

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



For e-copy



12th International Day of Yoga

India's Timeless Sutra for a Healthier World

International Day of Yoga—a global celebration of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being—has emerged as a powerful medium for connecting people across nations and cultures. Today, this ancient gift of India has evolved into a worldwide movement, opening new pathways toward better public health and inner peace

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The Glorious Chola Empire: Pride in History and Culture



Every month, the popular radio program 'Mann Ki Baat' receives a lot many messages from various parts of the country. Through this program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a public-centric dialogue with the citizens. In the 134th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat,' broadcast on May 31, 2026, Prime Minister Modi shared suggestions for protection against the summer heat and advised listeners to stay hydrated. Also, he spoke on several significant topics, including the rich history and culture of the Chola Empire. Presented here are edited highlights from 'Mann Ki Baat'...

- **National Records:** The National Senior Athletics Federation Competition was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Approximately 800 athletes from across the country participated in the event. During the competition, four national records were broken across four different events.
- **Protection Against the Heat:** Currently, most parts of the country are experiencing intense heat. With scorching sunshine and hot winds, it is crucial to take proper care of yourself during such weather. Keep yourself hydrated by drinking plenty of water. If you must venture out into the sun, do so with caution. Furthermore, do not forget to follow the guidelines issued by various government departments regarding heat safety.
- **Sattu Sherbet:** In Bihar, Jharkhand, and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Sattu Sherbet is simply amazing. It fills the stomach and provides strength.
- **Copper Plates:** During a visit to Netherlands, a moment arrived that filled every Indian with pride. During a special ceremony held there, ancient copper plates dating back to the Chola era were handed back to India.
- **Astronomy:** In our country, astronomy has sparked curiosity in every generation. It has inspired exploration; a lot of enthusiasm is visible in today's youth.
- **Dolphins:** The Dolphin Rescue Ambulance has been designed to function as a mobile hospital. It is equipped with facilities to ensure the safety of dolphins, including oxygen support, specialized stretchers, and rescue tools. This means that if a dolphin is injured or gets trapped in a canal, immediate assistance can be provided.
- **Biodiversity:** When we save the Ganges Dolphin, we are not merely saving a single species; we are preserving the biodiversity of the Ganges. We safeguard the river's entire ecosystem and, in doing so, preserve an invaluable natural heritage for our future generations.
- **Service doesn't require vast resources:** In Aluva, Keralam, Saji Valasheril has taught over 15,000 people how to swim. He launched this initiative following the anguish caused by a boat tragedy in which several students lost their lives. His life teaches us that one does not necessarily need vast resources to engage in service; what is truly required is a noble intention and unwavering perseverance.
- **The Spirit of Patriotism:** Girija Amma runs close to 15 schools, among which the Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya in Chennai stands out as a prominent institution. Her spirit of patriotism serves as an inspiration to every Indian citizen.
- **The Power of the People:** In every village and city across India, something inspiring is constantly taking place. Often, these efforts do not receive widespread attention; yet, when we become aware of them, our conviction is reinforced—the belief that our nation is progressing through the collective strength of its people.
- **Good Deeds:** I urge you to actively look out for such initiatives in your own surroundings. Identify those who are doing good work for society; acknowledge and appreciate their efforts, learn from them, and—if possible—join in and contribute to a noble cause yourself.

Scan the QR code to listen
to the 'Mann Ki Baat'



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EDITOR IN CHIEF

DHIRENDRA OJHA

Principal Director General,
Press Information Bureau,
New Delhi

CHIEF CONSULTING EDITOR

SANTOSH KUMAR

SENIOR ASST. CONSULTING EDITOR

PAWAN KUMAR

ASST. CONSULTING EDITORS

AKHILESH KUMAR

CHANDAN KUMAR CHOUDHARY

LANGUAGE EDITORS

SUMIT KUMAR (ENGLISH)

RAJNEESH MISHRA (ENGLISH)

NADEEM AHMED (URDU)

SENIOR DESIGNER

PHOOL CHAND TIWARI

DESIGNERS

ABHAY GUPTA

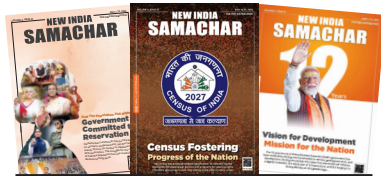
SATYAM SINGH

On the inside pages...



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This year, June 21st marks the 12th International Day of Yoga—a truly special occasion. As this year also marks the completion of 12 years of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the month of June has transformed into a month of celebration. | 8-17



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Padma Awards 2026



Honoring the Nation's Heroes...



66 distinguished personalities
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From Europe to the Gulf

A Showcase of India's Rising Global Power

PM Modi's visits to the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy serve as a powerful display of India's new global strategy. | 28-32

Published: Kanchan Prasad, Director General, on behalf of Central Bureau of Communication
Communication Address : Room No-1077, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi -110003.

E-Mail : response-nis@pib.gov.in, RNI No. : DELENG/2020/78811

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Yoga: India's Ancient Heritage, The World's Identity

Greetings!

The month of June brings with it a time for celebration. On one hand, this month marks the completion of 12 years of the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi; on the other, the world is celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga. This auspicious convergence of the number 12 has transformed this period into a confluence of opportunity and festivity.

In today's fast-paced life, yoga promotes a balance between the mind, body, intellect, and soul, thereby infusing a sense of peace into an individual's life. By connecting the individual to their family, yoga paves the way for happiness and well-being. By fostering sensitivity towards society within families, it strengthens social harmony. This very society builds the foundation of national unity and disseminates a message of peace and amity across the globe. Thus, yoga serves to connect the individual, the family, society, the nation, the world, and all of humanity.

In 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts garnered unprecedented support from the global community; consequently, International Day of Yoga began to be celebrated annually on June 21st, starting from 2015. While

the tradition of yoga in India dates back approximately 5,000 years, its recognition by the United Nations General Assembly bestowed upon it a global identity. Concurrently, economic activities associated with yoga expanded, giving fresh momentum to both healthcare and economic empowerment. Today, yoga has emerged as India's global identity. Every year, June 21st is observed as International Day of Yoga. This very theme is the cover story of our current issue.

Also, in the personality section, read about Vinita Soren—the first Indian tribal woman to conquer Mount Everest. Union Cabinet Decisions, the PM's foreign visit, Rojgar Mela, and the 51st PRAGATI meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with his fortnightly events, are the other highlights. Additionally, Mann Ki Baat on the inside page and International MSME Day, observed annually on June 27th on the back cover, are also part of this issue.

Kindly keep sending us your suggestions



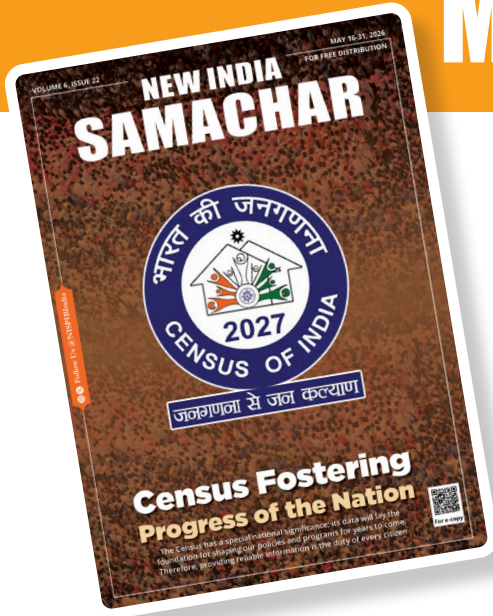
(Dhirendra Ojha)



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MAIL BOX



The Magazine Deeply Touches the Hearts of Readers

‘New India Samachar’ highlights key schemes and the spirit of ‘New India.’ I believe that this constructive content is written from the perspective of an informed citizen—one that deeply touches the hearts of readers. My heartfelt thanks for your valuable time and for your remarkable work in documenting India’s progress.

Raja Muthyala

rajaa.muthyala@gmail.com

India Progressing at a Rapid Pace

I had the opportunity to read an online article in New India Samachar. Our India is progressing at the fast pace. I take pride in every woman who works towards the nation’s progress. Through ‘Operation Sindoor,’ the world witnessed India’s unique strength.

jamesdevassy603@gmail.com

The Nation Marches on the Path of Development

Under the leadership of the country’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, I came to know for the very first time about the historical significance of the Vedic Clock of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. It is the nation’s good fortune that, thanks to Prime Minister Modi’s management and visionary thinking, our country, India, is marching forward on the path of development. Furthermore, this serves as an inspiration for generations to come; the future generation is becoming increasingly aware.

Neeraj Kumar Agarwal

neerajagarwal951@gmail.com

Best wishes on publishing an Inspiring and useful fortnightly

I wholeheartedly commend the cover story titled “New India and Women-Led Leadership,” published in the May 1–15, 2026 edition of New India Samachar. This feature beautifully illustrated how women are emerging as the true drivers of change and nation-building in ‘New India.’ The lines—“She was not meant to be confined within predetermined boundaries... rather, she was meant to forge new paths”—were particularly inspiring. The article also effectively highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision and commitment toward empowering Nari Shakti and strengthening women-led development. Congratulations to the editorial team for publishing such an inspiring feature.

michaelbks@gmail.com

Delighted to Learn of All the Latest Development News and Initiatives

Kindly accept my heartfelt congratulations on this comprehensive magazine covering the ongoing journey of development in the country. I am a regular reader of this publication. I am truly delighted to stay informed about all the latest development news and initiatives undertaken by the government.

Manmohan Bahed

man.bahed82@gmail.com

Communication Address : Room No-1077, Sookna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi -110003

E-Mail: response-nis@pib.gov.in



Viksit Bharat-G RAM G to Come into Force from July 1st

The 'Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission'—or the 'Viksit Bharat-G RAM G' Act—which aims to provide a new direction to rural development and employment in India, is set to come into force across the country starting July 1, 2026. Under this new framework, every adult member of the rural household who applies to undertake unskilled manual labor will be provided with a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage-based employment in each financial year. This represents an increase of 25 days over the 100-day employment guarantee currently provided under MGNREGA.

Employment shall be provided to workers against their demand for work within the prescribed

timeframe, failing which workers shall remain entitled to unemployment allowance in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Wages will be disbursed directly into the workers' bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), either on a weekly basis or within 15 days of the closure of the muster roll. Should this payment schedule not be adhered to, workers will be eligible to receive compensation for the delay, in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Existing e-KYC verified MGNREGA Job Cards will remain valid under the 'Viksit Bharat-G RAM G' scheme until the new Rural Employment Guarantee Cards are issued. No worker shall be denied employment solely on the grounds of pending e-KYC verification.

Inauguration of Naval Sailing Node in Bhopal

On May 17, 2026, the Indian Navy inaugurated its flagship Naval Sailing Node at Bhopal's renowned Upper Lake—also known as Bhojtal. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, this sailing node will be extensively used to train the Indian Navy's sailing team, its rowing, canoeing, and kayaking teams, as well as the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Currently, out of the 34 members comprising the Naval Sailing Team, 17 hail from the state of Madhya Pradesh. The objective of this facility is to inspire a greater number of the state's youth to take up competitive water sports and to encourage them to join the defense forces. This initiative marks a significant step toward realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of fostering world-class sporting talent for the Olympic and Asian Games.



Launch of the 'Coffees of Nagaland' Mission

A cluster-based 'Coffee Value Chain Development Mission' has been launched for Nagaland. The framework for the 'Coffees of Nagaland' mission has been outlined with an outlay of ₹175 crore. This mission has been designed to ensure that the measures incorporated align with ground-level realities and the aspirations of the coffee-producing communities. This mission is consistent with a cluster-based approach. Furthermore, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Minister for Development of the North Eastern Region and Communications, has also launched Arunachal Kiwi: Arunachal Pradesh's USP — A Cluster-based Kiwi Cultivation and Value Chain Development Mission for the State of Arunachal Pradesh.



India's First Swadeshi Hydrogen Train

India's first swadeshi hydrogen train is ready to hit the tracks. This futuristic, smoke-free, and pollution-free train—powered by a 1200-kilowatt engine—will operate at a maximum speed of 75 kilometers per hour. Indian Railways has approved running this 10-coach, hydrogen fuel-cell-based train on the Jind-Sonipat section of the Northern Railway. This initiative is being hailed as a significant milestone in the development of next-generation fuel technology within the railway sector.

With the launch of this hydrogen train initiative, India has now joined an elite club of select nations—including Germany, Japan, China, and the United States—that are actively exploring the potential of utilizing hydrogen for clean rail transportation. Embodying a “New India” with “New Thinking and New Energy,” this hydrogen train emits only water vapor. Powered by clean energy and featuring indigenous technology and safe operations, this train represents a pivotal step forward in India's journey toward achieving zero carbon emissions.



'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' to Run Nationwide Until June 30

The 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' is not merely an awareness program; rather, it is a comprehensive national campaign connecting the farm, the farmer, and the village, and is being taken to every village across the country. The campaign focuses on reducing the use of chemical fertilizers—specifically, their unbalanced application. Farmers will be provided with various forms of information, including guidance on the balanced and appropriate use of fertilizers based on soil testing.



Formation of the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change'

Unnatural demographic changes—driven by infiltration and other factors—pose a formidable challenge to the present and future of any nation. To address this very challenge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of a “High-Level Committee on Demographic Change” on August 15, 2025—a proposal that received Cabinet approval on September 11, 2025. The government has now formally constituted this committee. This committee will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the demographic shifts occurring across India due to illegal migration and other anomalous causes; furthermore, it will analyze patterns of abnormal population changes at the level of specific religious and social communities. Concurrently, it will present a systematic and time-bound plan for resolving these issues. ●

Date of Birth: June 21, 1987



The First Indian Tribal Woman to Conquer Mount Everest

Vinita Soren of Jharkhand made history by becoming the first tribal woman to conquer Mount Everest. The heights that Vinita scaled at the age of 25 are a testament to a story of sheer hard work and indomitable courage. By touching the summit of the world's highest peak, she proved that dreams are not bound by any social limitations. Having journeyed from a small village in Jharkhand to the world's highest peak, Vinita Soren has today become an inspiration for girls across the entire nation.

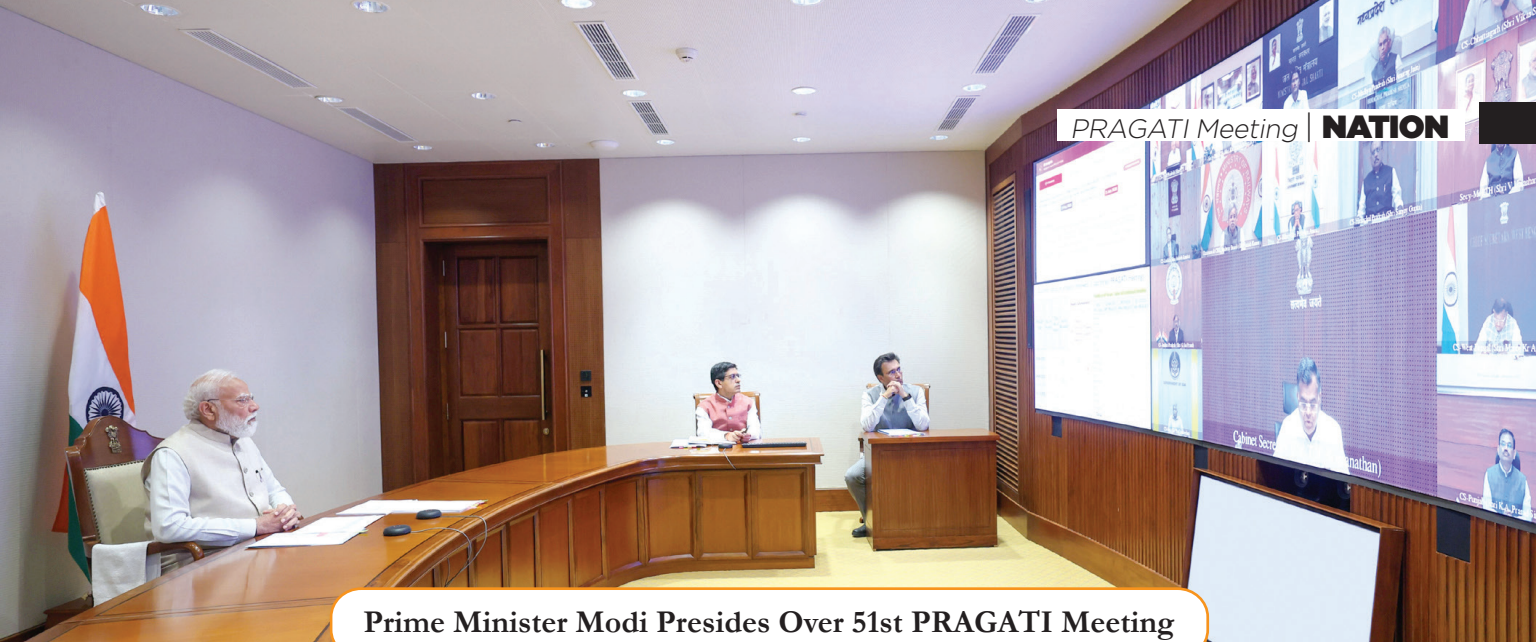
Vinita, who scaled Mount Everest, achieved a remarkable feat despite coming from a tribal background. Life in a tribal area was dependent on working in the fields, limited education, and limited dreams; yet, Vinita's dreams soared even higher than Everest itself. Born on June 21, 1987, Vinita not only conquered Mount Everest but, driven by her passion, spirit, and sheer determination, also brought a new identity to the Indian tribal community.

A daughter from the Kolhan region, Vinita Soren, spent her childhood surrounded by fields. In her village and surrounding areas, teaching or nursing was considered the only career option for girls, but her dream was completely different. It took her seven years of hard work before she finally conquered Everest. During this time, she learned that mountaineering is not just a test of strength but also of mental strength, courage, and determination. The extreme cold and snowfall brought her many challenging moments. She often felt like she had no clear ambition, but courage, perseverance, and a passion

to conquer the world took her to the highest peak of the snow-capped mountain.

In 2004, Vinita first met Bachendri Pal and, inspired by her, set her goal of becoming a mountaineer. Bachendri Pal, the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, trained Vinita. Coming from a tribal and farming family, she lacked motivation to become a mountaineer. Just leaving home was as tall a task as climbing Mount Everest, but her family trusted her and encouraged her to move forward. After rigorous training, when Bachendri Pal told Vinita that she was ready for Everest, she couldn't resist. Finally, she conquered Everest. She subsequently conquered many other peaks. Today, her family is known by her name.

Vinita, a native of Keshorsora village in Jharkhand's Saraikela Kharsawan district, was supported by Tata Steel in her Everest expedition as part of its corporate social responsibility. This ascent of a rural tribal girl to the world's highest peak, at 8,848 meters, became a record in itself. She has received numerous honors and awards across the country for her achievements. ●



Prime Minister Modi Presides Over 51st PRAGATI Meeting

Emphasis on Regular Monitoring and Public Participation

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) has emerged as a crucial and effective platform for digital governance in India. Under the regular chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this platform has played a pivotal role in fast-tracking numerous major projects since March 2015. Continuing this initiative, Prime Minister Modi presided over the 51st PRAGATI meeting on May 27 to ensure better and time-bound governance by synergizing the efforts of the Central and State governments...

Presiding over the 51st meeting of PRAGATI—an ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform—Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed seven infrastructure projects spanning the railway, power, and road sectors, with a combined cost of approximately ₹30,000 crore. During the meeting, PM Modi emphasized that

delays in the implementation of public projects not only lead to cost escalations but also result in delays in delivering amenities to the common citizens. He stated that every delay has a direct impact on people's lives, regional development, and public resources. In this context, he urged ministries, departments, and states to adopt a proactive approach to resolve pending issues, remove bottlenecks, and expedite the completion of work.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Project should serve as a model for other states, enabling them to resolve water-related issues among themselves through mutual consensus. He urged the states to expedite the completion of infrastructure related to solid waste management—including waste processing plants and 'GOBARdhan' plants—as soon as possible. Meanwhile, acting upon the Prime Minister's advice, a mechanism for the monthly review of social sector schemes has been initiated at the state level, commencing with a review of the Swachh Bharat Mission. ●

PM Modi Reviews Key Projects

- Seven infrastructure projects spanning the railway, power, and road sectors.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and the Ken-Betwa Link Project.
- A call to expand rooftop solar coverage in urban areas on a mission-mode basis.

₹30,000 crore worth of projects, spread across nine states, were reviewed





12 Years of International Day of Yoga

Yoga Emerges as the World's Largest Cultural Celebration

“योगश्चित्तवृत्तिनिरोधः” Yoga is the cessation of fluctuations of thoughts in chitta or Mind. The 2014 initiative to establish a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH to integrate Yoga, Ayurveda, and other traditional systems of medicine into the country's healthcare services, along with the start of celebrating the International Day of Yoga globally from June 21, 2015, was a turning point. Yoga is a hallmark of our civilization, keeping us healthy and well-balanced in every respect. Today, fostered by the strength of Yoga, India is demonstrating the formidable influence of its 'soft power' across the entire world...

This year, June 21st marks the 12th International Day of Yoga, coinciding with a truly special occasion. As this year also marks 12 years of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, June has become a month of celebration...

Whether ordinary masses or dignitaries, young or old, woman or child, believer or non-believer—today, 'Yoga' has become an integral part of the physical, energetic, mental, and emotional identity of people across all age groups. Transcending the boundaries of religion, sect, caste, rich, poor, and even the national borders that divide countries, it has emerged as a universal language for the entire world. It was precisely this unique characteristic of Yoga that the great Sanskrit poet Bhartrhari extolled centuries ago in his 'Shataktrayam'.

धैर्यं यस्य पिता क्षमा च जननी शान्तिश्चिरं गेहिनी
सत्यं सूनुरयं दया च भगिनी भ्राता मनः संयमः।
शय्या भूमितलं दिशोऽपि वसनं ज्ञानामृतं भोजनं
एते यस्य कुटुम्बिनः वद सखे कस्माद् भयं योगिनः॥

The meaning of this verse, articulated centuries ago, is that through the regular practice of yoga, certain virtues become akin to our own kith and kin. The practice of yoga cultivates courage, which invariably protects us like a father; it fosters a spirit of forgiveness—much like a mother's love for her children—and mental peace becomes our steadfast companion. Bhartrhari has observed that through regular yoga practice, truth becomes our offspring, compassion our sister, self-restraint our brother, the very earth our bed, and wisdom the sustenance that appeases our hunger. When one is accompanied by such a multitude of virtues, the yogi triumphs over every form of fear.



Indeed, while health insurance is rarely available for free, yoga stands as the sole guarantee of good health that offers such assurance at zero cost. Consequently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi states: "In this century, we are witnessing how yoga has united the world. Just as yoga harmonizes the body, mind, intellect, and soul, so too it is uniting the world today. Everyone aspires to lead a stress-free, disease-free, and joyful life; if there is a single path through which all these aspirations can be realized, that path is yoga. If one wishes to discover how to lead a truly holistic and balanced life—and to experience that inner journey toward wellness of body, mind, thought, and conduct—it is through yoga that this becomes possible."

Yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise; rather, it embodies a quest to discover a sense of oneness—with oneself, with the world, and with nature. Within just four months of assuming office as Prime Minister, on September 27, 2014, PM Modi took the initiative to elevate yoga to a global platform; this initiative was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2014, leading to the recognition of June 21st as the International Day of Yoga.

YOGA BECOMES A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्॥—Meaning: excellence in Yoga. This mantra teaches us that through Yoga, one cultivates the capacity to become more capable in life. If we perform our duties with discipline and fulfill our responsibilities, that, too, constitutes a form of Yoga. Embodying this very mantra, India has established Yoga as a "soft power" by securing international recognition for it; furthermore, by linking Yoga with Karma Yoga, it has manifold increased the developmental potential of the individual, society, and the nation.

While holding the presidency of the G-20—the world's most influential bloc—India strengthened the identity of Indian civilization by making Yoga a distinct and integral part of every G-20 event. In 2014, by establishing a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH, India initiated the integration of Yoga—alongside Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine—into its healthcare services. It is due to these efforts by India that the world began observing the International Day of Yoga from June 21, 2015. The result of these endeavors is that Yoga—India's most ancient and rich tradition—has emerged as a potent tool for disease prevention, and the world has come to realize



When we adopt the path of Yoga driven by the spirit of Karma Yoga our strength, whether as individuals, as a society, or as a nation, multiplies manifold. Today, we must resolve with this very spirit: that we will make every possible effort to safeguard our own health and the health of our loved ones. As vigilant citizens, we will move forward together united as families and as a society.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

the power inherent in it. Today, Yoga is evolving into a shared foundation for global cooperation. Today, Yoga offers the promise of a disease-free life to all of humanity. Yoga—which just a few years ago was confined to homes



Research in Yoga

100 | districts across India were covered in a multi-centric nationwide research study that found Yoga to be effective in controlling diabetes

- Approximately 6x increase in the publication of research papers, and a rise of 11% in clinical trials. Over 20 research papers from the Centre for Integrative Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, have been published in international journals.
- Among patients who practiced Yoga, the risk of cancer recurrence was reduced by approximately 15 percent.
- A research paper published in the journal *Neurology* highlighted the benefits of Yoga in managing migraines. Reversal of pre-diabetes is possible through Yoga, a finding that was commended by the American Diabetes Association.
- The AYUSH Research Portal alone lists approx. 1,426 research studies related to Yoga and Naturopathy.

Increasing Participation in International Day of Yoga

- The number of participants in CYP-based friendly yoga demonstrations during IDY 2016 was estimated at approximately 8.5 million, a figure that surged to nearly 90 million by IDY 2019.
- In IDY 2022, this number reached approximately 221.3 million, while in IDY 2023, the count stood at around 234.4 million.
- Participation reached 245.3 million in IDY 2024 and surpassed the 260-million mark in IDY 2025.
- For IDY 2026, it is projected figure for participation in CYP-based friendly yoga demonstrations on June 21st will exceed 270M.

and spiritual centers—is now popular across the globe.

Yoga has now transformed into a global celebration, for it is not meant merely for an individual, but for the

welfare of humanity. As the world celebrates International Day of Yoga this year, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks the completion of a 12-year

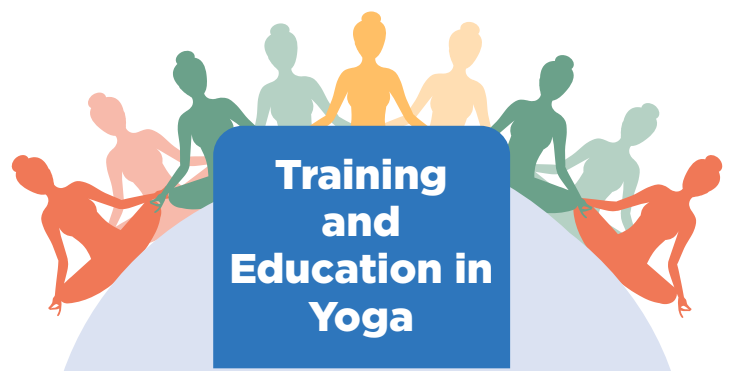
journey. In Indian culture, a period of 12 years holds special significance; for an ascetic, it is considered equivalent to an entire Yuga. Concurrently, India continues to advance steadily toward its ambitious goal of becoming a developed nation.

THE GLOBAL MARKET FOR YOGA EXPANDS

Today marks a time when the boundless possibilities of yoga can be realized. Young people are entering the field of yoga in large numbers, bringing with them innovative ideas. In this direction, the Ministry of AYUSH has also launched the 'Startup Yoga Challenge.' The greatest strength of the AYUSH industry lies in the fact that it offers a diverse range of opportunities for everyone. For instance, today in India, approximately 40,000 MSMEs—or small-scale industries—within the AYUSH sector are offering a wide variety of products and undertaking numerous initiatives. These efforts are providing a significant boost to the local economy. Just 12 years ago, the country's AYUSH industry was valued at around ₹20,000 crore; today, however, it is approaching a valuation of approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore. In the times to come, this sector is poised for even greater expansion within the global market. Currently, the global market for herbal medicines and spices stands at \$120 billion—or roughly ₹10 lakh crore. This sector of traditional medicine is undergoing continuous expansion, and India stands ready to fully capitalize on every opportunity it presents. This growth will generate hundreds of thousands of new employment opportunities for the youth. In Jamnagar, Gujarat, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with India, has established a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Through initiatives such as this Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM), India is positioning itself as a global leader in the field of traditional medicine. This center represents a significant step towards promoting and conducting research on traditional medicine. It serves as a vital knowledge hub for evidence-based traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM) on a global scale. Furthermore, the Central Government has announced the establishment of three additional Ayurveda institutes, modeled after AIIMS.

THE WORLD RECOGNIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR YOGA

Another major facet of Ayurveda's growing popularity is



- Training holds special significance in the promotion and dissemination of yoga. With this in mind, the Ministry of AYUSH is providing training at various levels through institutions such as the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, among others.
- Currently, yoga courses have been incorporated into the curricula of approximately 183 universities across the country. These universities are conducting yoga programs.
- The Yoga Certification Board (YCB) was established specifically for yoga training and certification.
- According to the YCB, over 9,600 assessments, more than 480 examinations, and over 14 language-specific examinations have been conducted to date. Additionally, candidates from more than 56 countries have been evaluated.
- According to available data, there are currently around 30 million yoga practitioners worldwide. This number is projected to reach 35 million by the end of this decade.
- Currently, the activities of the Yoga Certification Board encompass the certification of yoga professionals, the verification of yoga organizations, the accreditation of certification bodies for yoga professionals, and the grading of yoga organizations in accordance with placement standards.
- Furthermore, departments dedicated to yoga have been established in universities located abroad. Over the past five years, there has been a significant surge in the number of yoga schools and studios across the globe. Yoga has secured the 7th position on the American College of Sports Medicine's top-10 list. The Government of India has now recognized Yoga as a competitive sport.



Yoga Tourism. Yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise; rather, it embodies a quest to discover a sense of oneness—with oneself, with the world, and with nature. This sentiment was affirmed when June 21st was officially designated as the International Day of Yoga—a proposal that garnered a record-breaking consensus, receiving the co-sponsorship of 177 nations within the 193-member United Nations General Assembly. In its resolution, the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged: “Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being. Furthermore, it establishes harmony across all spheres of

International Day of Yoga - 2026

The main event for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 will be held on June 21st in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. The theme for this year's celebration is ‘Yoga for Healthy Aging,’ which highlights the role of yoga in promoting physical health, mental well-being, and healthy aging.



life; therefore, the widespread dissemination of information regarding the benefits of practicing yoga for health among the global population would be beneficial.” With this, a new era of holistic health revolution was ushered in India—one founded on the principle of prevention rather than cure. When India tabled the proposal for Yoga at the United Nations, UN records show that it became the first such resolution to be co-sponsored by the vast majority of the world’s nations. Moreover, it also became the resolution to be adopted in the shortest span of time in the history of the United Nations.

EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE YOGA INTO THE MAINSTREAM

Following India's independence, efforts were indeed made to incorporate yoga into public health programs; however, these initiatives progressed so slowly that yoga failed to gain the recognition it deserved during that era. In 1976, the first Central Research Institute for Yoga (now the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga) was established. In 1978, the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy was founded. In 2003, the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy was renamed the Department of AYUSH. However, a major shot in the arm for this sector came on November 9, 2014, when a dedicated Ministry of AYUSH was established. Furthermore, following Prime Minister Modi's address at the United Nations—which garnered international recognition for yoga—it emerged as a mass movement across the globe. Moreover, in February 2016, the government



In today’s hustle and fast-paced life, yoga brings peace to an individual’s life by harmonizing the mind, body, intellect, and soul. By connecting the individual with their family, it fosters happiness within the family unit. By making families sensitive to the needs of society, it cultivates harmony within the community. Society, in turn, becomes the thread that binds the nation together in unity. Such nations bring peace and harmony to the world. Humanity flourishes and is nurtured through a spirit of brotherhood. In essence, yoga connects the individual, the family, society, the nation, the world, and all of humanity.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

constituted a specialized board: the National Board for Yoga and Naturopathy. Under this framework, experts from premier institutions such as AIIMS and IITs have been enlisted to enhance the quality of yoga training within the country. India plays a pivotal role in organizing the annual International Day of Yoga celebrations. Acting as the nodal ministry, the Ministry of AYUSH also issues a 'Common Yoga Protocol' for this occasion. Steps have also been taken to promote and disseminate yoga in rural areas by providing training to ASHA workers, thereby le-

Yoga 365... So That Yoga Becomes a Daily Practice, Not Just an Annual Celebration

Since its inception in 2015, International Day of Yoga has rapidly evolved into one of the world's largest health movements. Now, the Government of India aims to transform it from a one-day celebration into a daily habit. With this objective in mind, the 'Yoga 365' initiative has been launched. Its goal is to engage individuals, institutions, and communities in the regular practice of yoga throughout the entire year. Through consistent public participation, institutional collaboration, and the utilization of digital platforms, Yoga 365 strives to make health and wellness accessible, inclusive, and habit-driven for everyone. Under this initiative, the government has also agreed to provide free online yoga sessions. These sessions feature daily practice of simple yoga routines.

Asian Record Set for Collective Bhujangasana

Fifty days before the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21st, more than 6,000 participants simultaneously performed the Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose) at Kanha Shanti Vanam. This remarkable feat was officially recorded in the Asia Book of Records as the largest group ever to perform a yoga asana (pose) simultaneously. This reflects the spirit of collective participation and shared well-being promoted through yoga.

International Day of Yoga Gaining Popularity

2025



A formal event was held in Visakhapatnam, attended by over 300,000 people in the presence of PM Modi. Two Guinness World Records were set: 1. For the largest yoga session at a single location; 2. For the largest collective Surya Namaskar.

Theme: 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'

2024



Organised in Srinagar. Its theme highlighted the dual role of yoga in promoting both individual and social well-being.

Theme: 'Yoga for Self and Society'

2023



PM Modi led the celebrations at the United Nations Headquarters in 2023. The yoga event witnessed participation from 135 countries.

Theme: Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

2022



PM Modi performed yoga alongside other participants in Mysuru, Karnataka.

Theme: 'Yoga for Humanity'

2021



In light of the global pandemic, PM Modi delivered his address virtually. The WHO-mYoga app was launched.

Theme: 'Yoga for Wellness'

2020



Due to the global COVID-19 crisis, no public gatherings were held; however, the event was organized virtually.

Theme: 'Yoga at Home & Yoga with Family'

2019



Prime Minister Modi celebrated Yoga Day with participants in Ranchi.

Theme: Yoga for Heart Care

2018



Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed yoga with 50,000 participants in Dehradun.

Theme: Yoga for Peace

2017



Celebrated in Lucknow with 51,000 participants; here, PM Modi discussed its significance in one's lifestyle.

Theme: Yoga for Health

2016



A formal event was held in Chandigarh, where 30,000 people participated in the presence of PM Modi.

Theme: Yoga for SDGs

2015



Held on Kartavya Path in New Delhi, the event saw the participation of 35,985 individuals. Two Guinness World Records were set.

Theme: Yoga for Harmony and Peace

International Day of Yoga 2026 Theme: 'Yoga for Healthy Aging'

veraging them as conduits for outreach. For the first time, the Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports have jointly launched an initiative to recognize yoga as a competitive sport. Yoga has also been integrat-

ed as a key component of the 'Fit India Movement.' The study of yoga is now the need of the hour; recognizing this, the NCERT has incorporated yoga into the curriculum for classes 1 through 10, alongside Health and Physical



Education. Finally, under the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme, a concerted focus has been placed on providing yoga training across the country through a network of 12,500 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers.

IMMORTAL HERITAGE OF CULTURE

It is a matter of pride for Indians that today—from Dehradun to Dublin, from Shanghai to Chicago, and from Jakarta to Johannesburg—Yoga is ubiquitous. Whether amidst the tall peaks of the Himalayas, thousands of feet high, or within the scorching heat of the desert, Yoga enriches every life in every circumstance. Prime Minister Modi observes, "When divisive forces gain dominance, fragmentation ensues. Fragmentation occurs among individuals, within societies, and between nations. Walls are erected within society, discord grows within families, and individuals even break down internally as stress continues to mount in their lives. Amidst this fragmentation, Yoga unites; it serves the purpose of bringing people together."

Thanks to Yoga, numerous new Yoga institutes are emerging. The demand for Yoga instructors has surged. Today, young people are increasingly embracing Yoga as a profession, training themselves at these institutes to pursue it as a career. The global demand for Indian Yoga instructors is on the rise. Yoga has effectively created a new employment market at the global level. In all these endeavors, the people of India hold the most esteemed position globally. Just a few years ago, UNESCO officially recognized Indian Yoga as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." Organizations across the world are now integrating Yoga training into the curricula of schools and colleges. Today, several states within India have also incorporated Yoga into their educational frameworks, ensuring that future generations become acquainted with this centuries-old science, become practitioners of it, and allow it to become an integral part of their lives.

YOGA EMERGES AS A SOFT POWER

The global recognition of yoga has established it as a "soft power initiative

The Growing Yoga Market

- The history of yoga in India dates back approximately 5,000 years.
- According to a report by Allied Market Research, its global market was valued at \$37.5 billion in 2019.

\$66.4 billion global yoga market is expected by 2027.

\$156.11

billion was the estimated value of the global yoga tourism market in 2021.

5.8%

annual growth is projected for the global yoga tourism market between 2022 and 2030, according to a research study by www.grandviewresearch.com





Remains and seals from the Indus-Saraswati Valley Civilization, featuring depictions of people practicing yoga, serve as indicators of the presence of yoga in India.

25

million households in India have at least one member who practices yoga daily, according to a national survey



Driven by the global popularity of yoga, the international yoga market has witnessed a fivefold growth over the last decade.

Expanding Footprint of Yoga

6+

Lakh Yoga volunteers trained by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga

7+

Lakh Yoga professionals and volunteers certified under the framework of the Yoga Certification Board

70+

Colleges offering a Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS)

5,000+

Yoga training institutes

190+

Countries where International Day of Yoga is now celebrated

of India." A nation's intellectual and cultural influence—its soft power—reflects the creative aspirations of its society, while the government facilitates its advancement. Even before 2014, people practiced yoga abroad; however, inspired by PM Modi, the United Nations declared June 21 as the "International Day of Yoga," transforming it into a global celebration. Today, it stands as the world's largest cultural festival. Originating in India, yoga is a discipline that anyone can practice free of cost. The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21, 2015. By vigorously championing the unique attributes and benefits of yoga, PM Modi secured its recognition on a global stage. The widespread reach of the International Day of Yoga has instilled in every citizen the realization that maintaining good health is essential for each of us to actively participate in every process and activity related to nation-building. Few would dispute that improved healthcare has led to an increase in life expectancy, thereby accelerating India's pace of development; this heightened efficiency has, in turn, transformed into Karma Yoga. The critical importance of a healthy lifestyle to a nation's economic vitality can be gauged by the fact that even a one-year increase in average life expectancy translates into a 4 percent boost in the country's GDP. ●





Over 51,000 Appointment Letters Distributed

Progress of Youth Strength behind a Developed India

The Central Government is committed to providing new opportunities to the youth of India. In this endeavor, the Rojgar Mela serves as a significant initiative. To date, 19 Rojgar Melas have been organized across the country, during which over 12 lakh appointment letters have been handed over to young aspirants. On May 23, during the 19th Rojgar Mela—held simultaneously at 47 locations nationwide—Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed appointment letters to over 51,000 young aspirants who had secured government jobs...

India's youth are playing a pivotal role in driving forward the journey toward a Developed India. Today, every Indian is moving forward with a grand resolve—a resolve to build a Developed India by the year 2047. While distributing appointment letters at the Rojgar Mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that India's public and private sectors are collectively making massive investments across numerous campaigns and initiatives. These investments are generating employment opportunities for the nation's youth right here within the country, thereby helping them fulfill their dreams. Upon receiving your appointment letters, you are starting as a government employee. As such, you must always bear in mind the immense priority that 'Ease of Doing Business' holds for the nation.

Today, India's youth possess opportunities to advance and realize their dreams in a way that was not available before. Countless opportunities await the nation's youth



Today, the youth of India are making their mark in every sphere across the globe. This very spirit—this very energy—must be reflected within the realm of public service as well. A 'Developed India' will be built through the efforts of such young individuals—those who view their work as a medium for serving the nation."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

across a multitude of sectors—including manufacturing, technology, startups, digital services, railways, defense, and space. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi affirmed that the government's endeavor is to ensure that the maximum number of young people can leverage these new opportunities and receive

Selected Employees to Serve Across Various Ministries and Departments

The newly appointed candidates selected from all parts of the country, who were handed appointment letters at the 19th Rojgar Mela, will assume charge in various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, including the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, Department of Higher Education, and others.

Government Committed to Providing New Opportunities to the Youth

- Distribution of lakhs of appointment letters for employment by the Government of India and collaborating State Governments.
- Special benefits for women, persons with disabilities, and candidates from Aspirational Districts.
- Appointments made through prestigious examinations such as UPSC, SSC, the Railway Recruitment Board, and IBPS.
- Recruitment examinations facilitated in 13 regional languages to ensure equal opportunities.
- Over 1.65 crore employees are receiving training through more than 4,800 high-quality e-learning courses available on the iGOT-Karmayogi portal.
- A transparent and merit-based recruitment process giving new wings to the dreams of the youth.



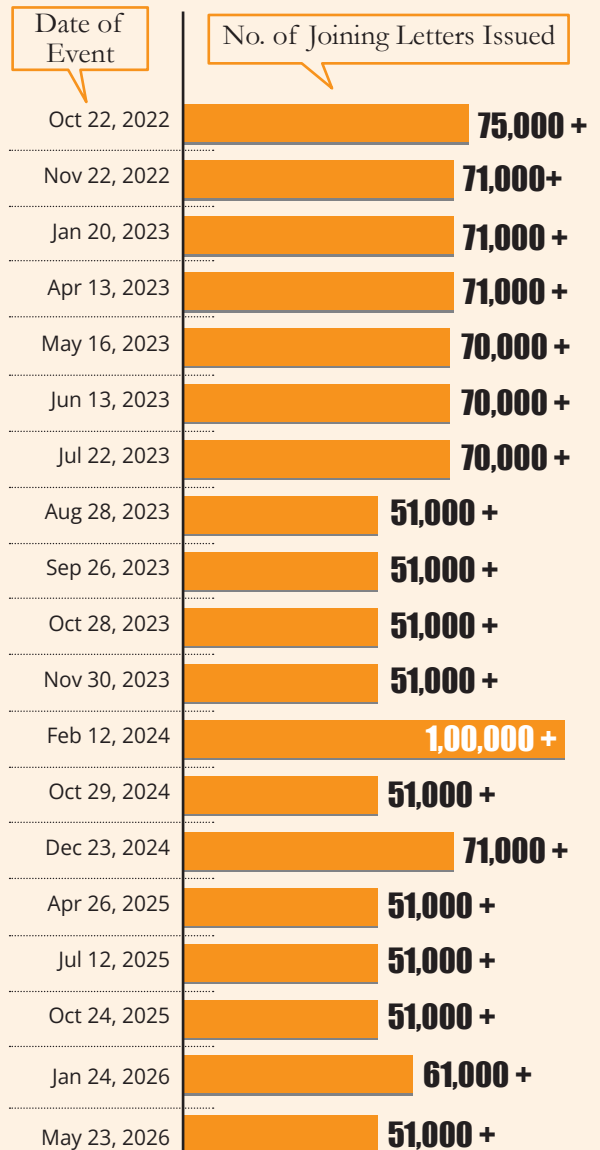
Scan the QR code to watch the Prime Minister's programme.

every possible chance to showcase their talents. Consequently, continuous emphasis is being placed on skill development, industry-aligned education, and future technologies. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are being modernized, and National Skill Training Institutes are being strengthened. Initiatives such as 'PM SETU' are actively working in this very direction.

THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE ARE RISING

Today, the aspirations of the people of India are soaring. This serves as a positive indicator of development. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi stated that we must not only understand the aspirations of our

Rojgar Mela Provides Government Jobs to the Youth



fellow citizens but also work with a commensurate pace and intensity to fulfill them. In this context, the role of young aspirants entering public service has become immensely significant. PM Modi urged the youth to engage in continuous learning and to constantly adapt themselves to new technologies, new systems, and evolving requirements. The iGOT-Karmayogi platform will prove to be of great assistance to you in this endeavor. Modules such as 'Karmayogi Prarambh' will greatly facilitate your understanding of your responsibilities. I urge you to make the fullest possible use of these resources. ●

New Boost for Food Safety and Clean Transport

The Central Government is leveraging technology to make welfare schemes for the poor more transparent and efficient. In furtherance of this objective, the Union Cabinet has approved an outlay of ₹25,530 crore for Phase-2 of the SARTHEK-PDS scheme. Through high-tech systems—such as the creation of an AI-enabled beneficiary registry, GPS tracking, and QR code tagging—100% of the benefits, including subsidized food grains and other welfare entitlements, will be delivered directly to the poor. Additionally, alongside infrastructure-related initiatives, approval was granted to several other proposals, including a scheme for the replacement of old trucks and buses within the Delhi-NCR region.



Scan the QR code to watch the press briefing on the Cabinet's decision.

DECISION: Old Trucks and Buses in Delhi-NCR to be Replaced with BS-VI Compliant or Electric Vehicles; Scheme Approved.

IMPACT: Approximately 191,000 trucks and 16,329 buses in the Delhi-NCR region will benefit from this replacement scheme. This initiative is expected to make a significant contribution toward reducing air pollution in the region. It will foster an eco-friendly transportation ecosystem and lead to an improvement in the region's overall air quality.

DECISION: Approval granted for the construction of a new coastal highway in Odisha, extending from Rameshwar to Paradip (forming part of a larger coastal highway project totaling 160.18 kilometers in length, to be constructed in two packages), under the Hybrid Annuity Mode.

IMPACT: The total length of this section is 160.18 kilometers. The project is estimated to cost ₹8,300.79 crore. These projects align with the principles of PM Gati Shakti and will interconnect 9 economic nodes and 5 logistics

nodes. This is expected to have a positive impact on the country's Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

- Upon completion of the project, the travel time between Rameshwar and Paradip is expected to be reduced by approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes. It will ensure safe, rapid, and seamless connectivity for both passenger and cargo movement. Furthermore, this project will lead to a reduction in fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and vehicle operating costs.

DECISION: Approval granted for upgrading the Khagaria-Purnia section (143.529 km) of NH-31 and NH-231 in Bihar to 4-lane standards under the BOT (Toll) mode, at a cost of ₹3,936.05 crore.

IMPACT: This will resolve existing severe geometric deficiencies, sharp curves, and congestion issues in the urban areas of Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Katihar, and Purnia districts. The project also entails the development of an extended greenfield bypass, approx 7 km in length, for the city of Purnia. This project will not only increase average travel speeds but also reduce travel time by approximately two hours. It will lead to improvements in

DECISION: Approval for the continuation of the Ration Transportation, Handling, and PDS Automation Assistance Scheme (Sarthak-PDS) as an integrated umbrella scheme.

IMPACT:

- By integrating the Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and the Smart Public Distribution System (PDS) schemes, it has been named ‘Sarthak-PDS’.
- Revision of norms for Central assistance towards expenditure incurred by States/Union Territories on the intra-state movement and handling of food grains.
- Existing Central financial assistance and margin assistance for FPS dealers will be continued.
- Special emphasis on a more effective, transparent, and technology-driven PDS distribution system.
- An integrated and interoperable PDS framework will be developed to strengthen the effective implementation of the NFSA.
- AI, ML, NLP, and Blockchain technologies will be utilized to modernize PDS operations.
- A real-time monitoring and AI-based grievance



₹ 25,530

crore in Central expenditure has been approved for the period of the 16th Finance Commission.

81.35

crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act will benefit, strengthening the country's food security framework.

Scheme will be operational until March 31, 2031

redressal system will be developed.

- Aadhaar seeding, e-PoS automation, and computerized supply-chain management will be expanded across States/Union Territories.

road safety, fuel efficiency, and vehicle operating costs.

DECISION: Approval granted for a 1-time budgetary support of upto ₹10,000 crore to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to assist scheduled Indian airlines in maintaining stability in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for both domestic and international flights.

IMPACT: This budgetary support will be provided to the OMCs in the form of an interest-free advance, channeled through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's Demands for Grants. Fuel prices continue to experience unprecedented volatility due to the crisis in West Asia; this assistance is being extended to the OMCs to ensure stable ATF prices during this period.

DECISION: Approval granted for widening the existing Armour-Jagtial-Mancherial section of National Highway (NH)-63 under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), and the Jagtial-Karimnagar section of National Highway (NH)-563 under the Build-Operate-Transfer (Toll) mode, to 4-lane standards.

IMPACT: The total length of these sections is 190.76 km. The estimated cost of project is ₹7,500 crore. After completion, travel time will be reduced. Safe, faster, and seamless connectivity will be ensured. This project will also lead to a significant reduction in fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and vehicle operating costs.

DECISION: Approval granted for a project in Madhya Pradesh involving the upgrading of the 125 km Hiwarkhedhi-Roshni-Ashapur-Rudhi section of NH-347B to 2-lane standards, and the widening of the approximately 109 km Deshgaon-Julwaniya section to 4-lane standards. Construction will be undertaken under the ‘Hybrid Annuity Mode’.

IMPACT: The project is estimated to cost ₹4,415.60 crore. This will result in an increase in average travel speeds. Connectivity will improve. Road safety, fuel efficiency, and vehicle operating costs will see improvements. This project will seamlessly connect Madhya Pradesh's key economic, social, and logistics hubs ●



Padma Awards 2026

Honouring the Nation's Heroes

The Ganatantra Mandap of Rashtrapati Bhavan once again glowed with the brilliance of the nation's unique talents, extraordinary service, and indomitable courage. On May 25, during the grand Civil Investiture Ceremony-I, President Droupadi Murmu honored 66 distinguished personalities—out of the 131 selected for the year 2026—with the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards.

In the first phase of the ceremony, 2 Padma Vibhushan, 6 Padma Bhushan, and 58 Padma Shri awards were presented. The event was not merely an award distribution ceremony; it was a celebration of the dedication and achievements of grassroots heroes who have transformed the nation through their tireless efforts. The event held at Rashtrapati Bhavan honoured sons and daughters

of India who have enhanced the country's prestige through their contributions in fields such as art, literature, social service, science, and industry. This is the story of those exceptional personalities whose journeys have earned them a place among India's highest civilian honours. Earlier this year, on January 25, the Government of India announced the names of 131 Padma Award recipients for 2026.



Padma Vibhushan



Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)

A legendary actor in Indian cinema and a former Member of Parliament, he is regarded as one of the most versatile and successful actors in the history of the Hindi film industry. Popularly known as Bollywood's 'He-Man', he enjoyed a magnificent career spanning over six decades. He acted in more than 300 films and holds the record for delivering the highest number of hit films in Hindi cinema. For his lifelong dedication to the arts, he received numerous prestigious awards and honours. The Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon him in 1997 to acknowledge his immense contribution to Bollywood. In 2012, he was also honoured with the Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award. Beyond his cinematic achievements, Dharmendra also served as a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) representing Bikaner, Rajasthan, from 2004 to 2009. He was born on December 8, 1939, in Nasrali, Punjab.



Padma Shri

- Vishwabandhu (Posthumous)
- Bharat Singh Bharti
- Taga Ram Bhil
- Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar
- Ratilal Mohanlal Borisagar
- Kumar Bose
- Janardan Bapurao Bothe
- Swami Brahmadev
- Prosenjit Chatterjee
- Devaki Amma Ji
- Dr Ramchandra Godbole
- Sunita Godbole
- Techi Gubin
- Dr H. V. Hande
- Gaffaruddin Mewati Jogi
- Mir Haji Kasam
- Raghuveer Khedkar
- R. Krishnan Kitna (Posthumous)
- Prof. Dr. Lars-Christian Koch
- Prof. Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar
- Praveen Kumar
- K. Vijay Kumar
- Shrirang Devba Lad
- Ankegowda M
- Professor (Dr.) Saroj Mandal
- Prof. Buddha Rashmi Mani
- Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala
- Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra
- Tripti Mukherjee



Padma Vibhushan



Dr. (Smt.) N. Rajam

One of the finest and most distinguished artists in the field of music, she is a virtuoso of the violin. The moment her fingers touch the violin's strings, she creates a mesmerising atmosphere. She revolutionised classical music by pioneering a technique known as 'Gayaki Ang' – a method of presenting vocal style on the violin, which earned her worldwide acclaim as the 'Singing Violin'. Born on March 16, 1939, into a family steeped in the musical traditions of Ernakulam, Dr Rajam enriched her musical foundation by receiving tutelage from her father, Vidwan A. Narayana Iyer. In addition to her illustrious career as a performer, Dr Rajam served with distinction as a professor in the Faculty of Performing Arts at Banaras Hindu University for nearly four decades. She rose to become the head of the department and subsequently served as the dean of the faculty. Dr Rajam performed extensively across the globe, captivating audiences in numerous countries, including the USA, Canada, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia, and throughout Europe. Dr Rajam was honoured with several prestigious awards. For her extraordinary contribution to Hindustani music, she was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1984, the Padma Bhushan in 2004, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1990.



Padma Bhushan



Shatavadhani Dr R. Ganesh

Shatavadhani Dr R. Ganesh is a master of Avadhana, a classical art form unique to India, which involves solving a variety of poetic challenges with verses composed extempore, without any aids like pen and paper. It tests creativity and scholarship to the extreme and exhibits the performer's ability to multitask and think laterally. Credited with reviving the art form in Kannada, he has performed more than 1,300 Ashatavadhanas and 5 Shatavadhanas till date, primarily in Kannada and Sanskrit. He has performed in all formats of the art, introduced several novel components and inspired a new generation of young performers to keep alive this ancient art form. Born on 4th December, 1962, in Kolar, Karnataka, Dr R. Ganesh holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, a master's degree each in Materials Science and Metallurgy and Sanskrit and a D.Litt. in Kannada. He is a polymath specializing in poetics, prosody, literature, philosophy and classical arts, and has a nuanced understanding of the Indian cultural heritage. Kannada, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Greek, Latin and Italian are among the languages he knows.



Padma Bhushan



Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Known affectionately as 'Bhagat Da' in Uttarakhand, Bhagat Singh Koshyari is a distinguished social worker, educationist, journalist, and nationalist leader. He has dedicated his life to public service and to the upliftment of the poor and underprivileged sections of society. Born on June 17, 1942, in the Palandhura village of the Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand, Koshyari earned his master's degree in English literature in 1964. He began his career as a lecturer but subsequently dedicated himself entirely to the fields of education and social service. In 1997, he became a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. Following the formation of the state of Uttarakhand, he served as a cabinet minister in the state's first ministry and later became its chief minister. He has also served as a Member of Parliament in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, as the Governor of Maharashtra, and, holding additional charge, as the Governor of Goa.



Padma Shri

- Harimadhav Mukhopadhyay (Posthumous)

- Dr A. E. Muthunayagam

- Satyanarayan Nandalal Nuwal

- K. Pazhanivel

- Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya

- Kailash Chandra Pant

- Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Posthumous)

- Prof. (Dr) Rajendra Prasad

- Dr Guduru Venkata Rao

- Deepika Reddy

- Dr Palakonda Vijay Anand Reddy

- Haricharan Saikia

- Prof. Vempati Kutumba Sastry

- Prof. Shafi Shauq

- Baldev Singh

- Yumnam Jatra Singh (Posthumous)

- Dr Ashok Kumar Singh

- Sivashankari

- Dr. R. Sridhar

- Prof. Shyam Sundar

- Dr S. G. Sushilamma

- N. Swaminathan

- Dr Kewal Krishan Thakral

- Dr Gopal Ji Trivedi (Posthumous)

- Arvind Vaidya

- Prof. Juzer Vasi

- Dr Narayan Vyas

- Hally War

- Prof. Gambir Singh Yonzone



Padma Bhushan



Uday Suresh Kumar Kotak

Uday Suresh Kumar Kotak, one of India's leading bankers and a pioneer in the financial services sector, played a pivotal role in establishing one of India's premier private banks. Born on March 15, 1959, Kotak founded Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. in 1985. The company subsequently expanded its operations to include services such as investment banking, stock broking, insurance, car finance, and mutual funds. In March 2003, it transformed into Kotak Mahindra Bank, becoming the first non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India to receive a banking license from the Reserve Bank of India. He spearheaded the bank's expansion and further consolidated its position through the acquisition of ING Vysya Bank in 2014. He has made significant contributions to the growth and development of India's banking and financial sector. He leads several key bodies, serving as Co-Chairman of the Indo-UK Financial Partnership (IUKFP) as well as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. He has served on the International Advisory Panel of Monetary Authority of Singapore until December, 2023 and was President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



Dr Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswami

Dr Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswami is a distinguished gastroenterologist with over four decades of experience. Born on March 15, 1949, into an agrarian family in the village of Kallipatti, Tamil Nadu, Dr Palaniswami earned his MBBS degree from the University of Mysore in 1972. He subsequently obtained his DM (Gastroenterology) degree from Madras Medical College in 1981. In 1986, he established the Department of Gastroenterology at Stanley Medical College. He served as the head of the department and professor until the year 2000, dedicating himself to serving the underprivileged population of North Chennai. He has remained particularly devoted to the service of the poor and marginalised sections of society. For over three decades, he rendered voluntary services at the Ramakrishna Math Hospital in Chennai. He also organised health camps in his native village of Kallipatti. Furthermore, he contributed to the development of essential infrastructure in the village - including the construction of a bridge, an electrical substation, a new building for the primary health centre, and check dams for groundwater replenishment. In recognition of his contributions to the field of medicine, he was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2007.



Padma Bhushan



Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra (Posthumous)

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra was a distinguished Indian politician, educationist, and sports administrator. Prof. Malhotra was born on December 3, 1931, in Lahore. He pursued higher education in Hindi literature and earned a PhD on the poet Sohanlal Dwivedi. He taught at PGDAV College, Delhi, for approximately 36 years. He was associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), through which he became active in politics. In 1967, at the age of just 35, he became Delhi's youngest chief executive councillor. He served as a Member of Parliament five times and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly twice. In 1999, he defeated former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in an election. His contribution to sports administration was also immensely significant; he served as the president of the Archery Association of India and helped bring the sport international recognition. His contributions in fields such as housing, education, sports, and slum rehabilitation left a profound mark on the development of Delhi. He passed away on September 30, 2025.



Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)

Piyush Pandey had the most transformative impact on the advertising industry. Over the decades, he became a defining figure in Indian advertising, and his influence extended beyond mere creativity to encompass strategic vision, industry leadership, and a profound understanding of cultural nuances. Born on September 5, 1955, Pandey spearheaded numerous iconic advertising campaigns throughout his career. Campaigns such as 'Do Boond Zindagi Ki' for polio eradication and 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' were not merely advertisements; they evolved into cultural icons. His creative prowess gave the Indian advertising industry a distinct identity. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2016. He passed away on October 24, 2025. His work and vision will continue to inspire future generations, and he will forever be remembered as a true pioneer of the Indian advertising world. He was named the most influential Advertising Man in India by The Economic Times, the leading business daily, 14 years in a row, with over 800 national and international awards. He was the most awarded Indian in the world of advertising. ●



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

From Europe to the Gulf: Display of India's Growing Global Influence

Amid India's expanding role on the global stage and shifting geopolitical dynamics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy serves as a powerful demonstration of India's new global strategy. Covering areas ranging from energy security and green technology to defence cooperation, investment, innovation, and strategic partnerships, the tour has given fresh momentum to India's diverse national interests. The visit took place at a time when the world is moving toward a new balance of power, and India is establishing itself as a reliable, decisive, and development-orientated global partner.

During the five-nation tour (May 15 to May 20), Prime Minister Narendra Modi held detailed discussions with his counterparts on both bilateral and global issues. Conducted against the backdrop of an evolving global landscape, these high-level deliberations placed India's economic, strategic, and global interests at the very centre of the agenda. These meetings featured comprehensive discussions on subjects such as energy security, green growth, defence cooperation, technological innovation, digital partnerships, water management, investment, and trade expansion. While relations concerning energy and investment received renewed strength through engagements with the UAE, India further cemented its role as a reliable partner in its interactions with European nations. Furthermore, this tour underscored the vision of a Viksit Bharat,

India-UAE Relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the president of the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, held comprehensive discussions. PM Modi condemned the attacks on the UAE and expressed India's commitment to standing in solidarity with the nation, thereby conveying India's support to its leadership and people. India emphasized the necessity of maintaining safe passage and uninterrupted maritime routes in the Strait of Hormuz. India believes that this is crucial for regional peace and stability and for ensuring energy and food security. Both leaders expressed satisfaction over the continued strengthening of the India-UAE energy partnership and agreed to undertake new initiatives to further advance it. In this context, a strategic cooperation

agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company was also welcomed. Under this agreement, the UAE's contribution to India's strategic petroleum reserves will be increased to 30 million barrels. Additionally, both countries will collaborate on establishing strategic gas reserves in India. Both leaders also welcomed the announcement of a \$5 billion investment by UAE-based companies in India. This includes an investment of \$3 billion by the Emirates NBD in RBL Bank, \$1 billion by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and \$1 billion by the International Holding Company in Sammaan Capital.

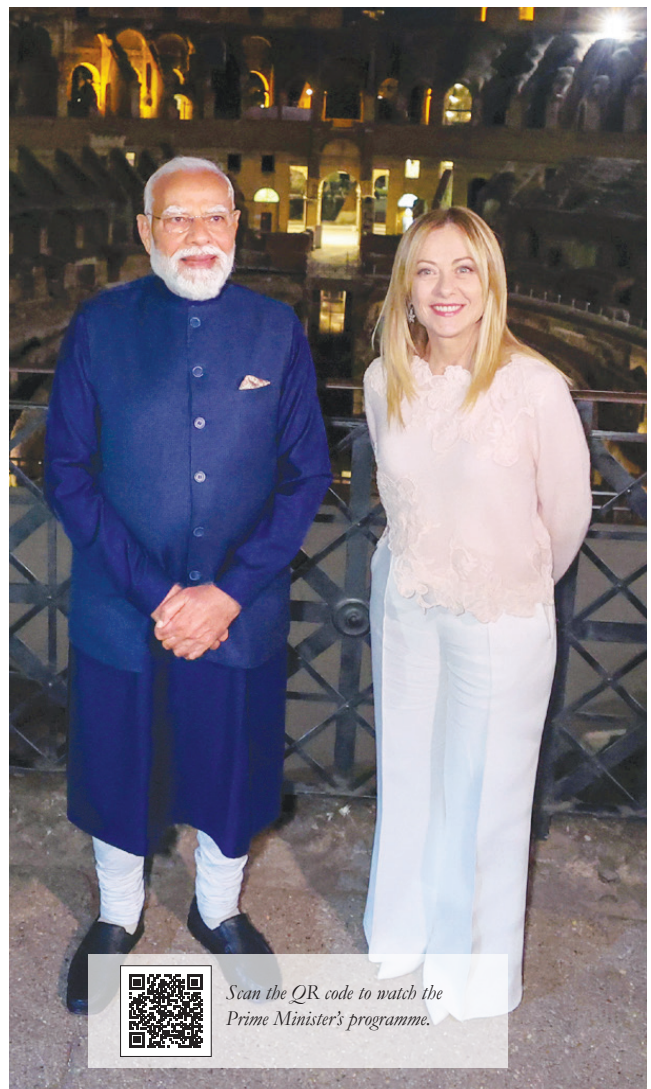
highlighting the nation's growing effectiveness and leadership capabilities within the global order.

INDIA-ITALY

At the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Italy, which renewed momentum in the bilateral relations. The two leaders decided to elevate India-Italy relations to the level of a "Special Strategic Partnership". Furthermore, they resolved to collaborate on areas such as political dialogue, economic cooperation and investment, connectivity, science, technology, innovation, startups, artificial intelligence, supercomputing, space, defence, security, culture, and educational exchanges. Both leaders emphasised the need for urgent reforms within the United Nations to align it with current global realities. They also called for the restoration of freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and the normal flow of global supplies. The two leaders set a target to expand bilateral trade to 20 billion Euros by the year 2029. They expressed their intention to celebrate 2027 as the "Year of Culture and Tourism between Italy and India".

INDIA-DENMARK BILATERAL COOPERATION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Denmark's Acting Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen met during the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo. The two leaders reviewed



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

Conferred with the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit' by King Harald V of Norway at a special ceremony held in Oslo.
- This award, bestowed upon foreign Heads of State, is Norway's highest honour. It is conferred in recognition of outstanding service rendered in the interest of Norway and humanity.
- Dedicating this honour to the historic friendship between India and Norway, Prime Minister Modi described it as a tribute to the unwavering warmth, trust, and affection shared between the people of the two nations.



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

bilateral cooperation. Both leaders welcomed the advances made in the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership, which prioritizes collaboration in the field of environment and climate change. Both nations decided to further strengthen cooperation in new and emerging technologies, communications, advanced research, startups, and academic exchanges. In the water sector, the two leaders noted the successful collaboration between India and Denmark regarding the establishment of a 'Smart Lab' for clean rivers in Varanasi.

INDIA-NORWAY BILATERAL TALKS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo. The two leaders reviewed India-Norway relations. Discussions were held on trade and investment, economic partnership agreements, energy transition, the blue economy and ocean governance, research and higher education, Arctic and polar cooperation, space, and talent mobility between the two nations. Both countries agreed to elevate their relationship to a 'Green Strategic Partnership,' reflecting a shared commitment to sustainable development and green progress. The two leaders underlined the aim of doubling the value of current trade between India and Norway by 2030 and encouraged business representatives to work towards dynamic tie-ups across sectors to meet the investment commitment of USD 100 billion under TEPA and cre-



PM Modi Honoured with the Agricola Medal

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the prestigious Agricola Medal for the year 2026 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome.
- This award was conferred in recognition of his exceptional leadership in the fields of food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development, both within India and on a global stage.
- PM Modi dedicated this honour to the Indian farmers and the Indian agricultural scientific community.



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



From 'Make in India' to Global Partnerships

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the India-Norway Business and Research Summit held in Oslo. The summit was attended by CEOs from over 50 companies, as well as more than 250 participants from the business and research communities of Norway and India. Before this business and research summit, four roundtable sessions were organised at various venues across Oslo. Norwegian investors were encouraged to increase their investments in India across key sectors such as the Blue Economy, shipbuilding, green transition, renewable energy, health-tech, critical minerals, and startups. The Prime Minister called upon the business communities of both nations to forge new partnerships, identify new avenues for collaboration, and further strengthen economic cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions with the chief executive officers of prominent Dutch companies across various sectors, including energy, ports, healthcare, agriculture, trade, and technology. Prime Minister Modi appreciated the growing interest shown by Dutch companies in India's economic dynamism. The industry leaders lauded the Indian government's reform agenda and shared their plans for India.

PM Modi interacts with Swedish business leaders

PM Modi interacted with the chief executive officers of Swedish companies. He emphasised that the India-Sweden partnership today is not merely an economic relationship but one of ideas, technology, innovation, and co-creation. The prime minister highlighted India's rapid economic transformation driven by reform, strong domestic demand, digital public infrastructure, manufacturing expansion and next-generation infrastructure development. He invited Swedish companies to enhance their presence in India under initiatives such as MAKE IN INDIA, the National Green Hydrogen Mission, and the National Critical Mineral Mission.

European Industry Round Table

At the European Industry Round Table in Gothenburg, PM Modi underscored the growing strategic convergence between India and Europe. He welcomed the progress being made in India-European Union relations. Today, India stands as one of the world's most attractive destinations for investment, innovation, and manufacturing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised that India and Europe must work together to develop resilient supply chains. He highlighted India's young and skilled workforce as a major strength for future global economic growth.

ation of one million jobs in India. India invited Norway to participate in 'India Innovates 2026,' an event scheduled to be held in France in June 2026. Proposals were also put forward to establish a Startup Innovation Hub and a Green Innovation Hackathon between the two countries. Both leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms.

TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE NETHERLANDS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with the prime minister of the Netherlands, Rob Jetten, at his official residence (Catshuis). The two prime ministers held wide-ranging discussions on strengthening the India-Netherlands relationship. Reflecting the shared



Sweden Honours PM Modi

- At a special ceremony held in Sweden, Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden conferred the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross' upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This is one of Sweden's most ancient and prestigious honours, established in the 18th century.
- This award represents the highest honour bestowed by Sweden upon foreign Heads of Government for their contributions to exceptional public service and for strengthening relations with Sweden.
- PM Modi dedicated this honour to the 1.4 billion people of India and to the enduring friendship between India and Sweden.

values and trust, as well as increasing convergence and growing cooperation between the two countries, the leaders decided to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership." They also agreed to adopt an ambitious roadmap for strategic partnership to deepen cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, defence and security, emerging and critical technologies, the maritime sector, renewable energy, and education. Both leaders also called for cooperation in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence



Restitution of Chola Copper Plates

In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Rob Jetten of the Netherlands, the Leiden University Library returned 11th-century Chola copper plates to the Government of India. The Chola copper plates, comprising 21 large plates and 3 small plates, are royal charters issued by Chola kings during the 11th century. The plates contain texts written in Tamil and Sanskrit.

(AI) and semiconductors. The two prime ministers expressed their support for new initiatives undertaken to strengthen the 'Mobility Partnership' and cooperation in higher education. In this regard, specific mention was made of the agreement concluded between Nalanda University and the University of Groningen. Following the official talks, 14 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed across the sectors of technology, green energy, trade, mobility, water, agriculture, health, education, and culture. ●



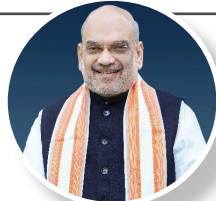
Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Different parts of India are witnessing soaring temperatures and the challenges that come with it. This heat is harsh on all of us and I urge you all to take as many precautions as possible. Please stay hydrated, keep water with you when stepping out. Offer a glass of water to others. In weather like this, such kindness goes a long way.



Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh

डिफेंस कॉरिडोर के माध्यम से उत्तर प्रदेश, भारत के रक्षा क्षेत्र को आत्मनिर्भर बना रहा है। यहाँ लखनऊ में ब्रह्मोस का भी निर्माण हो रहा है। और भी कई तरह से उत्तर प्रदेश, डिफेंस मैनुफैक्चरिंग को मजबूत कर रहा है।



Amit Shah @AmitShah

BSF के पराक्रम को जन-जन तक पहुँचाने के लिए गुजरात में एक सेंटर बना। यहाँ के फीडबैक फॉर्म पर कई मॉडों में लिखा - हमारे बच्चे BSF में जाएँ तो हमें गर्व होगा।



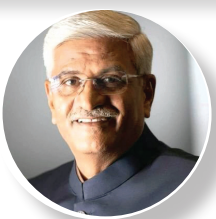
Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari

For decades, street vendors powered our cities but remained unseen in policy and finance. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji, PM SVANidhi has transformed lives—providing identity, collateral-free credit, and digital inclusion.



Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda

NCD स्क्रीनिंग के तहत अब तक 36 करोड़ लोगों की Oral Cancer, 17 करोड़ महिलाओं की Breast Cancer, 9 करोड़ महिलाओं की Cervical Cancer तथा 42-42 करोड़ लोगों की Hypertension और Diabetes के लिए स्क्रीनिंग की जा चुकी है।



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat @gssjodhpur

भारत अब सुपर 'सोलर'-पॉवर भी! भारत वर्ष 2025 में वार्षिक सोलर क्षमता वृद्धि के मामले में अमेरिका को पीछे छोड़ दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा सोलर मार्केट बन गया है। एक ही वर्ष में लगभग 50 GW नई सौर क्षमता जोड़ी गई।

India, Myanmar to boost ties in critical minerals, rare earths

Asian News International New Delhi

India and Myanmar on Monday agreed to maintain close engagement on matters related to critical minerals and rare earths, with both countries aiming to take bilateral cooperation forward in these strategic sectors.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry, in a special briefing on the visit of Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing to New Delhi on Monday...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday

and take forward cooperation in these areas," Mistry said.

CAPACITY BUILDING

On defence collaboration, the Foreign Secretary highlighted that India's partnership with Myanmar has largely focused on training, capacity building, and institution strengthening. He noted that the training of Myanmar troops is dedicated to UN Peacekeeping.

'India has emerged as global leader in big cat protection' 'SVANidhi supports lives of countless street vendors'

Wildlife conservation requires not only public funding, but also sustained institutional collaboration, says Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav

NDA has established itself as a global leader in wildlife conservation through its various schemes, programmes and outreach, and more importantly, through the leadership of Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. In an interview with the Hindustan Times, he discussed the government's efforts to conserve wildlife and the importance of raising corporate funds for conservation efforts.



Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav

Importantly, India is also promoting international collaborations and involving multiple stakeholders under the leadership of Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. The emphasis is on ensuring that technology remains scientifically robust, field tested, transparent and participatory.

India does not have a policy on wildlife trans boundary conservation. The government is currently engaged in discussions, signed discussions, various bilateral, multilateral and international collaborations.

PM SVANidhi scheme supporting street vendors has transformed the lives of countless hawkers by ensuring access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth.

Preserving cultural heritage govt's top priority, says Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CITING the recent repatriation of ancient Chola-era copper plates from the Netherlands, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reiterated his government's commitment to safeguarding India's cultural heritage. Addressing the people during his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, he said the government was making sustained efforts to recover and preserve the country's invaluable historical treasures.

On the return of the ancient copper plates, Modi said, "Recently I had the opportunity to visit the Netherlands in Europe. I attended several meetings there. During this time, a moment arrived that filled every Indian with pride. In a special ceremony held in the Netherlands, ancient copper plates from the Chola period were returned to India."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

cautions and suggested simple and traditional ways of staying cool during the summer months. During the programme, he spoke about astronomy, interacted with sportspersons and highlighted wildlife conservation efforts. Touching upon astronomy, the PM said centuries-old observatories still exist across India. "Astronomy has aroused curiosity in every generation in our country. It has inspired exploration; a lot of enthusiasm is visible in today's youth," he said.

Mann Ki Baat: PM hails sprint icons Gurindervir, Kujar

Urges People To Take Care Amid Heatwaves

Times News Network

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi Sunday praised the country's new sprint icons Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujar both of whom broke national records at the recent National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi. In his monthly radio address, Mann Ki Baat, Modi said Gurindervir Singh, Vishal TK, Tejwani Shankar, Dev Meena, and Animesh Kumar—these friends are four different events, "national records were broken in four different events," PM said, congratulating the athletes.



PM Modi also praised mango farmers and highlighted growing global exports of the fruit

Mango cultivation for agri: PM

Manas Pimpalkhare manas.pimpalkhare@livemint.com NEW DELHI

Mango cultivation and the farmers involved in it are "very special for the agricultural economy of the country", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday. Highlighting the diversity of India's mangoes, Modi said the popular summer season fruit is making its way from the country's villages to

exported. India exported nearly 29,938.40 tonnes of mangoes worth \$56.50 million in FY25 to destinations such as the UAE, the US, Kuwait, and Qatar, according to data cited by the Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (Apeda). The prime minister also spoke on the intense summer conditions being experienced across several parts of the country. He highlighted traditional foods and drinks that can help people cope

Modi said the popular summer season fruit is making its way from the country's villages to

the country. He highlighted traditional foods and drinks that can help people cope

FE BUREAU & AGENCIES

MSMEs: A Key Pillar of Socio-Economic Progress

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a pivotal role in India's economic and social development. It creates ample employment opportunities at a low capital cost and provides support to large industries by serving as ancillary units. Furthermore, it fosters industrialization in rural and backward regions. International MSME Day is celebrated annually on June 27. The Ministry of MSME, Government of India—in collaboration with its various organizations and institutions—is continuously driving the growth of this sector...

MSMEs: Strengthening the Indigenous Economy

- MSMEs contribute over 31 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 48.58 percent to exports.
- The livelihoods of 328 million people across the country depend on MSMEs. Over 79 million enterprises have been integrated into the formal economy.
- MSMEs are being assisted in improving market access and accelerating payment settlements through digital platforms such as 'GeM', 'TReDS', and 'SAMADHAAN'.



“

Our MSME sector serves as the backbone of India's manufacturing landscape and our industrial growth. In 2020, we took the momentous decision to revise the definition of MSMEs—a step undertaken after a gap of 14 years. This decision effectively dispelled the apprehension among MSMEs that their access to government-provided benefits would cease if they expanded their operations.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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EDITOR IN CHIEF
Dhirendra Ojha
Principal Director General
Press Information Bureau, New Delhi

PUBLISHER:
Kanchan Prasad
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