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NEW INDIA SAMACHAR

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National Unity Day Special

The Strength of 'Ek Bharat'

The Resolve for a 'Shreshtha Bharat'



As the concluding year of the celebrations marking Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary unfolds, the spirit of 'Ek Bharat–Shreshtha Bharat' has evolved beyond fostering cultural connections to become an integral part of India's policy vision. Over the past 11 years, integrated systems have simplified lives, empowered citizens, and strengthened a shared Indian identity.



India's 'Zero-Tolerance' Policy Against Terrorism

The 'Mann Ki Baat' program not only brings positive endeavors of fellow citizens into the public domain but also highlights the nation's achievements. When these achievements are discussed on this platform, people across the country draw inspiration from them. In the 138th episode of Mann Ki Baat, broadcast on 27 September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed significant topics such as the surgical strike, the digital census, Indian culture, ancient temples, cleanliness, environmental conservation, the anti-drug campaign, sports, ODOP (One District One Product), and nutrition. Presented here are edited excerpts from the program...

- **Surgical Strike:** Ten years ago, on 28–29 September 2016, the Indian Army conducted a surgical strike on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan. The world was astonished to witness the manner in which our brave soldiers crossed the Line of Control (LoC) to take action against terrorism.

- **A Fitting Reply:** Over the past decade—from the Balakot airstrike to 'Operation Sindoor'—India has repeatedly sent a clear message: any act of aggression by terrorists against India will be met with a fitting response.

- **'Zero-Tolerance' Policy:** Modern-day India pursues a 'zero-tolerance' policy towards terrorism, and we are witnessing the results of this approach.

- **Ram Janmabhoomi Movement:** The direction and energy infused into the Ram Janmabhoomi movement by the revered late Ashok Singhal—former International Working President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad—have culminated in the magnificent temple we see today in Ayodhya.

- **First Solar-Powered Village:** Modhera is no longer known solely for its Sun Temple; this village in Gujarat has now become the country's first solar-powered village. Today, Modhera runs entirely on solar energy, setting an example of sustainability for the nation.

- **New Possibilities:** Amla is emerging as a source of new opportunities in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Local enterprises linked to Amla have received a boost through the 'One District, One Product' initiative. Today, around 100 units involved in Amla processing are operational in Pratapgarh.

- **Nutritious Drumstick (Moringa):** Chhattisgarh has launched the 'Har Ghar Munga-Ghar-Ghar Munga' (Moringa in every home) campaign. Through this, people are being encouraged to include nutritious Munga—or Moringa—in their diet.

- **Ashtavinayak Yatra:** Thanks to the efforts of Panthoun Thirkhanon, the Ashtavinayak Yatra has become popular among devotees in Thailand. In 2002, he established the Ganesh Himal Museum in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand; today, it houses over 10,000 idols of Lord Ganesha.

- **De-addiction Campaign:** Under the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan' (Drug-Free Youth Campaign), lakhs of young people across the country have taken a significant pledge against substance abuse. They have vowed to stay away from drugs themselves and have also taken up the responsibility of spreading this message to others.

- **An Inspiring Example:** Our relationship with nature is not limited merely to preserving it. Often, when we care for nature, it becomes a source of support for our own lives. In the Sundarbans of West Bengal, some women are setting an inspiring example of this bond.

- **Herds of Elephants:** Assam is home to the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, where elephants have returned. Herds of elephants are once again being spotted in an area where there had been no sign of them for years.

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

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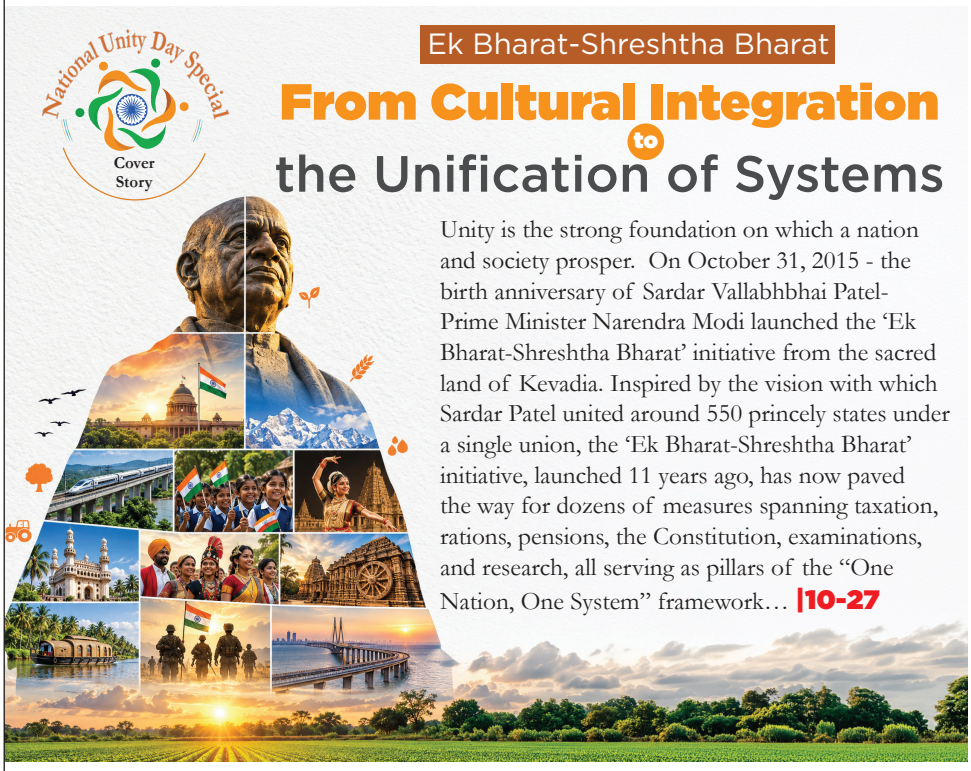
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On the inside pages...



Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat

From Cultural Integration to the Unification of Systems

Unity is the strong foundation on which a nation and society prosper. On October 31, 2015 - the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative from the sacred land of Kevadia. Inspired by the vision with which Sardar Patel united around 550 princely states under a single union, the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, launched 11 years ago, has now paved the way for dozens of measures spanning taxation, rations, pensions, the Constitution, examinations, and research, all serving as pillars of the "One Nation, One System" framework… | 10-27

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Semiconductor
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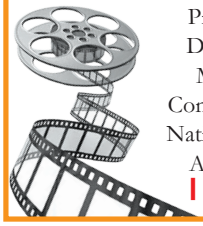
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Sardar Patel's Vision Embraces
The Spirit of Unity
11 Years of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'

Warm greetings,

A map or geographical boundaries are not the only indicators of a nation's political strength; they are forged and sustained by a deeper sense of oneness. This conviction was imbibed by Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel immediately after independence, when he united over 550 scattered princely states into a single nation. Sardar Patel believed that one should not waste time merely chronicling history but rather strive to create it. This very spirit was reflected in his decisions.

For Sardar Patel—a realist in practice, truthful in resolve, humanist in action, and nationalist in purpose—the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' was paramount. The 'Statue of Unity' stands as a symbol of this very spirit; it was constructed using iron collected from the farming tools of farmers across the country.

Carrying forward that legacy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to realise the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' from Kevadia on October 31, 2015. Over the past 11 years, this resolve has been translated into reality through a series of policies. A unified tax system integrated state markets; 'One Rank One Pension' eliminated decades-old disparities among soldiers; the abrogation of Article 370 extended uniform constitutional rights to the entire nation, including Jammu and Kashmir; and regulations were established to ensure a consistent Indian Standard Time (IST) reference across the country. The emphasis on Indian languages in the New Education Policy—along with granting 'Classical Language' status to Marathi, Bangla, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit, in addition to Tamil, Telugu, Sanskrit, Malayalam, Odia, and Kannada—further strengthens this unity. Rapidly expanding rail, road, highway, and internet networks have also reinforced this unity by connecting villages to cities.

As we observe Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31st—just as we do every year—this occasion serves not merely to remember him but also to renew our resolve. Our cover story for this National Unity Day edition explores how the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat '— which started eleven years ago—evolved into a firm commitment to integrate policies and administrative systems.

In the personality section, read about Komaram Bheem, the first to raise the slogan of 'Jal, Jangal, Zameen' (Water, Forest, Land), along with highlights of the Union Cabinet. Decisions. This issue also features the 10-year journey of the UDAN scheme and a roundup of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public events over the past fortnight.

'Mann Ki Baat' on the inside page and a special feature on the back cover marking the Azad Hind Government Foundation Day (October 21) are the other highlights.

Keep sending us your suggestions.



(Dhirendra Ojha)

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

MAIL BOX



New India Samachar Magazine is Highly Useful

I am a regular reader of 'New India Samachar,' and I find this magazine extremely useful for staying updated on the Government of India's schemes, policies, and current affairs. It enhances my knowledge regarding the country's progress and inspires me to understand my role better and participate actively as a responsible citizen.

Nivesh Goyal
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Eagerly Awaiting the New Issue

I love reading 'New India Samachar' magazine and eagerly look forward to its new issue. Every time I read it, I learn more about India's cultural and religious diversity. Along with this, the magazine showcases India's potential for development. It shows how the country is rapidly progressing in every field to achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

shivanshchouhan397@gmail.com

Fostering our journey toward our goals

Read the New India Samachar magazine almost fully for the first time. Now, I'll be waiting for the next issue. It carries a lot of useful news. This highlights the nation's never-ending journey toward its goals. India has always been a centre of knowledge. I have a suggestion: child development is essential to strengthening the roots of overall progress. Therefore, the subject of child development should get a place in this magazine so that, through this platform, the future can be made even more secure.

nanda.purnimaa@gmail.com

Detailed coverage of various schemes

New India Samachar has been in publication for seven years. It is a widely read fortnightly magazine. It publishes detailed information regarding various schemes, major projects, the New Education Policy, significant legislative changes, environmental conservation efforts, and robust trade relations at the global level. This magazine has broadened my knowledge.

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Three years of 'Respect, Capability, and Prosperity ' 30 lakh artisans registered







Launched with the aim of fostering the respect, capability, and prosperity of artisans across the country, the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Scheme has registered and supported over 30 lakh artisans within just its first three years. Since its launch on September 17, 2023, the scheme has provided basic skill training to approximately 24.50 lakh individuals. Additionally, 18.15 lakh modern toolkits have been distributed through India Post.

Speaking at an event in Kolkata marking the third anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Jitan Ram Manjhi said that 6.18 lakh Vishwakarma beneficiaries have been granted loans of up to ₹1 lakh at a concessional annual interest rate of 5%, amounting to a total of ₹5,297 crore. A decision was taken to implement it in West Bengal starting in May 2026. Over 7 lakh people have applied under this scheme.

After 'Project Cheetah', now the launch of 'Project Rhino'

Assam is the only state in the country that is home to approximately 80% of the world's rhinoceros population. Consequently, on the occasion of World Rhino Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the anti-poaching efforts in Assam's Kaziranga and announced the launch of 'Project Rhino' to further strengthen rhino conservation in the country.

Under 'Project Rhino', financial and technical assistance will be provided to states that are home to rhinos. The initiative will focus on activities such as ensuring rhino safety, maintaining their habitats, improving the breed, and monitoring their population numbers. Prime Minister Modi noted that rhinos have either returned to or are being well cared for in certain areas of Bihar and West Bengal. Efforts to reintroduce rhinos in Dudhwa, Uttar Pradesh, have also proven successful. He said that these successes demonstrate people's continued dedication to the protection and better care of wildlife.



Skill Development in India for Overseas Employment

The Government of India is not only expanding employment opportunities within the country but is also equipping the youth with skills tailored to opportunities available abroad. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has initiated a process with approximately 20 countries to align skilled job roles with their specific demands.

According to a NITI Aayog working paper from May 2026, India's diaspora population stands at 18.5 million (1.85 crore). The MSDE has entered into agreements for skill and training cooperation with eight countries, including Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Qatar, Singapore, and the UAE. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs has signed 22 migration and mobility agreements that incorporate specific provisions for skill development.



30 Million Youth Connected to 'MY Bharat'... A Strong Commitment to Participation

More than 30 million (3 crore) youth have joined 'MY Bharat' (https://mybharat.gov.in/)—one of the largest platforms for youth engagement—in less than three years. This achievement reflects the growing participation of youth in opportunities related to leadership, experiential learning, volunteering, civic engagement, and nation-building. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'MY Bharat' on October 31, 2023. Initiatives such as the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2027' are being conducted through 'MY Bharat', providing young people with opportunities to showcase their ideas, creativity, leadership, and innovation.



Nepal Illuminated by Indian Electricity

In the spirit of the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India will now supply electricity to Nepal for 18 hours daily (from 12:00 AM to 6:00 PM). This decision will further strengthen the close and long-standing energy cooperation between India and Nepal.

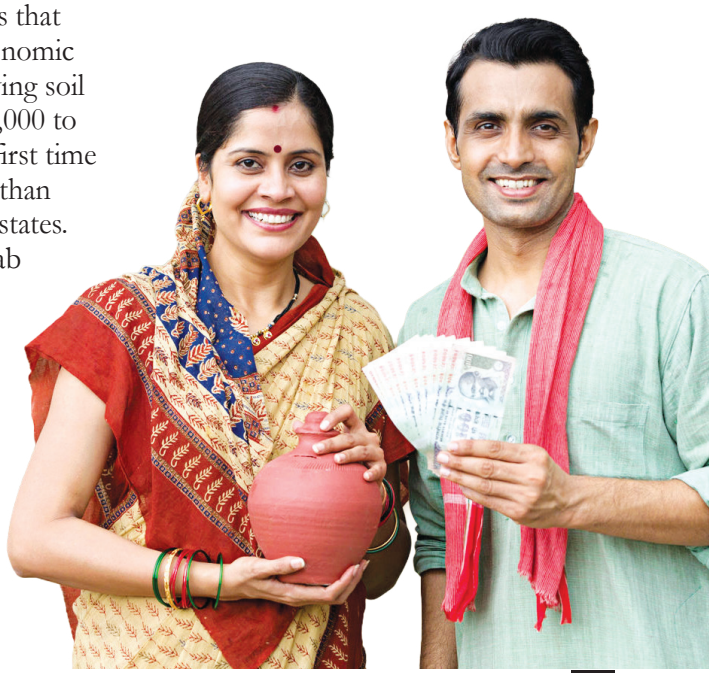
The Ministry of Power commenced electricity exports to the Nepal Electricity Authority on September 13, a supply that will continue until December 31, 2026. A review meeting will be held in December 2026 to determine the quantity and duration of the power supply from January 2027 onwards. Nepal's power infrastructure suffered extensive damage, and the electricity supply was disrupted following recent devastating floods in the country. Up to 600 MW of electricity will be supplied via the Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar 400 kV DC line, and up to 54 MW via the Tanakpur-Mahendranagar 132 kV S/C line.



Farmers in India Receive Payments for Soil Carbon for the First Time

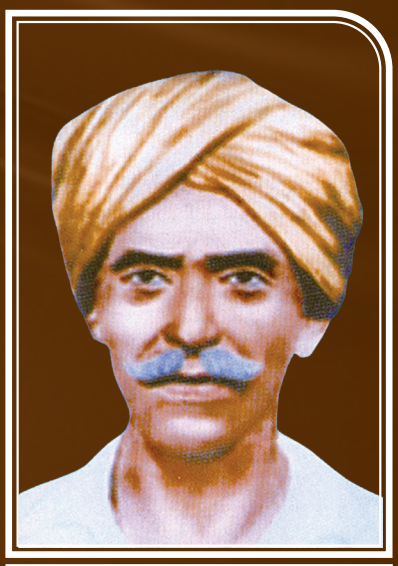
Farmers in Punjab and Haryana adopted new farming methods that protect the environment and natural resources, resulting in economic benefits for them. Under this unique initiative aimed at improving soil health, over 2,500 farmers received payments ranging from ₹3,000 to ₹15,000, totaling approximately ₹2.9 crore. Launched for the first time in the country, this program has now expanded to cover more than 100,000 farmers and over 2 million acres of land across seven states.

The first payments were released at a programme at Punjab Agricultural University (Ludhiana). Farmers receive these payments through the 'Aadi' carbon program by 'Grow Indigo,' which was launched in 2019. Between 2019 and 2022, farmers adopted techniques such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), reduced tillage, and crop residue management. According to the program, these methods saved 45 billion liters of water, prevented the burning of over 200,000 tonnes of crop residue, and reduced the emission of approximately 1,000 tonnes of harmful PM2.5 particles into the air.



Komaram Bheem

The Tribal Warrior Who coined the slogan "Jal, Jangal, Zameen"



Birth: October 22, 1901
Death: October 8, 1940

Komaram Bheem is remembered as a symbol of courage and sacrifice. He was a fearless tribal warrior who was the first to raise the slogan of "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" (Water, Forest, and Land). He single-handedly took on both the Nizam of Hyderabad and British rule, waging a guerrilla war against them. Among the Gond community, Komaram Bheem is worshipped almost like a deity. A symbol of rebellion and resistance, Bheem left an indelible mark on the hearts of millions.

Komaram Bheem fought against tyranny and exploitation his entire life, and even today the tribal community revere him like a god. He was born on October 22, 1901, into a Gond tribal family in Sankepalli village, located in the present-day Komaram Bheem district of Telangana. He waged a relentless struggle against the oppressive rule of both the Nizam and the British.

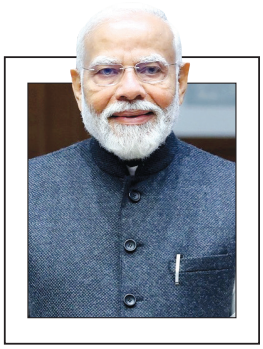
Forced to leave his village after opposing the atrocities of a 'zamindar' (landlord), he eventually reached the tea gardens of Assam. There, he witnessed the suffering of the tea labourers. It was there that he found inspiration in the various movements happening around him. He learned to read and write and realised that organised struggle was the most potent weapon against injustice. When he returned home, he came back with a mission to unite and awaken his people.

From 1926 to 1940, Bheem led a sustained guerrilla campaign against the Nizam's regime. He built a guerrilla army in the forests, arming his fighters with little more than bows, arrows, spears, and traditional weapons – yet they managed to challenge the Nizam's modern, well-equipped forces. Bhim travelled from village to village, rallying people against the atrocities being committed. On several occasions, when soldiers arrived in villages to collect taxes, Bheem and his men drove them out.

He is believed to have been deeply influenced by Alluri Sitarama Raju. While defending the nation, he was killed through treachery and deceit by the Nizam's army during a fierce battle on October 8, 1940 - the day of Ashwini Purnima. In 2016, Asifabad district was renamed Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. A memorial and the Komaram Bheem Museum have been established there. The Gond community observes his death anniversary every year on the day of Ashvayuja Purnima. A special event is organized at Jodeghat on this occasion; this is the very place where Komaram Bheem died in 1940.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Komaram Bheem in the 127th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on October 26, 2025. He stated, The great personality I am talking about is Komaram Bheem. His birth anniversary was celebrated on the 22nd of October. Komaram Bheem did not live a long life; he only lived for 40 years, but during his lifetime, he left an indelible mark on the hearts of countless people, especially the tribal community. He instilled new strength in those fighting against the Nizam. He became a major challenge to the Nizam's rule. He was killed by the Nizam's men in 1940. I urge the youth to try to learn as much as possible about him. He further added, "Komaram Bheem-ki... namra shraddhanjali. Ayan prajal hridayallo... appatiki nilichi-vuntaru." The literal meaning of this is: "My humble tribute to Komaram Bheem Ji; he will forever remain in the hearts of the people."

"Shri Ashok Singhal's personality was a remarkable blend of firm resolve and simplicity."



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Ashok Singhal on his birth anniversary on September 27, recalling his steadfast conviction, simplicity, and unwavering dedication to social unity. This year marks the beginning of Ashok Singhal's birth centenary year. On this occasion, he shared an article dedicated to Singhal's life and ideals, while also remembering his tireless organisational work.

There is a beautiful saying, **"वृक्ष कबहुँ नहिं फल भखै, नदी न संचै नीर। परमारथ के कारने, साधुन धरा शरीर।"** It means the tree does not consume its own fruit, nor does the river retain its waters. Both exist for the benefit of others. Our saints and seers have long taught us that a life devoted to the welfare ofbelnd those around us acquires a meaning far greater than individual achievement. If there is one person in whom this spirit was constantly reflected, it was Shri Ashok Singhal Ji.

Starting 27th September, we mark his birth centenary to celebrate an outstanding personality who brought together spiritual pursuit, cultural awakening and decades of dedicated organisational work.

I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with Ashok Ji and receive his affection. One of the earliest instances dates back to 1981, when I was a young Karyakarta going about the organisational duties given to me. I received a handwritten letter from him. Naturally, it was a noteworthy moment for me. He talked about an important upcoming programme and gave a few tasks to be done.

Over several decades, I saw him work day and night. He would undertake long and often difficult travels to the remotest of areas. He was particularly passionate about travelling across tribal areas of Gujarat. His mind was constantly running, thinking about what more one can do for those on the margins of society. Whenever any part of the nation was affected by a natural disaster, Ashok Ji was either among the first to reach there himself or among those guiding Karyakartas to help those affected. My own experience with him in the

I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with Ashok Ji and receive his affection.

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



Having grown up in Prayagraj, Ashok-ji would often spend hours sitting on the banks of the Sangam. He held a natural affinity for the river and shared a deep bond with the sages, saints, and pilgrims who visited the site.

aftermath of the 2001 Kutch earthquake was unforgettable.

This spirit of compassion and care for others is something that came to Ashok Ji very early in his life. He hailed from a very illustrious and prosperous family. His father, Shri Mahavir Ji, was a distinguished administrator. One of his brothers, Shri BP Singhal Ji, went on to become a police officer and later a Member of Parliament. Another brother, Shri VP Singhal Ji, was the Chief Secretary of Tripura when the state was just formed. Other family members succeeded in the world of commerce and agriculture. But from a young age, Ashok Ji was attracted to something else altogether...the revival of Bharat and bringing glory to Maa Bharti's children. Growing up in Prayagraj, Ashok Ji would sit for hours on the banks of the Sangam. The river naturally interested him, but so did the people who came, such as saints, seers and devotees. It nurtured an understanding of India's cultural ethos and strengthened his intention to do something for society. This desire to live for others drew him to the RSS. He embraced every responsibility that came his way with enthusiasm, discipline and a sense of duty.

Shri Ashok Singhal Ji nurtured institutions and movements through persistence and hard work. He was blessed with a formidable voice and an oratory that could hold an entire gathering in its spell. Equally noteworthy was his care for fellow Karyakartas. Anyone who came into contact with him could not help but marvel at his remarkable simplicity. He shared a deep bond with the Sant Samaj and commanded immense respect among saints and seers across the country. They valued his counsel and listened to him with great regard.

My mind goes back to two instances which brought out the legendary persona of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. The first was in 1993, when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised a convention in the USA to mark 100 years since Swami Vivekanan-





Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible.

da's Chicago address. The vision to host such a conference overseas, the planning and the bringing together of diverse stakeholders revealed the organisational genius of Ashok Ji.

The second instance is from the year 2000. The World Hindu Conference was organised in Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago. I could see how his presence ignited so much enthusiasm among other delegates. After my address, his words of appreciation were a very moving experience for me. I saw yet again how his encouragement filled every Karyakarta with so much energy.

No mention of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji is complete without recalling his pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. Who can forget his address at the Boat Club Rally in 1991? Or the defining image of an injured and bleeding Ashok Ji at the peak of the movement. Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible. He would have been the happiest person on seeing the Ram Mandir take shape in Ayodhya.

Shri Ashok Singhal Ji was blessed with remarkable clarity of thought and one area where it was clearly seen was his belief that our society needs to be harmonious, that the message of brotherhood has to be reaffirmed. He worked towards strengthening social unity and equality. He firmly believed that there could be no distinction of any kind in society and that every individual deserved equal dignity and respect. It was his thought that the first brick of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya would be laid by Shri Kameshwar Choupal Ji, a grassroots VHP Karyakarta from Bihar who hailed from the marginalised sections of society. At a Dharm Sansad in Kashi, he decided that the Dom Raja would be honoured and went on to work with him as part of various community efforts.

Beyond nation-building, Shri Ashok Singhal Ji had two areas that were very close to his heart: education (especially Vedic education) and music. As the MP from Varanasi, I feel very proud that the city I represent, the eternal Kashi, has played its part in Shri Ashok Singhal Ji's life. He was educated at BHU and was also known to be a good student. He was closely associated with the Ekal Vidyalaya initiative, which worked to extend basic education to remote villages, especially among tribal communities. He was a voracious reader as well as a good listener and he always told younger Karyakartas to read as much as possible.

Those who knew Ashok Ji closely knew how well he sang! I recall meetings in Nagpur, where he would sing the Ekal Geet, leaving everyone mesmerised and setting the tone for the meeting. A video of him surprising everyone and singing "**हे मातृभूमि मेरी, हे पितृभूमि मेरी**" during his 90th birthday celebrations in 2015 went viral.

On his birth centenary, let us ensure that more youngsters know about his greatness. And let us renew our pledge to realise his dreams for our nation and our people.

National Unity Day Special

Cover Story

Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat

From Cultural Integration to the Unification of Systems



Unity is the strong foundation on which a nation and society prosper. When there is unity, the nation's integrity remains secure. Unity is the key to achieving the goal of a developed India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative on October 31, 2015—Sardar Patel's birth anniversary—from the sacred land of Kevadia. This initiative, which initially envisaged an effort to facilitate the exchange of language, culture, and traditions, has, over the past decade, become the soul of governance. The same vision that inspired Sardar Patel to unite over 550 princely states now serves as the foundation for dozens of "One Nation, One System" initiatives—spanning taxation, ration distribution, pensions, the Constitution, examinations, and research.

This October 31, on the occasion of National Unity Day, the nation is celebrating the commencement of a two-year-long national commemoration of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary. Let us explore how the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' mantra—rooted in cultural unity—has become the cornerstone of policymaking and the 'Ease of Living' for citizens.

Vrindavan Chaurasia, a beneficiary of the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme in Uttar Pradesh, has a family of five. He explains that he holds a ration card for all five members, which is directly linked to a fair-price shop, and he receives his rations every month. As a beneficiary of the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme, he can obtain rations from any fair-price shop across the country; he expresses his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this. Another beneficiary, Krishna Kumar Maurya, says that he holds a five-unit card and receives rice and wheat monthly without facing any difficulties. Thanks to the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme, he can access these food grains in any part of the country. He extends his heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing this facility. For migrant laborers, this scheme is nothing less than a boon, proving to be a lifeline. Now, every ration card holder can obtain rations from any fair-price shop anywhere in the country.

States Many, Nation one
Creeds Many, Target one
Dialects Many, Voice one
Languages Many, Expressions one
Colors Many, Flag one
Societies Many, India one
Customs Many, Culture one
Livelihood Many, Resolution one
Paths Many, Destination one
Faces Many, Smile one
This is the mantra of solidarity which nation should follow and move ahead

This transformation was brought about by the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme, launched in 2019 to ensure food security for all citizens under the Food Security Act. The concept behind this scheme is akin to mobile number portability. Just as one can switch service providers without changing their phone number, beneficiaries can now access their ration quota from anywhere in the country without obtaining a new card. This portability was made possible by linking all ration cards to Aadhaar and installing electronic Point of Sale (e-PoS) machines at fair-price shops. The scheme was specifically designed for the millions of migrant workers who move to other states in search of a livelihood; they can now exercise their rights in any state just as they would in their home state.

For the millions of migrant workers, artisans, and small-scale laborers like Vrindavan Chaurasia and Krishna Kumar Maurya, this has brought dignity and trust. It is merely one example of a larger picture in which India, over the past decade or so, has begun to weave its fragmented systems together into a unified system.

Mahatma Gandhi used to say, "Our ability to live out 'unity in diversity' will be constantly tested... we must pass this test at all costs." Over the last 12 years, India has succeeded in every endeavor to embody this spirit of unity in diversity. Through its policies and decisions, the government has consistently strengthened the spirit of 'Ek Bharat'. Today, integrated systems such as 'One Nation-One Identity' (Aadhaar), 'One Nation-One Tax' (GST), 'One Nation-One Power Grid', 'One Nation-One Ration Card', and 'One Nation-One Health Insurance' have united the country. The nation is now working towards 'One Nation-One Election', a move that will further strengthen India's democracy. India is also moving towards 'One Nation Civil Code'—that is, a secular civil code. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself announced this from the ramparts of the Red Fort. At its core lies the inspiration of Sardar Patel's vision of social unity. This initiative will help eliminate grievances regarding discrimination among various social groups and further strengthen the unity of the nation.

A SENTIMENT THAT EVOLVED INTO A POLICY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE

On October 31, 2015, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel—who had shaped modern India by integrating around 550 princely states through diplomacy and determination—Prime Minister Modi launched the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative during the National Unity Day celebrations. Its core objective was to establish a seamless process—facilitating the direct exchange of language, literature, culture, and traditions among states, Union Territories, central ministries, educational institutions, and the general public—thereby further strengthening the nation's unity and integrity.

> **The strength of any society lies in its unity. That is why those who wish well for a strong nation praise and strive for this spirit of unity. Therefore, the unity and solidarity of the country is the collective responsibility of us all.**
>
> *-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, this program involved pairing each state and Union Territory with another to organize cultural tours, language camps, student-teacher exchanges, and festivals. Consequently, a student from Tamil Nadu could experience the traditions of Punjab, while a youth from Assam could participate in Gujarat's Garba and feel the essence of that region's fragrance. Essay competitions, quizzes, and cultural festivals in schools and colleges became integral parts of this initiative, transforming the concept of "Unity in Diversity" from a mere textbook phrase into a lived experience for children. Over time, several other dimensions were also added to this initiative. Efforts such as 'Paryatan Parv' to promote local culture and crafts across the country, events like "Matrubhasha Gaurav" in universities, and the inclusion of diverse languages and dialects in government programs—all these efforts were driven by the conviction that unity stems not from imposing a single language or culture, but from embracing diversity; much like how Sardar Patel united various princely states under one flag while preserving their distinct identities.

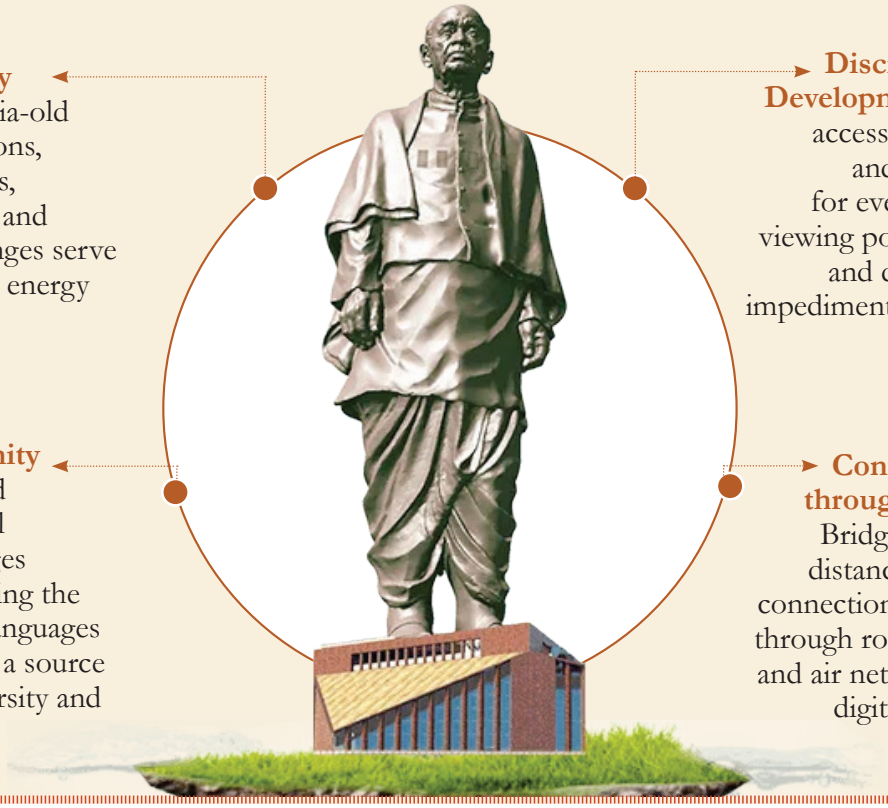
However, what began as a cultural experiment gradually evolved into a broader philosophy. It was rooted in the idea that if being Indian implies a shared identity, then the fundamental systems of governance should also be uniform for every citizen, regardless of their state, language, or background. Consequently, over the following years, this mindset began to translate into a series of major structural reforms.



Four Pillars of **India's Unity**

Cultural Unity
India's millennia-old cultural traditions, pilgrimage sites, festivals, yoga, and cultural exchanges serve as the unifying energy of the nation.

Linguistic Unity
Respecting and encouraging all Indian languages while recognising the hundreds of languages and dialects as a source of India's diversity and strength.



Discrimination-free Development – Ensuring access to development and basic amenities for every citizen, while viewing poverty, inequality, and discrimination as impediments to social unity.

Connecting Hearts through Connectivity
Bridging geographical distances and fostering connections among people through road, rail, highway, and air networks, as well as digital infrastructure.

THE UNITY OF DEVELOPMENT AND TRUST: THE FOUNDATION OF 'EK BHARAT'

Over the past 12 years, while realizing Sardar Patel's dreams, the Central Government has laid the foundation for an integrated system where all citizens—transcending state boundaries—are united by a shared sense of nationhood. This serves as a tribute through action from the people of the country to India and to Sardar Patel's extraordinary contribution. His vision taught us that even tasks appearing impossible can be accomplished. When India gained independence, the skeptics predicted its disintegration; they held little hope that the hundreds of princely states could be unified to become a single India. Yet, Sardar Patel achieved exactly that. In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this was possible because Sardar Patel was a realist in practice, truthful in his resolve, a humanist in his actions, and a nationalist in his mission.

Today, India's approach to languages also serves as a strong bond of unity. The new National Education Policy places special emphasis on education in Indian languages. The Central Government has accorded the status of 'Classical Language' to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit. Much like language, the connectivity initiatives currently underway across the nation are also strengthening its unity. Modern infrastructure—spanning railways, roads, highways, and the internet—has bridged the gap between villages and cities. When Kashmir and the capitals of the North-East are connected by rail, when Lakshadweep and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are linked to high-speed internet via undersea cables, and when people in mountainous regions gain access to mobile networks, the fear of being left behind in the race for development vanishes. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' has now become the mantra of good governance. It is this unity of development and trust that accelerates the creation of an 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'.

National Unity Day Special

Cover Story

Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat

From Culture to National Integration

Launch: 31 October 2015

- Launched on National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) – coinciding with the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – the core objective of this initiative was to enhance the exchange of language, literature, culture, and traditions among states and Union Territories.
- States were paired up to organise cultural tours, language camps, student-teacher exchanges, festivals, quizzes, and essay competitions. The idea was for citizens of one part of the country to get to know another part through direct experience rather than just through maps.
- Over time, this initiative evolved into a broader philosophy. The vision of strengthening unity while preserving diversity paved the way for the integration of systems.
- Education in Indian languages and language promotion to foster linguistic unity.
- Cultural events such as Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam and Kashi-Tamil Sangamam.
- Cultural bonding through International Yoga Day.

Kashi-Tamil Sangamam

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2022, the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam laid the foundation for a cultural bridge that has grown stronger across its four editions to date. It has evolved into a platform for cultural and educational engagement between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.

- KTS 1.0 offered an immersive cultural experience. KTS 2.0 featured expanded public participation and thematic engagement. KTS 3.0 was knowledge-centric. With KTS 4.0, the learning of the Tamil language was prioritised.

Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam: The Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam was organised in 2023. It served as a celebration of the shared culture and heritage between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. More than 3,000 Tamils from the Saurashtra community participated in this 10-day festival.



Yuva Sangam: Its 7th phase is currently underway, offering youth the opportunity to undertake educational tours.

Bhasha Sangam: The objective of this app is to familiarise citizens with various Indian languages and provide them with opportunities to learn them.

UPHOLDING INDIA'S UNITY ACROSS FOUR PILLARS

Unity is the fundamental basis for achieving the goal of a 'Vikasit Bharat'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has outlined four key pillars for this unity, upon which the nation is continuously working.

The first pillar of unity is cultural unity. It is India's culture that has preserved the country as an eternal

One Nation, One Time

Dependence on foreign satellite-based time sources will be reduced

On August 27, 2026, the Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026. These rules will come into effect 180 days after their publication in the Gazette. Indian Standard Time (IST) will serve as the uniform time reference across the country for legal, administrative, commercial, and official purposes.

- This 'One Nation, One Time' initiative will help reduce reliance on foreign satellite-based time sources for India's time dissemination infrastructure.
- A shared time reference will enable precise time-stamping for banking and digital payments.
- It will facilitate better coordination across railways, airports, telecommunications, the internet, and power systems.
- Coordination regarding government and legal records, as well as emergency and other time-sensitive services, will also improve.



> **The Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam initiatives have become vibrant platforms for cultural exchange, connecting traditions, languages, and communities while celebrating India's unity in diversity.**
>
> *-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

nation for millennia, transcending changing political circumstances. The twelve Jyotirlingas, the seven holy cities, the Char Dham, over fifty Shaktipeeths, and the tradition of pilgrimages constitute the vital energy that makes India a vibrant, conscious nation. This tradition is being furthered today through events like the 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam' and 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam'. India's great science of Yoga is also gaining new recognition through International Day of Yoga; today, Yoga is becoming a medium to connect people.

The second pillar of unity is linguistic unity. India's hundreds of languages and dialects symbolize its open and creative mindset. Here, no society, authority, or sect has ever weaponized language, nor has there been any attempt to impose a single language. This is why India has become such a rich nation in terms of linguistic diversity. Like the distinct notes of a musical composition, Indian languages have strengthened the nation's identity. That is why the current government regards every language as a national language. India possesses the world's oldest language, Tamil, and a repository of knowledge like Sanskrit. Today, every Indian language is being encouraged so that every child in India can study in their mother tongue. Efforts are also being made to ensure that Indians learn about and from other languages of the country, allowing languages to serve as a unifying force for the nation.

The third pillar of unity is development free from discrimination. Poverty and discrimination are the biggest weaknesses of the social fabric. Invaders have always exploited these vulnerabilities. That is why Sardar Patel wanted to work on a long-term plan for the country to combat poverty. He once remarked that

Key Pillars of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'



Food Festivals : Culinary Traditions: Events are organised to facilitate the exchange of culinary cultures between paired states, allowing participants to taste the cuisine of their partner states and learn about their signature dishes.

Cultural Exchange: Under this theme, programs are organised to explore India's culture and festivals - understanding how they are celebrated and their significance across different states. Traditional local recipes and culinary practices are also showcased.

Youth Festivals: Selected institutions across states and Union Territories organise youth festivals, inviting universities and colleges from both their own and their partner states.

'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' Clubs: Clubs dedicated to this initiative have been established in educational institutions nationwide. These clubs disseminate the campaign's message and observe 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat Diwas' every month.

Academic Exchange: Educational institutions engage in discussions on related subjects. Activities include organising seminars and webinars, as well as visiting institutions in partner states.

Sports Events: Sports activities are organised under the initiative, focusing on team sports to foster a spirit of teamwork among the youth. Priority is given to traditional sports.

had India gained independence ten years earlier than 1947, the nation would have been free from the crisis of food grain shortages by that time. Today, the Central Government is working to fulfill these unaccomplished resolutions of Sardar Patel. Over the past 12 years, 250 million citizens have been lifted out of poverty. Today, millions of the poor are receiving homes; clean water is reaching every household; and free medical treatment

Tourism Exchange: The objective is to gain knowledge and understanding of the major tourist destinations and attractions in partner states. Activities include disseminating information about monuments and tourist sites, conducting roadshows for tour operators, and promoting homestays. Translation of books: Books and tourism brochures from partner states are translated to facilitate an understanding of their literature and other information.

Learning the language of the partner state: The objective of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' is to familiarise people with the languages of partner states, enabling basic communication with the local population. Individuals are encouraged to learn Indian languages other than their mother tongue.

- Proverbs with similar meanings are taught; songs are translated; and a daily sentence is translated into 22 languages.

Tours and Camps: Tours and camps are organised in partner states.

Festivals and Celebrations: Festivals are organised, and partner states are invited to participate.



National Film Awards now embrace every state

A New Initiative for Unity

- **A Historic Shift in Venue:** A new initiative has been launched to take the National Film Awards ceremony—previously confined to Delhi—to the country's major tourist destinations.
- **Kicking Off in Kevadia, Gujarat:** President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated this initiative on September 22, 2026, at the 'Statue of Unity' in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- **The Message of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat':** Honoring cinematic excellence and diversity at the venue of the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—the architect of modern India—embodies the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.
- **Invitation to States to Host the event:** Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw has appealed to states to submit proposals to host the event at their prominent tourist sites; the next awards ceremony will be held in the selected state.
- **Boosting Tourism and National Unity:** This confluence of art, culture, and tourism will not only accelerate regional development and tourism but also bind the nation together in unity.

is being provided. In essence, ensuring a life of dignity for every citizen is both the mission and the vision of the nation today. Policies free from discrimination and corruption are strengthening national unity.

The fourth pillar of national unity is the connection of hearts through connectivity. Today, highways and expressways are being constructed at a record pace across the country. Trains like Vande Bharat

National Unity Day Special

Cover Story

One Nation, One Tax

A New Era of Economic Integration

One Nation, One Tax - GST

Launch: July 1, 2017



- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) consolidated 30 taxes and cesses into a single tax regime.
- Its objective was to reduce complexities arising from varying state tax boundaries and move India towards a unified market. This simplified the understanding of trade and other taxes across states.
- The GST Council, bringing together the Centre and the states, became a pivotal component of this system.
- Under 'GST 2.0' – the next generation of reforms – tax rates were primarily revised to the 5% and 18% slabs.
- The number of taxpayers rose

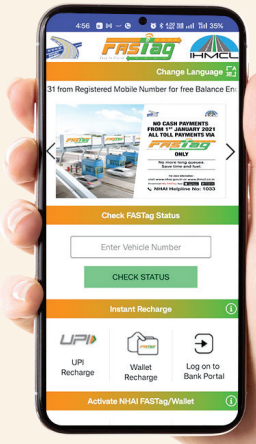
2026 **1.65** crore

2017 **66.5** lakh

A Thread of Unity:
Over nine years, GST has strengthened India's vision of 'Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat' (One India - Great India). It integrated 17 different taxes and 13 cesses into a common framework.

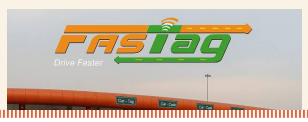
One Nation, One FASTag

Launch: Initiated in 2019 to electronically integrate toll collection; by February 2021, all toll plaza lanes on national highways were designated as FASTag lanes.



- Travel across the country's highways has become seamless and faster; queues at toll plazas have reduced, and fuel savings have been achieved.
- An annual pass facility for private cars, jeeps, and vans was introduced on August 15, 2025, at a cost of ₹3,075. This pass is valid for one year or for 200 passages through toll plazas.
- 'OneTag' has now been introduced, offering FASTag portability. This allows users to change the issuer while retaining the existing FASTag affixed to the vehicle, providing greater convenience and choice to FASTag users.

With over **98%** adoption and nearly 13 crore users, FASTag has transformed the electronic toll collection system in the country.



A Thread of Unity:
you can pay tolls across the country using a single FASTag. It can also be used for parking payments at many locations. The need to pay separate tolls in different states is eliminated, ensuring uniform treatment regarding charges.

and Namo Bharat are bringing about transformative changes in Indian Railways. Even smaller towns are now being connected via airports. This modern infrastructure is completely altering the world's perception of India. It has bridged distances across the country—from North to South and East to West. A new era of people-to-people connections and cultural exchange is reinforcing national unity. The

> **While a lack of unity breeds new crises, the collective effort of all propels the nation to new heights. The concept of 'Sabka Prayas' (collective effort)—which was relevant during the making of independent India—is even more crucial during this 'Amrit Kaal' of independence.**
>
> *-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*



digital revolution that India has witnessed over the last 12 years has further strengthened this unity.

WHEN THE NATION SPOKE THE LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS IN UNISON

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) stands as the most significant and widely discussed example of this transformation. For decades, India had a fragmented tax system where every state operated under its own regime. Trucks crossing state borders faced hours of waiting at check-posts, while varying tax slabs and bureaucratic red tape were the norm. The price of the same commodity would fluctuate upon crossing state lines, and traders were burdened with maintaining separate accounts for each state. Everyone—from small shopkeepers to major industrialists—grappled with this convoluted system.

This entire landscape changed on July 1, 2017, following the 101st Amendment to the Constitution. Implemented under the vision "One Nation, One Tax," GST consolidated dozens of indirect taxes—such as excise duty, service tax, VAT, and octroi—into a unified system. Now, armed with a single GST number, a unified online return process, and a standardized tax regime, businesses can transport goods to any corner of the country seamlessly. This not only simplified doing business but also transformed India into a truly unified market. The GST Council, which brings the Centre and states together for decision-making, turned this transformation into a vibrant example of "cooperative federalism"; here, the voices of all states are heard on a single platform, and every decision—from tax rates to exemptions—is reached through mutual consensus.

RESOLVING PENSION DISPARITIES: ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM SYSTEM

For decades, the nation's ex-servicemen had been advocating for a specific demand: "One Rank, One Pension" (OROP)—meaning equal pension for equal rank and equal length of service. Previously, a soldier who retired earlier would receive a lower pension than a soldier retiring years later at the same rank, even if both had rendered identical service and faced equal risks while guarding the nation's borders. This disparity remained a source of deep grievance for ex-servicemen for decades, sparking numerous major agitations. In the period leading up to 2014, ex-servicemen even undertook protests such as returning their medals. When a new government assumed office at the Centre in 2014,

National Unity Day Special
Cover Story

Social Welfare
An integrated safety cover

One Nation, One Ration Card

Launched: 2019

Free ration are being provided to over **81** crore beneficiaries.

- A system has been established to make ration facilities portable for migrant workers and beneficiaries working in locations other than their home base.
- Beneficiaries can now collect their entitled ration anywhere in the country without needing to get a new ration card made.
- Aadhaar-linked identification and the use of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) machines at fair price shops have made this portability possible.



A Thread of Unity: Wherever a citizen works, their right to food should reach them there.

One Rank, One Pension (OROP)

Launched: 2015



- A system providing uniform pension to ex-servicemen holding the same rank and having the same length of service.
- The objective was to eliminate pension disparities among soldiers of the same rank who retired at different times.
- Over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and their families have benefited.

A Thread of Unity: A sense of equality in the pension system and respect for soldiers who serve the nation.

Historic Step Towards 'One Nation, One Health Insurance' (Ayushman Bharat)

Free health coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year is provided for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation to the bottom 40% of families in society who are economically weaker and underprivileged.

- Since the scheme's launch in September 2018, and up to 12 August 2026...

Over **48.57** crore Ayushman cards have been issued.



it agreed to this long-pending demand and implemented the 'One Rank, One Pension' scheme in 2015. The objective was to ensure that all ex-servicemen holding the same rank and having the same length of service receive an equal pension, regardless of the year they retired. Whether a Subedar left service in 1985 or 2010, their pensions are now determined based on the same scale. This disparity—which had long been



One Nation, One Health Record

Significant strides have been made towards the goal of 'One Citizen, One Digital Health Record' under the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' (ABDM), spearheaded by the National Health Authority (NHA). The initiative aims to create secure, paperless, and integrated digital health records for every citizen of the country.

Key Achievements and Statistics...

Creation of ABHA IDs: Over 96 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) have been generated to provide a unique 14-digit identification to each citizen.

Digital Health Record Linkage: More than 110 crore health records (such as lab reports, prescriptions, vaccination details, hospital discharge summaries, etc.) have been linked to ABHA accounts.

Consent-based Sharing: This enables patients to share their past health records with doctors anywhere in the country with their own consent, eliminating the need for unnecessary tests and the hassle of managing paper files.

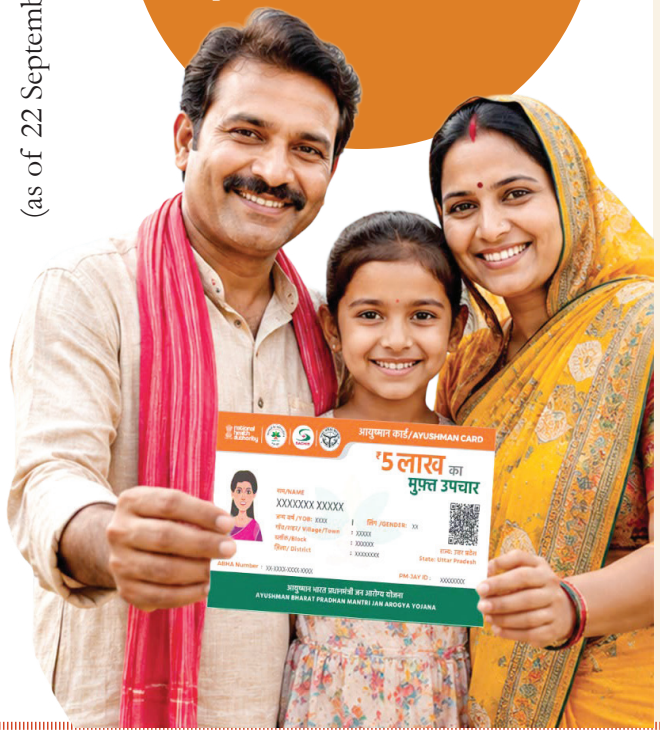
A Thread of Unity:
Get treated anywhere in the country, and your health records will be available digitally. Health records are accessible with just a single click.

Over 13 crore hospital admissions and more than ₹2 lakh crore saved by beneficiaries.

- Treatment in hospitals across different states has been approved for over 29.05 lakh patients, involving a total amount exceeding ₹8,800 crore.
- 1.20 crore senior citizens have been enrolled under the Ayushman Bharat Vaya Vandana Yojana.

(as of 22 September 2026)

A Thread of Unity:
A healthy India is the foundation of a developed India. To achieve this, all citizens of the country must have access to equal healthcare benefits.



a topic of discussion among military families—was finally resolved. Through this new integrated system, the nation sent a clear message: their service would no longer be measured by different yardsticks.

ONE NATION, ONE LAW, ONE CONSTITUTION

The most historic chapter in this journey of integration was scripted on August 5, 2019. For decades, Jammu and Kashmir held a special constitutional

National Unity Day Special

Cover Story

Education-Examination-Recruitment

The Unified Strength of Youth Potential





One Nation, One Exam (NTA)

Inception: Started in 2017; changes planned for 2026

- The establishment of the National Testing Agency (NTA) paved the way for conducting national-level entrance examinations through a unified, technology-driven system.
- NEET was established as the single national entrance examination for medical admissions.
- The Central Government has constituted a high-level task force, chaired by Nandan Nilekani, to recommend measures for ensuring the secure and efficient conduct of public examinations, including those managed by the NTA. The task force has invited suggestions from all stakeholders.

Guiding Principle:
A student's opportunities should be determined on a national examination platform, transcending the limitations of their state or educational board.

One Nation, One Recruitment

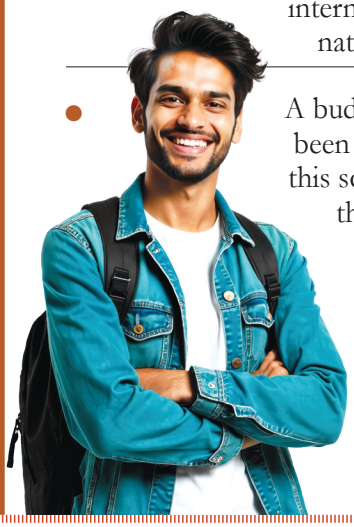
The establishment of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) - approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2020 - marks a significant step toward the "One Nation, One Recruitment" vision.

- Formation of the National Recruitment Agency: The Central Government approved the creation of the NRA as an autonomous body to conduct preliminary screening for non-gazetted posts (Group B and C) across central government departments, ministries, and public sector undertakings.
- Integration of Major Recruitment Agencies: In its initial phase, the Common Eligibility Test (CET) replaced the preliminary examinations of three major recruitment agencies: the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), the Railway Recruitment Boards (RRB), and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS)

Recently launched initiative

- A system designed to provide students, teachers, and researchers at government educational and research institutions across the country with access to leading international research journals through a national subscription model.
- A budget provision of ₹6,000 crore has been allocated for this scheme over three years.



Guiding Principle:
Access to knowledge should not be constrained by an institution's financial capacity or geographical location.

status under Article 370; consequently, many provisions of the Indian Constitution did not fully apply there, and residents did not enjoy certain rights available to people in the rest of the country. Furthermore, citizens from other states did not possess the same property rights there as were standard elsewhere in the nation. Addressing this long-standing challenge, the Indian Parliament

Constitutional Arrangements
Integration of Governance

One Nation, One Constitution
Freedom from Article 370

Decisive Change: August 5, 2019



- The concept of 'One Nation, One Constitution' gained a new dimension following the changes to the constitutional arrangements concerning Jammu & Kashmir.
- Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were reorganised into Union Territories, altering the framework for implementing central laws and administrative systems.

Thread of Unity:
The dream of 'One Nation, One Law, One Constitution' was realised. Civil rights and constitutional arrangements were aligned with a shared national framework.

One Nation, One Election Proposed System

Bill: December 2024

- The concept of holding elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously.
- A high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind was constituted in September 2023.
- Based on its recommendations, the relevant constitutional amendment bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2024.

Current Status: It is not yet law; the bill is under consideration by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

A Thread of Unity: A proposal to synchronise the electoral cycle so that Lok Sabha and Assembly elections occur simultaneously across the country. This aims to reduce election expenditure and prevent development work from being disrupted by the frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct.

One Nation, One Civil Code

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the civil code we currently live under is truly discriminatory.

- The spirit of the Constitution and the Supreme Court also advocate for this measure. It is the collective responsibility of all to fulfill the dream envisioned by the framers of the Constitution.
- There should be a widespread national discussion on this serious subject. A secular civil code is urgently needed; we must progress towards its implementation.

A Thread of Unity: A secular civil code will liberate the country from discrimination based on religion and bridge the sense of alienation felt by ordinary citizens. The spirit of unity and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' will be strengthened.

abrogated Article 370 on August 5, 2019, thereby restoring the core spirit of "One Nation, One Law, One Constitution." The Supreme Court subsequently upheld this historic decision.

Seven decades after independence, the nation's resolve for "One Nation, One Constitution" was fulfilled—the greatest tribute a grateful nation could offer to Sardar Patel. For 70 years, the Constitution of

National Unity Day Special
Cover Story

Roads, Rail, and Internet

From Bridging Distances to Enabling Communication

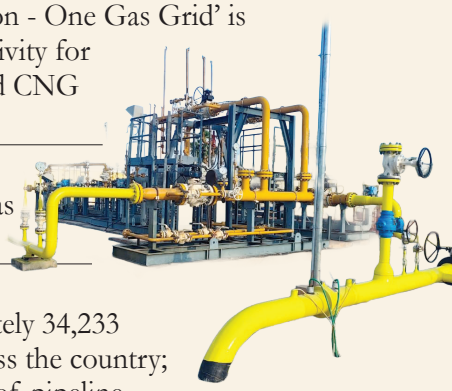


One Nation, One Identity - Aadhaar

- It is the world's largest digital identity system, providing digital identity based on biometric and demographic data.
- Numerous national services, including UPI, DigiLocker, the UMANG App, and e-Sign, are linked to this digital identity.

Over **144** **crore Aadhaar (One Nation, One Identity) numbers have been issued.**

One Nation - One Gas Grid



- The objective of 'One Nation - One Gas Grid' is to provide seamless connectivity for LPG in every household and CNG for vehicles.
- In the 27 years before 2014, only 15,000 kilometres of gas pipelines were laid.
- Entities have been authorised to lay approximately 34,233 kilometres of pipelines across the country; of these, 25,429 kilometres of pipeline were operational by June 2025.
- Increased gas accessibility and connections have enabled several states and Union Territories to become kerosene-free.

One Nation, One Power Grid



- The mission of 'One Nation, One Power Grid, One Frequency' was completed in February 2019 with the integration of Leh-Ladakh.
- It is the world's largest power grid operating on a single frequency. Approximately 1.70 lakh circuit-kilometres of transmission lines have been added.

A power transfer capacity of **1.12** lakh megawatts has been developed.

Adequate and continuous electricity availability is being ensured across every part of the country, and power transmission losses have been reduced.

One Nation, One Mobility Card

The National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is being rolled out for use across metro systems, buses, cabs, monorails, and all urban railway networks nationwide.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'One Nation, One Card' initiative for transport mobility in March 2019. The indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System, based on the National Common Mobility Card, is the first system of its kind in India.
- Customers can use this single card for payments across all sectors, including metro, bus, suburban rail, tolls, parking, smart city services, and retail purchases.

Babasaheb Ambedkar had not been fully implemented across the entire country. In the recent assembly elections, votes were cast there without discrimination for the first time. For the first time—75 years after independence—a Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir took an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of India. Now, every part of the country, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, shares the same Constitution, the same

Rail, Road, Highway, and Digital Networks for Connectivity

Roads and Highways

India's road network, spanning **63.73** lakh km, is the second-largest in the world.

The length of national highways

2013-14 — 91,287 km

March 2026 — 1,46,572 km

an increase of approximately 61%.

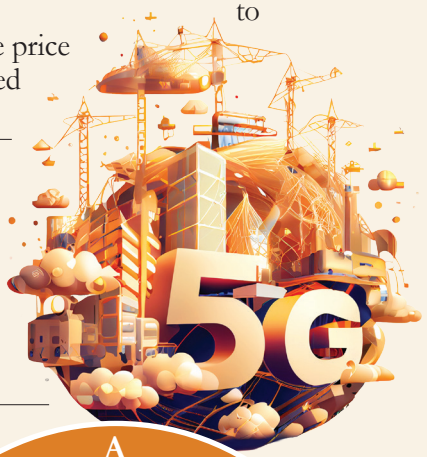


Rail Services

- Indian Railways transported 67.27 crore passengers in August 2026.
- India's total broad-gauge railway network is 99.6 per cent electrified.
- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor spans 508 km and is designed for a speed of 350 kmph.
- The country's first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell train was launched in July 2026. The project is scheduled to be completed soon.

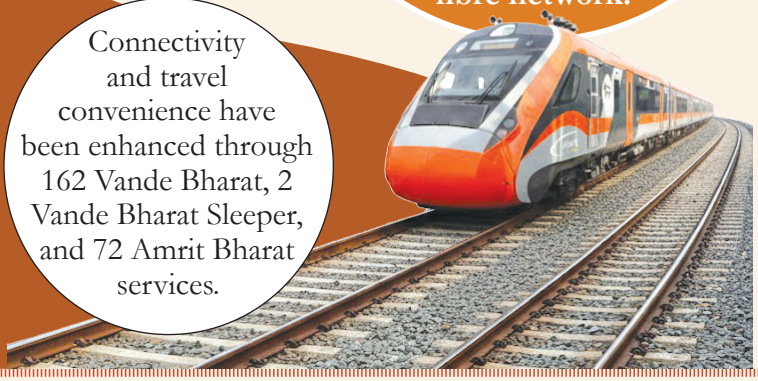
Digital Connectivity

- The number of internet subscribers in the country has increased to more than 109.2 crore. The price of wireless data has dropped to ₹7.51 per GB.
- BharatNet Project: Under this scheme aimed at connecting the country's Gram Panchayats, over 2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats have been made service-ready.
- Fibre and 5G Networks: Approximately 7 lakh kilometres of optical fibre cable have been laid across the country, and 5G services are available in 99.9% of districts.



A Thread of Unity: Regardless of where one lives in the country, highways, expressways, and high-speed trains now facilitate travel between regions and cultures. Similarly, digital connectivity has bridged distances; even villages are now connected via fibre network.

Connectivity and travel convenience have been enhanced through 162 Vande Bharat, 2 Vande Bharat Sleeper, and 72 Amrit Bharat services.



legal framework, and equal rights for citizens.

Moreover, over the past 12 years, India has resolved numerous issues that posed a threat to national unity. Today, the masterminds behind terrorism know that if they harm India, the country will not spare them. There were many hurdles in the path of peace and prosperity in the Northeast; yet, through dialogue, development, and trust, the fires

National Unity Day Special
Cover Story

Farmer Empowerment

Integrated System for Villages and Farmers

One Nation, One Fertilizer

A New Beginning with the 'Bharat' Brand

*On October 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Bharat' urea bag under the *Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana* (Indian People's Fertilizer Scheme) - an initiative themed 'One Nation, One Fertilizer'.*

- Now, Urea sold across the country will share a single name, quality standard, and brand: 'Bharat'.



One Nation, One Agricultural Market

The National Agriculture Market, or eNAM, was launched in April 2016. Through eNAM, the country is moving towards the vision of 'One Nation, One Agricultural Market'.

- Over 1.80 crore farmers and 2.73 lakh traders are registered on the eNAM portal.
- 1,656 mandis (agricultural markets) across 23 states and 4 Union Territories have been integrated with the eNAM platform.

Agricultural produce worth over

₹4.84

lakh crore, approximately 205 lakh metric tonnes, has been traded via eNAM since its inception up to March 2026.



of separatism were extinguished. The Bodo Accord ended a 50-year-old dispute in Assam. Thanks to the Bru-Reang Agreement, thousands of displaced people have returned to their homes after decades. The agreement with the National Liberation Front of Tripura has put an end to long-standing unrest. Additionally, the border dispute between Assam and Meghalaya has been largely resolved. When the history of the 21st century is written, it will feature a golden chapter on how India—during the second and third decades—successfully eradicated the dreadful scourge of Naxalism. There was a time when a 'Red Corridor' stretched from Pashupati in Nepal to Tirupati in India. Naxalism had emerged as a massive challenge to India's unity and integrity. Today, India is free from Naxalism.

FULFILLING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE YOUTH

A child born in any corner of the country dreams of becoming a doctor or an engineer; however, until a few years ago, realizing this dream depended heavily on factors such as which state board the student attended or which state's entrance exam forms they could manage to fill out. Medical admissions involved dozens of state-level and private examinations, forcing students to fill out multiple forms, travel to various cities, pay different fees, and contend with varying standards of assessment. For a family from a poor background, this entire process seemed as daunting as scaling a formidable mountain.

To resolve this complexity, the National Testing Agency (NTA) was established in 2017. It designated

NEET as the single national entrance exam for medical education and initiated the centralized, transparent, and technology-driven conduct of other major exams like JEE. Today, whether a student is from a government school in Bihar or a prestigious private school in Delhi, their merit is determined based on the same examination, the same question paper, and the same evaluation criteria. This spirit of unity has extended beyond schools and colleges into the realm of research and innovation. Students, teachers, and researchers in the country's public educational and research institutions were often deprived of access to the latest research due to the high subscription costs of international journals. The 'One Nation, One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme has emerged as the solution to this issue.

This transformation has not been entirely free of challenges. Like any major national shift, efforts to revamp and improve the system are ongoing. Nevertheless, the core ethos of 'One Nation, One Exam' and 'One Nation, One Recruitment' has undoubtedly laid a robust foundation for equal opportunities in education.

THE WAY FORWARD: ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

This journey of integration is far from over. Elections take place in one state or another across the country every year; consequently, the administrative machinery remains constantly engaged, and the Model Code of Conduct stays in effect almost perpetually—factors that often impact the pace of development works and policy decisions. To address this issue, there has been a long-standing discussion on the concept of "One Nation, One Election"—holding elections for the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies simultaneously—to alleviate the burden placed on administration and resources by the recurring electoral cycle.

Frequent elections not only impose a heavy burden on the public exchequer but also require security forces and administrative personnel to be repeatedly deployed for election duty, thereby affecting the continuity of development work. Simultaneous elections would break this cycle, enabling governments to focus on stable policy-making throughout their full tenures.

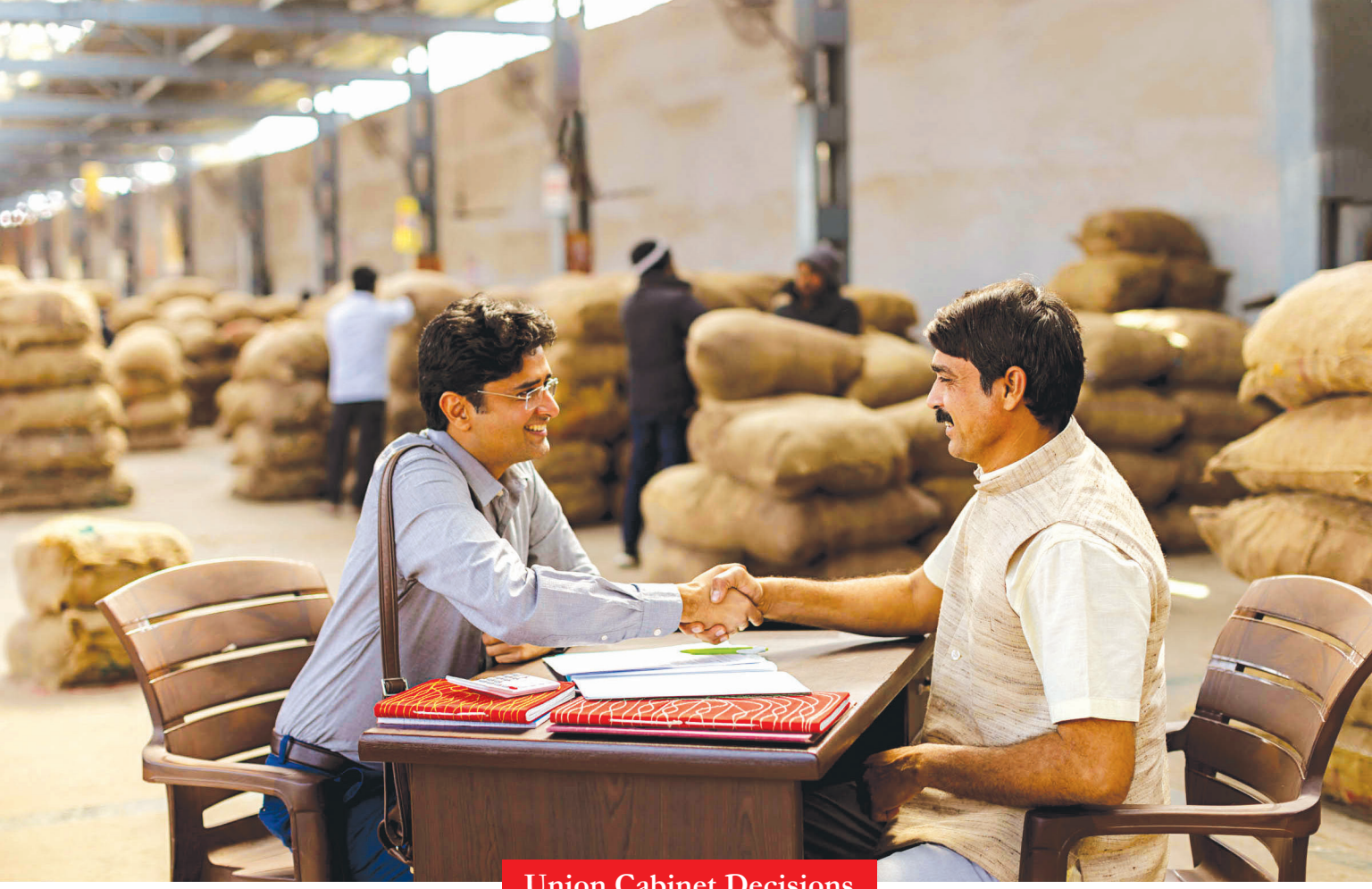
In this direction, a high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind was constituted in September 2023; it submitted its recommendations to the government following extensive public consultations and discussions with experts. In this context, the Central Government introduced the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024. Currently, these bills are before a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for detailed deliberation. Further discussion on the matter is yet to take place in Parliament.

> **Today, every Indian can say: 'One Nation, One Constitution.' We are dedicated to realizing Sardar Sahib's vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. We must develop systems that strengthen the nation's unity, and this process must be continuous.**
>
> *-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

THE EXPANDING SCOPE OF UNITY

It is said: ऐक्यं बलं समाजस्य तद्भावे स दुर्बलः। तस्मात् ऐक्यं प्रशंसन्ति दृढं राष्ट्र हितैषिणः॥—meaning, the strength of any society lies in its unity. Therefore, those who wish well for a strong nation praise this spirit of unity and strive for it. Thus, the country's unity and solidarity are the collective responsibility of us all. Sardar Patel believed that one should not waste time writing history; instead, one should work hard to create history.

It was certainly with this mindset that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative in 2015; at the time, it may have appeared to some as merely a cultural program. However, over the past decade, this spirit has deeply permeated every sector—spanning tax systems, food security (ration distribution), respect for soldiers, constitutional equality, examination opportunities, and access to knowledge. This journey is ongoing, with the core objective of ensuring a uniform system for citizens anywhere in the country. ●



Union Cabinet Decisions

Hike in MSP for Rabi crops

Approval for Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme

The Central Government is committed to farmers' welfare and expanding access to renewable energy, a goal the country is continuously working towards. In this context, the Union Cabinet meeting held on September 30, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved proposals to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Rabi crops. Additionally, approval was granted for the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme and a proposal to implement an Intelligent Traffic Management System. These measures will aid in supporting farmers and protecting the environment...

DECISION: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all notified Rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season.

IMPACT: The absolute highest increase in MSP has been announced for safflower at Rs.675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed & mustard at Rs.413 per quintal. For lentil (masur), barley, gram, and wheat, there is an increase of Rs.390 per quintal, Rs.136 per quintal, Rs.83 per quintal, and Rs.25 per quintal, respectively.

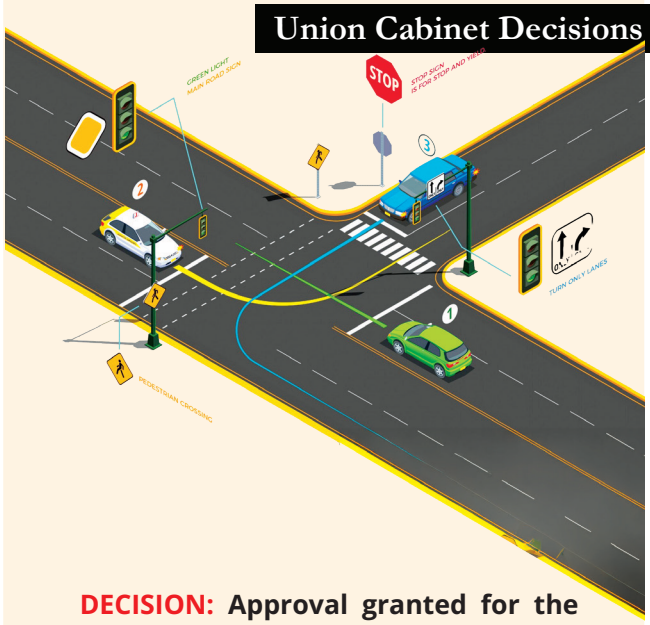
- Procurement of wheat has increased to 3,715 lakh metric tonnes during 2014-15 and 2025-26.
- Procurement of six Rabi crops has increased to 3,921 lakh metric tonnes during the 2014-15 to 2025-26 period.

- The total MSP paid to wheat-producing farmers has increased to ₹7.31 lakh crore between 2014-15 and 2025-26.
- The MSP paid to farmers producing six Rabi crops has increased to ₹8.36 lakh crore during the period from 2014-15 to 2025-26.

DECISION: Approval of the Green Energy Corridor Phase-III scheme for the development of intra-state transmission systems integrated with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

IMPACT: This historic initiative will strengthen India's intra-state transmission infrastructure, enabling the evacuation and integration of up to 135 GW of renewable energy across states and Union Territories.

- The scheme targets completion by the financial year 2032-33, with a total project cost of ₹1,86,405 crore.
- It will facilitate the achievement of the target of 900 GW of installed non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2035.
- The scheme will contribute to the nation's long-term energy security and foster eco-friendly growth by reducing the carbon footprint.
- It will generate large-scale direct and indirect employment opportunities across the energy, manufacturing, and construction sectors.
- The manufacturing and deployment of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) will create additional job opportunities within the domestic energy storage industry.
- The scheme will generate long-term skilled employment in areas such as operations, maintenance, and grid management within the participating states.



DECISION: Approval granted for the implementation of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in Delhi.

IMPACT: The project will cover 42 identified traffic corridors. Vehicles will be monitored using AI.

- It will be implemented in three phases over 24 months, followed by five years of operation and maintenance.
- The new system will feature signals capable of adjusting their timing based on vehicle volume and traffic conditions.
- AI-assisted monitoring will make it easier to track stolen and suspicious vehicles. ■

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





Over 51,000 Appointment Letters Distributed

GOVERNMENT MAKING **youth future-ready**

The National Education Policy, Skill India Mission, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, and PM SETU are preparing the youth not only for the future but also enabling them to secure employment. As part of this ongoing effort, appointment letters for government service were handed over to more than 51,000 young people at a 'Rozgar Mela' on September 19. Addressing the 20th Rozgar Mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that the milestone they have achieved is the result of not only their own hard work but also the dedication and sacrifices of their parents and families.

New opportunities for the youth get a boost when the national economy advances, investments rise, new industries are established, and new sectors expand. Today, India is a rapidly growing major economy; the country recorded a growth rate of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the current financial year. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi said that the government is striving to rapidly increase employment opportunities in the private sector as well.

With this vision in mind, the 'Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana' has been launched. Approximately one lakh crore rupees are being invested in this scheme. It will provide around two crore young people with the opportunity to join the workforce for the first time. PM Modi noted that

12.75 lakh youth have received appointment letters so far

- This Rozgar Mela was organized at 45 locations across the country.
- The newly appointed employees will join various ministries and departments of the Government of India.
- These include the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Defence, etc.
- With the 20th Rozgar Mela, approximately 12.75 lakh youth have secured employment in various departments and government organizations.

Today, more than 1.7 crore government employees are connected to the iGOT Karmayogi platform.

You have all joined the Government of India at a time when the country is advancing towards a monumental goal—that of building a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The youth have a pivotal role to play in this endeavor.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

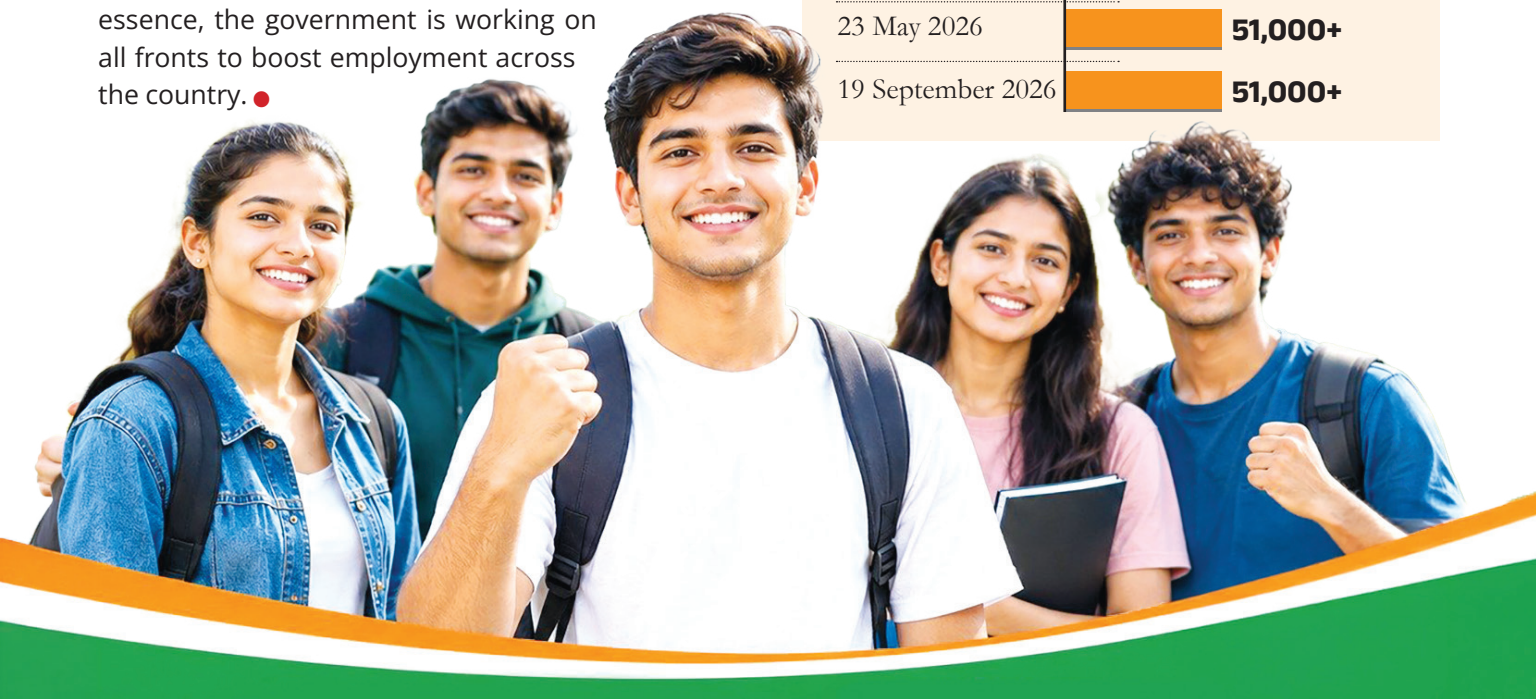
Emphasis on preparing youth for the future

- Efforts to promote the National Education Policy, Skill India Mission, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, and apprenticeships.
- 1,000 government **ITIs** are being modernized with an investment of ₹60,000 crore under the PM-SETU scheme.

under this scheme, the government is providing incentives of up to ₹15,000 to youth securing their first jobs. Incentives are also being offered to employers who generate new employment. In essence, the government is working on all fronts to boost employment across the country.

Rozgar Mela provides government jobs to the youth

When it took place	Issuance of appointment letters
22 October 2022	75,000+
22 November 2022	71,000+
20 January 2023	71,000+
13 April 2023	71,000+
16 May 2023	70,000+
13 June 2023	70,000+
22 July 2023	70,000+
28 August 2023	51,000+
26 September 2023	51,000+
28 October 2023	51,000+
30 November 2023	51,000+
12 February 2024	1,00,000+
29 October 2024	51,000+
23 December 2024	71,000+
26 April 2025	51,000+
12 July 2025	51,000+
24 October 2025	51,000+
24 January 2026	61,000+
23 May 2026	51,000+
19 September 2026	51,000+





Semiconductor

Unlocking New Opportunities for Innovation, Investment and Growth

Driven by a robust economy and global confidence, India is moving towards becoming a new global manufacturing hub. The semiconductor industry is set to play a pivotal role in this journey. Speaking at the 'Semicon India 2026' event held in Delhi on September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that India's semiconductor sector is advancing rapidly. He called upon talented youth from both India and abroad to partner in the development of modern technology.

Semicon India was launched in 2022. Commercial production has commenced at two new plants in Mohali and Surat, and chips are now reaching global customers. This has led to the development of chip design, equipment manufacturing, and testing capabilities within the country in record time. At the Semicon India 2026 event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared these details and announced the second phase of the $13.5 billion semiconductor mission. He also highlighted new regulatory reforms designed to facilitate collaboration among international companies, startups, and design firms.



Achievements of the last 15 days...

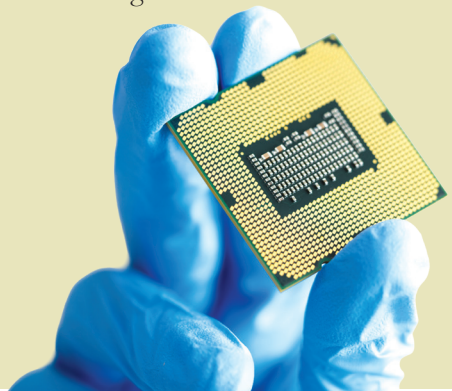
3,000 kilometer-long dedicated freight corridor launched.

- GDP grew by 7.8% in the first quarter.
- Member nations unanimously adopted the BRICS Delhi Declaration.
- Global Fintech Fest was held in Mumbai, featuring discussions on inclusive finance through Agentic AI and quantum technology.

Key highlights from PM Modi's remarks...

The semiconductor market has grown by over 20% in the last two years, driven largely by demand generated by AI.

- The government's ambitious plan to train one lakh engineering students; training for 70,000 of them has already been completed.
- Solar energy capacity now exceeds 60 gigawatts, up from around two gigawatts a decade ago.





Building a semiconductor ecosystem typically takes decades, yet India has achieved significant success in a short span of time. The country worked simultaneously across all these areas…

- Chip design and manufacturing.
- Equipment and raw material supply.
- Chip testing capabilities.

Young talent currently conducting research in India should step forward. Those researching abroad… should also join in the development of advanced technologies within India.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Scan the QR code to watch PM Modi's full program.



10 Years of 'UDAN'

Boosting connectivity...

STRENGTHENING ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

"I want to see people wearing hawai chappals (flip-flops) on airplanes." Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke these words at the launch of the first UDAN flight... and today, UDAN's statistics reveal that over 1.68 crore people have availed the benefits of this affordable air service. A revised and new phase of the scheme was launched on July 4, 2026. This scheme aims not only to reach 120 new destinations and serve 4 crore passengers but also to strengthen the domestic aerospace sector and the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign...

For the first time since independence, the current central government formulated an aviation policy for the country. Subsequently, on October 21, 2016, approval was granted for the Regional Air Connectivity Scheme 'UDAN'—Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik. The scheme's inaugural flight took off on April 27, 2017. Ten years have passed since the scheme's inception. Over this decade, the UDAN scheme has operationalized 679 routes and brought about a remarkable transformation in regional air connectivity by linking 95 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes. By July 2026, more than 1.68 crore passengers had benefited from this affordable service.

> **Our government has further expanded the UDAN scheme, with plans to construct 100 new airports and 200 new helipads in smaller cities over the coming years. This scheme has brought about a transformative change in India's aviation sector.**
>
> *- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister*

A CELEBRATION OF INDIA'S ASPIRATIONS.

The UDAN scheme, launched on October 21, 2016, has transformed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of enabling those wearing 'hawai chappals' (flip-flops) to fly in 'hawai jahaz' (airplanes) into a national movement. This scheme is making air travel easier and accessible to every Indian. Today, UDAN is not merely a connectivity scheme but a celebration of India's aspirations, offering farmers, students, artisans, and traders new growth opportunities. From Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to remote regions, aviation has emerged as a powerful engine for economic development, tourism, employment, and social inclusion.

ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP FOR INDIA'S AVIATION JOURNEY

Building upon the success and experiences of the scheme, a revamped version was approved by the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 25, 2026. Launched on April 4, 2026, this revised UDAN scheme aims to boost regional air connectivity across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and remote areas nationwide. Approximately ₹29,000 crore will be spent over the next ten years to accelerate civil aviation-led development. The scheme encompasses the development of 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips and the creation of 200 heliports in mountainous, Northeastern, and Aspirational regions. It will ensure significant progress toward realizing the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047 '. This new phase will further strengthen last-mile connectivity, ensuring that the vision of 'Sabki Udaan, Sabka Vikas' becomes a reality in every corner of the country.

According to a study by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) titled 'Economic Benefits of Civil Aviation: Ripples of Prosperity', every rupee spent on air connectivity generates an economic impact of 3.25 times, while the impact on employment is 6.1 times.

Strengthening 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign

In the new phase of the UDAN scheme, two 'Dhruv' helicopters and two 'Dornier' aircraft will be procured for remote and inaccessible areas. This will address the shortage of small aircraft and provide a boost to the country's aviation industry under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. To ensure the long-term sustainability of flights on regional routes and to increase passenger numbers, the scheme includes a provision to extend Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support for up to five years.





4th Installment of ₹3,000 under Annapurna Scheme Released

New Strength for the Women of Bengal

On May 4th of this year, West Bengal chose a new path of transformation, and women played a pivotal role in this process. The central and state governments are working together to rapidly implement schemes aimed at making women self-reliant and easing their lives...

Mothers and sisters shoulder numerous responsibilities within the household. A woman takes care of her family in every possible way. When the anxiety regarding essential expenses is reduced, their self-confidence grows even further. It is with this objective that the West Bengal government launched the Annapurna Scheme. Under this scheme, ₹3,000 was transferred to the accounts of 1.5 crore women on September 17th. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that this is a significant effort to bolster the self-confidence of the women of Bengal. The government's goal is to ensure that not a single eligible woman is deprived of the scheme's benefits. For a mother, this money could cover her child's education expenses; for a sister, it could provide the means to purchase medicines or essential household items.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that our vision is for the women of Bengal to also have the power of decision-making and the courage to move forward. The Annapurna Scheme plays a major role in this regard. The primary priority for the new government was to make life easier for the women of Bengal and to enhance their 'ease of living'. Therefore, we adopted the guiding principle, Kotha Kom, Kaaj Beshi! That is, less talk, more work. The Annapurna Scheme

Top priority: Solving every challenge across the life cycle

Nutrition during pregnancy	Matru Vandana Yojana
Preventing female foeticide	Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao
Preventing school dropouts due to lack of toilets	Construction of millions of toilets
Ensuring continued education for daughters	Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana
Access to Sainik Schools for Daughters	Opening Doors to Sainik Schools
Enabling daughters to start their own ventures	Collateral-free loans via Mudra Yojana
Continuing employment after motherhood	extended maternity leave
New earning opportunities for daughters in villages	Self-Help Groups
Relief from kitchen smoke	Ujjwala gas connections
Access to water at home	the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme
Freedom from darkness	Free electricity connections under the Saubhagya Yojana
Access to healthcare without financial worry	Ayushman Card
Access to banking services	Jan Dhan Yojana
Rights to household property	PM Awas Yojana





Solving every problem related to the life cycle of mothers, sisters, and daughters has been the highest priority. We will all together build a new Bengal. With the strength of a Viksit Bengal, the resolution of a Viksit Bharat will become even stronger.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

was launched with this very mindset. Work on the scheme began within just a few days of the government taking office. Money has started reaching the bank accounts of such a vast number of women. No 'cut money', no middlemen. Now, cut money no longer operates in Bengal! (Ekhon Banglay Cut Money Chole Na).

5 MILLION NEW POOR FAMILIES TO RECEIVE PERMANENT HOMES

Over the past 12 years, under previous governments various central government schemes failed to reach Bengal on time, causing the greatest loss to poor families. Now, these stalled schemes are being advanced rapidly.

Following the formation of the new government in Bengal, more than 5 million such poor families have been identified to receive permanent homes under the PM Awas Yojana. The PM Vishwakarma Yojana has also been implemented here. Every pending scheme and stalled project in Bengal is now gaining new momentum. ●

Scan the QR code to watch PM Modi's full program.

International Conference on
'The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics'

ENVIRONMENTAL
Conservation along with Development

India has shown that development and environmental sustainability can coexist through strong policies. Over the past decade, the country has made unprecedented progress on every environmental front. As a result, India became the only G-20 nation to meet the targets set by the Paris COP-21 Agreement ahead of schedule. Speaking at the inauguration of the international conference on 'The Future of Environment and Climate Change' on September 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that India's per capita carbon emissions are currently less than half the global average.

Addressing a common global misconception regarding carbon foot-prints, Prime Minister Modi pointed out that developing nations are often unfairly blamed. He highlighted this because developed nations emit six times more carbon per capita than India. India is setting new benchmarks for environmental conservation while taking the world along. The country has established global standards in non-fossil fuel and solar energy capacities.



MOBILE APPLICATION



Clean Energy

In **12** years, solar energy capacity has surged from 2 GW to over 160 GW.

3 million farmers have received solar pumps under the KUSUM scheme

5 million households have been connected to solar energy, with each household receiving financial assistance of up to ₹80,000.

200 million tonnes of carbon emissions have been reduced through the 'One Nation-One Grid' initiative.

- Non-fossil energy capacity has quadrupled due to the government's efforts.



Clean and Modern Transport

- The country's first hydrogen train marks a major achievement towards clean and green transport.
- Electric vehicle sales reached 2.5 million last year; before 2014, this figure was less than 3,000 - representing a 950-fold increase.

Over 20 cities now have metro networks, whereas access was limited to just five cities in 2014





Scan the QR code to watch PM Modi's full program.

In the past 12 years, India has made extraordinary progress in every sector related to the environment. Our major focus has been on renewable energy, and this has played a big role in environmental protection.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

From Water Conservation to Natural Farming

- Water Conservation: Construction of over 70,000 'Amrit Sarovars' and 15 million rainwater harvesting structures under the 'Catch the Rain' campaign.
- Over 20 million farmers have benefited from the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' and the 'Per Drop, More Crop' initiative.
- Establishment of 24,000 natural farming clusters covering 1.25 million hectares under the National Mission on Natural Farming.
- Development of 3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties.
- An increase of over 22% in dense forest cover over the last 12 years.



President Droupadi Murmu Confers 72nd National Film Awards

Future Possibilities in Indian Cinema

On September 22, 2024, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, conferred the 72nd National Film Awards at a ceremony held at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat. The President conferred awards on several winners, including veteran actor Anant Nag, who received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his extraordinary contribution to Indian cinema. The President congratulated the awardees for their talent, dedication, and hard work, noting that Indian films embody the dreams, traditions, struggles, and future possibilities of the people of India.

A TRUE STAR BRINGS LIGHT, NOT DARKNES

Highlighting the influence of popular artists, particularly on children and young people, the President Droupadi Murmu urged successful artists to promote the benefits of a disciplined lifestyle and refrain from endorsing substances harmful to health. A true star brings light, not darkness.

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS TO BE HOSTED AT THE COUNTRY'S BEST TOURIST DESTINATIONS

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that, inspired by

Film Awards Ceremony Held at Ekta Nagar (Outside Delhi)

For the 72nd National Film Awards:

34 languages saw entries for 400 feature films and

24 **languages recorded entries for 161 non-feature films**

- Awards were presented across 22 feature film and 23 non-feature film categories.
- Indian cinema continues to flourish as a powerful medium for cultural expression and global storytelling.
- Hosting the National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar - outside Delhi - is a significant initiative inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision and commitment to national unity.

Scan the QR code to watch the full schedule of the 72nd National Film Awards.





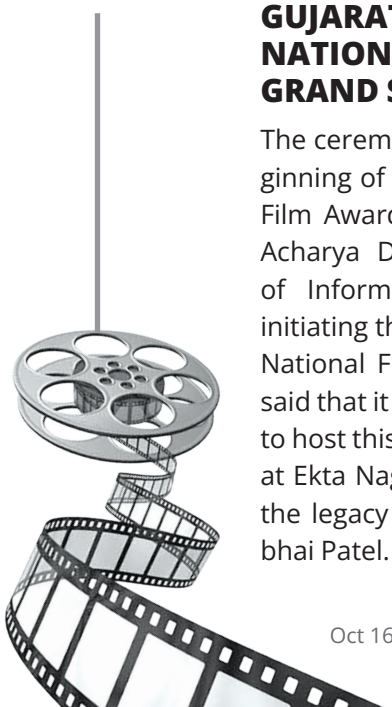
- Mammootty (for Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (for Chandu Champion) jointly won the award for Best Actor in a Leading Role.

- **Yami Gautam** received the award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for the film Article 370.
- Article 370 won the award for Best Feature Film.
- Sanjay Mishra was selected as Best Supporting Actor for the film Bhakshak.
- The award for Best Supporting Actress was jointly presented to Sachana Namidas for the film Maharaja and Rupashree Varakadi for the film Mithya.
- Kalki 2898 AD was declared the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.



- **Randeep Hooda** received the award for Best Debut Director for the film Swatantrya Veer Savarkar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the National Film Awards are being taken to the country's best tourist destinations. Aligning with the Prime Minister's vision, the aim is to move national events beyond traditional venues and connect them with locations across the country. He invited states to propose their best tourist destinations for hosting future National Film Awards. This initiative ensures that the National Film Awards will not remain confined to conference halls but will reach the common people.



GUJARAT WELCOMES THE NATIONAL FILM AWARDS IN GRAND STYLE

The ceremony in Gujarat marked the beginning of a new chapter in the National Film Awards' journey. Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat thanked the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for initiating the new tradition of hosting the National Film Awards outside Delhi. He said that it is a matter of pride for Gujarat to host this prestigious awards ceremony at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia- a place linked to the legacy and vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates Barapullah Phase-3 Elevated Corridor

New Momentum For the Capital's Connectivity

India is advancing towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, and the capital, Delhi, reflects this journey of development. With this vision, the Central Government continues to expand infrastructure here. As part of this initiative, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Barapullah Phase-3 corridor on September 29. This will provide seamless connectivity for the people of Delhi and the surrounding areas, while also saving fuel and time.

A Significant Chapter in Delhi's Development Journey

Another important chapter was added to the national capital's development journey when Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹1,941 crore.

- The long-pending Barapullah Elevated Road Phase-3 is now dedicated to Delhi residents.
- It will enable a signal-free commute from Mayur Vihar Phase-1 to AIIMS. Traffic congestion will decrease, time will be saved, and the daily commute for lakhs of people will become easier.
- Along with the Mukarba Chowk underpass, the Modi Mill-Savitri Cinema flyover and the Loni underpass will also significantly strengthen Delhi's connectivity.
- Work is proceeding at a rapid pace to save time, ease commutes, and enhance the quality of life.



PMO India ✓
@PMOIndia

Free Trade Agreements हमारे युवाओं के लिए संभावनाओं के नए द्वार बना रहे हैं।

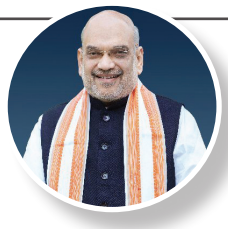
इस तरह के trade agreements से हमारे entrepreneurs के लिए नई partnerships के रास्ते खुलते हैं, नए markets के रास्ते खुलते हैं और हमारे युवाओं के लिए career में नई possibilities बनती हैं: PM @narendramodi



Rajnath Singh ✓ @rajnathsingh

तकनीक को आम नागरिक की ज़िंदगी का हिस्सा बनाकर जीवन आसान बनाना ही मोदी जी का विज़न है।

जनधन, UPI, आयुष्मान भारत और 5G नेटवर्क जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से प्रधानमंत्री @narendramodi जी ने भारत को 'विकसित भारत' के संकल्प की ओर तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ाया है। उनके इन प्रयासों ने जनविश्वास को और मज़बूत किया है।



Amit Shah ✓
@AmitShah

आने वाले दिनों में नशामुक्त मित्र देश के 10 लाख स्कूलों, कॉलेजों और शिक्षण संस्थानों तक पहुंचकर युवाओं को जागरूक करेंगे।



Nitin Gadkari ✓ @nitin_gadkari

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji, Ayushman Bharat has emerged as a transformative force in India's healthcare journey, ensuring that quality healthcare is more accessible, affordable and people-centric.



Nirmala Sitharaman Office ✓
@nsitharamanoffc

In 2014, Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi opened the doors of banking to everyone through PM Jan Dhan accounts, without requiring a minimum balance.

In 2015, PM MUDRA Yojana enabled small entrepreneurs to access loans without collateral.

By repaying their loans on time, beneficiaries have been able to access higher amounts, strengthen their credit profiles and build greater credibility with banks.

Today, many are growing their businesses and accessing regular banking facilities.



Kiren Rijiju ✓
@KirenRijiju

Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji, approves enhancement of the wage ceiling for mandatory #EPFO coverage from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month.
The decision is expected to bring 51 lakh+ additional employees under mandatory EPFO coverage.

Modi pays tributes to legendary poet 'Dinkar'

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tribute to the legendary Hindi poet, freedom fighter, and Padma Bhushan awardee Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' on his 118th birth anniversary, remembering him as a towering literary figure whose fiery works continue to instil national pride and self-respect in generations of Indians.

In a post on X, PM Modi noted that Dinkar's spirited compositions, rich with public awakening and patriotic fervour, will remain a timeless source of inspiration.

"On the birth anniversary of the National Poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, I offer my deepest respects to him a hundredfold. His fiery poems, brimming with the sentiments of public awakening and national pride, continue to infuse valour, vigour, and self-respect into the hearts of the countrymen even today. His works not only enrich literature but also inspire devotion to the motherland. His towering personality and timeless creations will guide generations of Indians for ages to come," he said. Born on September 23, 1908, Dinkar emerged as one of the most prominent modern Hindi poets in the country.

Other key leaders also paid homage to Dinkar's lasting contribution to Indian literature.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath said, "...With his impartial and fearless pen, he awakened national pride and infused new energy into the consciousness of every individual." Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary highlighted Dinkar's mastery of patriotic compositions, public consciousness, and 'veer ras' (heroic sentiment).

Ayushman Bharat@8: 60cr citizens covered

13Cr Availed Scheme, 48.5Cr Cards Created

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PM Modi said Ayushman Bharat had transformed healthcare access for millions & described it as the world's largest health assurance scheme

New Delhi: Eight years after Ayushman Bharat was launched with the aim of making quality and affordable healthcare accessible to people, the scheme now covers more than 60 crore beneficiaries, with over 13 crore people having availed treatment worth over Rs 2 lakh crore through 39,000-plus empanelled public and private hospitals.

PM Narendra Modi, marking the eight-year milestone in a post on X, said Ayushman Bharat had transformed healthcare access for millions and described it as the world's largest health assurance scheme. He highlighted the Rs 5 lakh annual health cover available to more than 60 crore people and said the scheme had enabled savings on medical expenses, benefiting poor and middle-class families.

Modi also highlighted the expansion of healthcare closer to people through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, which have recorded more than 500 crore visits. He said the journey represented govt's commitment to accessible and affordable healthcare.

Sharing the latest figures, health minister J P Nadda said more than 60 crore people were covered under the scheme and 48.5 crore-plus cards had been created. He highlighted the human impact of the numbers, pointing to families being protected from the burden of medical expenses, patients receiving timely treatment and households being able to face illness without the fear of financial hardship.

Even At Peak of Power, Keep Service Above Self: PM to Youth

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: In an outreach to Gen Z workers of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined on Thursday that serving the people should always be their highest priority, even at the peak of power. Addressing young party volunteers of the ongoing Seva Sankalp Yatra, he emphasised that they are going to lead India towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 and hence should put service before ambition.

In a virtual address to the youth taking part in the two simultaneous yatras — from Vadnagar to Varanasi and Varanasi to Vadnagar — that began on his birthday on September 17, the prime minister insisted that "Sewa parmo dharma" has been the core aim of the BJP since its inception.

We will spread the message of service through service, not through words alone, says Modi

"We will give the message of service through service, not through words alone. People should know from our conduct that whatever heights of power we attain, our attitude will be that of sewa (serving the people). We will never deviate from the path of service, whatever peaks of power we reach. We will move forward with 'sewa parmo dharma (service is the prime duty)'," Modi said.

Modi reaffirmed his party's resolve to focus on the country's development over politics and polls and said youth will play a major role in realising the resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Nat'l film awards will now be at tourist destinations: Vaishnaw

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



President Droupadi Murmu presents the Best Actress in a Leading Role award to Yami Gautam for her performance in Article 370 during the 72nd National Film Awards, in Gujarat, Tuesday

New Delhi: On a day Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Kevadia — where 'Statue of Unity' holds centrestage — became the space for the 72nd National Film Awards, information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said govt plans to take these awards to some of the best tourism destinations across states in the future.

He urged all states to send in their proposals of best tourist destinations, and prepare and execute 360 degree development plans in those areas. "The proposal of whichever state is selected, the next national film awards will be held at that tourist destination," he said.

Reflecting on PM Narendra Modi's vision when G20 summit was organised in India in 2023, Vaishnaw said that at that time too programmes related to the summit were held across different states. The same is being done with the film awards and, therefore, these are being organised and will be taken to different tourist destinations in the future, he said.

Centre signs MoUs with 21 States for next phase of UDAN

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Over 20 State governments have shown interest in the Centre's modified UDAN scheme, which aims to accelerate airport construction, expand helicopter connectivity and promote domestic aviation manufacturing.

Accordingly, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 21 States for the next phase of UDAN.

Speaking after the signing on Tuesday, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the Centre will adopt a challenge-based approach to prioritise airport projects that could be taken up quickly.

Rather than pursuing all projects simultaneously, the Ministry intends to select priority airports and those that are relatively easier to execute.

EXPEDITING PROJECTS

"Earlier, it could take up to three years to complete these airports. We want to reduce this," Naidu said.

"From the day the project starts, we want to finish it within 18 months and give the public the opportunity to travel from there."

According to the Minister, the next phase incorporates lessons from the earlier scheme and follows workshops with States.

Further, Naidu said the remaining States were finalising their MoU documents, and the Ministry expected to complete the signing process within two-three weeks.

The scheme also envisages 200 heliports across the country, with a focus on improving access in the North-East, and remote locations.

Furthermore, Naidu said the Centre will spend almost ₹30,000 crore over the next 10 years under the next phase of UDAN. Contributions from States and other stakeholders could take the overall scale to ₹60,000 crore, he added.

NEW ENTRANTS

The scheme could also encourage new airlines to enter the market and help existing operators strengthen their operations.

Additionally, Naidu said domestic aircraft manufacturing will be an important part of the next phase, in line with the government's Atmanirbharta and Make in India objectives.

Aviation manufacturing, he said, could generate highly skilled jobs and wider employment.

In addition, Naidu said UDAN had supported the development of more than 90 airports over the past decade and benefited nearly 1.54 crore passengers through affordable air travel.

He said the next phase will cater to need for airports closer to tier-II and -III cities. "It is important for us to plan for Viksit Bharat 2047, when India should ideally have more than 350 airports," he said.

Last month, *businessline* had reported that the Centre was inviting nominations from States and Union Territories to select the first batch of 50 airports for development under the modified UDAN scheme.

PM chairs ministers' meet with reforms agenda on the table

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers to review the government's reform agenda as the second quarter of the current fiscal year nears its end.

The meeting, held at Sewa Teerth, focused on short-, medium- and long-term goals aimed at advancing the government's Viksit Bharat vision.

The Prime Minister reviewed past progress, assessed current challenges and discussed future priorities. He emphasised the need to unleash the next generation of reforms to

83rd Foundation Day of the Azad Hind Government

21 October 2026

Azad Hind Fauj

Spearheaded the first military campaign

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is a hero of the Indian freedom struggle who stirs a surge of patriotism in every heart. By organizing the youth, he launched the first military campaign through the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army). He proclaimed a free India as early as 1943 by hoisting the Tricolour in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Through the Azad Hind Fauj, Netaji instilled a firm belief in the hearts of revolutionaries that their countrymen could attain freedom through their own army and military campaigns..



- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose established the Azad Hind Government on October 21, 1943. The government also introduced a bank, currency, and postage stamps.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose laid the foundation for equal opportunities for women in the armed forces by establishing the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.



“Netaji had but one objective, one mission—India’s freedom. To liberate Mother India from the shackles of slavery. This was his ideology, and this was his sphere of action

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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