 lane kilometres, or a 42.2-kilometre-long section of a 2-lane-wide road. These record-breaking achievements were accomplished in Package-2 and Package-3 of the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor.

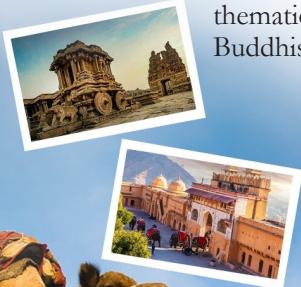
concrete in 24 hours

- Record for continuous laying of **57,500** metric tonnes of bituminous concrete
- Record for continuous paving of **156** lane km



Swadesh Darshan Scheme: Over 110 Projects Developed in a Decade

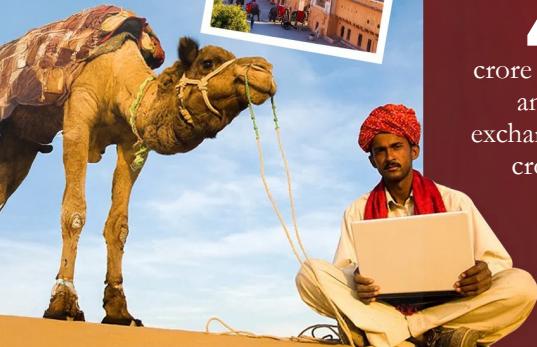
“The tourism sector has the potential to bring prosperity to the lives of many people. The central government will continue to focus on improving the infrastructure related to India’s tourism sector so that more and more people can enjoy the wonderful experiences of Incredible India.” It is a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s commitment to the tourism sector that, in the last decade, under Swadesh Darshan and Swadesh Darshan 2.0, 110 projects have been developed across various thematic circuits, including the Ramayana, Buddhist, Coastal, and Tribal circuits.



During the year 2024,
India received

2.057

crore international tourists
and earned foreign
exchange worth ₹2.93 lakh
crore from tourism.



A Quantum Leap in Quality in Public Healthcare

The Government of India is continuously improving healthcare services. In this direction, health centres are not only being expanded but also being equipped with modern and advanced facilities. As a result, by December 31, 2025, a total of 50,373 public health facilities across all states and union territories have been certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS). This reflects the government’s unwavering commitment to quality, safety, and patient-centred care. The NQAS programme, which began in 2015 with only 10 certified health centres, has reached a figure of 50,373 by December 2025. This demonstrates rapid growth within a single year. This includes 48,663 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and 1,710 secondary care facilities.





Hero of the Santhal Rebellion

Tilka Majhi, a Santhal tribal leader, launched a rebellion against the British using only bows and arrows, nearly 80 years before the 1857 uprising. He organised the tribal people into an army and led the famous Santhal Rebellion in 1784. He raided the treasury of the British East India Company with his community, for which he was hanged to death. He not only displayed indomitable courage against the British but also inspired the entire nation to fight for independence.

Born: February 11, 1750 | Martyrdom Day: January 13, 1785

India's past, present, and future are incomplete without the tribal community. Every step of the country's freedom struggle, every page of its history, is filled with tribal valour. One such hero was Tilka Majhi, who fought against the atrocities of the British East India Company and sounded the bugle of rebellion against foreign rule. This was at a time when there was no talk of any rebellion against the British. Even before the 1857 revolt, the 'Damin Satyagraha' was fought under his leadership in Santhal in 1784. This was a time when the British were expanding their territory in every possible way, gradually trying to shackle Maa Bharti in chains.

Born on February 11, 1750, in a Santhal family in Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Bihar, Tilka Majhi, through his bravery, not only troubled the British but also never allowed the British rulers to sleep peacefully. Majhi's real name is said to be Jabra Paharia. It is said that the name 'Tilka' was given to him by the British. Once, a British officer saw the fierce, red eyes of Majhi. In the Paharia language, 'Tilka' means an angry person with red eyes. This became his identity in the documents, and the name 'Tilka' became immortal in history. Tilka Majhi, who waged a long struggle against British rule, never surrendered to the British. He neither bowed down nor was afraid.

He not only sounded the call for rebellion against

the British but also launched a campaign against local moneylenders and landlords. In 1778, along with the Paharia chiefs, he freed the Ramgarh camp from British control. In 1784, he killed Cleveland, the magistrate of Rajmahal. Following this, the British pursued him relentlessly and eventually arrested him. After his arrest, the British dragged him to Bhagalpur, tied to a horse. On January 13, 1785, he was hanged from a large banyan tree in the town square of Bhagalpur. This is why Tilka Majhi is also called the first freedom fighter of India. Tilka Majhi Bhagalpur University in Bhagalpur is named after him. Additionally, the renowned Bengali writer Mahasweta Devi wrote a novel in Bengali about his life and rebellion, titled 'Shalgirer Dake', which has been translated and published in Hindi as 'Shalgirah Ki Pukar Par'. On October 29, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered Tilka Majhi in his Mann Ki Baat programme. He said that India has a rich history of tribal warriors. On this very land of India, the great Tilka Majhi sounded the clarion call against injustice. Also, on February 24, 2025, at the inauguration of development projects in Bhagalpur, Bihar, he said that this land has faith, heritage, and the potential for a Viksit Bharat. This is the land of martyr Tilka Majhi, and it is also the Silk City. He has also paid a respectful tribute to Tilka Majhi on other occasions.●

BRICS

A Strong Voice of the Global South

BRICS 2026 under India's Chairmanship

Whether it's influential institutions like the G20 or the chairmanship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for 2026, India has established its strong position globally over the past decade. Now, another feather is added to its achievements. India is set to chair the BRICS summit in 2026. In the presence of foreign representatives, External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar launched the 'BRICS 2026' website, theme, and logo...

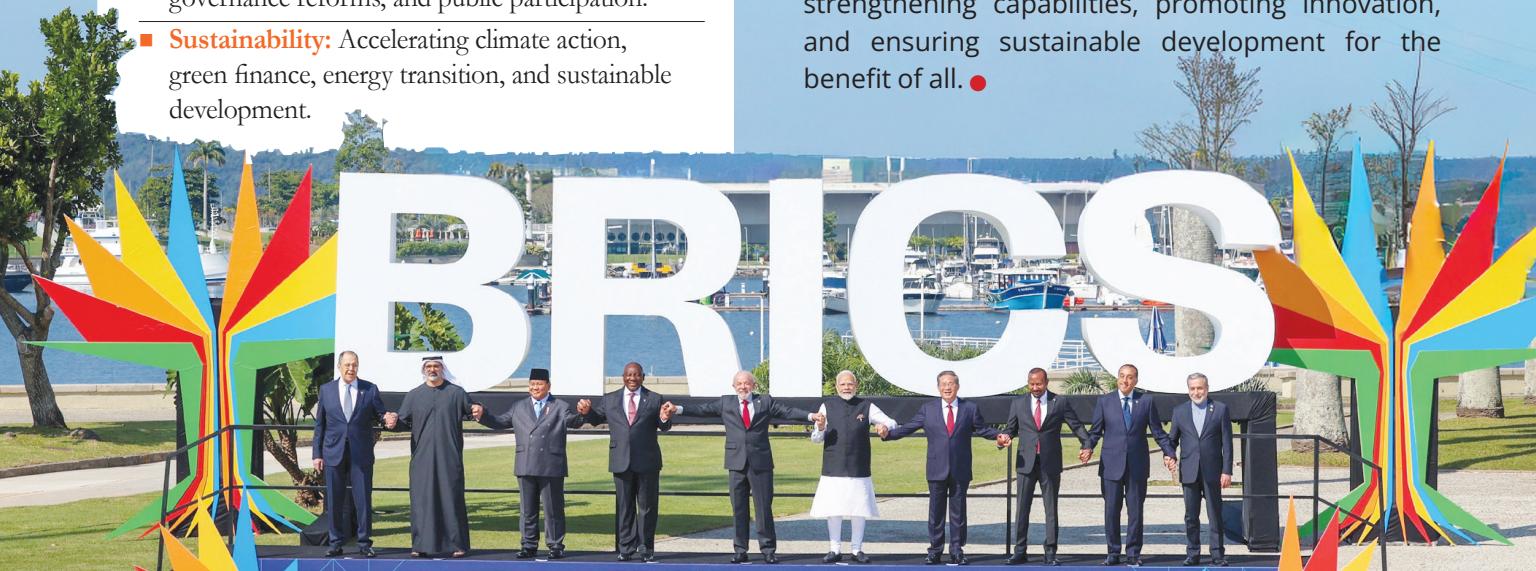
BRICS is a crucial platform for cooperation on global political, economic, and development-related issues. It strengthens the collective voice of the Global South. Representing nearly half of the world's population, BRICS contributes approximately 40% to the global GDP. The theme for BRICS 2026, to be held under India's chairmanship, is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. The official website for BRICS 2026,

btovd2026.gov.in, was launched by External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar on January 13. This time, the conference will focus on further strengthening the voice of the Global South, and detailed discussions are expected on topics such as zero tolerance for terrorism and responsible AI innovation. BRICS brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world on one platform. The original member countries include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The newly included countries are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and Indonesia.

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar said that India, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is undertaking its chairmanship with a 'humanity first' and 'people-centric' approach. This year's conference theme reflects the belief that cooperation among BRICS members can help address shared challenges in a balanced and inclusive manner. The theme emphasizes the importance of strengthening capabilities, promoting innovation, and ensuring sustainable development for the benefit of all. ●

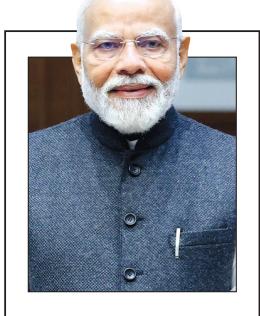
Four Key Pillars of BRICS

- **Resilience:** Strengthening the capacity to address global supply chain, health, and climate risks.
- **Innovation:** Promoting DPI, fintech, AI, and knowledge sharing for service delivery and development.
- **Cooperation:** Strengthening coordination among BRICS countries in policy, finance, trade, governance reforms, and public participation.
- **Sustainability:** Accelerating climate action, green finance, energy transition, and sustainable development.



Somnath Swabhiman Parv

A 1000 Years of Unbroken Faith (1026-2026)



 Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The sight of Somnath Shivling ensures that a person is freed of sins, achieves their righteous desires, and attains heaven after death.



Scan the QR code to read the Prime Minister's article.

The year 2026 marks the 1000th anniversary of the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Despite repeated attacks over the centuries, the Somnath Temple stands tall today as a symbol of India's indomitable spirit. The story of Somnath is not just the story of a temple but of the unbreakable courage of countless sons and daughters of Bharat Mata who protected the nation's culture and civilisation. As we commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the first attack on Somnath in January 1026, this year also marks the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of the reconstructed Somnath Temple in 1951 in the presence of the then president, Dr Rajendra Prasad. This January, the Somnath Swabhiman Parv (Somnath Pride Festival) has been launched. Here is an article on this subject written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi...

Somnath...hearing this word instils a sense of pride in our hearts and minds. It is the eternal proclamation of India's soul. This majestic Temple is situated on the Western coast of India in Gujarat, at a place called Prabhas Patan. The Dwadasha Jyotirling Stotram mentions the 12 Jyotirlings across India. The Stotram begins with "सौराष्ट्रे सोमनाथं च..", symbolising the civilisational and spiritual importance of Somnath as the first Jyotirling. It is also said:

**सोमलिङ्गं नरो दृष्ट्वा सर्वपापैः प्रमुच्यते।
लभते फलं मनोवाञ्छितं मृतः स्वर्गं समाश्रयेत्॥**

It means: Just the sight of Somnath Shivling ensures that a person is freed of sins, achieves their righteous desires and attains heaven after death.

Tragically, this very Somnath, which drew the reverence and prayers of millions, was attacked by foreign invaders, whose agenda was demolition, not devotion.

The year 2026 is significant for the Somnath Temple. It has been 1,000 years since the first attack on this great



The temple stands as glorious as ever because of numerous efforts to restore Somnath to its grandeur. One such milestone completes 75 years in 2026. It was during a ceremony on May 11th, 1951, in the presence of the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, that the restored temple opened its doors to devotees.

shrine. It was in January of 1026 that Mahmud of Ghazni attacked this Temple, seeking to destroy a great symbol of faith and civilisation, through a violent and barbaric invasion.

Yet, one thousand years later, the Temple stands as glorious as ever because of numerous efforts to restore Somnath to its grandeur. One such milestone completes 75 years in 2026. It was during a ceremony on May 11th 1951, in the presence of the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, that the restored Temple opened its doors to devotees.

The first invasion of Somnath a thousand years ago in 1026, the cruelty that was un-

leashed upon the people of the town and the devastation that was inflicted upon the shrine have been documented in great detail in various historical accounts. When you read them, the heart trembles. Each line carries the weight of grief, cruelty and a sorrow that refuses to fade with time.

Imagine the impact it had on Bharat and the morale of the people. After all, Somnath had great spiritual significance. It was also on the coast, giving strength to a society with great economic prowess, whose sea traders and seafarers carried tales of its grandeur far and wide.

Yet, I am proud to state unequivocally that the story of Somnath, a thousand years after the first attack, is not defined by destruction. It is defined by the unbreakable courage of crores of children of Bharat Mata.

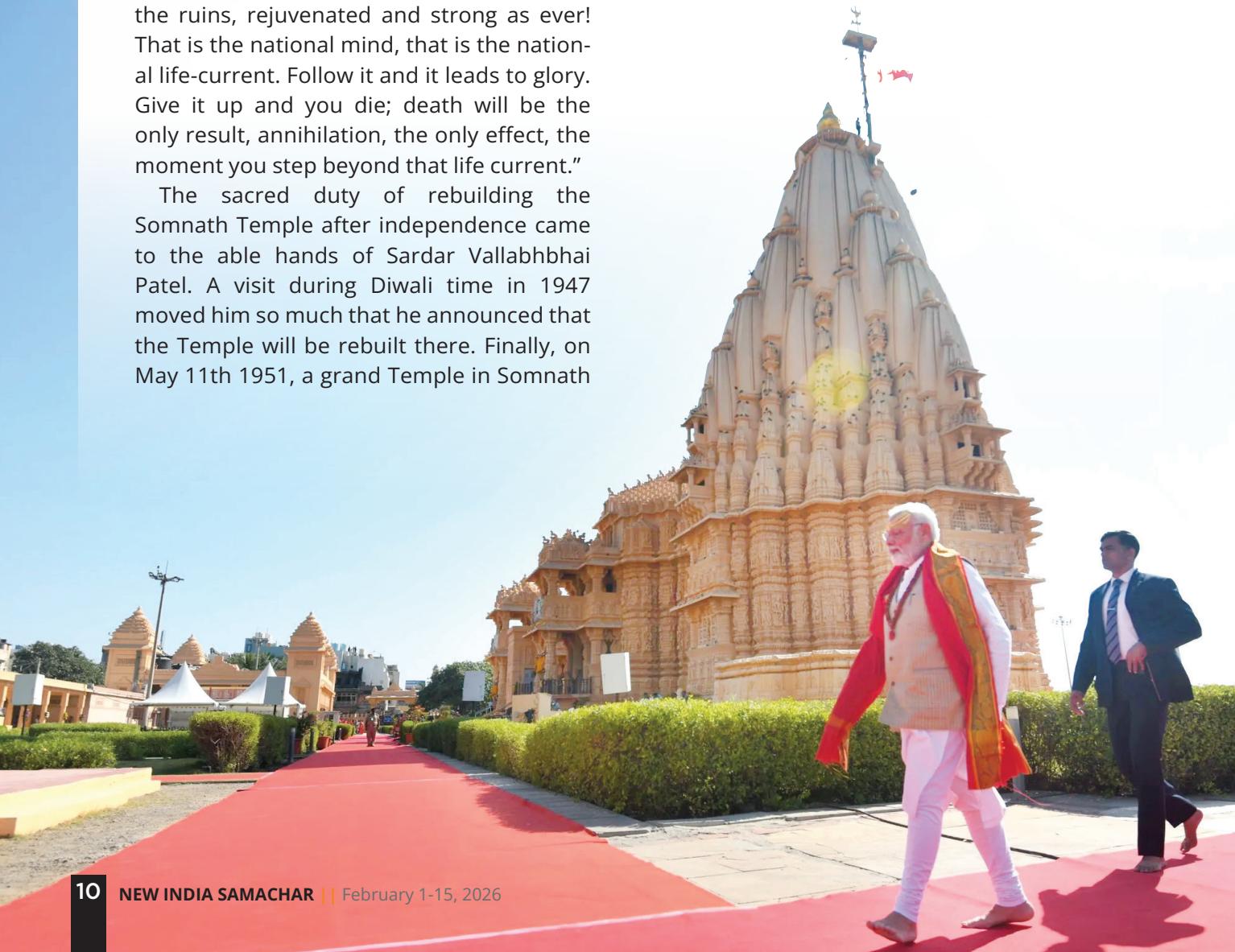
The medieval barbarism that began a thousand years ago in 1026 went on to 'inspire' others to repeatedly attack Somnath. It was the start of an attempt to enslave our people and culture. But, each time the Temple was attacked, we also had great men and women who stood up to defend it and even made the ultimate sacrifice. And every single time, generation after generation, the people of

our great civilisation picked themselves up, rebuilt and rejuvenated the Temple. It is our privilege to have been nurtured by the same soil that has nurtured greats like Ahilyabai Holkar, who made a noble attempt to ensure devotees can pray at Somnath.

In the 1890s, Swami Vivekananda visited Somnath and that experience moved him. He expressed his feelings during a lecture in Chennai in 1897 when he said, "Some of these old temples of Southern India and those like Somnath of Gujarat will teach you volumes of wisdom, will give you a keener insight into the history of the race than any amount of books. Mark how these temples bear the marks of a hundred attacks and a hundred regenerations, continually destroyed and continually springing up out of the ruins, rejuvenated and strong as ever! That is the national mind, that is the national life-current. Follow it and it leads to glory. Give it up and you die; death will be the only result, annihilation, the only effect, the moment you step beyond that life current."

The sacred duty of rebuilding the Somnath Temple after independence came to the able hands of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. A visit during Diwali time in 1947 moved him so much that he announced that the Temple will be rebuilt there. Finally, on May 11th 1951, a grand Temple in Somnath

opened its doors to devotees and Dr. Rajendra Prasad was present there. The great Sardar Sahib was not alive to see this historic day, but the fulfilment of his dream stood tall before the nation. The then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was not too enthused with this development. He did not want the Honourable President as well as Ministers to associate with this special event. He said that this event created a bad impression of India. But Dr. Rajendra Prasad stood firm and the rest is history. No mention of Somnath is complete without recalling the efforts of KM Munshi, who supported Sardar Patel very effectively. His works on Somnath, including the book, 'Somanatha: The Shrine Eternal', are extremely informative and educative.





Even after a thousand years, the sea at Somnath still roars with the same intensity as it did back then. The waves that wash the shores of Somnath tell a story. No matter what, just like the waves, it kept rising again and again.

Indeed, as the title of Munshi Ji's book conveys, we are a civilisation that carries a sense of conviction about the eternity of spirit and of ideas. We firmly believe that which is eternal is indestructible, as outlined in the famous Gita verse "नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि". There can be no better example of our civilisation's indomitable spirit than Somnath, which stands gloriously, overcoming odds and struggles.

It is this same spirit that is visible in our nation, one of the brightest spots of global growth, having overcome centuries of invasions and colonial loot. It is our value systems and the determination of our people that have made India the centre of global attention today. The world is seeing India with hope and optimism. They want to invest in our innovative youngsters. Our art, culture, music and several festivals are going global. Yoga and Ayurveda are making a worldwide impact, boosting healthy living. Solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges are coming from India.

Since time immemorial, Somnath has brought together people from different walks of life. Centuries ago, Kalikal Sarvagna Hemchandracharya, a respected Jain monk, came

to Somnath. It is said that after praying there, he recited a verse, "भवबीजाङ्कुरजनना रागाद्याः क्षयमुपगता यस्य". It means - Salutations to That One in whom the seeds of worldly becoming are destroyed, in whom passion and all afflictions have withered away." Today, Somnath holds the same ability to awaken something profound within the mind and soul.

A thousand years after the first attack in 1026, the sea at Somnath still roars with the same intensity as it did back then. The waves that wash the shores of Somnath tell a story. No matter what, just like the waves, it kept rising again and again.

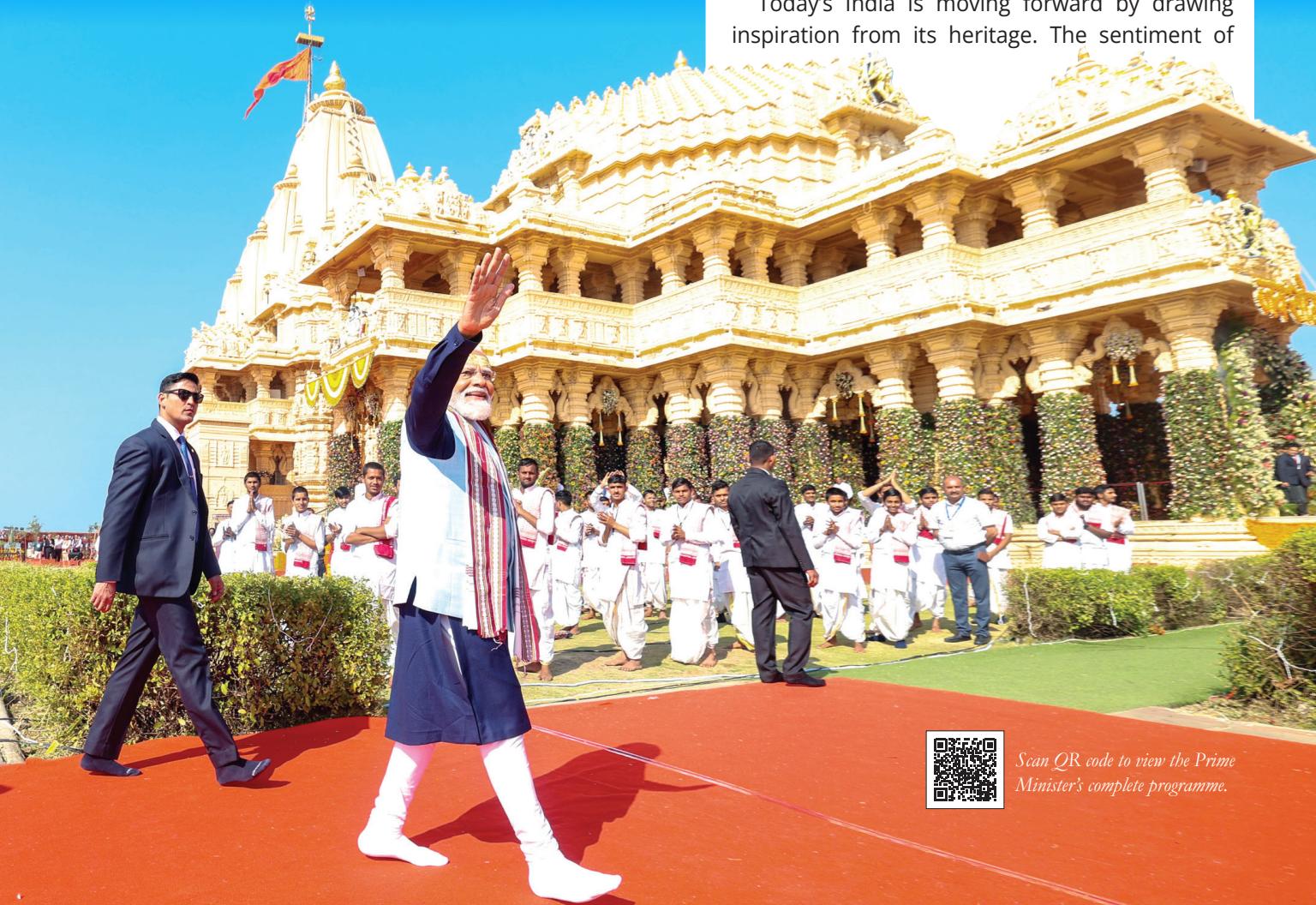
The aggressors of the past are now dust in the wind, their names synonymous with destruction. They are footnotes in the annals of history, while Somnath stands bright, radiating far beyond the horizon, reminding us of the eternal spirit that remained undiminished by the attack of 1026. Somnath is a song of hope that tells us that while hate and fanaticism may have the power to destroy for a moment, faith and conviction in the power of goodness have the power to create for eternity.

If the Somnath Temple, which was attacked a thousand years ago and faced continuous attacks thereon, could rise again and again, then we can surely restore our great nation to the glory it embodied a thousand years ago before the invasions. With the blessings of Shree Somnath Mahadev, we move forward with a renewed resolve to build a Viksit Bharat, where civilisational wisdom guides us to work for the welfare of the whole world. ●

Jai Somnath!

Indestructible Somnath Prosperous Heritage

Somnath is not merely a sacred pilgrimage site but a beacon of India's civilizational continuity, inspiring generations with its message of faith, unwavering resilience, and unity. Speaking during the Somnath Swabhiman Parv in Gujarat on January 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that even after a thousand years, the Dhwaj still flies over the Somnath temple, reminding the world of India's strength and spirit...



From Ghazni to Aurangzeb, when various invaders attacked Somnath, they believed their swords were conquering the eternal Somnath. They failed to understand that the very name of Somnath, which they sought to destroy, contains the word 'Soma,' meaning Amrit. It embodies the idea of immortality even after consuming poison. Within it resides the conscious power in the form of Sadashiva Mahadeva, who is both benevolent and the source of power. Addressing the Somnath Swabhiman Parv in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it is a turn of the wheel of time that the tyrants who came with the intention of demolishing Somnath are now confined to a few pages of history. And the Somnath temple stands tall on the shore of that vast ocean, holding its sky-high Dharam Dhwaja. This pinnacle of Somnath seems to be proclaiming: चन्द्रशेखरम् आश्रये मम किं करिष्यति वै यमः ! That is, I take refuge in Chandrashekha Shiva; what can even death do to me!

Today's India is moving forward by drawing inspiration from its heritage. The sentiment of

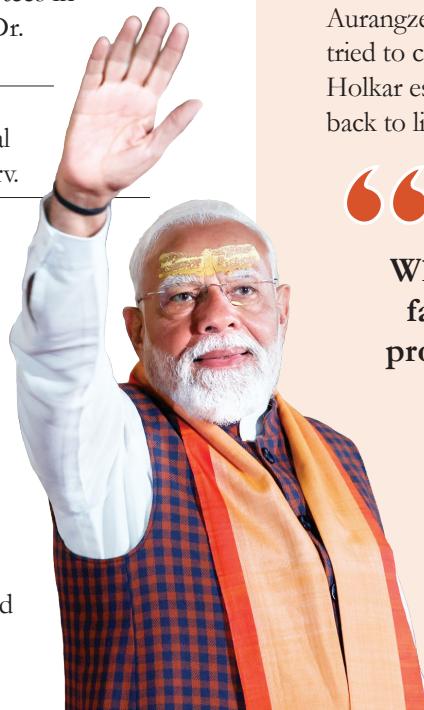


Scan QR code to view the Prime Minister's complete programme.

Somnath Temple: A Powerful Symbol of Resilience, Faith, and National Pride

- The Somnath Swabhiman Parv was held in Somnath from January 8 to 11, 2026.
- This festival was celebrated in memory of the countless citizens of India who sacrificed their lives to protect the temple and who continue to inspire the cultural consciousness of future generations.
- The festival commemorated the 1000th anniversary of the attack on the Somnath Temple by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE.
- Despite numerous attempts to destroy it over the centuries, the Somnath Temple stands today as a powerful symbol of resilience, faith, and national pride. This is a result of the collective resolve and efforts to restore it to its ancient glory.
- After independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel spearheaded the efforts to restore the temple.
- A significant milestone in this restoration journey was achieved in 1951 when the renovated Somnath Temple was formally opened to devotees in the presence of the then President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- The completion of 75 years after this historic restoration in 2026 added special significance to Somnath Swabhiman Parv.
- Hundreds of saints from across the country participated in the celebrations, and continuous chanting of 'Om' was performed for 72 hours in the temple complex.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at the Somnath Swabhiman Parv underscored the unwavering spirit of India's civilization. His presence reflects his commitment to the preservation and celebration of India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

"Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" is continuously being realized in Somnath. Today, on one hand, the cultural expansion of the Somnath temple, the establishment of Somnath Sanskrit University, and the popularity and vibrancy of the Madhavpur Mela are strengthening the heritage, and the conservation of the Gir lions is increasing the natural attraction of the region, while on the other



Even after a thousand years, Dhwaj still flies over Somnath Temple

- In 1026, Mahmud of Ghazni first destroyed the Somnath Temple. He thought he had erased Somnath's existence, but within a few years, Somnath was rebuilt.
- At the end of the 13th century, Alauddin Khilji attacked Somnath again. In the early 14th century, the King of Junagadh restored the glory of Somnath once more.
- In the last years of the 14th century, Muzaffar Khan attacked Somnath again, but that attack also failed.
- In the 15th century, Sultan Ahmed Shah tried to desecrate the Somnath Temple. In the same century, his grandson, Sultan Mahmud Begada, attacked Somnath and tried to convert the temple into a mosque. But through the efforts of the devotees of Lord Shiva, the temple was revived once again.
- The 17th and 18th centuries saw the reign of Aurangzeb. He desecrated the Somnath Temple and tried to convert it into a mosque again. Ahilyabai Holkar established a new temple, bringing Somnath back to life once more.

“

When we remain connected to our faith, connected to our roots, and protect our heritage with complete self-respect and awareness, the foundations of our civilization also become strong. Therefore, the journey of the last thousand years inspires us to be prepared for the next thousand years.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

hand, new dimensions of development are also being created in the Prabhas Patan area. The Keshod airport is being expanded. PM Modi said that this will enable devotees from India and abroad to reach Somnath directly. Today's India is not only remembering its faith but also empowering it for the future through infrastructure, connectivity, and technology. ●



Prosperous Farmers Progressive India

Agriculture is the foundation of a self-reliant India. Whether it's increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to ensure farmers receive one and a half times the cost of production, or doubling farmers' income, or the initiative to empower farmers financially through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, introduced in the Union Budget on February 1, 2019 – this is not just a promise, but a firm commitment of the central government. Today, from seed to market, the welfare of the country's food-producing farmers has become the government's top priority, because farmers play a crucial role in building a developed India. Therefore, to strengthen farmers, attention is being paid to all stages – before, during, and after sowing – through various schemes, policies, and initiatives. A new era has begun for the farmers, who are a crucial component of India's journey towards development...



सुवर्ण-रौप्य-माणिक्य-वसनैरपि पूरिताः । तथापि प्रार्थयन्त्येव किसानान् भक्ततृष्णाया ॥

The Sanskrit saying recently shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi means that even with gold, silver, rubies, and fine clothes, people still have to depend on farmers for food.

कृषिर्धन्या कृषिर्मेध्या जन्तूनां जीवनं कृषिः

This verse highlights the importance of agriculture.

It means, "Agriculture is blessed, agriculture is sacred, and agriculture is the life of all living beings." This verse emphasizes that agriculture is essential not only for humans but for all living creatures.

Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan

The farmer is the silent warrior of the nation. This means that the farmer, who toils in the fields and provides food, is just as important as the soldier on the battlefield. The army is dependent on food. If the farmer does not grow food, the bravery of the soldiers will be in vain. The role of the farmer becomes even more crucial during wartime because the food they provide sustains the morale, strength, and endurance of the soldiers.

आरती लिये तू किसे ढूँढता है मूरख,
मन्दिरों, राजप्रासादों में, तहखानों में?
देवता कहाँ सड़कों पर गिट्ठी तोड़ रहे,
देवता मिलेंगे खेतों में, खलिहानों में।

-Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had said,

"If anyone has the right to walk with their head held high on this earth, it is the farmer who produces wealth and food grains."

This quote illustrates how important agriculture and farmers are to a nation. It shows that farmers are not merely providers of food, but the backbone of the nation, the foundation of both peace and war. A country is saved not only by the sword but also by the plow; the one who grows grains in the field lays the foundation for winning wars. Both soldiers and farmers are protectors of the nation. This very thinking forms the basis of agriculture and farmer welfare in the new India. The farmers, the food providers of the country, play a significant role in building a developed India. Therefore, the central government is working day and night, prioritizing the interests of farmers. Today, from seed to market, the central government stands with the farmers. Farming and agriculture have always been a major part of India's development journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The fact that the Indian farmer, the food provider, has now become a partner in India's development journey is largely due to the vision of the top leadership.

For a developed India, Indian agriculture must also be developed. The central government is steadfastly focusing on all its aspects. For example, how can farmers get the right price for their crops? How can the agriculture-related economy be strengthened? How can crops be produced according to the country's needs? How can India meet its own needs as well as the needs of the world? How can it become the world's food basket? How can we tackle the challenge of climate change? How can we produce more grain

Economic Empowerment



Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Budget Increased by 480%



PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, with an outlay of ₹24,000 crore, was launched by PM Modi on October 11, 2025.
- 100 districts were selected for the scheme based on three parameters: the yield per farm; the frequency of cultivation and third, the ease of access to loans.
- The scheme has been launched in aspirational districts by coordinating 36 sub-schemes of 11 ministries.
- **Objective:** To boost farm productivity, diversify crops, promote sustainable practices, expand post-harvest storage, improve irrigation, and enhance access to short- and long-term credit across 100 selected districts.

with less water? How can the land be protected from harmful chemicals? How can farming be modernized? How can science and technology reach the fields? The central government has worked on many such issues over the past 11 years so that Indian agriculture can become a major pillar of a developed India.

A NEW ERA OF FARMER EMPOWERMENT

Approximately 68 percent of India's population lives in rural areas, and their livelihoods depend either

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

More Than

4.09

lakh crore has been disbursed to farmers through DBT in 21 installments.

- More than 9.34 crore beneficiaries have received benefits under the PM Kisan scheme, and their e-KYC has also been completed. E-KYC is yet to be completed for 42.85 lakh farmers in the country.
- PM Kisan is an income support scheme for farmers with cultivable land. Under this scheme, ₹6,000 is provided annually in three equal installments.

Research findings from the International Food Policy Research Institute indicate that PM Kisan has reduced farmers' credit constraints and improved their risk-taking capacity. Besides agricultural needs, this amount has also been used to meet other expenses such as education, medical expenses, and marriages.

Over 85 percent of beneficiary farmers, in a NITI Aayog study, reported that PM Kisan has led to an increase in agricultural income and a reduction in dependence on informal credit during crop failures or medical emergencies.

entirely on agriculture or on related sectors. Thus, agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and nearly 44 percent of the country's workforce is employed in farming and related businesses. Agriculture has always been a crucial part of our development journey. It is essential that agriculture receives government support as times change, but unfortunately, immediately after independence, the agricultural sector did not receive the attention it deserved. There was a lack of a clear vision for agriculture. Different government departments related

Right Market for Produce and Fair Prices for Farmers

PM Krishi Udaan Scheme

- 'King Chillies, Burmese Grapes, and Assamese Lemons' from Guwahati, 'Jackfruit' from Tripura, and 'Lychees' from many districts of Bihar are now easily reaching other parts of the country and abroad, thanks to the Krishi Udaan scheme, which was launched in 2021.
- Cold storage facilities are available at 35 airports. 58 airports are listed under the scheme. The scheme primarily focuses on 25 airports in the North Eastern, hilly, and tribal regions.



Agricultural Exports

- The government is working towards increasing the export of agricultural and allied products and enhancing its share in global trade.
- A record export of US\$ 51.9 billion was achieved for agricultural and allied products in the year 2024-25.



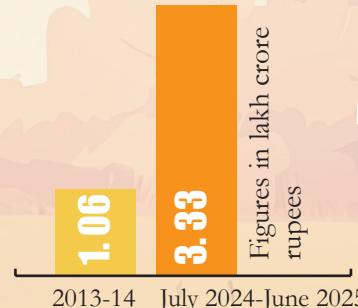
e-NAM

- The Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched to provide better prices to farmers for their produce. Agricultural produce worth more than ₹ 4.40 lakh crore has been traded through e-NAM.
- More than 1.79 crore farmers, 3.90 lakh traders and commission agents, and 4,642 Farmer Producer Organizations are registered on this platform. 1,522 mandis (markets) across 27 states are connected to it as of December 31, 2025.

Increase in MSP

- The government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all mandated Kharif, Rabi, and other commercial crops included in the order, with a minimum profit of 50 percent over the all-India weighted average cost of production since 2018-19. Government procurement of food grains increased from 761.40 lakh metric tons to 1,175 lakh metric tons during the same period of the last decade.

Farmers' payments under MSP have increased by almost three times



“
The role of women in transforming Indian agriculture and rural prosperity is increasing. Whether it is crop cultivation, animal husbandry, or natural farming, women are emerging as key leaders in the rural economy.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

to agriculture worked in silos, and as a result, India's agricultural system was not progressing. For rapid development in 21st-century India, it was necessary to improve its agricultural system. Therefore, a phased approach to reforms in the agricultural sector began in 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Empowering farmers and increasing their income became the top priority. Over the past 11 years, a foundation of historic reforms has been laid upon which the edifice of a new India is beginning to rise during the Amrit Kaal (the period leading up



Strengthening Agricultural Infrastructure

Agricultural Infrastructure Fund

₹1

lakh crore Agricultural Infrastructure Fund was launched to improve agricultural infrastructure. This scheme provides financial assistance up to ₹2 crore at a 3% interest rate. It also provides credit guarantee coverage.

- As of October 30, 2025, ₹75,140 crore has been sanctioned under the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund for 1,34,372 projects. This will attract an investment of ₹1.20 lakh crore in the agricultural sector.

World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approved the world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector on May 31, 2023. Under the pilot project, the construction of warehouses has been completed in 11 PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) across 11 states.

More than **500**

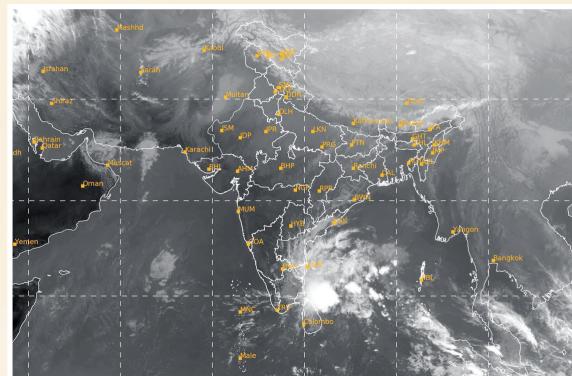
PACS have been identified for the scheme. Construction has started for 108, of which 24 have been completed. The target is to complete all construction by December 2026.



Expanding Network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

- These centers, operated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, are at forefront of farmer training.
- Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, KVKS trained 58.02 lakh farmers, while over 19 lakh farmers were trained in 2024-25.
- The courses offered by Krishi Vigyan Kendras include advanced agricultural science, livestock care, soil health, post-harvest technologies, etc., tailored to local conditions.

AI-Based Forecasting



3.8

crore farmers received AI-based monsoon forecasts in 5 regional languages last year through the m-Kisan portal, under this unique initiative.

to India's 100th year of independence), and agriculture has been a crucial sector in these reforms. The interim budget of February 1, 2019, ushered in a new chapter in the era of empowering the agricultural sector and farmers. This was marked by the revolutionary announcement of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, a crucial initiative to empower farmers financially and protect them from the clutches of moneylenders during times of need. This scheme is an excellent example of how the central government's policy, intent, and decisions

work together. Announced on February 1, 2019, it was implemented retrospectively from December 1, 2018, with the first installment of Rs. 2000 directly transferred to the farmers' bank accounts.

This became the largest scheme for farmers since India's independence. In the interest of all farmers, countless reforms have been implemented, from seed to market. As a result, in the last 11 years, India's agricultural exports have almost doubled. Food grain production has increased by nearly 900 lakh metric tons, and fruit and vegetable production has

A Safety Cover for Farmers' Lives

Kisan Credit Card

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was extended to animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries in 2019. In the 2025-26 budget, the loan limit was increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh

More Than **7.7** crore farmers, fishermen, and dairy farmers are benefiting from the Kisan Credit Card.

Over **₹10** lakh crore in loans and over ₹1.62 lakh crore in interest subsidies have been provided to Kisan Credit Card beneficiaries in 2024-25.

Farmer Producer Organizations

- More than 10,000 FPOs have empowered farmers across India. 52 lakh farmers across the country have joined FPOs by October 2025.
- 1,100 FPOs have become crorepati, registering a turnover of over ₹15,000 crore. A budget of ₹6,800 crore has been allocated till FY 2027-28.



PM-Maan Dhan

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the age group of 18 to 40 years. It provides a minimum assured monthly pension of ₹3,000 at the age of 60 years.
- 24.88 lakh enrollments have been made under the scheme till July 2025.

Marketing and Development of Shree Anna (Millets)

- The year 2023 was declared the International Year of Millets. By May 2025, the Cabinet approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Ragi for the marketing season 2025-26, which is the

second-highest increase at ₹596 per quintal.

- India produced 180.15 lakh tonnes of millets and exported over 89,000 tonnes in 2024-25. Rajasthan led in production, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

increased by more than 640 Lakh metric tons. Today, India is the world's number one producer of millet, the second-largest producer of fish. India now produces almost double the amount of honey compared to 11 years ago. Six or seven years ago, honey exports were worth approximately ₹450 crore, but recently, exports exceeded ₹1,500 crore. A three-fold increase means a three-fold benefit for farmers.

Egg production has also doubled in the last 11 years. During this period, six large fertilizer factories have been established in the country. More than 25

crore soil health cards have been distributed to farmers, and micro-irrigation facilities have reached 100 Lakh hectares of land. Farmers have received approximately two lakh crores rupees in payments under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. More than 10,000 Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) have also been formed in the last 11 years.

THE JOURNEY OF NEW INDIA: A PROSPEROUS FARMER

In 1947, when India gained independence, one of



Increased Focus on Traditional and Natural Farming

National Natural Farming Mission

- This mission was launched on November 25, 2024. The mission aims for natural farming in 7.5 lakh hectares through 15,000 clusters. 1 crore farmers will benefit.

More than **14.3** lakh farmers have joined the National Natural Farming Mission by August 2025.

- More than 5.45 lakh hectares are under natural farming. Under this, each farmer receives an incentive of ₹4,000 per acre per year for two years (one acre per farmer).

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the North Eastern Region

- Launched in 2015-16, this scheme aims to promote organic farming in the North Eastern states and establish organic production clusters. An incentive of ₹46,500 per hectare is provided over 3 years to promote organic farming. In 2024-25, 2.69 lakh farmers benefited.

the biggest challenges facing the country was how to feed the entire population and where to produce enough food grains so that no one would have to go to bed hungry. However, with the help of the Green Revolution, the country's farmers made this possible. Despite this, even after seven decades of independence, the problems of farmers were not addressed. Now, farmers have received legal protection to structure agriculture like an industry and to free themselves from middlemen, allowing them to sell their produce as they wish, so that farmers can

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

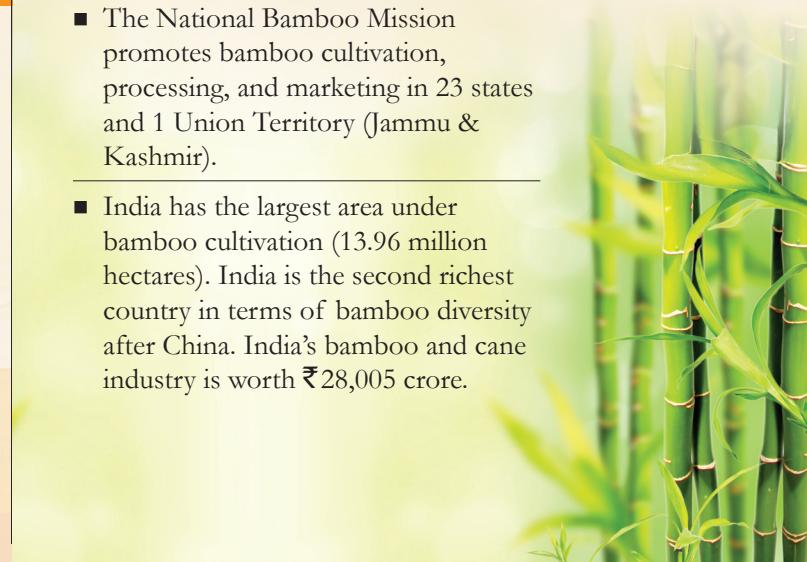
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is the first major scheme in the country to promote organic farming. It was launched in 2015-16.

28.34
Lakh

farmers benefited from the scheme from its inception until October 31, 2025. 16.90 lakh hectares of area were covered and 58,155 clusters for organic farming were created under the scheme.

National Bamboo Mission

- The National Bamboo Mission promotes bamboo cultivation, processing, and marketing in 23 states and 1 Union Territory (Jammu & Kashmir).
- India has the largest area under bamboo cultivation (13.96 million hectares). India is the second richest country in terms of bamboo diversity after China. India's bamboo and cane industry is worth ₹28,005 crore.



prosper and agriculture becomes a crucial part of a self-reliant India.

For this, the central government had started taking many important decisions for the welfare of farmers since 2014. The government's initiative was based on the concept of 'One Nation, One Market,' which the Prime Minister announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2016. This was a reform that farmers had been waiting for since independence. The central government had already started working on this in a phased manner even before this announcement. On

The Path to Prosperity Through Crop Protection

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

PMFBY was launched on February 18, 2016. Now, crop damage due to wild animals and paddy waterlogging are both covered under PMFBY. It will be implemented across the country from the Kharif season of 2026.

92.92
Crore

farmer applicants availed crop insurance for 55.48 crore hectares of land since the scheme's inception until January 8, 2026. More than 50% of the applicants are OBC, SC, and ST farmers.

₹1,91,620

Crore in claims have been disbursed to farmers. Farmers had paid a premium of ₹39,446 crore.

Fertilizers

A 45 kg bag of urea is available to farmers for ₹266, while its actual cost is more than ₹1,633. The remaining amount is borne by the government as a subsidy. A 50 kg bag of DAP is available to farmers for ₹1,350, while its cost is ₹3,100.

₹14.6 lakh crore has been spent by the government on fertilizer subsidies.

Approximately **525** lakh tonnes of urea were produced in the year 2025

April 14, 2016, the e-NAM platform, a step towards 'One Nation, One Market,' had already become a reality. PM Modi's vision is to ensure balanced and equitable development for all farmers across the nation, as until now, only a handful of prosperous farmers were benefiting, and approximately 86 percent of small and marginal farmers were deprived of these benefits. However, in the last 11 years, the way work has been done in the agricultural sector in a phased manner – before, during, and after sowing – has empowered the country's farmers. Making



Soil Health

The government promotes the judicious use of fertilizers through the Soil Health and Fertility Management scheme. A Soil Health Card is issued for each farm at least once every three years.

25.61
Crore

Soil Health Cards have been distributed since the scheme's inception in 2014-15 until December 9, 2025. Soil mapping has been completed on 290 lakh hectares of land in 40 aspirational districts.

Crop Diversification Programme

The scheme aims to encourage farmers to shift from water-intensive crops like paddy to alternatives such as pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains.

- 184 new varieties of 25 crops have been developed by scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, keeping in mind different agro-climatic conditions, soil types, and farming practices, which will accelerate crop diversification.

fundamental changes, the central government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP). For example, the government has made the largest-ever procurement at MSP, whether it is the Kharif or Rabi season. Because of this partnership between farmers and the government, India's granaries are full today.

TRANSFORMING LIVES OF FARMERS

The central government has taken a major initiative to transform the lives of farmers, something unprecedented in history. By providing farmers with an annual



Water Reaches the Fields, Reducing the Burden for Farmers

PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

- More than 96.97 lakh hectares of land have benefited under the 'Per Drop More Crop' component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. The 'Per Drop More Crop' scheme has been in effect since 2015-16. This scheme enhances water use efficiency at the farm level through micro-irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation.
- 63 major irrigation projects have been approved, empowering more than 2 crore farmers with improved irrigation facilities.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Command Area Development and Modernization of Water Management as a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana for the period 2025-2026.

PM-KUSUM Scheme

- The PM-KUSUM scheme, launched in March 2019, was extended in January 2024.

34,800

MW of solar capacity, to be added with central financial assistance of Rs. 34,422 crore to be provided by March 2026.

GST Reforms Benefit

GST changes in the agriculture sector are farmer-friendly, a step towards rural welfare and sustainability, which will reduce costs for farmers. Cooperative societies and farmer producer organizations will also benefit.

- GST on tractors below 1800cc has been reduced from 12% to 5%. GST on tractor parts has also been reduced from 18% to 5%.
- GST on commercial goods vehicles has been reduced from 28% to 18%.
- GST on processed and preserved vegetables, fruits, and nuts has been reduced from 12% to 5%. This will boost exports and strengthen India's position as an agricultural export hub.
- GST on fertilizer inputs, i.e., ammonia, sulfuric acid, and nitric acid, has been reduced from 18% to 5%. This will reduce fertilizer production costs, ensuring the availability of affordable fertilizers.



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Today, in the villages, the Namo Drone Didis are leading the way in modern methods of spraying fertilizers and pesticides.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

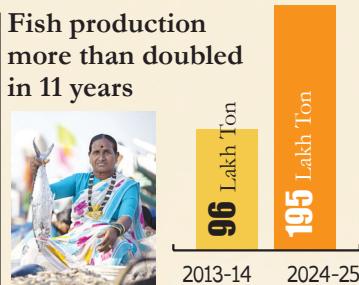
Government Support in Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Horticulture

PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, launched on September 10, 2020, has empowered fishermen with record production, increased exports, and inclusive and sustainable development. India is now the world's second-largest fish producer.

58

lakh livelihoods created and 99,018 women empowered through the scheme.



Gokul Mission

India ranks first in terms of livestock population, with 14% of the world's cows and 57% of the world's buffaloes. The National Gokul Mission was launched on December 16, 2014, with the objective of developing and conserving indigenous bovine breeds and increasing milk production and productivity.

- 1.28 crore sex-sorted semen doses produced; cost reduced from ₹800 to ₹250 per dose through indigenous technology.

14.56

crore animals inseminated under the mission's artificial insemination program. 9.36 crore animals covered under the scheme. More than 5.62 crore farmers have benefited.



demic. Furthermore, during the pandemic, more than 2 crore Kisan Credit Cards were issued, the majority of which went to small farmers. Through these cards, farmers have availed themselves of loans worth thousands of crores of rupees. Imagine what the situation of these small farmers would have been during this unprecedented crisis of the century if they hadn't received this assistance? Where would they have had to wander to meet their basic needs? Now, the Kisan Credit Card facility has also been extended to livestock farmers and fish farmers. According to the

Agroforestry



The Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture was implemented to encourage tree plantation on farms along with crops and cropping systems.

3.93 Crore

hectares of land in India is under agroforestry. The combined agroforestry area of India and Indonesia accounts for almost 100% of the agroforestry area in Asia. The global contribution is approximately 70%.

National Beekeeping & Honey Mission

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Campaign), the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission was launched to achieve the goal of a 'Sweet Revolution'.

- India became the world's second-largest honey exporter after China in July 2025, up from ninth position in 2020.

1.07

lakh metric tons of natural honey were produced by India in 2023-2024.

latest figures, farmers received more than ₹10 lakh crore in assistance through the KCC scheme in 2025.

Today, for the first time, India has reached the top 10 countries in the world in terms of agricultural exports. The country set new records in agricultural exports during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 80 percent of the country's farmers own less than 2 hectares of land. These small farmers will play a crucial role in enriching the country's agriculture to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047.



Farmers Embrace Technology

15,000

drones procurement have received central government approval, of which 1,094 have already been distributed, along with comprehensive training provided to "Drone Didis."



75%

of the cost is provided as a subsidy to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for the purchase of farmer drones. Cooperative societies, FPOs, and rural entrepreneurs who provide drones on rent to farmers are also given financial assistance at a rate of 40%, up to a maximum of ₹4 lakh, for the purchase of drones.

DHAN DHANYA KRISHI YOJANA TO BRING WEALTH AND PROSPERITY

To fulfill the vision of a developed India, efforts are being made to bring improvement in every field. The result of this thinking is the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana. As a result of this vision, two new schemes worth ₹35,000 crore were launched in 2025 to support farmers. These include the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana. This scheme draws inspiration from the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme. Just as the central government focused on 112 backward

The Central Government has launched the Digital Agriculture Mission. Digital agricultural infrastructure is being created under this mission. This includes AgriStack, agricultural decision support systems, comprehensive soil fertility and profile mapping, and IT initiatives.

7.68

crore farmer IDs have been created in 14 states by December 4, 2025. Farmer IDs have been made mandatory for registration under the PM Kisan Yojana in these states.

2,096

agricultural startups have been provided technical and financial assistance under the National Agriculture Development Scheme from 2019-20 to 2025-26 promoting innovation and agricultural entrepreneurship.

■ 2.76 crore SVAMITVA card have been issued in 1.82 lakh villages under the SVAMITVA scheme. Drone surveys have been completed in 3.28 lakh villages. The target is to cover 3.44 lakh villages by March 2026.

■ Agricultural Mechanization:

The average level of agricultural mechanization varies across different crops and their farming operations in the country. The level of mechanization is 70% for seedbed preparation, 40% for sowing and planting, 33% for weeding, and 34% for harvesting and threshing. The resulting overall average mechanization level is 45%.



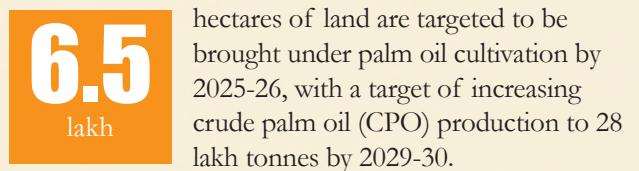
districts, similar regions have now been identified with an emphasis on agricultural development. The design of the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana is such that it can be customized according to the specific needs of each district. The second initiative is the Pulses Self-Reliance Mission. This mission is not only aimed at increasing pulse production but is also an effort to empower future generations.

Under PM Modi's leadership, the central government has opened and supported numerous avenues for farmers beyond agriculture. From animal hus-

Steps towards self-reliance in edible oils and pulses

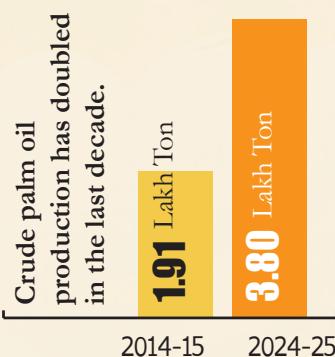
National Edible Oil Mission Palm Oil Mission

The mission was approved in 2021, with a financial outlay of ₹11,040 crore.



1.89

lakh hectares of land have been covered under the mission by March 2025. The total area under palm oil cultivation in the country has reached 5.56 lakh hectares.



bandry to beekeeping, from fish farming to organic farming, the central government has shown farmers new avenues. Whether it's the launch of Kisan Rail or the National Bamboo Mission, efforts are underway to transform the fortunes and lives of farmers. India is now moving towards a stage where clusters will be established near villages, where food processing industries will be set up, along with research centers nearby. In a way, we can say, "Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan." When the strengths of these three work together, significant changes are bound to

National Edible Oil Mission - Oilseeds

- To achieve self-reliance in edible oil production, the National Edible Oil Mission - Oilseeds was approved in 2024.
- The mission aims to increase the area under cultivation from 29 million hectares (2022-23) to 33 million hectares by 2030-31.
- The mission aims to achieve edible oil production of 25.45 million tonnes by 2030-31, which will meet approximately 72 percent of our estimated domestic requirement.

Pulses Self-Reliance Mission

- The Prime Minister launched the Pulses Self-Reliance Mission (2025-26 to 2030-31) on October 11, 2025, with a budgetary allocation of ₹11,440 crore.
- A total of 88 lakh free seed kits and 126 lakh quintals of certified seeds will be distributed among farmers. Around two crore farmers will benefit.

The goal is to increase domestic pulse production to 350 lakh tonnes and the cultivated area to 310 lakh hectares by 2030-31. The scheme ensures 100 percent procurement of tur, urad, and masoor at MSP for four years.



The Pulses Self-Reliance Mission is not just a mission to increase pulse production, but also a campaign to empower our future generations. The PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana plays a major role in this."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



occur in the lives of the country's farmers. Now, the central government has provided farmers with another avenue by promoting millets, or Shree Anna, because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal attachment to Shree Anna has increased its importance worldwide, which will boost farmers' incomes in the future. Similarly, the expansion of natural farming is a demand of 21st-century agriculture. Indian farmers are also being encouraged to practice natural farming. Millions of farmers have joined the National Natural Farming Mission. In the past few years, 10,000 Farmer-Producer Associations have been formed across the country. The entire agricultural sector in the country has undergone a significant transformation in the last 11 years. A mission related to edible oils, palm oil, was also launched. This mission will not only make India self-sufficient in edible oils but will also increase the income of its farmers.

1.5 TIMES THE MSP: FAIR PRICE FOR PRODUCE

Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, three important steps have been taken: increasing production, reducing costs, and ensuring fair prices for produce. The government's sole objective and formula is the welfare of farmers. In 2019, the central government decided to fix the Minimum Support Price (MSP) by adding a 50% profit margin to the cost of production, and committed to purchasing 100% of the tur (pigeon pea), masoor (lentil), and urad (black gram) crops from farmers. Previously, it was argued that directly setting a 50% increase in the cost of production could affect the market. Adhering completely to the

Farmers: Strong Partners in Nation Building

Farmers are strong partners in nation-building, and their efforts are significantly fostering the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) campaign. The central government is steadily working with a commitment to empower farmers. Keeping the soil healthy, conserving water, and using resources judiciously are crucial for the next generation. Campaigns like Mission LiFE, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,' and Amrit Sarovar promote this spirit. The central government is continuously working to make agriculture more sustainable and environmentally friendly. In the coming times, sustainable farming methods, water management, 'per drop more crop,' natural farming, agritech, and value addition will play a crucial role. Youth are moving forward with new ideas in all these areas. At the Pongal celebrations held in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the youth of Tamil Nadu are doing excellent work in natural farming. PM Modi urged the young people of Tamil Nadu involved in agriculture to further expand this campaign to bring about a revolution in sustainable farming. Our goal should be that our plates are full, our pockets are full, and our earth is also safe.

recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, crops are being purchased at MSP with a 50% profit margin on the total cost, and in some cases, even more than 50% profit is being given. Sometimes, state governments are lax in procurement; therefore, the central government has also decided that if state governments purchase less or none of the tur, masoor, and urad crops, the central government will purchase them directly through agencies like NAFED, ensuring farmers receive a fair price.

Between 2004 and 2014, the total quantity of Kharif crops purchased at MSP was only 46 Crore 89 Lakh metric tons, while under PM Modi's leadership, the central government has purchased 81 Crore 86 Lakh metric tons. Similarly, previously, 23 Crore 2 Lakh metric tons of Rabi crops were purchased, while the current central government has purchased 35 Crore 40 Lakh metric tons. Previously, 47,75,000 metric tons of oilseeds were purchased, while the current government has purchased 1 Crore 28 Lakh metric tons. Only 6 Lakh metric tons of pulses were purchased in the previous 10 years, while now 1 Crore 89 Lakh metric tons have been purchased. MSP crop procurement rose from ₹741,000 crore over the past decade to ₹2,449,000 crore now.

GST 2.0 AND FARMERS

Just before Diwali in 2025, GST 2.0 has benefited every farmer and livestock owner by reducing their expenses. Tractors have become even cheaper. With the new reforms, there is a direct saving of approximately ₹40,000 on the purchase of a tractor. GST has also been significantly reduced on other agricultural machinery used by farmers. For example, there is a saving of ₹15,000 on paddy transplanters. Similarly, there is a saving of ₹10,000 on power tillers and up to ₹25,000 on threshers. GST has also been drastically reduced on drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation equipment, and harvesting machines.

A GOLDEN VISION OF INDIA FOR 2047

PM Modi, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, discussed the four strong pillars of a developed India. Farmers constitute one of these strong pillars. For the past 11 years, the central government has consistently strived to empower farmers and increase investment



In Tamil life, Pongal is like a joyful experience. It embodies the hard work of the food provider and a sense of gratitude towards the earth and the sun. This festival also shows us the way to maintain balance in nature, family, and society. At this time, there is also enthusiasm for Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu, and other festivals in different parts of the country.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

in agriculture. The government has increased the budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from ₹21,933.50 crore in the 2013-14 budget estimates to ₹1,27,290.16 crore in the 2025-26 budget estimates, a six-fold increase. The biggest beneficiaries of this increased budget have been small farmers. For example, fertilizer subsidies rose from ₹5 lakh crore (2004-2014) to over ₹13 lakh crore (2014-2024).

To increase farmers' income, alternatives beyond traditional farming are being provided. Therefore, emphasis is being placed on animal husbandry, fisheries, and beekeeping for additional income. This has empowered small farmers and landless families. Farmers across the country are benefiting from this.

The comprehensive initiatives undertaken in the last 11 years for the agriculture sector and farmer welfare prove that such schemes are only possible when there is a government at the center that thinks about and cares for the interests of farmers. The central government is building new systems, from seed to market, from farm to barn, with a new approach, which is becoming the cornerstone for the realization of the vision of a developed India. ●



From Policy to Innovation The Decisive Participation of Youth

India's youth power is the greatest asset of a Viksit Bharat. Full of energy, innovation, and leadership potential, today's youth are not only shaping their own future but also determining the direction of the nation. The "Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue-2026" is a powerful platform for brainstorming youth ideas, fostering leadership, and building a Viksit Bharat, where young people become an integral part of the country's development agenda. This is why, at the closing ceremony of this dialogue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I myself draw energy from your capabilities, talent, and energy..."

The year 2047, when the country marks 100 years of independence, is a decisive phase for both the nation and its youth. The Prime Minister noted that the event coincides with the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. "Remembering Swami Vivekananda, we celebrate National Youth Day every year on 12 January. Inspired by his ideals, 12 January has been chosen for the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue. The life of Swami Vivekananda is a great guiding light for all of us." Expressing satisfaction over the rapid growth of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, PM Modi described it as a powerful platform enabling direct youth participation in shaping India's development agenda. "The association of crores of young people with this initiative, more than 5 million registrations, and over 3 million youths participating in the Viksit Bharat Challenge and sharing their ideas for the nation's development – such large-scale engagement

of youth power is unprecedented. ".

At the closing ceremony of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue-2026, PM Modi said that what could be a greater exercise in thinking than millions of people brainstorming on a specific topic and goal? PM Modi was deeply impressed by the ideas presented by the youth at the conference on topics such as women-led development and youth participation in democracy.

The Prime Minister cited the startup ecosystem as an example of change, noting that despite global growth in startup culture over decades, India had very limited focus on startups before 2014. "Until 2014, there were fewer than 500 registered startups in the country. In the absence of a startup culture, government intervention dominated every sector. Our youth talent, their capabilities, did not get the opportunity to fulfil their dreams. Regarding the presentations on startups at the conference, PM Modi said that the



Key takeaways from the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue-2026...

- Digital India has created a new community of creators in India. India is experiencing remarkable growth in the 'Orange Economy', which encompasses culture, content, and creativity.
- India is becoming a major global centre in sectors like media, film, gaming, music, digital content, and VR-XR.
- The World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) has become a huge launchpad for young creators.
- In ten years, it will mark 200 years since Macaulay's audacious policies, and it is the responsibility of this generation to atone for the sin committed 200 years ago; we have 10 years left to do so.
- Swami Vivekananda's life teaches us that we must break free from the mentality of slavery and always prioritise our heritage and our ideas.
- The youth of the country can also make the inspiring stories of the Ramayana and Mahabharata a part of the gaming world.
- The series of next-generation reforms that the country has initiated has now become a Reform Express; at the heart of these reforms is our Yuva Shakti.



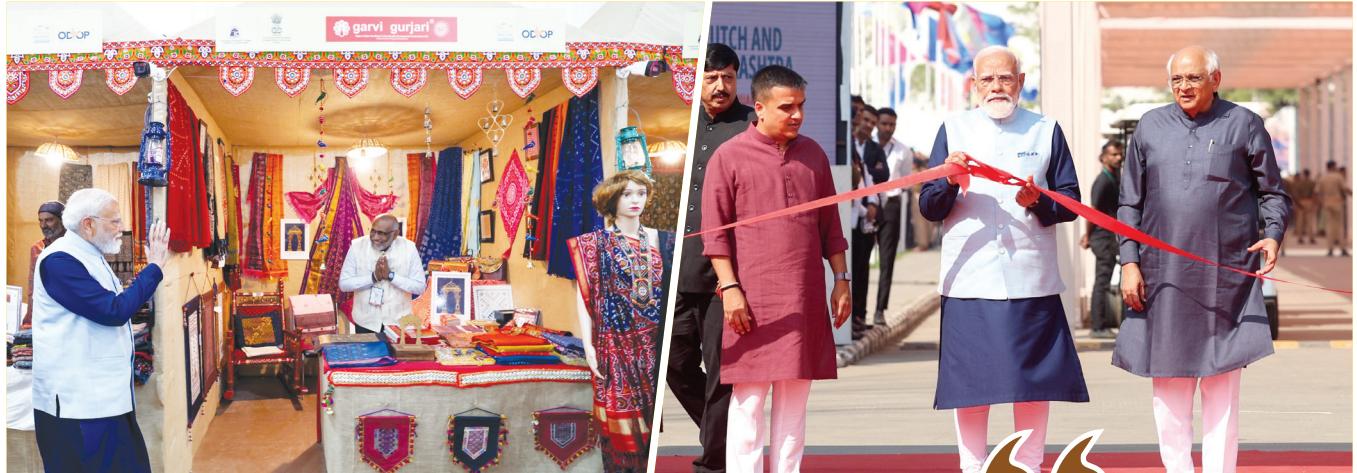
Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full program.

Lord Hanuman can power the entire world's gaming

Gaming is a huge market worldwide. The country can enter the world of gaming with stories from its mythology. PM Modi said that Lord Hanuman can power the entire world's gaming. This will also export the country's culture in a modern form, and technology will also be utilised. There are many startups in the country that are presenting India's stories in the world of gaming in a wonderful way, and it is becoming easier for children to understand India while playing games. There are several Indian start-ups that are beautifully presenting India's stories through gaming, making it easier for children to understand India while they play.

Startup culture started in the world 50-60 years ago and gradually transformed into the era of mega-corporations, but throughout this journey, there was very little discussion about startups in India. Now, a large number of startups are working in every sector in India. Considering the potential of the youth, several initiatives have been taken for the startup revolution, reforms to make doing business easier, Startup India, Digital India, and simplifying tax compliance. Until 5-6 years ago, the responsibility of advancing the space sector rested solely with ISRO. The government opened up the space sector to private enterprises and created the necessary framework and institutions, and today more than 300 startups are working in the space sector. The defence sector was also previously dependent only on government companies. The government changed this as well, opening the doors for startups in defence ecosystem. Today, more than 1,000 defence startups operate in India. One young person is building drones, another is developing anti-drone systems, someone else is creating AI cameras, and others are working on robotics. ●

Global institutions are bullish on India Now is the right time to invest



Today, global experts and institutions are 'bullish' about India. The IMF calls India the engine of global growth, and S&P has upgraded India's rating after 18 years. Fitch Ratings praises India's macro stability and fiscal credibility. Citing these aspects, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his confidence at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference on January 11th... This is the time, the right time to capitalize on these opportunities...

The world trusts India because, amidst global uncertainty, we are witnessing an unprecedented phase of stability in India, and today, India has political stability and continuity in policies. Purchasing power is increasing. These factors have made India a land of immense possibilities. Prime Minister Modi said at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference that this conference is also sending a message – that now is the time, the right time, to invest in Saurashtra-Kutch. India is rapidly moving towards its goal of becoming a developed nation. The 'Reform Express' is playing a major role in this journey. PM Modi assured investors that the Reform Express is not going to stop now. India's

Today's India is rapidly working towards the goal of becoming a developed nation. The reform express plays a major role in achieving this goal. The fact sheet related to India's growth is a success story of Reform-Perform-Transform.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

reform journey has moved towards institutional transformation. Every penny of your investment will yield excellent returns.

PM Modi inaugurated the two-day Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for the Kutch and Saurashtra regions in Rajkot. During the conference, he announced the development of 14 greenfield Smart Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation Limited estates and also inaugurated the GIDC Medical Devices Park. Japan, South Korea, Rwanda, and Ukraine participated as partner countries in this conference. PM Modi said at the conference that globally, infrastructure and an industry-ready workforce are the greatest



Positive Impact of India's Reform Express

- The Reform Express means implementing next-generation reforms in every sector. The GST reforms have had a positive impact on all sectors, especially our MSMEs, which have benefited greatly from it. India has made a major reform by allowing 100 percent FDI in the insurance sector, which will accelerate the campaign to provide universal insurance coverage to every citizen of the country.
- The income tax law has been modernized after almost six decades, providing significant relief and convenience to millions of taxpayers.
- Historic labor reforms have now brought wages, social security, and industry under a unified framework. These reforms have established a better balance between the welfare of workers and the progress of industries.
- Next-generation reforms have also been implemented in the nuclear power sector. Through the SHANTI Act passed in the last parliamentary session, the civil nuclear energy sector has been opened up for private participation. This is a huge opportunity for investors.



needs today. Gujarat provides complete certainty on this front. An excellent international ecosystem for education and skill development exists here. Kaushalya Skill University, in collaboration with universities from Australia and Singapore,

India has joined the ranks of top countries in last decade

- India is rapidly moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.
- India used to import nine out of ten mobile phones; today, it is the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.
- India's UPI is the world's number one real-time digital transaction platform.
- India has the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.
- India is among the top three countries in solar power generation.
- India is the third-largest aviation market.
- India is one of the top three countries with the largest metro networks in the world.
- India ranks first in milk and generic medicine production.
- India manufactures a major share of vaccines in the world.

Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full program.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the remaining section of Phase 2 of the Ahmedabad Metro from Sector 10A to Mahatma Mandir. After the inauguration, he said that our commitment to strengthening Ahmedabad's infrastructure is clearly visible in various development works. This section will significantly improve the 'ease of living' for the people of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

is preparing youth for the needs of the future. The country's first National Defence University and Gati Shakti University are preparing skilled manpower for the road, rail, air, waterways, and logistics sectors. ●

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana India's Solar Revolution

India is rapidly moving towards a green future by making full use of solar energy. After surpassing the 100 GW solar energy target ahead of schedule, India aims to achieve 500 GW of clean energy by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070. The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched as part of the effort to make families and the country self-reliant in energy, celebrates its second anniversary on February 13th. This scheme is leading India's solar revolution...

The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a revolutionary initiative in the journey towards renewable energy self-reliance. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2024, who urged everyone to continuously promote the progress of solar energy. PM Modi said, "I urge all residential consumers, especially the youth, to strengthen the 'PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' by applying on pmsuryaghar.gov.in. This scheme will lead to higher income, lower electricity bills, and job creation for the people."

As a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal, this scheme, launched with an estimated expenditure of ₹75,021 crore, has not only received applications from more than 55 lakh people but has also seen the installation of over 21 lakh rooftop solar systems. More than 8 lakh people have been provided loans exceeding ₹11,000



Rapidly Growing Rooftop Solar System in India

(Data as of January 9, 2026)

55,48,468 applications received

21,36,142 RTS systems installed

26,76,432 families covered under the scheme

7,879 MW of capacity installed

₹ 15,153
crore in subsidies disbursed



Model Solar Village

Under the 'Model Solar Village' component of the scheme, one model solar village is to be established in each district of the country. The objective is to promote solar energy and make rural communities energy self-reliant. The government has allocated ₹800 crore for this, under which each selected model solar village will receive ₹1 crore. To be eligible to become a model village, a revenue village must have a population of more than 5,000, or more than 2,000 in special category states. Villages are selected through a competitive process. The government aims for these model villages to successfully transition to solar energy and serve as an example for other villages across the country.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: A Means of Income, Employment, and Environmental Protection

Household Savings and Income Generation:

Households will benefit from significant savings on their electricity bills. They can generate additional income by selling surplus electricity from their rooftop solar systems to the DISCOMs, as a 3-kilowatt system can generate an average of over 300 units per month.

Expansion of Solar Capacity: It is estimated that 30 gigawatts of solar capacity will be added through the installation of solar power plants on rooftops in the residential sector, which will significantly contribute to India's renewable energy targets.

Environmental Benefits: Over the 25-year lifespan of these rooftop systems, an estimated 1000 billion units of electricity will be generated, resulting in a reduction of 720 million tons of CO₂ emissions. This will have a positive impact on the environment.

Job Creation: The scheme is expected to create approximately 1.7 million direct jobs in various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, operation, and maintenance, along with other services.

How Much Subsidy Will Be Provided?

You can apply for the rooftop solar system subsidy through the national portal <https://pmsuryaghar.gov.in>. By visiting the national portal, you can find out what the appropriate system size is for you and how much benefit you will receive from installing it. After registering on the website, you can log in using your consumer number and mobile number. After filling out the form and receiving approval from the electricity distribution company, you will have to get the solar system installed by a registered dealer and then apply for a net meter with the relevant information. The electricity company will inspect and certify it. In the final step, you will have to submit your bank details online, and the subsidy will be credited within 30 days.

- For individual households, a subsidy of Rs. 30,000 per kilowatt peak will be provided for the first 2 kilowatts, and Rs. 18,000 for each additional kilowatt peak. The subsidy is limited to 3 kilowatts per individual household.
- For group housing or RWAs, the central financial assistance is Rs. 18,000 per kilowatt peak for a rooftop solar power plant capacity of up to 500 kilowatts peak. In Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, the states of the North-Eastern region, and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, which are classified as special category states, the central financial assistance is 10 percent higher.
- In addition to central assistance, unsecured loans are available for rooftop solar systems at an interest rate of 5.75 percent.



crore for this purpose. The scheme has not only made solar energy accessible and affordable for millions of homes but is also rapidly progressing towards its ambitious target of 1 crore solar-pow-

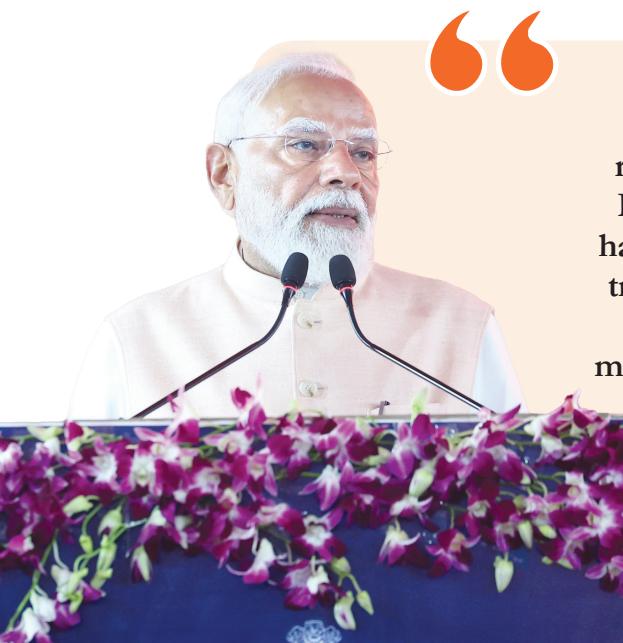
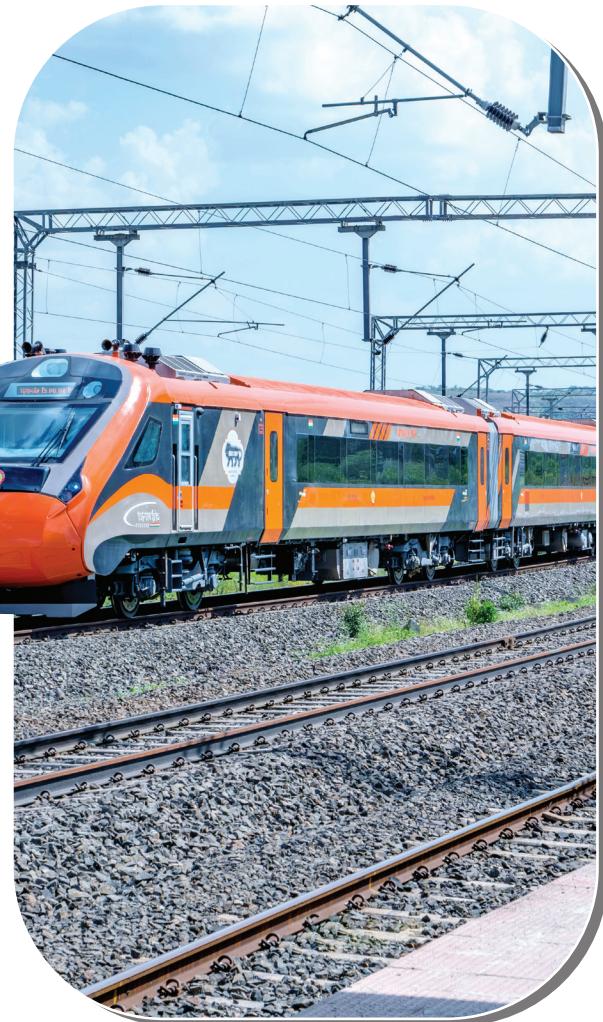
ered homes. Besides reducing electricity costs, this scheme is promoting energy self-reliance, environmental sustainability, and economic growth, making it a key pillar of India's clean energy transition. ●

Vande Bharat Express

On the Tracks to Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The Vande Bharat train has not only made travel faster and more comfortable, but also safer. At present, 166 Vande Bharat trains, including two new Vande Bharat sleeper trains, connect major cities across the country. This popularity is evident from the fact that since its launch on 15 February 2019, more than 7.5 crore passengers have already experienced the benefits of travelling on this state-of-the-art trains...

Sridhar Kumar, a passenger who travelled on the Vande Bharat train, says that he now prioritises the Vande Bharat for his trips to Patna. This train is fatigue-free and extremely comfortable. Fast, safe, and comfortable travel – that's the hallmark of the Vande Bharat Express. Another passenger on this train, Santosh Gupta, says that the journey was very comfortable. The comfortable seats, the speed of the train, and the modern amenities made the journey wonderful. Today, there are more than 7.5 crore passengers like Sridhar Kumar and Santosh Gupta who have completed a comfortable journey on the Vande Bharat train. Manufactured under the Make in India initiative, each train is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. These include automatic plug doors, revolving seats, and bio-vacuum toilets. They also have



“ I have noticed lately that foreigners are making videos of India’s metros and trains to tell the world about the revolution taking place in Indian Railways. This Vande Bharat train is ‘Made in India’; the sweat of us Indians has gone into making it. This first Vande Bharat Sleeper train of the country connects the land of Maa Kali with the land of Maa Kamakhya. In the coming times, this modern train will be expanded across the entire country.

I congratulate Bengal, Assam, and the whole country very much for this modern sleeper train.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



164 Vande Bharat Trains Form a Nationwide Network

Infrastructure has been a major driver of economic development across all developed countries. In every country that has achieved significant progress and development, infrastructure advancement has played a pivotal role. India is also rapidly striding on this path. In this context, the Vande Bharat train, which began in 2019 with just one train as a significant step towards expanding India's modern rail infrastructure, has now transformed into a network of 164 trains. These trains carry millions of passengers every month. To further accelerate the pace of railway development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2021, announced the operation of 75 Vande Bharat Express trains to connect every corner of the country.

- Vande Bharat trains increase the productivity of business travellers.
- They provide comfortable travel to passengers.
- They also reduce carbon emissions compared to road and air travel.

A Symbol of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

The Vande Bharat Express is not only a symbol of the Indian Railways' technological capabilities, but it is also becoming a strong foundation of the country's modern transportation system, embodying the vision of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Across the country, including Bihar, this train is writing a new chapter of development, connectivity, and passenger convenience.



First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Howrah and Guwahati

As a New Year's gift to the nation, Indian Railways launched its first Vande Bharat sleeper train on 17 January 2026. The first Vande Bharat sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati will benefit districts such as Kamrup Metropolitan and Bongaigaon in Assam and Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Murshidabad, East Burdwan, Hooghly, and Howrah in West Bengal. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that the complete testing, inspection, and certification of the Vande Bharat sleeper train have been successfully completed.

- The train have 16 coaches, including 11 three-tier AC coaches, 4 two-tier AC coaches, and 1 first-class AC coach. Its total capacity will be approximately 823 passengers.
- Passengers on the Vande Bharat sleeper train will enjoy regional delicacies.
- Authentic Assamese cuisine will be served on the train originating from Guwahati, while traditional Bengali cuisine will be served on the train originating from Kolkata.

Fast, safe, and comfortable travel at affordable prices

164 Vande Bharat trains are running on the Indian Railways network by December 2025.

15 Vande Bharat Express trains were introduced by Indian Railways during the year 2025.

The new Vande Bharat Sleeper train will completely transform the overnight travel experience. These will offer the perfect blend of speed, comfort, and modern amenities for long-distance travelers.

a GPS-based passenger information system and complete CCTV coverage.

On February 15, 2019, the first Vande Bharat

Express train, running at a speed of 160 kilometres per hour on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route, was flagged off. The Vande Bharat

State-of-the-art amenities and safety Features of Vande Bharat Sleeper Train



Semi-high-speed train with speeds of up to 180 km/h

- Ergonomically designed berths with improved cushioning.
- Automatic doors, including those at the entrances for easy access.
- Improved ride quality with better suspension and noise reduction capabilities.
- Equipped with 'Kavach' safety technology.
- Disinfectant technology to maintain high levels of hygiene.
- Driver's cabin equipped with advanced control and safety systems.
- Aerodynamic exterior design.
- Special arrangements for Divyangjans
- Emergency talk-back unit for communication between Passenger and Train Manager/Loco Pilot in case of emergency
- CCTV cameras installed in all coaches.
- Improved fire safety Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories



Express has proven to be a great boon for rail passengers and tourists. It connects India's cultural, spiritual, and economic centres. These trains are



Amrit Bharat Train

- Amrit Bharat trains are entirely non-AC trains. They currently provide high-quality services to passengers with 12 sleeper and 8 general coaches.
- At the very beginning of 2026, 7 new Amrit Bharat Express trains were launched. In 2025, 13 such trains were introduced. At present, a total of 37 Amrit Bharat trains are operating across the Indian Railways network.



Namo Bharat Rapid Rail

- Namo Bharat Rapid Rail services are designed for high frequency and regional connectivity, improving short and medium-distance commuting in high-demand corridors.
- Two Namo Bharat Rapid Rail services are currently operating in the country, between Bhuj-Ahmedabad and Jaynagar-Patna.

serving over 274 districts across the country. This extensive network is improving travel, tourism, and regional connectivity throughout the country. ●



Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi

The world is discussing India's growing economy. This progress is not limited to the economic front but is also reflected in the confidence seen on the sports field. India's performance in sports has consistently improved because, for the past decade, the central government has been strengthening the sports ecosystem at every level. In alignment with this commitment Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi on January 4th...

The 72nd National Volleyball Tournament was held in Varanasi from January 4th to 11th, with over a thousand players from 58 teams representing 28 states and institutions participating. At the inauguration ceremony, the prime minister underlined that volleyball is not an ordinary sport, as it is a game of balance and cooperation, where determination is also reflected in the effort to keep the ball always lifted. He highlighted that volleyball connects players with team spirit, with every player guided by the mantra, 'Team First'. Each player may possess different skills, but all play for the victory of their team. Drawing a parallel between India's development story and volleyball, PM Modi said that no victory is achieved alone; victory depends on coordination, trust, and the readiness of the team. He underlined that everyone has their own role and responsibility, and success comes only when everyone seriously fulfils their duty with seriousness.

PM Modi noted that the government has sig-

Volleyball

A Game of Perfect Balance

The 2030 Commonwealth Games will be held in India, and the country is making strong efforts to host the 2036 Olympics, with the aim of giving more and more players greater opportunities to compete.

nificantly increased the sports budget, and today India's sports model has become 'athlete-centric', with a focus on talent identification, scientific training, nutrition, and transparent selection. He highlighted that the government has undertaken major reforms in the sports sector, including the National Sports Governance Act and the Khelo Bharat Policy 2025. Noting that Khelo India and initiatives like TOPs are transforming the sports ecosystem in India. ●

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I see many similarities between India's development story and the game of volleyball. Volleyball teaches us that no victory is achieved alone. Our success depends on our coordination, trust, and the readiness of the team.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



The Driver of Purvodaya mantra

West Bengal

The central government's slogan of Purvodaya has become more than just a catchphrase; it has transformed into a guiding principle that is continuously adding new dimensions to West Bengal's development journey. From the launch of the Vande Bharat sleeper train, an initiative to modernize Indian Railways, to other development projects, West Bengal's progress has gained new momentum. On January 17-18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth over ₹3,000 crore in Malda and over ₹830 crore in Singur, Hooghly, West Bengal...

The central government is continuously working towards the goal of ensuring the equitable development of Eastern India to make India a developed nation. Further strengthening this resolve, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his special visit in mid-January, gifted West Bengal with projects worth over ₹4,000 crore. The foundation stone laying and inauguration of these development projects in West Bengal are indicative of how Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Purvodaya" mantra is adding new chapters to the state's development. From this sacred land of West Bengal, another major step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways. It is from here that the Vande Bharat sleeper trains, which are entirely indigenously manufactured, have been launched in India. This first Vande Bharat sleeper train connects the land of Maa Kali to the land of Maa Kamakhya.

West Bengal has also received nearly half a dozen new Amrit Bharat Express trains. These trains will make travel to Varanasi, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu easier. The Prime Minister's two-day visit has been unpre-



eded for West Bengal's rail connectivity. Prime Minister Modi himself said, "Perhaps as much work has not been done in 24 hours in the last 100 years." The campaign to accelerate West Bengal's progress has intensified. These projects will make travel and business easier for the people of the state. New employment opportunities will be created for the youth of the state.

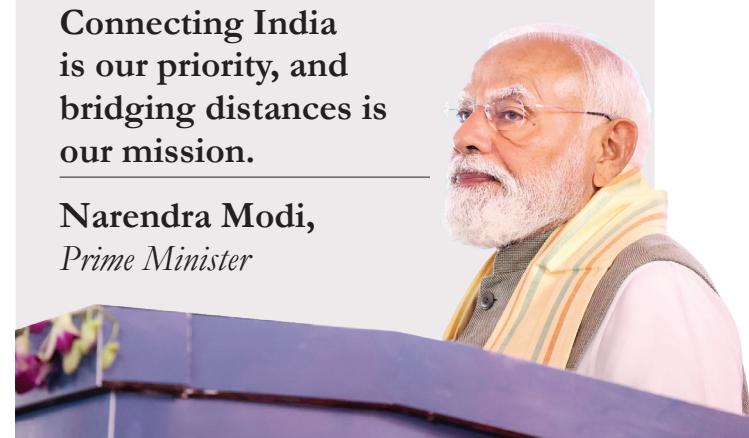


Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme

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Connecting India is our priority, and bridging distances is our mission.

Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister





West Bengal on Path of Development

₹4,080

crore worth of various rail and development projects inaugurated and foundation stones laid in Malda

- Flagging off of India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya).
- Laying of the foundation stone for the expanded port gate system at Balagarh, which will boost inland water transport and regional connectivity.
- Launch of a state-of-the-art electric catamaran in Kolkata. This is one of the six indigenously built electric catamarans for inland water transport by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Flagging off of 7 Amrit Bharat trains, strengthening West Bengal's rail connectivity with other states.
- These trains are: New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express; New Jalpaiguri-Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar-SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar-Mumbai (Panvel) Amrit Bharat Express; Kolkata (Howrah)-Anand Vihar Terminal Amrit Bharat Express; Kolkata (Sealdah)-Banaras Amrit Bharat Express; Kolkata (Santragachi)-Tambaran Amrit Bharat Express.
- Laying of the foundation stone for four major railway projects in West Bengal, including a new rail line between Balurghat and Hili, next-generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri, upgradation of the Siliguri Loco Shed, and modernization of Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district.
- Dedication to the nation of the electrification of rail lines between New Cooch Behar-Bamanhat and New Cooch Behar-Boxirhat. Two new train services equipped with LHB coaches were also flagged off.
- Inauguration of the Jayrambati-Barogopinathpur-Maynapur new rail line.
- Laying of the foundation stone for the reconstruction and four-laning of the Dhupguri-Falakata section of National Highway-31D.



Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme

This state has extraordinary potential for waterways, an area where the central government is continuously working. This is crucial not only for the development of West Bengal but also for the development of India. These are the pillars upon which West Bengal can be transformed into a major hub for manufacturing, trade, and logistics. Today, India is placing great emphasis on multi-modal connectivity and green mobility. To facilitate transportation, ports, inland waterways, highways, and airports are all being interconnected. This is reducing both logistics costs and travel time. India is rapidly advancing in the production and export of fisheries and seafood, and the Prime Minister's vision for West Bengal is to lead the country in this sector.

MODERNITY AND SELF-RELIANCE

Indian Railways is becoming both modern and self-reliant. Railway lines are being electrified, and railway stations are being modernized. Indian-made locomotives, railway coaches, and metro coaches are becoming symbols of Indian technology. Today, more locomotives are being manufactured in India than in the US and Europe. India has started exporting passenger and metro train coaches to several countries around the world, benefiting the economy and creating new employment opportunities for the youth. Today, more than 150 Vande Bharat trains are operating across the country, including in West Bengal. Along with this, a complete network of modern and high-speed trains is being developed. This is greatly benefiting the poor and middle-class families of West Bengal. ●



Assam Is Striking A Balance Between Economy And Ecology

India is setting an example today by moving forward, taking nature and progress hand in hand. The Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project, costing approximately ₹7,000 crore, in Kaliabor, Assam, in mid-January, reflects the same spirit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched this special project for Kaziranga, a precious jewel of India's biodiversity, and also took stock of development projects, along with celebrating Assam's cultural heritage...

The Northeast, the engine of India's development faced hurdle of distance – a distance of hearts and a distance of places. For decades, the people here felt that the country's development was taking place in other parts, and they were being left behind. This affected not only the economy but also trust. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has himself visited the Northeast more than 70 times, has worked to change this perception. He prioritized the development of the Northeast. He initiated simultaneous work on connecting Assam through roadways, railways, airways, and waterways, and today the results are evident: the Northeast and its gateway, Assam, are writing a new saga of development. The Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project is a continuation of this effort. Protecting Kaziranga

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This expansion of connectivity instills confidence that the Northeast is no longer on the margins of development. The Northeast is no longer distant; the Northeast is now close to our hearts and close to Delhi.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

and its wildlife is not just about environmental protection; it is also a responsibility towards Assam's future and future generations. Kaziranga is not just

Assam Receives Development Gifts

- Bhoomi Pujan ceremony held for the 86-kilometer-long Kaziranga Elevated Corridor project in Kaliabor, costing over ₹6,950 crore.
- This includes a 35-kilometer elevated wildlife corridor passing through Kaziranga National Park, along with a 21-kilometer bypass section and the widening of a 30-kilometer stretch of the existing National Highway-715 from two lanes to four lanes.
- Two new Amrit Bharat Express trains flagged off, running between Guwahati (Kamakhya)-Rohtak and Dibrugarh-Lucknow (Gomti Nagar).
- The historic cultural festival of the Bodo community, "Bagurumba Dwhou 2026," was organized. Over 10,000 artists from the Bodo community performed the Bagurumba dance at the event.
- The Bagurumba dance symbolizes peace, fertility, joy, and communal harmony and is closely associated with Bodo New Year festivals like Bwisagu and Domasi.

a national park; it is the soul of Assam. It is also a precious jewel of India's biodiversity. UNESCO has granted it World Heritage Site status.

WHY WAS THIS PROJECT NECESSARY?

Kaziranga is home to the one-horned rhinoceros. Every year during the monsoon season, when the Brahmaputra River swells, the biggest challenge arises. Wildlife then seeks higher ground, and in the process, they have to cross the national highway. At such times, rhinos, elephants, and deer get stranded on the roadside. The central government's effort is to ensure that the road remains functional while the forest and its wildlife remain safe. Under this vision, a nearly 90-kilometer-long corridor has been constructed from Kaliabor to Numaligarh. This project will cost approximately 7,000 crore rupees. It will include an elevated wildlife corridor spanning approximately 35 kilometers. The corridor has been



Bagurumba Dwhou Sets a Record

The Northeast is now in the heart of Delhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This affection was clearly visible once again when Prime Minister Modi launched development projects in Assam in mid-January. At this event, the daughters of the Bodo community set a new record with their performance of Bagurumba. The amazing performance of Bagurumba, the energy of over ten thousand artists, the rhythm of the Kham drums, the melody of the Sifung flute – those captivating moments mesmerized everyone. The experience of Bagurumba resonated from the eyes to the heart, further strengthening the mantra of 'Development and Heritage'. 'Bagurumba Dwhou' is not just a festival; it is a medium to honor the great Bodo tradition.

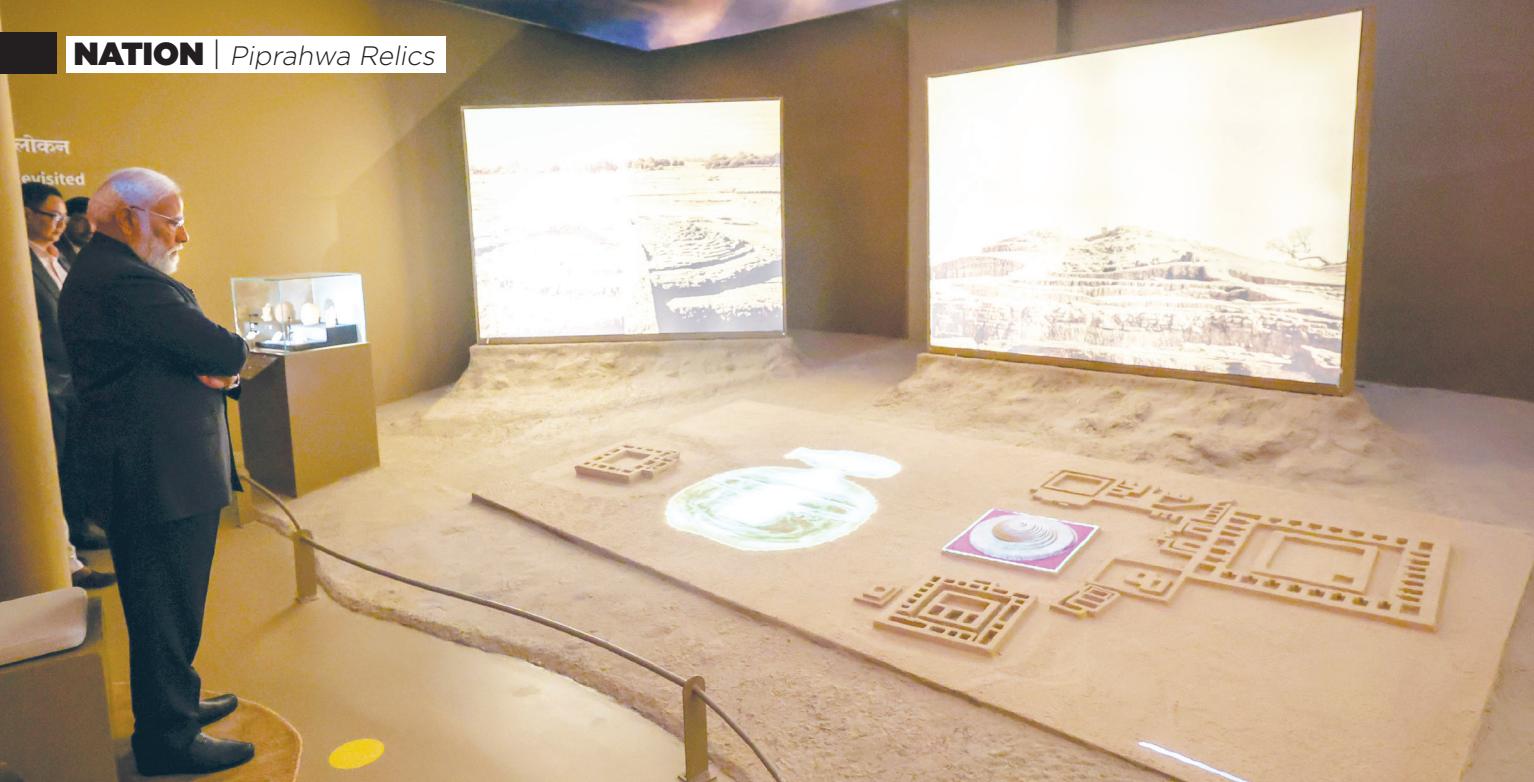


Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme

designed keeping in mind the traditional movement routes of animals such as the one-horned rhinoceros, elephants, and tigers. This corridor will also improve connectivity between Upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

ASSAM: THE GATEWAY TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHEAST

The development of Assam is opening new doors for the development of the entire Northeast. Increased rail connectivity brings benefits at both social and economic levels. Therefore, expanding connectivity is crucial for the Northeast. Previously, Assam received only ₹2,000 crore in the railway budget; now, this has increased to ₹10,000 crore. This increased investment has led to large-scale infrastructure development. The three new train services launched from Kaliabor in January 2026 represent a significant expansion of Assam's rail connectivity. ●



Lord Buddha's Wisdom For All Humanity

India is committed to सर्वजनहिताय, सर्वजनसुखाय (for the welfare and happiness of all).

This is what Lord Buddha taught us. Lord Buddha's wisdom and the path he showed belong to all of humanity and are timeless, unchanging with time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a grand international exhibition of the sacred relics of Lord Buddha from Piprahwa at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi on January 3...

India is not only the custodian of the sacred relics of Lord Buddha but also a living carrier of his tradition. The relics associated with Lord Buddha, found in Piprahwa, Vaishali, Devni Mori, and Nagarjunkonda, are a living presence of Buddha's message. India has preserved and protected these relics in every aspect of science and spirituality. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he considers himself very fortunate because Lord Buddha has had a very deep influence on his life. The city of Vadnagar, where he was born, was a major centre of Buddhist learning. Sarnath, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, is now his workplace. Even when he was away from the responsibilities of government, he continued to visit Buddhist pilgrimage sites as a pilgrim. As Prime Minister, he has had the good

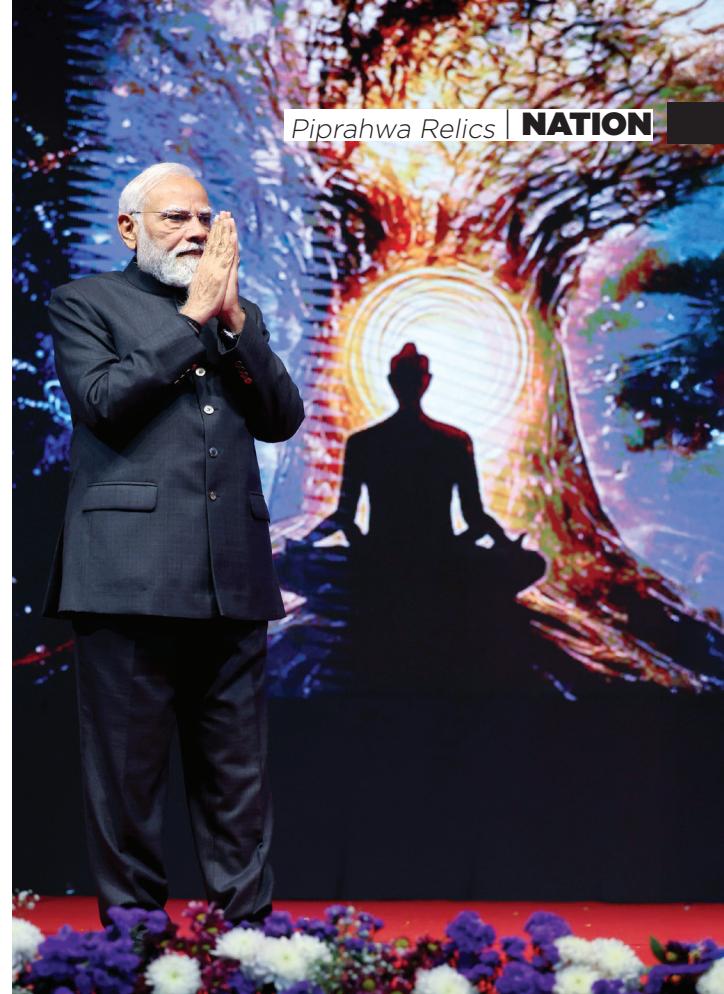


Lord Buddha showed the world the path of walking together instead of conflict and dominance, and this has always been India's core philosophy. We have adopted the path of global welfare through the strength of ideas and the depth of emotions, always in the interest of humanity. With this very approach, India is contributing to the world of the 21st century.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Piprahwa Relics repatriated after more than a century

- The exhibition was presented for the first time with authentic relics and archaeological materials related to Piprahwa.
- Discovered in 1898, the Piprahwa relics hold a central place in the archaeological study of early Buddhism. These are among the earliest and most historically significant relic deposits directly connected to Bhagwan Buddha.
- Archaeological evidence associates the Piprahwa site with ancient Kapilavastu. The exhibition highlights India's deep and continuous civilizational connection with the teachings of Lord Buddha.
- The recent repatriation of these relics has been achieved through sustained government effort, institutional cooperation and innovative public-private partnership.
- Other sections include Piprahwa Revisited, Vignettes of the Life of Buddha's, among others.
- The exposition is supported by a comprehensive audio-visual components. These elements provide accessible insights into the life of Bhagwan Buddha.



India Leads Efforts to Develop Buddhist Sites Worldwide

- When a devastating earthquake struck Nepal, damaging ancient stupas, India provided assistance for their reconstruction.
- Following the earthquake in Bagan, Myanmar, India helped conserve more than 11 pagodas.
- A magnificent museum has been built in Vadnagar, Gujarat, offering an experience of nearly 2,500 years of history.
- A major Buddhist site from the Buddhist period has been discovered in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir. Conservation work is now being expedited.
- A convention centre and a meditation and experience
- centre have been established in Bodh Gaya.
- Modern facilities have been built in Shravasti, Kapilavastu, and Kushinagar.
- New facilities have been developed for pilgrims at Sanchi, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Amravati.
- A Buddhist circuit is being created in the country to ensure better connectivity to all Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India.
- As the Abhidhamma and teachings of Lord Buddha are in Pali language, the government has granted Pali classical language status to promote wider access.

fortune to visit Buddhist pilgrimage sites around the world. PM remarked that after 125 years of waiting, India's heritage has returned and India's legacy has come back. From today the people of India will be able to witness these sacred relics of Lord Buddha and receive his blessings. PM Modi remarked that Wherever I travelled, I made it my effort to bring a symbol of Lord Buddha's legacy among the people there. He highlighted that in China, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia, he carried saplings of the Bodhi tree.

QILA RAI PITHORA, A CRADLE OF INDIA'S GLORIOUS HISTORY

The Prime Minister remarked that the place where this exhibition has been set up is itself special. He highlighted that the site of Qila Rai Pithora is a land of India's glorious history, where nearly a thousand years ago former rulers established a city surrounded by strong and sturdy walls. Within this same historical city complex, a spiritual and virtuous chapter of history unfolded. ●



India Has Turned Diversity Into The Strength Of Its Democracy

In India, democracy means last-mile delivery. This is why the central government is working for every individual without discrimination, driven by the spirit of public welfare, which has resulted in 250 million people being lifted out of poverty in the last few years. As part of strengthening the democratic system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in the Central Hall of the Parliament House complex on January 15...

When India attained independence, apprehensions were expressed that democracy would not survive in a country with such diversity. But India turned this very diversity into the strength of its democracy. The Prime Minister remarked that democracy delivers in India because the people are supreme. He underlined that their aspirations and dreams have been given priority, and to ensure no obstacles come in their way, everything from processes to technology has been democratised. He said that this democratic spirit runs in India's veins, our minds and our culture. The interest, well-being, and welfare of the people are our values, and these values have been given to us by democracy.

Approximately 50 per cent of the total popula-

“
India has proved that democratic institutions and democratic processes provide stability, speed, and scale to democracy.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister





India's Democratic Values Have Been Tested

A 10th-century inscription from Tamil Nadu describes a village assembly that functioned with democratic values. There were clear rules for accountability and decision-making. India's democratic values have been tested time and again. Diversity has supported them, and they have grown stronger with each generation. The world recognizes India as the largest democracy. It is also called the mother of democracy. The country has a long tradition of debate, dialogue, and collective decision-making. India's sacred texts and Vedas, more than 5,000 years old, mention assemblies where people gathered to discuss issues and make decisions through deliberation and consensus.

Lok Sabha Speaker Holds Bilateral Discussions with Several Parliamentary Leaders

On the sidelines of the conference, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla held bilateral discussions with several distinguished parliamentary leaders. These included the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles, the Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, the President of the Senate of Grenada, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of South Africa, and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa.

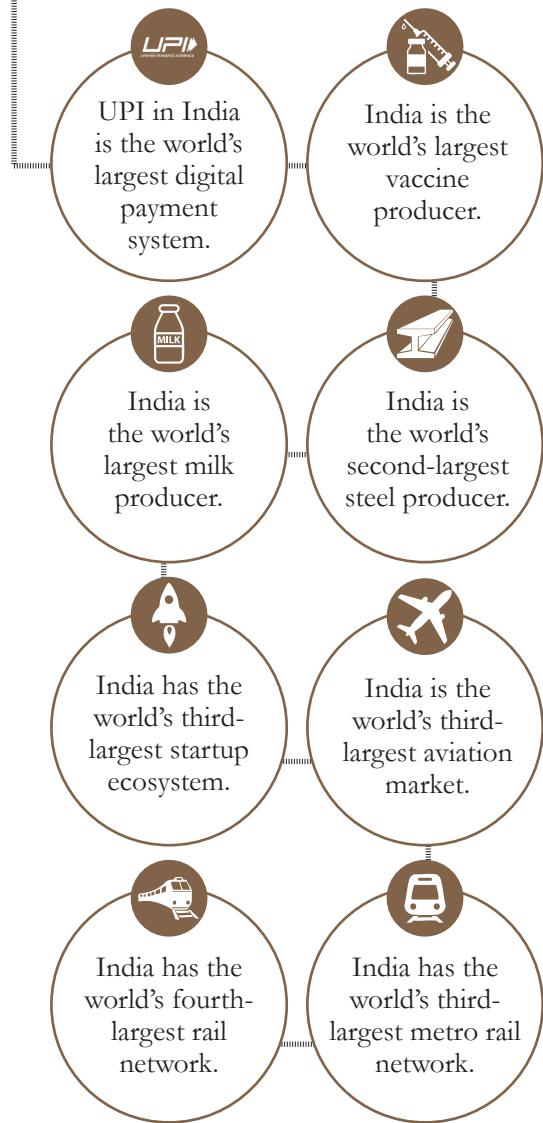


Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme

tion of Commonwealth countries lives in India. India is fulfilling its commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals of the Commonwealth countries with full responsibility. In the programme, PM Modi said that today, when the world is going through a period of unprecedented change, it is also time

The Indian Parliament has previously hosted the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries in 1971, 1986, and 2010.

India's Rising Glory On The Global Stage



for the Global South to forge a new path. India is strongly advocating for the interests of the Global South on every global platform. It is India's constant endeavour that any innovation made here should benefit the entire Global South and the Commonwealth countries. ●



National Startup Day - January 16

“Startup India is not just a scheme, it is a rainbow vision”

India is today the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, and this is the result of several reforms undertaken by the central government over the past decade since the launch of Startup India. Government policies have created a conducive environment for startups to venture into sectors like space and defence. On the occasion of National Startup Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with some of the participants of the vibrant startup ecosystem...

With the aim of transforming India from a country of job seekers to a country of job creators, fostering innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and enabling investment-led growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Startup India on January 16, 2016. Over the past decade, Startup India has become an integral part of India's economic and innovation landscape. It has strengthened institutional frameworks and increased access to capital and mentorship. India's startup ecosystem has witnessed tremendous growth in the last decade.

At the event organised to celebrate a decade of Startup India on National Startup Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “I see the future of a new and developing India.” These words encapsulate

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We established Atal Tinkering Labs in schools so that children could develop a spirit of innovation. We started hackathons so that our youth could provide solutions to the nation's problems. We created incubation centres so that ideas would not die due to lack of resources.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

PM Modi's mantra... New destinations achieved through the pinnacle of hard work

And how are new destinations achieved? For that, we must demonstrate the pinnacle of hard work. That is why it is said: उद्यमेन हि सिद्ध्यन्तं, कार्याणि न मनोरथः। Work is accomplished through enterprise, not merely by wishful thinking. And the first condition for enterprise is courage. To reach where you are today, you must have shown immense courage; you must have staked much. Earlier, risk-taking was discouraged in the country, but today risk-taking has become mainstream. Those who think beyond a monthly salary are not only accepted but also respected. Ideas that were once considered fringe are now becoming fashionable.

Prime Minister Modi said that he likes taking risks, just like young people. He said that when people would tell him that certain tasks involved significant political risk, he would still undertake them, considering them his duty. He believes that whatever is necessary for the country must be done by someone. If there is a loss, it will be his loss, but if there is a gain, it will benefit millions of families in my country.



Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's full programme

the 10-year success story of Startup India. Ten years ago, Startup India was launched in Vigyan Bhavan among 500-700 young people, while on January 16, 2026, so many enthusiastic people gathered to celebrate a decade of this journey that there was no space left at Bharat Mandapam.

In 2025, nearly 44,000 new startups were registered in India. This is the biggest jump in a single year since the beginning of Startup India. These figures testify to how our startup ecosystem is driving innovation and growth. These figures are a testament to how India's startup ecosystem is driving innovation and growth. Previously, new businesses or ventures were primarily started by children of large industrial families, but that is no longer the case. Now, youth from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, even from

villages, are opening their own startups. Today, more than 45 percent of startups have at least one female director, and India is also the world's second-largest ecosystem in terms of funding for women-led startups.

During his interaction with participants of the startup ecosystem, Startup India is not merely a scheme but a "rainbow vision". It is a means of connecting different sectors with new opportunities. As we move forward, our aspiration should not be limited to partnerships. We must aim for global leadership. You should work on new ideas and solve problems. It is now time for our startups to focus more on manufacturing. We must also take the lead by working on unique ideas in technology. Our goal should be for India to lead the world in new startup trends and technologies in the next ten years. ●



Republic Day

A symbol of Freedom, Constitution, And Democratic Values

Republic Day inspires us to strengthen democracy, protect constitutional values, and reaffirm our commitment to building a developed India. This occasion also provides renewed energy to move forward with a collective resolve for nation-building. On the eve of the 77th Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu addressed the nation. Here are edited excerpts from her address...

THE CONSTITUTION: THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST REPUBLIC

Our Constitution is the foundational document of the largest republic in world history. The ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution define our Republic. The framers of the Constitution provided a strong bedrock for the spirit of nationalism and the unity of the country through constitutional provisions. Lahu Purush, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, unified our nation. From north to south and from east to west, the fabric of our ancient cultural unity was woven by our ancestors. Every effort to promote this spirit of oneness is highly commendable.

150 YEARS OF THE COMPOSITION OF VANDE MATARAM

Since 7th November last year, celebrations marking 150 years of the composition of our national song 'Vande Mataram' are also being organised. This song which is a prayer to the divine form of Bharat Mata, instils patriotism in the hearts of every Indian. The great nationalist poet Subramanya Bharati composed the song "Vande Mataram Yenbom", in the Tamil language, meaning "Let us chant Vande Mataram", and connected the masses on an even larger scale with the spirit of Vande Mataram. Translations of this song in other Indian languages also became popular. Sri Aurobindo translated this song into English. 'Vande Mataram', composed by the venerable Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is our

lyrical national prayer. Since 2021, Netaji's Jayanti is celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas' so that the people, especially the youth, can draw inspiration from his indomitable patriotism. Netaji's slogan 'Jai Hind' is the declaration of our national pride.

BUILDING A VIBRANT REPUBLIC, MAKING IT POWERFUL

The valiant soldiers of our three armed forces are always vigilant in the defence of our motherland. Our dedicated personnel in the police and in the Central Armed Police Forces are continuously and diligently working for the internal security of the people. Our farmers toil hard to produce food for the people. The path-breaking and talented women of our country are setting new benchmarks in many fields. Our accomplished doctors, nurses, and all healthcare workers are dedicated to taking care of the health of the people. Our committed sanitation workers play a major role in maintaining cleanliness in our country. Our enlightened teachers are shaping future generations. Our world-class scientists and engineers are giving new direction to the country's development. Our industrious workers are rebuilding the nation. Our talented artists, crafts-persons and writers are giving modern expression to our rich traditions. Experts from various fields are guiding the multi-faceted development of the country. Our energetic entrepreneurs are contributing immensely towards making the country developed and self-reliant.

BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO

The active and empowered participation of women is extremely important for the development of the country. National efforts towards their health, education, safety, and economic empowerment have increased women's participation in many areas. The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign has encouraged the education of girls. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana', more than 57 crore bank accounts have been opened so far. Nearly 56 percent of these accounts belong to women. Sisters and daughters are breaking traditional stereotypes and forging ahead. The number of women representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions is nearly 46 percent. The 'Nari

'Adi Karmayogi' campaign

Through the 'Adi Karmayogi' campaign, the leadership potential of the people of the tribal community has been nurtured. In recent years, the government has taken many steps, including the construction of museums, to introduce the glorious history of the tribal community to the people of the country. Their welfare and development are given high priority. Such campaigns in health and education are working to bring harmony between the traditions and modern development among the tribal communities

Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', which seeks to take political empowerment of women to greater heights, will provide unprecedented strength to the idea of women-led development.

DIGITAL PAYMENT

Our people have adopted the digital payment system on a massive scale. Today, more than half of the world's digital transactions take place in India. From buying goods at the smallest shop to paying for an auto-rickshaw ride, the use of digital payments has become an impressive example for the global community.

OPERATION SINDOOR

Last year, our country launched precision strikes against terror infrastructure through Operation Sindoora. Terror centres were destroyed, and many terrorists met their end. Our self-reliance in the field of defence powered the historic success of Operation Sindoora. It is our great fortune to be living in Bharat Bhoomi. Regarding our Matri-Bhoomi, Kavi Guru Rabindranath Tagore has said: Amar desher mati, tomar pore thekai matha It means: sacred soil of my country! I bow my head at your feet. I believe that Republic Day is an opportunity to further strengthen this strong feeling of patriotism. Let us all work together with the spirit of 'Nation First' and make our Republic even more glorious. ●



Vande Mataram

Resonated With Spirit Of Valour And Culture

The 77th Republic Day became a grand celebration of the ethos of Indian democracy, the strength of its constitutional values, and the nation's progressive journey. The magnificent parade held on Kartavya Path showcased India's military might, cultural diversity, and the vision of a self-reliant India. From the President's greetings to the mighty display of the three armed forces, state-of-the-art defense systems, and attractive tableaux from various states, every moment resonated with national pride. This photo feature captures the unforgettable moments of Republic Day, vividly portraying the spirit of India's unity, integrity, and continuous progress...



Scan the QR code to watch the full 77th Republic Day parade.



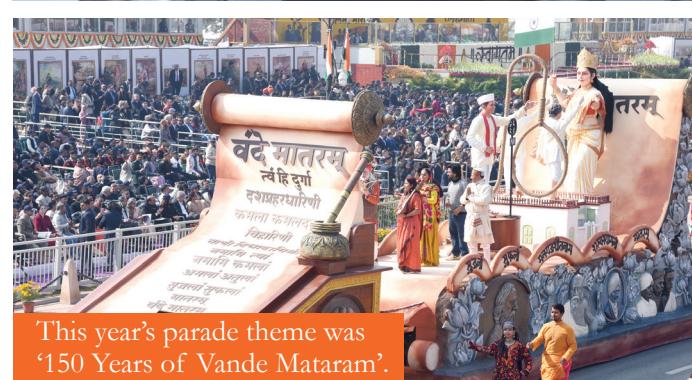
PM Modi welcoming the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, on Kartavya Path.



PM Modi waving to citizens on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

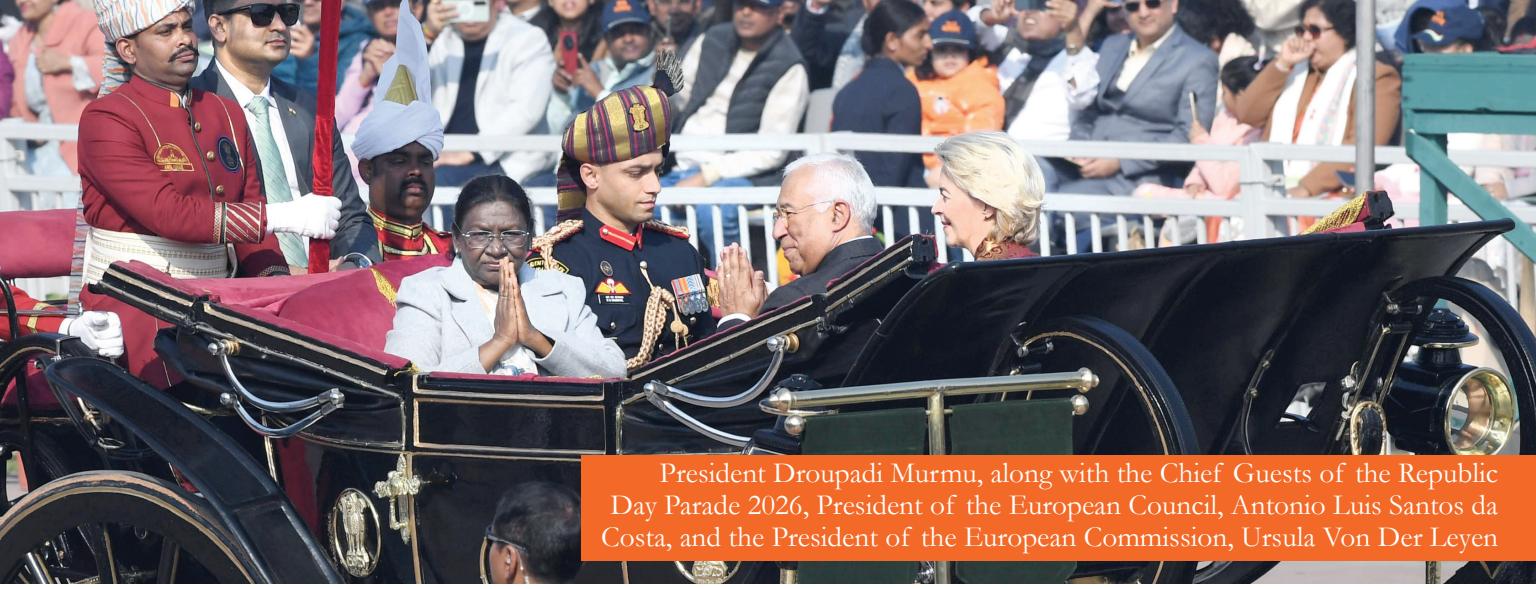


Prime Minister Narendra Modi proceeds towards the National War Memorial with the Defence Minister and the three Service Chiefs on Republic Day.

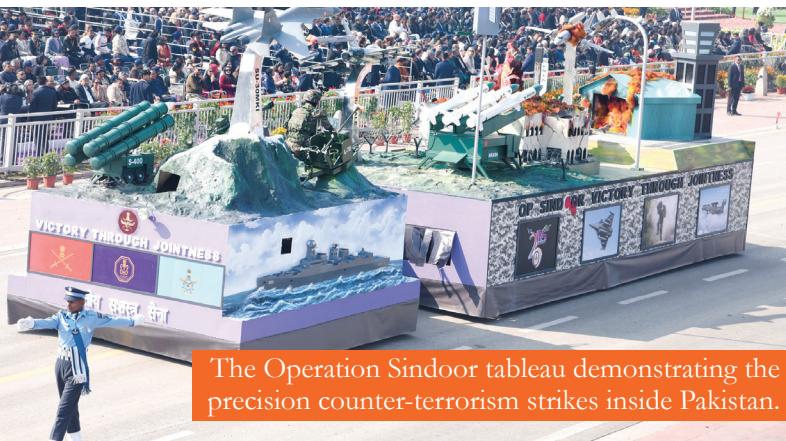


This year's parade theme was '150 Years of Vande Mataram'.





President Droupadi Murmu, along with the Chief Guests of the Republic Day Parade 2026, President of the European Council, Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen



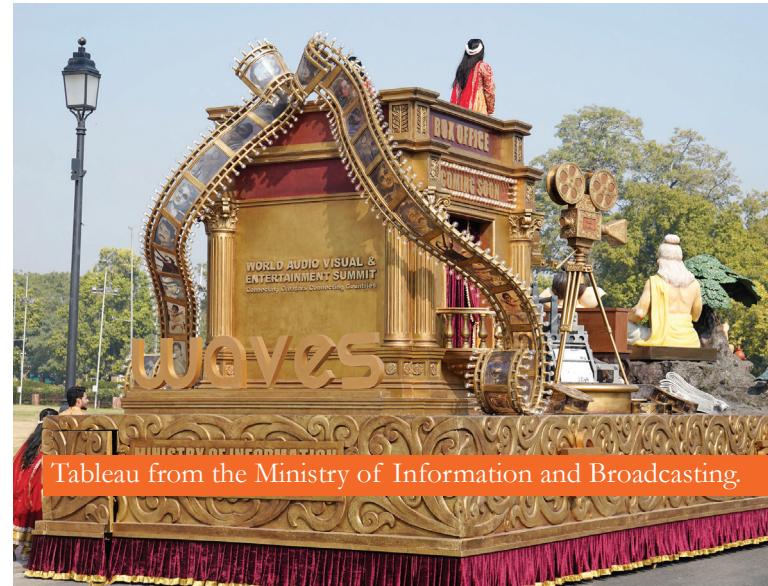
The Operation Sindoora tableau demonstrating the precision counter-terrorism strikes inside Pakistan.



For the first time, Simran Bala, a daughter of Jammu and Kashmir, led a male contingent of the CRPF

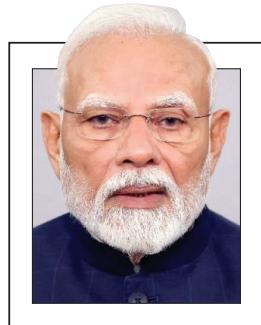


Artists from various parts of the country brought the soul of India to life on Kartavya Path



Kashi-Tamil Sangamam

A Vibrant Symbol of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat



 Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Kashi's connection with Tamil people and culture is very deep. It is in Kashi that Baba Vishwanath resides, while Tamil Nadu has Rameswaram. Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu is known as Kashi of the South or Dakshin Kashi.



Scan the QR code to read the Prime Minister's article.

The confluence of one of the world's oldest languages and one of the world's oldest cities has always been extraordinary. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is a celebration of such a relationship that has been ingrained in the Indian imagination for centuries. For countless pilgrims, scholars, and seekers, the journey between Tamil Nadu and Kashi was never merely a physical movement but a movement of ideas, languages, and living traditions. Read Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special article on Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, a vibrant symbol of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat

A few days ago, I was in the sacred land of Somnath to be part of the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on Somnath, which took place in 1026. People from all across India had come to be part of this moment of remembrance, united by a shared reverence for history, culture and the enduring spirit of the people of India. During the programme, I met a few people who had previously come to Somnath during the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam and had been to Kashi during the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam. Their words of appreciation for such platforms touched me, and so, I thought of sharing a few thoughts on this subject.

During one of the Mann Ki Baat programmes, I had said that not learning Tamil is a major regret of my life. Fortunately, over the last few years, our Government has had several opportunities to further popularise Tamil culture across India and to deepen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' A prime example of such an effort is the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam. In our ethos, Sangam or confluence has a special place. Seen in this light, the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam stands out as a truly distinctive initiative, one that celebrates the living unity



of India's many traditions while honouring their unique identities.

And what can be a better place than Kashi to host such a Sangamam. The same Kashi, which has remained a civilisational anchor from time immemorial... where, for thousands of years, people from all over have come in search of knowledge, meaning and Moksha.

Kashi's connection with Tamil people and culture is very deep. It is in Kashi that Baba Vishwanath resides, while Tamil Nadu has Rameswaram. Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu is known as Kashi of the south or Dakshin Kashi. Saint Kumaraguruparar Swamigal forged a lasting link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu through his spirituality, scholarship and institution-building. Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, one of Tamil Nadu's greatest sons, found in Kashi a space of intellectual growth and spiritual awakening. It was here that his nationalism deepened, his poetry sharpened and his vision of a free, united India took clearer shape. There are several such instances that highlight this close bond.

The first edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam took place in 2022. I recall attending the inauguration programme. Scholars, artisans, students, farmers, writers, professionals and many others from Tamil Nadu travelled to Kashi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

Subsequent editions expanded the scale and depth of this effort. The aim was to keep introducing fresh themes, innovative formats and deeper engagement, thus ensuring that the Sangamam continued to evolve while remaining rooted in its core spirit. In the second edition in 2023, technology was used on a larger scale to ensure that language does not become

a barrier for people. In the third edition, the focus was on Indian knowledge systems. At the same time, academic discussions, cultural performances, exhibitions and interactions witnessed greater participation. Thousands of people have taken part in these events.

The fourth edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam commenced on 2nd December 2025. The theme picked was very interesting- Tamil Karkalam - Learn Tamil. It presented a unique opportunity for people in Kashi and other parts to learn the beautiful Tamil language. Teachers came from Tamil Nadu and the students of Kashi had a very memorable experience!

There were many other special events this time.

Tholkappiyam, the ancient Tamil literary classic, was translated into 4 Indian languages and 6 foreign languages.

A unique event, Sage Agasthya Vehicle Expedition (SAVE), was undertaken from Tenkasi to Kashi. On the way, various initiatives such as eye camps, health awareness camps, digital literacy camps, among other things, were held. The expedition paid homage to King Adi Veera Parakrama Pandiyan, the great Pandya ruler who spread the message of cultural oneness. There were exhibitions at Namo Ghat, academic sessions at Banaras Hindu University, as well as cultural programmes.

One of the things that makes me most happy about the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is the participation of thousands of youngsters. It illustrates the passion among our Yuva Shakti to deepen their connect with our roots. It is a brilliant platform for them to showcase their talent and creativity during the various cultural programmes.

In addition to the Sangamam, efforts have been made to make the journey to Kashi memorable for the participants. The Indian Railways operated special trains to take people from Tamil Nadu to Uttar Pradesh. In many railway stations, particularly in Tamil Nadu, they were cheered, and the train journey was marked by melodious songs and conversations.

Here, I would also like to appreciate my sisters and brothers of Kashi and Uttar Pradesh for their warmth and hospitality shown to the delegates of the various Kashi-Tamil Sangamams. Several people opened the doors of their homes for the guests from Tamil Nadu. The local administration worked round the clock to ensure the guests had a seamless experience. As the MP from Varanasi, I could not be prouder!

This time, the valedictory function of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam was held in Rameswaram and it was graced by the Vice President of India, Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji, who is himself a proud son of Tamil Nadu. He delivered a very inspiring address, emphasising India's spiritual greatness and how such platforms

deepen national integration.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam has delivered meaningful outcomes like strengthening cultural understanding, fostering academic and people-to-people exchanges and creating lasting bonds between parts of the country that share a civilisational ethos. In the coming times, we want to make this platform even more vibrant. Most importantly, it has furthered the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' This spirit has flourished for centuries through our festivals, literature, music, art, cuisine, architecture, systems of knowledge and more.

This time of the year is very auspicious for people across the length and breadth of India. People are enthusiastically marking various festivals like Sankranti, Uttarayan, Pongal, Magh Bihu, which are, among other things, associated with the Sun, nature and farming. These festivals bring people together and deepen the spirit of harmony in our society. I convey my best wishes for these festivals and hope they continue to inspire us to deepen national unity through our shared heritage and collective participation. ●





Mutual Cooperation giving impetus to India-Germany Partnership

The relationship between India and Germany has transitioned from bilateral cooperation to a partnership that has become a crucial pillar of global peace, economic stability, and technological innovation. Shared democratic values, a rules-based international order, and a belief in multilateralism have made the two countries natural partners. Several important decisions regarding the shared future of both countries were taken during the German Chancellor's two-day visit to India...

To elevate India-Germany relations to new heights, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited India from January 12th to 13th. During this visit, several important issues were discussed, and agreements were reached between the two countries. Addressing the India-Germany CEO Forum meeting in Ahmedabad during the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Chancellor Merz chose India as his destination for his first Asia trip. This reflects India's central role in Germany's diversification strategy. The two large democratic economies in the world of defense will further deepen cooperation in critical and emerging technologies. Both countries are mutual partners in semiconductors. There are also immense opportunities in areas such as power electronics, biotech, fintech, pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and cybersecurity. The India-Germany partnership is not only mutually beneficial but also better for the world. India is moving towards becoming a world leader in green hydrogen, solar, wind, and biofuels. This presents significant manufacturing

Topics discussed in detail

Defense and security, trade and economy, technology, innovation, science and research, green and sustainable development partnership/renewable energy, Indo-Pacific, connectivity and global issues, education, skill development, mobility, and culture.

opportunities for German companies in areas such as solar cells, electrolyzers, batteries, and wind turbines. India has an all-inclusive vision for artificial intelligence, and when the German AI ecosystem connects with it, we can ensure a human-centric digital future.

Following a joint meeting with German Chancellor Merz, Prime Minister Modi stated that India is fully committed to further strengthening its friendship and partnership with Germany. Last year, India and Germany celebrated 25 years of their strategic partnership. This year, both countries are also celebrating

At a glance...

- Concrete steps were taken to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the sports sector.
- An agreement was reached to develop a comprehensive roadmap for higher education, which will create new partnerships in the field of education.
- German universities have been invited to open their campuses in India.
- Germany announced visa-free transit for Indian citizens.
- The German Maritime Museum will collaborate with the National Maritime Heritage Complex being built in Lothal, Gujarat.
- Gujarat Ayurveda University will expand its cooperation with Germany in the field of traditional medicine.

75 years of diplomatic relations. These milestones are not merely achievements in time; they are symbols of our shared ambitions, mutual trust, and continuously strengthening cooperation. Growing trade and investment ties have given new energy to the strategic partnership between the two countries. Bilateral trade between the two countries has now crossed its highest level ever, exceeding \$50 billion.

India and Germany share similar priorities in the field of renewable energy. To enhance cooperation in this area, both countries have decided to establish the Indo-German Centre for Excellence. This will serve as a shared platform for knowledge, technology, and innovation. The new mega-project by companies from both countries in green hydrogen will prove to be a game-changer for the energy of the future. Both countries have also decided to work on a roadmap to foster cooperation between their defense industries, which will open up new opportunities for co-development and co-production.

India's talented youth are making a significant contribution to the German economy. The joint statement issued on the Global Skill Partnership is a testament to this trust. This will particularly facilitate the movement of healthcare professionals. The impact of the friendship between the two countries is also visible on the global stage. Joint projects in countries like Ghana,



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Sabarmati Ashram and participated in the kite festival.

Cameroon, and Malawi demonstrate that trilateral development partnerships are a successful model for the world. Both countries have decided to continue their joint efforts for the development of countries in the Global South, for which they will be launching a consultation mechanism.

Both countries discussed in detail several global and regional issues, including Ukraine and Gaza. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India has always advocated for the peaceful resolution of all problems and disputes and supports all efforts being made in this direction. Both countries agreed that terrorism is a serious threat to humanity. India and Germany will continue to fight against it together with full determination. Both countries agreed that reforms in global institutions are crucial to address global challenges. Our joint efforts through the G4 for reforms in the United Nations Security Council are a testament to this thinking. ●

50th Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard: February 1, 2026

Samudra Pratap

India's Swadeshi Prowess in the Seas

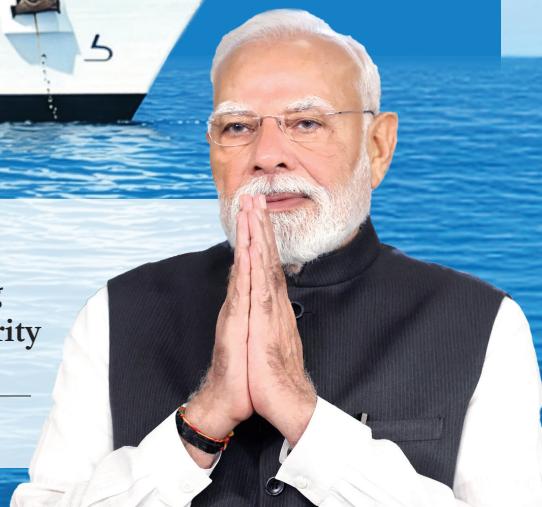
The Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 50th Raising Day on February 1, 2026. This year's celebration is special because the Indian Coast Guard, a reliable maritime force of India, inducted its largest and the country's first indigenously built pollution control vessel, 'Samudra Pratap'. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned 'Samudra Pratap' into the Indian Coast Guard in Goa on January 5, 2026. This vessel is a symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and demonstrates the growing strength of the Indian Coast Guard...



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The commissioning of the Indian Coast Guard vessel 'Samudra Pratap' is noteworthy for several reasons, including strengthening our vision of self-reliance, bolstering our security apparatus, and reflecting our commitment to sustainability.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



**NEW INDIA
SAMACHAR**
FORTNIGHTLY

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