

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR



For e-copy

PRAGATI

Speed, Scale and Success

Viksit Bharat @ 2047- A national resolve and a time-bound mission, for which the PRAGATI platform has emerged as a harbinger, ensuring the timely achievement of set targets in the larger national interest

Central Industrial Security Force: March 10, Raising Day

Unwavering Dedication to Duty

Over the past 57 years, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has ensured the highest standards in national security. Known as the “security shield”, CISF personnel work to safeguard over one crore people visiting daily at vital installations across the country, including ports, airports, and metro stations from all threats



- CISF personnel play a vital role in the country's industrial, educational, and smooth functioning.
- CISF personnel are also responsible for the security of the country's new Parliament building.
- With humility and restraint, CISF personnel ensure the safe movement of over 70 lakh passengers daily on the Delhi Metro.

250 ports' security is also managed and monitored by them.



Raising Day wishes to all personnel of CISF! This force is admired for its professionalism, dedication, and courage. They play a key role in our security system by protecting essential infrastructure and ensuring the safety of countless people every day. Their unwavering commitment to duty is truly commendable.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

NEW INDIA SAMACHAR

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 17 | MARCH 1-15, 2026

EDITOR IN CHIEF

DHIRENDRA OJHA

Principal Director General,
Press Information Bureau,
New Delhi

CHIEF CONSULTING EDITOR

SANTOSH KUMAR

SENIOR ASST. CONSULTING EDITOR

PAWAN KUMAR

ASST. CONSULTING EDITORS

AKHILESH KUMAR

CHANDAN KUMAR CHOUDHARY

LANGUAGE EDITORS

SUMIT KUMAR (ENGLISH)

RAJNEESH MISHRA (ENGLISH)

NADEEM AHMED (URDU)

SENIOR DESIGNER

PHOOL CHAND TIWARI

DESIGNERS

ABHAY GUPTA

SATYAM SINGH



CLICK TO READ

**NEW INDIA SAMACHAR
AVAILABLE IN 13 LANGUAGES**

<https://newindiasamachar.>

pib.gov.in/news.aspx

**TO READ THE NEW INDIA
SAMACHAR ARCHIVE
EDITIONS CLICK**

<https://newindiasamachar.>

pib.gov.in/archive.aspx



Follow **@NISPIBIndia**
on Twitter for regular
updates on 'New India
Samachar'

On the inside pages...

Pragati@50

Extraordinary Journey of Timely Development...



Cover Story

The Pragati Forum, formed in March 2015, has held 50 meetings over the past decade, accelerating 382 projects worth over ₹85 lakh crore. This unique initiative has rapidly completed stalled projects worth crores of rupees in various states across the country. This is ensuring the development of 1.4 billion citizens... **|12-31**

Seva Teerth & Kartavya Bhavan

'Nav teerth' of Service and Duty



Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan are not just buildings but symbols of a change in work culture. Where the spirit is not of rule, but of service. **|7-9**

वन्दे मातरम्



Sing all 6 verses of the National Song...

**Time: 3 minutes 10
seconds**

The Central Government has issued new instructions on National Song, Vande Mataram **|10-11**

News Briefs

|4-5

Personality: Rifleman Sanjay Kumar

Eliminated the enemy with their Own Weapon

|6

Approval to accelerate connectivity and launch the Urban Challenge Fund

Several decisions taken at the Union Cabinet meeting

|32-34

PM Modi's Mantra: Both Studies and Arts Are Useful

PM Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026' Episode 2

|35-37

India Will Now Lead From the Front

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Response to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address

|38-41

ET Now Summit 2026: PM Narendra Modi's Address

...That's Why We Worked to Change the Entire System

|42-43

A New Chapter in Security and Development

PM Modi Offers Development Gifts to Assam

|44-45

India AI Impact Summit-Expo 2026

Confluence of New Ideas, Innovations, and Intentions

|46-47

...So That Half the Population Can Lead by Becoming the Driving Force for Development

Special on International Women's Day

|48-51

From Friendship to Strategic Partnership

Important agreements reached during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Malaysia

|52-53

India-US trade agreement opens new opportunities

Agreement reached between the world's two largest democratic and economic powers

|54-56

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

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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

PRAGATI : A Transformative Platform for Accelerating Development

Greetings,

Jan Shakti is a very powerful medium. However, if welfare projects initiated for the benefit of citizens are not implemented on time, it directly impacts the nation's progress. There was a time when projects were initiated but often remained incomplete. Due to a lack of coordination between relevant departments and other stakeholders, problems were neither resolved nor properly monitored. This resulted in stagnant development and spiraling project costs. In March 2015, the current central government initiated a technology-based, multi-faceted platform, PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), which has become a game-changer over the past decade. All projects submitted to the PRAGATI platform are reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, with the participation of relevant departments, ministries, state officials, and all stakeholders. On this platform projects are given momentum by addressing the problems appropriately.

Over the past ten years, this forum has accelerated the country's development through continuous review, timely implementation, and clear direction. The 50th meeting of Pragati recently concluded. So far, the forum has given new speed and scale to 382 national-level

projects costing over ₹85 lakh crore. The Pragati Forum has become synonymous with timely completion. Oxford, in its study, has also described this initiative as transformative. The relevance of Pragati has further given impetus to achieving the goal of a developed India. This has become the cover story of this issue.

In the personality section, read about Param Vir Chakra awardee Rifleman Sanjay Kumar. The India-US Interim Trade Agreement, an edited excerpt of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address in Rajya Sabha, his visit to Malaysia, Pariksha Pe Charcha, and his fortnightly programmes are other highlights.

The raising day of the Central Industrial Security Force on March 10, on the inside page, and special content on World Consumer Rights Day on March 15, on the back cover, are also part of this issue.

Keep sending us your suggestions.



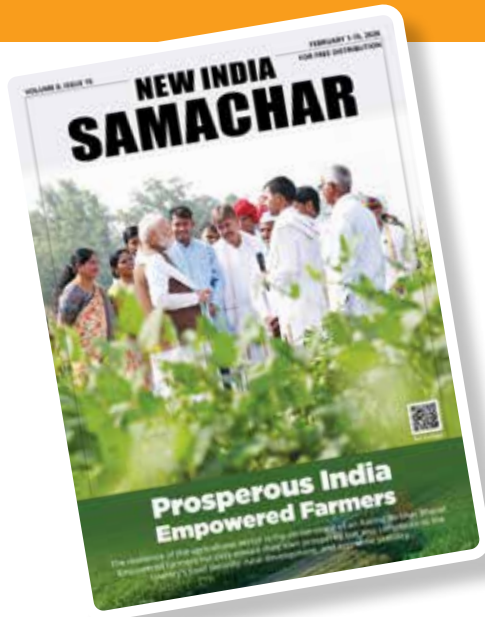
(Dharendra Ojha)



Read/Download the magazine available in Hindi, English and 11 other languages.

<https://newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in/>

MAIL BOX



The content in the magazine is very inspiring, a pleasure to read

I really enjoyed reading the New India Samachar magazine. The information contained in this magazine is very useful. Thank you for bringing the people of India closer together. I found the content very inspiring. The articles in the New India Samachar magazine is useful for students preparing for competitive exams. This magazine is very well designed.

Shrikrishna Mandal

Reliable information about initiatives being taken for the country's development

I thank the entire team at New India Samachar for publishing a magazine that provides exclusive and important information. I wish you continued success in your efforts to provide citizens with complete information. Reading this magazine gives young people a clear and reliable understanding of government policies and initiatives being taken for the country's development.

thirubjp2020@gmail.com

Comprehensive and reliable information about the Government of India's schemes

New India Samachar is an excellent magazine that provides detailed and reliable information about the various initiatives and schemes of the Government of India. I found its content very informative and useful. India is fortunate to have such a strong and responsible Prime Minister who is fulfilling all his responsibilities well. New India Samachar plays a vital role in clearly presenting these issues to citizens, which is truly commendable.

Mohit Chauhan

mohit.cm1326@gmail.com

The articles and reports are very inspiring

I was just reading an issue of New India Samachar. I found the articles and reports in it very inspiring. New India Samachar is always very informative and interesting.

H. Sharma

hsonai@hotmailcom

Very helpful in exam preparation

I am preparing for the Civil Services exam. I am a regular reader of the New India Samachar magazine. This magazine is proving to be very helpful in my exam preparation. It inspires students to learn. This magazine helps candidates gain information about India's development and progress. The articles published in it are written in easy to understand language.

Mohit Maurya

studentindia72@gmail.com





Cashless treatment available at AIIA, New Delhi

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi will now offer cashless treatment to patients under mediclaim policies of all 32 general insurance companies under the General Insurance Council. The institute has signed a Common Empanelment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the General Insurance Council (GIC) on 10 February 2026. AIIA Director Prof. (Vaidya) P.K. Prajapati said that this initiative will make Ayurvedic healthcare more accessible and affordable, thereby increasing patient confidence and providing better benefits. For the first time, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched the AYUSH Health Insurance Helpline 1800-11-0008 to answer insurance-related questions for beneficiaries and raise awareness about AYUSH insurance coverage.



More than ₹8,000 crore saved from Cybercriminals



As digital services expand in the country, new methods of online fraud are also being developed. This is why the government has made efforts at various levels to protect citizens from increasing cyber fraud. To this end, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was launched. Under I4C, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) was launched to report all types of cybercrimes, as well as the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) in 2021. According to this report, more than ₹8,189 crore has been saved across more than 23.61 lakh complaints in the country as of December 31, 2025. A toll-free helpline number, 1930, is also being operated to assist in filing cybercrime complaints online.

India will lead the world in 6G

India is no longer a follower of technology but has emerged as a global digital leader. India's communications revolution is no longer limited to metropolitan cities but is reaching rural areas, transforming the lives, education, health, and livelihoods of its citizens. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Communications and Development of the Northeastern Region, stated in Parliament that India followed the world in 4G, marched with the world in 5G, and will lead the world in 6G. India has launched 5G services at the fastest pace in the world. In just 22 months, 5G services have been launched in 99.9 percent of the country's districts. Currently, 400 million citizens in the country benefit from 5G, and by 2030, 1 billion citizens will have access to 5G connectivity.



India's Cricketing Talent Shines

India's sports ecosystem has strengthened significantly over the past decade. Whether it's women's cricket, women's cricket for the visually impaired, or men's cricket, our players are making their mark globally. The Under-19 cricket team brought a new level of glory, winning the One Day World Cup for a record sixth time in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his congratulatory address to the team, said, "Proud of our U-19 team for bringing home the World Cup. The team has played very well through the tournament, showcasing exceptional skill. This win will inspire several young sportspersons too. Best wishes to the players for their upcoming endeavours." Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan congratulated the young champions, calling the victory a historic achievement. He particularly praised the record-breaking innings of young star and Player of the Tournament Vaibhav Suryavanshi.



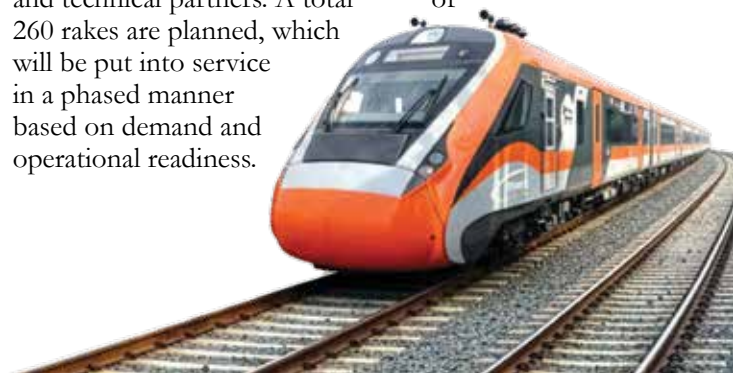
The Road To Bharatiya Antariksh Station

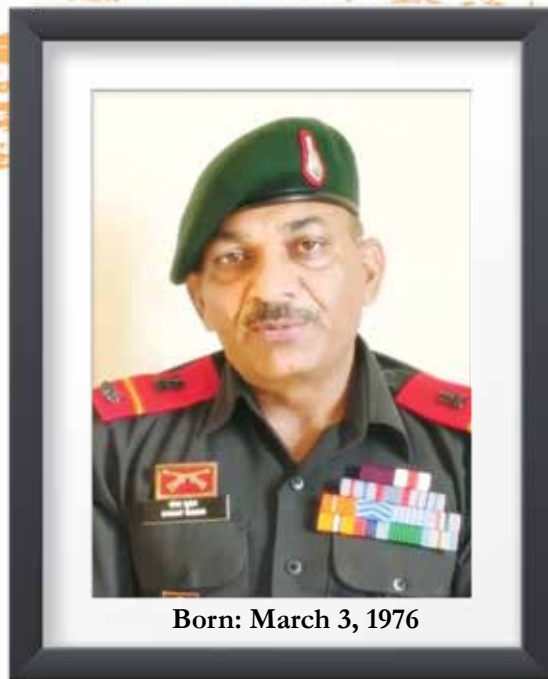
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has finalised the overall structure of the five modules of the BHARATIYA ANTARIKSH STATION. After review, the first module has been approved. Development and launch of the first module of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-01) by 2028. Overall system engineering and technology development of various subsystems for the BAS-01 module are underway at ISRO centres/units. Bharatiya Antariksh Station will be equipped with advanced life-support systems and modern technologies. It will enable long-duration human habitation in low Earth orbit. It will enable advanced scientific research and testing of new technologies that can have a positive impact on society and the economy. It will also support subsequent Indian human space missions beyond low Earth orbit. The government has included the earlier missions and the development and launch of BAS-1 in the revised scope of the Gaganyaan programme, increasing its budget to ₹20,193 crore.



Plan To Manufacture 260 Rakes Of Vande Bharat

Indian Railways is continuously modernising itself, handling over 7.2 billion passengers annually. Services are being continuously added in the form of Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat trains. In this regard, the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train was recently launched. The government is working on plans to expand it. Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, stated that the government is developing safe, reliable, and comfortable Vande Bharat Sleeper Train sets. The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train manufacturing program is being implemented in a phased manner through prototype development, testing, and series production by BEML and Integral Coach Factory and technical partners. A total of 260 rakes are planned, which will be put into service in a phased manner based on demand and operational readiness.





Born: March 3, 1976

Eliminated the enemy with their Own Weapon

Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, awarded the Param Vir Chakra for exceptional bravery, displayed indomitable courage during the Kargil War, defeating the enemy with their own weapons. Despite being covered in blood, this valiant soldier refused to retreat from the battlefield. He kept fighting the enemy until Point Flat Top was completely freed of enemies...

Born on March 3, 1976, in Kalol Bakain village, Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh, Sanjay Kumar was the youngest of three sisters and two brothers. He had dreamed of joining the army since childhood. The heroic tales of war told by his uncle, who had participated in the 1965 India-Pakistan war, and other villagers who had joined the army inspired him to join the army. Determined Sanjay Kumar finally succeeded in 1996 and joined the 13th Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles as a soldier.

On July 4, 1999, Rifleman Sanjay Kumar, a leading scout with a company of the 13th Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, was sent to recapture the Mushkoh Valley in Jammu and Kashmir. Upon reaching the summit, he came under intense fire from an enemy bunker. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he killed three intruders and was seriously wounded himself. This action took the enemy soldiers completely by surprise,

leaving behind a universal machine gun and fleeing. Rifleman Sanjay Kumar picked up the universal machine gun and opened fire on the fleeing soldiers, killing several more. Despite bleeding profusely, he refused to retreat. His courageous action inspired his comrades, who charged the enemy and ultimately captured the Flat Top area.

For displaying high levels of gallantry and indomitable courage, Rifleman Sanjay Kumar was awarded the Param Vir Chakra after the battle. Naib Subedar Sanjay Kumar was commissioned as a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army on July 2, 2014. Furthermore, in recognition of his dedication and devotion to the Army, Sanjay Kumar, a National Defence Academy instructor, was promoted to the rank of Subedar Major in February 2022. In 2026, the Indian Army conferred on him the rank of Honorary Captain on Republic Day. ●

‘Nav teerth’ of Service and Duty

The Government of India has developed “Seva Teerth” and “Kartavya Bhavan” as symbols not merely of new buildings, but of a transformed administrative culture and a commitment to good governance. They represent a shift from a mindset of authority to one of service. This transformation is not just structural, but also reflects a change in thinking and working style. On February 13th, on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Ekadashi, the Prime Minister’s Office became known as ‘Seva Teertha’. On the same occasion, Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2, as the Common Central Secretariat, were also inaugurated, witnessing a new beginning in the journey towards a Viksit Bharat

The New India is moving towards the path of a new era. Vikram Samvat 2082, Vijaya Ekadashi of the Krishna Paksha of Phalgun, 24 Magha, Saka Samvat 1947, which is February 13, 2026 according to the current calendar, marked a new beginning in India’s development journey. In fact, with the resolve of a Viksit Bharat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Seva Teertha and Kartavya Bhavan on this day. North Block and South Block were built keeping in mind the needs and mindset of colonial rule. At that time, the then Viceroy stated that these structures were built in accordance with the wishes of the British Emperor. Raisina Hills was chosen so that these buildings would stand above all others, and no one

could match them. In contrast to Raisina Hills, the Seva Teerth complex is directly connected to the ground. While South and North Blocks were built to implement a colonial mindset, today Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan have been built to fulfill the aspirations of the people of India. Decisions taken from these buildings will form the foundation for advancing the aspirations of 140 crore citizens.

The Prime Minister remarked that the first quarter of the 21st century has now been completed, and it is essential that the vision of a Viksit Bharat is reflected not only in policies and schemes but also in workplaces and buildings. He emphasized that the places from where the nation is governed must be effective and



Seva Teertha: This complex now houses the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat, and the Cabinet Secretariat. Previously, these offices operated from separate locations.

Kartavya Bhavan-1 & 2: Accommodate the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Law & Justice, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

These buildings feature modern amenities:

Both building complexes feature digitally integrated offices, organised public interface zones, and centralised reception facilities. These complexes feature renewable energy systems, water conservation measures, and waste management solutions. These building complexes also include a comprehensive security infrastructure, including smart access control systems, surveillance networks, and advanced emergency response infrastructure.



Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan have been built to fulfil the aspirations of the people of India. The decisions taken here will not reflect the thinking of any monarch but will serve as the foundation to advance the expectations of 140 crore citizens.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

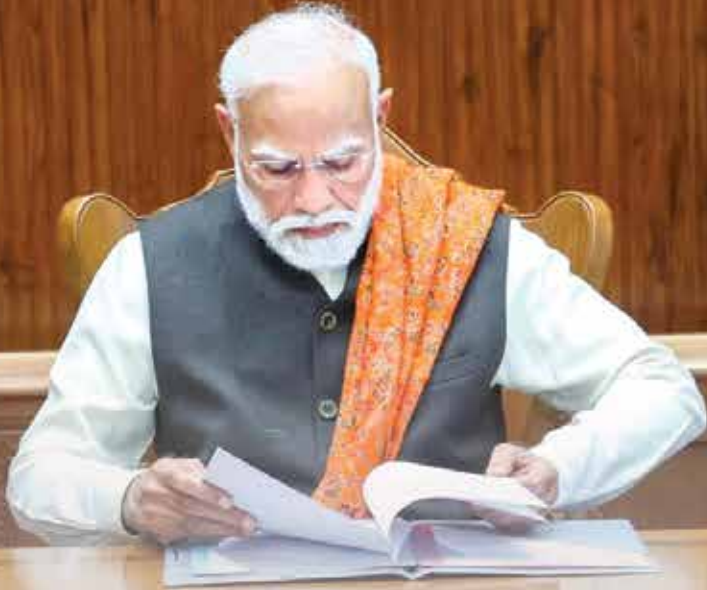
Viksit Bharat will be built on the foundation of Kartavya

- Kartavya is the foundation for realising the dreams of millions of countrymen!*
- Kartavya is the beginning; Kartavya is the lifeblood of this vibrant nation.*
- Kartavya is work bound in the loving thread of compassion and diligence!*
- Kartavya is the hope of resolutions!*
- Kartavya is the culmination of hard work!*
- Kartavya is the solution to every problem; the faith of a Viksit Bharat is Kartavya!*
- Kartavya is equality, Kartavya is affection, Kartavya is universal, and Kartavya is all-encompassing.*
- Kartavya is the mantra woven into the spirit of everyone's support, everyone's development!*
- Kartavya is the spirit of dedication to the nation!*
- Kartavya is the willpower that ignites the light in every life!*
- Kartavya is the joy of a self-reliant India!*
- Kartavya is the guarantee of a bright future for future generations!*
- Kartavya is the flag-bearer of Maa Bharati's life energy!*
- Every action done with devotion to the nation is a Kartavya!*
- Kartavya is the awakened path to the practice of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava'!*

inspiring, impressive and motivating. PM Modi pointed out that South Block and North Block faced space constraints and limited amenities, and being nearly a hundred years old, they were deteriorating from within, along with several other challenges. Noting that even decades after Independence, numerous ministries of the Government of India were functioning from more than 50 different locations in Delhi. He underlined

that every year, 1,500 crore was being spent on rent for these ministry buildings, while daily logistics costs were incurred for 8,000 to 10,000 employees moving between offices. He stressed that with the construction of Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan, these expenses will reduce and employees' time will be saved.

PM announced the decision to dedicate the old building as a museum for the nation, making it part of



The name of the new Prime Minister's Office is Seva Teerth

The spirit of service is the soul of India; the spirit of service is India's identity.

Governance means service, and responsibility means dedication.

Seva Teerth is not just a name; it is a resolution.

Seva Teerth means a place sanctified by service to the citizens!

A place to take the resolution of service to fruition!

Today, India also faces the goal of a developed India, a self-reliant India.

We have to liberate millions of countrymen from poverty, and we have to liberate the country from the mentality of slavery, and this task will only be accomplished through the power of service.



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

the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum. He underlined that the building will serve as a center of inspiration for future generations, and when young people visit, the historical legacy will guide them. PM Modi stated that in 2014 the country resolved that the colonial mindset would no longer continue. He noted that a campaign was launched to change this mindset, leading to the creation of the National War Memorial in honor of martyrs, and the Police Memorial to recognize police bravery. He recalled that Race Course Road was renamed Lok Kalyan Marg, which was not merely a change of name but an effort to transform the attitude of power into a spirit of service.

He stated that Seva Teerth is not just a name but a resolve—a sacred place through service to citizens, a site to carry the pledge of service to fulfillment. He explained that the meaning of Teerth as one which has the capacity to liberate and help achieve goals.

The Prime Minister noted that in the past eleven years, a new model of governance has emerged, where the citizen is at the center of decision-making. He emphasized that "Nagrik Devo Bhava" is not just a phrase but the working culture, which must be embraced as officials enter these new buildings.

WILL MAKE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF CITIZENS EASIER

Every decision taken at Seva Teerth, every file moved, and every moment spent here should be dedicated to improving the lives of 140 crore citizens. PM Modi urged every officer, employee, and Karmayogi to pause for a moment and ask themselves, "Will their work today make the lives of millions of citizens easier?" He emphasised that this self-reflection will become the greatest strength of this place.

NEW BUILDINGS WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION OF A VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Every decision taken at Seva Teerth and Kartavya Bhavan will not just be the approval of a file but will shape the direction of a Viksit Bharat 2047. The role of every institution, every officer, every employee, and every Karmayogi is crucial. Sharing his vision, Prime Minister Modi said that Seva Teerth should become a symbol of sensitive governance and a role model of citizen-centric administration. ●



New MHA Protocol on Vande Mataram

It is mandatory to sing all six verses Duration: 3 minutes 10 seconds

The country is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the national song, Vande Mataram. As part of this celebration, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a fresh set of instructions to states and government bodies mandating that the national song, Vande Mataram, must be played or sung before the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, when both are part of an event. The official version of the national song is mandatory on major state occasions such as the arrival of the President, the hoisting of the national flag, and addresses by Governors...

The official protocol regarding the singing of the national song 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was established through guidelines issued by the Government of India. These guidelines specify how and when it should be presented at official government ceremonies. They also outline the expected conduct of citizens, the proper manner of singing or playing the national song, and provide information about its duration.

DURATION

The singing or playing of the National Anthem is approximately 3 minutes and 10 seconds.

NATIONAL SONG FIRST

It is important that if both the National Song and the National Anthem are sung or played at an event, the National Song should be sung or played first, followed by the National Anthem.

SPECIFIC EXEMPTIONS FOR CINEMA HALLS AND FILM SCREENINGS

Whenever the official version of the national song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary the national song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand, as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the national song.

THE GUIDELINES RECOMMEND

When Vande Mataram is performed by a band, the beginning of the singing should be formally signalled by the beat of a drum or the sound of a bugle.

PERMISSION TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (AS DISTINCT FROM PLAYING IT):

It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occa-

वन्दे मातरम्

राष्ट्रीय गीत के 150 वर्ष का स्मरणोत्सव



The lyrics of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' are as follows:-

वन्दे मातरम्।

सुजलाम् सुफलाम् मलयजशीतलाम्,
शरयश्यामलाम् मातरम्। वन्दे मातरम्।

शुभज्योत्स्ना पुलकितयामिनीम्,
फुल्लकुसुमित द्रुमदलशोभिनीम्,
सुहासिनीम् सुमधुरभाषिणीम्,
सुखदाम् वरदाम् मातरम्। वन्दे मातरम्।

कोटि-कोटि कण्ठ कल-कल निनाद कराले,
कोटि-कोटि भुजैधृत खरकरवाले,
के बाँले मां तुमि अबले,
बहुबलधारिणीं नमामि तारिणीम्,
रिपुदलवारिणीं मातरम्। वन्दे मातरम्।

तुमि विद्या तुमि धर्म, तुमि हृदि तुमि मर्म,
त्वम् हि प्राणाः शरीरे, बाहुते तुमि मां शक्ति,
हृदये तुमि मां भक्ति, तोमारेई प्रतिमा गडि मंदिरे-मंदिरे।
वन्दे मातरम्।

त्वम् हि दुर्गा दशप्रहरणधारिणी,
कमला कमलदलविहारिणी,
वाणी विद्यादायिनी, नमामि त्वाम्,
नमामि कमलाम् अमलाम् अतुलाम्,
सुजलां सुफलां मातरम्। वन्दे मातरम्।

श्यामलाम् सरलाम् सुस्मिताम् भूषिताम्,
धरणीम् भरणीम् मातरम्। वन्दे मातरम्।

sions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of the official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained.

COMMUNITY SINGING IN SCHOOLS

In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song. School authorities should make adequate provision in their programmes for popularising the singing of the National Song and National Anthem and promoting respect for the National Flag among students.

PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL SONG

The official version of the National Song shall be played on the following occasions:

- Civil Investitures
- On arrival of the President at formal State functions and other functions organized by the Government and on his departure from such functions;
- Immediately before and after the President addresses the Nation over All India Radio and Television;
- On arrival of the Governor /Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions;
- When the National Flag is brought on parade.
- The National Song shall be played on any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India. ●

Pragati@50

Extraordinary Journey of Timely Development...

As India embarked on a new path of development in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi realized that the success of major projects and schemes is ensured not merely by approvals but by timely, coordinated, and accountable implementation. Started in March 2015, the Pragati Platform has, over the past decade, held 50 meetings and accelerated the progress of 382 projects worth over ₹85 lakh crore. This unique initiative has rapidly completed stalled and delayed projects worth crores of rupees in various states, ensuring the right to development for 1.4 billion citizens...





- ✦ The Saryu Canal Project in Uttar Pradesh was approved in 1978 and completed in 2021 after a four-decade delay.

- ✦ The Kollam Bypass Project in Kerala was approved in 1975 and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 after a five-decade delay.

- ✦ The Kosi Rail Mahasetu in Bihar was approved in 2003-04 and completed in 2020 after a nearly two-decade delay.

- ✦ The Bogibeel Bridge Project in Assam was approved in 1997 and completed in 2018 after a two-decade delay.

- ✦ The Atal Tunnel Project was approved in 2000 and completed in 2020 after a two-decade delay.

- ✦ The Eastern-Western Peripheral Project was approved in 2006 and completed in 2016 and 2018 after a decade-long delay.

- ✦ The Navi Mumbai International Airport Project was approved in 2007 and completed in December 2025 after a nearly two-decade delay.

- ✦ The Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project was approved in 1994 and completed in June 2025 after a delay of over three decades.



Now think, can such a long delay in a project ever be in the national interest? Why was the previous working style such that once work got stuck, it remained stalled for years? There was no accountability and no one to question it. Plans were made in files, announcements were made for political gain, lamp lighting ceremonies were held, foundation stones were laid, but the result was that many projects remained stuck on paper for decades.

Under this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a technology platform in March 2015-PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation). It has become such a technology-based platform that its recently concluded 50th meeting has become a

PRAGATI: A Glance

- ✦ **PRAGATI: A New Path to Development:** There was a time when development projects, after announcements, would get stuck on the ground realities of implementation. Whether it took more than five decades to build the 13.5-kilometer bypass in Kollam, Kerala, or the Khurda-Bolangir railway line in Odisha, more than 25 years to complete, the project was completed.
- ✦ PRAGATI is a multi-modal platform based on information, communication, and technology (ICT) that aims to review projects and remove obstacles.
- ✦ As of the 50th edition of PRAGATI meetings (December 31, 2025), 382 projects with a total cost of over ₹85 lakh crore have been reviewed.



milestone in the journey of development. So far, 382 projects worth over ₹85 lakh crore have been accelerated on the Pragati platform. Projects are reviewed in meetings, which examine the challenges faced by each ministry, each state, and any law that might be causing the problem. After carefully examining all aspects, solutions are found. Through the implementation of this Pragati, solutions have been found in several areas, be it railways, roads, irrigation, or rural infrastructure. Recently, the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line project was completed, and videos of the snow-covered train have become very popular these days. The Vande Bharat train passes through snow-clad mountains, and people exclaim, "Don't be mistak-

During winter, the Manali-Leh Highway near the Rohtang Pass remained closed for six months, isolating the region from the rest of the country. But now, this road is open year-round. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Atal tunnel to the nation on October 3, 2020



From North to South, East to West, people have seen projects that had been stuck, and delayed for decades being completed in a timely manner

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



en, this is India, not a foreign country." However, it's important to understand that this project was stalled for three decades, and the current central government has brought it to fruition. Similarly, the Bogibeel Bridge in Assam is a crucial bridge connecting Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This project languished for many years, was reviewed through progress, and this work, which will bring significant benefits to the entire Northeast, including Assam, has now been completed.

Indeed, the country has thousands of examples of the culmination of any plan, i.e., implementation. But the question is, why did Prime Minister Narendra Modi take on the responsibility of completing projects that had been pending for decades? In the

true sense, it is this confluence of policy, intention, and decision that forms the basis of any plan, and today progress has become synonymous with it. This is not limited to old projects; even the projects initiated by Prime Minister Modi keep a constant eye on progress.

FROM "SWAGAT" TO "PRAGATI," A NEW JOURNEY OF DEVELOPMENT

Consider the example of the Pragati Platform. A train to Una in Himachal Pradesh was announced in Parliament decades ago. However, until PM Modi came to power, the plan hadn't even been drawn on paper. When this issue was brought up at the Pragati Platform, chaired by PM Modi, a solution was found, and today, the train is fulfilling the dreams of the mountains. The Pragati Platform addressed numerous issues, examining why projects were stalled, what was causing the cost overruns, which department was responsible for the delays, and who had improperly caused the delays. A project that was supposed to cost ₹900 crore had swelled to ₹90,000 crore. Similarly, when the Navi Mumbai International Airport was discussed at the Pragati meeting in 2015, Prime Minister Modi was astonished. The committee for a second airport in the commercial capital, Mumbai, was first formed in November 1997. Since then, for nearly 20 years, files have been circulating. In the meantime, numerous governments came and left office, but the Navi

Understand the pace and importance of PRAGATI in this way

PRAGATI was launched on March 25, 2015

50 meetings have been held so far.



382 Major national projects were reviewed.



85 Projects worth more than ₹1 lakh crore were accelerated.

61 government schemes, including the prominent ones: One Nation One Ration Card, PM Jan Arogya Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM SVANidhi Scheme, and Swachh Bharat Mission.



36

sectors' complaints resolved, including issues on Corona, RERA, banking, insurance, Matru Vandana Yojana, and the Jan Dhan Yojana.

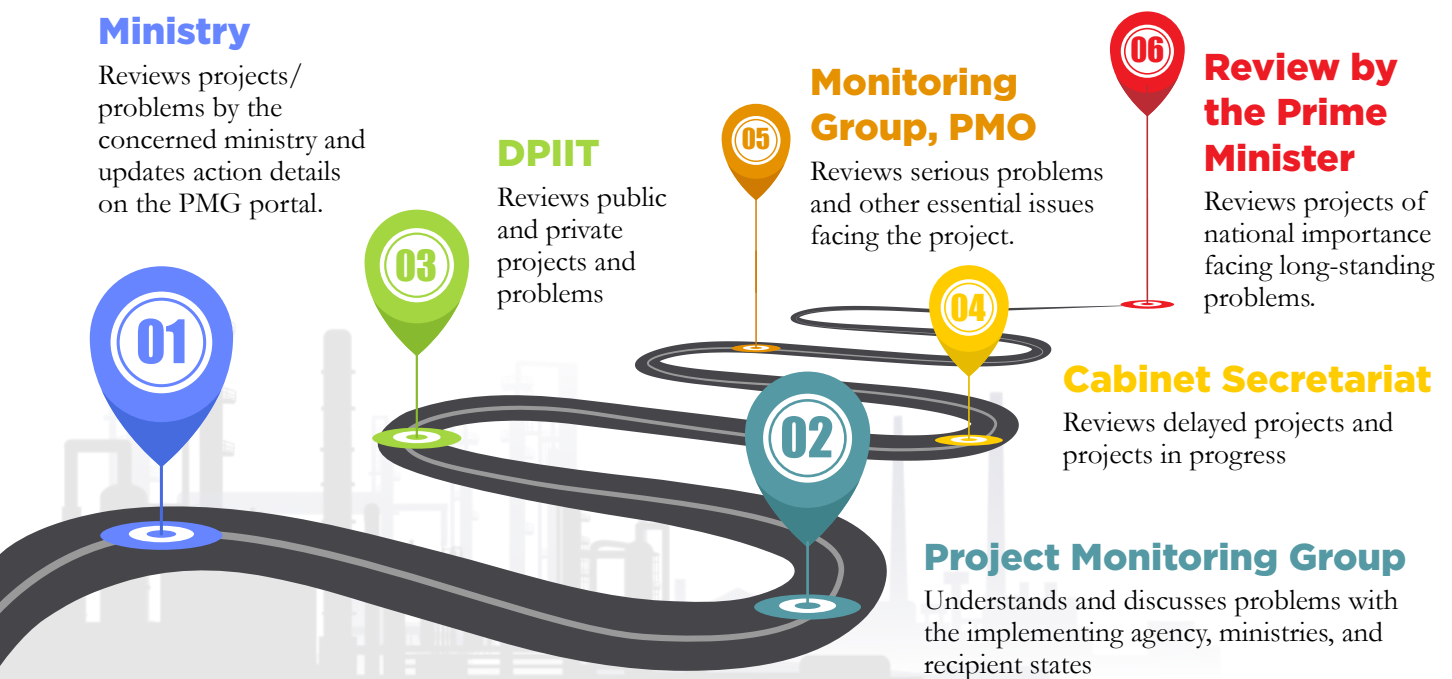
7,735 issues were raised, of which **7,156** were resolved.

Capital Expenditure

From ₹4.26 lakh crore in FY 2014 to an estimated ₹15.53 lakh crore in FY 2015-26, it increased by more than three and a half times.



Troubleshooting Mechanism



Mumbai Airport file remained unmoved. In a Pragati meeting, Prime Minister Modi brought together all officials and departments to remove all obstacles, and now the dream of the Navi Mumbai Airport has been realized. Similarly, in 2017, the dream of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi was realized. The decision to build it was made in 1992, but nothing happened for 23 years. Its foundation stone was laid, and the inauguration took place in 2014, during PM Modi's tenure.

This is just the story of one project; 382 such projects have either been realized or are about to be realized. This is a living example of the change in work culture. The list of such projects is endless. Since becoming Prime Minister, thanks to Narendra Modi's unique initiative, stalled projects worth thousand crores of rupees in various states across the country are being completed rapidly. This revolutionary change has been made possible by the PRAGATI platform. It has not only eliminated corruption but also reduced costs and time. The benefits of this all-round development are reaching directly to farmers, tribals, the poor, and women in remote areas. Under Prime Minister Modi's guidance, coordination has been established between

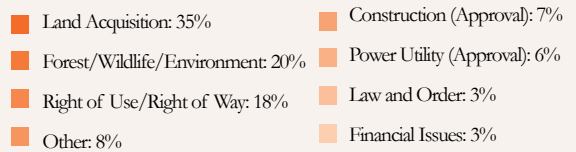
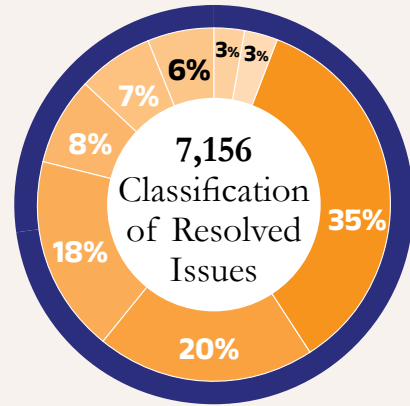
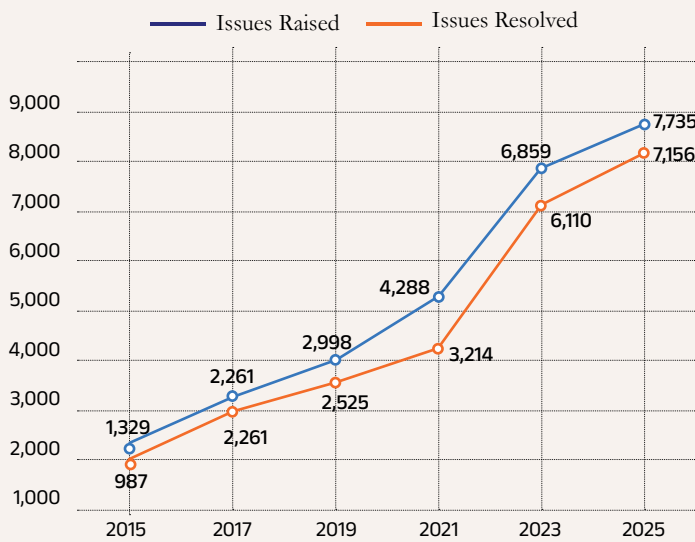
various departments of the Government of India and state governments, and many pending projects have been completed. Prime Minister Modi himself monitors development projects on this platform. Approximately 96% of the issues identified through this platform were resolved, significantly reducing delays, cost overruns, and coordination gaps. This platform not only facilitates discussions with every department but also provides immediate, on-the-spot solutions. This platform is founded on Prime Minister Modi's Gujarat experience. While Chief Minister of Gujarat, PM Modi, launched the Swagat platform, a technological tool that directly reached the Chief Minister and ensured timely resolution. Swagat laid the foundation for transparency and accountability. The Prime Minister expanded this experience nationally and, as a result, created an integrated, multi-agency platform, which became a shining example of federalism. Subsequently, all major projects were brought under one roof to address grievances and prevent delays. Here, ministries and departments go beyond working in silos to find solutions to problems.

Prime Minister Modi himself says that since 2014, the government has worked to institutionalize

Resolution of Issues under the PRAGATI-Led Ecosystem

7,735 Issues Raised

7,156 Issues Resolved



performance and accountability, creating a system that ensures progress with continuous follow-up and completion within time and budget. He says that previously initiated projects that were left incomplete or forgotten have been revived and completed in the national interest. Many projects that were stuck for decades were completed after being brought under the Pragati platform.

A GRAND EXAMPLE OF TEAM INDIA

Prime Minister Modi believes that projects don't fail simply due to a lack of intent. Many projects fail due to a lack of coordination and siloed working methods. The Pragati Forum brought all stakeholders together to address this, aligned with achieving shared outcomes. Pragati today is an effective model of collaborative federalism, where the Centre and states work as a team. The Prime Minister himself noted at the 50th meeting that nearly 500 Secretaries of the Government of India and Chief Secretaries of the States have participated in Pragati meetings since its inception. The Pragati Forum has ensured adequate resources for national priorities and sustained investments in various sectors.

Taking forward the mantra of Reform, Perform, Transform, Prime Minister Modi has now taken the next step through Pragati: "Reform to simplify, work to perfection, transform to impact."

A NEW PATH TO 'PRAGATI' THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

"When plans gain momentum, the country progresses." This vision of PM Modi, who has become the pioneer of bold reformism, has become a symbol of a new beginning with renewed confidence. Hopes once considered impossible or small, left to fate, are now being realized. The pathbreaking "Pragati" initiative is charting the course of change for New India, so that when the country celebrates its centenary of independence in 2047, the fulfillment of these resolutions will place it among the world's most powerful nations. The vision of New India can only be achieved by understanding the needs and aspirations of the people and working at a fast pace. A significant effort in this direction is the centrally established system called "Pragati." This Pragati platform plays a vital role in accelerating infrastructure projects across the country. Pragati meetings

A study by Oxford's Saïd Business School

Direction from Top Leadership: PRAGATI's current form is the result of decisive and proactive leadership—especially that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Regular monthly reviews and direct involvement at the top level not only set a clear direction but also accelerate the resolution of problems. It strengthened a collective sense of teamwork among all stakeholders.

PRAGATI's impact has not been limited to economic growth; it has also promoted social progress and environmental sustainability. By expediting projects that provide essential services like roads, rail, water, and electricity, PRAGATI has improved the quality of life for millions of Indians. The platform has also integrated sustainability into its functioning, assisting in the expediting of environmental clearances and encouraging the use of green technologies. This holistic approach ensures that India's development is both inclusive and sustainable.

Citing studies by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), the case study states that for every one rupee spent on infrastructure, the country gains approximately 2.5 to 3.5 rupees in gross domestic product (GDP).

This infrastructure revolution, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a key pillar of the "Viksit Bharat 2047" initiative, an ambitious roadmap aimed at making India a "developed nation" by the 100th anniversary of its independence. The initiative encompasses a broad range of national development goals, including infrastructure development, economic growth, social progress, technological advancement, and sustainable development. It aims to achieve a \$30 trillion economy by 2047. Key objectives include ensuring 100% literacy and universal access to healthcare, and making India a global hub for research and innovation.

ensure direct dialogue with all stakeholders to resolve projects that have been stalled for decades. Promoting projects that have been stalled for years accelerates national development. Today, small businesses, especially MSMEs, have gained the confidence to compete in the world's largest markets. They now have infrastructure comparable to that of major countries.

There's no doubt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is adept at integrating technology and making it a vital tool for good governance. He not only has a strong personal connection with people at the grassroots level, but also has a strong social media presence. He is also known as India's most tech-savvy leader. He uses social media to reach out to people and transform their lives. By combining technology, he has created a platform for progress that is giving long-stalled projects a new direction.

OXFORD STUDY RECOGNIZES IT AS A GAME-CHANGER

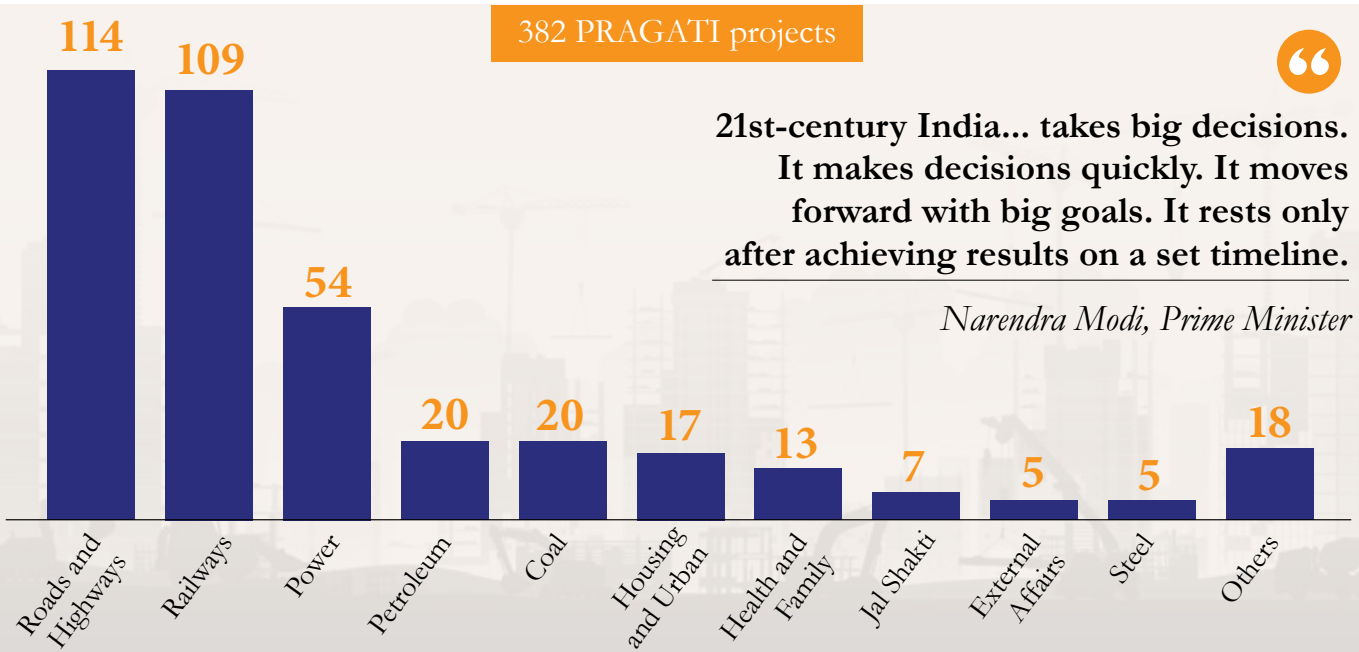
In December 2024, an Oxford study highlighted the role of 'Pragati' in accelerating India's major projects. A groundbreaking case study was conducted by Oxford's Saïd Business School, supported by the Gates Foundation. Titled 'From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress,' the study highlighted PRAGATI as a game-changer in India's digital governance landscape. Today, the PRAGATI platform is a unique combination of technology and governance. It ensures that bottlenecks are removed and projects are completed on time.

MOMENTUM GAINED BY THE RISE OF NEW TRADITIONS

The Amrit Mahotsav, the pledge to make India developed by the year 2047, was the beginning of the foundation of a new India. Whether it's launching a 25-year journey of "Amrit Kaal" or creating an awareness campaign by highlighting cleanliness and sanitary pads from the Red Fort. Whether it's injecting new vigour into the



The Prime Minister reviewed projects in these sectors on the PRAGATI platform



general budget or accelerating decades-long projects through forums like “Pragati,” direct dialogue with youth, students, athletes, and beneficiaries, whether it’s shifting from ease of doing business to ease of living, or giving due respect to neglected national icons. Whether it’s streamlining the administrative system and ensuring timely delivery to the last mile, or the initiative “Mission Karmayogi” for administrative reforms and improving coordination between ministries and departments. Whether it’s bridging decades of gaps, bringing about an economic revolution in the form of “One Nation, One Tax” (GST), or abrogating Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, hopes once considered impossible or small and left to fate are now being realized. The pathbreaking initiative, New India, is charting a course for change so that when the country celebrates its centenary of independence in 2047, the fulfillment of these resolutions will place it among the world’s most powerful nations.

Certainly, a Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is not only a national resolution but also a time-bound goal, and in the national interest, ‘Pragati’ is serving as a strong pillar to achieve it. The Pragati meeting has

today become a means of granting rights to the people of the country. Previously, many schemes were stalled for three or four decades. The current central government took the initiative to complete them. The Pragati platform has increased transparency and transformed the work culture. Projects being completed on time, meeting set targets, and the speed and scale of building next-generation infrastructure have all been possible only through reforming processes and ensuring transparency at the grassroots level. Behind these monumental efforts are the countless aspirations of the youth of the 21st century India. Aspirations that are difficult to fulfill in the absence of basic amenities and security. Through an effective platform like Pragati, New India is addressing these challenges, empowering young dreams, and armed with the unwavering will to fulfill its resolve—a vision that will realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and fulfill the aspirations and expectations of 1.4 billion citizens.

Let us further explore some of the projects completed thanks to PRAGATI, which has laid the foundation for a developed India...

PROJECT

Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge over the Brahmaputra River

Sanction Date
March 1997

PRAGATI Date
May 27, 2015

Cost
₹5,920
crore

Inauguration
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
December 25, 2018

Benefits

This bridge over the Brahmaputra River between Dibrugarh and Dhemaji districts of Assam is economically and strategically important for the nation.



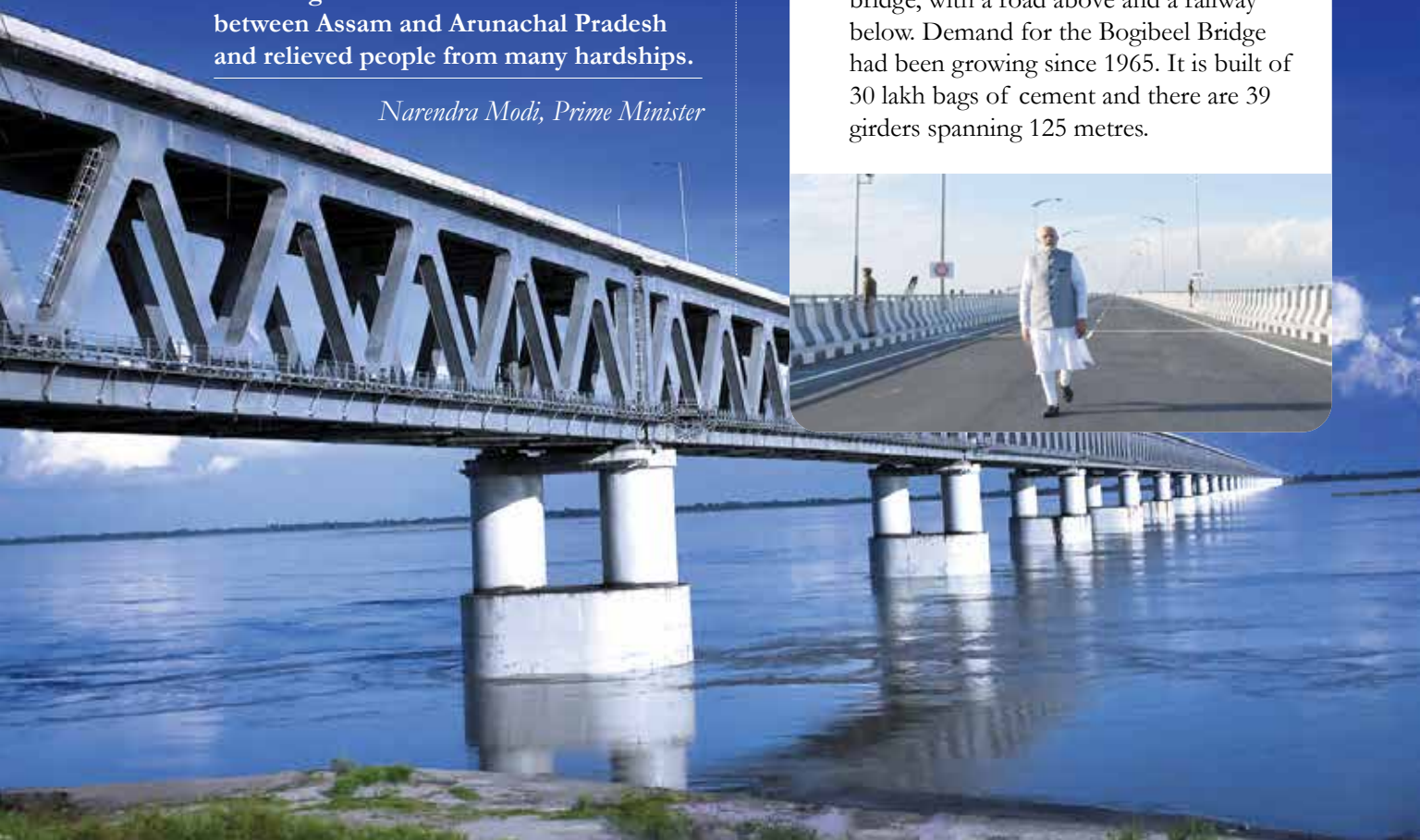
It is not just a bridge, but a lifeline connecting the lives of millions of people in the region. It has reduced the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and relieved people from many hardships.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Bogibeel Bridge: Assam-Arunachal's New Lifeline

The Bogibeel Bridge project in Assam was approved in 1997 and completed in 2018 after a delay of two decades.

- ✦ This is the country's first bridge made entirely of steel. Built at a height of more than 30 metres above water, this bridge is also an example of engineering and technical prowess.
- ✦ The 4.94-kilometre-long Bogibeel Bridge has reduced the distance from Dhemaji to Dibrugarh to just 100 kilometres. Previously, it was 500 kilometres, which took 24 hours to cover.
- ✦ This is the country's longest rail-cum-road bridge, with a road above and a railway below. Demand for the Bogibeel Bridge had been growing since 1965. It is built of 30 lakh bags of cement and there are 39 girders spanning 125 metres.



PROJECT

Saryu Nahar National Project Completed after 4 decades

Sanction Date
Year 1978

Project length: 318 km and linkages: 6,590 km

Irrigation
Target: 1.4M hectares of land

Inauguration

PM Narendra Modi
December 11, 2021

Hurdles

Lack of interdepartmental coordination and lack of proper monitoring delayed the project.

“

If it is government money, then why should I care? This thinking had become the biggest obstacle in the balanced and all-round development of the country. This thinking also kept the Saryu Canal project hanging. We have done more work in the Saryu canal project than what was done in 5 decades in less than 5 years. Our priority is to complete the project on time.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

✦ Since the project's inception, the cost has been revised 6 times. Delays in work have led to increased costs for construction materials, labour, and land acquisition.

✦ The target for completing the project was set in 1982 for 1988-89.

✦ In 2014, when the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, began work, a review revealed that 99 major irrigation projects in the country had been incomplete for decades. The Saryu Nahar National Project was among them.

✦ After a review of projects pending for decades on the Pragati Platform, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, obstacles facing the Saryu Canal Project were resolved in a timely manner.

✦ On December 11, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Saryu Nahar National Project from Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh.

✦ The project will benefit over 2.9 million farmers in nine districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh: Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur, and Maharajganj.

✦ The project was initiated at a cost of less than ₹100 crore. By the time the project was completed, its cost had increased to more than Rs 10 thousand crore.



PROJECT

Patna Ganga Rail-cum-Road Bridge

Sanction Date

November 5, 2001

PRAGATI Date

March 25, 2015

Cost

₹3,774 crore

Project Completion

March 3, 2022

Hurdles

Land Acquisition, Compensation and Rehabilitation, and Full Project Implementation

PM's Directives

✦ Delays in the project have led to a fivefold increase in costs. The land required for approaches on both sides of the railway line should be handed over to the railways. Compensation should be provided to the affected people soon. The rehabilitation process should be completed expeditiously.

✦ Following the directive, all right-of-way issues related to both the north and south rail approaches were resolved by May 2015.



Project Benefits

✦ The Patna-Ganga Rail-cum-Road Bridge (New Line), also known as the JP Setu, provides a continuous and high-capacity rail and road link between South Bihar and North Bihar.

✦ The construction of this approximately 4.55-kilometre-long combined railroad bridge relieved years of pressure on older bridges. Travel distances for road travellers were reduced by approximately 20-25 kilometres.

✦ Traffic congestion within Patna city also decreased. In the rail sector, this new bridge also eased the burden on older bridges. This enabled the operation of more passenger and freight trains, helping transport approximately 27.8 million tonnes of cargo annually.

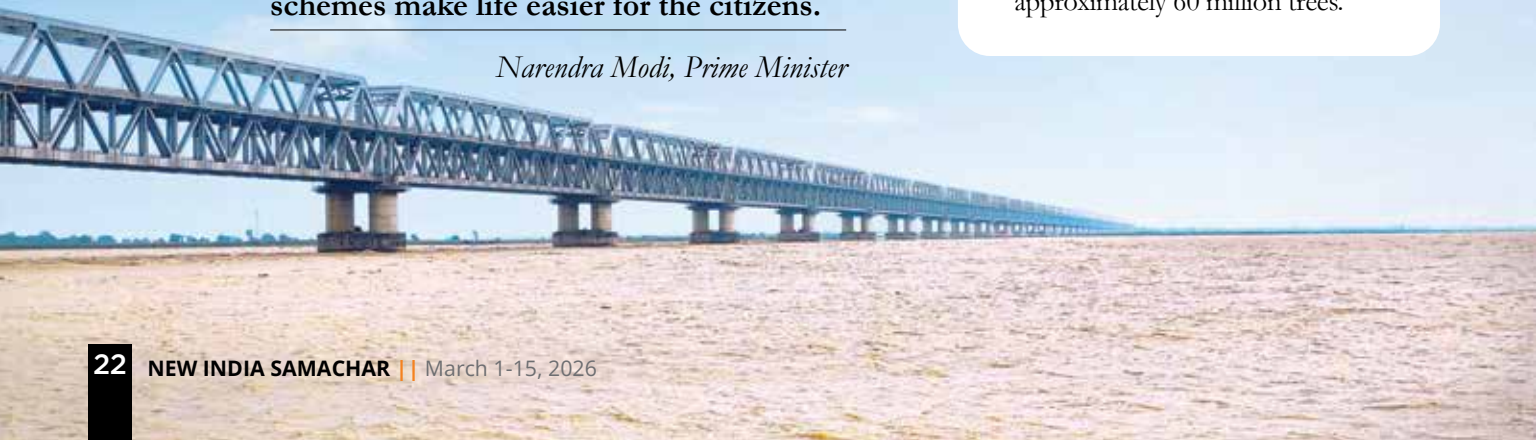
✦ Train punctuality improved on major rail routes connecting eastern, northern, and northeastern India. Furthermore, direct connectivity between the two banks of the Ganges increased access to employment centres, educational institutions, hospitals, and markets.

✦ The new bridge reduced approximately 1.49 billion kilograms of CO₂ emissions, an environmental benefit equivalent to planting approximately 60 million trees.



Viksit Bharat... means a country where there is speed and progress, where public interest is paramount... where government schemes make life easier for the citizens.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



PROJECT

Kosi Rail Mahasetu

Sanction Year 2003-04 Project Length 1.9 kilometers

Cost ₹ 516 crore Inauguration Sep 18, 2020

Benefits

- ✦ The distance has been reduced to just 22 kilometres, and the travel time is now half an hour instead of eight hours.
- ✦ This route has proven extremely beneficial for the people of the Supaul, Araria, and Saharsa districts. The project made it easier for people in the region to travel to and from long-distance destinations like Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai.
- ✦ An 86-year-old dream of the people of the region has come true. The long wait has ended, as a metre-gauge line was commissioned between Nirmali and Bhaptiahi (Saraigarh) in 1887. However, the line was destroyed in the devastating floods and the India-Nepal earthquake of 1934.
- ✦ The project was conceived in 2003 when Nitish Kumar was the Union Railway Minister and Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the system changed, slowing the pace.



PROJECT

Eastern-Western Peripheral Expressway Project

The Eastern-Western Peripheral Project was approved in 2006. The project was completed in 2016 and 2018 after a decade of delay.

Eastern Peripheral Expressway

Foundation Stone Nov 5, 2015 Inauguration May 27, 2018

Cost: ₹ 11,000 crore

PRAGATI Review

A review of the project revealed numerous gaps. With continued follow-up, the work gained momentum, ending years of waiting.

Project Length: 270 kilometres

- ✦ The Kundli-Manesar section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Western Peripheral Expressway was inaugurated on November 19, 2018.
- ✦ The project's completion target was 910 days after the foundation stone laying ceremony, but was achieved in just 500 days.
- ✦ A total of 1,700 hectares of land was acquired for the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at a cost of approximately ₹ 5,900 crore.
- ✦ The Eastern Peripheral Expressway is India's first expressway to use solar energy throughout its 135-km corridor.
- ✦ The Peripheral Expressway project around Delhi aims to decongest and reduce pollution levels in the National Capital Region.

PROJECT

Atal Tunnel - Symbol of Strategic and Economic Strength

The Rohtang tunnel, pending for over a decade on the Manali-Leh Highway, was completed in just six years due to the current central government's high priority. This tunnel has become a shining example of India's resolve to become self-reliant...

Foundation stone laid on
May 26, 2002

along with the foundation stone of the approach road, by the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Since the foundation stone was laid in 2002, only 1,300 metres of tunnel work had been completed by 2013-14. Had work continued at the same pace, it would have been completed in 2040.

Cost – Rs 950 crore, swelled to Rs 3,200 crore due to delay.

Inauguration

PM Narendra Modi
October 3, 2020

Hurdles

The construction of the Atal Tunnel was not easy. A 587-meter-long drain, with a flow of 8,000 litres of water per minute, hindered construction. This problem was challenging in itself. To complete the work on time, 3,000 workers and 650 BRO personnel worked together in three shifts.

Why is the Atal Tunnel special?

- ✦ The construction of the Atal Tunnel significantly assists the Indian Army deployed in Ladakh. Now, weapons and logistics are easily supplied even in winter.
- ✦ The Atal Tunnel is built at an altitude of 10,171 feet. It connects to the Rohtang Pass. It is the highest and longest highway tunnel road in the world.
- ✦ The horseshoe-shaped, single-tube, double-lane tunnel has an overhead clearance of 5,525 metres.
- ✦ The tunnel is equipped with state-of-the-art electro-mechanical systems, including a semi-transverse system and SCADA-controlled firefighting, lighting, and monitoring systems.



PROJECT**Mumbai Trans-Harbour
Link Atal Setu**

Foundation
Stone Laying **Dec 24, 2016**

Project →
Completion Date **Dec 31, 2023**

Cost: **Inauguration**
₹20,550 crore **Jan 12, 2024**

- ✦ The bridge is approximately 21.8 km long and 6-lane, with 16.5 km of the bridge built over the sea and approximately 5.5 km on land.
- ✦ This is India's longest sea bridge project which progressed in a disciplined, timely manner due to monitoring on the 'PRAGATI' platform.
- ✦ It is providing faster connectivity between Mumbai International Airport and Navi Mumbai International Airport, reducing travel time from Mumbai to Pune, Goa, and South India.
- ✦ It is improving connectivity between Mumbai Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port.
- ✦ During the construction of Atal Setu, approximately 17,000 labourers and 1,500 engineers received direct employment.
- ✦ The amount of wire used in the Atal Setu could circle the entire Earth twice. The amount of iron and steel used in this project could have been used to build four Howrah Bridges and six Statue of Liberty.



Another major change that has come about since 2014 is that the projects that have been stuck for years are being identified and completed on mission mode. Half-finished projects not only waste the money of our honest taxpayers but also increase the cost, and the benefits that should be received are not received. This is a big injustice to our taxpayers

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



PROJECT

Kollam Bypass

Sanction 1972 | Approval from Central Govt. January 2015

Project Length
13 km on NH-66



Inauguration

Jan 15, 2019

Cost

₹352 crore

PRAGATI Date

The PRAGATI Platform resolved all obstacles, including permit and financial difficulties, that had been pending for nearly four decades.

Benefits

This 2-lane bypass project reduced travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. Traffic congestion in Kollam city has also been reduced.

PROJECT

Navi Mumbai International Airport

Sanction Date
July 6, 2007

Cost
₹19,646 crore

PRAGATI Date

March 25, 2015
September 29, 2021

Completion

Dec 25, 2025

Benefits

Maharashtra farmers connected to Middle Eastern supermarkets



PROJECT

Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is one of the most ambitious rail projects undertaken in independent India. Stretching 272 kilometres across the rugged Himalayan mountains, the project includes 119 kilometres of tunnels. It includes 38 tunnels and 943 bridges connecting valleys and mountain passes. This rail network marks a new era for mobility, trade, and tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanction Date
Mar 31, 1994

Cost
₹43,780 crore

Railway Line Length
272 km

Inauguration

Jun 6, 2025

Features

38 tunnels (119 km long), 943 bridges

PRAGATI Date

June 24, 2015, November 6, 2019, and December 30, 2020

- ✦ The world's tallest railway arch bridge, measuring 359 metres, was constructed on the Chenab Bridge.
- ✦ Rail connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari



PROJECT**Khurda-Balangir New Broad Gauge Rail Link**

Sanction Mar 31, 1994	Work Started Mar 8, 2001
---------------------------------	------------------------------------

Length 301 km	PRAGATI Date September 30, 2015, January 22, 2020
-------------------------	--

Target Completion Dec 31, 2026	Cost ₹ 5,089 crore
---	-------------------------------------

Benefits Boost to Regional trade and distance between Bhubaneswar-Balangir will be reduced.	Hurdles: Forest Clearance/Land Acquisition
---	---

✦ All 7 tunnels on this rail line are completed.

PROJECT**Agartala-Sabroom New Railway Line**

Foundation stone October 2008	PRAGATI Date June 24, 2015
---	---

Cost: ₹ 5138.51 crore	Hurdles: Forest, wildlife, environment
--	---

Work Started July 29, 2009	Inauguration October 2019
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Benefits Reduced transportation costs for essential commodities like grain and fuel. This ensured an uninterrupted supply to Tripura markets and stabilised prices.

PROJECT**Seawood-Belapur-Uran Line**

Sanction July 11, 1997	PRAGATI Date Feb 22, 2017
----------------------------------	--

Cost ₹ 2,980.41 crore	Completion date Mar 11, 2023
--	---

Benefits

The Belapur-Uran Railway Line is a strategically important suburban rail infrastructure project designed to promote the planned development of Navi Mumbai.

Hurdles: Forest, wildlife, environment

PROJECT**Haridaspur-Paradip New Rail Line**

Sanction Jan 1, 1997	PRAGATI Date August 29, 2018
--------------------------------	---

Hurdles: Land acquisition and other issues

Cost ₹ 11,186 crore	Completion date July 31, 2020
--------------------------------------	--

Benefits

A 40-km rail link from Paradip Port Reduced rail travel distances, increased freight efficiency by 25 to 30%, and added 20 to 25 additional freight trains per day.



PROJECT

Hyderabad Metro Rail (72 km)



Sanction 2012 | PRAGATI Date 31 December 2015

Cost ₹18,975 crore | Completion date 07 Feb, 2020

Hurdles
Financial constraints, including electricity tariffs

Benefits This is the world’s largest metro project developed under the PPP model. It integrates multimodal transport and large-scale transit-orientated development, leading to a major impact on urban transportation and economic development.

PROJECT

Ahmedabad Metro Rail (Phase 1)

Sanction Nov 17, 2014 | Cost ₹12,924.5 crore

PRAGATI Date April 25, 2018, December 30, 2020

Completion Date Jan 2026 | Hurdles Financing issues, land acquisition

Benefits Reduced fuel consumption along with travel time savings. Air quality also improved, and traffic safety and congestion were reduced.

PROJECT

Delhi MRTS Phase-3

Sanction Dec 26, 2011 | PRAGATI Date May 27, 2015

Cost ₹38,585 crore | Completion Date August 6, 2022

Benefits Strengthened metro connectivity, ease of travel in Delhi-NCR | **Hurdles:** Land acquisition, cost sharing, and construction issues



PROJECT**Gadarwara Super Thermal Power**

Sanction 2008	Foundation stone 2014	Consists of two 800 MW units
-------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

Dedicated to nation

October 2025

Reasons for delay
Land, fuel linkage,
and implementation
issues



Benefits

Uninterrupted power supply to western states,
including Madhya Pradesh

- ✦ The project gains momentum after review on the PRAGATI Platform.
- ✦ This NPC project is located in the Narsinghpur district in Madhya Pradesh.

**PROJECT****Kudgi-1 Super Thermal Power Plant, 3X800 MW, NTPC**

Sanction March 1, 2012	PRAGATI Date June 24, 2015
----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Cost ₹18,382 crore	Completion date Dec 3, 2018
------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Benefits

Power supply to industrial
areas in South India and
grid stability in South India.

Hurdles: Land
acquisition,
right-of-use

PROJECT**Solapur Super Thermal Power Station**

Sanction March 1, 2012	PRAGATI Date December 30, 2015
----------------------------------	--

Cost ₹11,406 crore	Completion date March 29, 2019
------------------------------	--

Benefits

The Solapur Super Thermal
Power Station has created
significant socio-economic value
by ensuring a reliable power
supply, strengthening energy
security, and supporting regional
economic development.

Hurdles:
Right-of-
Use/Right-
of-Way,
Power, Fuel,
and Land
Acquisition



PROJECT

Kameng Hydro Power

Sanction **November 2004** | PRAGATI Date **June 24, 2015**

Hurdles: Land Acquisition, Forests, Wildlife, and Environment.

Cost **₹8,458.95 crore** | Completion date **Feb 10, 2021**

Benefits The Kameng Hydropower Project has made Arunachal Pradesh a power-surplus state in the country. Furthermore, it has begun supplying surplus electricity to the regional and national grids.



PROJECT

Pare Hydroelectric Power (110 MW) NEEPCO Limited

Sanction **Nov 26, 2008** | PRAGATI Date **Dec 27, 2015**

Hurdles: Forest, wildlife, environmental, and right-of-way issues.

Cost **₹1656.74 crore** | Completion date **May 24, 2018**

Benefits The hydropower potential of the Seven Sisters states of the Northeast has undergone a major transformation. Helps meet India's ambitious clean energy goals.

PROJECT

Jaipur-Sikar-Churu Gauge Conversion

Sanction **2008-09** | PRAGATI Date **September 28, 2016**

Hurdles: Forest, wildlife, environment

Cost **₹1,222 crore** | Completion date **April 25, 2019**

Benefits Enabled the operation of trains up to 1,500 metres long. Freight-carrying capacity per train increased from approximately 5,000 metric tonnes to approximately 13,000 metric tonnes.

PROJECT

Jabalpur-Gondia 285 km Gauge Conversion

Sanction Date **Jan 17, 2003** | PRAGATI Date **March 23, 2016**

Hurdles: Problems related to land acquisition, forests, wildlife, and environmental clearances.

Cost **₹1,990.98 crore** | Completion date **Mar 21, 2021**

Benefits The project provides easy passenger and freight connectivity from Jabalpur to major metro cities without transshipment, reducing travel time and logistics costs. It also enhances access to markets, healthcare, education, and district hubs for the tribal and forested areas of eastern Madhya Pradesh.



**PROJECT****2.5 MMT Padur Strategic Crude Oil Storage**Sanction Date
Jan 7, 2004PRAGATI Date
April 22, 2015,
March 23, 2016**Hurdles:** Right-to-use and right-of-way-related issuesCost
₹7,581 crore**Completion date**
December 31, 2018**Benefits**

The commissioning of the Padur SPR has not only brought socio-economic benefits but also strategic importance. It has strengthened India's ability to respond to crude oil supply disruptions and emergencies.

PROJECT**Kudankulam-APP Transmission System**Sanction Date
May 12, 2005PRAGATI Date
November 4, 2015**Hurdles:** Right-of-way and right-of-use issues, among othersCost
₹2,577.23 crore**Completion date**
Dec 31, 2019**Benefits**

Improved power grid reliability and energy security by promoting clean nuclear energy and reducing costly power purchases. Supported India's carbon reduction goals, while also boosting regional economic development and enhancing community confidence.

PROJECT**Bembla Irrigation**Sanction Date
April 2, 2007PRAGATI Date
October 25, 2023**Hurdles:** Land acquisition, financial issuesCost
₹2,685.41 crore**Completion date**
June 30, 2025**Benefits**

This project has reduced agricultural uncertainty in a drought-prone area. Cropping intensity has increased, and dependence on rainfall has decreased. ●





Urban connectivity & startups: Urban Challenge Fund approved

The Central Government is laying a strong foundation for a 'developed India' by giving new impetus to connectivity in every sector, including rail, road, and metro. In this regard, proposals for the expansion of railway lines in Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka; the widening of NH-56 in Gujarat, NH-160A in Maharashtra, and NH-167 in Telangana; and the metro extension from Noida Sector-142 to Botanical Garden were approved. Several important proposals, including a startup fund, an Urban Challenge Fund worth ₹1 lakh crore, and the Brahmaputra Underwater Tunnel, were also approved...

DECISION: Approval for the construction of an underwater tunnel under the Brahmaputra River in Assam, with a two-lane twin-tube TBM road and railway infrastructure in one tube. Its total length will be 33.7 kilometres.

IMPACT: This will be India's first and the world's second submerged road-cum-rail tunnel. The project will significantly benefit Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and other northeastern states. It will increase freight transportation efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and accelerate socio-economic development in the region. Upon completion, the project will be strategically important. It will also open new avenues for regional economic development, connectivity between major economic centres, and trade and industrial growth. The project will generate approximately 80 lakh man-days of direct and indirect employment.

DECISION: Three projects to lay additional tracks in 12 districts across Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka approved.

IMPACT: The existing Indian Railways network will be expanded by approximately 389 kilometres. The estimated cost of the project is approximately ₹18,509 crore and will be completed by 2030-31. Approximately 26.5 million man-days of employment will be generated during this period. This initiative will ease travel, reduce logistics costs, reduce oil imports and carbon emissions, and contribute to sustainable and efficient rail operations.

DECISION: An Urban Challenge Fund of ₹1 lakh crore was approved to accelerate market-based urban transformation.

IMPACT: The Urban Challenge Fund will leverage market finance, private participation, and citi-



DECISION: Approval for the establishment of Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (Startup India FoF 2.0), providing a major boost to India's growing startup ecosystem.

IMPACT: A total corpus of ₹10,000 crore has been allocated for this initiative. It aims to raise venture capital for the country's startup ecosystem. The scheme aims to strengthen the venture capital ecosystem by mobilising long-term domestic capital and accelerating the next phase of India's startup journey by supporting innovation-based entrepreneurship across the country. Startup India FoF 2.0, launched under the Startup India initiative, is the culmination of nearly a decade of sustained efforts to position India as one of the leading startup nations in the world.

zen-centric reforms to build high-quality urban infrastructure. The fund aims to create resilient, productive, inclusive, and climate-resilient cities that can become key drivers of the country's next phase of economic growth. The Fund will be operational from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31, with an extension to FY 2033-34.



The Cabinet has also approved a 4-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor between Gohpur and Numaligarh. This includes India's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra. This transformative project will enhance connectivity, reduce logistics costs, and accelerate development in Assam and the entire Northeast

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

DECISION: Cabinet approves proposal for transitioning from North and South Blocks to 'Seva Teerth' and 'Kartavya Bhavans': Paving the Way for the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat' National Museum

IMPACT: On February 13, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the new Prime Minister's Office, now known as 'Seva Teerth', to the nation. The Union Cabinet met for the last time in that room in South Block on February 13. It was not merely a moment of change of place but also a moment of the confluence of history and the future. The Cabinet also resolved that North and South Blocks be made part of the "Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum", which will continue to inspire generations from our thousands-of-years-old civilisation. This museum will celebrate our timeless and eternal cultural heritage and connect our glorious past with a prosperous future.

DECISION: Approval of extension corridor from Noida Sector 142 to Botanical Garden (Noida) for a length of 11.56 km with 8 stations.

IMPACT: It will have 8 elevated stations. Upon commissioning, this corridor will add

DECISION: Approval of the redevelopment and upgradation of the Ghoti-Trimbak (Mokhada)-Jawhar-Manor-Palghar section of NH-160A in Maharashtra. It will be constructed as a 2-lane/4-lane road with a paved sub-road.

IMPACT: The total length is 154.635 km, and the total capital cost is ₹3,320.38 crore. The construction will be completed through engineering, procurement, and construction mode. Upon completion, the project will ensure smooth and safe traffic flow. Additionally, travel time will be significantly reduced. The implementation of the project will improve infrastructure in the tribal region. It is estimated that the project will generate approximately 19.98 lakh man-days of direct employment and 24.86 lakh man-days of indirect employment.



Scan the QR code to view the press briefing on cabinet decisions.

61.62 kilometres of active metro rail network to Noida and Greater Noida. Additionally, the corridor will provide direct connectivity to high-demand corridors, including interchanges with the Botanical Garden (Blue Line) and Magenta Line.

DECISION: Approval for four-laning of the Dhamasiya-Bitada/Movi and Nasarpur-Malotha sections of National Highway 56 in Gujarat.

IMPACT: The project has a total length of 107.67 km and a total capital cost of ₹4583.64 crore. This project is a part of National Highway (NH) 56. Designed for a speed of 100 km/h, the average speed will be 70 km/h, and travel time will be reduced by 40 percent i.e from 2.5 hours to 1.5 hours. This will generate direct employment of approximately 19.38 lakh man-days and indirect employment of 22.82 lakh man-days.

DECISION: Approval for the 4-lane widening of National Highway 167 from Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar on the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor in Telangana.

IMPACT: The total length of the project is 80.01 kilometres, and its total capital cost is ₹3,175.08 crore. The project will be implemented on a hybrid annuity mode under the National Highways (Others) Scheme. Upon completion, the NH-167 upgradation work will play a pivotal role in regional economic growth, strengthening connectivity between major religious and economic centers and opening new avenues for trade and industrial development. ●





Episode 2 of the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026' Program

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mantra Both Studies and Art are Useful

This time, the Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 program was unique and special. Many students had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi that PPC related events should be held in different parts of the country. That is why this time, he discussed exams with students from different parts of the country. In the second special episode of Pariksha Pe Charcha on February 9th, he interacted with students from Coimbatore, Raipur, Devmogra, and Guwahati and shared several success mantras...

YOU CAN START A STARTUP ANYTIME

You don't have to be 25 years old to start a startup; you can start at any time. Even small startups can be successful.

PRIME MINISTER MODI'S STUDY MANTRA

Both studies and hobbies are useful. They complement each other. Art can help with creativity and learning, and reduce fatigue. While giving priority to education, it is also important to take time for your personal interests.

YOUTH'S CONTRIBUTION TO A DEVELOPED INDIA

Throwing garbage anywhere is unacceptable. It's a red light, so I should stop my scooter. We will

resolve within our families not to leave anything uneaten after a meal. Under Vocal for Local, we will buy products from our country. If all citizens of this country do small things, we can definitely fulfill our responsibility in building a developed India.

INSPIRATION AND DISCIPLINE

Both inspiration and discipline are important in life. If there is no discipline, no amount of inspiration will be of any use. Discipline is essential in life; it acts as the icing on the cake for inspiration.

UNDERSTANDING TECHNOLOGY

We should strive not to become slaves to technology. We can make greater use of every technology. We must expand ourselves and integrate the power of technology into our work. Add value to our work.

If this happens, no matter how advanced the technology, we need not fear it.

LEARNING FROM INDIA'S DIVERSITY IN TRAVEL

Wherever we go, we should go as students. Tourism is fun then. Traveling in a train compartment, especially taking food with you, is a great experience. The crowds, the things that happen, the conversations people have, and the things they do, are a joy to experience. Life is worth learning. India is so full of diversity, even a lifetime wouldn't be enough to see it all.

WHAT YOU'VE STUDIED HASN'T GONE TO WASTE

What you've heard and read hasn't gone to waste. It's stored somewhere. Sit back calmly, don't worry. Just read the paper as it comes. Secondly, you need to have a grasp of the subject; only then will you be a good student.

MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN SPORTS AND EDUCATION

Education is essential for both life and society. It should not be underestimated. Never make the mistake of thinking that

The Role of Teachers in PM Modi's Life

Responding to a student's question about the role of teachers in his life, Prime Minister Modi said that teachers have played a crucial role in his life. He recalled how his teachers encouraged him to go to the library every day, read editorials in *The Times of India*, write them down, and discuss them the next day. This instilled discipline and curiosity in him. He shared memories of Parmar Sir from his elementary school days, who placed great emphasis on physical fitness and taught him yoga and mallakhamb. Although he didn't become a professional athlete, this helped him understand the importance of health. He said that two major influences are always remembered in every great personality's life: one is their mother, and the other is their teacher.

Listening, understanding, and learning from each student

Along with discussions about exams, local music, and Assamese tea also became memorable parts of Pariksha Pe Charcha. Each episode featured a different setting, students from diverse backgrounds, and diverse experiences. But the goal of each discussion was the same: listening, understanding, and learning from each student together.



Scan the QR code to view the full programme of the Prime Minister.



because I'm so good at sports, I don't need to study. But education alone isn't the only solution. You have talent; you should develop it. Sports to become an athlete is one thing, but sports in general are also essential in life.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SHOULD BE OUR NATURE

Saving natural resources should be inherent in us, and we should gradually connect with people. If we behave humanely, change begins.

PREPARE FOR A LEADERSHIP ROLE

Make up your mind for the task at hand. I will do it whether anyone else does it or not. When this happens, I will start from myself, and you will see that leadership will evolve naturally. We should always prepare ourselves for a leadership role. But being a leader doesn't mean contesting elections, forming a political party, joining a party, and giving flowery speeches. A leader means it is very important to have a quality of leadership that you can make 10 people understand your point.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL AREAS IN GUJARAT

The tribal community of Pal-Chitaria in Gujarat fought a major struggle. Once, during a severe famine, I lived and worked in that area for a long time. At that time, I felt that attention should be paid to education here. Later, when I got the opportunity and became Chief Minister, I started paying attention. You will be surprised: there was a time when there wasn't a single science school from Umargamon to Ambaji. Now there are two universities, science schools, and an ITI institute. A lot of change has taken place. It has great benefits.

PARENTS SHOULD AVOID COMPARISONS

I urge every parent to please refrain from praising anyone in the family so much that it spoils the child's habits. Don't praise one



child so much that the other child feels, "Look, they always talk about him, but they don't talk about me."

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING

If you believe in yourself, you can overcome anything. What does a person who believes in himself do? He studies the entire situation in his mind. We should observe the situation, assess the situation once, and see if this is what happened. Now you will feel that yes, it's okay, I'll do it. The word self-confidence has to be truly understood in life. It's a matter of the soul, of oneself. No one can fix it; we have to do it ourselves. ●



PM Modi Replies to
Motion of Thanks in Rajya Sabha

India Will Now Lead From the Front



Today, my country is demonstrating its full potential. This happens only when you have economic strength, when your citizens are energized, and when you have a strong ecosystem for manufacturing. Then the world comes forward to deal with you

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Responding to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha on February 5th, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on a range of issues, including the economy and trade agreements. In his nearly one-and-a-half-hour address, PM Modi expressed gratitude for the President's address and said that India will no longer lag; it will lead from the front. Here is an edited excerpt from his address...

RAPID PROGRESS IN THE LAST YEAR

The past year has been a year of rapid progress in India's journey towards a developed country, with visible changes across every sector and all sections of society. The country is rapidly progressing in the right direction. The President presented this with remarkable sensitivity and clarity. The President presented a comprehensive narrative of India's progress in Parliament, covering all the topics: the middle class, the lower middle class, the poor, villages, farmers, women, science, technology, and agriculture. She also discussed in detail how the country's youth are advancing India's potential.

WE MUST MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY AND ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

The first quarter of the 21st century has ended. Just as the second quarter of the last century was decisive in India's freedom struggle, this second quarter will be equally powerful and fast-paced in building a developed India. Every citizen feels that the country has reached a crucial stage, where there is no question of stopping or turning back; only rapid progress is necessary. The goal must be achieved, and only after achieving it can we breathe a sigh of relief. And this is the direction in which the country is moving forward.



A COUNTRY WITH A YOUNG POPULATION

At present, India is blessed with several favourable circumstances simultaneously. This is indeed a rare and fortunate convergence. The most important aspect is that while the richest nations of the world are ageing, with their populations reaching senior stages, our country is scaling new heights of development while simultaneously becoming younger. India is a nation of youth, and this is a great advantage. The world's attraction to India has increased. Furthermore, the world is recognizing the importance of India's talent. Today, we have a very important talent pool in the world: a young talent pool with dreams, determination, and capability.

A CONFIDENT INDIA

Look at any sector today, be it science, space, or sports; India is brimming with confidence in every field. As a Vishwa Mitra, India has become a trusted partner of many countries, and we are standing shoulder to shoulder and playing our appropriate role towards global welfare.

THE MANTRA OF REFORM, PERFORM, TRANSFORM

We moved forward with the mantra of Reform, Perform, Transform, and today the country is aboard the Reform Express. We have implemented structural, process, and policy reforms. We have made efforts to empower our manufacturing sector, empower entrepreneurs, and add value to everything India produces. I can say with confidence

India Moving Towards Becoming the Third Largest Economy

India remains a ray of hope, providing solutions to the challenges emerging in the world today. When the people of the country allowed us to serve, this country was known as one of the 'Fragile Five'. At the time of independence, we were the sixth-ranked economy in the world, but the situation has pushed us to 11th. Today, we are moving rapidly towards becoming the third-largest economy.



₹4 lakh crore deposited in the accounts of small farmers

We felt a deep sense of compassion for small farmers. We were aware of the ground realities. That's why we introduced the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. In such a short time, we have deposited ₹4 lakh crore in the accounts of small farmers. This has given our small farmers a new strength. It has given them the ability to see new dreams. I firmly believe that our farmers will deliver in that direction, in alignment with India's hopes and expectations.



that today India is fully prepared to compete with the world.

GLOBAL TRUST IN THE MSME NETWORK IS GROWING

The more powerful a large MSME network is, the more it strengthens the economy over the long term. We have focused on this and implemented numerous reforms. Today, global trust in our MSME network is growing. We may not manufacture entire airplanes, but many of the components in aircraft are produced by India's smallest MSMEs.

BANK HEALTH IMPROVED

Bank health improved and is still rapidly progressing. We distributed more than ₹30 lakh crore in loans to the country's youth through the Mudra scheme. We expanded women's self-help groups and provided direct financial assistance to 100 million women. Today, NPAs are below one percent, which in itself is a significant boost to the health of banks. Furthermore, bank profits are at record levels. This in itself strengthens the country's economy. When the banking system is strengthened, the rest of the economy also becomes stronger. We have done that. We also carried out reforms regarding PSUs. Today, our PSUs are receiving large orders from both within the country and abroad.



The global market is now open to them, presenting endless opportunities. I say to them: Come forward, my friends! I stand shoulder to shoulder with you. Be courageous, move ahead! The nation stands with you, and the world awaits to welcome you

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

WE HAVE 140 CRORE SOLUTIONS

We believe that 140 crore citizens are capable enough to provide solutions to challenges. This is our belief. We have faith in our citizens, we have confidence in their potential, and this is the true strength of democracy. Every citizen is a creator, a builder, a custodian of India's bright future.

VIKSIT BHARAT BY 2047

We set out with the dream of a Viksit Bharat, and today, thanks to the energy of the people of the country, that dream has transformed into a resolution. Today, wherever you go, everyone says that India has to be developed by 2047. In the past, the phrase "India has lost its chance" was common,



India: A Strong Voice of the Global South on Global Platforms

Today, the entire world discusses the Global South, but as the harbinger of that discussion, India has become a strong voice of the Global South on global platforms. Today, India is entering into “future-ready trade deals” with many countries. In the recent past, we have signed trade deals with nine major countries, including the “Mother of All Deals,” with 27 countries simultaneously: the European Union.

symbolizing missed opportunities. Today, India is not missing any opportunity, but will lead from the front.

MY COUNTRY IS IMMORTAL

We have to make the country's future bright. To make the present bright, too, requires continuous work. We plan for five years and prepare a budget each year, setting a specific direction. Because the country is immortal. We have set a vision of handing over a prosperous India to the country's young generation. Looking at the children at home, I think, “I want to leave them such an India that will give us satisfaction in our work.”

THE COUNTRY IS MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

The initiatives we have taken today, whether in space, science, technology, the depths of the ocean, land, water, and sky, are moving forward with new resolve, new energy, new

steps, and new achievements in every field. We are working on green hydrogen. We are understanding the coming era. We are talking about quantum computing. We are pursuing the AI mission. Today, the critical mineral rare earth has become a political weapon in the world, and we are focusing on it.

THE COMING TIMES ARE FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

The coming times are full of opportunities for India and its youth. I can see this, and we are moving forward by formulating policies in that direction. Today, I would urge my countrymen to support me on the issue of quality. Do not compromise on quality. You will see, the world will start singing the praises of Made in India, Made in Bharat. ●



Scan the QR code to view the Prime Minister's reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha.



India Riding on the Reform Express

...That's Why We Worked to Change the Entire System

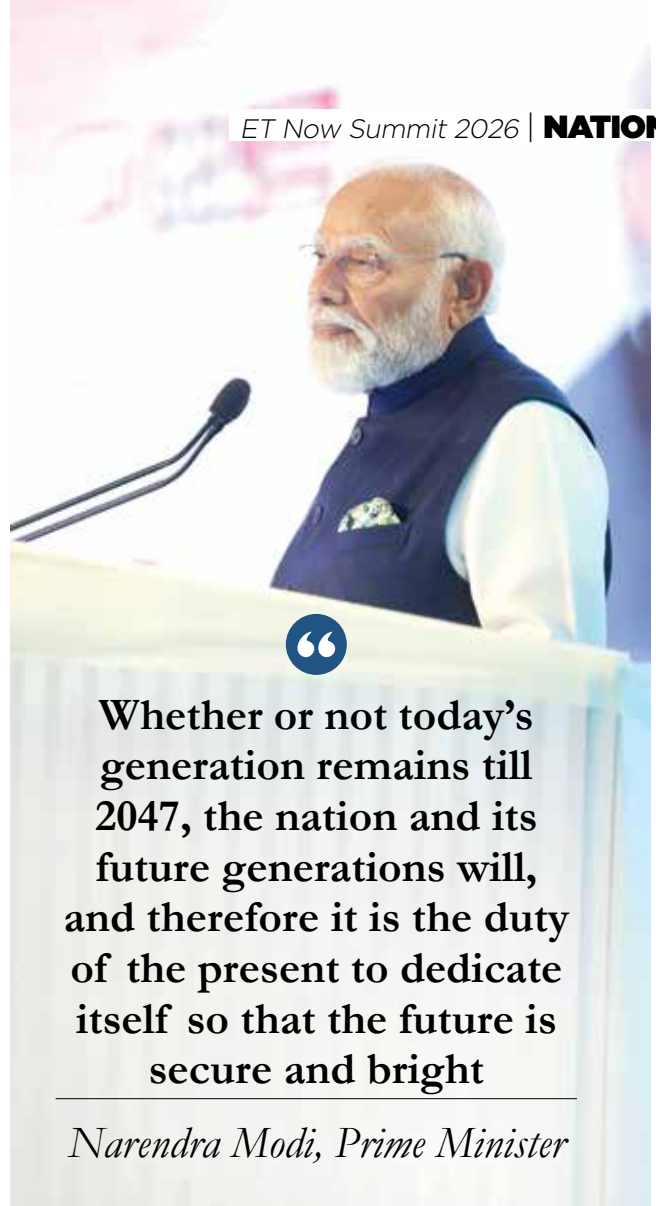
This decade has been a decade of unprecedented growth, improved performance, and a strong democracy for India. All this didn't happen by chance.

India made it clear in a NITI Aayog document in 2015 that the country would not adopt any foreign development model but would chart its own path based on its needs and experiences. Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the ET Now Global Business Summit 2026 on February 13th that forced reforms never yield the desired results, so the government worked to change the entire system...

The development approach that New India is pursuing has given the country the confidence to make decisions based on its needs and interests. This is why, even in this turbulent decade, India's economy did not weaken but continued to strengthen. Speaking at the ET Now Global Summit 2026 on the theme "A Decade of Disruption, A Century of Change," Prime Minister Modi cited the example of cabinet notes in the past. He said these would take weeks or months to prepare, slowing progress. His government has made the decision-making process timely and technology-driven so that files don't linger indefinitely, and the results are clearly visible.

Some key points from address

- Along with the growth of India's economic strength, the government has also empowered the states. From 2004 to 2014, states received approximately ₹18 lakh crore in tax devolution, while from 2014 to 2025, they received ₹84 lakh crore. Adding this year's budget, the total tax devolution to the states will reach approximately ₹100 lakh crore.
- In this decade of the 21st century, India is riding on the reform express. We are accelerating the reform express not with compulsion... but with conviction, with a commitment to reform.
- The budget has been made not only expenditure-centric but also results-oriented. Before 2014, there was a lot of discussion about off-budget borrowing, but now there is discussion about off-budget reforms.
- Outside the budget, next-generation GST reforms were implemented, the Planning Commission was replaced by the NITI Aayog, the wall of Article 370 was demolished, a law was enacted against triple talaq, and the Nari Shakti Vandan Act was enacted. Whether announced in the budget or outside the budget, the reform express is steadily gaining momentum.
- Over the past decade, we have considered technology and innovation as core drivers of growth. With this mindset, startup culture and hackathon culture have been promoted in the country.



Whether or not today's generation remains till 2047, the nation and its future generations will, and therefore it is the duty of the present to dedicate itself so that the future is secure and bright

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The past decade of the 21st century has witnessed unprecedented disruptions, including the global pandemic, tension and wars in different regions, and supply chain breakdowns that shook global balance. Despite these disruptions, this decade has been marked by remarkable growth, outstanding performance, and the strengthening of democracy in India. PM Modi expressed pride in this regard, stating that a country's true strength emerges during difficult times. When the last decade began, India was the 11th largest economy, but today it is rapidly progressing to become the world's third largest. Currently, India contributes over 16% to global growth. Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that this contribution will continue to grow year after year.

PM Modi noted that India's free trade agreements are being widely discussed and analyzed globally,

but why were such agreements not possible before 2014? The country remains the same, the youth power remains the same, and the government system remains the same, so what has changed? Change has come in the government's vision, in its policies and intentions, and in India's capabilities. In the past decade, India has signed trade agreements with 38 countries across various sectors. Today's India is full of confidence and ready to compete globally. Over the past 11 years, a strong manufacturing system has been developed in India. This has formed the basis for a significant shift in India's trade policy and has become an essential pillar on the journey towards a developed India. Today, the country is capable and strong, and therefore, the world trusts India. ●



Scan the QR code to view the full programme of the Prime Minister.

PM Modi's Assam Visit

A New Chapter in Security and Development

The Northeast is the Ashtalakshmi of the Central Government. This is why the Union Budget has given special attention to making the Northeast economically self-reliant. This year, Assam will receive approximately 50,000 crore rupees as its tax share. To give a new impetus to security and development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Assam on February 14th and announced several important development projects for the state...

Today, the country is strengthening its armed forces. India is building magnificent highways and tunnels, high-rise bridges, and modern airfields along its borders and enhancing national security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who landed at the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) during his visit to Assam, said that today the country has not just gained another emergency landing strip. It is also proof that the new India is preparing itself in every way for its security. Today's India is not only strengthening its borders but is also giving a befitting reply to the enemies of the country by entering their homes.

Inauguration of Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu

- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu, built at a cost of approximately ₹3,030 crore over the Brahmaputra River.
- This 6-lane extradosed prestressed concrete (PSC) bridge, connecting Guwahati to North Guwahati, is the first extradosed bridge in Northeast India.
- It will reduce travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati to just 7 minutes.
- Considering the high seismicity of the region, the bridge incorporates base isolation technology using friction pendulum bearings.
- High-quality stay cables have been used to maintain the bridge's stability and long-term structural integrity.
- Additionally, a bridge health monitoring system has been incorporated to ensure real-time condition monitoring, early damage detection, and enhanced safety.



Scan the QR code to view the full programme of the Prime Minister.



It is a matter of immense pride that the Northeast gets an Emergency Landing Facility. From a strategic point of view and during times of natural disasters, this facility is of great importance

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The ELF, the first-of-its-kind facility in Northeast India

The Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) is the first of its kind in Northeast India. It has been designed and constructed in coordination with the Indian Air Force specifically for the landing and takeoff of military and civilian aircraft during emergencies. It will serve as a vital asset for emergency response. It will enable rapid deployment of rescue and relief operations during natural disasters or strategic needs in the Northeast. This ELF, envisaged as a dual-use infrastructure, is capable of operating fighter aircraft weighing up to 40 tonnes and transport aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of 74 tonnes.

Inauguration of the National Data Centre for Northeast

- The National Data Centre for the Northeast Region was inaugurated at Amingaon in the Kamrup district, Assam.
- This state-of-the-art data centre, with a total approved capacity of 8.5 MW and an average capacity of 10 kW per rack, will host mission-critical applications from various government departments.
- It will also serve as a disaster recovery centre for other national data centres.
- This will help the governments of the Northeast ensure the digital delivery of essential citizen-centric services.
- This national data centre is envisioned to strengthen the region's ICT infrastructure and ensure a robust, secure, and continuously available digital infrastructure.
- PM Modi also inaugurated IIM Guwahati, which will elevate higher education and management education in the Northeast region to new heights.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off electric buses

- A total of 225 electric buses were flagged off in Guwahati (100), Nagpur (50), Bhavnagar (50), and Chandigarh (25) under the PM e-Bus Seva scheme.
- With the launch of the PM e-Bus Seva in these four cities, over 5 million citizens will benefit from clean, affordable, and reliable public transport services.
- This initiative will significantly contribute to improving urban transportation systems and improving the quality of life.

This year's budget has further strengthened the connectivity of the Northeast. As connectivity increases, employment opportunities also increase. Therefore, thousands of crores of rupees have been allocated for highway and other road projects in Assam. The budget announcements will also expand

tourism in Assam. In his address, PM Modi stated that since 2014, more than 125 eminent personalities from the Northeast have received Padma awards. This demonstrates the immense potential of Assam and the Northeast. This potential of the Northeast is now a major strength for a Viksit Bharat. ●



India AI Impact Summit-Expo 2026

A Powerful Confluence of New Ideas, Innovation, and Intentions

India is rapidly moving towards global leadership in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In this direction, the "India AI Impact Summit and Expo 2026" demonstrates the country's technological capabilities, innovation, and commitment to digital transformation. The summit held at Bharat Mandapam from February 16-20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Together, we will create solutions that will benefit not only India but the entire world"

This is the first global AI conference held in the Global South and witnessed unprecedented participation. The India AI Impact Summit and Expo 2026 showcases how Artificial Intelligence is driving real change in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, manufacturing, toys, and good governance. With the commitment to a Viksit Bharat, this expo highlights the vision of using technology for inclusive development, transparency, and empowerment of citizens. This is not just an exhibition but a platform for the practical use of AI, where policies are implemented, innovations are implemented on a large scale, and the benefits of technology reach the common citizen.

At the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that this expo showcases the power of arti-





Highlights from the AI Expo and Summit

20+ Heads Of State **60** Ministers, and 500 global AI leaders.

- The AI Impact Summit is based on three fundamental pillars or 'Sutras'—People, Planet, and Progress.
- Held across 10 arenas spanning over 70,000 square meters, the expo brought together global technology companies, startups, academia and research institutions, central ministries, state governments, and international partners.
- The expo featured pavilions from 13 countries showcasing international collaboration in AI ecosystems. These included pavilions from Australia, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, Estonia, Tajikistan, and Africa.
- The expo featured over 300 exhibition pavilions and live demonstrations.
- The expo featured over 600 high-potential startups, many of which are developing globally relevant and comprehensive mass communication solutions. These startups will showcase relevant solutions that are already in use in the real world.
- The India AI Impact Expo 2026 is expected to attract over 2.5 lakh visitors, including international delegates.
- The event aims to foster new partnerships and generate business opportunities within the global AI ecosystem.
- A total of over 500 sessions were held during the summit, featuring over 3,250 visionary speakers and panelists.



Thanks to India's 1.4 billion people, our country is playing a leading role in the AI transformation. From digital public infrastructure to a vibrant startup ecosystem and cutting-edge research, our progress in AI reflects both ambition and responsibility

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Scan the QR code to view the full programme of the Prime Minister.

ficial intelligence, Indian talent, and innovation. He stated that India's progress in the field of AI will create new and transformative solutions for the country and will also significantly contribute to global development. The Prime Minister said that

this event has once again proven to the world that Indian talent is capable of shaping the future of AI. It also makes clear that India is committed to using AI responsibly and inclusively, on a large scale, for human welfare. ●



...So Half The Population Can Lead Development

Today, the Indian government prioritizes the safety and empowerment of women. Every government scheme incorporates respect for women, as well as their economic, political, and social empowerment. The government recognizes that equal participation of half the population is crucial for a country's rapid and sustainable development. A country where more women participate in the workforce has a stronger economy...

The world is celebrating International Women's Day on March 8th to ensure equal participation and rights for women. The theme for International Women's Day 2026 is "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls." No one should be left behind. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the current central government is not only raising the rights of women and girls but also taking action at every level to ensure justice for them. Numerous new schemes and initiatives have been launched over the past decade to foster their economic and social participation. The participation of women is very important for the goal of a developed India by the year 2047, with which the country is moving forward, and the budget has also been increased for this.

30% of seats in the country's ITIs have been reserved for girls, the doors of Sainik Schools have been opened to girls, and they have been admitted to the NDA. Furthermore, the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Act, 2025, providing for at least one-third of jobs to women under the scheme is increasing employment opportunities. The notification of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023, to increase political participation, and the allocation of houses to women under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), all strengthen women's rights. As a result of the government's efforts, women are now playing a significant role in shaping India's socio-economic landscape, including education, health, digital inclusion, and leadership.

These government efforts have increased women's rights

- **Increased participation in politics:** The Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023 (106th Amendment to the Constitution) has been notified. Under this Act, 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of all states, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi, will be reserved for women.
- **Employment will not be neglected:** The Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Act, 2025 mandates that at least one-third of the jobs created under the scheme be given to women.
- **Becoming homeowners:** The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin focuses on women-owned houses. It has been decided that, with some exceptions, the house will be allotted in the name of the woman or jointly with both husband and wife.
- **Path to higher positions:** The Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Directors) Rules, 2014, provide that every listed company with a capital of more than ₹100 crore or a turnover of ₹300 crore or more must appoint at least one woman director.
- **Increased participation in local government:** At least one-third (33%) of the seats filled through direct elections and the posts of chairpersons in every Panchayat are mandatory for women. Going further, 21 states and two union territories have reserved 50% of seats for women. Currently, of the 2,441,741 elected representatives in Panchayats, 1,214,885 (49.75%) are women.

Efforts for Women's Empowerment & Justice

- **Nyaya Sanhita:** The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, consolidated crimes against women and children under Chapter-V. Punishments for crimes against women and children have been tightened.
- **Conducive Workplace Environment:** To create a conducive work environment for women workers, several supportive provisions have been introduced in the Code on Wages, the Industrial Labor Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, and the Social Security Code.
- **More Attention to Health:** Paid maternity leave was increased to 26 weeks in 2017, up from 12 weeks previously.
- **Resolving accommodation issues for working women:** 560 Sakhi Niwas (working women's hostels) are operational across the country.
- **Rehabilitation in Distress:** 413 Shakti Sadans (integrated relief and rehabilitation centers) are operational across the country. These are integrated relief and rehabilitation centers for women in distress, benefiting 13,000 women.
- **Child Care:** 14,599 Anganwadi-cum-Crèche Centers have been approved, and 2,820 are operational nationwide.
- **Rural Livelihoods:** 10.29 Crore women are associated with women's self-help groups under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (National Rural Livelihoods Mission), transforming the rural socio-economic landscape of the country.
- **Reduce the burden of labor and care:** Construction of over 12 Crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission, providing gas connections to over 10.49 crore women under the Ujjwala Yojana, and connecting over 15.79 crore rural households with tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission have helped transform women's lives.
- **So that daughters grow and educate:** The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched on January 22, 2015. Its objective is to prevent sex-selective births, ensure the survival and protection of girl children, and ensure their education and participation. The sex ratio has increased from 918 in 2014-15 to 929 in 2024-25. The gross enrolment of girls in schools increased from 75.51% in 2014-15 to 80.2% in 2024-25.
- **Securing the Future:** Sukanya Samridhi Accounts were launched on January 22, 2015, with accounts maturing at age 21. By January 2026, 4.53 crore accounts had been opened, with deposits exceeding ₹3.33 lakh crore.
- **Poshan bhi Padhai bhi:** Launched on May 10, 2023, this program trained over 1 million Anganwadi workers to ensure proper education and nutrition during childhood. 2.9 Lakh Anganwadi centers were established in government schools across the country.
- **Free India from Child Marriage:** On November 27, 2024, the Government of India launched the Child Marriage Free India Campaign. The awareness program reached over 60 million citizens, and over 28 lakh pledges were taken on the Child Marriage Free India portal. ●

Initiatives for Women's Empowerment

- The 'Mission Shakti' scheme is being implemented from 2022-23. Its objective is to strengthen efforts for the safety, security, and empowerment of women.
- The 'Sambal' sub-scheme is for women's safety and security. It includes One Stop Centers, Women's Helplines, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and Nari Adalat.
- The 'Samarthya' sub-scheme is for women's empowerment. It includes the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna, and Sankalp - Women's Empowerment Center.

To equip girls and women with skills

- Under the Kaushal Vikas Yojana, skill programs are being implemented across the country, and women are actively participating in these training programs.
- Over 1.27 crore women have received training in the last decade under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, and the Craftsmen Training Scheme by ITIs.
- Women represent over 45% of the total trainees trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), while they represent 83% of the beneficiaries of training programs conducted by the Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

3,327 female pilots were active as of December 31, 2025.

Nearly 90% more licenses were issued in 2025 (461) than in 2021 (243).

Women's economic inclusion is reflected here:



56%

PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts.

54%

Insurance, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

51%

Insurance, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.

82%

Loans, Stand Up India.

67%

Loans, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

- According to data from public sector banks, the participation of female borrowers in the retail sector has increased by 2.14 times and in the MSME sector by 2.62 times over the past five years.

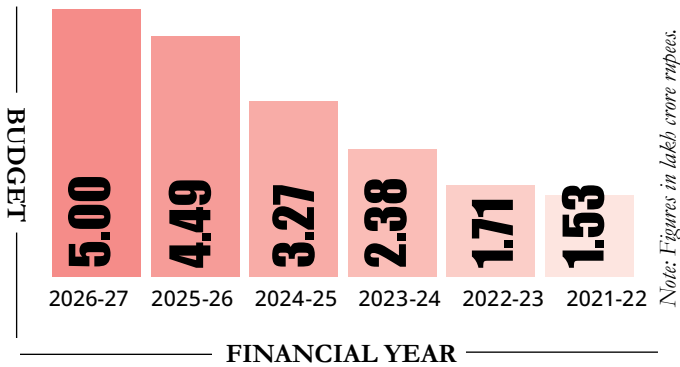
2.94

crore women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are registered across the country



Gender budget increased more than three times in 6 years

The current central government is accelerating women-led development by promoting gender-responsive governance and budgeting. In this regard, the 2026-27 budget has allocated ₹5 lakh crore for the welfare of women and girls.



Special initiatives for women in the 2026-27 budget

- Training of 1.5 lakh multi-skilled caregivers is proposed in the 2026-27 budget, which will improve the delivery of elderly, child, and related care services.
- Self-Help Entrepreneurship (SHE) Marts will be established. These community-owned resources will provide systematic and sustainable market access for the products of women-led self-help groups.
- To ensure equality and security in higher education, girls' hostels have been provided for STEM institutions in each district. This will increase the participation of young women in emerging and technology-based fields.



PM Modi handed over his social media platforms to women

On the occasion of Women's Day on March 8, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over his social media platforms to women across India who are making remarkable progress in various fields to honor their contributions. PM Modi then said, "These women come from different parts of India and have excelled in various fields, but what they all share is the strength of India's Nari Shakti. Their determination and success remind us of the immense potential of women. Today and every day, we are working together to shape a developed India."





India-Malaysia

From Friendship to Strategic Partnership

Diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia began in 1957. Since then, the relationship between the two countries has been based on mutual respect and cooperation, which was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2024. To further strengthen these ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Malaysia on February 7th and 8th. During this visit, several important agreements were signed between the two countries

The historic ties between India and Malaysia have seen steady progress in recent years, with the nearly three million Indian diaspora living in Malaysia playing a significant role. This was Prime Minister Modi's third official visit to Malaysia since 2015, at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. During his two-day visit, extensive discussions were held to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries, including political engagement, defence, security cooperation, maritime cooperation, trade and investment, digital economy, science and technology, energy, agriculture, health, education, culture, tourism, youth exchanges, economic and innovation, and expanding cooperation in some new areas. Not only this, regional and global developments of mutual interest were also discussed. This visit reflects India's firm commitment to strengthening India-Malaysia relations, which is a key pillar of the country's Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific Vision, and Vision MAHASAGAR.

During the visit, the two leaders recalled the centuries-old India-Malaysia ties and the strong people-to-people contacts that are the cornerstone of this partnership. Discussions also focused on enhancing cooperation in emerging areas such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence. PM Modi called for strengthening youth engagement through parliamentary and university exchanges. The opening of India's first consulate in Malaysia will further strengthen commercial and people-to-people ties. Both sides also accepted the outcome document of the 10th India-Malaysia

The Social Security Agreement to protect Indian workers in Malaysia, the Gratis e-Visa for tourism, and the implementation of the digital payment interface UPI in Malaysia – all these steps will simplify the lives of citizens of both countries. Because any partnership succeeds only when the benefits reach the people directly

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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



People of Indian origin bridge the two nations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a community event in Kuala Lumpur. He was welcomed by over 800 dancers with a record-breaking cultural performance, filled with rhythm and tempo. Prime Minister Modi said this was his first foreign visit in 2026. He was delighted to be among the Indian community during this festive season. There are many things that connect the hearts of the people of India and Malaysia. Referring to the similarities between the two countries, PM Modi said that Malaysia's Roti Canai and India's Malabar Parotta are similar. The taste of coconut, spices, and teh tarik is similar in both Kuala Lumpur and Kochi. People of both countries understand each other very well. One reason for this is that many words in Indian languages and Malay are similar. Indian films and music are very popular in Malaysia.

People of Indian origin living in Malaysia have preserved their traditions for centuries. Referring to the

'Mann Ki Baat' programme, PM Modi said, "I told the whole of India that children are being taught Indian languages in more than 500 schools in Malaysia." PM Modi said that Tamil is India's gift to the world. Tamil literature is eternal; Tamil culture is global. Tamil people have served humanity through their talent.

More than 100 Indian IT companies are operating in Malaysia, creating thousands of jobs. The Malaysia-India Digital Council is opening new avenues for digital cooperation. PM Modi announced that India's UPI system will soon be launched in Malaysia. PM Modi said that India will always welcome its diaspora brothers and sisters with open arms. He highlighted a historic decision that now allows Malaysian citizens of Indian origin up to the sixth generation to obtain an OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card. A new Indian embassy will soon open in Malaysia, further strengthening ties between the two countries.

Key Agreements between India and Malaysia

- Audio-visual co-production
- Combating and preventing corruption
- United Nations peacekeeping
- Disaster management ■ Semiconductor sector
- International Big Cats Alliance
- Vocational education and training
- National Security Council Secretariat of India
- Malaysia's National Security Council
- Cooperation in the health and medical sector

PM Modi's meeting with business leaders

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with four leading industry leaders from Malaysia. During the meeting, he encouraged Malaysian businesses to take advantage of opportunities available in India, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, digital technology, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and healthcare. The business leaders praised the reforms undertaken by the Indian government towards building a Viksit Bharat and expressed strong confidence in India's growth story.

CEO Forum.

PM Modi said that the true strength of the relationship between the two countries lies in the people-to-people relationship. The nearly three million Malaysians of Indian origin are a living bridge between our countries. The support of friendly countries is

crucial in the fight against terrorism. In this era of global instability, it is essential for India and Malaysia, as maritime neighbours, to realise the full potential of their relationship. PM Modi said the underlying message of this visit is clear: India wants to take our relationship with Malaysia to a new level. ●



A Confluence of Economic Powers

India-US Trade Agreement Opens New Opportunities

In the past few years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has established an active and confident presence in the global trade landscape. The India-US Trade Agreement is a major step in this direction. This agreement between the world's two largest democratic and economic powers will not only provide a new direction to trade, investment, technology, and supply chains but will also strengthen the goal of a developed and self-reliant India...

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States in February 2025, regular discussions have been taking place between the two countries to finalise a balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. Over the past year, the two countries have held intensive negotiations at various levels, leading to a historic trade agreement while protecting critical and sensitive sectors of their respective economies. As a result, on February 2nd, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump discussed a wide

range of issues of bilateral and international importance. President Trump subsequently announced a tariff reduction on Indian goods exported to the United States to 18%. This tariff on Indian goods is significantly lower than the tariffs imposed by the United States on many other competing countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the agreement on a framework for an interim trade agreement between India and the United States. The Prime Minister thanked Donald Trump for his personal commitment to strengthening ties

UNITED STATES-INDIA JOINT STATEMENT

This interim trade agreement between the United States and India is based on mutual interests and concrete outcomes. It also reflects a shared commitment to balanced trade. Key terms of the interim trade agreement between the United States and India...

- India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products.
- The USA will amend the April 2, 2025, Executive Order, under which it will impose a reciprocal tariff rate of 18 percent on goods manufactured in India, including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastics and rubber, organic chemicals, home furnishings, handicraft products, and certain machinery.
- The USA will remove tariffs imposed on certain Indian aircraft and aircraft parts.
- The United States and India commit to provide each other preferential market access in sectors of respective interest on a sustained basis.
- The USA and India will establish manufacturing regulations that ensure that the benefits of the agreement accrue primarily to both countries.
- The USA and India will address non-tariff barriers affecting bilateral trade.
- With the aim of facilitating compliance with applicable technical regulations, the USA and India will discuss their respective standards and conformity assessment processes for mutually agreed sectors.
- The United States and India agree that in the event of any change in tariffs imposed by either country, the other country may modify its commitments.
- The United States confirms

that it will consider India's request to reduce tariffs on Indian goods during the BTA negotiations.

- The United States and India have agreed to strengthen the economic security framework to enhance supply chain resilience and innovation. To this end, complementary actions will be taken to address non-market policies of third parties.
- India intends to purchase \$500 billion worth of energy products, aircraft and aircraft components, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal from the United States over the next five years.



between the two countries and said the framework reflects the growing depth, trust and dynamism of the India-US partnership. The Prime Minister noted that the agreement will strengthen 'Make in India' by opening new opportunities for farmers, entre-

preneurs, MSMEs, start-up innovators and fishermen, while generating large-scale employment for women and youth. He said that the framework will deepen investment and technology partnerships, strengthen resilient and trusted supply chains,

Key Takeaways of the India-US Trade Agreement

\$30 trillion U.S. market now grants India preferential access.

- Textiles & apparel gain tariff cuts from 50% to 18%, with silk securing 0% duty access in a USD 113 billion U.S. market.
- Machinery exports see tariffs reduced to 18%, opening opportunities in a USD 477 billion U.S. market.
- USD 1.36 billion of Indian agricultural exports receive zero additional U.S. duty access.
- Key products, including spices, tea, coffee, fruits, nuts and processed foods, gain zero-duty treatment.
- Highly sensitive sectors such as dairy, meat, poultry and cereals remain fully protected.



Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%. When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

and contribute to global growth. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated in Parliament that the India-US trade agreement will significantly benefit Indian exporters, especially in labour-intensive and manufacturing sectors. The agreement fully addresses India's key sensitivities in the food and agriculture sectors. It will also open up new opportunities for small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, and industry. It will help realise India's vision of "Make

US Tariffs on Competitive Nations

The India-USA Interim Trade Agreement imposes lower tariffs than other competing countries. Several competing exporting countries still face high tariffs in the US market, including China (35%), Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%), Malaysia (19%), Indonesia (19%), the Philippines (19%), Cambodia (19%), and Thailand (19%).

Tariffs Reduced in the US on These Indian Goods

Leather and Footwear, Gems and Jewellery, Home Decor, Toys, Machinery and Parts (excluding Aircraft Parts).

Zero Duty Access for Agricultural Exports

The US will not impose any additional tariffs on Indian exports worth US\$1.36 billion. Products that will benefit include spices, tea and coffee and their extracts, copra and coconut oil, vegetable waxes, nuts such as betel nuts, Brazil nuts, cashews, and chestnuts, fruits and vegetables including avocados, bananas, guavas, mangoes, kiwis, papayas, pineapples, shiitake, and mushrooms, grains such as barley and canary seeds, bakery products, cocoa and cocoa products, sesame and poppy seeds, and processed products such as fruit pulp, juices, and jams.

India's Trade Agreements in the Last Few Years

Along with the European Union, the Indian government has signed trade deals with Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Oman, and Australia since 2014 and announced a trade agreement with New Zealand. In 2025, India signed trade agreements with Oman and the United Kingdom.

in India for the World", "Design in India for the World", and "Innovate in India for the World". Ensuring India's energy security is a top priority for the government, and diversifying energy sources is essential to address alternative markets and changing international landscapes. The Commerce Minister clarified in Parliament that both sides will work together to complete the necessary technical procedures and finalise the paperwork related to the trade agreement. ●

Safe Products Confident Consumers

The theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2026 is Safe Products, Confident Consumers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has long urged industry to manufacture zero-defect products. The central government is also prioritising consumer safety and implementing several digital platforms to protect consumer rights, including cracking down on misleading advertisements

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, repealing the old law, will be implemented to modernise the consumer rights protection framework.
- The e-Jagriti portal (<https://e-jagriti.gov.in/>) was launched on January 1, 2025. It enhances consumer grievance redressal through features such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and faceless onboarding.
- For pre-litigation redressal, file a complaint on the toll-free number 1915. The time limit for redressal is 45 days. For the past three years, it has received an average of over 100,000 complaints per month.



“ Greetings to all consumers on World Consumer Rights Day. Our economy thrives on your purchasing power, and the Government of India is committed to protecting and empowering every consumer

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**NEW INDIA
SAMACHAR**
FORTNIGHTLY

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

PUBLISHED:
Kanchan Prasad
Director General, on behalf of
Central Bureau Of Communication

PUBLISHED FROM:
Room No-278, Central Bureau Of
Communication, 2nd Floor, Soochna
Bhawan, New Delhi -110003

RNI NO.: DELENG/2020/78811 MARCH 1-15, 2026

RNI Registered No DELENG/2020/78811 (Publishing Date: February 19,2026 Pages-60)