VOLUME 6, ISSUE 14

JANUARY 16-31, 2026

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NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



Election Commission of India

STRONG FOUNDATION OF PROSPEROUS DEMOCRACY

With the constitutional resolve of 'one person, one vote, one value' the Election Commission of India is fostering public participation and trust, thereby strengthening the soul of democracy

For e-copy



Resolve For A 'Viksit Bharat' Will Surely Be Fulfilled

The radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', broadcast on the last Sunday of every month, provides a valuable opportunity to discuss important issues related to the welfare of society with countrymen. Filled with new energy, new themes, and countless inspiring stories, 'Mann Ki Baat' connects the people of the country. On December 28, the 129th episode of this programme was aired, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the achievements of 2025. He also said, "In 2026, the country is ready to move forward with new hopes and new resolutions..."

- **A source of pride for Indians:** The year 2025 gave us many moments that made every Indian proud. From national security to the sports field, from science laboratories to the world's biggest stages, India left its strong mark everywhere.

- **Operation Sindoor:** This year, 'Operation Sindoor' became a symbol of pride for every Indian. The world clearly saw that today's India does not compromise on its security. During 'Operation Sindoor', images of love and devotion towards Maa Bharati was witnessed from every corner of the country.

- **Antibiotics:** The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) recently released a report. It states that antibiotics are proving ineffective against many diseases like pneumonia and UTI. A major reason for this is people's indiscriminate use of antibiotics. It should be used only on the doctor's advice.

- **Youth Power:** Today the world is looking at India with great hope. The biggest reason for hope in India is our youth power. Our achievements in the field of science, new innovations, and the expansion of technology have greatly impressed countries around the world.

- **Smart India Hackathon:** Today the youth in the country are getting new opportunities to showcase their talent. Many platforms are being developed where youth can showcase their talent as per their abilities and interests. One such platform is 'Smart India Hackathon', another medium where ideas are turned into action.

- **Solar Panel:** Manipur, where Moirangthem Seth lived, had a major electricity problem. So, Moirangthem started a campaign to install solar panels, and on account of this campaign, today solar power has reached hundreds of houses. Today, under the 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana', the government is providing approximately 75,000 to 80,000 rupees to each beneficiary family for installing solar panels.

- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam:** This year, during the 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' in Varanasi, special emphasis was placed on learning Tamil. Under the theme of 'Learn Tamil – Tamil Karakalam', special campaigns were also run in more than 50 schools in Varanasi.

- **Parvati Giri:** Freedom fighter Parvati Giri's birth centenary will be celebrated in January 2026 in Odisha. She participated in the Quit India Movement at the age of 16. Parvati Giri ji dedicated her life to social service and tribal welfare. She established several orphanages. Her inspiring life will continue to guide every generation.

- **Lace Craft:** The lace craft of Narasapuram district in Andhra Pradesh is gaining popularity across the country. The Andhra Pradesh government and NABARD are jointly teaching artisans new designs, providing better skill training, and connecting them with new markets.

- **Kutch Ranotsav:** This year, the Kutch Ranotsav will continue until the 20th of February. The diverse folk culture, folk music, dance, and handicrafts of Kutch are on display here. Witnessing the grandeur of the White Rann of Kutch is a delightful experience in itself.

- **Viksit Bharat:** Every month, I receive many such messages in which people share their vision for a 'Viksit Bharat'. Seeing the suggestions from people and their efforts in this direction, this belief gets strengthened, and when all these messages reach me, the resolution of a 'Viksit Bharat' will definitely be fulfilled. This belief grows stronger day by day.

Scan the QR code to listen to the full "Mann Ki Baat" episode.

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR

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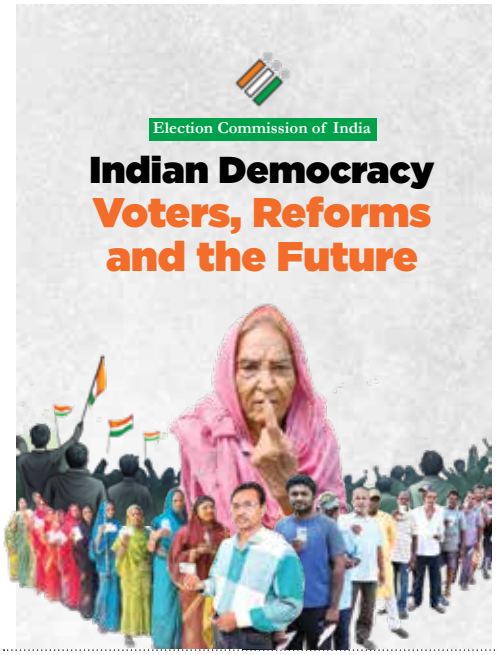
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On the inside pages...



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

National Voters' Day
The Power of a Vibrant Democracy

Greetings,

When the Constitution of India was being adopted, Babasaheb Ambedkar, in his historic address to the Constituent Assembly, explained how the democratic process had existed in India since ancient times. It is a matter of pride for the 1.4 billion citizens of this country that our democracy is not only one of the oldest in the world but also the largest, most diverse, youngest, inclusive, and sensitive democracy globally. This aspect of our democracy is visible in our elections. The Election Commission of India has the constitutional responsibility of conducting free and fair elections in the country, which it has fulfilled successfully over its more than seven-decade journey. Its significance can be gauged from the fact that the Election Commission was established just one day before India was declared a Republic. At that time, Dr. Ambedkar considered the right to vote paramount.

Voting is the most sacred act in any democracy, as it determines the future of the nation. Therefore, it is essential that the electoral process is improved periodically, and the voter list is also regularly updated and purified.

In its 76-year journey, the Election Commission of India has played a key role in implementing significant reforms, streamlining the system through the use of technology, and raising public awareness about voting. This is why many countries around the world are now learning from India's electoral system and management. India's democracy is setting new standards for the global community. In this journey, Indian voters and the Election Commission are establishing new benchmarks of participation and excellence. The Election Commission of India is an institution that takes impartial decisions, remaining fearless. Our Election Commission is an institution that safeguards democracy.

This January 25th, National Voters' Day, coincides with a special occasion: India has assumed the chairship of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). This is a significant achievement. Under this backdrop, the journey of the Election Commission of India is featured as the cover story of this issue.

Also, read about Munishwar Chandra Dawar, the savior of poor patients in the personality section. SHANTI Bill-2025 related to nuclear energy; the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Bill, 2025; a tribute to the great sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar and Union Cabinet Decisions are other highlights. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's article on how 2025 became a year of reforms; and his fortnightly programs, including the inauguration of the Rashtra Prerna Sthal are also part of this issue.

The inside page features "Mann Ki Baat," while the back cover includes special content on the declaration of Siliserh Lake in Alwar, Rajasthan, and Kopra Jalashay near Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, as Ramsar Sites.

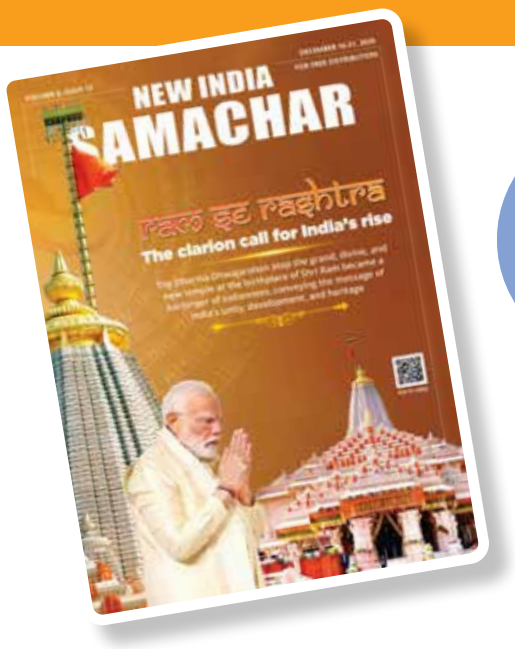
Please continue to send us your suggestions.



(Dhirendra Ojha)

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MAIL BOX



I follow it digitally and read every article with attention

My name is Ramu Verma. I have done my MA in Journalism and Mass Communication. I am following New India Samachar digitally. I read every article carefully. I find it quite outstanding. It keeps me very updated.

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With rapid progress in women's empowerment, the country is becoming self-reliant

It is a matter of pride for Indians that the central government is doing a lot of work towards energy, health, innovation, and structural reforms. This is making the country self-reliant. Rapid progress is being made in national security and women's empowerment. The country is moving forward with the resolve to become a developed nation by 2047. Thank you to New India News magazine for providing updates every fortnightly.

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Very reliable information is available

I regularly receive the New India Samachar magazine. The New India Samachar magazine provides very accurate information that is not available from any other source. The New India Samachar magazine is useful for students preparing for competitive exams. This magazine is also very well designed.

-Sanjay Malviya
akhiri.aghat@gmail.com

Magazine covers every aspect of the Government's schemes

My name is Kumar Chellappan. I live in Kerala, and I am a journalist. I am a regular reader of New India Samachar. This magazine contains all the information about the Government of India's schemes. It also renews confidence in India's progress. This magazine provides multi-faceted informative content that enhances our knowledge.

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Keep me abreast of Central Government projects and schemes

I am working as a Public Prosecutor at the National Investigation Agency, Kochi. I have been reading the New India Samachar magazine for a long time. Through this magazine, I stay updated about the Central Government's projects and schemes.

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Akashvani

Scan the QR code to listen to New India Samachar on All India Radio FM Gold every Saturday-Sunday from 3:10 PM to 3:25 PM.



India Post Unveils First Revamped Gen Z Post Office

The image of post offices in India is undergoing a complete transformation. The GenZ Post Office is a prime example of this change, where postal services have become a vibrant and engaging experience for young people. Here, students can not only avail of services like letters, parcels, and speed post, but also stay connected to the digital world through free Wi-Fi and QR code-based booking. With its cafe-style interior, QR code payments, and modern amenities, India Post is adapting to the new era by understanding the language and needs of young people through the GenZ Post Office.

The government has initiated a project to open modern, Gen Z-themed post offices on college campuses across the country. The first such post office has opened at IIT Delhi, offering students Wi-Fi, QR code-based booking, graffiti art, and smart services. This initiative is connecting young people with postal services in a new and exciting way. These new post offices, equipped with modern facilities, have already opened at institutions like Delhi University, IIT Gandhinagar, and AIIMS-Vijaypur. Soon, 46 more college campuses will have such post offices that seamlessly blend tradition and technology.

Red Roads, Green Intent: India's First Table-Top Red Marking



With the rapid expansion of the highway network in India, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the guidance of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, is redefining infrastructure development. The safety initiative of 'Table-Top Red Marking' on 25 dedicated animal underpasses along a nearly 12-kilometre stretch of National Highway-45, which passes through the sensitive forest and ghat area of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, demonstrates how road engineering can strike a balance between human safety, wildlife conservation, and ecological preservation without compromising on any aspect. With this initiative by NHAI, this section of NH-45 has become the country's first wildlife-safe highway.

Inspired by Dubai's Sheikh Zayed Road, NHAI has implemented India's first 'Table-Top Red Marking' on a national highway. A 5 mm thick, hot-applied thermoplastic red surface layer has been laid on the road in designated hazard zones. The bright red colour immediately alerts drivers that they are entering a speed-restricted and wildlife-sensitive corridor. The slightly raised surface provides a subtle tactile and auditory cue, encouraging drivers to naturally reduce their speed without causing discomfort or requiring sudden braking.

A Major Achievement...

The Heaviest Ever Satellite Launched

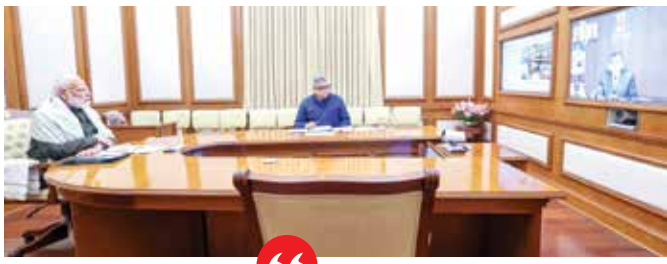
The successful launch of LVM3-M6 is a major achievement in India's space programme. The LVM3-M6-Bluebird Block-2 is a commercial mission. It successfully placed the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil – the American 'Blue Bird Block-2' communication satellite – into Low Earth Orbit. This satellite is part of the new generation of Bluebird Block-2 satellites and can provide mobile broadband service directly to regular mobile phones from space. The Indian launch vehicle has a total weight of approximately 640 tonnes and a height of 43.5 metres. It is capable of carrying a payload of up to 4,200 kg to Geostationary Transfer Orbit. This was the sixth flight of the LVM3. In previous missions, the LVM3 has successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions.

Following the successful launch, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "The successful launch of LVM3-M6 is a moment of pride in India's space journey. It successfully placed the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil – America's Bluebird Block-2 – into its designated orbit. This strengthens India's heavy-lift capability and further enhances our role in the global commercial launch market. This achievement also reflects our efforts towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Heartiest congratulations to our hard-working space scientists and engineers. India is continuously scaling new heights in the field of space.



50th Meeting of 'PRAGATI'

PRAGATI Accelerates Projects Worth ₹85 Lakh Crore



India has witnessed a transformation in the culture of governance over the last decade. When decisions are taken on time, coordination is effective, and accountability is fixed, the pace of government functioning naturally increases. This impact is directly visible in the lives of the citizens.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

The new India no longer delays or derails projects but completes them ahead of schedule. In this regard, on December 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 50th meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled multi-modal platform for proactive governance and timely implementation. The meeting reviewed five crucial infrastructure projects spread across five states, with a total cost exceeding ₹40,000 crore. Over the past decade, the PRAGATI ecosystem has helped accelerate projects worth more than ₹85 lakh crore. Since its inception in 2014, PRAGATI has reviewed 377 projects. Of the 3,162 identified issues in these projects, 2,958 (94%) have been resolved, significantly reducing delays, cost overruns, and coordination failures. On its importance PM Modi said that as India moves forward rapidly, the relevance of PRAGATI has increased even further. PRAGATI is essential to maintain the pace of reforms and ensure implementation. PM Modi stated that the PM-SHRI scheme should become the national standard for holistic and future-ready school education. Its implementation should be outcome-orientated, not infrastructure-centric. He requested all chief secretaries to closely monitor the PM-SHRI scheme. For the next phase of PRAGATI, PM Modi gave the mantra: "Reform to simplify, Perform to deliver, Transform to impact."



2025
THE YEAR OF REFORMS

India, moving forward towards fulfilling its resolve to become a developed nation, added a new milestone in 2025. The year 2025 witnessed cultural resurgence, a new impetus to the economy, progress in agriculture, women's empowerment, upliftment of the poor and youth, advancements in science, maritime development, internal security, and a new recognition at the global stage. In 2025, development became the legacy, and nation-building the guiding principle. Following 11 years of continuous development, 2025 was also marked by significant reforms. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a LinkedIn post highlighting the achievements of the year...

India has emerged as the centre of global attention. This is due to the innovative zeal of our people. Today, the world sees India with hope and confidence. They appreciate the manner in which the pace of progress has been accelerated with next-generation reforms, which are cross-sectoral and amplify the nation's growth potential.

I have been telling many people that India has boarded the Reform Express.

The primary engine of this Reform Express is India's demography, our young generation and the indomitable spirit of our people.

2025 will be remembered as a year for India when it focused on reforms as a continuous national mission, building on the ground covered over the past 11 years. We modernised institutions, simplified governance, and strengthened the foundations for long-term, inclusive growth.

We moved ahead decisively...with higher ambition, faster execution and deeper transformation. The reforms have been about enabling citizens to live with dignity, entrepreneurs to innovate with confidence and institutions to function with clarity and trust.

Let me cite a few examples of the reforms undertaken.



GST reform

- A clean two-slab structure of 5% and 18% has been implemented.
- The burden has been eased on households, MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive sectors.
- The purpose is to ensure dispute reduction and better compliance.
- This reform has boosted consumer sentiment and demand. Sales have grown in the festive season.

Boost to small and medium businesses

- Definition of "small companies" has been expanded to include firms with turnovers up to Rs. 100 crore.
- Compliance burdens and associated costs for thousands of companies will get reduced.

Unparalleled relief for the middle class

- In a first, individuals earning up to Rs. 12 lakh a year faced no income tax at all.
- Obsolete Income-tax Act of 1961 has been replaced with the modern and simple Income Tax Act, 2025.
- Together, these reforms mark India's move towards a transparent, technology-driven tax administration.



100% FDI Insurance reform

- 100% FDI permitted in Indian insurance companies.
- This will give a fillip to insurance penetration and security for the people.
- Apart from enhanced competition, it would offer better insurance choices and improved service delivery for the people.



Maritime and Blue Economy Reforms

- In a single Parliament session, the Monsoon Session, five landmark maritime legislations were passed: the Bills of Lading Act, 2025; the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025; the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2025; the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025; and the Indian Ports Bill, 2025.
- These reforms simplify documentation, make dispute resolution easier and reduce logistics costs.
- Outdated Acts dating back to 1908, 1925 and 1958 have also been replaced.

SECURITIES MARKET REFORM:

- Securities Market Code Bill has been introduced in Parliament. It will enhance governance norms in SEBI, also enhance investor protection, reduce compliance burden and enable a technology-driven securities market for a Viksit Bharat.
- Reforms will ensure savings thanks to reduced compliances and other overheads.

JAN VISHWAS...ENDING THE ERA OF CRIMINALISATION:

- Hundreds of outdated laws have been scrapped.
- 71 Acts have been repealed through the Repealing and Amendment Bill, 2025.

BOOSTING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS:

- A total of 22 QCOs were revoked across synthetic fibres, yarns, plastics, polymers, and base metals, while 53 QCOs were suspended in various steel, engineered, electrical, alloy, and consumer end product categories, covering a broad spectrum of industrial and consumer materials.
- This will increase India's share of apparel exports; lower production costs in diverse industries like footwear, automobiles; ensure lower prices for domestic consumers for electronics, bicycles and automotive products.

HISTORIC LABOUR REFORMS:

- Labour laws have been reshaped, merging 29 fragmented laws into four modern codes.
- India has created a labour framework that secures the interests of workers while boosting the business ecosystem.
- The reforms focus on fair wages, timely payment of wages, smoother industrial relations, social security and safer workplaces.
- They ensure greater female participation in the workforce.
- Unorganised workers including contract workers are brought under the ESIC and EPFO expanding the coverage of formal workforce.

DIVERSIFIED AND EXPANDED MARKETS FOR INDIAN PRODUCTS:

- Trade deals inked with New Zealand, Oman and Britain. These will add to investments, boost job creation and also encourage local entrepreneurs. They reinforce India's position as a trusted and competitive partner in the global economy.
- The FTA with the European Free Trade Association, comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, has been operationalised. This marks India's first FTA with developed European economies.



Nuclear Energy Reforms

- The SHANTI Act is a transformational step in India's clean-energy and technology journey.
- Ensures a strong framework for the safe, secure and responsible expansion of nuclear science and technology.
- Enables India to meet the rising energy demands of the AI era, like powering data centres, advanced manufacturing, green hydrogen and high-technology industries.
- Promotes the peaceful application of nuclear technologies in healthcare, agriculture, food security, water management, industry, research and environmental sustainability, supporting inclusive growth and improved quality of life.
- Opens new pathways for private sector participation, innovation and skill development. Creates opportunities for India's youth to lead in frontier technologies and next-generation energy solutions.
- This is an opportune moment for investors, innovators and institutions to partner with India, to invest, innovate and build a clean, resilient and future-ready energy ecosystem.

A Landmark reform in Rural Employment guarantee

- Viksit Bharat- G RAM G Act, 2025 Rozgar Guarantee framework raises employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.
- This will result in increased spending towards strengthening village infrastructure and livelihoods.
- The aim is to turn rural work into a means to ensure higher incomes and better assets.

Education Reforms

- Bill has been introduced in Parliament.
- Single, unified higher education regulator will be established.
- Multiple overlapping bodies like the UGC, AICTE, NCTE will be replaced with the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan.
- Institutional autonomy will be strengthened, with innovation and research boosted.



What makes the reforms of 2025 significant is not only their dimension but also their underlying philosophy. Our Government has prioritised collaboration over control and facilitation over regulation in the true spirit of a modern democracy.

These reforms were designed with empathy, recognising the realities of small businesses, young professionals, farmers, workers and the middle class. They were shaped by consultation, guided by data and anchored in India's constitutional values. They add momentum to our decade-long efforts to move away from a control-based economy to one that operates within a framework of trust, keeping the citizen at its core.

These reforms are aimed towards building a prosperous and self-reliant India. Building a Viksit Bharat is the polestar of our development trajectory. We will continue pursuing the reform agenda in the coming years.

I urge everyone in India and abroad to deepen their bond with the India growth story.

Keep trusting India and investing in our people!

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

Election Commission of India

Indian Democracy
Voters, Reforms and the Future



India is the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. In a democracy, the people's mandate is supreme, which is fostered by citizens' right to vote. India is not only the world's largest democracy but also most vibrant. In a democracy, the mandate of the people is paramount, and this mandate is determined by the citizens' right to vote. In this backdrop, the purification of the electoral rolls from time to time or making the electoral system more effective through policies, initiatives, and modern technology is a continuous process of empowering and enriching democracy through electoral reforms. The efforts of the past decades have made democracy stronger and more prosperous. Now, as the nation moves towards realizing the vision of a Viksit Bharat, the principle of 'One Person, One Vote, One Value,' as articulated by Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly, forms the basis of present and future reforms...

As the country celebrates its 16th National Voters' Day on January 25th, the year 2026 brings another moment of pride for India. This year, India has assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). On this occasion, let us explore how the power of technology has empowered the people and made India's voting process seamless, effective, and modern.



In India, elections are not only confined to the political process and government formation but are celebrated as a grand festival of democracy, a true people's celebration. India, the land of the world's largest democracy – the mother of democracy – is celebrating its 16th National Voters' Day on January 25th this year. This year's National Voters' Day is special. India has assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). A special campaign for the purification of the electoral rolls is underway in India after two decades. A special discussion on electoral reforms was held in Parliament, the temple of democracy. Most importantly, the country has embarked on the path to becoming a Viksit Bharat by its 100th year of independence, and the Election Commission of India is playing a crucial role in enriching this journey of democracy.

Crores of people in the country exercise their electoral suffrage to elect their representatives. This is the true spirit of a democratic republic. This is the cornerstone upon which the magnificent structure of Indian democracy is built. After independence, India adopted parliamentary democracy as its system of governance. In this system, representatives are elected through universal adult suffrage. The framers of the Constitution attached a lot of importance to the Election Commission, which is self-evident in its establishment. The Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950, and the Election Commission came into existence a day earlier, on January 25, 1950. The Election Commission was established a day before the country became a republic because the framers of the Constitution knew that a vibrant democracy is only possible with a fair and robust electoral system. There is no doubt that the Election Commission was a very important institution for the framers of the Constitution. Article 324 of the Constitution vests the Election Commission with the power to conduct elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, State Legislative Councils, and for the offices of Vice-President and President. The Election Commission, which has conducted 18 Lok Sabha elections and more than 400 state assembly elections to date, has proven its relevance since January 25, 1950.

A RICH TRADITION OF DEMOCRACY

India is today a lodestar of global democracy. In any democratic country, the word 'election' symbolizes the active and direct participation of the citizens in the formation of a government. The international community now recognizes India as one of the world's most robust democracies. The Election Commission of India, as an independent constitutional body, has played a

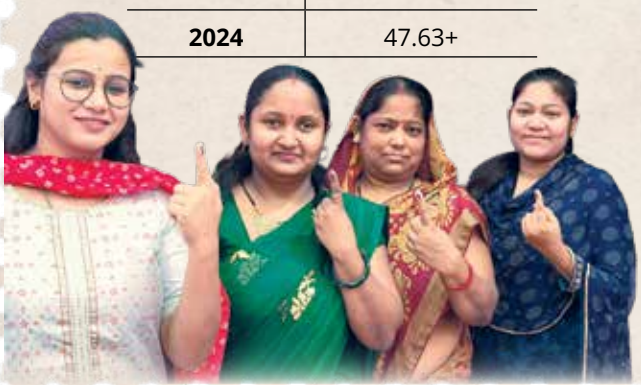
Democracy

Increasing Participation of Women in Indian Democracy

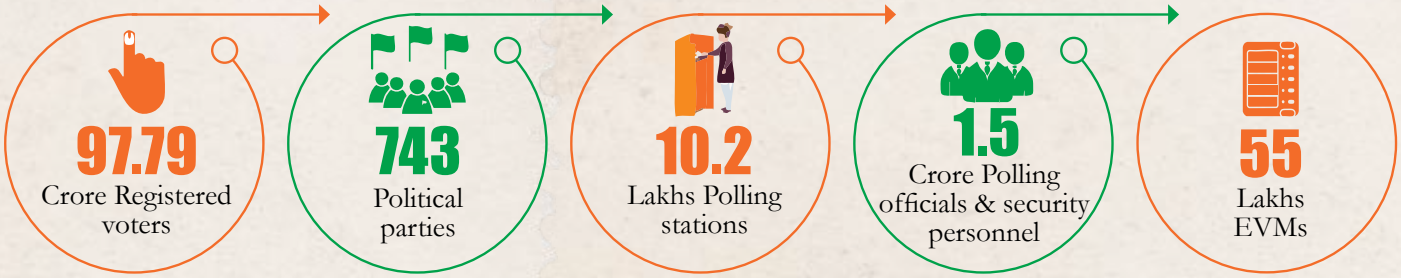
Number of Female Voters (1952-2024)

Year of Election	Number of Female Voters
1952	-
1957	9.21+
1962	-
1967	-
1971	13.06+
1977	15.41+
1980	17.06+
1984-85	19.23+
1989	23.68+
1991-92	24.25+
1996	28.27+
1998	28.91+
1999	29.57+
2004	32.19+
2009	34.22+
2014	39.70+
2019	43.85+
2024	47.63+

(Voter figures in crore)

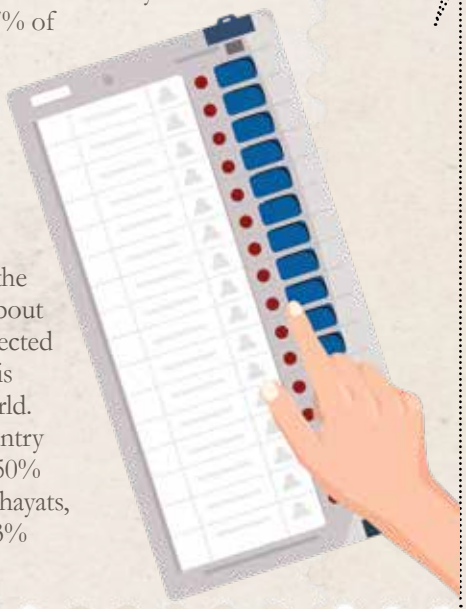


The World's Largest Electoral Exercise-2024



Law passed for 33% reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

Women's participation in democracy is increasing not only in voting but also in leadership roles. While only 3% of candidates were women in the second general election in 1957, this number has increased to 10% in 2024. The number of elected women members, which was 22 in the first Lok Sabha and 27 in the second Lok Sabha, has increased to 78 in the 17th Lok Sabha and 75 in the 18th Lok Sabha. The country passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in 2023, which provides for a one-third reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. In the Rajya Sabha as well, the total number of women members was 15 in 1952, which is currently 42. This is approximately 17% of the total members. Meanwhile, there are approximately 1.45 million elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions across the country, which is about 46% of the total elected representatives. This is unique in the world. 21 states in the country have provided for 50% reservation in Panchayats, compared to the 33% mandated.



How many voters were registered in each Lok Sabha?

Election	Number of Voters	Voting
First	17.32+	45.67%
Second	19.36+	47.74%
Third	21.63+	55.42%
Fourth	25.02+	61.04%
Fifth	27.41+	55.27%
Sixth	32.11+	60.49%
Seventh	35.62+	56.92%
Eighth	40.03+	64.01%
Ninth	49.89+	61.95%
10th	51.15+	55.88%
11th	59.25+	57.94%
12th	60.58+	61.97%
13th	61.95+	59.99%
14th	67.14+	58.07%
15th	71.69+	58.21%
16th	83.40+	66.44%
17th	91.15+	67.40%
18th	97.79+	65.79%

(Voter figures in crore)

crucial role in achieving this recognition for the country. Indeed, India has a rich history of republicanism. The democratic values, nurtured through India's Constitution after independence, draw their inspiration from a republican tradition that is thousands of years old. Perhaps this is why, at a time when concerns are being raised about the weakening of democratic institutions worldwide, democracy in India continues to strengthen. From the traditions of Vaishali, Kapilavastu, and Mithila, India has learned that no single class or dynasty can

We will not allow a single illegal immigrant to vote in this country. This is our policy - Detect, Delete, remove their names from the voter list, and Deport them. We will detect, delete, and deport through the constitutional process.

Amit Shah, *Union Home Minister*
(During the discussion on electoral reforms in the Lok Sabha)

have a monopoly on governance. In a democracy, the will of the people is supreme. The backbone of the electoral process is informed voters. The journey of the Election Commission of India began just one day before India embarked on its journey as a democratic republic. The Election Commission has consistently taken appropriate measures to ensure the effectiveness of the electoral process. By building a strong electoral system, the Election Commission of India has set an example for the entire world.

People around the world have fought hard to get the right to vote. As a member of the Constituent Assembly, the leading constitutional expert Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer described adult suffrage as the cornerstone of the success of a democratic system of government. In the United States, which is a leading country among developed nations and considered a paragon of democracy, the right to vote was obtained only after decades of struggle and unwavering courage and perseverance. In Britain, too, women had to wage a long battle to gain the right to vote. But in independent India, from the very beginning, all citizens aged 21 years or older were granted the right to vote. Later, the voting age was reduced to 18 years. Without any discrimination based on qualification, religion, race, or caste, all men and women, rich or poor, have the right to vote, and the value of every individual's vote is considered equal. The inclusive nature of the Indian Constitution could be understood from the perspective of global campaigns for women's suffrage.

A country like the United States gained independence in 1776, but it took 144 years to grant women the right to vote. In England, from where India adopted the parliamentary system, women above 30 years of age received the right to vote in 1918, and all women were granted suffrage in 1928. In contrast, in India, women received the right to vote from the very first day. When the Constituent Assembly debate on this issue was getting misdirected, Babasaheb Ambedkar said that many countries would gain independence after India, and India should lead the way in giving universal suffrage. He said that if we grant suffrage to everyone and adopt the principle of one person, one vote, one value, its impact would be felt worldwide. When Babasaheb said this in the Constituent Assembly, someone asked why women were being given the right to vote, as

Election

Commission has conducted 18 Lok Sabha and over 400 Assembly elections

In the 75 years since its establishment, the Election Commission has conducted 18 general elections, numerous Rajya Sabha elections, over 400 assembly elections, and 16 elections for the posts of President and 17 for Vice-President. As per Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Election Commission of India is responsible for preparing electoral rolls and conducting all elections to Parliament and the Legislature of each State, and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution define the functions, responsibilities, structure, and powers of the Election Commission.



Global role

Election Commission of India playing a significant role internationally



The Election Commission of India not only ensures free and fair elections in India but is also playing a crucial role in strengthening democratic electoral processes worldwide. India has emerged as a global leader in the field of election management.

India has been a founding member of International IDEA since 1995. This organization works to strengthen democracy and electoral institutions worldwide. In 2026, India's Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, will be its Council Chair. During this period, India's focus will be on "inclusive, peaceful, robust and sustainable democracy," and sharing India's electoral experience with the world through IIIDEM.

Training provided to participants from 142 countries

The Commission has signed agreements with election management bodies of 28 countries and three international organizations. The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management was established in June 2011. During these 15 years, this institution has organized international-level training programs in which approximately 3170 participants from 142 countries have participated. The Election Commission has sent its observers and experts to countries like Egypt, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Mexico, Namibia, and Guinea.

they would only vote according to the head of the family. To this, Babasaheb replied, "That is not the case. Indian women are intelligent, and when they participate, democracy will be strengthened." Today, the results are visible, with women participating in large numbers in the voting process.

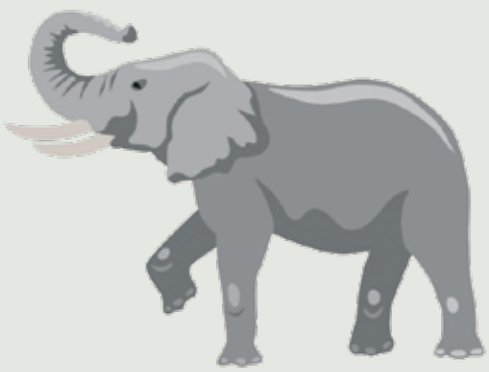
SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION: THE BASIS OF PURIFICATION

What is Special Intensive Revision (SIR)? If a voter is deceased, then his name should be removed from the voter list. Those who have turned 18 should have their names added. Those who are registered as voters in more than one place should have their names removed, and the names of foreign nationals should be carefully removed. This is intensive revision. This is the purification of the electoral roll. Due to rapid urbanization, migration for education and employment, and other socio-economic changes, citizens' places of residence change

Election Anecdotes

Team deployed to protect against jumbos

The incident occurred in the 55 Salmanpara polling area of Meghalaya. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, forest department officials had to hold an emergency meeting to keep elephants away from this polling area. After the meeting, it was decided that five teams of forest personnel would be deployed in the places where elephants could cause trouble to protect the 19 polling stations from them.



The discussion on 'One Nation-One Voter List' and 'One Nation-One Election' should continue. When there is dialogue, when both sides come together, and there is deliberation, only then will the best solution emerge. This discussion should not stop; it should continue uninterrupted. This is the best path in a democracy.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

frequently, making it necessary to ascertain where they live. Often, people register in a new constituency but fail to remove their names from their previous constituency. This sometimes leads to multiple registrations. Illegal immigration is a major problem today; therefore, revision of the electoral roll is essential in a democracy. Recently, the Supreme Court clearly stated that the Election Commission has the statutory and constitutional right to conduct the SIR process for the electoral roll throughout the country.

What Baba Saheb Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly forms the basis of electoral reform in India and also the basis of SIR. He said, "In politics, we advocate the principle of one person, one vote, one value." This is the thinking of the Election Commission today. One person should have only one vote, and that vote should have equal value. According to Baba Saheb, the names of ineligible voters should not be on the electoral roll, and the names of eligible people should not be omitted. This is the basis of the Special Electoral Revision (SIR) campaign today. Under this process, no eligible person should be left out of the electoral roll and deprived of their right to vote. Similarly, no ineligible person should be included. To ensure this, the Election Commission conducts the SIR process periodically.

Under the constitutional framework, the Election Commission of India is mandated to prepare the electoral roll under Article 324. The Constituent Assembly itself granted it these powers. This means that maintain-

New Rules for the Appointment of Election Commissioners

A process for the appointment of election commissioners has been established based on the Supreme Court's suggestion. Both Houses of Parliament passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, in December 2023. This Act replaced the old Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991. According to the Search Committee panel, a three-member committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition, or in the absence of a recognised Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the largest opposition party, will finalize a name. The appointment will be made after the President's approval. Before the new law came into effect, election commissioners were appointed by the president on the recommendation of the government, and traditionally, the senior-most was appointed as the chief election commissioner.





Evolution of the Electoral System in India

- India is the world's largest democracy and has been a leading proponent of electoral democracy for the past seven decades. When the country gained independence on August 15, 1947, planning and conducting general elections to elect a representative government based on universal adult suffrage was one of the top priorities.
- The Election Commission was formally constituted on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a sovereign democratic republic.
- The Constitution empowers the Election Commission to be a single-member or multi-member body depending on the requirements from time to time. The first Chief Election Commissioner was appointed on March 21, 1950. The current Commission has three members, including Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with two Election Commissioners, Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi.



1950	**The Election Commission was formally constituted.**
1989	**On October 16, 1989, the Election Commission was converted into a 3-member body.**
1990	**On January 1, 1990, the Election Commission was again converted into a single-member body.**
1993	**On October 1, 1993, the Election Commission was again converted into a 3-member body.**

ing a reliable electoral roll is a constitutional responsibility of the Commission. According to this article, the Commission is empowered with the authority to supervise, direct, and control the preparation of the electoral roll and the conduct of elections to Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. This constitutional body is further empowered by the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER-1960). Article 326 also stipulates that every citizen of India who has attained the age of 18 years on a specified date and is not disqualified under any law has the right to be registered as a voter. Furthermore,

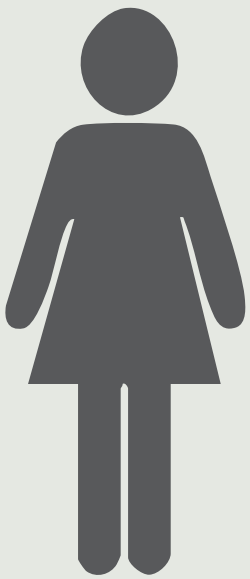
The term of office of Election Commissioners is 6 years

The Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners are given the same salary and allowances as a judge of the Supreme Court. All three commissioners have equal powers in decision-making. In case of a difference of opinion on any matter, the decision is taken by a majority vote. The term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and the other two Election Commissioners is 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Election Anecdotes

Women Refused to Disclose Their Names

When the first general election was announced in the country, representatives of the Election Commission went from village to village to collect election-related information and data. During their visits to the villages, they encountered a large number of women who refused to share their names with strangers. Instead, these women identified themselves as someone's wife, mother, daughter, sister, or widow. As a result, 28 lakh names were removed from the electoral rolls during the first general election.



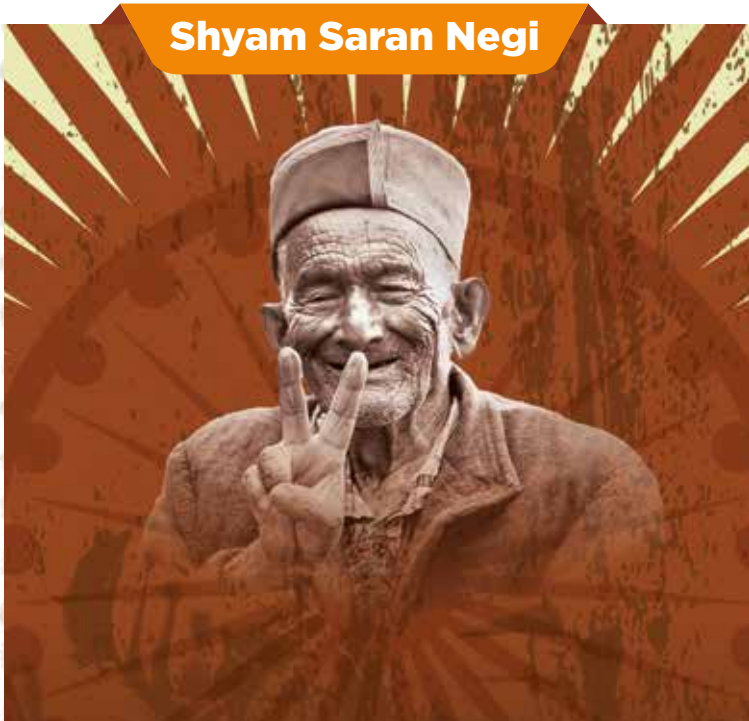
During the first Lok Sabha election in the country, there were 17.32 crore voters, a number that has now crossed 97 crore in the 2024 elections. Managing this more than fivefold increase in the number of voters would not have been possible without EVMs and VVPATs.

Sections 16, 19, and the Representation of the People Act, 1950, lay down the basic eligibility criteria for enrollment. These criteria are: the applicant must be an Indian citizen, mentally sound, have completed 18 years of age on a specified date, and be a resident of the concerned constituency. It is the constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure that only eligible citizens are included in the electoral roll. This is crucial for maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the electoral roll and for conducting free and fair elections. Removing ineligible voters and duplicate entries from the electoral roll ensures transparency, which strengthens democracy.

Provision 21 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, stipulates that the electoral roll for each constituency should undergo a Special Intensive Revision or Summary Revision as directed by the Election Commission. This revision is conducted four times a year, and the roll is amended accordingly. The Constitution grants the Election Commission full authority to conduct a thorough revision of the electoral roll. This is not the first time that SIR (Special Intensive Revision) has been conducted in the country; it has been done several times before. Summary Revision is a routine updating process, while SIR is a comprehensive process. In SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conduct a house-to-house enumeration. The country's first general election was held in 1952, and the first Special Intensive Review (SIR) was conducted in the same year. The second SIR took place in 1957, the third in 1961, followed by one in 1965-66. Others were conducted in 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, and 1995. Then there were reviews in 2002 and 2003. No special intensive review has been conducted in the last two decades. Therefore, the most recent SIR is happening in 2025-26, after a gap since 2004.

Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, says that, along with the continuous reformative initiatives of the Election Commission, National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on January 25th to commemorate the establishment of the Commission. The Election Commission organises a ceremony on this day with political parties of the country and foreign representatives. In these ceremonies, foreign representatives have consistently praised India's Election Commission, its electoral system, and the conduct of elections.

Shyam Saran Negi



First Voter of Independent India

Shyam Saran Negi, the first voter of independent India, voted continuously for more than 70 years and fulfilled his duty even in his final days by casting his vote through a postal ballot on November 2, 2022. He exercised his right to vote a total of 34 times. Shyam Saran Negi passed away on November 5, 2022, at the age of 106 in his ancestral village of Kalpa in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh.

Reforms Implemented by the Election Commission

In recent years, the Election Commission has implemented more than 30 institutional, administrative, and technical reforms to strengthen democracy, enhance voter convenience, and ensure transparency in the electoral process...

- A special intensive revision was conducted in Bihar after 2 decades to ensure that no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll.
- Voter services have been digitised through online platforms. Voters can now apply online for adding, deleting, or correcting their names. The process has become easier and saves time.
- For the first time in the 18th Lok Sabha elections, voters aged 85 years and above and persons with disabilities were provided with the facility of voting from home. For this, polling officers were visiting their homes with ballot boxes.
- While postal ballot counting is usually completed before the counting of EVMs begins, the Commission has now decided that at counting centres where postal ballots are being counted, the second-to-last round of EVM/VVPAT counting will only be conducted after the completion of postal ballot counting.
- Mobile phone deposit facilities at polling stations for the convenience of voters on polling day. A maximum of 1,200 voters per polling station to reduce crowding.
- The problem of multiple individuals having the same EPIC number has been eliminated.
- Changes in the design of the voter information slip so that the voter's serial number and part number are more clearly visible. Colour photographs of candidates on EVMs for better identification and clarity.
- 808 registered but unrecognised political parties were delisted in two phases for consistently failing to comply with essential registration requirements.
- Standard photo identity cards were issued to Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The honorarium of BLOs was doubled, and the honorarium of BLO supervisors, polling/counting personnel, CAPF, surveillance teams, and micro-observers was increased.

National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on January 25th to commemorate the establishment of the Election Commission. The Election Commission organises a ceremony on this day with political parties of the country and foreign representatives. In these ceremonies, foreign representatives, in particular, have consistently praised the Election Commission of India, its electoral system, and the conduct of elections.

Election Anecdotes

Ballot Boxes Found Decorated with Flowers in 1952

When the first general election was held in India in 1952, some of the ballot boxes, after the voting with ballot papers, were found decorated with flowers and smeared with vermilion. This shows that during this election, people considered the ballot box or ballot papers as objects of worship. In addition, many boxes contained various items besides ballot papers, such as notes wishing for success, pictures of film stars, coins, currency notes, etc.



Technology Enhances Transparency in the Festival of Democracy

To enhance voter convenience and make the election process transparent, the Election Commission has adopted several technological measures, making the voting process easier, safer, and more reliable...



- The Election Commission has increased the use of IT applications to bring about greater citizen participation and transparency.

- Technical and administrative SOPs have been prepared for the inspection and verification of the EVM memory/microcontroller after the declaration of election results.



- The process of creating index cards and statistical reports has been simplified so that election-related data can be shared quickly at the constituency level.

- **ECINET Platform:** An integrated digital platform, ECINET, has been launched, connecting more than 40 apps and websites for voters and other stakeholders.



- 100% webcasting has been arranged at all polling stations for continuous monitoring of the voting process.
- VVPAT counting will be ensured in every case of discrepancy between Form 17C and EVM data.
- Death registration data has been integrated so that Electoral Registration Officers receive timely information about registered deaths.
- A new SOP has been implemented to ensure the delivery of EPIC cards within 15 days of updating the voter list, with SMS notifications at every stage.

C-Vigil Application for reporting violations of the Model Code of Conduct



Suvidha Portal: This portal provides various types of facilities to candidates and political parties for online nominations, permissions, etc., as follows:

- An online portal has been launched for candidates to file online nomination affidavits.



- **Candidate Permissions Module:** Through the permissions module of the Suvidha portal, candidates, political parties, or any representative of the candidate can apply online for permissions for meetings, rallies, loudspeakers, and temporary offices.

- The Election Commission has developed its "Know Your Candidate" application to provide information about the criminal history of candidates.



- **Voter Services Portal:** Through (https://voters.eci.gov.in/), citizens can view the electoral roll, apply for a voter ID card, apply online for corrections in the voter ID card, and find the contact number of the Block Level Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. Some similar tasks can be done on the phone using the Voter Helpline mobile app.





- **Persons with Disabilities (Saksham) Application App:** The Saksham app is for persons with disabilities.

- **National Grievance Service Portal (NGSP):** This is a national grievance service portal. Citizens can avail of the service using the link https://voters.eci.gov.in.



- **Integrated Election Expenditure Monitoring System (IEMS):** This is a user-friendly, secure online platform that enables political parties to submit documents such as contribution reports, annual audit accounts, and election expenditure online.



- The Voter Turnout app is used by certified turnout officers to record voter turnout for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
- The counting data entered by Returning Officers related to the results website and result trends is available on the 'Commission Results Website'.

Election Anecdotes

Polling Station for Five Voters on the Siachen Glacier Peak

In the remote region of Ladakh, a polling station was set up in Warshi, just 17 kilometers from the Siachen Base Camp, for only 5 voters from a single family. This is the last village before the outposts on the high peaks of Siachen. Since there was no permanent building other than the voters' house, the polling station was set up in a tent.



The opportunities available to you in the future of India will depend on those who govern the country during this period. Therefore, the responsibility of electing the right people rests on you, the young voters. It is essential for you to vote to ensure a bright future for India. So remember, your single vote and the direction of the country's development are interconnected.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

LAW ENACTED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO APPOINT ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

The law for the appointment of Election Commissioners – the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 – was passed on March 2, 2023. Previously, there was no law; appointments were made based on a system that was in place. The Supreme Court drew attention to this matter, and Parliament enacted the law. For 73 years, there was no law governing the appointment of election commissioners in this country. From 1950 to 1979, the Election Commission was a single-member body. The Prime Minister made the appointments directly. Then the Election Commission was made a multi-member body. This means that from 1950 to 2023, there was no law for the appointment of election commissioners. In 2023, a case, Anoop Baranwal vs. Union of India, came before the Supreme Court. In that case, the Supreme Court said that the appointment of election commissioners should be more transparent. This was a suggestion, not an order. The government agreed and said that it would require consultation with all stakeholders, which would take some time. The Supreme Court then suggested that until a law is enacted, a committee should be formed comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Leader of the Opposition. The central government agreed to this. Subsequently, in 2023, Parliament enacted a law under which the Leader of the Opposition, a minister designated by the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister himself would discuss and appoint the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

Election Process

EVMs and VVPATs have made it easier, with multiple levels of verification

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) are now used at every polling station. There is a process for allocating which EVM and VVPAT will be used where; they are assigned randomly. After the symbols are loaded into the EVMs, a mock poll of 1000 votes is conducted on 5% of the EVMs, which the candidates or their representatives have the right to observe...



Law Changed for EVMs in 1989

1982 EVMs were first used in the Paravur by-election in Kerala in 1982. It was challenged in court, and therefore could not be used again until 1989.

1989 On March 15, 1989, the central government led by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi amended the law to introduce EVMs.

1998 In 1998, it was trialed in only 16 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

2002 When a petition was filed against EVMs, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court upheld the legal amendments regarding EVMs in 2002.

2004 In 2004, EVMs were used for the first time throughout the country. They have been in use ever since.





VVPAT



State Chief Electoral Officers were instructed to use only GPS-enabled vehicles for transporting EVMs and VVPATs from one place to another during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. A mock poll of 50 votes is conducted and tallied at each polling station 90 minutes before the start of polling.

- Amidst allegations and counter-allegations, the Election Commission introduced VVPATs after 5 years of research.
- Following allegations of discrepancies between EVMs and VVPATs, the Election Commission decided to match 5 per cent of EVM and VVPAT slips. When the matching was done, the votes were found to be equal in both instances. Political party agents sign off on the results of the EVMs and VVPATs.
- The slips of randomly selected VVPATs are counted through a draw of lots in the presence of the candidate or their agent to verify the results obtained from the control unit.

Election Anecdotes

The polling party and material reached Kargil by helicopter

The Ralakung, Phema, and Shade polling stations in the Zanskar sub-division of Kargil district are located in a very high-altitude and landslide-prone area. Movement is difficult there. Considering this, in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the polling party, including security personnel and micro-observers, was transported with the help of helicopters, with assistance from the Air Force and the Army. After the completion of the elections, the entire machinery, including EVMs and VVPATs, was transported to the counting centre with the help of helicopters.



INDIA: A GUIDING LIGHT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The vastness and diversity of India's democracy are a matter of pride. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has played a crucial role in this glorious journey of democracy. So far, the ECI has successfully conducted 18 general elections and more than 400 state assembly elections. To conduct the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, more than 10 lakh polling stations were set up, with around 15 million staff – including security personnel, polling officers, and staff – actively participating.

I urge all eligible voters, whether men or women, to exercise their right to vote. I request my young friends to register themselves as voters as soon as they attain 18 years of age.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

Nearly 650 million voters exercised their franchise in this election. The magnitude of this number can be gauged from the fact that the total population of the 27 countries of the European Union is approximately 440 million. India is now moving towards a system of 'one nation, one election'. In this regard, the Union Cabinet has already approved the report of the 'One Nation, One Election' committee, chaired by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, which was approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2023.

> *Elections, a festival of democracy, have become a source of pride for the nation. To make it even more effective, the Election Commission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, is including electoral literacy in the curriculum. This will prove successful in making students aware of a crucial civic duty, as young people are the future custodians of Indian democracy.*

The celebration of democracy has become a source of national pride. To make it even more effective, the inclusion of electoral literacy in the school curriculum by the Election Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Education will prove successful in making students aware of this extremely important duty of citizenship, because young Indians are the future custodians of democracy.

The growing credibility of the Election Commission of India, which is setting new benchmarks, is reflected in the fact that India's Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, has assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International

SIR

SIR ensures accurate information and reliability

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) aims to ensure the accuracy, correctness, and reliability of the electoral roll. SIR is conducted when the Election Commission feels that a thorough re-examination of the electoral roll is necessary. In independent India, SIR has been conducted eight times between 1951 and 2004. Such a campaign had not been undertaken for almost two decades until it was launched in Bihar in 2025, following a clearly defined process, fixed timeline, and phased approach.

Over the past two decades, the electoral roll has undergone several changes. People have changed their residences, names of individuals have been registered in multiple places, names of deceased persons have not been removed, and names of ineligible persons have been added. Questions have been raised several times regarding the quality of the electoral roll, which led to the need for SIR. Eligibility is strictly checked under SIR according to Article 326 of the Constitution. A voter must be an Indian citizen, have completed 18 years of age, be an ordinary resident of the concerned area, and not be disqualified under any law.

The SIR campaign in the country was launched on October 28, 2025, and is to be completed by February 7, 2026. In the second phase of SIR, the process is being carried out in 12 states and union territories. This process will result in a clean electoral roll and further strengthen the foundation of free, fair, and reliable elections in the country.

Under the first phase of the SIR campaign, the process was completed in Bihar, where no appeals were filed. The Election Commission believes that this completes the statutory



process. In the second phase, the process was conducted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. This phase involved approximately 51 crore voters. In this phase, 5.33 lakh polling stations were set up, where Booth Level Officers (BLOs) carried out their responsibilities.

SIR has been conducted 8 times

First	1952-56
Second	1957-61
Third	1965-66
Fourth	1983-84
Fifth	1987-89
Sixth	1992-93
Seventh	1995
Eighth	2002-04



The principle of "one person, one vote" has been strengthened

- Wherever SIR has been conducted so far, new voters have been added. Names of deceased and permanently shifted individuals have been removed.
- The voter list has become more accurate and reliable.
- This strengthens the principle of "one person, one vote" and increases public confidence in the electoral process.

What is the process?

- The most important aspect of this process is that the BLO (Booth Level Officer) has to visit each household at least three times, if necessary, to distribute and collect enumeration forms and to cross-check them with old SIR records.
- This helps in identifying cases of death, permanent relocation, or duplicate entries.
- This entire process involves the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO), District Election Officer, and Booth Level Agents appointed by recognized political parties.
- SIR involves door-to-door verification. The Booth Level Officer of each polling station visits the voter's house, distributes and collects the enumeration form.
- They cross-check the information with old records and identify cases of death, permanent relocation, or duplicate entries. The details are verified at multiple levels.
- After this, the preliminary list is published. There is a legal provision for filing a first appeal with the District Magistrate and a second appeal with the Chief Electoral Officer in case of objections.

IDEA) for the year 2026. This chairmanship is a significant achievement that grants the Election Commission of India global recognition as one of the world's most reliable and innovative election management bodies (EMBs). As a founding member of the Council of Member States of International IDEA, India has consistently contributed to the organization's governance, democratic dialogue, and institutional initiatives. It has continuously upheld the dignity of the faith reposed in it by the framers of the Constitution.

The scale on which elections are conducted in India amazes people around the world. The efficiency with which our Election Commission conducts these elections naturally makes every citizen proud of the Election Commission. In our country, every effort is made to ensure that every Indian citizen who is a registered voter gets the opportunity to cast their vote.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

India is one of the few countries in the world where the Election Commission can issue notices to people and transfer officials. Such official powers are not available even to the election commissions of many democratic countries. Therefore, India's Election Commission and its electoral process serve as a benchmark for many countries. In recognition of its commendable efforts in strengthening democracy worldwide, the Chief Election Commissioner of India was elected as the Chairman of the Association of World Election Bodies in September 2020. Within seven decades of gaining independence, India has emerged as a champion of democratic ideals globally. This achievement is a testament to the invaluable contributions of everyone, from the Election Commission to ordinary citizens in the smallest villages of the country. Every constitutional institution in India has upheld the dignity of the Election Commission. Regardless of the political party, everyone has always abided by the Election Commission's orders. The Supreme Court, our courts, and everyone else have consistently supported the Election Commission. They have ensured that there are no obstacles in the implementation of the Election Commission's

Judicial decisions

Brought Transformational Reforms

While the Election Commission is the constitutional guardian of free and fair elections in the country, several historic and transformative reforms that strengthen the right to vote in areas where the Constitution was silent have come about through the judiciary. The court clarified that the right to vote is not merely a legal right but also a crucial aspect of the freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution...

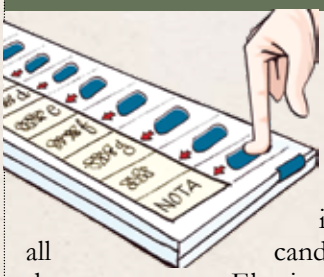
Disclosure of Candidates' Background (Affidavit)

Before 2002, voters in the country did not have access to information about the background of the candidates. Then, in a case, the Supreme Court ordered that every candidate contesting an election must file an affidavit disclosing their criminal background, the assets and liabilities of themselves, their spouse, and their dependents, as well as their educational qualifications. This enabled voters to make informed choices based on the honesty and competence of the candidates, rather than just caste and party affiliation. It also made it possible to monitor the unusual increase in the assets of leaders, thereby increasing transparency.



In the first general election in 1952, 27,527 polling booths were reserved for women voters.

'None of the Above' (NOTA)



In the PUCL vs. Union of India case in 2013, the Supreme Court held that the right to freedom of expression of a voter includes the right to reject all candidates. The court directed the Election Commission to provide a NOTA button on the EVMs. Previously, if a voter did not want to vote, they had to fill out Form 17A, which revealed their identity.

Immediate Disqualification of Convicted Public Representatives



In the Lily Thomas vs. Union of India (2013) case, the Supreme Court struck down Section 8(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Earlier, under this provision, a convicted MP or MLA could remain in office for three months by filing an appeal. Now, a sentence of two years or more results in immediate disqualification.

This is a strong step against the criminalisation of politics. It also established that those who break the law cannot be lawmakers. Politicians and ordinary citizens are equal before the law.

VVPAT System

In 2013, recognising the importance of voter confidence for fair elections, the Supreme Court directed the implementation of the VVPAT system along with EVMs. This allows voters to verify for 7 seconds that their vote has been recorded in favour of the correct candidate.



Election Anecdotes

Election Team trekked 18 km for One Vote

The Election Commission introduced the 'Vote from Home' facility for voters above 85 years of age and those with disabilities in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Under this scheme, a 92-year-old bedridden man in Edamalakkudy, Idukki Lok Sabha constituency, Kerala, applied to vote. To enable him to exercise his right to vote via ballot paper, a polling team, including three women, trekked 18 kilometres through the forest for several hours, a journey that took approximately 5 hours. The voter, Sivalingam, took the help of his grandson, Mohanan, to cast his vote.



orders and in the electoral process. In the old days, there were separate ballot boxes of different colours for different candidates, into which people cast their votes. In the first general election, the ballot boxes were of different colours, each bearing the symbol of a candidate or party. From that

There is a very important institution in our country, which is an integral part of our democracy and is even older than our republic – January 25th is the founding day of the Election Commission, which is celebrated as 'National Voters' Day'. I extend my best wishes to all of you on National Voters' Day. We salute the crucial role of the Election Commission in democracy. Elections are a celebration of democracy. They express the will of the people, which is paramount in a democracy.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

era, India has progressed to voting with the help of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). There was a time when counting of votes took several days after polling. But now, with the help of EVMs, the results are declared within a few hours.

Voting in an election is like a sacred ritual in a republic, where every vote is like participating in yagna. This event reminds all of us of our duty towards our country, that every vote matters, and that voting is essential for every adult citizen. The concept of an independent Election Commission and the electoral process, enshrined in the Indian Constitution, the symbol of democracy, makes every individual's vote significant, along with the rights to equality and freedom. This is why Indian democracy is known worldwide for its maturity and stability. All the credit for this goes to the Indian voter, and this power has been bestowed upon the voter by our Constitution. In every general election, the Indian

Myth/ Reality

Myth: 501 votes were cast from a single house in Haryana

Reality: The Election Commission has clarified that House Number 265 is not a small house. Many families are living on a one-acre ancestral plot. Each family's house number is not given separately; everyone uses House Number 265. Three generations of a family live together.

Myth: A voter in Bihar is 124 years old, Subodh Kumar BLA's name never appeared on the list, and Ranju Devi's name was forcibly removed after being called out.

Reality: The voter Minata Devi from Bihar is 34 years old, but Minata Devi herself stated that she applied online, which resulted in the age being printed as 124 years. The information that Subodh Kumar BLA's name was not on the voter list turned out to be incorrect. Ranju Devi admitted that she had given false information.



Acceptance Address as Chair of International IDEA Council

Dignitaries from the best democracies of the World, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I am from India and will therefore begin by telling you about India.
- India is the mother of democracy and today, it is also the largest democracy in the world.
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body and conducts elections to the Office of President, Vice President, Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils as its constitutional responsibility.
- With more than 900 million voters across 28 States and 8 Union Territories in India, the Election Commission of India has nearly 75 years of experience in conducting transparent elections & preparing accurate electoral rolls based on eligibility.
- While conducting Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission of India becomes the largest organisation in the world, with over 1 million personnel.
- Today, every Indian feels honoured to see India in a prestigious position as the Chair of Council of member States of International IDEA, a renowned institution comprising 35 democratic countries and 2 observer nations.
- As Chief Election Commissioner of India, I, Gyanesh Kumar, on behalf of all citizens of India, express my greetings to the representatives of all countries, and accept the Chairship of Council of member States of International IDEA.
- As the Chair, I assure you that during my tenure, with the cooperation among all democratic nations, we will work in an exemplary manner to further strengthen and enhance transparency in democracy and democratic processes across the world.

Jai Hind, Jai Bharat









electorate has consistently strengthened the faith of the Constitution's framers in this system. The Election Commission has done remarkable work in this regard. Furthermore, the Election Commission's inclusive initiatives have increased voter turnout, further strengthening voter confidence. This has earned the Election Commission of India a strong reputation worldwide. Therefore, as President Droupadi Murmu says, all the dedicated officers and employees involved in the electoral process deserve to be called Rastra Sevaks. Non-governmental organizations that contribute to making our country's electoral process more efficient also deserve appreciation.

When elections were first held in India in 1951-52, there was apprehension that democracy would not survive. But proving all those apprehensions wrong, India, the mother of democracy, is now becoming a guiding light for the world. The Election Commission's continuous innovations and initiatives have transformed the indelible ink mark on the finger into a fashion statement. It is always important to remember that voting is the most sacred act for strengthening democracy. Undoubtedly, India's democracy will continue to set new standards for the global community, and in this journey, the country's voters and the Election Commission will continue to establish new benchmarks of participation and excellence. ●

New Employment Guarantee for Rural India

The New Avatar of MNREGA
Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Bill

The welfare of villages and the poor has been a top priority for the central government. Over the past decade, several schemes and programmes have been launched to increase employment and self-employment opportunities for them. The Parliament passed the Viksit Bharat - Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) Bill 2025, also known as the 'Viksit Bharat – G Ram Ji' Bill, which has now become law after receiving presidential assent. This law will transform the face of villages and guarantee 125 days of employment to every family in a financial year. This will strengthen Mahatma Gandhi's vision of self-reliant and developed villages...

The new avatar of MNREGA, the 'Viksit Bharat-G Ram Ji Bill 2025', is not just an employment scheme but a blueprint for making rural India self-reliant. Learning from the experiences of MNREGA, the government aims to create a system that, along with providing employment, strengthens sustainable development and livelihood opportunities in rural areas. This is because achieving the objective of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 requires a transformative approach to rural development. This is why the wage employment guarantee for rural households has been increased from 100 days to 125 days per year in a financial year. One of the main objectives of the bill is to align the rural development framework with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. This can prove to be a decisive step towards poverty reduction and the creation of sustainable infrastructure in villages.

Since its implementation in 2005, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) has played a crucial role in providing wage employment, stabilising rural incomes, and building basic infrastructure. Over time, the infrastructure and aspirations of rural India have changed significantly. Increased incomes, enhanced connectivity, widespread digital access, and diversified livelihoods have transformed the nature of rural employment needs. This is why the central government introduced the Viksit Bharat-Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) Bill, 2025, in Parliament. This bill replaces MNREGA with comprehensive statutory changes that strengthen accountability, infrastructure outcomes, and income security. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the VB-G Ram Ji Bill, 2025, on December 21.



Four Pillars of Rural Employment's to Strengthen Infrastructure

Based on the principles of empowerment, development, convergence, and saturation, the Viksit Bharat-G Ram Ji law will strengthen the foundation of a prosperous, capable, and self-reliant rural India. It will strengthen the income security of rural families and modernize governance and accountability. Most importantly, the new law outlines four pillars of employment that will build rural infrastructure, further strengthening the foundation of a prosperous and empowered rural India.

1



Water Security and Water-Related Works

This includes irrigation, rejuvenation of water bodies, afforestation, canals, flood waterways, construction of underground dams, ponds, wells, improvement of community water harvesting areas, and rooftop rainwater harvesting.

2



Core Rural Infrastructure

This includes infrastructure related to education, health, drinking water, sanitation, renewable energy, and community facilities, including rural roads, Gram Panchayat buildings, additional rooms or premises in schools, crematoriums, rural parking, transport sheds, and works under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

3



Livelihood-Related Infrastructure

This includes agriculture, livestock, fisheries, skill development, and enterprise development, including rural markets, weekly markets, food and agricultural storage, promotion of nursery farming, and production of building materials.

4



Works to Mitigate the Impact of weather Events

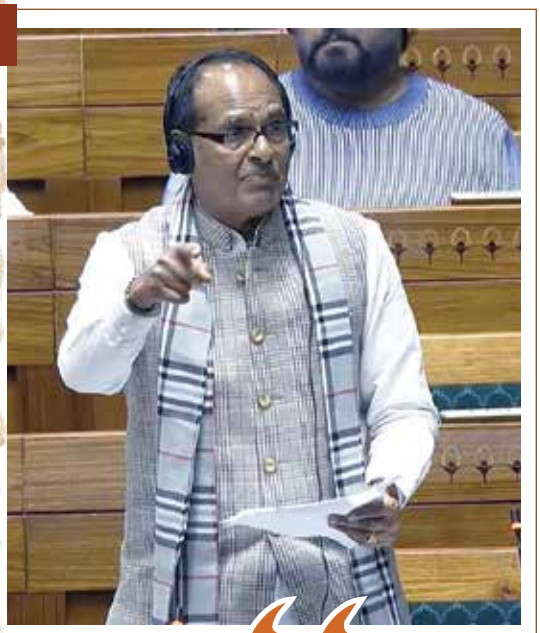
This includes disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, cyclone and flood shelters, and construction of ponds and water structures for flood management. It also includes any public works notified by the Central Government, PM Awas Yojana, and sanitation-related works.

THE NEXT STEP FOR MGNREGA: VIKSIT BHARAT G RAM JI

According to Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh, the Viksit Bharat G Ram Ji scheme is the next step after MGNREGA. Now, there is a legal guarantee of 125 days of work, instead of 100. The provision for unemployment allowance in case of failure to provide work has been further strengthened. There is also a provision for providing additional compensation if wages are delayed. Moreover, a massive amount of over ₹1,51,282 crore has been proposed for this scheme this year. To create developed villages, self-reliant villages, and poverty-free, employment-rich villages for a developed India, projects related to water conservation, village infrastructure development, liveli-

Highlights of the Act:

- The wage employment guarantee for rural households annually has been increased from 100 days per year under MGNREGA to 125 days under the new law.
- To facilitate the availability of agricultural labour for activities during the sowing and harvesting seasons, this Act empowers the states to provide a break period of up to 60 days in a financial year. The total entitlement of 125 days of employment will remain unchanged.
- The states will publish a summary of the scheme formulated under this act in two newspapers. It will also specify the terms and conditions.
- Until the Central Government notifies new wages under this Act, the wages will not be less than the current wages notified under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
- If employment is not provided within 15 days to those who have applied for it, they will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance. This allowance will be notified by the state government, but it will not be less than 1/4 of the wage rate for the first 30 days. For the remaining period of the financial year, it will not be less than half of the wage rate.
- Daily wages will be disbursed on a weekly basis, and in no case will payment be delayed beyond 15 days from the day the work was performed.
- The Gram Sabha will monitor all the works undertaken under this Act. The Gram Panchayat will provide all the necessary documents.
- The expenditure ratio between the Central Government and the State Government for the works under this Act will be 90:10 for the North-Eastern states, Himalayan states, and Union Territories – Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir – and 60:40 for other states and states with legislatures.
- Biometric authentication, geo-referencing, satellite imagery, and digital mapping of works will be used for monitoring. A mobile app with a dashboard-based monitoring mechanism will be used to track demand, work, worker deployment, and progress in real time.
- A grievance redressal mechanism will be developed at the block and district levels, and the Central Government will determine the process for resolving such grievances.
- A fine of up to Rs. 10,000 can be imposed for violating the act.



Bapu himself spoke of Ram Rajya. This country resonates with the presence of Lord Rama. For some reason, when the name of Lord Rama came up, some people got agitated. Mahatma Gandhi himself spoke of establishing Ram Rajya; his last words were "Hey Ram". We have the utmost respect for Bapu.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development

hood-generating activities, and disaster mitigation will be undertaken. Another special provision has been made: the administrative expenditure has been increased from 6% to 9%. If we calculate 9% of the proposed amount of ₹1,51,282 crore, it comes to approximately ₹13,000 crore. With this amount, the colleagues involved in implementing the work – including the Panchayat Secretary, Employment Assistant, and technical staff – will receive timely and adequate salaries so that they can work to their full potential.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NEW STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Reforms are continuously needed for significant socio-economic changes. MGNREGA was implemented in 2005, but rural India is now undergoing transformation. The poverty level decreased from



Winter Session of Parliament

Lok Sabha: 111% productivity; Rajya Sabha: 121% productivity

The winter session of Parliament comprised 15 sittings. The work accomplished exceeded the scheduled agenda for both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, with 111% of the planned work completed in the Lok Sabha and 121% in the Rajya Sabha. During the session, several important bills, including the VB-G Ram G Bill, were introduced and passed. A special discussion was also held in both houses of Parliament to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the national song "Vande Mataram".

Despite some disruptions, both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha witnessed productive discussions during the winter session. The government introduced several important bills, many of which were passed. Ten bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha, of which eight were passed, while eight bills were also passed in the Rajya Sabha. Thus, a total of eight bills were passed by both houses of Parliament. The total sitting time in the Lok Sabha during the session was 92 hours and 25 minutes. In the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated a discussion on Vande Mataram, in which 65 members participated, and the house sat for 11 hours and 32 minutes. In the Rajya Sabha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah initiated the discussion, with 81 members participating. This discussion lasted for a total of 12 hours and 49 minutes.

In addition, discussions on electoral reforms were held in the Lok Sabha on December 9 and 10 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 11, 15, and 16, 2025. Union Home Minister Amit Shah concluded the discussion in the Lok Sabha. 62 members participated in the discussion in the Lok Sabha, while 57 members participated in the Rajya Sabha. This discussion in the Lok Sabha lasted for a total of 10 hours and 37 minutes.

BILLS PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



- The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Health Security Se National Security Cess Bill, 2025
- The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2025
- The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2025
- The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025
- The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025
- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB – G RAM G Bill, 2025

27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to 5.3 per cent in 2022-23, aided by increased consumption, improved financial inclusion, and expanded welfare coverage. With rural livelihoods becoming more diversified and digitally connected, the broad and demand-driven structure of MGNREGA no longer fully aligns with the realities of today's villages. The Viksit Bharat-G Ram G will address these needs. ●

A girl's birth should be celebrated

Empowered Daughter
A Prosperous and Developed India



Daughters are playing an important role in shaping the ethos and society, and fostering economic development. On January 22, the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, launched with the aim of addressing the declining Child Sex Ratio, is entering its 12th year. The country is also celebrating National Girl Child Day on January 24, which serves as a reminder that the nation becomes stronger when girls receive nutrition, education, and respect. How are the efforts of the central government promoting the safety, security, and empowerment of girls and women throughout their life cycle... Let's find out

A historic beginning was made from Jind, Haryana, on January 22, 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme to address the declining child sex ratio across the country and promote the empowerment of girls and women throughout their life cycle.

The 15th Finance Commission extended this scheme under Mission Shakti to cover all districts through multi-sectoral activities and to allocate more funds to activities that have an impact at the grassroots level. To strengthen every girl's right to be born, to be safe, to study, to dream, and to lead, the central government is prioritizing women in various schemes, including Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Matru Vandana Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, and PM Awas Yojana. Furthermore, the nation is focusing on women-led development in a Viksit Bharat. This is why the sex ratio at birth is continuously increasing.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGE THROUGH BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO

NITI Aayog has evaluated the schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the financial years 2019 to 2024. The study found that the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) and One Stop Centre (OSC) programs are playing a crucial role. By promoting behavioral change through BBBP (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao), this initiative strengthens the safety and empowerment of women across the country.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is improving



Progresses

- According to the Health Management Information System, institutional deliveries were 61 percent in 2014-15, which has increased to 97.3% in 2023-24. Antenatal first trimester care registration has also increased from 61% to 80.5%.
- The sex ratio at birth, which was 918 in 2014-15, has increased to 930 in 2023-24.
- For the first time since the first national census in 1876, the number of women per 1,000 men has increased. The National Family Health Survey-5 registered 1,020 women per 1,000 men.
- National Family Health Survey Report-5 states that the number of girls married before the age of 18 has now been halved compared to the NFHS-3.

Steps to promote the girl child

- In the year 2024-25, the Gender Parity Index for the Gross Enrollment Ratio has been 1.0 for the foundational stage, preparatory stage, and middle stage, while it has been 1.1 for the secondary stage.
- Separate toilets have been provided in 97.1% of schools, and drinking water facilities are available in 99.3% of schools. Improvements in school infrastructure have led to improved enrollment of girls and a reduction in dropout rates.
- The number of women in technical education in Industrial Training Institutes has doubled since 2014.
- In the Central Government's pre-matric, post-matric, and merit-cum-means based scholarships, 30% of the scholarships are reserved for girl students.
- In the Prime Minister's Higher Education Promotion Scheme (PM-USP), 50% of the scholarship slots are reserved for girl students.
- 'Sports for Women' league was launched under the Khelo India scheme. 1.39 lakh participants participated in 29 sports disciplines.
- The Sports Authority of India has established 4 sports training centers in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, and Assam specifically for the training of female athletes.

Achievements

- The Central Government has allocated a budget of Rs. 4.49 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26 for gender equality, which is 8.86% of the total budget.
- Admission of girls has started in NDA and Sainik Schools.
- Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023 marks a historic step in women's political empowerment by reserving 33% seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- 4.31 crore Sukanya Samriddhi accounts have been opened till August 2025.
- 10.3 crore gas connections have been provided in the name of women under the Ujjwala Yojana.
- Nearly 90 lakh Self-Help Groups empowering 10 crore women are transforming rural self-employment, while more than 3 crore homes under PM Awas Yojana are registered in women's names—strengthening women-led development across India.
- 35.40 crore PM Mudra loans have been given to women, which is about 68 percent of the total loans.
- 2.21 crore women-owned MSMEs are registered.
- 48% of India's 2.05 lakh+ recognized startups have at least one woman director.
- Nearly 25% of India's space scientists are women.

In every development initiative launched by our government, we give top priority to empowering girls and strengthening women's power. Our focus is on ensuring respect and opportunities for girls.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

the lives of girls in the country. It has helped improve the sex ratio at birth, increase access to education, expand healthcare, and promote women's economic empowerment. The government's commitment has resulted in a change in mindset towards girls, not only at the government level but also at the non-governmental level. A strong foundation has been laid in the country to value and protect every girl child. The scheme is now entering its 12th year, which will ensure continued progress towards gender equality and empowerment in the country.

Traditional Medicine Systems

Solution to Serious Health Challenges



Traditional medicine is one of the world's oldest holistic healthcare systems. Traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM) is used in 170 countries of the World Health Organization. Countries like India, China, and Japan have established systems of traditional medicine, while it is also widely practiced in Africa and the Americas. India hosted the second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine from December 17 to 19, which focused on traditional medicine systems as a solution to serious health challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the closing ceremony...

This Summit, jointly organized by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and the World Health Organization, was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on the theme "Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being". This was the second consecutive time the summit was held in India, a testament to the nation's growing leadership and pioneering efforts in shaping a global, science-based, and people-centric traditional medicine agenda, and the strength of Prime Minister Modi's commitment. Traditional medicine goes beyond wellness and lifestyle, addressing serious health challenges. During the three-day summit, the Gujarat Declaration was adopted, which reaffirmed the global commitment to evidence-based TCIM, called for improved data and regulatory frameworks, and acknowledged India's leadership in shaping a holistic, culturally rooted, and scientifically aligned global health agenda.

Expressing pride at the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Prime Minister



Prime Minister Modi launched several AYUSH initiatives:

- He launched the My AYUSH Integrated Services Portal, a major digital portal for the AYUSH sector. It is the world's most comprehensive digital repository on traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine, with over 1.5 million records.
- He unveiled the AYUSH mark. It is envisioned to be a global standard for the quality of AYUSH products and services. A WHO technical report and book on yoga training, titled "From Roots to Global Reach: 11 Years of Transformation in AYUSH," was released.
- A commemorative postage stamp on Ashwagandha was issued, symbolizing the global resonance of India's traditional medicinal heritage.
- The new WHO-South-East Asia Regional Office in Delhi was also inaugurated, which will also house the WHO India office.
- The winners of the Prime Minister's Award for Promotion and Development of Yoga for the years 2021–2025 were felicitated.
- PM Modi also visited the 'Traditional Medicine Discovery Site' exhibition, which showcases the diversity, depth, and contemporary relevance of traditional medicine knowledge systems from India and around the world.

A global platform has been launched as the Traditional Medicine Global Library, which will securely store scientific data and policy documents related to traditional medicine in one place. Useful information will be equally accessible to every country. This library was announced at the first WHO Global Summit during India's G20 presidency. This resolution has now become a reality.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

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

India has 3,844 AYUSH hospitals, 36,848 dispensaries, 886 undergraduate and 251 post-graduate colleges, and more than 7.5 lakh registered practitioners. The Government of India also launched the National AYUSH Mission in 2014, which aims to strengthen the availability of AYUSH services across the country.

WHO Delhi Declaration

The WHO Delhi Declaration on Traditional Medicine has been released. The "Delhi Declaration" also highlighted the comprehensiveness of traditional medicine, its strengthening evidence base, innovation, and its potential for providing new solutions to health challenges, focusing primarily on resolutions related to four areas:

- Strengthening evidence-based knowledge.
- Ensuring safety, quality, and public trust.
- Integrating safe and effective traditional medicine.
- Responsible use of innovation and digital technology.

Modi said that the summit is witnessing a confluence of traditional knowledge and modern practices. Several new initiatives have been launched that can transform the future of medical science and holistic health. When tradition and technology converge, the potential to make global health more effective increases significantly. Therefore, the success of this summit is very important from a global perspective. PM Modi elucidated that in the 21st century, the challenge of maintaining balance in life will be even greater. The advent of a new era of technology, in the form of AI and robotics, the biggest change in human history, will change our way of life in unprecedented ways in the coming years. Therefore, we must also keep in mind that such sudden and massive changes in lifestyle, the ease of resources and facilities without toil, are going to create unforeseen challenges for the human body. Therefore, in traditional medicine, we should not only focus on the needs of the present. Our shared responsibility also extends to the future. Restoring balance is no longer just a global objective, but a global necessity. To achieve this, we will have to take concrete steps more rapidly.



Assam and the Northeast
New Gateway to India's Development

Assam and the entire Northeast are today becoming the new gateway to India's development. The commitment to multi-modal connectivity has transformed the region. The pace of development work in Assam is turning dreams into reality. Aligning with this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Assam on December 20 and 21. He inaugurated projects worth approximately ₹15,600 crore. He also stated from Assam that the new dawn of the country's future will rise from the Northeast...

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

The world's perspective on India has changed today. The country's role has also changed. The development of modern infrastructure has played a huge role in this. India is preparing for 2047, with a focus on infrastructure. The central government is working towards ensuring that every state in the country progresses together and contributes to the mission of a Viksit Bharat. At the inauguration of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam, PM Modi said that he is happy that Assam and the Northeast are leading this mission.

Within the last 10-11 years, the country has been moving towards ending the decades-long cycle of violence. It is now being ensured that Assam's resources benefit the people of Assam. Violence-affected districts are now developing as aspirational districts. In the coming times, these areas will become industrial corridors. PM Modi said that today we are seeing Assam emerging as India's Eastern Gateway. Assam will become the engine of a Viksit Bharat in many sectors.

The farmers of the country have a very crucial role to play in building a Viksit Bharat. Therefore, the central government is working day and night, keeping the interests of the farmers paramount. Amidst the schemes for agricultural welfare, it is essential that farmers receive a continuous supply of fertilizers. During the foundation stone laying ceremony of the urea plant in Namrup, Assam, PM Modi said that in the coming times, this urea factory will ensure a continuous supply of fertilizers to the farmers. This fertilizer project will cost approximately 11,000 crore rupees. It will produce more than 1.2 million metric tonnes of fertilizer annually. This unit in Namrup will also create thousands of new jobs and self-employment opportunities.

Prime Minister Modi, addressing the people of the state, said that the Northeast will lead India's future growth. For

A confluence of development and heritage: The new terminal building of Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the new terminal building of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati. This terminal building embodies the principle of "development and heritage."

- This terminal is a transformative step in enhancing Assam's connectivity, economic expansion, and global engagement.
- It spans approximately 1.4 lakh square meters and is designed to accommodate 13 million passengers annually.
- Extensive upgrades to the runway, airfield systems, apron, and taxiways have further enhanced its capabilities.
- India's first nature-themed airport terminal, the airport's design draws inspiration from Assam's biodiversity and cultural heritage under the theme "Bamboo Orchids"
- The terminal makes pioneering use of about 140 metric tonnes of locally sourced Northeast bamboo.
- A unique Sky Forest welcomes passengers with a forest-like experience, featuring nearly one lakh indigenous plants.
- This terminal sets new standards in passenger convenience, like full-body scanners for faster security checks, automated baggage handling, and AI-powered airport operations.





Bhoomipujan of the new brownfield Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Project

- Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the new brownfield ammonia-urea fertiliser project at the existing premises of Brahmaputra Valley Fertiliser Corporation Ltd in Namrup, Dibrugarh district, Assam.
- Furthering the prime minister's vision of farmers' welfare, the project, with an estimated investment of over Rs. 10,600 crore, will meet fertiliser requirements of Assam and neighbouring states.
- It will reduce import dependence, generate substantial employment and accelerate regional economic development. It stands as a cornerstone of industrial revival and farmer welfare.

My connection with the land of Assam, the love and affection of its people, and especially the warmth of my mothers and sisters of Assam constantly inspire me and strengthen our resolve for the development of the Northeast.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

PM Modi Pays Tribute to Martyrs



Prime Minister Modi visited the Martyrs' Memorial area in Boragaon to pay tribute to the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement. This was a six-year-long mass movement that symbolised the collective resolve for a foreigner-free Assam and the protection of the state's identity. Describing the moments spent at the Martyrs' Memorial as an emotional experience, PM Modi said that we remain firm in our commitment to working tirelessly for the progress, prosperity, and cultural glory of Assam.

Government Stands Firmly with Farmers from Seed to Market

- In 2014, the country produced only 225 lakh metric tonnes of urea. In the last 11 years, production has increased to approximately 306 lakh metric tonnes.
- Farmers get a bag of urea for only Rs. 300. The Government of India pays approximately Rs. 3,000 for that one bag.
- About 4 lakh crore has been transferred to farmers under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.
- In 2025, two new schemes worth Rs. 35,000 crore, PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana and Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission, were launched.
- Through Kisan Credit Cards, farmers received assistance worth more than 10 lakh crore rupees in the year 2025.
- A mission related to edible oils, including palm oil, was also launched, with special focus on the Northeast region.

this, we must work together to realise our dreams. We must prioritise the development of Assam. I am confident that our collective efforts will take Assam to new heights. We will fulfil the dream of a developed India.

NEW MOMENTUM FOR ASSAM'S DEVELOPMENT

The bridges built over the Brahmaputra River have given new strength and confidence to Assam's connectivity. In the 6-7 decades after independence, only three major bridges were built there, but in the last decade, four new mega bridges have been completed. Besides these, several historic projects are taking shape. The longest bridges, such as Bogibeel and Dhola-Sadiya, have made Assam strategically more powerful. There has also been a revolutionary change in railway connectivity. The commissioning of the Bogibeel Bridge has reduced the distance between Upper Assam and the rest of the country. The Vande Bharat Express running from Guwahati to New Jalpaiguri has reduced travel time. Assam is also benefiting from the development of waterways in the country. Cargo traffic has increased by 140%. This is proof that the Brahmaputra is not just a river but a stream of economic power. The first ship repair facility is being developed in Pandu, and there is enthusiasm for the Ganga Vilas cruise, which runs from Varanasi to Dibrugarh. This has placed the Northeast on the global cruise tourism map. ●



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

Union Cabinet Decisions

Delhi Metro to be Expanded

Key Infra Projects Cleared in Maharashtra & Odisha

Infrastructure and connectivity have been a crucial part of the country's development, and the central government is continuously accelerating its progress. In this regard, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the expansion of the Delhi Metro as a New Year's gift. Along with this, major infrastructure proposals for Maharashtra and Odisha have also been approved. This move by the central government will not only improve connectivity across the country but will also make the daily commute easier for millions of people.

DECISION: Approval of three new corridors as part of the Delhi Metro Phase-V (A) project.

IMPACT: This 16.076 km-long project will further improve connectivity within the national capital. The total cost of Delhi Metro Phase-V (A) is ₹12014.91 crore.

Three New Corridors:

1. R.K. Ashram Marg to Indraprastha (9.913 km)
2. Aerocity to IGD Airport T-1 (2.263 km)
3. Tughlakabad to Kalindi Kunj (3.9 km)

- It will provide connectivity to all the government buildings in the Central Vista corridor, making it easier for office-goers and visitors in the area.
- Approximately 60,000 office-going employees and 2 lakh visitors are expected to benefit daily.
- These corridors will further reduce pollution and the use of fossil fuels, thereby improving the quality of life.
- Currently, the Delhi Metro serves an average of 6.5 million passengers daily. Today, the Delhi Metro has the largest metro network in India and is also one of the largest metros in the world.

DECISION: Approval of the proposal for widening and strengthening the existing 2-lane road from kilometre 68.600 to 311.700 of NH-326 in Odisha, converting it into a 2-lane road with paved shoulders, under the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) project delivery method.

IMPACT: The upgrade of NH-326 will make travel faster, safer, and more reliable. This will contribute to the overall development of southern Odisha, particularly benefiting the districts of Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput. Improved road connectivity will facilitate easier access to local communities, industries, educational institutions, tourist centres, markets, and healthcare services, and will also create employment opportunities. This will contribute to the inclusive development of the region. The total capital cost of this project is ₹1,526.21 crore.

DECISION: Approval of the project for the construction of a 6-lane Greenfield Access-Controlled Nashik-Solapur-Akkalkot Corridor in Maharashtra on a BOT basis.

IMPACT: The project will be 374 km long and will involve an investment of approximately ₹19,142 crore. This project will connect important regional cities like Nashik, Ahilyanagar, and Solapur to Kurnool. The project will generate approximately 251.06 lakh man-days of direct employment and 313.83 lakh man-days of indirect employment. In addition, further employment opportunities will be created due to increased economic activity in the area surrounding the proposed corridor.



A New Momentum for West Bengal's Progress

The Central Government has consistently worked to ensure "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". Efforts are being made to provide modern connectivity even to those parts of the country that have long remained deprived. In this context, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited West Bengal on December 20 and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated two National Highway projects worth approximately 3,200 crore rupees. These projects will boost economic activity and promote tourism in the state...



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

Nadia in West Bengal is the land where the vibrant embodiment of love, compassion, and devotion, Shri Chaitanya Prabhu, manifested himself. From this very land of West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated two major highway projects in Ranaghat, Nadia district, to give a new impetus to West Bengal's progress. The new projects will further improve connectivity between this region and Kolkata and Siliguri. Modern infrastructure plays a crucial role in achieving the vision of a developed India. This is why the central government is investing heavily in modern infrastructure in West Bengal. During the programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the four-lane road from Barajguri to Krishnanagar will greatly benefit the people of North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Krishnanagar, and other areas. This has reduced the travel time between Kolkata and Siliguri by about two hours. Work has also begun on the four-lane road from Barasat to Barajguri. Both these projects will expand economic activities and tourism throughout the entire region.

There is no shortage of money, intentions, or plans for the development of West Bengal.

Inauguration and Foundation Stone Laying of Two National Highway Projects

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for two national highway projects worth approximately Rs 3,200 crore in West Bengal.
- A 66.7 km-long 4-lane section of National Highway-34 on the Barajaguli-Krishnanagar stretch in Nadia district was inaugurated.
- The foundation stone was laid for a 17.6 km long 4-lane section of National Highway-34 on the Barasat-Barajaguli stretch in North 24 Parganas district.
- These projects will serve as crucial links between Kolkata and Siliguri.
- These projects will save approximately 2 hours of travel time. They will ensure faster and smoother movement of vehicles for seamless traffic flow.
- Vehicle operating costs will be reduced, and connectivity will improve with Kolkata and other neighbouring districts of West Bengal, as well as with neighbouring countries.



I will work shoulder to shoulder with you, with all my might, to fulfil your dreams and for the bright future of Bengal.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

Moreover, the central government is formulating policies and making decisions that will enhance the capabilities of every citizen. Prime Minister Modi said, "Let me give you an example. Some time ago, we celebrated the GST Bachat Utsav. The central government ensured that citizens received essential goods at the lowest possible prices. As a result, the people of West Bengal did a lot of shopping during Durga Puja and other festivals."

THE LAND OF NADIA ... A LIVING EMBODIMENT OF LOVE, COMPASSION, AND DEVOTION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited West Bengal on December 20, where he also addressed a public gathering virtually. Nadia is the land where Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the living embodiment of love, compassion, and devotion, appeared. In every village of Nadia, on every ghat of the Ganges, when the chanting of Hari Nama Sankirtan resonated, it was not merely devotion... it was a call for social unity. "Hari Naam Diye Jogot Matale... Amar Ekla Nitai!!" This sentiment... is still alive in the soil, the air, the water, and the hearts of the people there.

PM MODI'S CALL: MAKE VANDE MATARAM THE MANTRA OF NATION BUILDING

Bengal and the Bengali language have continuously enriched the history and culture of India. Vande Mataram is one such great contribution. The entire nation is celebrating the 150th year of Vande Mataram. Recently, the Parliament of India also paid tribute to its glory. The land of West Bengal is the land of the immortal song of Vande Mataram. This land gave the country a great sage like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. Rishi Bankim Babu, through Vande Mataram, awakened a new consciousness in enslaved India. Moreover, Vande Mataram became the mantra of liberation from slavery in the 19th century. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon everyone to make Vande Mataram the mantra of nation-building in the 21st century. Now, we have to make Vande Mataram the inspiration for a developed India. And through this song, we must awaken the consciousness of a developed West Bengal.



A Grateful Nation Pays Homage on Netaji's Birth Anniversary

Netaji's courage reinvigorated India's Freedom Struggle

A brilliant student, an efficient administrator, and the most tenacious leader, Subhas Chandra Bose, infused new strength into the Indian freedom struggle with his courage and valour. He united the country's youth power with his charismatic leadership in the face of adversity. To honour Netaji's selfless service to the nation, the Government of India decided to celebrate his birthday, January 23, as 'Parakram Diwas' (Day of Valour) every year since 2021. His unparalleled sacrifice, dedication, and struggle for the motherland will forever guide the nation...

Having travelled approximately 35,000 kilometers by car or submarine, sacrificing all personal comforts, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose instilled in his countrymen the belief in a free and sovereign India. Having traveled from Calcutta to Berlin and then to Japan, making a grand attempt to liberate India, Netaji declared before the British authorities with great pride, confidence, and courage: "I will not beg for freedom, I will achieve it." On January 23, 2026, the nation is celebrating the 129th birth anniversary of this very Netaji, who established the first independent government on Indian soil.

The resolution of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th Anniversary of Indian Independence) was that India would revive its identity and inspirations. In this vein, the country is cherishing every legacy associated with the life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with immense pride. Netaji had said, "India is calling. Blood is calling for blood. Arise! Stand up. We have no time to lose." Only Netaji could give such a confident war cry. And after all, he also showed that the empire, where the sun never set, could be defeated by the brave soldiers of India on the battlefield. He had taken a pledge to lay the foundation of the independent government of India on the land of free India. Netaji also fulfilled his promise. He came to Andaman with his soldiers and unfurled the Tricolour.

FILES RELATED TO NETAJI MADE PUBLIC

In 2015, the Government of India decided to declassify and make public the confidential files related to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The first batch of 33 files was released on December 4, 2015. To fulfill a long-standing public demand, digital copies of 100 files related to Netaji were released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23, 2016.

INTERACTION WITH THE YOUNGSTER ON 'PARAKRAM DIWAS'

On January 20, 2025, on the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, observed

The Central Government is working to preserve Netaji's legacy

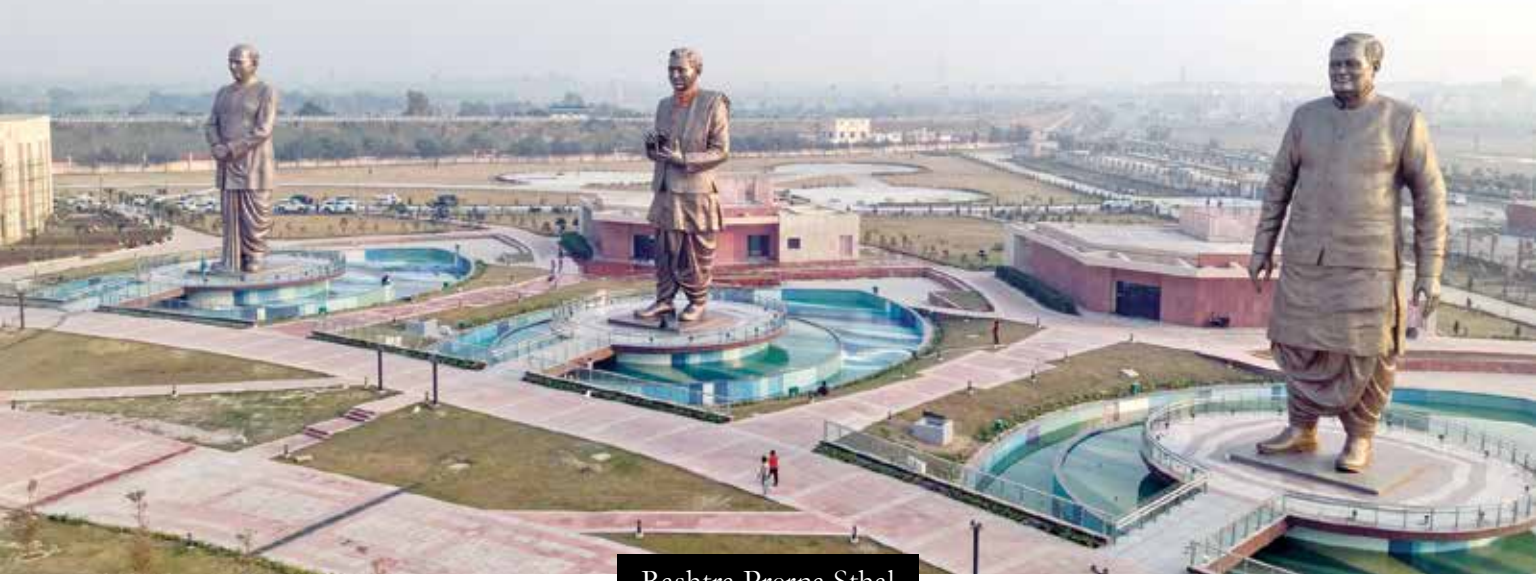
- On January 19, 2021, it was announced that the country would celebrate January 23 every year as Parakram Diwas.
- On January 23, 2021, on the occasion of Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, the Government of India launched a year-long celebration to commemorate the event.
- On October 14, 2015, PM Narendra Modi met 35 members of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's family at the Prime Minister's official residence.
- To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Azad Hind Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the flag at the Red Fort on October 21, 2018.
- In the 2019 Republic Day celebrations, four former soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauj (INA) participated in the Republic Day parade.
- On January 23, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Netaji's ancestral home in Kolkata. A commemorative coin and postage stamp were issued in Netaji's memory. A book on Netaji's letters was released.
- An exhibition and projection mapping show on Netaji's life started in Kolkata on January 23, 2021. The train running from Howrah, the 'Howrah-Kalka Mail', was renamed 'Netaji Express'.
- Netaji's statue has been given a prominent place on Kartavya Path. The aim is that every citizen who visits Kartavya Path remembers Netaji's dedication to duty. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where the Azad Hind Government first hoisted the tricolour, were given names bestowed by Netaji. Ross Island has been renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, and Havelock and Neil Islands have been renamed Swaraj and Shaheed Dweeps, respectively.
- On January 23, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the model of the national monument to be built on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep and dedicated to Netaji.
- A museum dedicated to Netaji and the contributions of the Azad Hind Fauj has been established at the Red Fort. For the first time, a national award has been instituted in Netaji's name as the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar.



Since childhood, whenever I heard this name, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, it permeated a new energy in me. Such a towering personality that words fall short to describe him! He had such deep foresight that one has to take several births to comprehend it. He had so much morale and courage, even in a formidable situation that the world's greatest challenge also could not deter him. I bow down to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and salute him.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

as 'Parakram Diwas', students from several schools paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Central Hall of the Parliament under the 'Know Your Leaders' programme. This programme was organised by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE). During this event, several young participants expressed their views on Netaji's contribution to the freedom struggle and remembered his life values and ideals.



Rashtra Prerna Sthal

A Symbol of Self-Respect, Unity and Service

On December 25th, the 101st birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who not only transformed good governance but also wrote an indelible saga of valor through the Pokhran and victory in Kargil, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow. This complex houses 65-foot-tall bronze statues of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, symbolizing their significant contributions to political thought, nation-building, and public life.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee laid the foundation of a united India with the mantra, "One country cannot have two constitutions, two heads of state, and two national symbols," while Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya gave the principle of "Integral Humanism," setting the goal of Antyodaya (upliftment of the poorest) for the betterment of every section of society. This very stream of national welfare was carried forward by the great poet and national hero of nationalist thought, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Inaugurating the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, as a tribute to the life and ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Modi said that December 25th is also a remarkable day as it marks the birth anniversaries of two great personalities of the country. Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Bharat Ratna Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya—both these great men protected India's identity, unity, and pride and left an indelible mark on nation-building.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a visionary leader who dedicated his life to the unity, integrity, and strong nation-building. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, on the other hand, paved the way for making India a self-reliant, prosperous, and culturally strong nation by connecting it to its roots. Atal Bihari Vajpayee unequivocally established India as a strong global power on the world map. 65-foot-tall bronze statues of these three great national heroes have been installed at the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, serving as tangible representations of nationalist ideals and principles. This remarkable confluence of thought, culture, and national consciousness is poised to create a new, inspiring narrative for a developed India and a developed Uttar Pradesh. PM Modi said that the inspiration

Rashtra Prerna Sthal is paving the way for the country's golden future

- The Lucknow Development Authority has developed the Rashtra Prerna Sthal over an area of 65 acres, shaped like a lotus flower.
- This is the same place where, until a few months ago, there was a massive mountain of 6.5 lakh metric tons of garbage.
- With the strong resolve of the central and state governments, the garbage has been scientifically disposed of, and the entire area has been transformed into a green and clean complex.
- The complex houses 65-foot-tall bronze statues of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, symbolizing their indelible contributions to India's political thought, nation-building, and public life.
- Built for Rs. 230 crore, this magnificent site can accommodate 2 lakh people. The complex includes a meditation hall, a library, a large amphitheater with a capacity of three thousand people, and a beautifully landscaped garden.
- The museum uses state-of-the-art technology to present the glorious lives, philosophies, struggles, and ideas of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee through visual narratives.



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

"The Rashtra Prerna Sthal is a symbol of the ideology that has shown India the path of self-respect, unity, and service. The statues of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee stand tall, but the inspiration they provide is even greater.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

of Dr. Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal, and Atal Ji, their visionary work, and these magnificent statues, form a strong foundation for a developed India. Today, their statues are filling us with new energy. Today, I can proudly say that the hardworking people of Uttar Pradesh are writing a new future. Uttar Pradesh was once known for its poor law and order situation, but today it is known for its development. Today, UP is rapidly emerging on the country's tourism map. The grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the Kashi Vishwanath Dham are becoming symbols of a new identity in the world. Modern structures like the Rashtra Prerna Sthal further illuminate the new image of Uttar Pradesh.

PAID RESPECTFUL TRIBUTE TO MAHARAJA BIJLI PASI

December 25th also marks the birth anniversary of Maharaja Bijli Pasi. The famous Bijli Pasi Fort in Lucknow is not far from the Rashtra Prerna Sthal. The legacy of valor, good governance, and inclusivity left behind by Maharaja Bijli Pasi has been proudly carried forward by the Pasi community. It is also a coincidence that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee issued a postage stamp in honor of Maharaja Bijli Pasi in the year 2000. In his address, PM Modi said that on this auspicious day, I respectfully pay my tributes to Maharaja Bijli Pasi.

Veer Bal Diwas

Felicitating youth showing exceptional courage and talent

Inspired by the valour of the Sahibzadas, the central government started observing December 26th as Veer Bal Diwas. In four years, this new tradition has not only brought to the fore the inspiring stories of the Sahibzadas to the new generation but has also created a platform for nurturing courageous and talented youth through the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar'. President Droupadi Murmu presented the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on Veer Bal Diwas, December 26, 2025. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Veer Bal Diwas program at Bharat Mandapam...

Every year, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is bestowed upon children who have made exceptional contributions in fields such as art, bravery, social service, and science. Among the 20 awardees is Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika, the youngest at just 7 years old, demonstrating that talent knows no age. It is because of such talented children that India is being recognized as a chess powerhouse on the world stage. The bravery of awardees Ajay Raj and Mohammed Sidan P is very inspiring; they saved the lives of others through their courage and quick thinking. Sadly, nine-year-old Vyoma Priya and eleven-year-old Bahadur Kamlesh Kumar lost their lives while bravely saving the lives of others.

Among the awardees is ten-year-old Shravan Singh, who, amidst the heightened risks of war during Operation Sindoor, regularly delivered water, milk, and lassi to Indian soldiers stationed at the border near his home. Shivani Hosuru Uppara, a Divyang, has





I expect the youth of India to dream big, work hard, and never let their confidence waver. India's future will be bright only if the future of its children and youth is bright. Their courage, their talent, and their dedication will guide the progress of the nation.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

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

Several Programs Organized on Veer Bal Diwas

On Veer Bal Diwas, the Central Government organized participatory programs across the country. These programs aimed to inform and educate citizens about the extraordinary courage and supreme sacrifice of the Sahibzadas, and to honor and cherish the indomitable courage, sacrifice, and bravery of these young heroes of the country. These activities included storytelling, poetry recitation, poster making, and essay writing competitions. Prime Minister Modi had announced on January 9, 2022, on the occasion of the Prakash Parv of Shri Guru Gobind Singh, that December 26 would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to commemorate the martyrdom of his sons, Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.

Veer Bal Diwas: Cherishing the bravery of sahibzadas

Veer Bal Diwas is a day that cherishes child bravery and reverence. Sahibzada Ajit Singh, Sahibzada Jujhar Singh, Sahibzada Zorawar Singh, and Sahibzada Fateh Singh had to confront the biggest power of their time at a very young age. That confrontation was between the fundamental ideals of India and religious fanaticism; it was a battle of truth versus falsehood. On one side of that battle was the Tenth Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and on the other side was the ruler Aurangzeb. The Sahibzadas were very young at that time, but this made no difference to Aurangzeb and his cruelty. Our Gurus were not ordinary human beings. They were the embodiment of penance and sacrifice. The brave Sahibzadas inherited that legacy from them. Therefore, not a single Sahibzada wavered. The words of Sahibzada Ajit Singh still tell the story of his courage: "My name is Ajit (unconquerable), I will not be conquered; even if I am defeated, I will not return alive!"

achieved extraordinary feats in the world of sports, overcoming economic and physical limitations, while Vaibhav Suryavanshi has carved a niche for himself in the highly competitive world of cricket, setting numerous records. All the award-winning children have accomplished remarkable feats.

Speaking at the Veer Bal Diwas program in the presence of the recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that some of them have displayed exceptional bravery, while others have done commendable work in the fields of social service and environment. Some have innovated in science and technology, while many young people are contributing to the fields of sports, art, and culture. I would say to these awardees, this honor is not only for you, but it is also a tribute to the hard work of your parents, your teachers, and your mentors.

It is said, "बालादपि ग्रहीतव्यं युक्तमुक्तं मनीषिभिः," which means, if even a young child says something wise, it should be accepted. That is, age does not determine who is small or who is great. You become great through your actions and achievements. At the program, Prime Minister Modi said that even at a young age, you can do things that inspire others. You have demonstrated this. These achievements should be seen only as a beginning. You have to go much further. You have to take your dreams to the sky. ●



SHANTI Bill, 2025

The bedrock for a Safe, Clean, and Strong Future

'Safety First, Production Later'

India is moving forward with its commitment to Net Zero @2070. To strengthen this commitment, it is also working towards achieving a target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity to ensure an uninterrupted supply to meet the growing energy demand by 2047. With this vision, Parliament has passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill-2025, or the SHANTI Bill, which clearly demonstrates India's confidence, scientific maturity, and responsibility in adopting global clean energy...

The SHANTI Bill, 2025, is not just a bill but a new transformation in life brought about by clean energy. This bill was introduced to modernize India's civilian nuclear energy sector. Through this bill, India will take steps towards modernizing its nuclear energy sector. Under this bill, private companies will be able to participate in the operation of nuclear power plants, electricity generation, equipment manufacturing, and certain selected activities, while safety and strategic control will remain with the government. Furthermore, obtaining prior permission will be mandatory for all activities related to radiation exposure. This bill consolidates and rationalizes the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010. It also grants statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

This bill provides a regulatory framework for the use of nuclear and radiation technologies in healthcare, agriculture, industry, research, and other peaceful applications. It exempts limited activities, such as those related to research, development, and innovation, from licensing, and also grants formal statutory recognition to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) to strengthen regulatory independence and authority.

No Compromise on Nuclear Safety Everything Clear in the Bill

- Now a Law for Safety: Safety is no longer just a "good practice," but a strict legal obligation. All safety regulations are now enshrined in a single, clear, and unified law.
- Strong Nuclear "Oversight Body": The SHANTI Bill grants statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). It now has the legal authority to inspect any nuclear plant, detect defects, and immediately shut it down if safety standards are not met.
- Equal Rules for All: Private companies will also have to go through a rigorous multi-stage licensing process, whether selecting a site, constructing, or commencing operations.
- Emphasis on New Generation Safety: The bill promotes small modular reactors (SMRs), which have passive safety systems. This reduces the risk of human error.
- Clear licensing rules: Who can build and operate a nuclear plant is now clearly defined. Accountability becomes completely clear.
- High-risk functions will remain with the central government: The SHANTI Bill allows private participation in some areas, but highly sensitive functions like the fuel cycle will remain under the control of the central government.
- Safety mandatory at every stage: Safety inspections are now legally required at every stage, from plant installation to decommissioning.
- Permission required before every work: Any work that could pose a radiation risk will require prior special safety clearance.



"The passage of the SHANTI Bill is a significant transformative moment for our technology landscape—my gratitude to the MPs who supported its passage. From safely operating artificial intelligence to enabling green manufacturing, this bill provides decisive momentum to the clean energy future of the country and the world. It also opens up numerous opportunities for the private sector and our youth.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*

THERE WILL BE NO REDUCTION IN COMPENSATION

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh clarified that the bill establishes graded liability limits to encourage participation by small investors. There will be no reduction in compensation to victims. If the damage caused by an accident exceeds the operator's prescribed liability limit, the government will provide full and effective compensation through Nuclear Liability Fund and international agreements. Furthermore, the definition of "nuclear damage" has been expanded to explicitly include environmental damage.

FOSTERING NATIONAL INTEREST WITHOUT COMPROMISING NATIONAL INTEREST

India will adopt only those international best practices that are relevant to the country's specific circumstances and interests. In this process, India's strategic autonomy, national interests, or conventional strengths will not be compromised in any way. The SHANTI Bill is strictly limited to civilian nuclear energy use, with uranium enrichment levels limited to the reactor's requirements. It is not in any way connected to weapons-grade activities.

Myth: Nuclear energy will make electricity expensive.

Reality: Nuclear energy provides reliable 24x7 power, and fuel costs remain stable.

- Plants operate for 60-80 years, meaning electricity bills will become cheaper and more stable over time.

Myth: This reform is only for big industrialists.

Reality: The SHANTI Bill will create new opportunities for MSMEs and startups from 2025.

- Participation in the supply of thousands of components, innovation in AI, health, and new materials.
- No need for expensive plants for research.

Myth: Nuclear energy is being privatized.

Reality: Not privatization! Government control over nuclear fuel.

- The government will maintain control over safety, security, and monitoring of spent fuel.
- Private companies will bring investment and employment.

Myth: Nuclear energy is a threat to India's future.

Reality: Nuclear energy reduces pollution. It reduces dependence on coal and oil.

- It helps in the development of new sectors like electric vehicles (EVs), artificial intelligence (AI), and green hydrogen.

Myth: Nuclear energy is only for electricity.

Reality: Nuclear technology is also used in cancer treatment, food security, clean drinking water, and agricultural improvements. With the new bill, nuclear energy will not only generate electricity but also bring about widespread changes in life.

Myth: Private companies will compromise on safety.

Reality: No operator will be allowed without a government license, security clearance, and mandatory insurance.

- If rules are broken, the government can shut down or take control of the plant. No compromise on safety.

> **The SHANTI Bill will be remembered in history as one of the biggest science reforms of the Modi government.**
>
> **Dr. Jitendra Singh**
> *Union Minister of Science and Technology*



The SHANTI Bill, 2025, will open up new opportunities for international cooperation. International cooperation will pave the way for the development of nuclear reactors, while the bill provides a clear regulatory framework for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, is an important step in achieving the goals of the next phase of India's nuclear energy journey. By modernizing the legal framework and strengthening institutional oversight, it lays the foundation for a more efficient, forward-looking, innovative, and safe nuclear energy ecosystem. This bill will strengthen India's Atomic Energy Mission's target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity by 2047. As the country moves towards energy self-reliance and technological advancement, this law can play a decisive role in accelerating the development of India's nuclear energy and the broader energy landscape.



Legendary Sculptor Ram Sutar Passes Away

His Art Infused Life into Stone

Born: February 19, 1925 | Died: December 18, 2025

Renowned and distinguished sculptor Ram Vanji Sutar, who designed the world's tallest statue, the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat, passed away on December 18, 2025. His art did not merely shape stone, but infused it with life. A creator of historical sculptures, He also played a significant role in the restoration of the sculptures of Ajanta and Ellora. Through his extraordinary contributions, he not only enriched India's artistic and cultural heritage but will continue to inspire future generations...

A gold medalist from the J.J. School of Art and Architecture in Mumbai, Ram Sutar was born in 1925 in the Dhule district of Maharashtra. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and several other dignitaries expressed their condolences on his passing and remembered his contributions. Expressing his grief on Ram Sutar's demise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X, "Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Ram Sutar Ji. He was an outstanding sculptor whose art gave India several iconic monuments, including the Statue of Unity in Kevadia. His works will always be cherished as powerful expressions of India's history, culture, and collective spirit. He has immortalized national pride for generations to come. His creations will continue to inspire artists and citizens alike. My heartfelt condolences to his family, admirers, and all those touched by his wonderful life and work. Om Shanti."

Sutar was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016. He was also recently honored with the Maharashtra Bhushan Award, the state's highest award. His famous sculptures of Mahatma Gandhi in a meditative pose and Chhatrapati Shivaji on horseback in the Parliament complex are among his finest creations. He was 100 years old at the time of his death. Describing his passing as an irreparable loss to the Indian art world, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said, "May God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to his family and admirers to bear this grief."

Ram Sutar also played a significant role in the construction of the 108-foot-tall bronze statue of Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru. Furthermore, he contributed to the creation of numerous statues in India and abroad that have enhanced India's prestige.



Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman

Three Countries, One Message
Cooperation, Development, and Trust

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman is a watershed moment in strengthening the bridges of civilization, culture, and cooperation with these three nations. The dialogues and meetings held during this visit gave a new thrust to the efforts to promote shared heritage, strategic partnerships, and future possibilities. It marks the advent of a new era of mutual cooperation, trust, and partnership with these countries...

India's bilateral relations reached another milestone as it marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Jordan and the 70th anniversary with Oman. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to these three countries, including his maiden visit to Ethiopia, has given new momentum to strategic relations. His visit covered a wide range of issues, including enhancing and strengthening mutual cooperation, exploring new opportunities for shared development and prosperity, and promoting regional peace, prosperity, security, and stability. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman between December 15 and 18, 2025, assumes significance in many other respects as well.

In the first leg of his journey, PM Modi arrived in Jordan, where he was welcomed by Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Jafar Hassan at Amman airport. This first full-fledged bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Jordan took place after a span of 37 years. During the visit, PM Modi also met with King Abdullah II of Jordan. The King of Jordan supported India's fight against terrorism and condemned all forms of terrorism. The two leaders discussed strengthening cooperation between the

Agreements between India and Jordan

- Technical cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy.
- Cooperation in the field of water resource management and development.
- Agreement on twinning between Petra and Ellora.
- Renewal of the cultural exchange program for the years 2025-2029.
- Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at a population scale for digital transformation

India-Jordan Joint Statement

- **Political Relations:** Both countries agreed to expand cooperation and stand together as reliable partners to advance their respective development aspirations. The fifth round of political consultations will be held in New Delhi.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India has become Jordan's third-largest trading partner. It was also agreed to hold the 11th Trade and Economic Joint Committee meeting in the first half of 2026 to review the progress in economic and trade relations.
- **Technology and Education:** Bilateral cooperation in the fields of digital technology and education was reviewed. Both sides also agreed to cooperate in ensuring a secure, trustworthy, reliable, and inclusive digital environment.
- **Health:** Agreement to advance telemedicine and share expertise in capacity building for training the healthcare workforce.
- **Agriculture:** Acknowledged the crucial role of the agricultural sector in promoting food security and nutrition. Expressed a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation in this sector.
- **Green and Sustainable Development:** Discussed the importance of enhancing cooperation in the fields of climate change, environment, sustainable development, and encouraging the use of new and renewable energy. Agreement for technical cooperation in the field of new and renewable energy.
- **Cultural Cooperation:** Both sides welcomed the signing of the Cultural Exchange Program for the period 2025-2029. Cooperation in the fields of music, dance, theatre, art, archives, libraries, and literature, and festivals.
- **Multilateral cooperation:** Both sides recognized biofuels as a sustainable, low-carbon alternative to fulfill commitments to reduce emissions and ensure greater economic and social development for the people of both countries.



two countries in the areas of trade and investment, defense and security, renewable energy, fertilizers and agriculture, innovation, information technology and infrastructure, health and pharmaceuticals, tourism, heritage, culture, and bilateral relations. India is Jordan's third-largest trading partner. PM Modi said that the goal is to increase bilateral trade between the two countries to $5 billion in the next five years. He stressed that India's strength in the pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors and Jordan's advantageous geographical location can complement each other. Referring to India's green initiatives, Prime Minister Modi suggested greater business cooperation between India and Jordan in the areas of renewable energy, green financing, and water recycling. Jordan is a significant supplier of fertilizers to India. Companies from both countries have discussed making substantial investments in Jordan to meet the growing demand for phosphatic fertilizers in India. King Abdullah II said Jordan's Free Trade Agreements and India's economic power could be combined to create an economic corridor between South Asia and West Asia and beyond. ●

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



Ethiopia Visit...

$5 Billion Investment Creates 75,000 Job Opportunities

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met and held discussions with Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed at the National Palace. During the talks, both leaders agreed to elevate India-Ethiopia relations to the level of a strategic partnership. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that making the African Union a part of the G20 during India's presidency in 2023 was a special honor for India. Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude to Ethiopia for showing solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The two leaders reviewed the progress made in the multifaceted partnership between India and Ethiopia in various sectors, including trade and investment, innovation and technology, education and capacity building, and defense cooperation. PM Narendra Modi said that Indian companies have invested more than $5 billion in the Ethiopian economy. This has created over 75,000 local jobs, primarily in sectors such as manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. Both Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to working together to address the concerns of the Global South. Cooperation on multilateral forums, including the United Nations, was discussed. They called for greater cooperation on issues such as climate change, renewable energy, and disaster risk reduction.

PM Modi addressed the joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament on December 17. On this occasion, PM Modi emphasized that both countries combine ancient wisdom with modern aspirations. In this context, he said that both India's national song, Vande Mataram, and Ethiopia's national anthem address their respective lands as mother. Speaking about the shared struggles of both countries, PM Modi said that in 1941, Indian soldiers fought alongside Ethiopian soldiers in the struggle for Ethiopia's liberation. He said it was an honor for him to pay tribute to the Adwa Victory Monument, a symbol of the sacrifices of the Ethiopian people. Discussing India's commitment to strengthening and expanding the India-Ethiopia partnership, PM Modi, while referring to the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), said that it was a privilege for India to supply vaccines to Ethiopia during the COVID-19 pandemic. PM Modi thanked Ethiopia for showing solidarity in strengthening the global fight against terrorism.

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

Outcomes of the Ethiopia visit

- Upgrading bilateral relations to a 'Strategic Partnership' level.
- Agreement on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.
- Agreement on establishing a data center at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Agreement on cooperation in training for UN peacekeeping operations.
- Agreement on debt restructuring for Ethiopia under the G20 Common Framework.
- Doubling of scholarships for Ethiopian scholars under the ICCR scholarship program.
- Special short-term courses for Ethiopian students and professionals in the field of Artificial Intelligence under the ITEC program. India will assist in enhancing capacity in maternal health and newborn care at the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



PM Modi Receives Honors from Ethiopia and Oman

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Ethiopia's highest honor, the 'Great Honor Nishan of Ethiopia,' by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, while Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman conferred the 'Order of Oman' on PM Modi for his exceptional contribution to promoting India-Oman relations and visionary leadership. PM Modi received this honor for his exceptional contribution to strengthening the mutual partnership and his visionary leadership as a global statesman. PM Modi dedicated this award to all the Indian and Ethiopian people who have nurtured bilateral relations over the centuries.



Path Ahead for India-Oman Will Be More Efficient

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

- Strengthening and developing close economic and commercial ties.
- Increasing trade between the two countries by reducing trade barriers and creating a stable framework.
- Opening up opportunities in all major sectors of the economy, promoting economic growth, job creation, and investment flows.

Agreement in the Field of Maritime Heritage and Museums

- Establishment of a collaborative partnership to support maritime museums, including the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal.
- Facilitating the exchange of artifacts and expertise, joint exhibitions, research, and capacity building to promote shared maritime heritage, boost tourism, and strengthen bilateral cultural relations.

Agreement in the Field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- The framework umbrella document in the field of Agriculture, as well as allied sectors of animal husbandry and fisheries.
- Cooperation in advancements in agricultural science and technology, enhancement of horticulture, integrated farming systems, and micro-irrigation.

Agreement in the Field of Higher Education

- Decision to jointly research to develop the knowledge and innovative systems necessary to advance human and socio-economic development goals. Executive Programme for cooperation in millet cultivation and agri-food innovation
- Establishment of a framework for cooperation between India's scientific expertise and Oman's favorable agro-climatic conditions to advance the production, research, and promotion of millets.

Adoption of a Joint Vision Document on Maritime Cooperation

- Strengthening cooperation in the areas of regional maritime security, the blue economy, and the sustainable use of marine resources.



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

India-Oman's Shared Future

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the India-Oman Business Forum in Muscat, which was attended by leading business representatives from both countries in the fields of energy, agriculture, logistics, infrastructure, manufacturing, healthcare, financial services, green development, education, and connectivity. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the centuries-old maritime trade relations between the two countries, from Mandvi to Muscat, which form the basis of vibrant commercial exchanges today. PM Modi urged industrialists to utilize the full potential of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Oman, which he described as a blueprint for the shared future of India and Oman. India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy, driven by policy reforms, good governance, and investor confidence. To make the trade partnership future-ready, PM Modi proposed the creation of an India-Oman Agri Innovation Hub and an India-Oman Innovation Bridge. He said these are not just ideas, but invitations to invest, innovate, and build the future together.



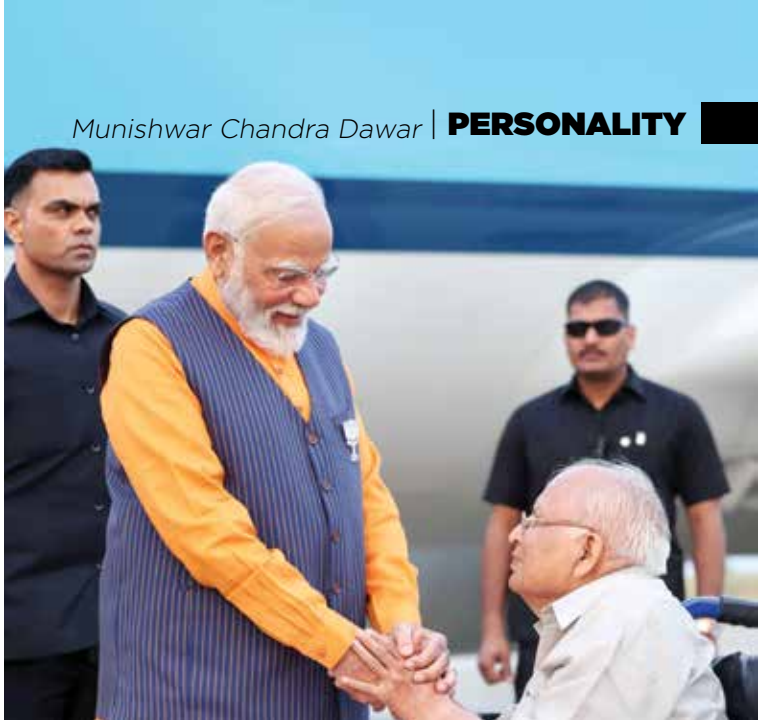
'Knowledge' has been at the heart of India-Oman relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian community in Muscat. He said he was very happy to meet the Indian diaspora from different parts of the country settled in Oman. Diversity is the foundation of Indian culture, a value that helps them easily integrate into any society they become a part of. The centuries-old relations between India and Oman are being further strengthened today by the hard work and unity of the diaspora. 'Knowledge' has been at the heart of India-Oman relations, and he congratulated the Indian schools on completing 50 years. Addressing the Indian community, PM Modi invited students to participate in ISRO's YUVIKA program, which is specifically for young people.



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





A Saviour for Poor Patients

Dr Munishwar Chandra Dawar, who treated millions of patients during his lifetime, even in this period of high inflation, used to charge just 20 rupees to the patients. For this reason, veteran army physician Dr Munishwar Chandra Dawar was revered by the people of Madhya Pradesh as a godlike figure for the underprivileged. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2023 for his selfless service to society and contributions to medicine. His spirit of public service will continue to inspire people for generations to come...

Born: January 16, 1946 Died: July 4, 2025

Munishwar Chandra Dawar, who made public service the sole purpose of his life, was born on January 16, 1946, in undivided India, now part of Pakistan. After the partition, his family moved to India. In 1967, he obtained his medical degree from Jabalpur and dedicated himself to serving the people. Later, he joined the Indian Army and served there for about a year during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. During his posting in Bangladesh during the war, he treated many injured soldiers. After the war, due to health reasons, he took early retirement in 1972 and decided to continue serving humanity in Jabalpur, where he opened his own clinic. He started treating patients for just 2 rupees and remained dedicated to this service for nearly five decades.

One lesson learnt from his teacher became his guiding principle for life. His teacher had told him that the medical profession is for serving people, not for exploiting them. These words changed the direction of his life. The impact of his good and affordable treatment was such that his clinic was always crowded with patients. His sole purpose was to serve the people. His commitment to service was so strong that he continued treating patients for 50 years. Initially, he charged only 2 rupees as a fee, which later increased to 5, 10, 15, and 20 rupees. Considered a symbol of affordable healthcare, Dr Dawar also campaigned against drug addiction and was very aware of social issues.

In 2023, when Dr Dawar was awarded the Padma Shri, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented him with the honour. He had also received several other accolades. Furthermore, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jabalpur, he personally met with Dr Dawar and enquired about his health and well-being. PM Modi remarked that many people in Jabalpur and the surrounding areas appreciated his efforts in treating the poor and underprivileged. In April 2024, JP Nadda also met with Dr Dawar at his home. Dr Dawar, a symbol of service, dedication, and compassion, passed away on July 4, 2025. ●

World Book Fair 2026

To Honour Valour and Wisdom of Indian Military

This year, the book fair is dedicated to the Indian Army's contributions to the nation since independence, titled "Indian Army History: Valour and Wisdom @75". This event is particularly significant following India's display of prowess in Operation Sindoor. Since its inception in 1972, the fair has become a major event in the global literary calendar, bridging the gap between books and readers. Publishers, authors, researchers, and readers of all ages gather under one roof. In the last few decades, the book fair has evolved from a mere marketplace for books into a global platform for presenting Indian knowledge, encompassing ideas and dialogue.

This year's 53rd edition of the book fair commenced on January 10th at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and will continue until January 18th. Organized by the National Book Trust, Ministry of Education, the World Book Fair features over 600 events with more than 1,000 speakers. It includes over 1,000 publishers representing 35 countries. This year, the book fair showcases the Army, Navy, and Air Force collectively, not only as India's defence line but also as pillars of national unity. It features 500 books on the history, security, and strategy of the Indian Armed Forces, authored by serving and retired officers.



When citizens read, the country leads.

Narendra Modi, *Prime Minister*



PM-YUVA 3.0 Declared: 43 Young Authors Selected

43 young authors have been selected under the Prime Minister's Young Authors Mentorship Scheme 3.0, implemented by the National Book Trust (NBT) India, under the Ministry of Education. The scheme aims to identify and mentor budding authors, providing them with training opportunities, editorial support, and scholarships to publish their books. This will encourage young authors to contribute to nation-building through their writing and ideas, in line with the National Education Policy 2020. In this phase, 43 young authors under the age of 30 have been selected at the national level based on their book proposals in 22 official Indian languages and English. Among the 43 budding authors, there are 19 women and 24 men. The book proposals of these authors will be developed into books under the mentorship of renowned scholars for a period of six months. Each selected author will receive a scholarship of Rs. 50,000 per month and a lifetime royalty of 10 percent on the published book.



Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

ICMR यानि इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च की हाल ही की एक रिपोर्ट बताती है कि निमोनिया और UTI जैसी बीमारियों में Antibiotic दवाएं कमजोर साबित हो रही हैं। इसका एक बड़ा कारण बिना सोचे-समझे इनका सेवन है। इसलिए मेरा आग्रह है कि Doctors की सलाह के बिना Antibiotics दवाएं ना लें।

#MannKiBaat



Rajnath Singh

A Proud Moment celebrating India's deep maritime heritage as INSV Kaundinya, #IndianNavy's Sailing Vessel, built using the Ancient Indian Stitched Ship technique, embarks on a historic voyage from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Muscat, Oman, carrying a powerful message of heritage,craftsmanship and enduring friendship.



Amit Shah
@AmitShah

भारतीय भाषाओं के सम्मान की दिशा में एक और बड़ा कदम!

हमारे संविधान का संथाली भाषा में प्रकाशन किया जाना, संथाली समाज के साथ ही पूरे देश के लिए गौरव की बात है। अलचिकि लिपि में प्रकाशित यह संविधान जनजातीय समाज तक हमारे संविधान के आदर्शों और मूल्यों को और भी स्पष्ट रूप में पहुँचाएगा तथा हमारे संविधान निर्माताओं का स्वप्न साकार करेगा।
इस ऐतिहासिक कार्य के लिए मोदी जी का हार्दिक आभार।



Nitin Gadkari
@nitin_gadkari

Under the visionary leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, the #IndiaOmanCEPA marks a major milestone in India's trade journey 🇮🇳🤝🇴🇲

Enhanced market access will boost Indian exports across plastics, furniture, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, medical devices & automobiles.



Piyush Goyal

"Ideate in India, Innovate in India, Make in India & Make for the World" – PM @NarendraModi ji

The Trade Marks Act, 1999, has been a key pillar in protecting the interests of innovators & creators for 26 years. Along with that, the Modi Government's sincere efforts to foster the innovation ecosystem have strengthened the country's position in the global Intellectual Property (IP) landscape, promoting innovation-led growth that benefits not just India, but the world.



Ashwini Vaishnaw
@AshwiniVaishnaw

From finished products to components; production is growing. Exports are rising. Global players are confident. Indian companies are competitive. Jobs are being created.
This is 'Make in India' impact story!

Kaundinya highlights India's rich maritime traditions: PM



New Delhi: PM Modi on Monday expressed delight at the maiden voyage of INSV Kaundinya, the Navy's engineless vessel built using the ancient stitched-ship technique, and said it highlights the nation's rich maritime traditions.

He said, "Wonderful to see that INSV Kaundinya is embarking on her maiden voyage from Porbandar to Muscat, Oman. Built using the ancient Indian stitched-ship technique, this ship highlights India's rich maritime traditions. I congratulate the designers, artisans, shipbuilders and the Indian Navy for their dedicated efforts in bringing this unique vessel to life." He sent best wishes to the crew for a safe and memorable journey as they retrace India's historic links with the Gulf region and beyond. TNN

DAC gives its nod for defence purchases worth ₹79,000 cr.



DRDO tests Pinaka rocket

Centre notifies guidelines for two shipbuilding initiatives with an outlay of ₹44,700 crore

India reaches 50% non-fossil power capacity in '25



Self reliance, empowerment of poor key for Viksit Bharat: PM

Sanjeev K Jha



Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for collective action by the Centre and states to make India "Aatmanirbhar anagrower the poor and realise our dream of a Viksit Bharat".

In a series of posts on X after chairing the 11th National Conference of Chief Secretaries on the concluding day, Modi said: "Shared my thoughts on how we can collectively work to make India Aatmanirbhar, empower the poor and realise our dream of a Viksit Bharat".

"This conference... has taken place at a time when India is witnessing next-generation reforms. India has boarded the Reform Express and the primary engine of this Reform Express is India's youth, our demography. That is why, it is our endeavour to empower this demographic."

The three-day conference on the theme 'Human Capital for Viksit Bharat' began on Friday and aimed at strengthening the Centre-state partnership through structured and sustained dialogue on national development priorities.

In another post on X, the PM said "Let's work towards making the label 'Made in India' synonymous with quality and strengthening our commitment to 'Zero Effect, Zero Defect'," he added.

Sharing highlights from the meeting, Modi said he "called upon states to create an ease manufacturing, boost 'Ease of Doing Business' and strengthen the service sector". "Let us aim to make India a Global Services Giant."

"India has the potential to become the world's food basket. We must move towards high-value agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. This is how India can become a major food exporter."

Officials said the deliberations marked a shift in policy thinking, moving beyond viewing population as a demographic dividend to treating citizens as skilled and productive human capital. "Discussions focused on early childhood education, reforms in school and higher education, skill development, and the role of sports and co-curricular activities, with an emphasis on lifelong learning and curiosity-driven problem-solving and innovation," said one of the officials, asking not to be named.

Another official, who attended the conference, said the human capital push is especially critical for regions facing persistent gaps in education and employment.

Replicate PRAGATI in states, set up data strategy units: PM

Asks top state govt bureaucrats to set up deregulation cells in their offices



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the PM's Review and Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

World looks at India with hope due to our youth: PM



PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation in the 129th edition of his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, which was his first broadcast of 2025.

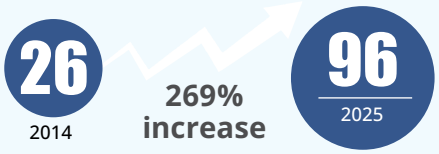
Conservation Efforts Get A Fillip...

Towards 100 Ramsar Sites

Environmental conservation efforts are paying off well, as Siliserh Lake in Alwar, Rajasthan, and Kopra Jalashay in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, have been declared Wetlands of International Importance, or Ramsar Sites. It once again reinforces India's commitment to nature conservation and preservation. This is a spectacular achievement that underscores the nation's collective efforts towards protecting rich biodiversity, conservation of water resources, climate security, and sustainable livelihoods...

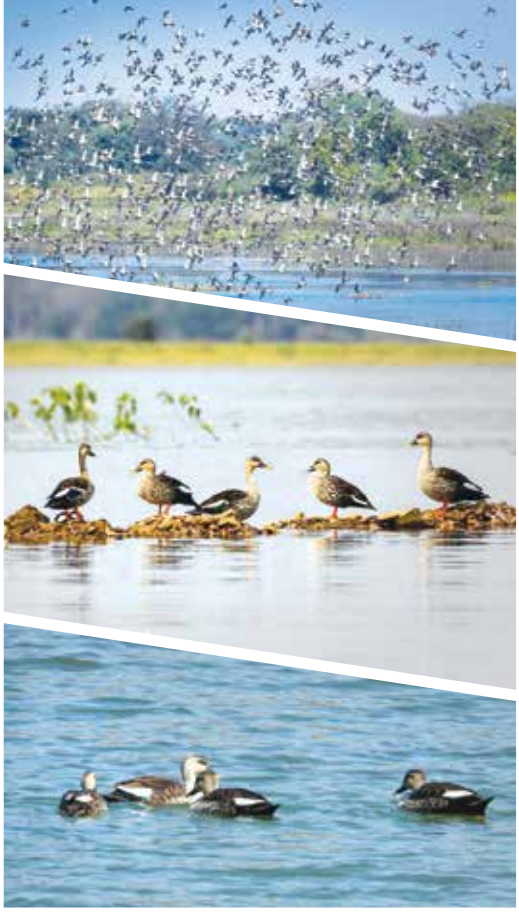
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is rapidly advancing in the field of biodiversity and heritage conservation. It is right on track to achieve recognition for 100 Ramsar sites in the country.

Number of Ramsar sites in India

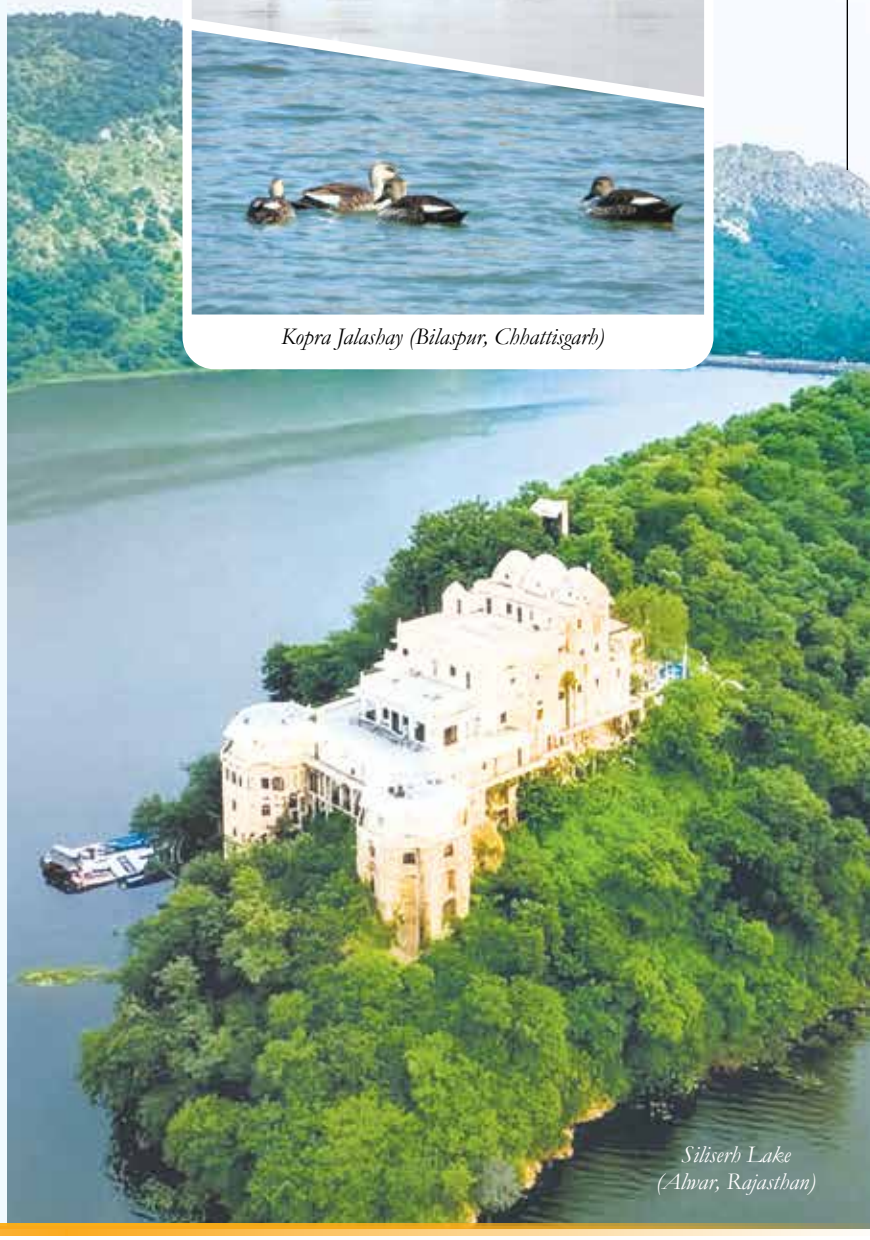


Area covered by Ramsar sites in country

More Than **13.61** lakh hectares across 26 states and union territories.



Kopra Jalashay (Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh)



Siliserh Lake (Alwar, Rajasthan)

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR FORTNIGHTLY

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