

# NEW INDIA SAMACHAR

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## Half The Population, Full Rights Government Committed to Reservation

Parliamentary arithmetic has put the brakes on women's empowerment, yet the Centre stands firm on its resolve to implement a 33% reservation. The struggle for the rights of half the population has now reached a decisive turning point



For e-copy

# Cherishing Family Values

*The family is an unparalleled institution in the building of a strong nation. It contributes not only to the development of the individual but also to the advancement of society. In India, relationships and the family unit are accorded the highest respect. On the International Day of Families, it is also pertinent to highlight that India regards the entire world as one family. Prime Minister Modi has stated on numerous occasions: "We have but one guiding principle "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".*

• Theme for International Day of Families 2026 is "Families, Inequalities and Child Well-being."

Observed on May 15th, the International Day of Families serves as an occasion to celebrate the significance of families, individuals, societies, and cultures across the globe.

The International Day of Families is observed following a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly to foster a sense of global family unity and raise awareness within society regarding issues pertinent to families.

**"The 1.4 billion countrymen are my only family. Today, the crores of daughters, mothers, and sisters of this nation constitute 'Modi's Family.' Every poor person in this country is my family. For those who have no one else, Modi belongs to them, and they belong to Modi. 'My India, My Family' carrying forward this very sentiment and with the resolve to turn dreams into reality, I live for you, I strive for you, and I shall continue to strive for you."**

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*



## • 1.4 Billion Countrymen: PM Modi's Family •

- On August 15, 2023, speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort, he addressed the nation for the first time as "1.4 billion family members"—rather than using the customary terms "brothers and sisters" or "countrymen."
- In March 2024, PM Modi penned a letter addressed to these 1.4 billion family members.
- He regards soldiers as family and visits them every year to celebrate Diwali.
- When asked during an event—given that he has no immediate family of his own—for whom he works so tirelessly, PM Modi replied: My family consists of 1.4 billion people—which is precisely why I have to work even harder

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### of Democratic Commitment...



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Women-led  
Leadership  
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## SHRAMEV JAYATE

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

## Efforts to Implement 33% Women's Reservation into Reality

Greetings,

यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः ।  
यत्रैतास्तु न पूज्यन्ते सर्वास्तत्राफलाः क्रियाः ॥

It means: Where women are revered, there the deities reside; conversely, where they are not honored, all endeavors prove futile.

In Indian tradition, women have been regarded as the very foundation of Shakti, creation, and leadership. Today, this very philosophy has taken the form of concrete policy, wherein women are viewed not merely as beneficiaries but as the vanguard of development. Over recent years, it has become abundantly clear that when granted access to opportunities, resources, and participation in decision-making, the power of women scales new heights in every sphere.

From the armed forces to startups, and from sports to science and research, the daughters of our nation are carving out new dimensions through their talent and diligence. This transformation is not merely symbolic; rather, it is the direct outcome of policy priorities that have placed women's participation and leadership at their very core.

The endeavor to transform women's reservation into reality is also an integral part of this broader vision. Despite not receiving the requisite support in Parliament, the government remains steadfast in its commitment to securing women their rightful entitlements. The vision of a 'Developed India'

during the Amrit Kaal has to only realized when the full empowerment and resurgence of Nari Shakti are ensured. This is not merely the responsibility of the government, but a duty incumbent upon every section of society—to champion women's dignity, equal opportunities, and leadership. This constitutes the path to inclusive development and serves as the bedrock of the nation's true progress. Against this backdrop, the 12-year journey of 'Women-led Development' serves as the cover story for this issue.

Furthermore, this edition features a diverse array of content, including a profile of Param Vir Chakra recipient Major Hoshiar Singh; updates on Union Cabinet decisions; a special feature marking the 11th anniversary of flagship schemes such as PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY; special coverage on Labour Day (May 1st) and the completion of one year of 'Operation Sindoor'; a special article on Mahatma Jyotirao Phule; and a comprehensive overview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagements over the past fortnight.

Additionally, the magazine's inner pages feature special content dedicated to the International Day of Families (May 15th), while the back cover highlights the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Foundation Day, observed on May 7th.

We encourage you to continue sending us your valuable suggestions.



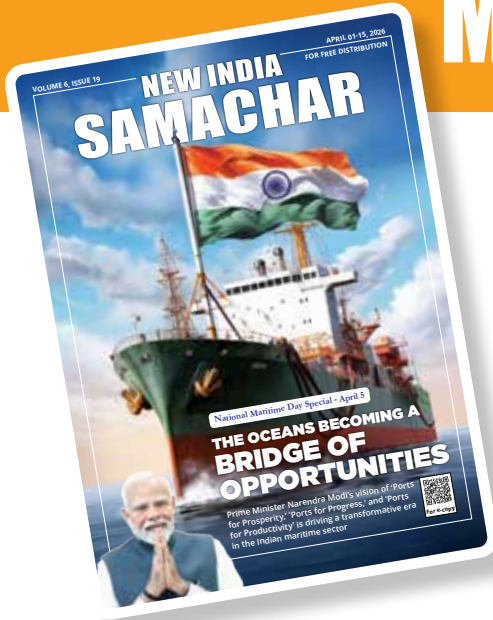
(Dhirendra Ojha)



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# MAIL BOX



## Complex Subjects Explained in Simple Language

As a reader, I would like to share my experience after reading the March 1–15, 2026 issue of New India Samachar. I found this particular issue to be extremely informative, accessible, and engaging. The magazine presents the country's progress, new government schemes, and contemporary issues in very simple and easy-to-understand language. Reading about the advancements taking place in infrastructure development, cybersecurity, healthcare services, 6G technology, railways, and the space sector gives a clear picture of the nation's overall growth. I particularly appreciated the fact that even complex subjects have been explained in a simplified manner, making them easily comprehensible even to the average reader. Furthermore, the information provided is both authentic and highly useful. This magazine proves to be immensely beneficial for students preparing for competitive examinations, as it offers concise and lucid coverage of current affairs. As a reader, I can tell that this issue is both informative and inspiring. It is my hope that similarly useful issues continue to be published in the future.

**Abhijeet Yash Bharti**  
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## Request to Publish NIS in Nepali language as well

I was delighted to learn that New India Samachar, published in 13 Indian languages, including Hindi, provides the opportunity to stay informed about developments across various sectors within the country, as well as the government's public welfare schemes. My humble request is that, if at all possible, arrangements be made to publish this magazine in the Nepali language as well. I am confident that you will give due consideration to my request.

**Birikh Kadka Duvarseli**  
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## Inspired by the Story of a Param Vir Chakra Winner

I am a regular reader of the popular magazine New India Samachar. The article published in the Bengali edition dated March 1–15, 2026—giving an account of the bravery of Param Vir Chakra recipient Rifleman Sanjay Kumar—deeply impressed me. In connection with that article, I would like to share a very proud and memorable moment from my own life. On December 8, 2000, at the Jammu Cantonment, I had the distinct privilege of meeting Rifleman Sanjay Kumar in person. Thank you for continuously inspiring us by sharing the stories of India's brave heroes.

debu.mohorrier@gmail.com

## Real Insights into India's Development

I have been a regular recipient of the New India Samachar magazine for quite some time now. Through this magazine, we receive reliable and precise information regarding India's progress. It provides updates on the developmental strides being made across the country under the leadership of our Prime Minister Modi. This is immensely encouraging for the citizens of the nation. It serves to further enhance the pride, prestige, and glory of our country. My sincere thanks to you and your team for bringing this valuable information to us through the medium of this magazine.

Vijay Mohorrier | vastutejomay58@gmail.com

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## A New Chapter in India's Nuclear Journey

India has achieved a significant milestone in its nuclear energy programme. The indigenously designed and built Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, has successfully attained its 'First Criticality' – the state of a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. With this achievement, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme, a vision first conceived by Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme. The milestone carries substantial global significance. Once fully operational, India will become only the second country in the world, after Russia, to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor. The PFBR will enable more efficient utilisation of uranium resources and will also pave the way for harnessing the country's vast thorium reserves. This 500-megawatt reactor possesses the capability to generate greater energy output using a smaller amount of fuel.



## Highest-Ever Growth Recorded in the Wind Energy Sector

India achieved its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW during FY 2025-26, crossing the landmark of 5.5 GW capacity addition in FY 2016-17. This also represents an increase of nearly 46% over the capacity in FY 2024-25, marking a decisive acceleration in India's onshore wind deployment trajectory. With this new achievement, India's total installed wind energy capacity has now surpassed 56 gigawatts. Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra have emerged as frontrunners in both wind



energy generation and the addition of new capacity. This success will play a pivotal role in helping India achieve its target of 500 gigawatts

of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030. Thanks to its progressive policies, India today ranks among the world's leading markets for wind energy. On the other hand, according to Renewable Energy Statistics 2026, India has surpassed Brazil to secure the third position globally in terms of installed renewable energy capacity. During the financial year 2025-26, India added a total of 55.3 GW of non-fossil energy capacity. As of March 31, 2026, a total capacity of 283.46 GW from non-fossil fuel sources has been installed in the country.

## Warship 'INS Taragiri' Inducted into the Indian Navy

In the first week of April, the fourth powerful warship of the Project 17-A class – 'INS Taragiri' – was inducted into the Indian Navy in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This warship stands as an exemplary specimen of modern naval shipbuilding, having been designed by the Warship Design Bureau. Built in a remarkably short timeframe and incorporating over 75 percent indigenous content, INS Taragiri serves as a prime example of India's shipbuilding prowess and robust public-private partnerships. This warship is capable of high-speed transit and can remain deployed at sea for extended periods. It is equipped with systems designed to monitor enemy movements, ensure its own security, and if necessary, deliver an immediate response. It features modern radar, sonar, and missile systems, such as BrahMos and surface-to-air missiles, which further augment its operational prowess.



## GeM Achieves ₹18.4 Lakh Crore GMV



The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has achieved a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹18.4 lakh crore. During the financial year 2025-26, micro and small enterprises (MSEs) secured 68 percent of the total orders placed on the platform. This accounted for 47.1 percent of the total transaction value. Over 11 lakh MSEs are currently registered on this platform. During FY 2025-26, these enterprises received more than 51 lakh orders valued at ₹2.36 lakh crore, an increase of over 20 percent compared to the previous financial year. Additionally, more than 2.1 lakh women-led MSEs are registered on the portal; these enterprises have received orders worth over ₹28,000 crore.

## The World's First Vikramaditya Vedic Clock Installed in Kashi



The glory of the Indian system of timekeeping has emerged on the sacred soil of Kashi. The world's first "Vikramaditya Vedic Clock" was installed at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi. This 700-kg, technology-driven device displays time based on the ancient Indian Panchang, with a day starting at sunrise and divided into 30 muhurtas. The clock displays tithi, nakshatra, and planetary positions. This representation of time, divided into 30 Muhurats (auspicious time units) spanning from sunrise to sunset, exemplifies the profound scientific vision of our ancient sages. It will mark every single moment within this 30-Muhurat cycle, for it serves not merely as a measure of time but as a profound embodiment of our culture.

## DLC Campaign 4.0

### Largest Ever Campaign for the Welfare of Pensioners



The Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has been conducting Digital Life Certificate Campaigns since November 2022 to bring the benefits of digitization of life certificate submission to pensioners. Under this campaign, camps are organised annually from November 1st to November 30th in designated cities across the country. As part of this initiative, 75,000 camps were organised across 2,000 cities and districts nationwide. During this period, over 1.91 crore digital life certificates (DLCs) were generated, of which more than 1.16 crore (60%) were created using face authentication technology. The Digital Life Certificate (DLC) is an Aadhaar-based digital service for pensioners, enabling them to submit their life certificates from the comfort of their homes using a smartphone via face authentication. ●

# Mahatma Jyotirao Phule

## India's Divine Guiding Light



 **Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

*From his very childhood, Mahatma Phule was deeply inquisitive and read far more books than other children his age. He used to say, "The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them."*



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

*This year, on April 11, the 200th birth anniversary celebrations of the great social reformer, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, started. To mark this special occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi penned an article, sharing how Mahatma Phule continues to serve as a beacon of inspiration for countless people even today, and how his emphasis on education, knowledge, and public welfare remains profoundly relevant in our contemporary times...*

Mahatma Phule was a great reformer. In addition to that, his was a life of moral courage, restless enquiry and unshakable commitment to social good. Mahatma Phule is remembered for the institutions he built and the movements he led. At the same time, his contribution to our civilisational journey lies in the hope he aroused, the confidence he instilled and the strength his thoughts continue to give to millions of people across the nation.

Born in the great state of Maharashtra in 1827, Mahatma Phule emerged from modest beginnings. But his initial hardships never stood in the way of his learning, his courage or his commitment to society. This is a trait that remained with him forever: whatever the challenges may be, one must work hard, acquire knowledge and mitigate those challenges instead of doing nothing about it. From his school days, young Jyotirao was deeply curious and became a voracious reader, often reading books far beyond what children his age were expected to engage with. Years later, he said, "The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them." Clearly, the spirit of enquiry he was blessed with since his childhood remained constant in his journey.

Throughout his life, learning and education became central to Mahatma Phule's mission. He recognised with rare clarity that knowledge is not a privilege to be guarded, but a force to be shared. At a time when the joys of learning were denied to many, he opened pioneering schools for girls and for those kept out of formal education. He used to say, "Any improvement that comes in children through mothers is deeply valuable. Therefore, if schools are to be opened, they should first be opened for girls." He worked to create a new social imagination in which the classroom became an instrument of justice and equality.

His vision for education inspires us greatly. Over the last decade, we have worked to make research and innovation a cornerstone for the youth of India. Efforts are being made to create an ecosystem where young minds are encouraged to question, explore and innovate. By

investing in knowledge, skills and opportunity, India is empowering its youth to become problem-solvers and drivers of national progress.

Due to his knowledge and wisdom, Mahatma Phule developed a strong understanding of areas such as agriculture, healthcare and rural development. He often said that injustice towards our farmers and workers weakens our society. He saw how social inequalities manifested themselves in daily life, be it in the farms or in villages. Hence, he immersed himself in ensuring dignity for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised. At the same time, he made every possible effort to ensure social harmony was maintained.

Mahatma Phule opined, “जोपर्यंत समाजातील सर्वांना समान अधिकार मिळत नाहीत, तोपर्यंत खरे स्वातंत्र्य मिळत नाही” (True freedom cannot be achieved until everyone in society is granted equal rights). And for that, he built institutions that translated this vision into action, contributing to a just society. The Satyashodhak Samaj, founded by him, was one of the most important social reform movements in modern India. It was at the forefront of social reform, community service and furthering human dignity. It became an effective voice for women, youngsters and those living in villages. This movement reflected Mahatma Phule's intrinsic belief that society could be strengthened by placing at its core justice, respect for every person and a spirit of collective progress.

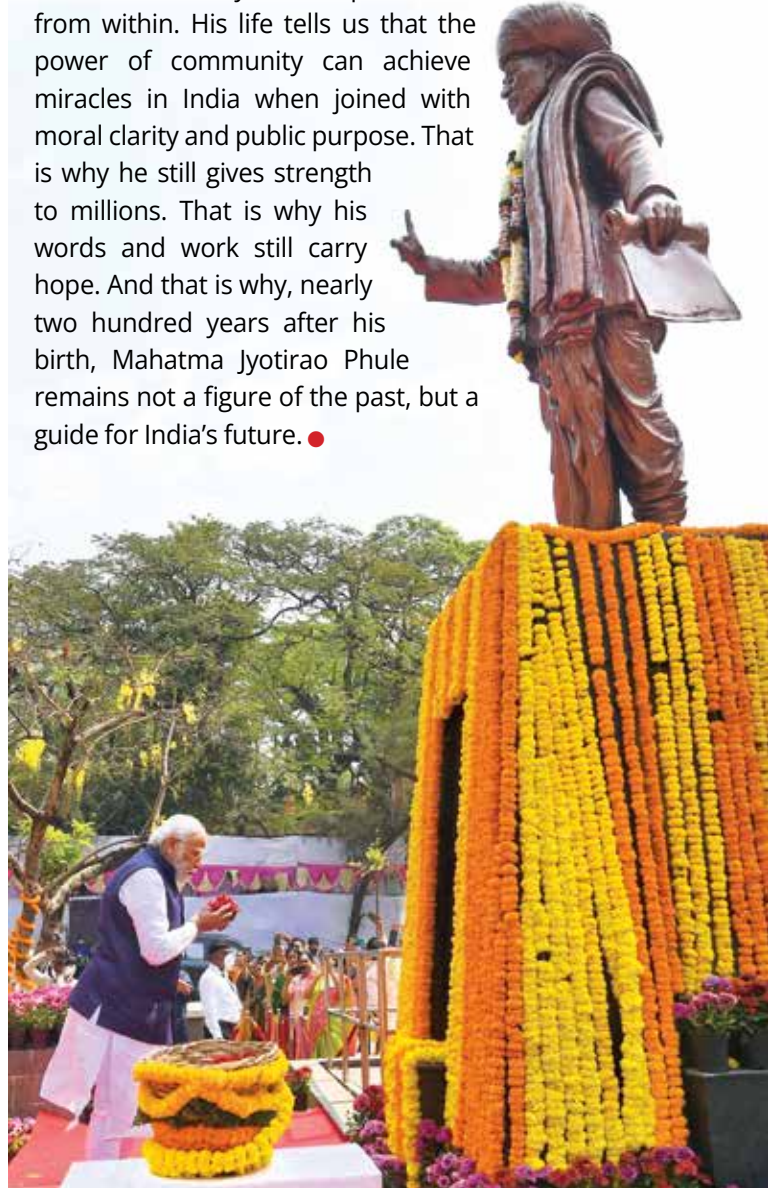
His personal life, too, carried lessons in courage. Always working and being among the people took a toll on his health. But even the most serious health challenges did not dim his resolve. After suffering a debilitating stroke, he continued to work and fulfil his vision. Yes, his body had been tested, but his commitment to society had not yielded. For millions today, especially those who draw courage from struggle, this remains one of the most powerful dimensions of his life.

No remembrance of Mahatma Phule can be complete without a respectful mention of Savitribai Phule, who was herself one of the tallest reformers of our nation. As one of India's pioneering women teachers, she played a defining role in advancing education for girls, thus giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams. After Mahatma Phule's passing, Savitribai carried forward that torch and, in 1897, during a plague outbreak, she served victims with such devotion that

she herself contracted the disease and lost her own life.

Our land has been blessed, time and again, by great men and women who have strengthened society through thought, sacrifice and action. They did not wait for change to arrive from somewhere else. They became its source. For hundreds of years in our land, the clarion call for social betterment has often risen from within society itself, from those who could see suffering clearly and refused to accept it as fate. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one such voice.

I fondly recall my visit to Pune in 2022, when I had offered tributes to Mahatma Phule at his grand statue in the city. As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within. His life tells us that the power of community can achieve miracles in India when joined with moral clarity and public purpose. That is why he still gives strength to millions. That is why his words and work still carry hope. And that is why, nearly two hundred years after his birth, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule remains not a figure of the past, but a guide for India's future. ●



**Operation Sindoor...**

# **The Dawn of a New Era of Self-Reliant Defence Systems**

*The completion of one year of Operation Sindoor is not merely the anniversary of a military campaign but also a symbol of India's decisive security policy, the indomitable courage of its armed forces, and a clear commitment to zero tolerance against terrorism. Over the past year, this operation has not only highlighted the nation's strategic capabilities and its power of swift retaliatory action but has also proclaimed the dawn of a new era marked by a self-reliant defence system, advanced technology, and unwavering national resolve.*

**O**peration Sindoor has emerged as an important chapter in India's defence history. The campaign has come to symbolise military precision, superior coordination among the three branches of the armed forces, and robust national determination. Whether facing challenges amidst the arduous heights of the Himalayas, ensuring the security of maritime borders, or thwarting attempts at aerial intrusion, India has demonstrated its preparedness, steadfastness, and unity on every front. Moving forward in this direction and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, rapid progress is now being made on 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra' in the wake of Operation Sindoor. The objective of this mission is to develop a robust and modern defensive weapons system capable of neutralising any attack or attempted assault by adversaries against India at its very inception. During Operation Sindoor,

“

**India has witnessed terrorist incidents in the past; however, back then, the masterminds behind them remained unconcerned and continued to plot future attacks without any fear.**

**The situation has now changed.**

**Today, following every attack, the masterminds lose their sleep, for they know that India will deliver a crushing response and neutralise threats through precise, targeted action. India has established a “new normal**

---

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*





## Drone Power: An Emerging Indigenous Industry

The Drone Federation of India (DFI) is a premier industry body representing over 550 drone companies and 5,500 drone pilots. Its vision is to make India a global drone hub by 2030. And it promotes the design, development, manufacturing, adoption, and export of Indian drone and counter-drone technologies worldwide.

### Indian Drone Market

**\$11** Billion, The estimated size is expected to be reached by the year 2030.

**12.2%** India's share of the global drone market.



“

During ‘Operation Sindoor’, the world witnessed the power of the Akash missile system, BrahMos, the Akash Teer air defence control system, and other indigenous equipment. The success of this operation is credited to our brave Armed Forces, as well as to the ‘Industry Warriors’ working on the frontlines of innovation, design, and manufacturing.

*Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister*

the Indian Army struck at terrorist infrastructure, thereby eliminating numerous threats. In this context, indigenous high-tech systems played a crucial role in national defence. Whether involving drone warfare, multi-layered air defence, or electronic warfare, Operation Sindoor marked a significant milestone in India's journey toward technological self-reliance in military operations. The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge.

Following the initial actions by the Indian military during Operation Sindoor, a rattled Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India,

## A Defence Ecosystem Becoming Self-Reliant Through Indigenisation

₹ 38,424

crore, The value of exports achieved in the year 2025-26.

₹ 50,000

crore, Export target set for the year 2029.

Less Than  
1,000

crore  
The value of exports just 10 years ago.

₹ 3

Lakh Crore Production target set for the year 2029.

₹ 1.54

Lakh Crore Value of indigenous defence production in the financial year 2023-24.

25%

domestic defence manufacturing in the private sector is targeted to increase to at least 50% over the next three years



including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. These were neutralised by the integrated Counter-UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Grid and air defence systems. Subsequently, in a counter-retaliatory move on the morning of May 8, the Indian Armed Forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. An air defence system at Lahore was neutralised. India's offensive strikes targeted key Pakistani airbases – Noor Khan and Rahim Yar Khan – with surgical precision. Loitering munitions were employed to devastating effect, with each unit independently seeking out and destroying critical targets, including enemy radar installations and missile systems.

### THE STORY FROM THE PAHALGAM ATTACK TO OPERATION SINDOOR...

On April 22, 2025, terror struck Pahalgam. Paki-

stan-backed attackers stormed a village, asked people their religion, and killed them, resulting in 26 deaths. The deceased included 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen. Following the incident, Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar, visited the scene of the attack, and that very night held a meeting with security forces and intelligence agencies, issuing directives to ensure that the terrorists involved in the attack could not flee the country. Under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) were held on April 23 and April 30. On April 23, the first decisions taken were to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty and to revoke SAARC visas for Pakistani citizens. The defence, military, and naval advisors serving at the Pakistani High Commission were declared persona non grata. On the night of May 6-7, the Indian Army dismantled nine terrorist hideouts along with the terrorists themselves. During Operation Sindoor, more than 125 terrorists were killed. At 1:22 AM on the night of May 7, India's Director General of Military Opera-



“

**Through ‘Operation Sindoor’, Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck down the masterminds behind the terrorists, and in ‘Operation Mahadev’, he annihilated the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack.**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

tions (DGMO) informed his Pakistani counterpart that India had struck terrorist hideouts and headquarters, asserting India's inherent right to self-defence. On May 8, Pakistan launched attacks targeting Indian residential areas and military installations. This attack resulted in damage to a Gurdwara, the destruction of a temple, and several civilian casualties. Subsequently, the very next day, the Indian Air Force delivered savage retorts to Pakistan, damaging 11 of its airbases. India targeted Pakistan's airbases and air defence systems, effectively crippling their offensive capabilities. After this, Pakistan had no option left except to seek refuge, and therefore, on May 10, Pakistan's DGMO called India's DGMO, and at 5 PM, India halted the conflict.

### **OPERATION MAHADEV**

Operation Mahadev started on May 22, 2025. On that day, the Intelligence Bureau received a tip-off regarding the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam region. Braving the biting cold and high altitudes, officers and

personnel from the IB, the Army, and the CRPF patrolled the area on foot in an effort to intercept the terrorists' signals. On July 22, a breakthrough was achieved through the use of sensors, confirming the presence of the terrorists. Personnel from the CRPF and the Jammu and Kashmir Police jointly cordoned off the area; during the ensuing operation, all three terrorists, who were responsible for killing innocent civilians in the Pahalgam attack, were neutralised.

### **ISRO'S CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATION SINDOOR**

At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan mentioned that at least 10 satellites were continuously working round-the-clock for the strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the country. Through the combined use of satellite and drone technology, India is currently monitoring its coastline, which spans over 7,000 kilometres.

### **MISSION SUDARSHAN CHAKRA**

To bolster India's offensive and deterrent capabilities, Prime Minister Modi has launched 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra', drawing inspiration from India's rich cultural and mythological heritage. Mission Sudarshan Chakra has been initiated to create a formidable weapon system capable of thwarting any attempt by adversaries to attack India. This initiative is designed to enhance rapid, precise, and potent defensive operations, thereby reinforcing India's strategic autonomy. By the year 2035, all public spaces are set to be secured by an expanded, nationwide security shield. ●

**33% Women's Reservation**

# A Declaration

**of Democratic Commitment...**



*She was not created to be confined within predetermined boundaries...  
Rather, she was destined to forge new paths...*

*This resolve guides New India's journey of excellence. For decades, continuous efforts have been underway to empower the rights of half the population. As half of the third decade of the 21st century passed, the resolve to further strengthen women's participation has become even more pronounced. The vision guiding the nation's policy over the past 12 years has shifted from mere women's upliftment to a paradigm of development led by Nari Shakti. Numerous initiatives aimed at empowering women across the spheres of education, health, economic prosperity, and leadership opportunities have proven to be milestones in this journey. Moving forward in this direction, a special session convened by the Central Government from April 16 to 18 once again proclaimed—from this hallowed temple of democracy—that the nation stands unwavering in its commitment to a development journey led by Nari Shakti. New India is now advancing toward a new dawn—one where every woman will not merely dream, but will realize those dreams, illuminating the nation's future through her courage, resolve, and creativity...*

**W**oman, you are the Divine; in you resides all strength; you are the very power of the nation. It is in the spirit of these words that New India stands committed to scripting a new history. The mantra for realizing the vision of a 'Developed India' is now poised to resonate as a triumphant anthem under the banner of women's leadership. This is not merely a concept; it is a moment witnessing a paradigm shift—an era where women are no longer mere participants, but have emerged as the vanguard of change, poised to shape both the trajectory and the destiny of the nation. During the special session of Parliament held from April 16 to 18, 2026, partisan politics unfortunately overshadowed a transformative decision of immense national significance. Statistical calculations and political maneuvering took precedence over the Central Government's commitment. The struggle for rights—a battle waged for over three decades—failed to reach its intended culmination. This decision was never meant to be confined merely to a policy amendment or the granting of rights to half the population; rather, it was destined to be a pivotal moment marking the renaissance of social consciousness. However, the political intent behind this decision, which stood on the verge of making history, was betrayed by political opportunism. The Central Government's firm resolve to implement 33 percent reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies starting from the 2029 general elections failed to garner the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority—that is, the requisite support needed from the Members of Parliament. Now, once again, the Central Government has unequivocally declared from

the highest temple of democracy that, even if the numbers did not align, the decision to ensure women's reservation remains a cultural commitment of 'New India'—a commitment to which the government stands firmly dedicated.

Had the Constitutional Amendment Bill providing for 33 percent women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies been passed by Parliament, this historic legislative initiative—set to take effect from the 2029 general elections—would have paved a path for the journey of a 'Developed India.' To this end, the Central Government had convened a special session of Parliament and tabled a proposal in the Lok Sabha to amend the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023—thereby enabling the nation's women, who have been waiting for decades, to play a decisive role not merely within the confines of the home, but also in the national policy-making process.

The new Parliament of the 'New India' created history on September 20 and 21, 2023, by passing this bill. A bill that had been stalled for decades—or, one might say, merely remained a subject of discussion—because politics and power were deemed paramount, was finally transformed into reality by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To achieve this, he ensured the occasion itself was made special; a special session of Parliament was convened with the specific purpose of inaugurating the new parliamentary complex. However, to implement this law—enacted in 2023—on the ground starting with the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, it became necessary to introduce an amendment to it. Had the government waited for the census scheduled after 2026, followed by the subse-



# Building a Viksit Bharat Through 'Nari Shakti'

India's women are today excelling and making their mark in every field. This transformation is not limited merely to women's empowerment; it is reshaping both the mindset and the capabilities of society. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed a revolutionary shift in the direction of women's empowerment. Here are the key initiatives ensuring the active role of 'Nari Shakti' in building a developed India.

## Rights and Legal Protection

Several historic steps have been taken to provide women with rights, security, and opportunities. While the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' has ensured rights within the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, 'Nari Shakti' is simultaneously strengthening the Panchayats.

- Three bills were introduced to implement a 33 percent reservation for women, effective from the 2029 general elections:
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026
- The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026
- The Delimitation Bill, 2026



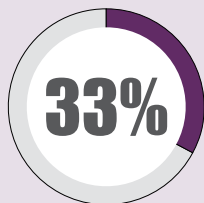
*Since 1971-72, the number of seats has remained frozen; today, there are 127 constituencies with more than 2 million voters each. In these constituencies, the principle of "one vote, one voter, one value" is completely violated.*

quent delimitation exercise, women would not have been able to secure this right in the 2029 elections, despite the law having already been enacted. Consequently, by convening another three-day special session of Parliament, the Central Government once again demonstrated before the nation its unwavering resolve and its historic initiative to secure the rightful entitlements of 'Nari Shakti'.

### **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP... NOT MERELY SYMBOLIC, BUT FULL REPRESENTATION**

According to the proposed amendment to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, a proposal was put forward to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha from 545 to 850. Since this constituted a Constitutional Amendment Bill, a simple majority in Parliament was insufficient for its passage; instead, a two-thirds majority was a mandatory requirement. When the vote was cast in the Lok Sabha on the bill—aimed at ensuring the implementation of women's reservation starting from 2029—it received 298 votes in favor and 230 against. This meant that, in accordance with constitutional provisions, the votes secured fell short of the required two-thirds majority, and the bill failed to pass. Consequently, 'Nari Shakti' will now have to struggle once again to secure

## ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’



seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will be reserved for women Members of Parliament (MPs), starting from the 2029 elections



According to the provisions, the Lok Sabha was to comprise a total of **850** seats

with 815 MPs representing the states and **35** MPs representing the Union Territories.

- The remaining seats were left unreserved, allowing either a man or a woman to contest elections for them.
- Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) was also adjusted in proportion to the increased number of seats, rising to 205 seats, up from the previous figure of 131.
- A model involving a uniform distribution of seats across all states, based on a 50% increase, was adopted.
- Criteria were established for the state-wise allocation of additional seats to ensure that no state suffered a loss in its seat count based on its population.
- The seats are to remain reserved for a period of 15 years from the date of implementation—a duration that Parliament may choose to extend if deemed appropriate. The bill providing 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies was passed on September 21–22, 2023. It became law on September 29, following the president's assent.
- The law enacted in September 2023 was formally notified by the central government on April 16, 2026.

## Empowered Participation in Decision-Making

**1.45** million elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions.

- This constitutes approx 46 % of the total representatives a unique example globally.
- This serves as a testament to women's strong participation in decision-making and to an empowered democracy. In India today, women are no longer merely beneficiaries; they are active partners in policy formulation.



### Growing Enthusiasm for Women's Participation in Politics

- 1st Lok Sabha: 22 Women Members
- 6th Lok Sabha: 19 Women Members
- 8th Lok Sabha: 44 Women Members
- 14th Lok Sabha: 51 Women Members
- 17th Lok Sabha: 78 Women Members
- 18th Lok Sabha: 75 Women Members

**We have not made any changes to the Delimitation Commission Act; we have repeated the existing Act exactly, down to the full stops and commas. I cannot comment on whether this act may have been utilised for any form of manipulation in the past. However, the current government has made no such attempt. ”**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

their rights. The Central Government has reiterated its commitment that, unlike in the past, women's representation in politics will no longer remain merely symbolic; rather, the government remains steadfastly committed to transforming the rightful representation of half the population into a tangible reality. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve transformed the decades-long dream of reserving seats for women in the legislature into reality. A bill that had languished for years—often stalled under the pretext of awaiting a political consensus—was effortlessly enacted into law during a special session of Parliament in September 2023, thanks to the Central Government's bold decision, unwavering determination, and sincere initiative. This paved the way for a 33 percent reservation of seats for women in both the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.

## A Journey of 3 Decades A Commitment to Swift Implementation

- In 1975, a committee constituted to examine the status of women in India noted and commented upon the declining representation of women.
- The National Perspective Plan of 1981 also recommended a 30% reservation for women across all governing bodies.
- Although the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were enacted, the initiative for women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies failed to progress.
- The very first bill for women's reservation, introduced as the 81st Constitutional Amendment Bill, was tabled on September 12, 1996, during the tenure of H.D. Deve Gowda's government. It was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee; however, by the time the committee's report was submitted, the 11th Lok Sabha had dissolved, causing the bill to lapse.
- On the second occasion, on December 14, 1998, during the government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the bill was introduced as the 84th Constitutional Amendment Bill; however, this effort, too, came to an end with the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha.
- For the third time, again under Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, the 85th Constitutional Amendment Bill was introduced on December 23, 1999; however, the bill failed to advance due to a lack of consensus among political parties.
- The fourth attempt was made under the government led by Dr Manmohan Singh, when the 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 6, 2008, and subsequently referred to a Standing Committee. Following the submission of the committee's report, the bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 2010, amidst considerable uproar. It was then sent to the Lok Sabha; however, the bill lapsed as soon as the Lok Sabha was dissolved on May 18, 2014.
- Under the current government, on September 18, 2023, the Union Cabinet approved the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' (Women's Reservation Bill).
- On September 19, 2023, the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' (the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill) was

However, technical hurdles were causing delays in the actual implementation of this legislation on the ground. Consequently, the Central Government decided to amend the law; it convened a special session of Parliament from April 16 to 18 and introduced proposals to incorporate the necessary amendments to the legislation passed in September 2023.

### A SPECIAL SESSION REFLECTING A COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE

While this special session of Parliament may not have



introduced in the Lok Sabha during a specially convened session. 454 votes were cast in favour of the bill, while only 2 votes were cast against it.

- On September 20, 2023, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and passed with 214 votes, without any opposition.
- On September 28, 2023, President Droupadi Murmu signed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, following which it became law.
- From April 16 to 18, 2026, during a special session of Parliament, the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill 2026, the Delimitation Bill 2026, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 were introduced. The government demonstrated its commitment; however, the votes required to secure the two-thirds support necessary for the Constitution Amendment Bill were not obtained. Consequently, the realisation of the 33% reservation for women could not be expedited.

succeeded in making history, it nonetheless served as a powerful testament to the resolve and commitment of the Central Government—led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—in its mission to empower Nari Shakti. Amending the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was a prerequisite for ensuring that women's reservation could be effectively implemented on the ground, starting with the 2029 general elections. Driven by this very commitment, the Central Government convened the special parliamentary session and introduced the requisite legislative bill. Furthermore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook this initiative



Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created an eye-catching sand sculpture dedicated to the spirit of Nari Shakti Vandan at Puri Beach.

not as a political maneuver, but as a decision taken in the national interest—a rightful entitlement for Nari Shakti and a reflection of India's deep-rooted cultural ethos. Yet, once again, the decades-old cycle of "ifs, buts, and caveats" has thrown up roadblocks in the path toward implementing women's reservation by 2029. Ever since convening this special session, the Prime Minister has consistently emphasized to the nation that not a single day should be wasted in bringing the women's reservation policy to fruition.

The Central Government had been optimistic that—much like in September 2023—the "Temple of Democracy" would once again resound with a resounding affirmation of democratic commitment regarding women's reservation. However, a consensus failed to emerge; lacking support from the Opposition, the government was unable to muster the requisite numerical strength within Parliament to pass the constitutional amendment bill.

Prime Minister Modi's commitment was not limited merely to introducing the amendment bill in Parliament; while participating in this special discussion, he also unilaterally declared that he would accord full credit to the Opposition in exchange for their support of this amendment. The time allotted for the discussion in the Lok Sabha was also extended, and on the first day, the debate continued until 1:00 AM. The Central Government also effectively resolved the issue by providing reasoned responses to dispel the misconceptions being circulated regarding the amendment. All relevant information was made available to address and allay the voices and sentiments of dissent. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the issue of women's reservation has been a subject of

political debate for nearly four decades, and the time has now come for women—who constitute half of the country's population—to receive their rightful representation.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister himself urged all political parties to deliberate thoughtfully and, with the utmost sensitivity, cast their votes in favor of the women's reservation amendment. Appealing on behalf of the nation's women, he urged all Members of Parliament to ensure that they do nothing that might hurt the sentiments of Nari Shakti. He stated that millions of women across the country are looking toward the Parliament, its objectives, and its decisions. The Prime Minister called upon the MPs to listen to the voice of their conscience, keeping in mind the mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives in their own homes. Prime Minister Modi described this amendment as a momentous opportunity to serve and honor the women of the nation, and he made a heartfelt appeal to the members:

**"I would say to all Members of Parliament... Listen to the voice of your conscience, keeping in mind the mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives in your own homes... This is a magnificent opportunity to serve and pay homage to the nation's Nari Shakti. Do not deprive them of new opportunities." "If this amendment is passed unanimously, the nation's 'Nari Shakti' will be further empowered... and the country's democracy will be further strengthened. Come... let us together create history today. Let us grant the women of India—the country's 'half-population'—their rightful due."**

# From birth through every Period

## Government Scheme for Every Stage of Life



Alongside his appeal to ensure that women receive their rightful share, Prime Minister Modi also urged that this decision be weighed on the scales of national interest rather than through the lens of politics. He stated, "We are all fortunate to have the privilege of making the country's 'half-population' active partners in nation-building. It is the need of the hour that our women become an integral part of the nation's policy-making process... Over the last 25-30 years, millions of women have emerged as leaders and opinion-makers at the grassroots level. Consequently, those who oppose them now will have to pay a heavy price for a long time to come... Providing reservation to the nation's women is a decision taken in the national interest—one in which our mothers, sisters, and daughters will recognize the sincerity of our intentions. Therefore, do not weigh this issue on the

scales of politics... Let us not harbor the illusion that we are merely 'giving' something to the nation's women; rather, this is their inherent right. Our objective is not to claim credit, but to further empower women." It was the Central Government's vision that when the Lok Sabha is constituted following the 2029 general elections, at least 33 percent of its members should be women. Thus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi observes, "This has been one of the most momentous occasions of my life. The imperative now is to ensure that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections—as well as future state assembly elections—are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the women's reservation law." Although this bill has not yet been enacted, the Central Government's commitment remains unequivocally clear; for as India advances toward the 'Amrit Kaal, its women have emerged as the embodiment

## Marching Ahead

- The daughters of the nation are touching the heights of the sky by becoming fighter pilots.
- India boasts the highest percentage of female pilots compared to any other country in the world.
- The number of women enrolled in PhD programmes has nearly doubled compared to 2014 figures.
- Women's participation in mathematics and science, specifically STEM education, has reached 43 percent.
- In 21 states, women's participation in Panchayats has reached nearly 50 percent.



of policy, integrity, decisiveness, and leadership. The Central Government envisions that, in the construction of a 'Developed India', women will serve as the vanguard—empowered, capable, and steering the nation toward its destiny.

### WOMEN'S RESERVATION... THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar once remarked: "If women are making progress in any country, then I believe that society—that nation—is truly progressing." Giving concrete shape to this vision, the Central Government, as early as 2023, enacted provisions—through a Constitutional Amendment—to implement a 33 percent reservation for women in the Union Territory of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Lok Sabha, and the State Legislative

**The women of our nation, our Nari Shakti, have scaled new heights through their hard work, courage, and self-confidence. Now, we must collectively infuse this power with fresh energy and expand the opportunities available to them. I wish to assure every mother, sister, and daughter across the country that the nation understands their aspirations and is taking every necessary step to realize their dreams.”**

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

Assemblies. While reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) already exists, the 33 percent reservation for women was to be ensured within this existing framework. However, the legislation enacted in 2023 was formally notified on April 16, 2026. This implies that while the 33 percent reservation for women will indeed be implemented, there will be a procedural delay in its actualization.

In fact, the Women's Reservation Bill was first introduced in 1996—during the tenure of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda—in the 11th Lok Sabha. Subsequently, in December 1998, the government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduced the Bill in the 12th Lok Sabha. Later, during the tenure of the Manmohan Singh government, the Bill was not introduced in the Lok Sabha; instead, it was presented in the Rajya Sabha in May 2008. It was then referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee; following the submission of the Committee's report, the Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 2010, and sent to the Lok Sabha. However, with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha, the Bill lapsed. Now, during the 17th Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government introduced the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in a new avatar, which was passed by both Houses of Parliament with near unanimity. The enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in September 2023 has ensured a 33 percent representation for women. Furthermore, there are currently 14.5 Lakh elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions—constituting approximately 46 percent of the total representatives—serving as a shining example of women's robust participation in decision-making and a truly empowered democracy.

# Justice and Security

*Whether it involves striking a blow against social evils or ensuring a safe environment in the workplace, the 'New India' is providing a protective shield of justice and security to its women.*



**Maternity Leave**  
Increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks

## Law on Triple Talaq

- Legal protection and equality for Muslim women.
- This dealt a severe blow to the regressive practice of Triple Talaq.



## Nirbhaya Fund

**₹5,846.08**

crore has been utilised from the Nirbhaya Fund for the safety and security of women.

## Fast Track Courts

**774**

Fast Track Special Courts (including 398 Special POCSO Courts) are operational until Jan 31, 2026.



- Expedited justice in cases of rape and sexual offences.
- One Stop Centres & Helplines.
- Assistance for women in distress.

## Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita- 2023

- Provisions for punishments for sexual offences.
- 'Nari Adalats' resolving family disputes at the rural level.

## Mission Shakti

**Sambal: Focused on Safety and Security**

**₹15,761**

crore Budget allocated for the period up to the Financial Year 2025–26.

13.37 Lakh Women Received Assistance at 926 One Stop Centers

**99.09** lakh individuals assisted through the Women's Helpline.

## Strength: Driving Economic & Social Empowerment

**4.26**

Crore beneficiaries under the PM Matru Vandana Yojana



**2,92,681** Received Shakti Sadan help

**5,29,483** Received Shakti Niwas help

**1,64,730** Help from Palna

**4,15,174** Assistance from Sankalp (Centers for Nari Shakti)

**Marriage Age for Women**

→ Proposal to increase from 18 to 21 years



*In 2001, the 84th Constitutional Amendment was enacted, freezing the number of seats until 2026. For a period of 50 years, from 1976 to 2026, the people of this country did not receive representation proportionate to their population.*

## EASE OF LIVING FOR WOMEN THROUGH GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds the view that women's empowerment is no longer merely a subject of social justice; rather, it is of paramount importance for fostering a sensitive societal outlook and for driving economic development. As a result, women today

are playing leading roles in every sector—including education, administration, the judiciary, the armed forces, medicine, science, technology, the arts, and entrepreneurship. Women in rural areas are becoming economically self-reliant through self-help groups. They are spearheading rural development initiatives within the Panchayats. Numerous women are demonstrating exceptional leadership—driven by their competence and capabilities—across industries, startups, and the corporate world. In the realm of sports, women are delivering outstanding performances. Such examples instill the confidence that, given the right opportunities and support, women can achieve excellence in every field.

Guided by this very philosophy, concerted efforts have been made over the past 12 years to dismantle every barrier restricting our mothers and sisters. The Central Government

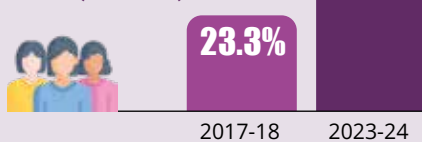
## Workplace Safety & Security

- Permission granted for night shifts for women across all sectors, including mining.
- Women are now working in core industrial sectors such as mining, metals, and machinery.
- Heavy industry and mining companies aim to achieve 30 percent gender diversity by 2030.
- Additionally, the unemployment rate among women is consistently declining, indicating that new opportunities are emerging for women and inclusivity is on the rise.

26.9

Lakhs of women joined EPFO in 2024-25

Increase in Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India



*The 2011 Census was to be used for the readjustment or division of territorial constituencies and for the allocation of SC/ST seats. The government also stated this in the objectives of the amendment bill.*

has launched several schemes and programs designed to ensure that women lead lives characterized by dignity, comfort, security, and prosperity. Serious and focused attention has been devoted to resolving every challenge encountered throughout their life cycle. At the core of every welfare scheme introduced by the Central Government lies the objective of simplifying women's lives, creating new

**Our Constitution provides for delimitation from time to time, and it is precisely through the provisions of delimitation that the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes increases. Those opposing delimitation are, in effect, opposing the increase in the number of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ”**

*Amit Shah, Union Home Minister*

avenues for employment and self-employment, and fostering women's empowerment. The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign is actively promoting the birth, education, and safety of girls. The 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' offers a secure savings avenue to ensure a bright future for daughters. The 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' safeguards women's health by liberating their kitchens from the hazards of smoke. The 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' is empowering women to achieve economic self-reliance. Under 'Mission Shakti,' women's safety and empowerment are attaining new dimensions. Furthermore, the 'Viksit Bharat - Rozgar aur Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)' incorporates numerous provisions specifically tailored to women. Moreover, historically, there was no established tradition of registering property in women's names. However, with the launch of the 'PM Awas Yojana', a specific mandate was introduced ensuring that the ownership of these housing units would be vested in women. Concerns regarding women's health have also been effectively addressed through the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana.' Millions of women now have access to free medical treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh. The Matru Vandana Yojana is currently operational for pregnant women, under which funds are being deposited directly into their bank accounts; this ensures that during the nine-month gestation period, they can access proper nutrition, thereby keeping both the expectant mother and the unborn child healthy.

Today, India is rapidly advancing towards development under women's leadership. Over the past decade

# Self-Reliance and Empowerment

*Every possible effort is being made to build a future for the nation where empowered women, while becoming self-reliant, drive progress, shape policies, and inspire generations.*

## PM Mudra Yojana

**₹40.07**

lakh crore worth of loans were extended to over 57.79 crore beneficiaries as of March 31, 2026.

**₹16.33**

lakh crore worth of loans have been distributed to women as of March 31, 2026.

**67%+**

of the loans were sanctioned to women entrepreneurs

## Stand-Up India

- Women beneficiaries received ₹48,000+ crore across 2.05 lakh loan accounts by Dec 2025; overall, ₹62,790 crore disbursed across 2.75 lakh accounts under the scheme.
- Loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore are provided to women entrepreneurs.

## Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

**19,500+**

Villages have been declared 'Sampoorna Sukanya Gram'.

- Significant improvement in the birth rate of girls, alongside advancements in their education and health standards.
- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:** 15% increase in education among girls aged 10+ and approximately 95% institutional deliveries.
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana:** ₹3.40+ lakh crore deposited in 4.61 crore accounts (as of Feb 28, 2026) with 8.2% annual interest.

Approx **75%** of the loans under this initiative were sanctioned to women entrepreneurs.



## Startups

**₹3100+**

Crores have been invested by the government over the last 6 years in startups led by 'Nari Shakti'.

- 1.02 lakh startups, approximately 48% of the total have at least one woman director or partner.

**2.12** lakh startups recognised as of January 31, 2026.



## Rising entrepreneurship participation

**7.83** crore Registered MSMEs include 3.07 crore women-led MSMEs as of 28 February 2026.

- Over 2 lakh women-led MSEs have secured orders worth over ₹80,000 crore through GeM.
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) empower women to become entrepreneurs while boosting their income.





## Lakshpati Didi Scheme

**51,852**

'Bank Sakhis' have been deployed to facilitate credit access for self-help groups.

- The government has surpassed the historic milestone of 3 crore Lakshpati Didis more than a year ahead of the original deadline of March 2027.
- Women are now strong partners in economic growth, and this scheme represents a new force driving women's economic participation.
- Through self-help groups, women's incomes are being enhanced to foster self-reliance.
- India is home to approximately 1.2 crore self-help groups, 88 percent of which are exclusively women-only groups.
- As of December 2025, over 10.05 crore women have been enrolled across 90.91 lakh SHGs under the DAY-NRLM.
- Loans totalling ₹11.86 lakh crore have been disbursed to these self-help groups.
- The limit for collateral-free loans available to women's self-help groups has been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh.
- A new and ambitious target has now been set to create 6 crore Lakshpati Didis by March 2029, thereby doubling both the scale and the aspiration of this initiative.

## Swachh Bharat Mission

**12**

crore+ toilets have been constructed, ensuring women's safety, cleanliness, and dignity.

- This has marked a new beginning of dignity and respect. The compulsion of open defecation has now become a thing of the past.

## PM Ujjwala

Approx **11**

crore Ujjwala connections have provided relief from daily struggles, leaving behind the hardships of smoke-filled kitchens.



- This initiative has made life easier for women by ensuring better health and granting them approximately 3 hours of extra time every day. Smoke-filled kitchens are now a thing of the past.

## PM Awas

**3**

crore Houses have been successfully constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin as of April 9, 2026.



- Under the PM Awas Yojana (Gramin), 72 percent of the houses are under the sole or joint ownership of women, thereby providing them with a strong foundation for economic and social empowerment alongside secure housing.
- There is strong participation of women in house ownership.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), out of the 97.3 lakh houses handed over by March 2, 2026, 96 lakh houses are registered in the name of women or are held under joint ownership with a male family member.

## Jan Dhan: Economic Self-Reliance

**57.99**

Crore Jan Dhan accounts opened as of April 1, 2026.

**32.33+**

Crore Jan Dhan accounts are connecting women to the formal banking sector.



**56%** bank accounts are in the names of women, who have now emerged as the heroes of banking.

- The power of banking now rests directly in the hands of women.
- The UN has also acknowledged that this Indian model serves as an inspiration to the world; it paves a new path for the economic empowerment of women and girls.





# A Healthy Woman: The Foundation of Security

Maternal health is crucial for the overall well-being of any society and for the prosperity of a nation. When women are healthy, it has a direct and positive impact on the physical, mental, social, and economic development of their families and communities. In this pursuit, 'New India' is actively building a healthy nation by fostering healthy motherhood.

## Poshan

- The 8th edition of the 'Poshan Pakhwada' was organized from April 9 to 23, 2026.
- Theme for Poshan Pakhwada 2026: "Maximising Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."
- 'Poshan 2.0' launched to achieve improved nutritional outcomes.
- ₹11,000 crore+ allocated towards this initiative over the past 4 years.
- Poshan Abhiyan: The campaign currently has 10.09 crore beneficiaries. The 'Poshan Tracker' has been launched to ensure real-time monitoring of the programme. The distribution of 100% fortified rice has also commenced.

## PM Matru Vandana Yojana

<b>4.78</b> Crore beneficiaries registered	<b>4.26</b> Crore have received benefits.	<b>₹20,073</b> Crores disbursed to beneficiaries under the scheme.
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- An amount of ₹5,000 is provided to the beneficiary in two installments upon the birth of the first new born.
- A lump sum of ₹6,000 is provided to the beneficiary if the second child is a girl.

## Sanitary Pads

**15** Thousand-plus PMBJP centres selling sanitary pads at ₹1

- Sanitary pads worth ₹72 crore have been sold as of January 31, 2025.



## Abortion Time Limit

With the aim of providing relief to women who have been victims of violence, the government recently approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, which extends the time limit for abortion from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

*In 1976, the country's population stood at 54.79 crores; today, it stands at 140 crores. It is the government's duty to ensure that as the number of members in the House increases, the number of working days for the House is also correspondingly increased.*

and more, a strong foundation has been laid to address the obstacles faced by women. India has achieved gender parity in school education; in higher education, as well, the number of girls exceeds that of boys in terms of proportion. Women's participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education is growing rapidly. The Union Budget 2026-27 includes a provision for establishing a women's hostel in every district. Girls are preparing them-

selves for leadership roles within the knowledge economy. Women's participation in the workforce is on the rise. Today, when a rural woman flies a drone over the fields, she is not merely spraying crops; she is, in fact, transforming the landscape of the rural economy through technology. When a woman becomes a 'Lakhpati Didi' through the strength of her entrepreneurial spirit, she becomes a source of inspiration for numerous other women in her community. Education, skill development, entrepreneurship, and structural reforms have played a significant role in bringing about these positive changes. The 'Skill India Mission' is empowering women with skills in non-traditional sectors. Women are also increasingly stepping into the role of job creators. More than half of the recognized startups in the country have at least one woman director. Currently, there are over 200,000 women-owned

## Antenatal Care - The First Step Towards Safe Motherhood

- The Central Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) in 2016 to provide free, reliable, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care to pregnant women.
- Over 7 crore women have benefited from this initiative as of June 2025.
- Services under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan are currently being provided at over 22,000 health centres.

## Jal Jeevan Mission

15.84

Crore (81.71%) households now receive tap water supply (as of March 3, 2026).



- A World Health Organisation (WHO) study indicates that providing tap water to every rural household will result in significant time savings (5.5 crore hours per day) previously spent on collecting water, particularly for women, as they perform three-quarters of this task.
- An SBI study indicates an 8.3 percent decline in the number of households that fetch water from outside sources. Approximately 90 million women no longer need to fetch water. The participation of women in agriculture and allied activities has increased by 7.4 percent.

MSMEs active on the GeM (Government e-Marketplace) portal. With the objective of providing better market access to products created by Self-Help Groups and rural women, the 'SHE-Mart' initiative was introduced in the Union Budget 2026-27. Under this initiative, community-operated retail outlets will be established in every district. The labor codes implemented last year include provisions designed to ensure a more inclusive, safe, and empowering work environment for women workers.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND A SECURE ENVIRONMENT

When women are safe and prosperous, the world, too, prospers. Their economic empowerment fuels development, and their access to education inspires global progress. Their

## Sex Ratio at Birth (per 1,000 girls)



918

2014-15

929

2024-25

## Vaccination: Protecting Mothers and Newborns

- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014.
- The objective is to ensure universal immunisation coverage for everyone, including pregnant women.

1.15

crore Girls aged 14 years were targeted under a free HPV vaccination campaign that was launched nationwide from Ajmer, Rajasthan, on February 28, 2026.

- The objective is to prevent cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer among women in the country.



leadership fosters inclusivity, and their ideas drive positive change. The most effective approach to empowering women is a women-led development model. India has taken decisive steps in this direction. India's President, Droupadi Murmu, stands as an inspiring example in her own right. She hails from a humble tribal background, yet she now leads the world's largest democracy. She serves as the Commander-in-Chief of the world's second-largest defense force. Numerous initiatives related to women's safety have been undertaken at the national level with the specific objective of providing women with a secure environment and ensuring their equal participation in the nation's development. Today, the country's priority lies in improving the lives of women and ensuring their full participation in India's developmental journey. Treating sons and daughters as equals, the Central

# Leadership and Respect

*When two women officers, Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, addressed the nation about 'Operation Sindoor', it was not just a mission update; it was a moment that reflected the spirit of a changing India. This moment inspired the entire country and clearly showcased the growing influence of 'Nari Shakti'.*

## Armed Forces – Sainik Schools Now Open for Girls' Admission

- The induction of female cadets into the National Defence Academy commenced in 2022.
- Women are now eligible for permanent commissions in the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Over the past 10 years, the number of female officers in the Indian Army has increased fourfold.

- Female officers are now serving in key leadership positions such as lieutenant general, fighter pilot, and unit commander.
- Women are being granted permanent commissions across 12 departments and services.
- Significant progress has been made regarding the induction of women into the National Defence Academy (NDA), with 17 female cadets graduating in May 2025 and 15 female cadets graduating in November 2025.
- For the first time, on the occasion of the 75th Republic Day, an all-women contingent comprising personnel from all three services marched along the Kartavya Path. Furthermore, India takes pride in being the first country in the world to deploy an all-women police unit for a peacekeeping mission—specifically

to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) from 2007 to 2016.

- In alignment with the UN Gender Parity Strategy, which aims to achieve 15% female representation in military contingents and 25% in staff officer or observer roles by 2028, India has already achieved 22% representation in the staff officer and observer categories.

### Women in the Indian Army

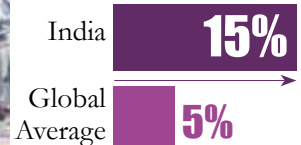


*The Indian Army is being strengthened by 'Nari Shakti'.*

**154+** Indian women were deployed in six United Nations peacekeeping missions till mid-2025.



### Women Pilots



India is ahead of even Ireland (9.9%) and the US (5.5%) in this sector.



On January 26, 2026, Assistant Commandant Simran Bala created history by leading a male CRPF contingent in the Republic Day Parade. For the first time, a female officer commanded a male contingent of the CRPF.

## Science & Technology

# 12.5

lakh Women are joining the workforce in the fields of science and technology every year.



- Women play a pivotal role in significant ISRO missions such as Aditya-L1 and Chandrayaan-3.
- In India, 43 per cent of STEM graduates are women – one of the highest percentages globally.
- Today, women constitute approximately 18.6 per cent of the combined workforce employed in STEM-related fields across both the government and private sectors; this share is steadily rising as more women advance into roles involving research, innovation, and high technology.
- The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report 2021-22 indicates that women now account for 41% of total PhD enrolments in Science, Engineering, and Technology disciplines, reflecting their growing interest and engagement in the fields of science and technology.
- According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, women constitute 43% of the total enrollments in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines at the higher education level in the country.
- As per the Research and Development Statistics Report-2023, women comprise 18.6% of the total workforce employed as STEM professionals in Research and Development (R&D) activities across the country.
- India's Aditya-L1 mission is being led by a woman; the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and six of its laboratories are headed by women; and a woman held a leadership role in the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- In the realm of research and innovation, women researchers are filing over 5,000 patents annually—a figure that stood at fewer than 100 just a short while ago.

**25%**  
Women's  
participation  
in India's  
semiconductor  
workforce



Numerous studies have demonstrated that when women's participation in decision-making processes increases, it infuses the system with greater sensitivity. This constitutes a tremendous strength; consequently, impactful work, executed with greater dedication and sensitivity, has been accomplished across various sectors such as water, education, healthcare, and nutrition. ”

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

Government is currently considering raising the legal marriage age for daughters to 21 years. Today, the country has enacted stringent laws against crimes targeting women; for heinous offenses such as rape, provisions for the death penalty have also been introduced. A large number of fast-track courts are being established across the nation, and administrative mechanisms are being streamlined to ensure the strict enforcement of these laws. From increasing the number of Women's Help Desks at police stations to establishing 24-hour helplines and launching portals to combat cybercrime, numerous such initiatives are serving as a protective shield for women. The current Central Government operates on a policy of "zero tolerance" toward crimes against women.

Beyond merely providing legal protection, the Central Government has also launched campaigns aimed at upholding the dignity and self-respect of women. Under the majority of the Central Government's schemes, official documents and entitlements are issued with the women of the household placed at the very center of the beneficiary framework. Furthermore—before recent reforms—women in Jammu and Kashmir who married non-Kashmiris, along with their children, were previously deprived of their rights to ancestral property. However, following the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the women of this region have finally received their rightful entitlements. Laws have also been strengthened to address cases involving Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who marry women only to subsequently abandon them. At the societal level,

# Access to Higher Education

*Women's access to higher education drives global progress. Their leadership promotes inclusivity, and their ideas inspire positive change. Therefore, over the past 12 years, initiatives have been undertaken with a holistic approach...*



**Women's Gross  
Enrolment Ratio  
(GER) in Higher  
Education**

**22.9%**  
2014-15

**30.2%**  
2022-23



**Women Researchers  
in PhD Programmes**

**64,724**

Increase in the number of women researchers since 2014.

- An extraordinary increase of 135.6% in enrolment (from 2014-15 to 2022-23).

**AICTE**

**35,998**

Girls benefited from the AICTE Pragati Scholarship Scheme in the year 2024-25.

**National Scholarship for PG Studies**

- A scheme launched by the Central Government in 2023-24.
- 30% of seats are reserved for girls.



**A Boon for Women!**

- Over 7.2 million women have been trained so far under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

**45%**

*Women constitute the total trained candidates across India.*

**Vigyan  
Jyoti Scheme**

**300**

Districts witnessed more than 80,000 talented girls receiving support under the Vigyan Jyoti Scheme.

legislative measures have been enacted to curb social evils—such as 'Triple Talaq'—that historically subjected women to abuse and oppression. Today, millions of Muslim women have found protection against the inhumane practice of Triple Talaq. Within just a few years of the enactment of this law, instances of Triple Talaq have witnessed a decline of 80-82 percent. Today, the women of India are independent, economically empowered, imbued with determination, and possess a profound sense of security; they are not merely dreaming, but are actively turning those dreams into reality. A major catalyst for this transformation has been the concerted efforts of the resolute government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—efforts that have brought about a revolutionary shift in the mindset, prevalent for decades, of viewing girls and women as inferior.

It is the result of the Central Government's tireless efforts—driven by a holistic approach to place women's power in a central role—that today, whether it involves leading the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path, piloting the state-of-the-art Rafale fighter jets, confronting enemies on the front lines, bringing glory to the nation in the realm of sports, or leveraging self-employment opportunities to bolster the country's economic progress on an equal footing, women are not merely standing shoulder-to-shoulder with men, but are surging far ahead of them, becoming the pride of the nation. Through their extraordinary capabilities, women have conclusively demonstrated that, given equal opportunities, they are capable of building not just a home, but a prosperous and glorious nation as well.

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund

# Nari Shakti in Agriculture Sector

*In an agriculture-based country like India, a large part of the rural economy depends on the labour, skills, and dedication of women. Women play an active role in numerous agricultural tasks, such as sowing, weeding, harvesting, animal husbandry, seed preservation, and food processing. Therefore, through technical training, a specialised group of women is being empowered, and new opportunities for income generation are opening up for them.*

## Opportunities Galore

- Whether it involves crop cultivation in the fields or animal husbandry, today, there are opportunities aplenty for the daughters of our villages.
- In villages today, 'Namo Drone Didis' are spearheading modern methods for the spraying of fertilisers and pesticides.
- 70,000 'Krishi Sakhis' are ready to provide training to farmers regarding natural farming practices.

**1,094**

Drones have been distributed to women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), including 500 drones distributed under the 'Namo Drone Didis' initiative.



## Nari Shakti in Agriculture Sector

**11.61** lakh+

Women farmers have been trained under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency scheme as of Feb 26.

**₹2,377** crore

Rupees have been provided to support 8,190 women-led projects under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) as of Feb 28, 2025.

## FPO Scheme

- Under the 10,000 FPO Scheme (by February 2026): Each FPO's Board of Directors must include at least one female member.
- 1,175 FPOs feature 100% women shareholders, while 1,084 FPOs have between 50% and 99% women members.

**₹1.01+**  
Lakh Crore

has been distributed to women beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN scheme since its inception.

**15,000**

Drones are set to be provided to women's SHGs under 'Namo Drone Didis' scheme.



(IMF), achieving gender parity in workforce participation could boost India's GDP by 27 percent. Furthermore, if 50 percent of skilled women were to join the workforce, the growth rate could rise by 1.5 percent, reaching 9 percent annually. In this 'New India,' recognizing the imperative need to integrate women into the labor force, the Central Government is continuously launching new initiatives—backed by renewed resolve—to ensure women are provided with equal opportunities and a safe environment. When dedication and perseverance are coupled with a resolve, and a spirit of empathy and inclusiveness embraces all humanity, a new era is born—a new dawn breaks. "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, aur Sabka Prayas"- this very spirit of collective vitality is what is surging forth today, during the 'Amrit Kaal' for the New India.

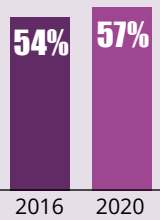
This is precisely why, today, approximately one-quarter of India's space scientists are women. Behind the success of flagship programs such as Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan, and the Mars mission lie the talent and hard work of women scientists. In the civil aviation sector, India ranks among the nations with the highest percentage of female pilots. Moreover, women pilots are now flying combat aircraft within the Indian Air Force. Across all branches of the Armed Forces, women officers are increasingly being deployed in operational roles and on combat fronts. Over the past 10 years, the number of women officers in the Indian Armed Forces has increased nearly fourfold, rising from 3,000 to over 11,000. Today, women are serving the nation in key leadership positions such as fighter pilots, Lieutenant Generals, and Unit Commanders. The opening of the doors of Sainik



# Excellence in the World of Sports

*When the daughters of India claimed the Women's World Cup title for the first time in history, Prime Minister Modi celebrated the achievement by honouring these determined champions with sweets. This stands as a testament to the fact that the 'New India' is empowering Nari Shakti to take the lead in all spheres, and India's female athletes are writing a new chapter in the nation's sporting history...*

## Performance of Female Athletes at the Olympics



- The number of female participants stood at 25 in 2008, which dropped to 23 in 2012.
- 47 women participated in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

## Khelo India

₹9.5

Crore have been released to date under the 'Khelo India – Sports for Women' scheme alone.

- Under this scheme, 575 competitions were organized across 21 different sports disciplines.
- Over 60,000 female athletes had participated as of February 2024.

## Medals Won by Female Athletes

23

medals were secured by female athletes out of 61 during the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- At the 2023 Asian Para Games, female athletes created history by winning 40 out of India's total haul of 111 medals.
- They shone brightly at the Paris 2024 Olympics by winning 2 out of 6 medals, and at the Paralympics by securing 11 out of 29 medals won.

## History Created

- Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman in the history of the Paralympic Games to win two gold medals.
- In the year 2025, the Indian women's blind cricket team created history by winning the inaugural Women's Blind T20 World Cup.
- Shuttlar PV Sindhu created history at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- Manu Bhaker became India's first female shooter to create history by winning two bronze medals at the Paris Olympics 2024.

**The Indian team created history by winning the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.**

Schools and the National Defence Academy (NDA) to women triggered a wave of change, providing many young women with the opportunity to enter the defense sector.

## ... WHEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT BECAME A PLEDGE

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will define the role of women's power in India's development. It will prove to be a milestone in the creation of a 'Developed India' during the Amrit Kaal leading up to the year 2047. It is poised to give a new direction to women's empowerment. It will accord recognition to historic women's leadership in the construction of a 'New India' and will prove to be an inspiration for the entire world. This represents, in the truest sense, a

tribute to the 'Matri Shakti'—the women—who constitute 50 percent of the nation's population of 1.4 billion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the concept of "women-led development" to the entire global community. During its G20 presidency, India demonstrated to the world that women—our 'Matri Shakti' and daughters—are capable not only of participating in policies but also of securing their rightful place in the actual formulation of those policies. The reason for this is that, for the current Central Government, women's empowerment is not merely a political issue, but a solemn pledge. A prime example of this commitment dates back to when Prime Minister Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat; he donated his entire salary to support the education of the daughters of employees at the Gujarat

## Womaniya Initiative... Facilitating Easy Market Access for Women Entrepreneurs

- Womaniya is an inclusion-centric initiative. Women-led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) are onboarded onto the platform through a digital process involving enterprise verification and the submission of necessary documents.
- It enables women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to sell their products directly to government buyers through the GeM portal.
- Products falling under specific categories, such as handicrafts, handlooms, jute, coir, and home and office decor, have been included under this initiative.
- This initiative provides women entrepreneurs with enhanced visibility in the market and ensures transparent communication between buyers and sellers, thereby reducing dependence on intermediaries.
- In the financial year 2025-26, over 210,000 women micro-entrepreneurs registered on the GeM portal, receiving a total of 1.37 million orders.



Secretariat. Furthermore, he donated the proceeds generated from the auction of various gifts and mementos he had received—funds that were also dedicated to the education of young girls. Imagine being the elected leader of 1.4 billion citizens—a figure commanding a massive following across social media platforms—and then completely handing over your personal social media accounts to seven women for an entire day. What kind of experience would that be? Indeed, on International Women's Day in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over control of his Twitter account to seven women. He repeated this gesture in 2025, once again entrusting his social media presence to the spirit of Nari Shakti on this special occasion. This remarkable demonstration of perfect alignment between word and deed is, in essence, what is granting women equal rights and opportunities at the very heart of this 'New India.'

Undoubtedly, the empowerment of the nation's women constitutes the country's highest priority today. Consequently, the prowess of India's women is now being acknowledged and respected by everyone across the nation. Women are not only the primary beneficiaries of India's expanding economy, but they also play a pivotal role—making immense contributions—in accelerating its growth. From the world of startups to the space sector, daughters are making their mark everywhere. They are dominating the sports arena and shining brightly in the armed forces; today, with pride, women are participating shoulder-to-shoulder in the nation's journey of development. To transform India into a developed nation by 2047, it is imperative that the country progresses rapidly and that the full potential of its citizens is harnessed in the national interest. To this end, it is essential that we not only inspire our daughters to dream big but also support them at every step in realizing those dreams. In an environment free from fear and discrimination, women can contribute their absolute best to nation-building.

During the Amrit Kaal, the government has once again demonstrated its commitment through a historic initiative: introducing the very first bill in the new Parliament building as a tribute to Nari Shakti—and, furthermore, pledging to transform this legislative measure into tangible reality. Under the leadership of India's 'Pradhan Sewak'—a true Karmayogi and dedicated Sadhak—Narendra Modi, the nation stands committed to scripting a new chapter in the journey of democracy; for such is the teaching of India's scriptures and the very essence of India's culture...

**“यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः  
यत्रैतास्तु न पूज्यन्ते सर्वास्तत्राफलाः क्रियाः**



# Women's Reservation

## Answers to All Your Questions

### Which bills did the Central Government introduce in the Lok Sabha on April 16, 2026?

On April 16, 2026, the Central Government introduced three major bills in the Lok Sabha:

- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026
- Delimitation Bill, 2026
- The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

### Q Why were these three bills introduced by the Central Government at this particular time?

**A** The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam stipulates that reservation for women is to be ensured based on the delimitation exercise conducted following the census that takes place after 2026. Had the Central Government waited for the 2026 census—and the subsequent delimitation based on it—women would not have been able to avail the benefit of 33 percent reservation even in the 2029 general elections. Therefore, to extend these benefits to half of the country's population as expeditiously as possible, it was deemed necessary to delink this process from the delimitation exercise scheduled to be conducted based on the 2026 census.

### Q Why was the issue of delimitation introduced alongside the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam? Why was the government proposing such a significant increase in the number of seats?

**A** Delimitation refers to the alteration of the boundaries of an electoral constituency. Delimitation is essential for the effective implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. In 1976, the number of seats in the Lok Sabha was fixed at 550. In 1971, India's population stood at approximately 54 crores; today, it has reached 140 crores. Therefore, it is crucial to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha to 850. This would ensure adequate representation in Parliament.

### Q If these three bills had been passed by the House, what benefits would the country have derived?

**A** Had these three bills been passed by the House, they would have become laws following the President's assent. Consequently, the women of the country could have availed the benefit of 33 percent reservation as early as the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, thereby realizing a right for which they had long been waiting.

### Q Was the Central Government seeking to gain political mileage by amending the Delimitation Commission Act? Why did the government introduce this bill while elections were underway in certain states? Would this have any impact on the ongoing elections in states like Tamil Nadu or West Bengal?

**A** The Central Government did not make any amendments to the Delimitation Commission Act; rather, it retained the existing law in its original form. The recommendations of the Delimitation Commission would have come into effect only after receiving parliamentary approval and the President's assent. This process would have had no bearing on the elections currently underway, such as those in Tamil Nadu or West Bengal, as all elections until 2029 are slated to be conducted based on the existing framework and boundaries.

**Q** What were the primary reasons and rationale behind the proposal to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats to 850?

**A** This proposal was predicated on the principle of expanding the number of seats in proportion to the population. A uniform increase of 50 percent would have ensured that the proportional representation of all states and Union Territories remained consistent with the current status quo. Based on this principle, the number of Lok Sabha seats would have risen from the current figure of 543 to approximately 815. Consequently, the maximum ceiling for the number of seats in the Lok Sabha was being raised from 550 to 850.



**Q** Would the new delimitation proposal have disadvantaged states that have controlled their population growth?

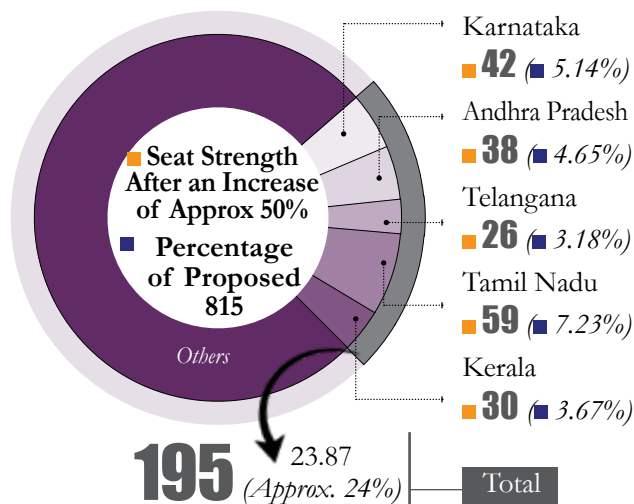
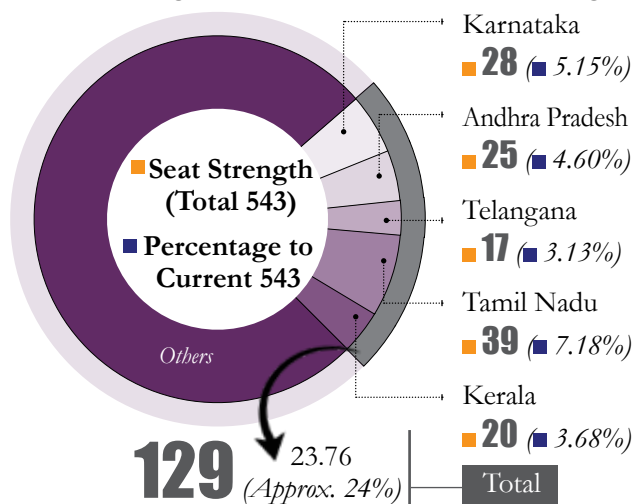
**A** No, the new delimitation proposal would not have caused any disadvantage to states that have successfully controlled their population growth. There was a provision for a proportional increase (50%) in the number of seats for all states; consequently, instead of seeing a decline in their percentage of representation, each state's share would have either remained constant or increased slightly.

**Q** Would the new delimitation proposal have harmed the representation and rights of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST)?

**A** Our Constitution provides for periodic delimitation, and it is through this very process that seats are reallocated and increased for various sections of society, including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Had these three bills been passed, the number of reserved seats in a House comprising approximately 850 members would have risen from 131 to around 205; this would have resulted in an enhancement—rather than any diminution—of the representation and rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**Q** Would the new delimitation proposal have disadvantaged South Indian or smaller states?

**A** No, there would have been a uniform 50 percent increase in the number of seats for all states. There would have been no reduction in the representation of the Southern states. As illustrated in the table below, the Southern states currently hold 23.76 percent of the seats in the Lok Sabha. This share would have increased to approximately 23.87 percent. For instance, the number of seats allocated to Tamil Nadu would also have increased in this same proportion, ensuring that the state suffered no disadvantage.



**Q** Despite the Opposition's persistent demands, why was a separate quota for Muslim women not included within the scope of women's reservation?

**A** The Constitution of India contains no provision for reservation based on religion. Reservation policies are grounded in the criteria of social and economic backwardness, as stipulated in the Constitution.

**Q** Why did the government not implement women's reservation immediately in the 2024 general elections, rather than deferring it until 2029? Furthermore, why was it not implemented based on the 2011 census data?

**A** Delimitation is a prerequisite for implementing reservation. Delimitation is a comprehensive process that involves extensive consultation. Completing the delimitation exercise typically takes approximately two years. Therefore, these three bills were introduced alongside the Delimitation Bill to pave the way for the implementation of women's reservation.

**Q** If women's reservation was not scheduled to be implemented in the 2024 general elections, why was the Women's Reservation Bill introduced in 2023?

**A** In 2023, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government introduced the Women's Reservation Bill. This bill was passed unanimously in the new Parliament building and subsequently received approval from the Rajya Sabha. The bill garnered support from all quarters, thereby transforming the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Bill' into an Act of Parliament.



**Q** Did the government introduce this Constitutional Amendment Bill merely to defer the caste census?

**A** The Government initiated the time-bound process for the caste census three months ago; therefore, the question of deferring it does not arise. Under the current census methodology, the enumeration of households is being conducted first; subsequently, during the enumeration of individuals, caste-related information will also be comprehensively recorded.

**Q** Why was a separate 'Union Territories Bill' introduced specifically to extend women's reservation to Union Territories such as Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, and Puducherry?

**A** The Legislative Assemblies of Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, and Puducherry are governed by distinct 'Union Territories Acts.' This technical amendment was deemed essential to reserve approximately 38, 23, and 10 seats for women—respectively—within these legislative bodies; hence, a separate 'Union Territories Bill' was introduced for this purpose. ●



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Address to the Nation

## “I assure every woman of the country, we will remove every obstacle in the path of women's reservation.”

*The Nari Shakti Vandan amendment was not about taking anything away from anyone, but a grand effort to give women of the nation their rightful due. It is not only the need of the hour, but also a strong foundation for women's leadership to take the nation to new heights in the journey toward a Viksit Bharat. This was not a political move, but a decision made in the national interest, one that was halted in the Lok Sabha by numbers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saddened by politics overshadowing national policy, addressed the nation on April 18, 2026, expressing his emotional anguish before the country and its women. He also assured that every obstacle in the path of women's reservation would be removed. Read the edited excerpts from the address to the nation:*

**National interest is bigger than party interest:** For us, national interest is paramount, but when for some people party interest becomes everything, when party interest becomes bigger than national interest, then women power and national interest have to bear the consequences. This time too, the same has happened. The selfish politics of parties like Congress, DMK, TMC, and Samajwadi Party have harmed the women's power of the country.

**Women Do Not Forget Insults:** When the proposal aimed at advancing women's interests was defeated, dynastic parties like the Congress, DMK, TMC, and SP were thumping the tables. What they did was not just thumping on the tables; it was a blow to the self-respect and dignity of women. And women forget everything, but they never forget their insult. Therefore, the sting of the behaviour displayed by the Congress and its allies in Parliament will forever linger in the hearts of every woman.

**Opposition Insulted the Constitution's Framers:** To those parties that opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Amendment in Parliament, I will say clearly: these people are taking women's power for granted. They are forgetting that the women of the 21st century are watching every event in the country, they are sensing their intentions, and they have fully understood the truth. Therefore, for opposing women's reservation, the sin committed by the opposition will surely bring punishment to them. These parties have also insulted the sentiments of the framers of the Constitution, and they will not escape the punishment from the people either.

**A Bill to Give, Not to Take:** The Nari Shakti Vandan amendment was not about taking anything away from anyone. The Nari Shakti Vandan amendment was about giving something to everyone; it was an amendment to give. It was about giving women the right that has been pending for



40 years, from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections onwards. The 'Nari Shakti Vandan' amendment was a monumental endeavour, a Mahayagya dedicated to providing the women of 21st-century India with new opportunities, enabling them to soar to new heights, and clearing the obstacles standing in their path.

**The 'Nari Shakti Vandan' amendment is the demand of the time:** The Nari Shakti Vandan amendment was an effort to equally increase the strength of every state, north, south, east, and west. It was an effort to give more strength to the voice of every state in Parliament. Whether the state is small or big, whether the population is less or more, it was an effort to increase everyone's strength in equal proportions. But this honest effort has been subjected to foeticide in Parliament by Congress and its allies. Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party, DMK—these parties are guilty of this foeticide. They are criminals against the Constitution of the country; they are criminals against the women's power of the country.



## Blessing of 100% Nari Shakti

Today, even though we did not get the required 66 percent votes to pass the bill, I know that 100 percent of the women's power of the country has blessed us. I assure every woman of the country: we will remove every obstacle in the path of women's reservation. Our courage is high, our determination unbreakable, and our resolve unwavering.

**An Opportunity Lost:** Failing to Stand with Women: Personally, I had hoped that Congress would correct its decades-old mistake. Congress would repent for its sins. But Congress lost the opportunity to create history, to stand in favour of women. Congress has already lost its existence in most parts of the country. Congress is surviving like a parasite, riding on the back of regional parties. But Congress does not even want regional parties to grow stronger, so Congress conspired politically to push the future of many regional parties into darkness by making them oppose this amendment.

**Fear in Family-orientated Parties:** One big reason for the opposition to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act is the fear of these family-orientated parties. They fear that if women become empowered, then the leadership of these family-orientated parties will be in danger. They will never want women outside their families to move forward. These family-orientated parties feel insecure. After delimitation, there will be many more seats for women, women's stature will increase, and that is why these people opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan amendment. The women's power of the country will never forgive Congress and its allies for this sin.

**Misinformation Spread Regarding Delimitation:** Congress and its allied parties are continuously, continuously lying about delimitation. They want to ignite the fire of division under this pretext. Because "divide and rule" politics is something Congress inherited from the British. And Congress is still running on that same path today. Congress has always fuelled sentiments that create rifts in the country. Therefore, this lie was spread that delimitation would harm some states! Whereas the government has made it clear from the very first day that neither the proportion of participation of any state will change, nor will anyone's representation be reduced. In fact, the seats of all states will increase in equal proportion.

**Negative Politics:** By opposing women's reservation, Congress has once again proved one thing. Congress is an anti-reform party. For a developed India in the 21st century, whatever decisions or whatever reforms are necessary, whatever decisions the country takes, Congress opposes them, rejects them, and obstructs them. This is the history of Congress, and this is Congress's negative politics.

**The Opposition's sole policy is to oppose every reform:** This is the same Congress that opposed the trinity of Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile. Congress opposed digital payments. Congress opposed GST. Congress opposed reservation for the poor in the general category. Congress opposed the law against triple talaq. Congress opposed the removal of Article 370. Our Constitution and our courts have said that the Uniform Civil Code, UCC, is necessary, but Congress

opposes that too. At the very mention of reform, Congress runs with placards of protest. Any work that strengthens the country, Congress puts all its strength into creating obstacles to it. Congress opposes One Nation One Election. Congress opposes driving out infiltrators from the country. Congress opposes purification of the voter list, SIR. Congress opposes reforms in the Waqf board. Congress even opposed the CAA law that gave security to refugees. By lying and spreading rumours, it created a storm in the country. Congress obstructs the country's efforts to end Maoist-Naxalite violence. Congress has had only one pattern: whenever a reform comes, lie and spread confusion. History is witness; Congress has always chosen this negative path.

**Their mindset has been one of 'Delaying, Misleading, and Stalling:** Whatever decision is necessary for the country, Congress sweeps it under the carpet. Because of this attitude of Congress, India has not reached the heights of development it deserves. At the time of independence, many other countries were freed along with us. Most of those countries went far ahead of us, and the reason was that Congress kept blocking every reform. Delay, diversion, obstruction – this was Congress's principle; this was Congress's work culture. Congress delayed border disputes with neighbouring countries. Congress delayed water-sharing disputes with Pakistan. Congress delayed the decision on OBC reservation for 40 years. Congress delayed the One Rank One Pension for soldiers for 40 years.

**We Will Fulfil the Pledge of Women's Reservation:** The parties opposing women's reservation will never be able to stop the women power of this country from increasing their participation in Parliament and legislative assemblies. It is only a matter of time. Our resolve for the empowerment of women power is intact. Yesterday we did not have the numbers, but that does not mean we lost. Our inner strength is invincible. Our effort will not stop; our effort will not pause. We will have more opportunities ahead. For the dreams of half the population, for the future of the country, we must fulfil this resolve. ●



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

# Fertilizer Subsidy for Kharif Season 2026

## Approval for Jaipur Metro Expansion

*Keeping the interests of farmers in mind, the Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the Kharif season of 2026. This decision is significant in the direction of making fertilizers available to farmers at affordable rates and empowering the agricultural sector. Additionally, the second phase of the Metro project in Jaipur has also been approved. This will provide fresh momentum to traffic management and tourism within the city, while also boosting employment and trade opportunities. Furthermore, approval was granted to several other significant proposals, including the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) until March 2028.*

“Even amidst global challenges, the welfare of our farmer brothers and sisters has always remained a top priority for our government. In this direction, an increase in nutrient-based subsidies has been approved for the Kharif season of 2026. This will ensure that our food providers continue to receive fertilizers at affordable rates as before.” *Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

**DECISION:** Approval granted for nutrient-based subsidy rates on phosphatic and potassic fertilisers for the Kharif season of 2026.

**IMPACT:** Availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices will be ensured.

- Phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers, including DAP and NPKS grades, will continue to be available to farmers at reasonable prices.
- The tentative budgetary requirement for the Kharif season 2026 would be approximately Rs.41,533.81 crore. This is approximately Rs 4,317 crore more than the budgetary requirement for the Kharif 2025 season.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet has approved Jaipur Metro Phase 2, a transformative 41 km long north-south corridor at a total project cost of ₹13,037.66 crore.

**IMPACT:** With the commissioning of Phase 2, the metro network is expected to witness a manifold increase in ridership, substantially enhancing the share of public transport in Jaipur and reducing dependence on private vehicles.

- This will lead to a reduction in traffic congestion and vehicular pollution, while making commuting easier for residents, working professionals, and tourists. It will also bolster Jaipur's standing as a modern and future-ready city. This marks a significant step towards realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Viksit Rajasthan'.
- This route, extending from Prahladpura to Todi Mod,

## UNION CABINET DECISIONS

comprises 36 stations. At present, Jaipur Metro Phase-1 records an average daily ridership of around 60,000 passengers.

**DECISION:** Cabinet has approved the revision of HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) project cost from Rs. 43,129 crore to Rs. 79,459 crore and an additional equity investment of Rs. 8,962 crore by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

**IMPACT:** HRRL is a key project considering the growing energy needs and the petrochemical

requirements of the country and speciality products production, thereby reducing the country's dependence on imports, which will result in saving foreign exchange. Moreover, this project will also contribute towards industrialization of a backward area, usage of locally available Mangala crude and help in promoting India as a refining hub.

- During the course of execution of this project, HRRL has generated employment opportunities of approximately 25,000 workmen deployed by various stakeholders engaged in the construction of the refinery units.



**DECISION:** Approved investment of Rs. 26,069.50 crore for the construction of Kamala Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Kamle, Kra Daadi & Kurung Kumey Districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

**IMPACT:** With an installed capacity of 1720 MW, it is expected to generate 6870 MU of energy. The power generated from the project will strengthen the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, support in peak demand management, contribute to national grid balancing and will provide flood moderation benefit in the Brahmaputra Valley. The estimated timeline for the completion of the project is 96 months.

- This project will bring about significant improvements in infrastructure across the Kamle, Kra Daadi, and Kurung Kumey districts of Arunachal Pradesh, including the development of approximately 196 kilometres of roads and bridges.
- The districts will also benefit from the construction of essential infrastructure facilities such as hospitals, schools, markets, and more.
- The local population will further benefit through compensation, employment opportunities, and CSR activities.

**DECISION:** Approval granted for the investment proposal regarding the construction of the 1200 MW Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

**IMPACT:** It is expected to generate 4,852.95 million units of electricity annually. As the first hydroelectric project in the Lohit Basin, it will strengthen power supply within the state, assist in managing peak-demand periods, and contribute to balancing the national grid.

- The estimated cost of the project is ₹14,105.83 crore. The estimated completion timeline for the project is 78 months.
- Infrastructure in the Namsai and Anjaw districts of the state will witness substantial improvement. Under this project, approximately 29 kilometres of roads and bridges will be constructed.
- The local populace shall also be benefitted from many sorts of compensations, employment and CSR activities.



Scan the QR code to watch the press briefing on the Cabinet decisions.

**DECISION:** Approval for Dearness Allowance (DA) for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

**IMPACT:** This will be effective from January 1, 2026. The existing rate of 58 percent of the basic pay/pension will be increased by two percent. Due to the hike in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief, the total financial burden on the government exchequer will amount to ₹6,791.24 crore per annum. This will benefit approximately 50.46 lakh Central Government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners.

**DECISION:** Approval for the proposal to establish the 'Bharat Marine Insurance Pool' (BMI Pool).

**IMPACT:** A sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore has been provided to facilitate continuous marine insurance coverage. This domestic insurance pool addresses issues arising from global upheavals and geopolitical instability, thereby reducing the dependence of Indian vessels on external insurance providers. This pool covers all marine risks, including Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and War Risks. It also extends coverage to vessels transporting cargo to or from Indian ports from any international origin—even if their routes traverse through volatile maritime regions.

**DECISION:** Approval granted for two multi-tracking projects covering 15 districts across Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

**IMPACT:** This will result in an addition of approximately 601 kilometers to the existing network of Indian Railways. The estimated cost of these projects is ₹24,815 crore, and they are scheduled to be completed by 2030-31. This will enhance the operational efficiency and service reliability of Indian Railways. The objective is to foster self-reliance among the people of the region through comprehensive regional development, thereby increasing their opportunities for employment and self-employment. These projects will ensure the seamless movement of people, goods, and services.



**DECISION:** Approval granted to extend the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025, continuing it until March 2028.

**IMPACT:** The extension of the PMGSY-III timeline will facilitate the completion of planned improvements to rural roads. This will ease market access for both agricultural and non-agricultural produce, thereby boosting the rural economy and trade. Additionally, a reduction in transportation time and costs will lead to an improvement in rural incomes. Enhanced connectivity will also improve access to educational institutions and healthcare centers. The continued implementation of this scheme is also expected to generate employment opportunities.

**Furthermore, the Cabinet accorded approval to the following points:**

- The deadline for the construction of roads and bridges in plain areas, as well as for completing the remaining road construction works in hilly areas, has been extended to March 2028.
- In view of the challenging geographical conditions prevailing in hilly regions, the timeline for completing bridge construction works in these areas has been further extended to March 2029.
- All works sanctioned before March 31, 2025—for which allocations had not yet been finalized—have now been authorized to proceed through the tendering and allocation process.
- Approval has also been granted for the construction of 161 new long-span bridges—located along previously sanctioned routes—at an estimated cost of ₹961 crore. To ensure the successful implementation of the scheme, the total financial outlay has been increased from the originally allocated amount of ₹80,250 crore to ₹83,977 crore. ●



Scan the QR code to watch the press briefing on the Cabinet decisions.



11 Years of PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY

# Families Secured Futures Assured

*From making dreams a reality to restoring dignity, and Security for All—embodying the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas remains a top priority for the current government. With this aim, on May 9, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana schemes that are now completing 11 years. The massive reach of these three public security schemes can be gauged from the fact that they have already recorded over 92 crore registrations to date.*

Until 2014, approximately 80–90 percent of the Indian population possessed neither any form of insurance coverage nor any prospect of a pension. To put it simply, more than 100 crore (1 billion) people were left without the safety cover of insurance or pension security. Against this backdrop,

on May 9, 2015—speaking from West Bengal—Prime Minister Narendra Modi demonstrated the government’s deep sense of duty and sensitivity toward the poor and the needy by simultaneously launching two insurance schemes and one pension scheme. At the time, Prime Minister Modi had remarked that the

Pradhan Mantri  
Suraksha Bima  
Yojana

57.11 Crore  
Registrations

Greater than the population of the USA

Pradhan Mantri  
Jeevan Jyoti Bima  
Yojana

26.31 Crore  
Registrations

Greater than the population of Pakistan

Atal Pension Yojana

8.71 Crore  
Registrations

Greater than the population of Germany





## Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

### One Year of Accident Insurance for Just ₹ 20

*Jyoti Nihal, a 27-year-old resident of a village in the Harda district of Madhya Pradesh, lost her husband, Murlidhar Nihal, in a sudden accident. Murlidhar was the sole earning member of the family, which, in addition to Jyoti, included two young children. During this difficult time, the family found solace in a small decision Murlidhar had made earlier—registering for the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) by paying a nominal fee of ₹ 12 (now ₹ 20). This scheme is a government-backed annual personal accident insurance plan. When Murlidhar passed away, his wife, Jyoti, received a payout of ₹ 2 lakh through this scheme.*

Countless such stories are associated with the PMSBY. At the launch of the scheme, Prime Minister Modi remarked that a dialogue in a movie once poignantly noted that one cannot even buy a shroud for ₹ 12; however, the government has introduced an insurance scheme that has brought tangible benefits to the most economically vulnerable sections of society.



#### More About PMSBY

- The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is an annual personal accident insurance scheme that can be renewed every year.
- The scheme provides coverage of ₹ 2 lakh in the event of death or permanent total disability caused by an accident, and ₹ 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.
- The annual premium is ₹ 20.
- The scheme is available to individuals aged between 18 and 70 years.
- The applicant must possess a bank account.



Note: PMSBY beneficiaries



**50%** women



**72%** are people from rural areas.

Claim Settlement

Total Claims  
**3,277**

2016-17

Total Amount

**₹65.54**  
Crore

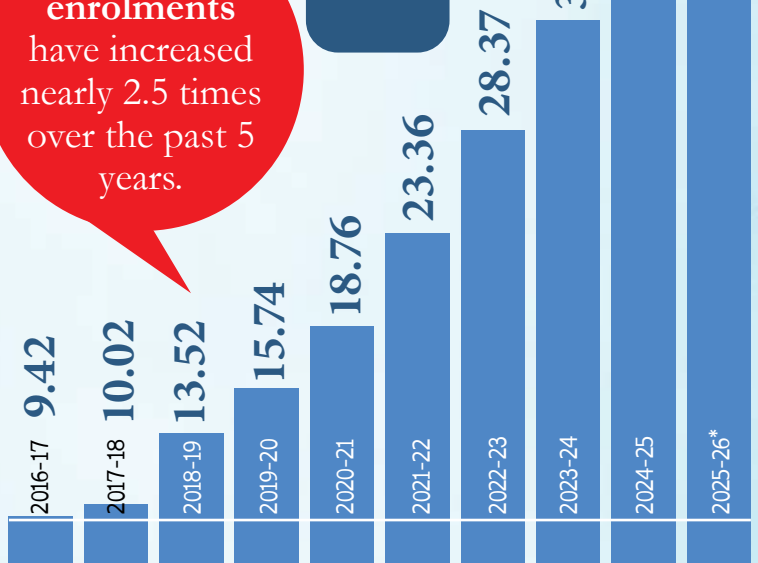
Total Claims  
**1,76,859**

2025-26\*  
(Feb 2026)

Total Amount

**₹3,537**  
Crore

**PMSBY enrolments** have increased nearly 2.5 times over the past 5 years.



Note: Figures are in crores; data for the financial year 2025-26 is as of February 25, 2026.



## Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

### Jeevan Jyoti Bima for just ₹436 annually i.e, ₹1.20 per day

Radha's husband was a daily-wage laborer. He passed away suddenly. There were no savings, no land, and no one to provide her with financial support. Then, a few days after her husband's death, an insurance representative visited her and informed her that her husband had been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. The financial assistance of ₹2 lakh received as insurance compensation gave Radha the hope to get back on her feet and start her life afresh. This insurance scheme was launched on May 9, 2015. The scheme was announced during the 2015 Union Budget, at a time when it was observed that only about 20% of the population possessed any form of insurance coverage. While launching the scheme, Prime Minister Modi stated that, typically, such insurance policies require a medical examination, and the insurance company decides who qualifies for coverage and who does not. However, under this scheme, one simply needs to fill out a form; even if you are unwell, you can still avail of this insurance coverage.



#### More about the PMJJBY

- The eligible age for enrolling in this insurance scheme is 18 to 50 years.
- Registration facilities are available at bank branches, post offices, or online.
- The annual premium is ₹436.
- A compensation of ₹2 lakh is provided in the event of death regardless of the cause during the insurance coverage period.
- To be eligible, it is mandatory to hold an account with a bank or post office and to authorize the auto-debit facility.

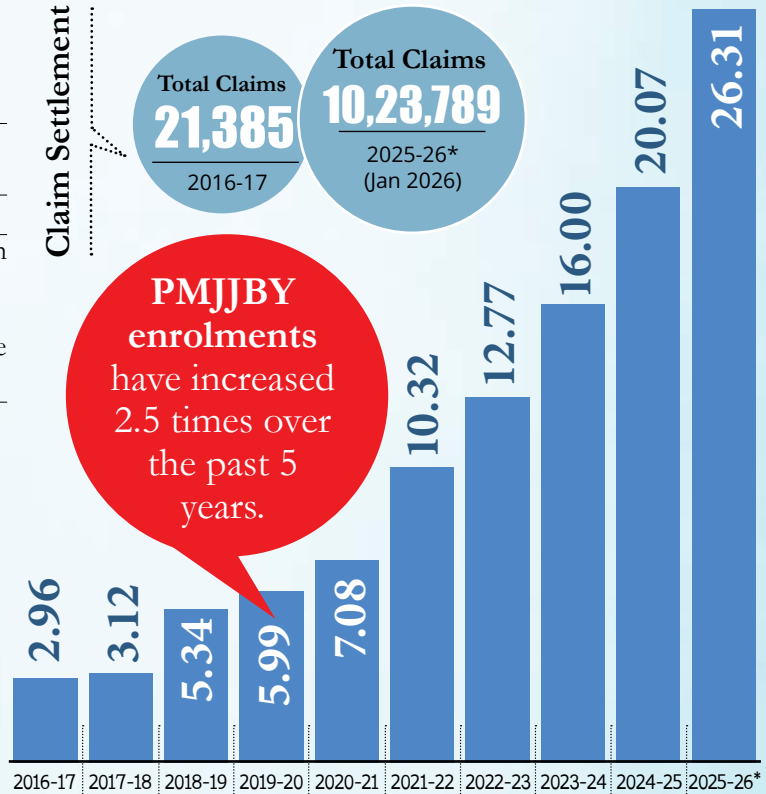


Note: PMJJBY beneficiaries

**53%** women

**74%** are people from rural areas.

#### Claim Settlement



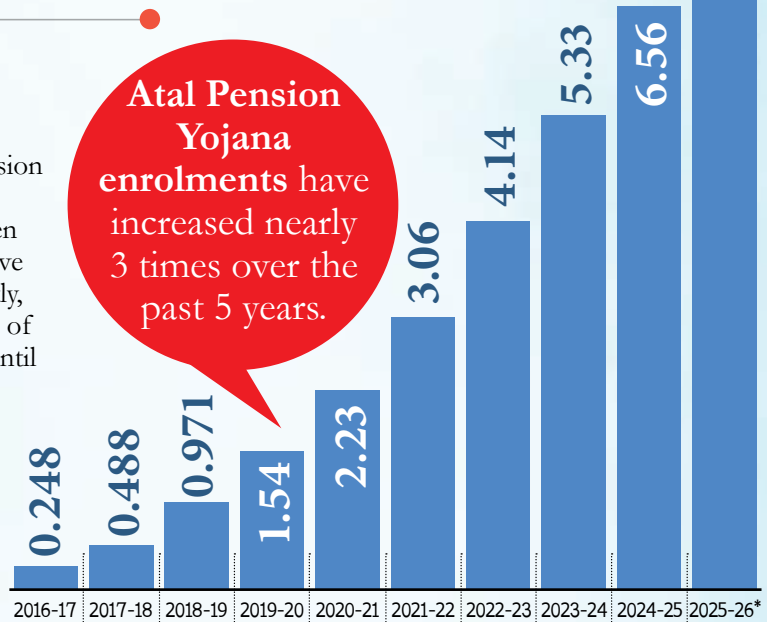
Note: Figures are in crores; data for the financial year 2025-26 is as of Jan 31, 2026.

poor do not seek mere handouts; rather, they seek empowerment. He asserted that if empowered, the poor are fully prepared to wage their own battle against poverty. Today, this empowerment has reached over 57 crore people through the Pradhan

Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, over 26 crore people through the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and over 8.71 crore people through the Atal Pension Yojana. Under these two insurance schemes alone, claims amounting to over ₹21,500 crore have been

**Atal Pension Yojana****Get ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 Pension After Turning 60**

Before 2014, barely 10–15 per cent of the country's population had access to a pension facility. Consequently, on May 9, 2015, the government launched the long-term Atal Pension Yojana. At the launch, PM Modi stated that it was designed for the youth, ensuring that when they reach the age of 60, they would never have to depend on anyone else for support. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Atal Pension Yojana until the year 2030–31.



**Atal Pension Yojana enrolments have increased nearly 3 times over the past 5 years.**

*Note: Figures are in crores; data for the financial year 2025-26 is as of Jan 31, 2026.*



**48.76%**

of the beneficiaries are women; as of Jan 31, 2026, 4.25 crore women have enrolled in this scheme.

## Everything You Need to Know About the Atal Pension Yojana

- This is the first pension scheme in which the government provides a guarantee.
- If your contributions fall short, the government assumes the responsibility of making up the deficit.
- To ensure the scheme reaches its intended target group, income tax payers have been ineligible to enroll since October 1, 2022.
- It guarantees a monthly pension ranging ₹1,000 to ₹5,000.
- Upon the death of the pension holder, the same pension amount will be received by their spouse.
- Following the demise of both the husband and wife, the accumulated pension corpus will be refunded.
- Depending on age and the chosen pension amount, current monthly contributions range from ₹42 to ₹1,454.



**Our social security schemes are based on two visions insurance cover for all, and insurance at the most affordable price.**

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

settled for approximately 11 lakh (1.1 million) families.

At the time of launching these insurance and pension schemes, Prime Minister Modi expressed his firm conviction that this system of security is fundamentally designed for the poor and for the common citizen. He noted that this government initiative

could serve as a catalyst for the affluent sections of society to contribute toward serving the poor. The government is forging ahead with a steadfast resolve; it urges everyone to avail themselves of the benefits of this system and to help transform these schemes into a true movement for public welfare. ●



# Corridor of Progress, Nature and Culture Delhi-Dehradun Expressway

*Robust connectivity and better infrastructure not only boost trade but also make travel easier. This leads to time saving, reduced fuel consumption, and lower pollution. On April 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a connectivity project that reflects a blend of progress, nature and culture – the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor. This project will benefit people in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand for tourism. In its 26th year since formation, Uttarakhand has achieved a major milestone with the inauguration of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway.*

The Dehradun-Delhi Expressway is more than just an economic corridor; it will make travel faster and more affordable. It will reduce expenditure on petrol and diesel, lower passenger fares and freight costs, and generate increased employment opportunities alongside boosting tourism. At the same time, it is imperative to keep Uttarakhand, the ‘Devbhoomi’ (Land of the Gods), clean and pristine. It is the responsibility of both tourists and local residents to protect these beautiful pilgrimage sites from plastic and waste. Only then can we preserve the cleanliness and beauty of our sacred sites.

Reflecting on Uttarakhand’s journey as a state entering its twenty-sixth year, the Prime Minister recalled his earlier declaration that the third decade of this century would be Uttarakhand’s decade. He

*Participation in the Winter Char Dham Yatra has surged from 80,000 in 2024 to over 150,000 in 2025.*

noted that with the current government’s policies and the hard work of the people, the young state continues to add new dimensions to its development. “This expressway will give fresh momentum to Uttarakhand’s growth,” asserted PM Modi. The Prime Minister remarked that a nation’s future is written in its roads, highways, expressways, airways, railways and waterways. Underlining the unprecedented pace of infrastructure development in the country, he pointed out that while infrastructure spending

## Project Highlights

# 12,000

crore + Rupees have been spent to develop the 213-kilometre-long, six-lane, access-controlled Delhi-Dehradun economic corridor.

# 2.5

hours are now enough to reach Dehradun; earlier it used to take 6 hours.

- The corridor features eight animal crossings, two 200-metre-long elephant underpasses, and a 370-metre-long tunnel near the Kali Temple.
- To ensure seamless, high-speed connectivity, 10 interchanges, three Railway Over-bridges (ROBs), four major bridges, and 12 roadside public amenities have been constructed.



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



## Welfare Schemes for Ex-Servicemen

Approx. **₹ 1.25** Lakh Crore Disbursed under the 'One Rank, One Pension' scheme.

# 36%

Increase in the healthcare scheme budget for ex-servicemen.

# Over 70

years of age, arrangements for home delivery of medicines are available for ex-servicemen.

Education grants for children have been doubled.

- Marriage assistance for daughters has been increased from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 100,000.



**Our mountains... these forest regions... these treasures of the 'Devbhoomi' (Land of Gods)... these are truly sacred places. It is the duty of us all to keep such places clean and tidy. The piles of plastic bottles and garbage harm the sanctity of Devbhoomi. Therefore, it is crucial that we keep the places of Devbhoomi, our pilgrimage sites, clean and beautiful.**

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

stood at less than ₹2 lakh crore per year before 2014, it has now grown more than sixfold to over ₹12 lakh crore annually. "Infrastructure projects worth more than ₹2.25 lakh crore are currently underway in Uttarakhand alone," affirmed Shri Modi.

Enumerating recent developments in the Delhi-Western UP-Uttarakhand region, the Prime Minister noted the expansion of Delhi Metro, the launch of Metro services in Meerut, the inauguration of the Delhi-Meerut Namoo Bharat Rail, and the commencement of the Noida International Airport and MRO facility. PM Modi emphasised that farmers and animal herders will also benefit as their produce reaches larger markets with greater

speed. He observed that the corridor, which passes through Ghaziabad, Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli, and Saharanpur, is poised to revitalise these cities in Uttar Pradesh as well. "This is not just a road; it opens new avenues for trade, industry, warehousing, and logistics across the entire region," asserted PM Modi. He noted that Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mussoorie and the Char Dham circuit will all be more accessible. He added that Uttarakhand is increasingly becoming a premier destination for winter tourism, winter sports and destination weddings. He remarked, 'When tourism grows, everyone benefits: hotels, dhabas, taxis, home stays - the entire local economy gets a boost.' ●

Special Feature on May 1st: Labor Day

# SHRAMEEV JAYATE

*Like Satyamev Jayate, the notion of Shramev Jayate holds equal significance for the development of the nation. In the spirit of Shramev Jayate, the Central Government remains steadfastly committed to the welfare of workers. To ensure the prosperity of the working class, the government has taken several robust measures—including the provision of social security—through the implementation of four comprehensive Labor Codes. Presented here is a special report on the occasion of International Labour Day on May 1st, highlighting the ongoing efforts toward the empowerment of workers...*



There exists a correlation between the success of workers and that of industries. Neither can truly flourish without the other. When industries grow, they generate sustainable employment opportunities, fair wages, and social security benefits for workers. Conversely, a motivated and secure workforce drives productivity and innovation, thereby ensuring the long-term viability and survival of the industry. The Central Government is firmly resolved to ensure that workers across both the organized and unorganized sectors receive “Respect for their Labor and Equal Rights.” This commitment is further underscored by heartfelt gestures—such as showering flowers upon workers during the inauguration of the Vishwanath Dham, washing the feet of sanitation workers at the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela, and establishing a dedicated gallery for workers within the new Parliament building—all of which serve to honor the transformative power of Shramev Jayate in the country’s development journey.

## GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS FOUR LABOR CODES

Having successfully integrated, simplified, and rationalized the relevant provisions of 29 existing central labor laws, the Central Government has brought into effect four comprehensive Labor Codes: the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. These codes have been implemented effective November 21, 2025. By modernizing labor regulations, enhancing workers’ welfare, and aligning the labor ecosystem with the evolving world of work, this historic step lays the foundation for a future-ready workforce and a robust, industry-friendly environment. Many of the country’s labour laws were enacted during the pre-independence era and the early post-independence period (1930–1950)—a time when the economy and the labour market were, in reality, vastly different from the present time.

## E-SHRAM PORTAL: A ONE-STOP SOLUTION

On August 26, 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the E-Shram portal to create a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW) verified by Aadhaar. On October 21, 2024, the E-Shram ‘One-Stop Solution’ was launched, integrating various social security and welfare schemes into a single portal. To date, 14 social schemes have been linked to this platform, thereby facilitating easy access for E-Shram cardholders.

## Workers Who Built the New Parliament Building Honored

On May 28, 2023, while dedicating the new Parliament building to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with a group of workers involved in its construction. The construction of this Parliament building provided employment to approximately 60,000 workers. PM Modi remarked, “I am delighted that a digital gallery dedicated to their labor has also been set up within the Parliament—something that is perhaps a first of its kind in the world.” Their contribution to the construction of the Parliament has now been immortalized.



“Our workers are ‘Shramyogi’. So many of our problems are resolved, and so many of our needs are fulfilled by a ‘Shramyogi.’ Therefore, until we change our perspective on how we view them until our attitude towards them transforms we cannot accord them the dignity they deserve within society.”

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

## Showered Flowers on Workers at Vishwanath Dham

On December 13, 2021, during the inauguration of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham corridor in Varanasi, PM Modi showered flowers upon the construction workers. He also shared a meal with them. In his address, PM Modi stated, “Today, I wish to express my gratitude to every single worker, whose sweat has gone into the construction of this magnificent complex. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, they ensured that the work did not come to a halt. I had the opportunity to meet these fellow workers and the privilege of receiving their blessings.”



## PM Modi Interacted with Workers Engaged in Construction Work

On the evening of September 26, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the construction site of the new Parliament building. He reviewed the ongoing work, took stock of the progress, and emphasized the importance of completing the project on schedule. He also interacted with the workers engaged in the construction activities to inquire about their well-being. The Prime Minister issued directives to ensure that all personnel involved in the construction work were fully vaccinated against COVID-19. He also instructed officials to conduct monthly health check-ups for all the workers. Furthermore, he stated that once the construction work is completed, a digital museum should be established at the site to honor all the construction workers who contributed to the project; this museum would feature their names, native places, photographs, and personal details. He emphasized that their contribution to the construction effort deserves due recognition. Additionally, all workers should be awarded a certificate acknowledging their role and participation in this endeavor.



## Gratitude to the Workers

On February 13, 2026, on the occasion of the inauguration of Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2, PM Modi expressed his gratitude to the fellow workers. He stated, “I express my gratitude to all the engineers and fellow workers associated with the construction of these buildings.”



## Washing Feet at the Kumbh Mela

In 2019, expressing his respect for the sanitation workers serving at the Kumbh Mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored the sanitation staff and ‘Swachhagrahis’. Furthermore, he washed the feet of five of these sanitation workers. The Prime Minister also interacted with them personally.



## Workers Receives 125 Days of Guaranteed Employment

The ‘Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025’ strengthens and expands the existing guarantee framework. Under this Act, every rural household is provided with a statutory guarantee of at least 125 days of wage employment per financial year—an increase from the previous limit of 100 days. This initiative will boost rural incomes and enhance livelihood security. The Act also incorporates a robust statutory unemployment allowance, payable if work is not provided within a stipulated timeframe; the rates for this allowance will be linked to the notified wage rates. This legislation reinforces the income stability of households, thereby ensuring food security and consumption stability for rural families.

# Welfare Schemes for Migrant Workers

*Employment schemes have been launched to improve the lives of workers by providing access to opportunities for skill development, financial assistance, and social security. The objective of these measures is to empower workers and provide support that enhances their livelihoods, thereby ensuring greater security for their future. Some such schemes include:*

## PM Street Vendors' Aatmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

Launched on June 1, 2020, this scheme aims to facilitate working capital loans to street vendors without requiring any collateral. This initiative was introduced to assist vendors—whose businesses were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic—in restarting their operations.

## Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on September 23, 2018. Its objective is to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by providing health coverage to India's most vulnerable populations.

## Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM)

Launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on February 15, 2019, this scheme aims to provide a minimum assured pension to workers in the unorganized sector—including migrant workers—upon reaching the age of 60.

## Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

The government's commitment to food security has been reinforced by the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which has been extended for another five years, effective from January 1, 2024. This scheme provides free food grains to families living below the poverty line, including migrant workers. ●

## The Significance of Labour Day

Labour Day is celebrated every year on May 1st to honor hardworking and dedicated individuals across the globe and to raise public awareness regarding workers' rights. Labour Day is not merely a holiday; it is a day dedicated to paying tribute to the contributions of the working class. By observing this day, we commemorate their struggles and foster awareness—both among the general public and the workers themselves regarding their rights.





# Lok Sabha Clocks 93% Productivity, Rajya Sabha 110%

*On April 18, the final day of the special parliamentary session, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die. Speaker of the Lok Sabha Om Birla announced the conclusion of the Budget Session while adjourning the proceedings of the Lok Sabha. Shortly after, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, adjourned the proceedings of the Upper House. During the Budget Session, several bills were passed in both Houses. Notably, productivity stood at around 110% in the Rajya Sabha and 93% in the Lok Sabha...*

## **7th Session of 18th Lok Sabha Adjourned Sine Die**

During the seventh session of the Lok Sabha, which commenced on January 28, 2026, a total of 31 sittings were held, spanning approximately 151 hours and 42 minutes. President Droupadi Murmu addressed the members of both Houses on January 28, 2026, and on February 1, 2026, the finance minister presented the Union Budget for 2026-2027 in the House. The discussion on the Union Budget 2026-2027 lasted for approximately 13 hours, with 63 members participating. The Finance Minister replied to the discussion on February 11, 2026. On March 25, 2026, the Finance Bill was passed by the House.

- With the cooperation of all members, the productivity of this session of the Lok Sabha stood at approximately 93 percent. During the session, 12 government bills were introduced, and a total of 9 bills were passed.
- On April 16 and April 17, 2026, the House held discussions on the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the Delimitation Bill, 2026. This discussion lasted for 21 hours and 27 minutes, during which 131 members expressed their views.
- On March 23, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made statements regarding the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the challenges faced by India.
- On March 30, 2026, a short-duration discussion was held under Rule 193 on the subject “Efforts to rid the country of left-wing extremism”.

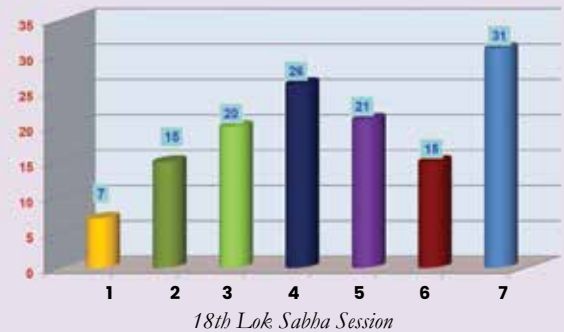


## Parliament's Budget Session Concludes with the 270th Session of the Rajya Sabha

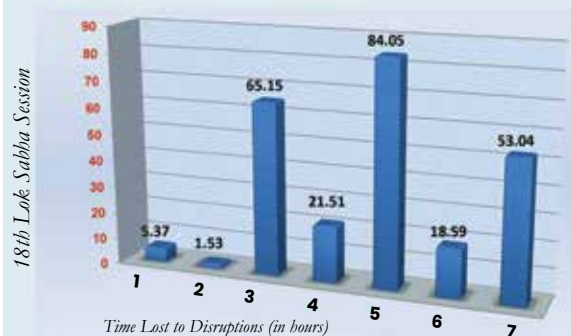
With the conclusion of the 270th session of the Rajya Sabha, the Budget Session of Parliament also came to an end. The budgetary allocations approved, policies endorsed, and priorities established during this session have a direct impact on the lives of every citizen of India. The session commenced with a four-day-long discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, delivered by President Droupadi Murmu, in which 79 members of the House participated. PM Modi's reply to the Motion of Thanks clarified key issues raised by MPs.

- A total of 97 members participated in this discussion, which spanned four days. Furthermore, the House also engaged in extensive deliberations on the functioning of two key ministries of the government.
- The House also took note of the suo motu statements delivered by the minister of commerce and industry regarding the India-US bilateral trade agreement and external affairs minister concerning the situation in West Asia.
- PM Modi made a statement addressing the ongoing conflict in West Asia and the challenges faced by India, particularly with regard to meeting the country's energy requirements.
- During the session, members introduced 50 Private Members' Bills.
- The House functioned for a total of 157 hours and 40 minutes, achieving a productivity level of 109.87%.

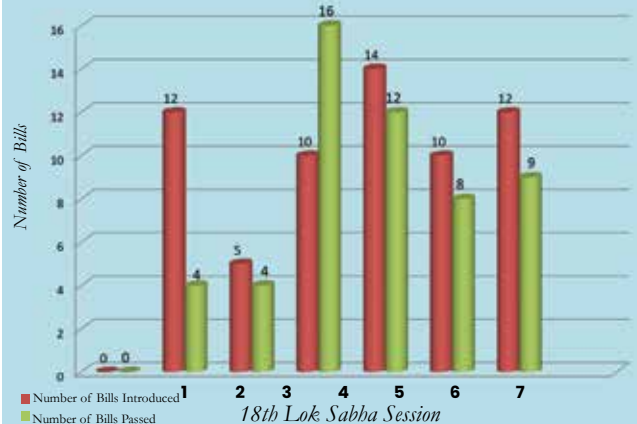
How Many Sittings Were Held in Each Session?



Time Lost Due to Disruptions



Government Bills Introduced/Passed During the Session



## A Bill Strengthening a Trust-Based System

*The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, has been passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. It amends 784 provisions contained within 79 Central Acts across 23 ministries. Through this legislation, an effort has been made to facilitate 'Ease of Doing Business' by decriminalising 717 of these provisions and to enhance 'Ease of Living' by amending the remaining 67 provisions. This initiative will foster a balanced and trust-based regulatory ecosystem. It represents an endeavour to decriminalise minor offences and rationalise existing legal provisions in order to reduce the compliance burden on individuals and businesses.*

### 4 Key Pillars of Bill

Based on four key pillars, this bill has been enacted with the objective of creating a regulatory environment that encourages compliance and simplifies, making seamless, the daily interactions of citizens and businesses with the law.

- Warning before penalty.
- Proportional penalties.
- Swift and equitable adjudication.
- Dynamic penalty framework.



### No More Criminal Penalties for Minor or Procedural Violations

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, has transformed criminal provisions by removing them into a more sensible, citizen-friendly, and compliance-simplified framework, thereby providing relief to the public from unnecessary legal burdens...

- 317 provisions Fine converted into civil penalty
- 158 provisions Fine remove entirely
- 113 provisions jail & fine converted into civil penalty
- 57 provisions jail and fine remove
- 63 provisions warning/notice for first time default
- 17 provisions jail term reduced
- 17 provisions compounding of offences introduced
- 29 provisions imprisonment removed
- 2 provisions imprisonment converted into civil penalty
- 1 provision Nature of imprisonment rationalised
- 6 provisions scope of offences limited

### Some Important Bills Passed in the Lok Sabha

During the Budget Session, 12 government bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha, and 9 bills were passed. Some of the significant bills passed are as follows:

1. The Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026
2. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026
3. Finance Bill, 2026
4. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026
5. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026
6. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026
7. The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

### Harivansh Elected Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

During the session, Harivansh was elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the third time. Addressing the Rajya Sabha on April 17, PM Modi extended his heartfelt congratulations to Harivansh on being elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for the third consecutive term. Referring to this historic achievement, the PM stated that it reflects the House's deep trust in Harivansh and his invaluable experience within the institution. Being elected for a third consecutive term serves as an acknowledgment by the House of his experience, inclusive approach, and dignified working style.

### Parliament Passes CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026 by Voice Vote

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 2 via a voice vote. The Rajya Sabha had already passed this bill earlier. The bill stipulates that 50 percent of the posts at the rank of Inspector General within the CAPF shall be filled through deputation, and a minimum of 67 percent of the posts at the rank of Additional Director General shall be filled through deputation. Furthermore, all posts at the ranks of Special Director General and Director General shall be filled exclusively through deputation. The objective of this bill is to regulate the general rules governing the recruitment and service conditions of Group 'A' General Duty officers and other officers within the Central Armed Police Forces. ●

# Karnataka: Rich in Both Philosophy and Technology

The identity of Karnataka is globally known for both philosophy and technology. The depth of philosophical insight and the power of technology coexist here. In this rich heritage, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, Karnataka, stands as a living symbol of our glorious spiritual traditions. Its community services are truly inspiring. On April 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira, situated within this very Math located in Mandya, Karnataka. Before this, he addressed a gathering at the Jwala Peetha and offered prayers at the Sri Kalabhairava Temple...



“Constructing the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira in honor of one’s Guru is not merely about building a structure; it is about giving tangible form to a profound sentiment. In the times to come, this place is destined to become a vibrant hub of service, spiritual practice, and inspiration.”

*Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*



India is a living civilization that has endured for thousands of years. There are very few examples in the world where traditions have continued to evolve and flourish uninterrupted over such an extended period. When one looks at the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, one witnesses the very embodiment of this continuity. From time to time, great personalities have emerged within society—figures whose influence was not confined just to providing spiritual guidance. Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji was one such divine luminary.

## PM Modi’s Nine Resolutions for a Viksit Karnataka and a Viksit Bharat

- 1 **Water Conservation:** Prioritize water saving and better management.
- 2 **Tree Plantation:** Participate in the ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign to protect Earth.
- 3 **Cleanliness:** Maintain cleanliness in public places, religious sites, villages, and cities.
- 4 **Swadeshi:** Embrace Indian products; live by the mantra of ‘Vocal for Local’.
- 5 **Domestic Tourism:** Explore and promote tourist destinations within India.
- 6 **Natural Farming:** Adopt chemical-free agriculture for soil health.
- 7 **Nutritious Eating:** Promote healthy food habits, including millets and ragi. To tackle the challenge of obesity, strive to reduce the oil content in your food by 10 %.
- 8 **Sports and Fitness:** Integrate them into your daily life.
- 9 **Service to Society:** Serving the needy strengthens society and adds a profound sense of purpose to one’s life.

## PM Modi’s Bond with the National Bird, the Peacock

PM Modi stated that the compassion of Jagadguru Shri Shri Shri Dr. Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji was not limited merely to human beings; it extended to all living creatures. He spearheaded a social movement dedicated to the protection of peacocks. The peacock is our national bird and it serves as the divine vehicle of Lord Subrahmanya. He further shared that his official residence is home to a large number of peacocks, and he has even forged a close bond of friendship with several of them. The peacock is a gentle and beautiful bird. ●





Born: May 5, 1937 | Died: December 6, 1998

## Struck fear into the hearts of Pakistani Army, Forcing them to Flee

*During the 1971 Indo-Pak War, Major Hoshiar Singh exemplified such unmatched bravery, which left the enemy shell-shocked. Despite adversity from all sides, amidst intense bullet firing and the thunder of the tanks, he never abandoned his post. Despite getting grievous injuries, he continued to boost the morale of his company. His courage forced the enemy to flee. The heroic sagas of Major Hoshiar Singh, a recipient of the Param Vir Chakra for giving a crushing defeat to the enemy, will forever continue to inspire the youth to serve their motherland.*

**B**rave men die but once. You must fight; you must achieve victory. These words by Major Hoshiar Singh, to his troops who held the front lines at Basantar motivated them to make the enemy bite the dust. Born on May 5, 1937, in Haryana, Hoshiar Singh was disciplined and showed high resolve from his very childhood. In addition to excelling in his academics, he also distinguished himself in sports and athletics. In 1957, Hoshiar Singh joined the Jat Regiment, and later, he was commissioned as an officer in the 3rd Grenadiers

During the Indo-Pak War of 1971, the 3rd Grenadiers Battalion was assigned the task of constructing a bridge over the Basantar River, an area heavily mined on both banks. Subsequently, his company was ordered to cross the bridge and capture the military stronghold of Jarpal. On December 15, 1971, Major Hoshiar Singh, leading a company of Grenadiers, charged at the enemy without being deterred by the enemy's intense gunfire.

Following a fierce combat, he succeeded in achieving the objectives. On December 16, the enemy launched three counterattacks. Despite heavy shelling and barrages of tank fire, he continued to encourage his troops to hold their ground firmly and push back the enemy. Inspired by his

courage and leadership, his company repelled every attack, inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. On December 17, the enemy launched yet another assault, this time supported by heavy artillery. Despite being critically wounded by an enemy shell, foregoing his own safety, he moved from trench to trench, personally raising the morale of the troops. He rushed to a medium machine gun (MMG) post after an enemy shell wounded the operator. He took command of the weapon and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. He completely thwarted the enemy's offensive, forcing them into a retreat.

The enemy fled, suffering heavy casualties with 85 of its soldiers dead, including their Commanding Officer. Major Hoshiar Singh, despite being severely wounded, refused to leave behind his post until the ceasefire came into force. For his exceptional gallantry, indomitable spirit, and fearless leadership in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, he was awarded the Param Vir Chakra. He passed away on December 6, 1998. On January 23, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi named the 21 largest unnamed islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra recipients. One of these islands is dedicated to Param Vir Chakra recipient Major Hoshiar Singh. ●



Narendra Modi @narendramodi

हमारी नारी शक्ति संशक्त भारत की पहचान है। देश की माताएं-बहनें और बेटियां अपनी अटूट संकल्पशक्ति, निष्ठा और सेवाभाव से आज हर क्षेत्र में भारतवर्ष का गौरव बढ़ा रही हैं।

देखा गया ततमिदं जगदात्मशक्त्या निशेषधेवगणशक्तिसमूहमूर्त्या ।

तामम्बिकामखिलदेवमहर्षिपूज्यां भक्त्या नताः स्म विदधातु शुभानि सा नः ॥



Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh

भारतीय लोकतंत्र के इतिहास में आज का दिन अत्यंत दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। संसद के विशेष सत्र के दौरान, एनडीए सरकार द्वारा लोकसभा में 131वां संविधान संशोधन बिल, महिलाओं को एक-तिहाई आरक्षण देने के लिए लाया गया था। कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व वाले इंडी गठबंधन ने आज लोकसभा में इस बिल के विरोध में वोट करके अपना महिला विरोधी चरित्र दिखा दिया है।



Amit Shah @AmitShah

इतिहास हजारों सालों तक योगदान और विघ्न को याद रखता है...

रामसेतु में गिलहरी का योगदान हो या हवन में हड़ियाँ डालने वाली ताड़का का विघ्न हो।



Nitin Gadkari @nitin\_gadkari

भारतीय लोकतंत्र के इतिहास का दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण दिवस..

संसद के विशेष सत्र के दौरान आज महिलाओं को एक-तिहाई आरक्षण देने के लिए लोकसभा में लाए गए 131वें संविधान संशोधन विधेयक का पारित ना होना विपक्ष की महिला विरोधी मानसिकता को दर्शाता है।



Nirmala Sitharaman @nitharaman

This was stated clearly by the Home Minister on the floor of the Lok Sabha. With the Opposition pressing further on the issue, HM @AmitShah ji said he is willing to add this through an amendment, within an hour, (Speaker adjourning the House to enable the process). Even then, the Opposition were determined to oppose reservation for women. INDI Alliance's hypocrisy stands exposed.



Arjun Ram Meghwal @arjunrammeghwal

नारी सम्मान को लेकर संसद में विपक्ष के निंदनीय रवैये से आज मातृशक्ति के सपने टूटे हैं और यह दिन भारतीय लोकतंत्र के लिए बेहद दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है।

प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में प्रस्तुत 'नारी शक्ति बंदन अधिनियम'—जो महिलाओं के अधिकार और भागीदारी को मजबूत करता है—उसमें संशोधन बिल का विपक्ष ने समर्थन नहीं दिया।

PM: Special session to end decades of wait for women's reservation

Express News Service



PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday announced a special session of Parliament to discuss the reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state legislatures. The session will convene on April 21, 2024, at 10 AM. Modi said, "This is a historic moment for our women. We have waited for decades for this reservation. Today, we are finally taking a step towards it. I am sure that this will be a landmark moment in our history."

Millet use to reducing oil intake: PM's nine appeals in Karnataka

Express News Service



PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday made nine appeals to the people of Karnataka to use millets to reduce oil intake. He said, "Millets are a healthy and nutritious food. They are also easy to digest and can be used in a variety of ways. I encourage you to use millets in your daily diet. This will not only help you stay healthy but also reduce your oil intake. Let's work together to make millets a part of our daily life."

Oppn kills bill in LS, it's NDA gov't first legislative defeat

Bill On Women's Quota Falls Short Of 2/3rds Vote: 2 Linked Bills Shelved

Express News Service

New Delhi: A united opposition on Friday opposed PM Narendra Modi's last attempt to pass a "women quota bill" and hence minister Amit Shah's offer to withdraw the women's reservation bill. The bill, which had already been defeated in the Lok Sabha, was defeated in the Rajya Sabha by a narrow margin. The opposition also defeated two other bills related to the reservation issue. This marks the first legislative defeat for the NDA government since it came to power in 2014.

HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY LOST: GOVT; NEFARIOUS BID: OPPN

Grid of social media-style posts with images and text. Includes quotes like 'Oppn loses historic opportunity to honour women' and 'I would like to all the members of Parliament... Resign is what you should do'. Also includes a 'SUPER 11' section with various news snippets.

'India's lines of destiny': PM opens expressway, Doon now 3 hrs away

Kasthija Singh

ASIA'S LONGEST WILDLIFE CORRIDOR



Dehradun: PM Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the Rs 11,600-crore Dehra-Doon expressway, a 281km high-speed corridor, which goes will cut travel time between the two cities from around six hours to 2.5-3 hours. Before the opening, Modi offered prayers at Bhat Khatu temple on the outskirts of Dehradun, and later took part in a 12km roadshow in the city. Addressing a rally at Dehradun's Mahendra Group, he described transport infrastructure as central to national progress. "The lines of destiny for a nation are its roads, highways, railways, waterways and expressways," the PM said, adding that India was rapidly building such "lines of destiny" to accelerate development.

The project, stretching from Ashwadi in Dehradun to Akshardham in Delhi, features 12km elevated wildlife corridor between Ashwadi and Ganeshtpur. Eco game changer, P 3

Cabaret to global pop, Asha lived 'crossover' before it was buzzword

HER SONGS WILL FOREVER ECHO IN PEOPLE'S LIVES: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to the legendary singer Asha Bhosle, who passed away on Monday. He said, "Asha was a true legend. Her music touched the hearts of millions. She was a pioneer in the world of Indian music. Her songs will forever echo in the hearts of people. She was a crossover artist, blending traditional Indian music with global pop. She was a true icon. Her legacy will live on forever. We will miss her, but her music will continue to inspire us. Let's celebrate her life and her contributions to Indian music."

India, Austria to strengthen trade, security relations

New Delhi: India and Austria on Tuesday agreed on measures to strengthen cooperation in defence, aviation sectors, trade and mobility of professionals, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern signed a joint declaration in New Delhi. The declaration, which was signed during the visit of the Austrian Chancellor to India, outlines a comprehensive framework for bilateral cooperation. It includes provisions for increasing trade, strengthening defence ties, and promoting mobility of professionals. The declaration also mentions the signing of a joint declaration on aviation cooperation. The visit of the Austrian Chancellor to India is the first by an Austrian Chancellor since 1998. The declaration is expected to lead to a significant increase in trade and investment between the two countries.

# Nation Building Through The Network of Roads

From the glaciers of the Himalayas to the river valleys, and from scorching deserts to inaccessible terrains, the indelible imprint of the Border Roads Organisation's courage is evident everywhere. For soldiers deployed along the borders, the roads constructed by the BRO are of immense strategic importance; for villagers residing in remote valleys, they serve as a bridge of hope. Established on May 7, 1960, the BRO lives by an inspiring motto—'Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam'—which translates to 'Everything is achievable through hard work'...

Construction by the BRO in India's Border Areas and Friendly Neighboring Nations:

**64,100** KM of roads constructed

**1,179** Bridges constructed

**7** Tunnels and 22 airfields constructed

- Strengthens regional connectivity and strategic partnerships through infrastructure development in Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

**250** 

Infrastructure projects dedicated to the nation by the BRO in the years 2024 and 2025.

Our resolution is Nation First. The nation begins from its borders. Therefore, development of border infrastructure is one of the top priorities of the country. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is rapidly completing tunnel construction work in various parts of the country. -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**NEW INDIA  
SAMACHAR**  
FORTNIGHTLY

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