

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



MIDDLE CLASS DRIVING FORCE OF NEW INDIA

Over the last nine years, the government has given new life to the aspirations of the middle class, which accounts for one-third of the population and is critical to realising the aspirations of a prosperous and developed New India.



“MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD ARE DRAWN TO THE POWER OF INDIA'S UPI”

Everyone has contributed to making the "Mann Ki Baat" programme a wonderful platform for public participation. Every month, the "Mann Ki Baat" of so many people reaches Prime Minister Narendra Modi through lakhs of messages. Just as the power of the mind is immense, the power of the country grows in tandem with the power of society, as seen and understood in various episodes of "Mann Ki Baat." Prime Minister Narendra Modi also accepted it. In his speech, PM Modi addressed several issues, including the strength of India's UPI. Here are some excerpts from Mann Ki Baat...

- **THE CRAZE OF INDIAN TOYS:** When Indian toys were discussed in "Mann Ki Baat," the people of the country wholeheartedly supported them. Indian toys have become so popular that their demand is increasing even in foreign countries. When we discussed Indian storytelling styles in "Mann Ki Baat," their fame spread far and wide. People became increasingly interested in Indian story-telling genres.
- **POWER OF INDIA'S UPI:** You are also aware of the power of India's UPI. Many countries around the world are drawn to it. The UPI-Pay Now link between India and Singapore was launched a few days ago. The e-Sanjeevani app is a living example of how Indians have integrated technology into their daily lives. We have seen how tele-consultation has been a great boon to the people during the Corona period.
- **USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURASKAR:** A few days ago, the "Ustad Bismillah Khan Youth Award" was given. It is given to talented artists in the field of music and performing arts. Along with increasing the popularity of the art and music worlds, they are contributing to their prosperity.
- **BIG CONTRIBUTION TO A CLEAN INDIA:** If we are determined, then we can make a big contribution to a clean India. At least we all should take a pledge to replace plastic bags with cloth bags. You will see how much satisfaction this resolution of yours will give you and how it will inspire others.
- **CLEANLINESS AS WELL AS A SOURCE OF INCOME:** Kamla Moharana, a sister from Kendrapara district in Odisha, runs a self-help group. The women of this group make many things, like baskets and mobile stands, from milk bags and other plastic packaging. Along with cleanliness, it is also becoming a source of income.
- **ORGANIZATION OF KUMBH MELA:** Tribeni in West Bengal has been revered as a holy site for centuries. Last year, a Kumbh Mela was held here to restore Tribeni's heritage and to revive the glory of the Kumbh tradition.



TUNE INTO MANN KI BAAT
BY SCANNING QR CODE



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OF THE MIDDLE CLASS**



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POLICIES, NOT DESTINY, ARE CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Greetings!

With the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas," the central government has prioritised the development of all segments of society. The middle class, which was previously ignored, is now emerging as a key player. Earlier, the middle class had no sense of security whether financial or other. However, since 2014, the government has recognised the middle class's integrity and taken care of this group, allowing the class to thrive and helping the country to reach new heights.

New airports are being built in the country, as are national highways; railway stations are being improved; large educational institutions are being opened; and the cost of mobile data is decreasing, with the middle class benefiting the most. Every middle-class family is confident of their children's future. The central government has consistently provided relief in every field related to middle-class needs, putting money in the pockets of middle-class families, from food to health care, loans to income tax. Until now, the government has done everything

possible to make life easier.

Every time the middle class has had the opportunity, it has produced astounding results. The poor and middle-class-friendly general budget for this year is being debated all over the world. Against this backdrop, the way the central government has given new life to the middle class aspirations over the last nine years has become the cover story of this issue.

Read about Kalpana Chawla's inspiring journey in the personality section, a special feature on National Immunization Day and the World Hindi Conference. This issue also highlights India's valiant rescue efforts in earthquake-ravaged Türkiye and Syria. Other highlights of this issue include the Amrit Mahotsav section's inspiring story of unsung heroes, G-20 events, the story of Padma awardees, and projects dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister during the fortnight and other programmes.

Keep sending your suggestions to us



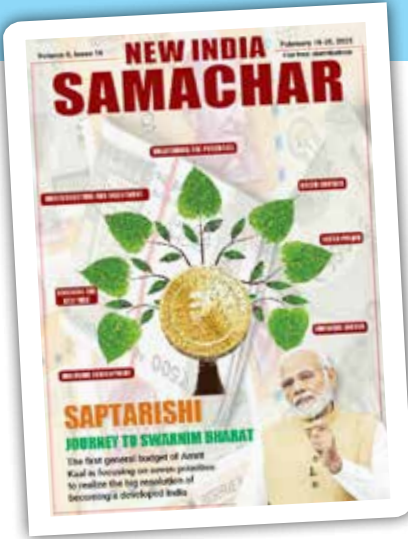
(Rajesh Malhotra)

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MAIL BOX



Inspirational biographies of revolutionaries inspire patriotism.

The cover story of the latest issue of New India Samachar, dated February 16-28, 2023, was on Amritkal's first general budget. It tells us about laying a solid foundation in order to realise the grand vision of a developed India. Inspiring biographies of revolutionaries such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Vijay Singh Pathik, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, and Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar, published in this issue as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav series, instill patriotism. It would not be incorrect to say that the country gained freedom solely because of people like these.



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This magazine is full of useful information

I received the February 16-28, 2023 issue of New India Samachar magazine. This magazine's editorial is excellent. The cover page is also a commendable effort. This magazine contains useful information on current events.



shrigopal6@gmail.com

Read New India Samachar magazine regularly

I read New India Samachar magazine on a regular basis. This magazine is printed in a stunning colour scheme. It is a matter of happiness. This magazine, as far as I know, is currently published in 13 languages. This medium is used to promote Indian languages. This is a humble request in this sequence that this magazine be published in Sanskrit as well.

Gavish Dwivedi
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I Like the positive news of the magazine

I am an NRI living in the United States. I admire the work of the Indian government, which is working tirelessly for the betterment of the citizens of the country. I love reading about the positive news happening in India in New India Samachar magazine. Please keep up the good work.



Venkat
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New India Samachar magazine contains inspirational articles.

I read the fortnightly magazine New India Samachar. I've been reading this magazine for about five or six issues now, and I'm enjoying it. Many of its articles were inspiring and worth republishing. Many government schemes are explained in greater detail in the magazine. I informed my friends and family about the magazine through social media.



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INDIAN MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT GETS WORLD ATTENTION

The dimensions of India's progress are now becoming ideal for the world. Many countries around the world are studying and implementing India's plans. The credibility of Indian products is attracting the world towards itself. Whether it is the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, or other international organizations, India's efforts to reduce poverty, make radical changes in the health sector, develop a digital platform, innovate in IT, implement UPI, and so on have been frequently lauded.

Regarding the Indian model



of development, Bill Gates, co-Founder of Microsoft and co-chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, writes, "Overall, India gives me hope for the future. India has demonstrated its ability to deal with major challenges. The country has eradicated polio, reduced HIV transmission, reduced poverty, reduced infant mortality, and improved access to sanitation and financial services. India has developed a world-class innovation strategy that ensures solutions reach those in need. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also shared these views of Bill Gates on Twitter.



JAADUI PITARA (MAGICAL BOX) LAUNCHED FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF 3-8 YEARS

In order to realise the vision of the new education policy, India has taken an important step towards learning and teaching from childhood. A game-based learning pedagogical material called "Jaadui Pitara" has been launched for children aged

3 to 8 years to make the learning scenario more engaging for them. To spark curiosity and accommodate the diverse needs of individuals, a "magic box" of playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flash cards, storybooks, and worksheets, as well as a mix of local culture, social context, and languages, has been designed.

"Jaadui Pitara" is available in 13 Indian languages. There are innumerable resources to be used for learning and teaching in this kit, not just books. It is a giant leap towards enriching the learning and teaching environment and making it more child-centric, vibrant, and joyful for the Amrit generation. Appreciating this new initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that this is a great success in the field of learning while playing because the magic box is going to fill the child's mind with new enthusiasm and color.



Income of weavers, artisans, and workers in the Khadi sector will increase

HISTORIC 33% MONTHLY INCOME INCREASE FOR ARTISANS, 10% WAGE HIKE FOR WEAVERS

The motto of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion, and Khadi for Transformation," has revitalised Khadi. The growing interest in Indian Khadi in the country and around the world has resurrected it. The spinners and weavers of the Khadi sector have made a special contribution to increasing the production of Khadi. In such a situation, a historic decision has been taken to give its natural benefits to the weavers and artisans associated with the Khadi sector. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has decided to increase the wages of labourers from Rs. 7.50 per lachha to Rs. 10 per lachha to increase their income. This initiative will increase the monthly income of artisans by about 33% and the wages of weavers by 10%. This decision will be effective April 1, 2023.

This decision to put more and more money in the hands of the workers associated with the Khadi-Village Industries programme to increase their source of income and further improve their economic condition will prove to be helpful in building a strong, prosperous, and self-reliant India. It should be noted that in the financial year 2021-2022, the production of Khadi and Village Industries products was Rs 84,290 crore and the sale was Rs 1,15,415 crore. On October 2 last year, Khadi India's Connaught Place outlet created a new record by selling Khadi products worth Rs 1.34 crore in a single day.

"E-SANJEEVANI TELE-CONSULTATION" SERVICE ACHIEVES TARGET OF 10 CRORE CONSULTATIONS

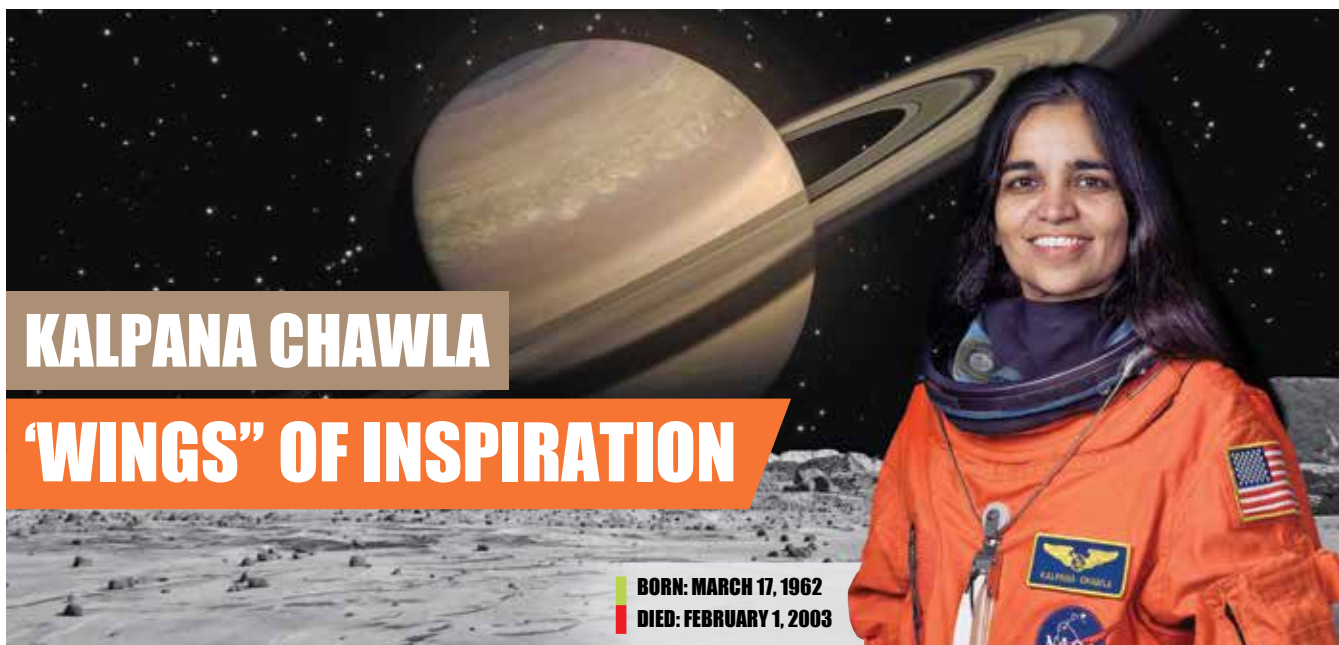
Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin: Sarve Santu Niramaya (May all be happy, and in good health). Committed to making people's lives easier, the Central Government's "e-Sanjeevani tele-consultation" service has reached its goal of 10 crore consultations. "E-Sanjeevani," as per its name, is proving to be Sanjeevani (an elixir) for the patients.



With the National Telemedicine Service, India has reached a major milestone in which health services are available with a single click. In this round of 10 crore tele-consultations, 57 percent of the beneficiaries are women, and 12 percent are senior citizens. The platform has demonstrated its effectiveness by reaching out to the most vulnerable segments of the population. The Indian government is now launching "e-Sanjeevani 2.0." People sitting at home can consult doctors via digital platforms, as the government is committed to building a strong digital health eco-system in India so that every citizen is healthy and the nation is strong.

INDIA WILL MEET ITS TARGET OF 10 CRORE SELF-HELP GROUP MEMBERS BY 2024

The Central Government's initiative to empower and make women self-reliant, even in rural areas, is proving effective. Through its actions over the last nine years, the Self-Help Group (SHG) has truly established itself as a national help group. In 2014, there were only 2.35 crore members of self-help groups, but that number has now surpassed 9 crore. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh says that the number of Mahila Sakhis will reach 10 crore by 2024, and the Ministry is actively enrolling new Mahila Sakhis. He stated that with these efforts, the Central Government will be able to meet the target of 10 lakh Lakhpati Didis within a few years, and that the day will not be far off when some Lakhpati Didis will become Crorepatri Didis. Self-help groups are present in 97% of blocks, with 85% of them directly connected to the ministry's network. ■



India-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla is one such symbol of women's empowerment who has flown beyond her wildest dreams. She travelled to space not once, but twice, proving that even the height of the sky can be too short for India's daughters. Kalpana Chawla, who made inspiring history in science, inspired people to keep moving forward and reaching unimaginable heights. Even though she died in the Columbia space shuttle disaster, she continues to be an example and inspiration to millions of young people around the world.

Even after she has left the world, Indian-origin Nasa space scientist Kalpana Chawla's name is still on the list of people who inspire others. Kalpana was born on March 17, 1962, in Karnal, Haryana, to father Banarasi Lal Chawla and mother Sanjyoti. Kalpana, the youngest in the family, has always been interested in science. When Kalpana's father noticed her interest in space and flying, he did not hesitate. Kalpana Chawla moved to the United States to further her education. She joined NASA, the American space agency, in 1988. On November 19, 1997, India's first woman astronaut, Kalpana Chawla, was launched into space aboard STS 87, the Columbia Shuttle. Kalpana Chawla spent 372 hours in space and made 252 orbits during this flight covering a distance of approximately 65 lakh miles.

Nearly five years and ten months after her first successful mission, NASA decided to send Kalpana Chawla into space again. She was assigned a key role on the seven-person team for the 16-day mission. Kalpana Chawla made India proud by flying into space for the second time on

the Space Shuttle Columbia on January 16, 2003. However, this was her final flight because, on February 1, 2003, the Columbia Shuttle exploded as it was returning to Earth's orbit following a space mission. Kalpana Chawla and six other passengers in the vehicle were killed. Kalpana Chawla may not be with us today, but every daughter who looks into space wishes to make her country proud by becoming Kalpana Chawla.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited America on June 6, 2016, he paid a floral tribute to Kalpana Chawla at the Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial. Remembering Kalpana Chawla, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" on January 28, 2018 said, "It is a matter of sorrow for all that we have lost Kalpana Chawla at such a young age, but she has given a message to thousands of girls all over the world, especially in India, that there is no limit for women's power. Nothing is impossible if there is will and determination and a spirit to do something."■



National Immunization Day - March 16

VACCINE FOR PROTECTION OF HUMANITY

Vaccines have been scientifically proven to be the most effective way to prevent any disease. The vaccine's ability to keep the thread of life intact was demonstrated even during the COVID epidemic. The government of India was concerned not only with the country, but also with humanity. This is why, at a time when the world was looking to India for every dose of the vaccine, Prime Minister Modi made the vaccine available to approximately 100 countries in order to prevent the seriousness of COVID. India currently meets 60% of the world's vaccine demand, which is the greatest service to humanity. On March 16, when the country celebrates National Immunization Day, the country is proud to serve a healthy human society...

Immunization is a vital and effective tool for maintaining health and lowering mortality. This is why the world's largest free vaccination campaign is taking place in the country. The Universal Immunization Program (UIP) is being implemented across the country to protect against 12 different types of deadly diseases, and 11 different vaccines are being administered. The central government has arranged for free vaccination for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis-B, Meningitis, Rotavirus Diarrhea, and Pneumococcal Pneumonia in order to save the lives of children and pregnant

women. In areas of the country where there are cases of Japanese fever, the government has also arranged for free vaccinations to prevent the disease.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Government launched Mission Indradhanush in December 2014 to improve the lives of pregnant women and newborns. As a result, where 45 out of every thousand births died in 2014, that number dropped to 32 in 2020. On Prime Minister Modi's instructions, several other ministries, including the Ministry of Health, were tasked with reaching pregnant women and children up to the age of two who had not been fully vaccinated in the country and

Timeline of the largest vaccination campaign



To combat the seriousness of COVID, vaccination began in the country on January 16, 2021, via the CoWIN app, and 100 crore doses had been administered by October 21, 2021. India reached a historic milestone on July 17, 2022 as 2.5 crore vaccine doses were administered in a single day, and all of this was recorded in real time using technology. On July 17, 2022, 200 crore doses were completed. This was made possible by the use of an online training platform. More than 2.64 lakh health workers and 4.76 lakh other vaccination team officials were trained.



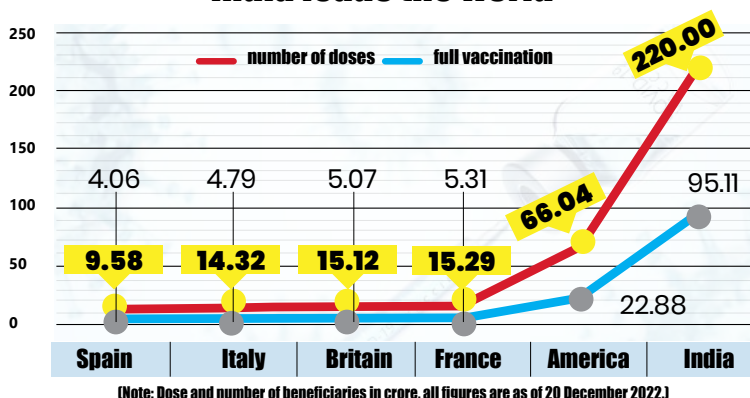
Timeline of India's COVID vaccination drive

- **1978:** Vaccination began in the country.
- **1985:** The Universal Immunization Program (UIP) was launched.
- Free vaccinations are being provided to prevent 12 different types of serious diseases.
- **March 27, 2014:** India receives polio-free certification from WHO
- **July 14, 2016:** WHO certifies India as maternal and neonatal tetanus Free
- **May 2019:** The monitoring of side effects following vaccination began. India meets 60 percent of the world's vaccine needs.

28.14 crore dose

Under the Vaccine Maitri programme, India has given vaccines to more than 99 countries and UN organizations, including UN peacekeepers and UN health workers.

India leads the world



Showed power to the world

- While America took 298 days to deliver 400 million vaccine doses, India took just 183 days to reach the figure.
- At least one dose has been given to the 92.21 crore adult population. This number is three times the population of the United States and seven times the population of Russia.
- 86.50 crore of the adult population in the country has been fully vaccinated, which is 4.4 times the population of Brazil and 14 times the population of the UK.

the target of at least 90% full immunisation is met.

In the year 2017, the speed of Mission Indradhanush was further increased. As a result, the country put it on mission mode, and so far, 4.45 crore children and 1.12 crore pregnant women have been fully vaccinated under the Mission

Indradhanush campaign. Following the success of the Central Government's campaign, the measles-rubella vaccine was included in the National Immunization Program in 2017 to protect against measles and rubella disease and to eradicate it.

This is also being run as a campaign because



Earlier in our country, it used to take several decades for the vaccine to reach far-flung areas. The country was far behind in terms of vaccination coverage. Crores of children in the country, especially those living in villages and tribal belts, had to wait for years for the vaccine. If we had worked with the old approach, it would have taken several more decades to make India 100% vaccinated. We began working with a new approach, launched Mission Indradhanush, and improved the country's vaccination system. When the global Corona epidemic struck, the benefit of this new system was discovered in spreading the vaccine far and wide.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister




the goal is to have it completed by 2023. The pneumococcal vaccine was also included in the national programme in 2017 to prevent pneumococcal pneumonia. Because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effective leadership and guidance, the vaccination rates in the country increased from 62 percent in the National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) to 76.6 percent in the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21).

All of this was only possible because, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, there was a historic increase in the number of cold chain points, as well as safe access to the vaccine across the country. The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (e-Vein) was introduced and widely used to reduce vaccine waste and make vaccines available ahead of time to centres where they were not previously available. 29,000 cold chain points, 52,000 ice lined refrigerators and 46,000 deep freezers are being used in the country for vaccine store and distribution.

Following 2014, a technically such a broad and strong network was prepared for the country's vaccination campaign that, during the COVID epidemic, the reach of the COVID vaccine was ensured to the person sitting at the end without wasting time. Whether crossing a river, climbing mountains, going to flood-affected areas, reaching the desert of Rajasthan, delivering vaccine or vaccinators to difficult areas by drone or helicopter, or through a door-to-door campaign to reach the last person, India has been practising these eight years. As a result, India became the world's most vaccinated country in record time. The infrastructure built for health, particularly vaccination, during the Mission Indradhanush campaign has been extremely beneficial during the pandemic. ■



**NEW FLIGHT TO THE
ASPIRATIONS OF THE
MIDDLE CLASS**



The middle class is becoming a beacon of change in all aspects of life in a rapidly changing India, whether it is development or systems, unfathomable courage, or decision-making ability. The middle class, which accounts for one-third of the population, is a powerful force in realising India's dreams of prosperity and development. The central government has also left no stone unturned in the last nine years in order to give their dreams wings. Keeping in mind the importance of the middle class in India's resolve to become a developed nation in the Amrit Kaal, the Central Government is making continuous efforts to make it a development partner. The middle class has also been given special priority in Amrit Kaal's first general budget, ensuring that a new India emerges in the spirit of "Sabka Prayas".

Since India's independence, the country's middle class has made significant contributions to its development. Today, India has one of the world's fastest-growing economies. It has the world's fifth-largest economy, a thriving middle class, and an unprecedented demographic dividend. If India is to become the next-generation economy, one of the prerequisites is that the income and standard of living of the middle class be increased further. Before learning about the Central Government's unwavering efforts in this regard, it is necessary to understand the state of this class prior to 2014.



In fact, this is the new India, which means building the dream of youth power, an India that fulfills the aspirations of women power, where there is enough opportunity for the poor to move forward, the aspirations of the poor and the middle class take India to new heights

**- Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

There was a lack of security in the minds of the middle class in the past. They are better off today and receive many benefits, whether it is economic or other types of security. The government has taken care of India's middle class and its aspirations. Be it realising the dream of home ownership or increasing middle-class income, from enacting middle-class-friendly policies to punishing anti-social elements and instilling a sense of security, India is thriving under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Several government initiatives have had a significant impact on the lives of middle-class families. For the first time, the country's top leadership has given the middle class a new identity, which had previously been overlooked. The current leadership in India is taking a practical approach to eradicating poverty and lessening the burden placed on the middle class. Building a balanced and ideal society is not only a necessity but also an urgent need. The determined steps taken in this direction are propelling the country closer to realising the golden dream of 2047.

Prior to the year 2014, the middle class remained the worst sufferer for a long time, but in the 2014 general elections, when the country's politics took a



This year's middle-class-friendly Union Budget is being discussed all over the world. This budget will give strength to everyone's efforts to make Viksit Bharat



turn, the middle class became an important player. This is the reason that for the first time, the Central Government made a roadmap for development with a holistic approach. Ensured the last mile reach of social assistance schemes to bring the poor into the mainstream for the development of the nation. By providing facilities to big industries through policy decisions, they were made partners in development. The middle class for which nobody has shown empathy is also being made the charioteer of development. That is, whether it is the middle class or the poor section, or the entrepreneurial class, everyone's development is being ensured with the spirit of Sabka Prayas. Since 2014, it has been the endeavour of the Central Government to empower those sections of society, that earlier found it very



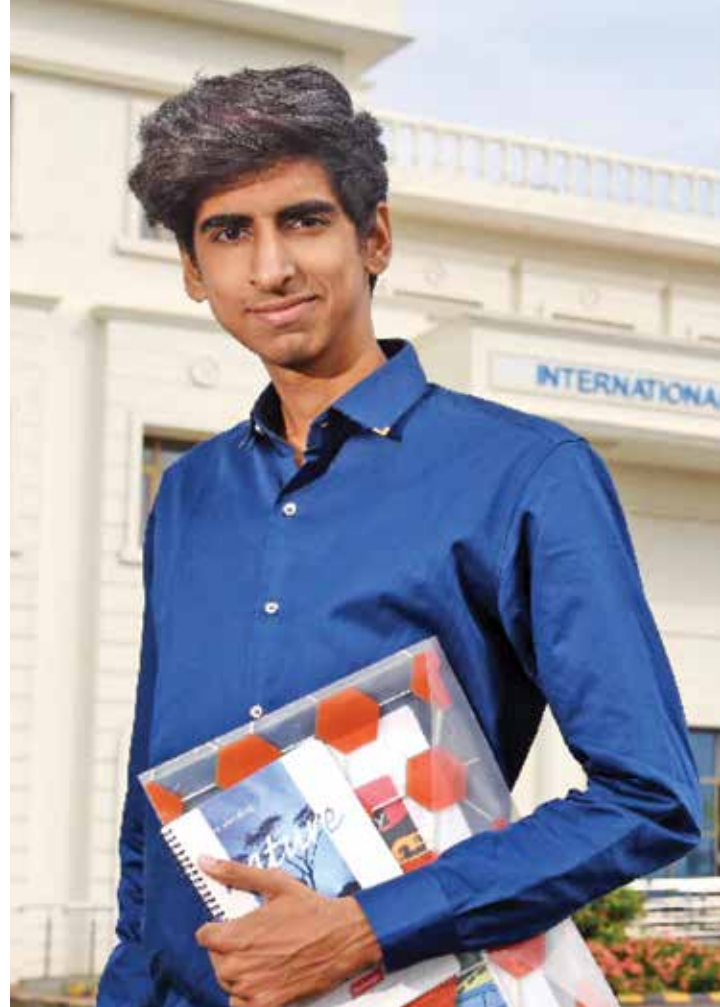
India's middle class has become a major stream in every sphere of life, be it development or system, courage or ability to take resolutions, in a rapidly changing India. The middle class is a huge force to fulfill the dreams of a prosperous and developed India.

**- Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

difficult to get government assistance. In the first general budget of Amrit Kaal, several decisions have been taken in the interest of the middle class. There is natural enthusiasm among the middle class due to zero income tax on income up to Rs 7 lakh. Especially the youth below 30 years of age, who have a new job, or new business, have been encouraged to save more money every month in their bank accounts.

MANN KI BAAT OF MIDDLE-CLASS

India is witnessing a booming middle class emerging on the national stage. This has been due to the sharp decline in the level of the poverty line which has now come down to about 16 percent of the population. If seen in terms of the total number, then it is estimated that about one-third of the population comprised the middle class. Whether it is the agriculture sector, the small-scale industries sector, or the people in the services sector, almost all these people, in a way constitute a huge middle class of India. Keeping their aspirations in mind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also said from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day that the professionals from the middle class have made a name for themselves in the world today. Our doctors, engineers, lawyers,



This year's budget has further strengthened the foundation of a strong golden India. It is a big step in the direction of Samarth Bharat, Sampann Bharat, Shaktimaan Bharat, and Gatimaan Bharat.



and scientists, from the middle class, have made a mark in the world.

He said that it is true that whatever opportunities the middle class gets, they make the most out of it and therefore the middle class needs freedom from government interference. The middle class must get more new opportunities and an open environment. To make these aspirations and dreams come true, the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working continuously for the last 9 years.

For the first time, the country's top leadership has given a new identity to the country's potential. The middle class was completely overlooked for a long time. In a way, it was assumed that there

was no one to look after them, and whatever this class has to do they have to do it on their own. They used to expend their all energy. The central government has recognized the candour of the middle class and has provided them with security. Today the hardworking middle class is taking the country to new heights. There are many examples of how much the middle class has benefited from various schemes of the government. Before 2014, the cost of 1 GB of data was Rs 250, which is less than Rs 10 today. Today a citizen in the country uses an average of 20 GB. If it is calculated, then on average a person is saving 5,000 rupees. While the middle-class family used to spend Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000 on medicines every month for the elders of their household, the medicines which were available for Rs 100 in the market are available for Rs 10-20 at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Today, 20,000 crore rupees are saved by the middle class through these Jan Aushadhi Kendras. To fulfill the dream of a home by middle class, a large number of home loans were started in urban areas. Due to the enactment of the RERA law, now a special section cannot suppress the hard-earned money of the middle class for years. RERA has worked to give new confidence to the middle class. Every middle-class family has a dream of giving higher education to their child for a secure future. Keeping this in mind, medical, engineering, and professional colleges and the number of seats in these institutions have been increased. This effort has given a boost to fulfill the aspirations of the middle class.

Taxation has been reduced rapidly due to GST, income tax has also been reduced. Linking cooperative banks with the Reserve Bank, in itself, is a guarantee of keeping the money of middle-class families safe. The reforms that have taken place in the MSME sector and the agriculture sector are directly benefiting working middle-class families. Due to these reforms, traders and small entrepreneurs are getting the benefit of special funds worth thousands of crores. The power and energy of the common Indian are powering Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The middle-class today has the power to turnaround things. If any one section which is entitled to get the biggest benefit from the social planning initiative for ease of living, then it has to be middle-class families. Be it cheap internet or cheap smartphones or the low



We are inspired by the Constitution and the tricolour of India – the poor get justice, the people get the opportunity to move forward, the lower-middle class, the middle class, and the upper-middle class should not face any hindrances in moving forward. Let there be no obstacles from the government.

**- Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

prices of plane tickets under the UDAN scheme, be it highways, or different ways of information, all these things are going to increase the power of the middle class. GST has reduced many daily expenses of consumers.

FULFILLMENT OF ASPIRATIONS WITH HOLISTIC THINKING

According to experts associated with management and the economic sector, the middle class can be divided into three categories. The aspirational middle class, upper middle class, and middle class.

Although the aspirational middle class is economically weak and faces a lot of uncertainties in daily life, it aspires to a better standard of living. It is greatly influenced by TV, radio, newspapers as well as social media and the consumption pattern of the high-income group.

This class has benefited from government schemes in urban and rural areas. These schemes include Direct Benefit Transfer (eg, PM Kisan Yojana), financial inclusion (JAM Trinity), LPG subsidy, affordable housing, construction of toilets on a large scale, micro-health insurance, and micro-pension schemes. This class has also benefited from the expansion of employment in

the service sector, especially in urban areas. While the upper middle class is generally identified as having financial assets, bank deposits, and real estate holdings. Doctors, lawyers, professionals, chartered accountants, etc. fall into this category. The middle class is identified with stable but low-paying jobs. They have fewer savings and more dependence on salary. This class has traditionally seen education as a way to maintain influence or move into the upper middle class.

The Central Government has been serious about Minimum Government, Maximum Governance since the beginning, which has made the common citizen understand that now there is such a government at the Center which trusts its citizens. The central government made self-attestation a common standard. But compare this with the time when people had to run from one office to another to get each form attested for documentation. Self-attestation has made almost all the processes quite easy. Be it registering for a scheme, applying for an entrance exam, or submitting an application for a loan.

Most of the government work and processes are now online. DigiLocker lets you store personal documents on multiple interfaces, and file IT returns which is simple and quick while maintaining secure, digital storage. These are just some of the examples that have made life simpler. All these steps may seem simple and logical, but it took seven decades to implement them and a far-sighted leader. This shows how the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to removing bottlenecks and providing impetus to development from the very beginning to all sections of society including the middle class.

Overall, the central government has continuously tried to provide relief in every field related to the needs of the middle class and has tried to save as much money as possible in the pocket of middle-class families. Certainly, the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively taking care of the concerns of the middle class.

Let us know in the following pages how the country has understood the aspirations of the middle class under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has taken steps toward its solution...



Progress of middle class means prosperity, secure future, better life, and simplicity...

In the last eight-nine years, the central government has worked with a holistic-systematic approach to boost the standard of living and health facilities of the middle class. India's rising global profile in many fields has instilled a new sense of pride among our middle class. The Government of India is equally committed to promoting middle-class prosperity through 4 pillars while providing an alternative model to the world. On the principles of prosperity, secure future, better life, and simplicity, the central government is making the aspirational middle class, middle class, and upper middle class the drivers of development...

PROSPERITY

The middle class is getting an opportunity to prosper through inflation control. Annual inflation in the eight years between 2014 and 2022 has been **4.6 percent**, compared to **8.7 percent** in the eight years before that period. Despite several global crises, the consumer price index stood at **5.7 percent** in December 2022, which was much lower than in many G-20 countries.

More liquidity has also come in the form of lower EMIs for the aspirational middle-class demographic. For example, the interest rate for education loans available to students in May 2014 was **14 percent**, which has come down to around **8 percent** by December 2022. This made it easier for middle-class families to take more loans for the higher education of their children.

The One Country-One Tax (GST) initiative has resulted in gross savings of an estimated Rs **18 lakh crore**, which translates into annual household savings of Rs 12,000.



Out of 38 crore beneficiaries of PM Mudra Yojana, 12 crores were middle-class people who got Rs **7 lakh crore** in the form of loans without collateral. Strong fiscal policies and strengthening of the banking system resulted in a reduction in NPAs from **11.1 percent** in 2017-18 to **5.8 percent** in 2022-23.



SECURED FUTURE

Providing affordable healthcare and quality education is especially important to secure a bright future. On both these issues, the Government of India has taken steps to further improve it. 353 new universities were formed in the last nine years. 15 new AIIMS and 261 new medical colleges have been opened. 77,386 new medical seats have been made available at the graduate and postgraduate levels.

- Today India is leading the world's largest healthcare program, Ayushman Bharat. Covering more than 50 crore Indians, Ayushman Bharat is ensuring high-quality and free healthcare to the poor and neo-middle class.

- Millions of middle-class people are already having access to vital drugs, stents, and knee implants at low cost.

- In 2023, 41 Indian universities made a place in the global ranking, while in 2014 this number was only nine.

- The result of the initiative of the Central Government is that people have saved Rs 20,000 crore by taking medicines and medical equipment from the Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras

- This has been possible due to 50-90 percent cheaper generic medicines available at 9000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras or through 87 crore free tests done at 1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers.

BETTER LIFE

The foundation of progress in the modern world rests on modern infrastructure. It also fulfills the needs and aspirations of the middle class. Weak infrastructure has an adverse effect on the speed of development.

- By 2022, India has built 1.65 lakh kilometers of national highways. The country has the world's largest road network after the US, thanks to a tenfold increase in capital expenditure on roads and bridges.

- India now has metro connectivity in 27 cities. We are one year away from having the third-largest metro network globally.

- India has the highest per capita mobile data consumption rate and the lowest per GB data cost in the world. Out of the 120 crore mobile phone users about 80 percent of them around 80 crore internet users are expected to get 5G connectivity within a year. It will bring tremendous benefits through online education, telemedicine, and effective access to government services.

SIMPLICITY

- Several steps have been taken for improving the ease of living. India's cashless digital payment ecosystem is considered one of the best in the world.
- UPI's share in 7,245 crore digital transactions in 2021-22 was 65 percent. DigiLocker has 14.9 crore users for paperless certificate authentication.

Experience a significant change in daily life

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that the ease of living of the people increases. For this, whether it is increasing the expenditure on infrastructure or promoting connectivity, work is being done fast at every level. Government programmes in the last nine years have ensured that the country's aspirational sections experience significant changes in their daily lives.



- Since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only been continuously increasing the outlay on infrastructure but along with laying the foundation stone of the project, it is also being completed on time. This has helped middle-class families in reducing their expenditures.
- In the UDAN scheme, many Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities were connected with air travel so that it is not limited to the affluent classes only. Now the middle class has the option of air travel at a lower cost than the UDAN scheme.

METRO RAIL

Year 2014 | 5 cities



Year 2022 | 27 cities



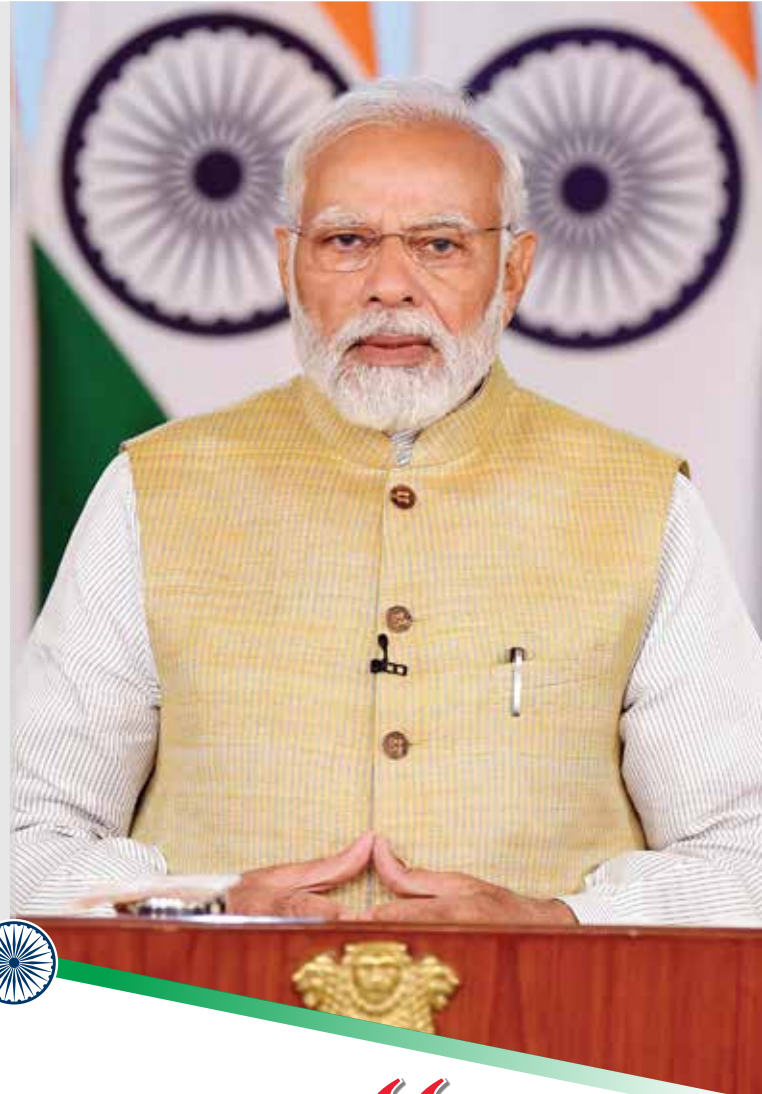
CAR LOAN INTEREST RATE



- Car loan interest rate was 11% in 2014, which has come down to below 8% in 2022.
- CLSS reduced the burden of home loans by Rs 48 thousand crores
- More than 1.23 crore houses have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban.

Tax relief to the middle class, procedures have also become easier

With the resolution of a developed India in the golden year, the work of getting the citizens out of legal entanglements, simplifying procedures, and increasing transparency by using technology is being done at a fast pace. Income up to Rs 7 lakh has been made tax-free, giving major tax relief to the middle class amidst the all-inclusive and efficient economic policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- Up to Rs 7 lakh income becomes tax-free in the new tax regime
- Income tax slab reduced from 6 to 5.
- In the new tax regime, now the benefit of a standard exemption of Rs 50 thousand will also be available.
- In the new tax regime, a person with an annual income of up to Rs 9 lakh will have to pay only Rs 45,000 and Rs 1.50 lakh on an income of Rs 15 lakh.
- The new tax regime will become the default tax regime from the financial year 2023-24, and the freedom to choose the old system will remain with taxpayers.
- The effective tax rate was 12.7% in 2013 which has come down to 8.3% in 2022 (on Rs 15 lakh per annum).
- Now processed in 16 days with easy e-filing and faster refunds.
- Faceless assessment and provision of appeal provided freedom from harassment
- Support of their rights from the Charter of Taxpayers.
- Simple tax regime for easy compliance.
- Settlement of tax disputes worth Rs 1 lakh crore, Vivad se Vishwas scheme.

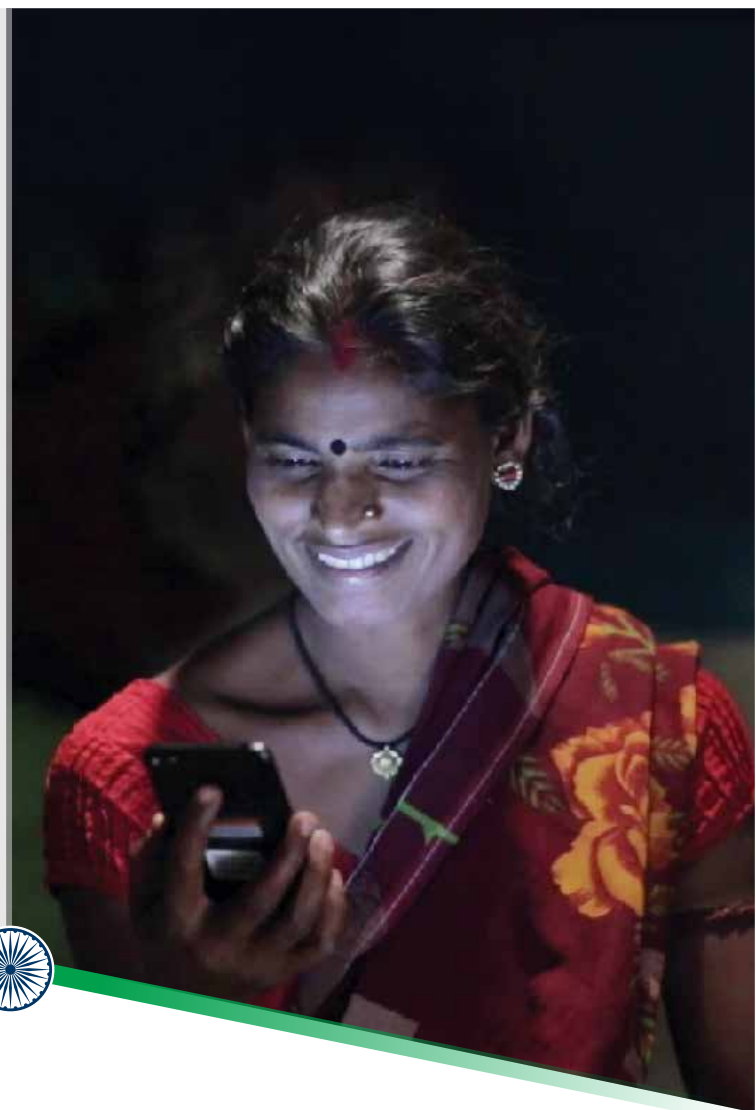


In order to empower the middle class, our government has taken several decisions in the past years and has ensured Ease of Living. We have reduced the tax rate, as well as made the process simple, transparent, and fast. Our government, which has always stood with the middle class, has given huge tax relief to the middle class.

**- Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

A day in the life of the middle class

Due to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ease of living for the middle class has improved manifold- from waking up in the morning to having a peaceful sleep at night the impact of the various initiatives is quite visible. In order to have their own pucca house, the middle class has been given a subsidy on the interest of the loan to buy a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Provisions were made under RERA to get the house from the builder on time and ensure that the investment is safe. While the growing metro network across the country saved time in reaching the office, digital India and digital payments made services accessible.



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Your dream home received from the builder on time due to RERA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eating out, now GST is only 5%, earlier the tax was 20%. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rs 2.3 lakh saved on housing loan, got help from Credit Link Subsidy Scheme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Buying medicines from Jan Aushadhi Kendras for parents, buying medicines up to 90% less than the market price. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reached metro by e-rickshaw, fare paid through BHIM UPI, time saved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Huge savings in electricity bills with Ujala LED lights. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Metro services in cities increases 5 times as compared to 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Saving lakhs of rupees due to a reduction in housing loan interest rates. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data cost reduced by 97%. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enjoying yoga on new TV sets, and boosting the employment perspective of women with Mudra loan. |

Big Jump In Network Readiness Index for Ease of Living

83	61
Year 2014	Year 2022

The Network Readiness Index measures the level of technology and digital inclusion. The improvement of 22 places means- Ease of living has improved.

Aadhar of seamless services

FOOD IS CHEAPER WITH GST

Issuance of Aadhaar numbers to the adult population of the country is almost complete. More than 135 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued by January 2023. Aadhaar is becoming a medium of 'Ease of Living' with continuous support in the daily life of the common man and strengthening of good governance. At the same time, one country, one tax system i.e. GST has made eating in restaurants more affordable.



- 135.2 crore Aadhaar enrollments were generated.
- 75.3 crore people linked Aadhaar with ration cards for ration benefits.
- 27.9 crore people linked Aadhaar with connection for LPG subsidy.
- 75.4 crore bank accounts linked with Aadhaar.
- More than 1500 crore transactions have been done through the system linked with Aadhaar.

Cheap food in the restaurant

Savings of around Rs 150 on every bill of Rs 1000

In 2014 Before GST		Now 2022-23 After GST	
Bill ₹1000		Bill ₹1000	
Service charge 10%	= ₹100	Service charge 10% = ₹100	
Service Tax 6.5%	= ₹65	GST 5% = ₹55	
KKC 0.2%	= ₹2.2		
SBC 0.2%	= ₹2.2		
VAT 14.5%	= ₹137.5		
Total = ₹1303.5		Total = ₹1,155	

Protecting the interest of home buyers, democratizing connectivity

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) was formed to fulfill the dream of the middle class to own a house and to ensure that the investment made after earning a lifetime is legally protected. This protects the rights of the home buyers, so the developers are also bound to pay compensation for the delay or any other violation. While democratizing connectivity increased, there was a huge jump in the network readiness index.






86,942

cases were disposed of by the real estate regulatory authorities set up by the states.



- RERA Act 2016 provides protection to home buyers.
- Explanation of the carpet area of the house being sold.
- The financial penalty for delay, no change without the buyer's permission.
- Protecting middle-class investment in housing: After RERA, builders pay interest and compensation for delays
- Swami Investment Fund of Rs 25,000 crore helps in starting stalled projects.

DEMOCRATIZING CONNECTIVITY

	THEN 2014	NOW 2022-23
 Number of internet connections	25.15 Crore	83.69 Crore
 Number of Broadband Connections	6.10 Crore	81.62 Crore
 1 GB data cost	269 Rupees	10.29 Rupees

Fostering Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi promotes ways to boost technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation to make India a developed nation. In this direction, the Startup India program, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Atal Innovation Mission, and many other programmes are being run. Because of this, not only is self-employment increasing, but the desire to create new jobs and take up challenges has also increased among the youth.



- ▶ The number of startups in the year 2016 was 445, in December 2022 the number of recognized startups reached 86,713.
- ▶ More than 46% of recognized startups have at least one woman director.
- ▶ In the year 2014 there were only 4 unicorns, in the year 2022 the number of unicorns increased to more than 108.
- ▶ India's top 100 unicorns are worth over \$333 billion.
- ▶ More than 38.58 crore loans have been given till January 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. This includes 68% of women entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Creation of 1.12 crore additional jobs in just 3 years through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- ▶ 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs established by 2022 under Atal Innovation Mission, 1.34 crore people trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

Number of IIMs increases



Number of startups



Number of unicorns



Number of IITs increases



Emphasis on universal education, Higher education reaching new heights

New National Education Policy 2020 was implemented after 34 years with the objective of increasing the enrollment ratio in higher education from 26.3% to 50% by 2035 and internationalization of education. Along with this, the government took several steps to improve the infrastructure in higher education. Due to these efforts not only universities but the number of medical colleges and seats increased. Also sharp increase in the number of IIMs, and IITs. Increased access to digital platforms made education accessible to the youth.

QS World University Rankings

35 out of the top 100 programs in 2022 subject-wise ranking, four prestigious institutes in India are in the top 10.



- ▶ One Nation, One Digital Platform: Text Books with QR codes for all grades. One nation, one test with one nation, and one test agency started.
- ▶ Radio, Community Radio, and CBSE Podcasts accessible through Shiksha Vani. Quality education ensured through open, distance and online education by setting minimum standards.
- ▶ Credit is being given on the SWAYAM portal to encourage students to continue their education. Use of platforms like Disha and Swayam Prabha TV for quality virtual education.
- ▶ IIMB and IIMA are among the top 100 institutes in the field of Business and Management.
- ▶ There are agreements on reciprocity programs with 45 countries including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and BRICS countries. More than 5,700 new colleges opened in India from 2014 to 2022, that is, 2 new colleges were opened every day.

Increase in the number of universities

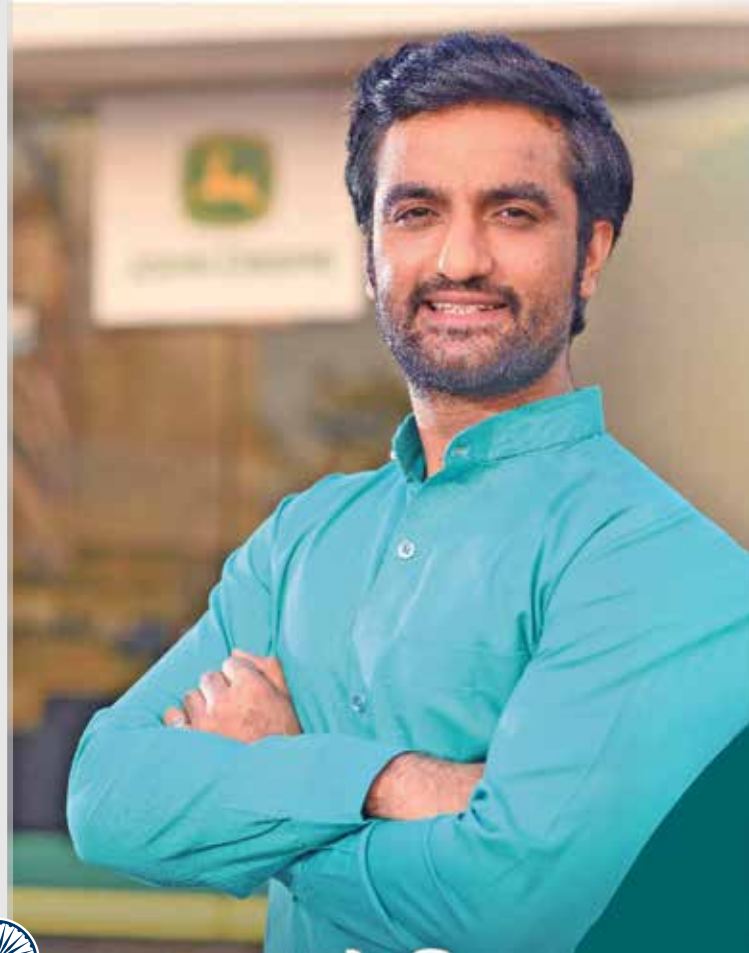
2014	2022
720 Universities	1,043 Universities

Medical colleges increased by 70% and seats increased by 95%

	College	UG seat	PG seat
2014	387	51,348	31,185
2023	655	1,00,163	65,335

Steps that removed the hardships of life

Ease of living for PM Modi does not mean 'only special class', but making life easier for the rural, poor, and middle class. In the last 9 years, the central government has not only realized the big ambitions of the nation on a large scale but and had helped people move out of poverty to become middle class and to bring saturation to the programs that increase facilities.



44.6 Crore

Insurance cover to individuals, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.



Over 3 Crore

Urban and rural houses constructed, PM Awas yojana



9.6 Crore

New gas connections, PM Ujjwala Yojana.



8.07 Crore

New tap connections in about three and a half years, Jal Jeevan Mission.



1.77 Lakh

Villages connected with optical fiber, BharatNet.



47.8 Crore

Bank Accounts, PM Jan Dhan Yojana.



2.8 Crore

Electricity connections, Saubhagya scheme.



11.7 Crore

Toilets, Swachh Bharat Mission.



55.5%

Bank accounts in the names of women, PM Jan Dhan Yojana.



80 Crore

People got food grains, PM Garib Anna Yojana.



17.9 Crore

Health Insurance Card, Ayushman Bharat Scheme.



Over 20,522

Government services reached to people, UMANG App.

Increased expenditure on infrastructure and facilities

Spending on infrastructure will not only make the dream of a developed India come true, but it will also increase employment opportunities and expand the scope of the middle class. Prime Minister Narendra Modi first started PM Gati Shakti and then worked to increase investment in infrastructure related to the people. In this year's budget, whether it is the matter of allotting Rs 2.40 lakh crore, the biggest ever to the Railways, or the announcement of a new airport, or the announcement of increasing spending on other civic amenities projects, the middle class will also get a lot of benefit from them.



Infrastructure	Budget increased 4 times in 9 years	Transportation	Budget increased 5 times in 9 years	National Highway	Budget increased 7 times in 9 years
2015-16 2023-24	2.5 Lakh Crore 10 Lakh Crore	2015-16 2023-24	85,000 Crore 5,17,000 Crore	2015-16 2023-24	23,000 Crore 1,62,000 Crore
Highest expenditure: Social welfare, urban development, transport, health, education, rural development, and agriculture and allied sectors		27 green field expressways are being built. 58 services of the transport sector were made online.		The length of the highway in 2014 was 97 thousand km, which increased to 1.44 lakh km in 2022. India has the second-largest road network in the world.	
Jal Jeevan Mission Budget increased 12 times		Education About one and a half times the cost		Health Budget increased 2.6 times in 9 years	

Note: All amounts in Rs.

INDIA PROVED ITS STRENGTH TO THE WORLD BY CHANGING ITS THINKING AND APPROACH

The country's and its people's changed thinking and approach not only made the world recognise India's power, but it was also lauded in many cases on global forums. Furthermore, many other countries have decided to adopt India's policy and "approach." In the coming years, the country's ability to turn disaster into opportunity in the midst of the COVID pandemic and other global challenges will be demonstrated, and research will be conducted on the subject. If this is possible today, it is due to the nation's positive thinking, which is propelling the country forward...



Following COVID, the country-world and global systems changed, new challenges emerged, and so did the way they were addressed. India quickly turned these disasters and challenges into opportunities. As a result, despite the COVID epidemic, war, and natural disasters, India has performed admirably. The country has proved to the world what it means to be anti-fragile. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this at the Economic Times Global Business Summit 2023 on February 17. He asserts that after studying India and its people's ability to deal with the worst crisis in 100 years, humanity will be proud of itself.

In 2014, the reputation of the country was adversely affected due to scams involving lakhs of crores. With policy paralysis delaying infrastructure projects for years, it was difficult for the country to move fast with such a mindset and approach. For this reason, the new government at the Centre redefined every aspect of governance and decided to move forward with new thinking, whose positive results are now visible.

The government's thinking has changed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, and policies have been formulated to reflect this, the impact of which is now visible on the ground. The poor have begun to open bank accounts, and they have also begun to receive bank loans. The poor have begun to gain ownership of their homes and properties. Toilets, electricity, clean cooking fuel, and fast internet connections are now available, which were previously considered unnecessary. So far, the Central Government has transferred Rs 28 lakh crore directly into the accounts of the poor through various schemes under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Prime Minister Modi stated that we should remember former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's remark that "if one rupee is sent from the centre, only 15 paise reaches the actual beneficiary." As a result, 24 lakh crore rupees would have either gone into someone else's pocket or been looted. Because of the current government's new way of thinking, if one rupee is withdrawn from Delhi today,

Job fairs held in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, appointment letters handed over

Large-scale opportunities for government jobs for youth are being created at the central and state levels. In this sequence, the government held an employment fair on February 26 in Uttar Pradesh and on February 20 in Uttarakhand. Appointment letters for sub-inspectors of police and equivalent civil police posts, platoon commanders, and second class officers of the fire department were distributed at the Uttar Pradesh employment fair. Speaking at the Uttar Pradesh Employment Fair, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that today's appointment will bring prosperity to 9000 families and increase people's sense of security. On January 20, 2023, the central government distributed appointment letters to 71,000 people recruited in various departments and organisations, while on November 22, 2022, more than 71,000 youth in more than 45 cities across the country received appointment letters. Earlier in October 2022, 75,000 appointment letters were distributed.

one hundred out of every hundred paise reaches the intended beneficiary.

Former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said that the country will have reached a new level of development when every Indian has access to a toilet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that it was said, but that the willingness to find a solution had not been demonstrated. Because of this, a large part of the country remained deprived of basic facilities for a long time. In rural areas, sanitation coverage has increased from 40% to 100% since 2014. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched in the country, and over 11 crore toilets were built.

Prior to 2014, there were more than 100 such districts, known as backward districts. Poverty, backwardness, a lack of roads, electricity, water, a school, a hospital, education, and employment were the identities of these districts. The new

Results visible in nine years with a change in approach



In three and a half years, **eight crore** new houses were supplied tap water.



Today, **38 kilometres** of national highways are being constructed in India every day.



More than **five kilometres** of railway line are being laid every day.



The number of airports has increased from **74** to **147**.



Approximately **3.5 lakh kilometres** of roads were built in rural areas.



80,000 kilometres of national highways have been constructed.



Pucca houses were given to **three crore** poor families.



After 2014, a **six kilometre** metro network is being laid every month.



In terms of metro route length, India currently **ranks fifth** in the world, but will move to **third** in a few months.



The opening of **Route 128** to civilian aircraft saved both time and fuel. This decision reduced about one lakh tonnes of carbon emissions.



Today, **40 percent** of the world's real-time digital payments happen in India.

government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, redefined backwardness, and these districts were renamed aspirational districts. The posting of officers in these districts is no longer seen as a punishment; the best and brightest are sent here. As a result of the government's new thinking, the condition of the aspirational districts is now better than the country's average. ■

CABINET DECISIONS

100% packing of grains will be done in jute bags, 22nd Law Commission's tenure extended

The Central Government is committed to bettering the lives of the country's farmers and citizens. The government is making continuous efforts in this direction. A glimpse of this commitment was also seen in the recent Union Cabinet decision, in which the government announced relief for lakhs of jute farmers across the country. This will not only benefit the farmers but also the jute mills. The cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the Law Commission, an air service agreement between Guyana and India, and several other important proposals.

Decision: The Union Cabinet approved the rules for mandatory jute use norms in packaging for the years 2022-23. According to the rules, 100 percent jute bags will be used in the packing of food grains and 20 percent jute bags will be used in the packing of sugar.

Impact: This decision will benefit 3.7 lakh jute mill and ancillary units. In addition, the livelihoods of 40 lakh farmer families will be improved. This decision will be of great benefit to West Bengal, which has 75 jute mills. Bihar, Odisha, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana will also benefit from the decision. Every year, the government spends about Rs 9,000 crore on jute bags for packing food grains.

Decision: Approval to extend the tenure of the 22nd Law Commission of India till August 31, 2024.

Impact: The Law Commission is a non-statutory body, constituted by the Government of India from time to time. The term of the present 22nd Law Commission ended on February 20. The chairman and members of the 22nd Law Commission have recently assumed office. The Law Commission has

submitted 277 reports so far.

Decision: Approval of the India-Guyana Air Services Agreement for the expansion of international air connectivity.

Impact: The signing of Air Services Agreement with Guyana will enable a framework for provision of air services between the two countries. There are legal provisions in place for air service between India and Guyana. This will result in more seamless and improved connectivity. Airlines will also benefit from commercial opportunities. Guyana has a sizable Indian population.

Decision: Ratification of three protocols relating to amendments to the International Civil Aviation Treaty (Chicago Convention), 1944.

Impact: With this ratification, India will have better prospects and opportunities to play a more prominent role in international civil aviation matters. This ratification also reaffirms India's commitment to the principles enshrined in the International Civil Aviation Convention. ■



PROPER USE OF TAXPAYER'S EVERY PENNY IS BEING ENSURED

The Government of India has made several reforms in the budget process. The date for presenting the budget in Parliament was changed to February 1. For the last few years after the budget is presented it is followed by post-budget webinars which are aimed at better implementation of the budget. Initiated with the purpose of increasing public participation, these webinars encourage the participation of all concerned stakeholders for the effective, speedy, and seamless implementation of budget announcements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a webinar in the month of February on many aspects of the "Saptarishi" priorities outlined in the Union Budget 2023-24...

P rime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a total of five webinars in the month of February itself after the budget. The themes included Green Growth, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Harnessing Youth Power - Skilling and Education, Reaching the Last Mile/No One Left Behind, and Harnessing the Potential: Using Technology to Bring Ease of Living. Concerned Union Ministers, key stakeholders from government departments, regulators, academicians,

representatives of trade and industry associations, etc. participated in the webinar organized through a virtual medium to ensure wider participation. The objective of bringing together experts from the public and private sectors, academia, industry, and people working at the grassroots level is to enhance the participation and ownership of relevant stakeholders in the effective, speedy, and seamless implementation of budget announcements.



THE PACE OF GREEN DEVELOPMENT GAINED MOMENTUM

Green development is one of the seven top priorities of the Union Budget 2023-24

so that green industrial and economic transformation, eco-friendly agriculture, and sustainable energy are possible in the country. This will also create a large number of green employment opportunities. Several projects and initiatives have been envisaged in the Union Budget for green development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, all the budgets presented in the country after 2014 have been pushing new age reforms along with finding solutions to current challenges. The three pillars of green growth and energy transmission include increasing the production of renewable energy, reducing the use of fossil fuels in our economy, and moving the country towards an increasingly gas-based economy.

AGRICULTURE BUDGET INCREASED FIVE TIMES IN NINE YEARS

India's agriculture sector faced apathy for a long time after independence but the agriculture budget has increased from Rs 25,000 crore in 2014



to more than Rs 1,25,000 crore today. This is the reason that in recent years every budget has come to be called the budget of the village, the poor, and the farmer. A new revolution is taking place in the cooperative sector of India. In a webinar organized on the subject of agriculture and cooperatives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "For a long time after independence, we were dependent on the world for our food security. But our farmers not only made us self-reliant but today because of them we have also been able to export."

IN THE FIRST BUDGET OF AMRITKAAL, THE YOUTH ARE THE TORCHBEARERS

Our youth are leading the country's Amrit Yatra with the vision of a developed India. That's why in this first budget of Amritkaal, maximum importance has been given to the youth. In a webinar organized on the topic 'Harnessing Youth Power - Skilling and Education', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today the world is looking

at India as a manufacturing hub. That's why today there is enthusiasm in the world about investing in India. In such a situation, a skilled workforce is very useful today. The Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tried to ameliorate the anomalies affecting our education sector for years. Today the government is focusing on such tools, through which 'accessibility to knowledge from every place' can be ensured.

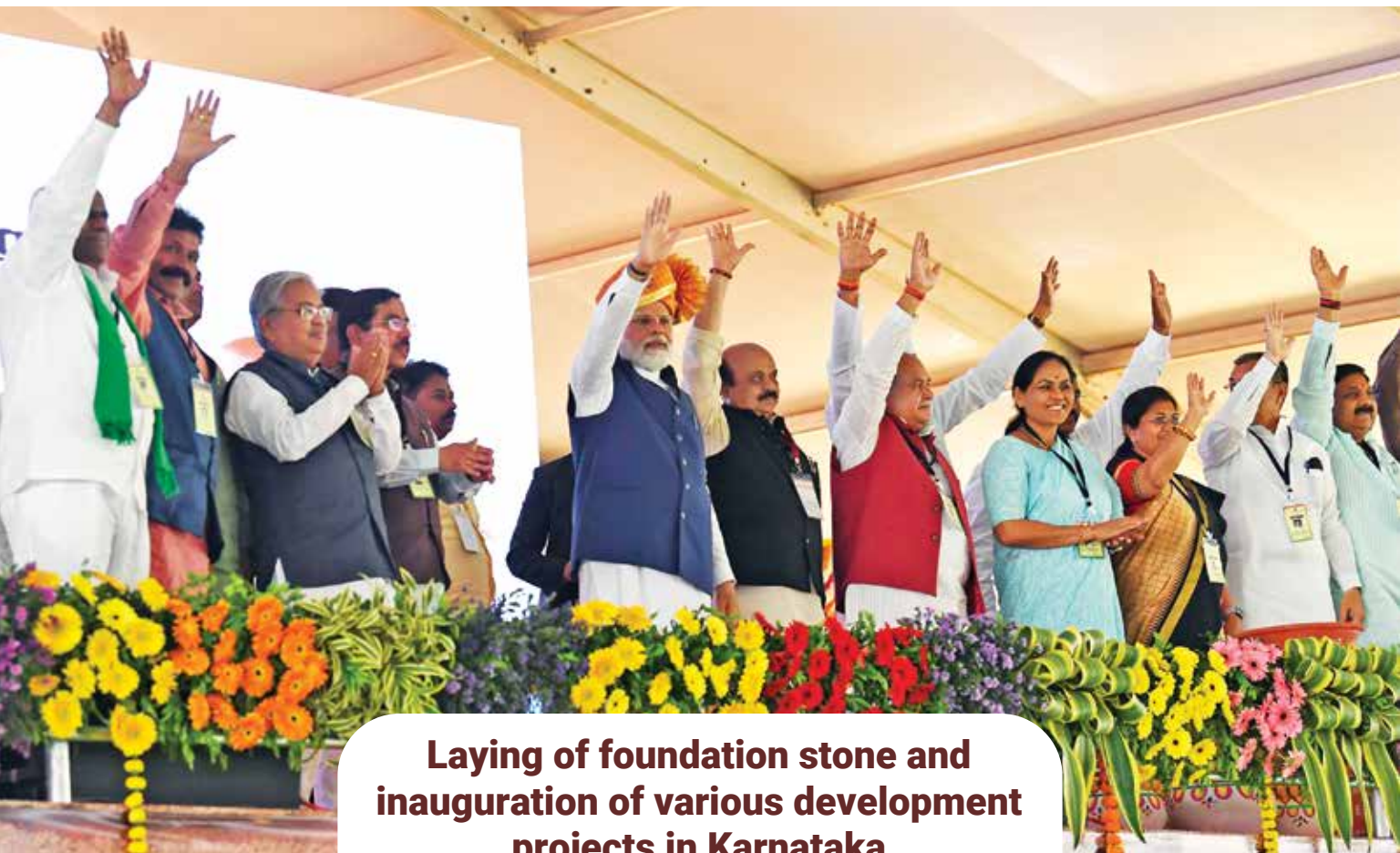


SPECIAL ATTENTION IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET ON THE MANTRA OF REACHING THE LAST MILE

Earlier, the poor had to run after the government for basic facilities, now the government is reaching the doorstep of the poor. In a webinar on 'Reaching the last mile', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "When our goal is to reach every individual, there will be no scope for discrimination and corruption." This year's budget has given special attention to the mantra of reaching the last mile and promoting the welfare of tribal and rural areas. For the first time, the country is bringing forth the enormous potential of the tribal society on such a large scale.

INDIA EMPOWERING ITS CITIZENS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

India of the 21st century is continuously empowering its citizens through technology. In a webinar on the topic of Utilization of potential: bringing ease of life using technology Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Over the years, in every budget of our government, emphasis has been laid on increasing the 'Ease of Living' of the countrymen with the help of technology. Along with technology, the human touch has also been a priority in this budget. Technology became the basis of One Nation-One Ration Card, Jan Dhan-Aadhaar, and Mobile, which benefited crores of the poor. With the help of technology and by cutting down 40,000 compliances, several important steps have been taken for MSMEs in the last few years. ■



Laying of foundation stone and inauguration of various development projects in Karnataka

“KARNATAKA'S PATH TO PROGRESS PAVED BY THE PROGRESS OF RAILWAYS, ROADWAYS, AIRWAYS AND I-WAYS”

Good connectivity plays a key role in strengthening various sectors including agriculture, industry, and health. Keeping these things in mind, in the past few years, the central government has focused a lot on the connectivity of Karnataka. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Karnataka on February 27 and inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects which will give a new impetus to the development of the state. The connectivity and water supply projects are going to benefit every citizen of the state. Also, PM Modi released the 13th installment under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, which will provide more than Rs 16,800 crore to more than eight crore farmers across the country...

With an aim to make Karnataka play a pivotal role in a self-reliant and developed India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only connected with the people of Karnataka six times between November and February but also visited the state once again on 27 February. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth thousands of crores. In Shivamogga, Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “In the last few years, the development of Karnataka has moved on the chariot of growth. This growth chariot is running on the path of progress. It is about Pragati Path, Railways, Roadways, Airways, and Digital Connectivity.” The drive for development in Karnataka has now picked up the pace and Prime

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for the following development projects

- Inauguration of Shivamogga Airport which has been developed at a cost of about Rs 450 crores. The passenger terminal building of this airport is capable of handling 300 passengers per hour.
- Laid the foundation stone of Shivamogga-Shikaripura-Ranebennur's new rail line and Koteganguru Railway Coaching Depot.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of several road development projects.
- Inaugurated 44 smart city projects at a cost of over Rs 895 crore.
- Inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multi-village schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

13th installment of Kisan Samman Nidhi released

- Transfer of more than 16,800 crores to the accounts of more than 8 crore farmers in the 13th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- Under this scheme, assistance of Rs.6000 per year is provided to eligible agricultural families in three equal installments of Rs.2000 each. 100% of the cost of the scheme is borne by the Government of India.
- An amount of more than Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been directly transferred to the bank accounts of more than 11 crore farmers so far.

Minister Narendra Modi is determined to make the dreams of the people of Karnataka come true.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Till the year 2019, only 25 percent of households in Karnataka villages had tap water connections at home. Today, the coverage of tap water in Karnataka has crossed 60 percent." Not only this, in order to speed up the development of Karnataka, at present, work is going on in the state on railway projects worth Rs. 45 thousand crores. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth over Rs 3,600 crore in Karnataka's Shivamogga, he laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth over Rs 2,700 crore in Belagavi. Be it the freedom struggle or after that, Karnataka's Belagavi has played an important role

in the Navnirman of India.

In Belagavi, Karnataka, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Today's changing India is accomplishing development projects one after the other while giving priority to the deprived. Small farmers were also neglected in our country for decades. There are 80-85 percent of small farmers in India. Now, these small farmers are the priority of the government. So far, about Rs 2.5 lakh crore have been deposited in the bank accounts of small farmers of the country through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi." Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent another installment of PM-Kisan to the farmers of the country from Belagavi in Karnataka and with just one click, about Rs 16,800 crore reached the bank accounts of crores of farmers of the country.■



Prime Minister Modi dedicated to the nation the redeveloped railway station building in Belagavi

- Dedicated to the nation Belagavi Railway Station building redeveloped at a cost of about Rs.190 crores.
- Railway line doubling project between the Londa-Belagavi-Ghatprabha section dedicated to the nation. Estimated cost Rs 930 crore.
- Foundation stone of six projects of the multi-village scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The scheme will cost around Rs 1585 crore and will benefit the 8.8 lakh population in more than 315 villages. Dedicated to the nation Belagavi Railway Station building redeveloped at a cost of about Rs190 crores.



AADI MAHOTSAV

**Celebrating the richness of Tribal Entrepreneurship,
Crafts, Culture, Cuisine, and Commerce**

The country is moving very fast to empower the tribal community. Today when India participates in the big world forums, it showcases the tribal tradition as its heritage and pride. During the last 9 years, the nation is moving on the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, the focus has been on the economic upliftment, education, and respect of the tribal community. Aadi Mahotsav which has become a campaign of Aadi Virasat for the country was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 16 at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi...



When the country gives priority to the persons at the fringes of society, then the path of progress opens automatically. The present central government is moving forward on the mantra of giving preference to the underprivileged, due to which the country is touching a new dimension of development. In the last 9 years, the Central Government has taken special initiatives to bring the tribal community into the mainstream and give priority to them. Whether it is about celebrating Tribal Pride Day on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda or the work of opening the Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in different states,



I have spent several weeks with tribal families, with tribal societies in every corner of the country. I have observed your traditions closely, lived them and learned a lot from them.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Central Government's Priority, Tribal Child's Education

- 5 times increase in the number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools. In the 10 years between 2004 and 2014, only 90 Eklavya residential schools were opened. From 2014 to January 2023, 690 Eklavya model residential schools were approved in tribal areas, of which 401 have started.
- More than 1 lakh tribal students have started studying in these schools. In this year's budget, the recruitment of about 40 thousand teachers and employees in these schools has also been announced.
- Scholarship to scheduled tribe youth has also been increased by more than two times. 30 lakh students are getting its benefit.
- According to the All India Survey on Higher Education 2020-21, 24.10 lakh tribal students have enrolled in higher education institutions in the country.

Launch of PM-Vishwakarma Scheme for Traditional Artisans

- More than 3 thousand Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been established in the country. Now there is about 90 minor forest produce on which the government is giving MSP. Lakhs of tribal people are getting benefited through more than 50 thousand Vanadhan self-help groups.
- At present, there are more than 1.25 crore tribal members in more than 80 lakh self-help groups in different states, women are getting huge benefits.
- In this budget, it has been announced to start the PM-Vishwakarma scheme for traditional artisans. Financial assistance will be given to the tribal community under the PM-Vishwakarma yojana. Skill training and support in Marketing their products will be provided. New tribal research institutes are also being opened in the country.
- Tribal products should reach the maximum market, and their recognition and demand should increase, and the government is continuously working in this direction. Bamboo was brought under the grass category and all restrictions on it were removed.

Aadi Mahotsav, a powerful platform to connect tribal entrepreneurs with the market

- Exhibition and sale of handloom and handicraft products of tribal artisans from across the country.
- Special focus on Shree Anna and other forest produce produced by tribal communities.
- Cultural programs showcasing the rich tribal diversity and vibrancy.
- Delicious tribal dishes from across the country.
- About 1000 tribal artisans participated in the festival.

the central government is leaving no stone unturned for their development. The government has given the option of studying in the mother tongue in the new National Education Policy which provides our tribal children and youth an opportunity to study in their own language and progress.

As a result of several initiatives by the Central Government, the number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the country has increased by 5 times. In this budget, it has been announced to start the PM-Vishwakarma scheme for traditional artisans. In this year's budget, the budget for Scheduled Tribes has also been increased by 5 times as compared to 2014. With better modern infrastructure and increased connectivity in tribal

areas, tourism and income opportunities are also increasing. Thousands of villages in the country that were once affected by Left Wing Extremism are now being connected with 4G connectivity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, "Aadi Mahotsav is giving a new height to our 'Unity in Diversity'. It is making the idea of 'Development and Heritage' more lively. Aadi Mahotsav is like the infinite sky of India, in which its diversity emerges like the colours of a rainbow." It is an attempt to showcase the tribal culture on a national platform. The event celebrates the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, commerce and traditional arts. This program is an annual initiative of TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. ■



THE VIBRANCY OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY IS AN INSPIRATION TO THE WORLD

India is chairing the G-20 at a time when the world is facing severe economic difficulties. The Covid pandemic and its effects on the global economy and the inability to reform international financial institutions have eroded trust in them. PM Narendra Modi says that as the custodians of the world's major economies and monetary systems, it is now the responsibility of the G-20 to bring back stability, confidence, and growth in the global economy. This is not an easy task. Let us know how the G-20 countries are trying to find a solution to deal with these issues.

It was a proud moment for the country to get the presidency of the G-20, as well as a huge responsibility on behalf of the G-20 to end differences and build consensus on matters of global importance. For this, G-20 member states and guest member states are continuously discussing the areas of future action. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the first meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 24 February. The Prime Minister said, "Focus your discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world. Global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda"

The first meeting of G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors

Expressed commitment to advance cooperation on international policy and global economy

The first meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was held in Bengaluru from 24 to 25 February which was jointly chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Dr. Shaktikanta Das. The meeting was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the first day who said, "The theme of our G20 presidency – One Earth, One Family, One Future – promotes an inclusive approach. India has built a highly secure, highly reliable, and highly efficient public digital infrastructure in its digital payments ecosystem. Our digital payments ecosystem has been developed as a free public good. Examples like UPI can prove to be a role model for many other countries as well."

In the first ministerial-level dialogue, PM Modi said, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals seems to be slowing down even as the world population crosses the eight billion mark. Multilateral development banks need to be strengthened to meet global challenges such as climate change and high debt levels." Key takeaways from the meeting included topics such as the global debt crisis, climate finance, global perspectives on crypto, digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, financing the cities of tomorrow, and taxation.



Read here the summary and outcome of the first meeting of the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors...

https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/1st%20FMCBG%20Chair%20Summary.pdf

2nd meeting of finance and central bank representatives in Bengaluru

Ahead of the first meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, a meeting of finance and central bank representatives took place on 22 February, the inaugural session of which was addressed by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.

Consensus reached on four main subjects in the Culture Working Group

Madhya Pradesh – The first meeting of the Culture Working Group was held from 23 to 25 February at the Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Center in Khajuraho. A consensus has been reached in the meeting on strongly pursuing the four priorities that give global continuity to culture under the chairmanship of India. These include the Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; Harnessing the Living Heritage of a Sustainable Future; Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries and Creative Economy, and Leveraging Digital Technology for the Protection and Promotion of Culture. The delegates were taken on a tour of

the UNESCO World Heritage Site Western Group of Temples and Panna Tiger Reserve. After Khajuraho, the Culture Working Group meetings will be held in Hampi, Bhubaneswar, and Varanasi.

Women-20 meeting in Aurangabad

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "women-led development" with a vision of creating a world of equality and fairness, India's G-20 presidency is women-centric. It is moving forward with a resolve to create such an environment and ecosystem for women, in which the full potential of women can be realized and their lives as well as others' lives can be changed. In this episode, on February 27-28, 2023 in Aurangabad, Maharashtra The first meeting of Women-20 was held. Women-20's five priority areas include Women's Entrepreneurship, Grassroot Women's Leadership, Bridging the Gender Digital Divide, Education & Skill Development, and Climate Change. Women-20 will have two other international meetings in Jaipur, capital city of Rajasthan on April 13-14, followed by its summit in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu on June 15-16.

Youth-20 Working Group

Brainstorming on 'Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance'

A workshop on 'Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance' was organized on 22 February under the Youth-20 Working Group of the G-20. Both aspiring and experienced entrepreneurs from the Delhi-NCR region participated in the brainstorming session held at Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi on the topics of 'Digital India', 'Student-Centric Governance', and 'Policy Sector'. ■





HINDI GETTING GLOBAL IDENTITY IN NEW INDIA...

New India, which is shaping the global agenda, gives a message to the world that the scope of Hindi is expansive keeping pace with modern knowledge and science, and technology. This is highlighted by the fact that there are 80 crore Hindi-speaking people all over the world. It is not only the language of about 45% of the population of India but a global language spoken in various countries. With an aim to popularise the Hindi language, the 12th World Hindi Conference was organized in Fiji from 15 to 17 February.

There is a saying for India... Every two miles the water changes, every four miles the speech. Hindi has carved a special place for itself amidst several languages spoken in the country. Hindi played a pivotal role in uniting the country and also during the independence movement emerged as an effective language that promoted amity and brotherhood. Now the popularity of Hindi has reached off-shore with the number of people speaking it increasing continuously. The importance of Hindi is increasing continuously in the context of globalization and marketism as India is becoming a strong pillar economically and scientifically. The country is moving forward with the goal of a developed India by 2047.

According to the 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue, Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world. Hindi is spoken in countries like New Zealand, Singapore, Nepal, Bhutan, Malaysia, Thailand, England, Canada, the United States of America, Mauritius, and Suriname. Fiji is a country where not only the Hindi language is spoken widely but it is recognized as an official language. On June 10, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly has

approved an important resolution that states that all the work and necessary information of the United Nations will be released in Hindi in addition to the 6 official languages. This reflects the growing credibility and popularity of Hindi.

The Government of India is organizing Hindi Diwas in foreign countries along with the World Hindi Conference. To stay connected with the native tradition, heritage, and culture, conversing in your own language is more effective. Fiji, which co-hosted the 12th Hindi Conference along with the Indian government, has about 30 percent of its people of Indian origin. World Hindi Conference made its debut in Fiji, but before this last 11 editions have been held in England, America, South Africa, Suriname, and Mauritius apart from India. A commemorative postage stamp and six books in Hindi were also released at this conference. The conference was inaugurated by the President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, and the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S Jaishankar jointly.

The main theme of the conference was "Hindi: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence" which was attended by over 1,000 participants from over



31 countries in 10 academic sessions. The status of Hindi in Fiji and the Pacific region and Girmitiyas countries and the impact of information technology, artificial intelligence, cinema, and literature on Hindi were discussed at the conference. Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar Speaking at the inauguration of the conference, said, "Today the increasing number of Hindi speakers in different geographical areas is a testimony to the globalization of Hindi. This ceremony shows that language is not only an expression of identity but also a medium to connect India and other countries. When the world sees the confluence of language and culture, then it is good for the welfare of the world."

Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar stressed, "the era when progress was equated with Westernisation is over. Many languages and traditions that were suppressed during the colonial era are once again finding their voice on the global stage. In such a situation, it is necessary that the world should have good knowledge about all cultures and societies. Therefore, it is very important to broaden the teaching and use of various Indian languages including Hindi." ■



World Hindi Conference for the first time in Fiji

- Diplomatic relations between India and Fiji alongwith cultural connection is very strong
- Under a contract from India, thousands of labourers were taken to Fiji 143 years ago to work in the sugarcane fields. At that time Fiji and India were under British rule.
- The people taken to Fiji were mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar. The Hindi of Fiji shows the influence of the Awadh region. Today's generation of those Indians settled in Fiji takes pride in their Indian heritage.
- The advent of Hindi in Fiji is believed to be between 1879 and 1916. Due to Indian ancestors, Hindi has maintained its special place here.
- Hindi language is not only taught here in primary, and secondary schools, and universities, but it also has the status of official language in Fiji's constitution.
- According to the United Nations (2020), Fiji has a population of about 8,96,000, and more than 30 percent of them are of Indian origin.

Contribution of the World Hindi Conference in the promotion of the Hindi language

- The World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius and the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University in Wardha were established.
- World Hindi Day is organized globally on 10 January every year.
- Establishment of Hindi Chairs in many countries of the world, the continuous use of Hindi in the information broadcasting system of the United Nations is increasing.
- The conferences are further strengthening India's ties with the Indian Diaspora and People of Indian Origin.

AWARDS MOTIVATE TO WORK HARD

There is no substitute for hard work; you must recognise its value. If you work with true passion, your work will be respected sooner or later. A living example of this is the inclusion of many such names in the Padma Awards announced in 2023. Some have been working in their respective fields for 50 or 60 years without getting any publicity. They have not only kept India's heritage alive, but also its arts, culture, sports, and folk music alive, through their work. New India Samachar spoke with some of these Padma Award recipients.



Gurcharan Singh

It was around 3.30 p.m. when I called him on his cellphone; someone else picked up the phone. I asked if I could talk to Gurcharan Singh ji. So he said, "Wait a minute; the boys are practising on the ground right now." Within a minute, he came on the phone and said, "Yes, speak." I said that even at this age and at this time on the ground, he said that he doesn't know anything other than this. With the blessings of God, my body is supporting me, so whatever cricket is left in me, I am passing on to the next generation. Cricket is my life. Gurcharan Singh, who has given the Indian cricket team players

Age 87: Passion: imparting coaching to cricketers

such as Ajay Jadeja, Maninder Singh, Surendra Khanna, Kirti Azad, Murali Karthik, and Vivek Razdan, believes that what he has is more than enough. There has been no delay in getting the award. One benefit of receiving an award at this age is that you will be more motivated to work. Gurcharan Singh, who was born in undivided India's Lahore, immigrated to India during the partition. He has made cricket his life since then. Before receiving the Padma Award, he received the Dronacharya Award in 1987. He was the Indian cricket team's coach from 1985 to 1987, coaching Ranji Trophy, Under-22, and Under-19 players. He was also a member of the Indian Railways cricket team. He has given coaching in many Delhi schools, and he still spends 12 to 14 hours on the ground with the children.



Kapil Dev Prasad

Bawan Buti artisan, Hope the market will grow now

68-year-old Kapil Dev Prasad, a resident of Bihar's Nalanda district, who learned the skill of Bawan Booti (52 motif) from his grandfather and father, has not only turned it into a means of self-employment since the age of 15, but is also a

master of this heritage art. He has built a team of 125 people who use this art to support themselves and their families. Although Kapil Dev asserts that few people recognise the subtlety and skill of this art, the market for Bawan Booti is weak and the number of consumers is low because machine-made clothes dominate the market.

However, he believes that since the central government announced the Padma Award to him

for his work in this field, people are becoming more aware of it. Its market will expand as well.

Apart from sarees, Bawan Booti is also being used on bed covers and curtains. The symbols of Buddhist religion and culture are finely worked into the booties. The lotus flower, the Bodhi tree, the bull, the trident, the goldfish, the wheel of dharma, and the conch shell are all symbols found on the Bawan Booti. Its sarees are also in high demand.



Karma Wangchu

Former Arunachal Pradesh minister and social worker Karma Wangchu has been announced as the recipient of the Padma Shri award posthumously. Karma Wangchu was the first person from Tawang district to be appointed as a minister in the state government. He did,

Worked to preserve Arunachal's cultural heritage

however, retire from active politics in 1994. He has been doing social service in Tawang and surrounding areas for the last 50 years, either during or after his political career. The Indo-Tibetan Friendship Society was founded by him. With their assistance, more than 1250 children in Tawang's border villages received free education and residential facilities. Wangchu worked tirelessly to preserve and promote the state's rich cultural heritage, as well as to serve the people as a social worker.



Hem Chandra Goswami

Hem Chandra Goswami is not a new name to anyone familiar with the art and cultural history of Assam, whose mask is on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Goswami has played an important role in reviving and promoting the state's "mukha" traditions around the world. The 64-year-old Goswami will receive the Padma Shri award for 2023. He specialises in making traditional masks depicting a wide variety of

Revived "Mukha" tradition of mask making

characters, including human faces, animals, birds, gods, and demons. Hem Chandra Goswami founded Sukumar Kala Kendra in 1984. More than 100 students have been trained in mask-making by the Kendra. The masks prepared by them were displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Along with teaching this art to children in India, he also taught it to children in France, Germany, and Israel. Apart from that, he offers training in Satriya dance and Bargeet music. ■

OPERATION DOST

PHILOSOPHY OF INDIA'S DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO HUMANITY

Indian Army and National Disaster Response Force became a global symbol of trust

Whenever a disaster struck, not only in India but also around the world, India was the first to come forward to extend humanitarian assistance. Whether it was the earthquake in Nepal, the crisis in the Maldives, or the conflict in Sri Lanka, India was the first to come forward to help. It was also evident during the COVID pandemic, when India earned global goodwill by supplying medicines and vaccines. India was one of the first responders when the earthquake hit Türkiye and Syria and extended help by running the "Operation Dost" campaign. The Prime Minister interacted with the National Disaster Response Force personnel involved in "Operation Dost" in earthquake-hit Türkiye and Syria on their return.



Be it Türkiye or Syria, the entire team has manifested these Indian values in some way. We consider the whole world to be one family. If there is any crisis affecting any member of the family, then it is India's religion and duty to provide immediate help to them. Irrespective of the country, if it is a matter of humanity and human sensitivity, then India keeps human interest paramount.

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



"When I was taking rounds, a relative of a patient understood that I was the commanding officer here. He held both my hands, touched my eyes, and kissed me. I bowed down too. "Can you understand what this is?" he asked. So I said, "You are showing me respect." So he says no. "You are like my father." I am shocked to hear this. Then he said, sir, I am the country's young generation. I assure you that the coming generations will remember what your country has done for our country.

"A lady was saying that Allah is first for me but in today's date you are second for me."

"Our dog squad also did an excellent job there. Several survivors were rescued with the assistance of the dog squad."

"When we were leaving, people were crying there."

"Patients were thanking God as they left the hospital, saying thank you as much as we thank our God."

"Wherever the Globemaster of the Indian Air Force lands, people are sure that help has arrived. There is confidence in India that it will fully help."

This is the heroic story of "Operation Dost," which the Indian Army, Air Force, and National Disaster Response Force team shared with Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon their return from rescuing relief in the Türkiye-Syria earthquake disaster. This demonstrates the new India's sensitivity, imbued with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, for whom human interest, whether in the country or the world, is paramount. When an Indian tricolour is carried into another country, the citizens of that country are confident that they will be helped. Following the recent earthquake disasters in Türkiye and Syria, the world has witnessed yet another manifestation of this image of India. The "Golden Hour" is critical for disaster rescue, and the way the Indian rescue team conducted the rescue operations in Türkiye and Syria with an efficient strategy by preparing in a very short time pleased the citizens of this country. For the first time, women were involved in a rescue operation, which was greatly appreciated.

Actually, one can be called "self-sufficient" if he can help himself, but "selfless" if he can help others. This holds true not only for individuals

Previously, disaster management was only a part of agriculture because disaster was understood to mean a flood or a drought. Taking lessons from the Bhuj earthquake of 2003, however, Narendra Modi, then-chief minister of Gujarat, enacted the Gujarat Disaster Management Act. Taking cues from this, the then-Central Government enacted the Disaster Management Act for the entire country in 2005.



NDRF won hearts in Türkiye, rescuers made an unprecedented and inspiring contribution

- Within minutes of the massive earthquake that hit Turkey on February 6, India asked its teams to go there, and in less than 48 hours, the teams were sent to Turkey.
- Working on the basic mantra of "Aapda Seva Sadaiva Sarvatra," three teams of NDRF were sent there. 152 rescuers were sent in 3 teams, of which 5 were women.
- India's women rescuers made an unprecedented and inspiring contribution throughout this operation. When the people of the affected areas saw the Indian women in rescue team uniforms, they not only appreciated them but also gave them the utmost respect and love.
- This was the first time that three C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the Indian Air Force and the NDRF, carrying their equipment and 11 vehicles, reached the disaster site.
- This team was completely self-sufficient, and they had all arrangements for medicines, tents, rations, and fuel, so that the local administration there was relaxed.
- The NDRF team was accompanied by other trained personnel, including doctors, health workers, and engineers. In addition, there was also a "dog squad" with a well-trained and technically competent manpower.
- Two girls were rescued alive with the help of the NDRF team. One of them was six years old, and the other was eight years old. Additionally, rescue teams recovered 85 bodies.
- This entire campaign was possible only with the joint efforts of the Ministries of Home, External Affairs, and Defense and the National Disaster Management Authority. NDRF teams from India also went to help in the 2011 earthquakes in Japan and the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal.



but also for nations. As a result, along with self-reliance, India has strengthened its identity as a selfless country in recent years. The speed with which India provided relief during the Türkiye-Syria disaster demonstrates its disaster preparedness. It has also captured the attention of the entire world. Now, India's thinking is to strengthen its capacity for disaster relief and rescue in order to strengthen its identity as the world's best relief and rescue

team. "The better we prepare ourselves, the better we will be able to serve," Prime Minister Modi says. Appreciating the Indian contingent, Prime Minister Modi saluted them on behalf of the country.

Certainly, the world has seen India's strength in every disaster in recent years. We have been able to significantly reduce losses by responding to the challenges in the best way possible, going beyond compensation and the distribution of relief materials. ■



LIGHTING THE FIRE OF INDIA'S FREEDOM

Many people chose to sacrifice their lives in the fight for freedom to free Mother India from the bonds of slavery. Following the ideals of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," the freedom fighters worked to unite the country and chose a way of life that would allow them to fulfil their resolution moment by moment. India's freedom fighters not only gave the freedom struggle a new direction, but they also worked to awaken the people. Freedom fighters and revolutionaries such as **Hemu Kalani**, **Krantiveer Charuchandra Bose**, **Pandit Kanshiram**, and **Hanuman Prasad Poddar** used sacrifice and penance to raise awareness of the freedom movement throughout India.





HANUMAN PRASAD PODDAR: A CASE OF TREASON WAS FILED AGAINST HIM FOR LOOTING A WEAPON STOCK

17 September 1892; Died: 22 March 1971

Hanuman Prasad Poddar, also known as "Bhai Ji" among his contemporaries, was born on September 17, 1892. He was a great freedom fighter who contributed significantly to the freedom struggle. Despite numerous atrocities, he never bowed down before the British. His mind rebelled at the young age of 13 against the atrocities of British rule in Calcutta. On July 19, 1905, following Lord Curzon's declaration of Bang Bhang, when the sons of Maa Bharti decided to boycott foreign goods, Bhaiji also joined this movement. He began a boycott of foreign goods and clothing and began wearing khadi and indigenous goods. On July 16, 1914, he was arrested and imprisoned along with three other men on treason charges. It was alleged that these people had helped loot the arms stock of the British government and then hidden it.

Due to the fear of the British, his well-wishers also abandoned him at this time, but he did not give up and continued his fight. He joined the freedom movement after meeting freedom movement revolutionaries Arvind Ghosh, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, and Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma in Calcutta. He also met Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gopal Krishna Gokhale when they visited Calcutta. He also had the opportunity to meet Mahatma Gandhi. Later, inspired by Jamnalal Bajaj, he relocated to Mumbai, where he met leaders like Veer Savarkar, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahadev Desai, and Krishnadas Jaju.

Furthermore, when Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya visited Calcutta to raise funds for the establishment of Banaras Hindu University, Hanuman Prasad Poddar met with many people and received donations for this mission.

He organised the Agrawal youths and founded the Marwari Khadi Prachar Mandal while living in Mumbai. Later, with the assistance of his cousin, Mr. Jaidayal Goyandka, he founded Geeta Press to correct inaccuracies in Hindu scriptures and to make books affordable to the general public. When the phrase "Geeta Press" enters one's mind, a picture of India emerges. It is entirely due to the generosity of this great institution that the entire world can now learn about India's great ancient glorious tradition and foundational texts. Geeta Press plays an important role in making books like Ramcharit Manas and Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta available to the general public.

On March 22, 1971, Hanuman Prasad Poddar died. On May 15, 2020, Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Hanuman Prasad Poddar by remembering him and saying, "Hanuman Prasad Poddar is the great leader of the cultural history of modern India." He was not only a freedom fighter, but he was also a conductor of Indian culture. When the freedom struggle was going on in the country, Bhai Ji Hanuman Prasad Poddar laid the foundation of publication and journalism by taking Indian eternal culture as the basis.

PANDIT KANSHIRAM: WORKED FOR COUNTRY'S FREEDOM FROM INDIA TO AMERICA

Born: October 13, 1883; Died: March 27, 1915

Pandit Kanshi Ram, a prominent leader of the Ghadar Party who gave his life for the country's independence, was born on October 13, 1883, in Ambala, Punjab. His father's name was Pandit Gangaram. After finishing his matriculation, he learned how to send telegrams and worked for a few days in Ambala before becoming a wireman in Delhi. Later, he went to America, where he began his revolutionary life. He met Sohan Singh Bhakna here. Kanshi Ram and Sohan Singh Bhakna became fast friends. Pandit Kanshi Ram earned his living in America by doing contract work. Along with this, he joined some organisations for the sake of India's independence and began motivating people for the country's independence. These organisations were formed to liberate India from British rule.

Pandit Kanshi Ram had also met Kartar Singh Sarabha in America. Pandit Kanshiram was greatly influenced by Lala Hardayal. Pandit Kanshiram was

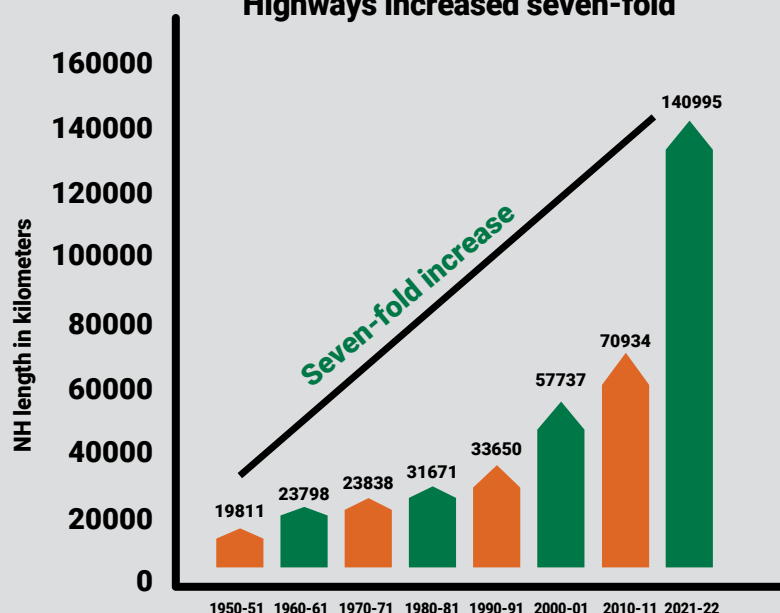
appointed treasurer of the "Ghadar Party" in 1913, which made significant contributions to India's freedom struggle. When the clouds of the First World War were hovering in Europe, the Ghadar Party decided that some people should return to India from America to work for the country's freedom. Under this plan, Pandit Kanshi Ram also visited India. He inspired people to oppose and overthrow the British. He inspired the people to challenge and overthrow the British authorities. Kanshi Ram began working in the Ludhiana district and became involved in a number of revolutionary activities. He also used to hold secret meetings with revolutionaries from the Ghadar Party in order to carry out movement-related activities. Pandit Kanshi Ram and his associates are said to have attempted to loot the Moga government treasury in order to raise funds for their work. Kanshi Ram and his companions were apprehended in this connection. He was tried and sentenced to death by the British. He was hanged in Lahore Jail on March 27, 1915.

India on development highway, seven-fold increase in the length of national highways

The Central Government is committed to increasing road connectivity to remote areas of the country and is expanding highways at an extraordinary pace. That is, India is on the development highway, and the length of national highways has increased sevenfold since independence. This is a tremendous accomplishment in itself. The length of the National Highways increased from 19,811 km in 1950-51 to 1,40,995 km in 2021-22. At the same time, 13,327 km of national highways will be built in 2021-22, up from 4,260 km in 2013-14. The length of India's National Highway network has become so long in 2021-22 that it can go around the earth 3.5 times.

The highway of development

Since independence, length of National Highways increased seven-fold



Data for 2021-22 is as on December 31, 2021

HEMU KALANI WENT TO GALLOWS AT THE AGE OF 19



Born: March 23, 1923; Died: January 21, 1943

Hemu Kalani, the great revolutionary, was also one of the youngest martyrs who gave their lives for the country during India's freedom struggle. He sacrificed his life for the motherland at the age of 19. He was born in Sakhar, Sindh (now Pakistan), on March 23, 1923. Pesumal Kalani was his father's name, and Jethi Bai was his mother's. Hemu grew up hearing patriotic speeches and stories about great revolutionaries. He was bold and courageous since childhood, and he became involved in revolutionary activities while attending school. On his birthday when he was eight years old, Bhagat Singh was hanged. This incident had a significant impact on Hemu's life. Hemu later became known as "Bhagat Singh of Sindh."

He used to take out prabhat pheris in the streets with young companions, sing freedom songs, and distribute banned anti-British literature. When Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement in 1942, this 19-year-old teenager jumped in with the slogan "British Quit India." He and his associates advocated for a boycott of foreign goods in favour of locally produced goods. During this movement, Hemu Kalani came to know that a British train loaded with weapons would pass through Rohini station in Sindh to crush the ongoing Balochistan agitation. So he devised a plan to derail the train and loot the weapons.

During this attempt, he was arrested and tortured in jail. Later, he was sentenced to death and hanged on January 21, 1943. When Hemu Kalani was being hanged, it is said that he raised the noose with his own hands, as if wearing a flower garland, while shouting slogans like "Inquilab-Zindabad" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." On August 21, 2003, after independence, then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee unveiled a statue of Hemu Kalani in the Parliament premises. In his honour, the government of India has also issued a postage stamp. In terms of courage, fearlessness, and patriotism, his martyrdom is no less than any other martyr's. Hemu Kalani's heroic act and willingness to follow in the footsteps of the martyrs is truly unique.

CHARUCHANDRA BOSE: HE PREFERRED FREEDOM TO LIFE

Born: February 26, 1890; died March 19, 1909

Krantiveer Charuchandra Bose, a revolutionary who contributed to India's independence movement, was born on February 26, 1890, in Khulna, which is now part of Bangladesh. His father's name was Keshavchandra Bose. His family had a patriotic atmosphere, which had a big influence on Charuchandra Bose. He has always been brave and fearless. He was said to be a Divyang and to have no fingers in his hand. That's why he used to practise shooting a pistol by tying one in his right hand and pressing the trigger with his left hand's finger. At the same time, his height was very normal, but he had no less patriotism, and his mind was filled with patriotism feelings.

He valued the country's freedom more than his own life. He also worked for various presses and newspapers in Kolkata and Howrah before joining the revolutionary Yugantar Sangathan. He was also connected to Anushilan Samiti. Meanwhile, a government lawyer named Ashu Biswas began gnawing at the eyes of Charuchandra Bose, who was always looking for ways to punish the patriotic revolutionaries. In such a situation, he decided to teach that lawyer a lesson and began planning for it. Charuchandra Bose began to keep an eye on that lawyer.

In February 1909, he saw an opportunity and shot and killed public prosecutor Ashu Biswas in the Alipore bomb case. He was arrested and prosecuted as a result of this incident. During the court hearing, Charuchandra stated that Ashu Vishwas was a traitor and that he had decided to kill him. He is believed to have made no attempt to escape during the trial and refused to engage a lawyer for his defence. The court sentenced him to death. He was hanged on March 19, 1909, in the Alipore Central Jail. It is said that at the time of his execution, he himself put the noose. ■



PMO India

भारत की पहचान हो, भारत की परम्पराएँ हों, या भारत की प्रेरणाएँ हों, कर्नाटका के बिना हम भारत को परिभाषित नहीं कर सकते।

रक्षा मंत्री कार्यालय/ RMO L

हमारी defence industry पर सरकार और समाज का भरोसा इतना बढ़ता जा रहा है, इतना बढ़ता जा रहा है, कि पिछले साल Indian vendors से procurement के लिए जो हिस्सा 68% किया गया था, 'अमृत काल' से प्रेरित हुए वह हिस्सा आगामी वर्ष के लिए सीधे-सीधे 75% कर दिया गया है: रक्षा मंत्री

Amit Shah

The Modi government adopted a bottom-to-top approach while making policies to ensure that even the poorest of the poor get its benefits.



Nitin Gadkari

Representing the true sense of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India always stands for humanitarian values irrespective of the border. Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodiji has shown great gestures by exchanging words with rescue and relief personnel who participated in #OperationDost



Narendra Singh Tomar

खेती हो, इंटरनेट हो, पर्यटन हो, बेहतर शिक्षा हो या बेहतर स्वास्थ्य हो... यह सब अच्छी कनेक्टिविटी से और सशक्त होते हैं। इसलिए बीते वर्षों से हम कर्नाटक की कनेक्टिविटी पर बहुत अधिक फोकस कर रहे हैं। इस समय कर्नाटक में रेलवे के 45 हजार करोड़ रुपये के प्रोजेक्ट्स पर काम चल रहा है।



Bhopender Yadav

Elaborated on how India, under PM Shri @narendramodiji, has emerged as an example in combating climate change, both at domestic and international fronts, by informed policy-making process & Mission LIFE. Further extended India's support for a successful COP28 later this year.

PM-Kisan: Modi releases ₹16K cr in latest tranche

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bhagat, 27 February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 13th instalment of over ₹16,000 crore, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), through direct benefit transfer to more than eight crore beneficiaries. Under the scheme, eligible farmer families are provided ₹6,000 per year in three equal instalments of ₹2,000 each. During the programme, Modi also dedicated the redeveloped Belagavi Railway Station building, to the nation. The railway station has been redeveloped at an approximate cost of about ₹190 crore to provide world-class amenities to the passengers. Another railway project that was dedicated is the rail line doubling project between Londa-Belagavi-Ghataprabha section at Belagavi.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said: "Our millets have the capacity to face climate change. That's why they are super food"

Other countries are drawn to India's UPI system, says Modi

NEW DELHI: India's digital transformation has been lauded by many countries, which are showing interest in the country's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the eSanjeevani telemedicine consulta-

tion app. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his monthly radio broadcast, "Be it eSanjeevani app or UPI, these have proved to be very helpful in raising the ease of living," he said.

Days of 'Made in India' passenger aircraft not far off: Modi in K'taka

Uday Sagar & Ravindra Upgar

Shivamogga/Belagavi: PM Narendra Modi on Monday said the days of 'Made-in-India' passenger aircraft were not far as the aviation market in India was expanding rapidly and the country would require thousands of aircraft and young people as a workforce to meet the passenger demand.

India is currently importing aircraft, but the day when ordinary Indians will fly in 'Made-in-India' passenger planes is not far off. Those wearing hawai chappals too should take a 'hawai jahaj', he said. "I'm seeing it happen with Indian aviation market's rapid growth and improved connectivity," Modi said, addressing a public rally after inaugurating the modern greenfield airport at Shivamogga, built at a cost of Rs 450 crore.

IANIS



PM Modi at the inauguration of the ₹450cr greenfield airport & laying of the foundation stone of multiple projects in Shivamogga

Lauding the Tata-owned carrier for the largest order for 470 aircraft with Airbus and Boeing, Modi said: "Before 2014, AI was often discussed for negative reasons, especially the domestic airline was often recognised for scams during the Congress rule."

►PM-Kisan tranche, P 15

BUDGET WEBINAR

Equal Emphasis Put on Skills, Education: Modi

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused his third budget webinar on the impetus given to skill and education with the aim of making it more 'practical and industry-relevant'. He observed that there has been a lack of flexibility in the Indian education system, as lauded the New Education Policy seeks to address using technology and innovative methods. The prime minister underlined the special emphasis in the budget for strengthening the base of the education system to ensure a bright future for the youth. "Education and skill-building have been re-emphasised according to the aptitude of the youth and the demands of the future," Modi said, adding that equal emphasis is being given to both education and skill-building.

as part of NEP. The Covid pandemic has also reinforced the approach to education, creating a new type of classroom with the use of technology. Government is focused on providing 'anytime access to knowledge', an example being SWAYAM, an e-learning platform with 3 crore members. Virtual Labs and National Digital Library are likely to become a major medium of disseminating knowledge. The open facility to study in local language through DTH channels as well as other digital and technology-based initiatives are in the process of implementation which will strengthen the move to form a National Digital University. "Such futuristic steps are going to change the emphasis of our education, skills and knowledge to science... Now the role of our teachers will not be limited only to the classroom," the prime minister said.



More renewables, less of fossil fuel: PM's green plan

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and is focusing on increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix.

This budget will play a key role in achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and is focusing on increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix. That is why today I am giving a budget that will focus on increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix.



He said that the government is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and is focusing on increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix. The government is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, and is focusing on increasing the share of renewable energy in the power generation mix.

AMRIT SAROVAR

A unique initiative of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Target to build one lakh Amrit Sarovar, work started on about 62 thousand, construction of 34 thousand completed.

WORLD WATER DAY

March 22

Thousands of years ago, Indian sages conceived a restrained, balanced, and sensitive system for dealing with nature, the environment, and water. "Ma apo hinsi," our scriptures say. That is, rather than destroying water, we should conserve it. For thousands of years, this feeling has been a part of our spirituality and religion. It is the center of our society's culture, social thinking. That is why we give God the name of water and regard rivers as mothers. When a society develops such an emotional attachment to nature, what is known as sustainable development becomes its natural way of life.



Jal Jan Abhiyaan is being launched at a time when water scarcity is being viewed as a future crisis around the world. The world is waking up to the seriousness of our planet's limited water resources in the 21st century. Water security is a major concern for India due to its large population. That's why today the country is looking at water as 'future of tomorrow' in the Amrit Kaal of independence. There will be tomorrow only if there is water. To accomplish this, we must work together, beginning today. Today, when we are looking for solutions to the challenges of the future, we have to revive that consciousness of the past.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

