

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



AMIDST SERIOUS GLOBAL CRISES, INDIA EMERGED
AS THE FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR ECONOMY



**'Prana Pratishtha' of
SHRI RAM TEMPLE**



**Abrogation of
ARTICLE 370**



**Successful
MOON MISSION**



**Alleviated from poverty
25 CRORE PEOPLE**



**India Becomes
5TH LARGEST ECONOMY**



**Justice for
SC, ST, OBC & WEAKER SECTIONS**



**Success of the
HISTORIC G20**



'INDIA HAS MADE REMARKABLE STRIDES UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT'



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda along with other senior leaders receiving greetings at a huge public rally in Dharmshala, Himachal Pradesh on 03 February, 2024



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda hoisting the National Flag on the occasion of 75th Republic Day at BJP HQ in New Delhi on 25 January, 2024



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and BJYM National President Shri Tejasvi Surya are at NaMo Navmatdata Sammelan in the virtual presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at BJP HQ (Ext.) on 25 January, 2024



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and other senior BJP leaders are at the "Sushasan Mahotsav 2024" in New Delhi on 09 February, 2024



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah launching the book 'A Promised Nation Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi- the Maker of New India' written on the life and works of Modi Ji in Braille script in New Delhi on 25 January, 2024



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated 'Super-100' winners of Project Veer Gatha 3.0 at an event in New Delhi on 25 January, 2024

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



@Narendramodi

With the strengthening of the four pillars -youth, women, the poor, and our Anndata (farmers), the country will rapidly move towards a developed India.

(5 February, 2024)

@JPNadda

We are never overconfident nor do we ever lose confidence in adverse circumstances. The way we got victory in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, we will get success in the same manner in 2024 also.

(5 February, 2024)



@AmitShah

Modi government has connected Kashmiri youth with the development journey of the country by giving them laptops instead of stones.

(5 February, 2024)



@Rajnathsingh

Our Self-Reliant India programme promotes companionship, not isolation. Our culture is of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'; for us, the whole world is a family; then how can we develop ourselves by living apart from the world.

(30 January, 2024)



@Piyush Goyal

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has committed to providing food items to consumers at better prices. Bharat Rice has been launched by Narendra Modi's government. I express my heartfelt gratitude to him for this decision.

(6 February, 2024)



@B L Santhosh

Congratulations Hon'ble Sri Lalkrishna Advaniji on being conferred with BHARAT RATHNA award. A social & public life as organiser, administrator, mentor of many a stalwart, crusader of Good Governance & values in politics is rightfully honoured by the highest civilian award.

(3 February, 2024)



INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST

MULTI-TRACKING PLANS FOR BUSIEST RAIL SECTIONS

Govt approved 6 multi-tracking projects across Indian Railways



Total estimated cost: **Rs. 12,343 crore**
Projects cover **18 districts in 6 states:**
Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland

BENEFITS

- Additional freight traffic of magnitude 87 MTPA
- Increase in the existing network of Indian Railways by 1020 Kms
- Employment of about 3 crores man-days to the people of the States
- Minimize logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import and lower CO2 emissions

MTPA: Million Tonnes Per Annum | Source: Col



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR

wishes a very happy

GURU RAVIDAS JAYANTI (24 FEBRUARY, 2024)

to all of its readers



'FRAGILE FIVE' TO 'TOP FIVE'

The recently concluded interim budget session of the parliament may be said to be exceptionally remarkable in many ways. While the customary address to the joint sitting of parliament by President Smt. Draupadi Murmu highlighted the amazing achievements of India, the sincere efforts made by members during discussions in both houses of parliament reinforce the people's faith in the Indian democratic system. The discussions on the motion of thanks for the presidential address, interim budget, white paper, and Shri Ram Temple, apart from various bills, have enriched the understanding of the people about India's rapid stride in the last ten years. While stabilising the economy and setting it on a path of recovery and growth, the discussions emphasised the need to address the challenges left behind by the UPA government. The overwhelming mandate given to the BJP-led NDA under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls not only reflected the public's desire for a reversal of the economic and fiscal challenges faced by the country during Congress-led UPA misrule but also a result of people acknowledging the successes in overcoming challenges while emphasising the continued journey ahead into a glorious and bright future.

The White Paper presented by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on the economy in the Lok Sabha has completely exposed the financial mismanagement, policy paralysis, pervasive corruption, and looting of public money during the Congress-led UPA misrule of ten years, spanning from 2004 to 2014. It is an established fact now that the UPA's ten years of misrule left behind an "inheritance of loss," while the

The overwhelming mandate given to the BJP-led NDA under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls not only reflected the public's desire for a reversal of the economic and fiscal challenges faced by the country during Congress-led UPA misrule but also a result of people acknowledging the successes in overcoming challenges while emphasising the continued journey ahead into a glorious and bright future

Narendra Modi-led NDA government may be credited with rescuing the economy from a state of crisis, despair, and policy paralysis. The paper has rightly attributed the few years of high growth during the UPA era to reforms initiated by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, which left the economy on a trajectory of more than 8% GDP growth rate, leaving behind a legacy of robust economic parameters. But all these gains were squandered away within a few years of the Congress-led UPA regime, which indulged in fiscal profligacy, opting for "quick fixes" like farm loan waivers, and failing to deliver on key reforms such as Aadhaar and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The rampant corruption, misplaced priorities, dual power centres, and lack of vision led India to an atmosphere of despair, pessimism, and loss of confidence among the people about the future. The India of 2014 was in deep crisis, facing extreme challenges on all fronts and struggling in the clutches of high inflation, a depleting forex reserve, and a decreasing rate of growth. It all resulted in of a 'Lost Decade' during the Congress-led UPA regime

(2004–2014), as rightly summed up in the paper.

Amid the challenging times, Shri Narendra Modi emerged as the only hope for the nation and people, and for the first time in three decades, the nation elected a full majority government at the centre under his leadership. When Shri Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister in 2014, addressing the state of the economic crisis that required fixing a mismanaged economy and emphasising improvements in various macro-economic and infrastructure indicators was his top priority. The White Paper has elaborated on how hard work, continuous reforms, corruption-free governance, and a focus on the welfare and empowerment of the poor, deprived, exploited, oppressed, farmers, women, and youth have led to a huge transformation in the economy. India's shift from being among the 'fragile five' economies to one of the 'top five,' with a significant contribution to global growth seen from the crisis of 2014, appears like some kind of miracle now. As India moves ahead by building the grand Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya and restoring the grandeur of its civilizational centres, the nation today looks forward to serving humanity by rededicating itself to its civilizational values of selfless service. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org

BUDGET SESSION, 2024-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

AMIDST SERIOUS GLOBAL CRISES, INDIA EMERGED AS THE FASTEST-GROWING MAJOR ECONOMY: DROUPADI MURMU

President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu delivered her address at the beginning of the Budget session of Parliament on 31st January, 2024. It was her first address in the new Parliament building. In her address, she said that the magnificent building was constructed at the beginning of “Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal.” It is imbued with the fragrance of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ and is a testimony to India’s civilization and culture. She also mentioned the massive success of schemes like PMAY, Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN etc. The following are excerpts from the address:



This year is also the 75th year of adoption of our Constitution. During this period of Amrit Mahotsav, the celebration of 75 years of independence was completed. During this period, many programmes were organized across the country. The country remembered its unsung freedom fighters. After 75 years, the young generation relived that period of freedom struggle.

During this Amrit Mahotsav campaign:

- Amrit Kalash containing soil from every village of the country were brought to Delhi under the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign.
- Over 2 lakh plaques were installed.
- More than three crore people took the oath of the 'Panch Pran'.
- More than 70,000 Amrit Sarovars were built.
- Amidst serious global crises, India emerged as the fastest-growing major economy, consistently

maintaining a growth rate of over 7.5 percent for two consecutive quarters.

- India became the first country to hoist its flag on the southern pole of the Moon.
- India successfully launched the Aditya Mission and its satellite reached a distance of 15 lakh kilometers away from Earth.
- Success of the historic G-20 Summit strengthened India's global standing.
- India won more than 100 medals for the first time in Asian Games.
- We also won more than 100 medals in Para Asian Games.
- India got its largest sea-bridge, the Atal Setu.
- India got its first Namo Bharat train and the first Amrit Bharat train.
- India became the country with the fastest 5G rollout



in the world.

- An Indian Airline company executed the world's largest aircraft deal.
- Last year, my government has given government jobs to lakhs of youth in mission mode.
- Over the past 12 months, my government introduced several important legislations.
- These laws have been enacted with the cooperation of all parliamentarians.
- These are laws that lay a strong foundation for the realization of vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.
- I appreciate all of you for having enacted the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam after a wait of three decades.
- This has paved the way for ensuring greater participation of women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies.
- This strengthens my government's resolve for women-led development.
- My government has continuously upheld its commitment to Reform, Perform and Transform.
- The criminal justice system rooted in the era of slavery is now history. Now, justice takes precedence over punishment. The nation has got a new Nyaya Sanhita based on the principle of 'Justice First'.
- The Digital Personal Data Protection Act will make the digital space more secure.
- "Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act" will strengthen research and innovation in the country.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act will ensure the right to representation to tribals there.
- During this period the Central University Act was amended. This paved the way for setting up a Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana.
- Last year, 76 other old laws were also repealed.
- My government is aware of the concerns of youth regarding irregularities in examinations.
- Therefore, it has been decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with such malpractices.
- Any nation can progress at a fast pace only when it overcomes the past challenges and invests maximum energy in the future.
- Over the past 10 years, India has witnessed several such tasks being accomplished in the national interest, for which the people of the country were

waiting for decades.

- For centuries, there was an aspiration to construct the Ram Mandir. Today it is a reality.
- There were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history.
- This Parliament also enacted a strict law against 'Triple Talaq'.
- This Parliament also enacted a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighboring countries.
- My government also implemented One Rank One Pension,
- which was awaited for four decades. After implementation of OROP, the ex-servicemen have



by now received approximately Rupees 1 lakh crore.

- For the first time, a Chief of Defence Staff has been appointed for India's defence forces.

Outcome of ten years

- The achievements that are visible today are the outcome of the endeavors of last 10 years.
- Since childhood, we have been hearing the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. Now, for the first time in our lives, we are witnessing eradication of poverty on a massive scale.
- According to NITI Aayog, in the last one decade of

my Government, about 25 crore countrymen have been lifted out of poverty.

- This is something that instills great confidence among the poor.
- If the poverty of 25 crore people can be alleviated, then her poverty can also be alleviated.
- If we look at various dimensions of the economy today, then it boosts our confidence that India is moving forward in the right direction, taking right decisions.

Good Governance

- In the last decade, my government has made good governance and transparency the main foundation of every institution.
- As a result of this, we have witnessed major economic reforms.
- During this period, Insolvency and Bankruptcy code was enacted in the country.
- The country now has One country One Tax law in the form of GST.
- My Government has also ensured macro-economic stability.
- In 10 years, Capex has increased 5 times to Rupees 10 lakh crore. Fiscal Deficit is also under control.

Make in India

- Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaigns have become our strengths.
- Today, India is the world's second-largest producer of mobile phones.
- During the last decade, there has been a five-fold increase in mobile phone manufacturing.
- A few years ago, India used to import toys, today India is exporting Made in India toys.
- India's defence production has crossed Rupees one lakh crore.
- Today, every Indian feels proud on seeing the country's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

Ease of Doing Business

- We are committed to creating a conducive environment for doing business in India, and the government is consistently working towards this goal.
- There has been consistent improvement in Ease of Doing Business.

- More than 40,000 compliances have been removed or simplified in the last few years.
- 63 provisions in the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act have been removed from the list of criminal offences.
- The Jan Vishwas Act has decriminalized 183 provisions under various laws.
- A Mediation law has been enacted for amicable resolution of disputes outside the court.
- Forest and Environment Clearances now take less than 75 days whereas it used to take 600 days earlier.
- Faceless Assessment Scheme has brought greater transparency in tax administration.
- Our MSME sector is also benefiting enormously from reforms.

Digitalization

- The facility of DigiLocker is also making life easier. More than 6 billion documents have so far been issued to its users.
- Digital Health IDs of around 53 crore people have been created under Ayushman Bharat Health Account.
- Along with digital, there has been record investment in physical infrastructure. Today, infrastructure is being built in India, the kind of which every Indian used to dream about.

Infrastructure Development

- 10,000 kilometers of gas pipeline has been laid in the country.
- One Nation, One Power Grid has improved power transmission in the country.
- One Nation, One Gas Grid is boosting gas-based economy.
- The metro facility, limited to only 5 cities is now in 20 cities.
- More than 25 thousand kilometers of railway tracks were laid. This is more than the total length of railway tracks in many developed countries.
- India is very close to 100% electrification of railways.
- During this period, semi high-speed trains have been started for the first time in India.
- Today Vande Bharat trains are running on more than 39 routes.
- More than 1300 railway stations are being

transformed under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Viksit Bharat

- My government believes that the grand edifice of a 'Viksit Bharat' will be erected on 4 strong pillars.
- These pillars are - youth power, women power, farmers and poor.
- With this objective, Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has been underway since 15th November. So far, around 19 crore citizens have participated in this yatra.
- In the 10 years prior to 2014, the average inflation rate was over 8 percent. However, the average inflation rate has been maintained at 5 percent in the last decade.
- My government's endeavour has been to increase savings in the hands of ordinary citizens.

No tax on income up to Rupees 7 lakh

- Earlier, Income Tax in India was levied on income of Rupees 2 lakh and above.
- Today in India, there is no tax on income up to Rupees 7 lakh.
- Due to tax exemptions and reforms, Indian taxpayers have saved about Rupees 2.5 lakh crore in the last 10 years.

Women's economic participation

- My government has made relentless efforts to enhance women's economic participation.
- Today about 10 crore women are associated with Self-help groups.
- Bank loans worth Rupees 8 lakh crore and financial assistance worth Rupees 40 thousand crores have been disbursed to these groups.
- The government is implementing a campaign to make 2 crore women Lakhpati Didis.
- 15 thousand drones are being provided to groups under NAMO Drone Didi scheme.
- Increasing maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks has greatly benefited lakhs of women of the country.

Farmers

- My government is laying stress on making farming more profitable. Our aim is to reduce the cost of farming while increasing profits.

- For the first time, my government has given priority to over 10 crore small farmers in the country's agricultural policy and schemes.
- Under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers have received over Rupees 2 lakh 80 thousand crore so far.
- Over the past 10 years, there has been a threefold increase in easy loans for farmers from banks.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers paid a premium of Rupees 30 thousand crore. In return, they have received a claim of Rupees 1.5 lakh crore.
- In the last 10 years, farmers have received nearly Rupees 18 lakh crore as MSP (Minimum Support



Price) for paddy and wheat crops.

Development through Cooperation

- For the first time in the country, livestock farmers and fishermen have been given the benefit of Kisan Credit Card.
- In the last decade, per capita milk availability has increased by 40 percent.
- The first free vaccination campaign is underway to protect animals from foot and mouth diseases.
- So far, more than 50 crore doses have been administered to animals in four phases.
- All these public welfare schemes are not just services. These are having a positive impact on the

life cycle of the citizens of the country.

- The outcomes of my government's schemes have been the subject of studies by various government and non-government organizations.

Human-centric development

- My government guided by the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas", is committed to provide fair opportunities to every section of the society.
- For the first time, benefit of reservation has been extended to persons belonging to economically weaker sections of the general category.
- 27 percent reservation has been introduced under central quota for OBCs in under graduate and postgraduate medical courses.
- Constitutional status has been granted to National Commission for Backward Classes.
- 5 places associated with Baba Saheb Ambedkar have been developed as Panchteerth.
- 10 museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters are being built across the country.

Modern infrastructure along the border

- Today my government is building modern infrastructure along the entire border. This work should have been done long ago on priority basis. Be it terrorism or expansionism, our forces today are giving a befitting response.

Roadmap for the next 25 years

- This vision also has a programme for the next 5 years. It also has a roadmap for the next 25 years. For us, the vision of Viksit Bharat is not limited to economic prosperity alone.
- We are giving equal importance to social, cultural and strategic strengths. Without them, the development and economic prosperity would not be permanent.
- The decisions of the last decade have also been taken with this objective in mind. Many more steps are being taken keeping this goal in mind.

Clean Energy

- My government is promoting green mobility in a big way. Lakhs of electric vehicles have been manufactured in the country in the last few years

alone.

- We have now taken steps even for manufacturing of big aircrafts in India.
- Crores of new jobs will be created in the manufacturing sector in the coming days.
- In 10 years, non-fossil fuel based energy capacity has increased from 81 Gigawatt to 188 Gigawatt.
- Work is also being done at a very fast pace in the field of nuclear energy. My government has approved 10 new nuclear power plants.
- India is also progressing at a fast pace in the field of Hydrogen energy. So far, we have started two projects in Ladakh and Daman-Diu.
- My government has done unprecedented work in the field of Ethanol. The country has achieved the target of 12 percent Ethanol blending.

Encouragement of circular economy

- Under Atal Innovation Mission, 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established to promote innovation. More than 1 crore students are involved in it.
- There were 7 AIIMS and less than 390 medical colleges in the country upto 2014, while, in the last decade 16 AIIMS and 315 medical colleges have been established.
- 157 nursing colleges are also being established.
- In the past decade, the number of MBBS seats has more than doubled.

Support to sports and sportspersons

- We are strengthening the sports economy to connect the country's youth with skills and employment.
- My government has given unprecedented support to sports and sportspersons.
- Today India is moving towards becoming a great sporting power.

Grand temple in Ayodhya

- This year, on January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment.
- After waiting for centuries, Ram Lalla has now been enshrined in his grand temple in Ayodhya.
- This was a matter of aspirations and faith for crores of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner. ■

President's address indicates the speed and scale of India's progress: PM Modi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi replied to the motion of thanks on the President's Address to Parliament in the Lok Sabha on 05 February, 2024. The Prime Minister began his address to the House by referring to the 'Sengol' that led the procession with pride and respect as Rastrapati Ji arrived in the new House to deliver her address and the rest of the Parliamentarians followed her lead. Shri Modi underlined that this legacy increases the dignity of the house manifold and said the 75th Republic Day, the new Parliament House, and the arrival of the Sengol was a very impactful event. He thanked the Members of the House for contributing their thoughts and ideas to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address:

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi underlined that the President's address is a huge document based on facts that gave an indication of the speed and scale of India's progress and also drew attention to the fact that the nation will become developed faster only if the four pillars of Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti, the poor and the Ann Data are developed and strengthened. He said the address illuminates the path for the nation to become Viksit Bharat by strengthening these four pillars.



lamented the emergence of a culture in politics and said the developments taking place in the country do not belong to one person but to every citizen.

INDIA'S ROBUST ECONOMY

Commenting on India's robust economy which is being appreciated by the world today, the Prime Minister said, "Modi's guarantee that India will become the 3rd largest economy of the world in the present government's third term". He said that the world's views and opinions towards India can be summed up by the success of the G20 Summit.

DYNASTIC POLITICS IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Stressing the need for a strong opposition, the Prime Minister said that dynastic politics is a cause for concern for the Democracy of India. Throwing light on the meaning of dynastic politics, PM Modi explained that a political party which runs a family, prioritizes its members, and where all decisions are taken by the family members is considered dynastic politics rather than several members of a family who are making their way forward in politics on its own strength with the support of the people. "I welcome all young people in politics who are here to serve the nation", PM Modi exclaimed, drawing attention to the dangers of dynastic politics to democracy. He

Underlining the role of the government in steering the nation towards prosperity, Prime Minister Shri Modi drew attention to the Interim Budget tabled in the House in 2014 by the previous government and the statement of the then Finance Minister. He pointed out that during his address, the then Finance Minister had informed about India being the 11th largest economy in terms of the size of its GDP, while today the country has reached the 5th position. Further quoting the then FM, the Prime Minister said that the nation would grow to become the 3rd largest economy in the world after the USA and China in the next 3 decades. "Today", the Prime Minister exclaimed, "I assure the nation



that India will become the 3rd largest economy in the world in the present government's third term."

Prime Minister Shri Modi underlined that the whole world is watching the speed of the work of the government as well as its big goals and courage. He informed the House that the present government built 4 crore houses for the rural poor and 80 lakh pucca houses for the urban poor. In the last 10 years, electrification of 40,000 kms of railway lines was achieved, 17 crore extra gas connections were provided, and sanitation coverage increased from 40 percent to 100 percent.

STRENGTHS AND CAPABILITIES OF INDIAN CITIZENS

Lamenting the half-hearted approach of the previous governments towards welfare and its lack of confidence in the people of India, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the present government's belief in the strengths and capabilities of Indian citizens. He remarked, "In the first term, we kept filling the potholes of the previous governments, in the second term we laid the foundation

of a new India, in the third term we will accelerate the development of a Viksit Bharat." The Prime Minister listed down the schemes of the first term and mentioned Swachh Bharat, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Sugamya Bharat, Digital India and GST. Similarly, PM Modi said that the nation witnessed the abolition of Article 370, the passage of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, the adoption of Bhartiya Nyay Samhita, the repealing of more than 40,000 obsolete laws, and the launch of Vande Bharat and Namo Bharat trains in the second term. "From North to South, from East to West, people have seen the pending projects being completed in a timely manner", he said. He stated that the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has shown the government's dedication and determination towards making basic facilities available to everyone. Speaking about the consecration of the Ram Temple, PM Modi said, "Ram temple in Ayodhya will continue to give energy to the great culture and tradition of India"

Shri Narendra Modi mentioned 50 crore poor own bank accounts, 4 crore own houses, 11 crore receive tapped water connections, 55 crore possess Ayushman Cards and 80 crore people received free food grains

The Prime Minister emphasized that the present government's third term will be focused on major decisions. "Government's third term will lay the foundations of the country for the next 1000 years", the Prime Minister remarked.

Expressing confidence in the capabilities of the 140 crore citizens of the country, PM Modi said that 25 crore people have risen out of poverty in the last 10 years. He reiterated that the poor can defeat poverty if they are provided with the right resources and self-respect. Shri Narendra Modi mentioned 50 crore poor own bank accounts, 4 crore own houses, 11 crore receive tapped water connections, 55 crore possess Ayushman Cards and 80 crore people received free food grains.

"Modi is concerned for those who were once nobody's concern", Shri Modi said, mentioning the street vendors who now avail interest-free loans under PM Svanidhi, Vishwakarma Yojna for artisans and handicraftsmen, PM Jan Man Yojna for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Vibrant Villages Program for development of border areas, focus on millet production, Vocal for Local and strengthening the Khadi sector.

BHARAT RATNA

PM Shri Modi also drew attention towards conferring Shri Karpoori Thakur with the Bharat Ratna and pointed out how the great personality was treated with disrespect by the previous governments. He recalled the attempts made to overthrow his government when Shri Thakur was the Chief Minister of Bihar in the 1970s.

NARI SHAKTI

The Prime Minister highlighted the contributions of the government to empower the Nari Shakti of India. "Now there is no such sector in India where the doors are closed for the daughters of the country. They are also flying fighter jets and keeping the borders safe", a proud Prime Minister said. He expressed confidence in the capabilities of women's self-help groups which have more than 10 crore members and



give impetus to India's rural economy.

FARMER WELFARE

Speaking about farmer welfare, the Prime Minister informed that the annual agricultural budget was increased from Rs 25,000 crores during previous governments to Rs 1.25 lakh crores now. He mentioned disbursing Rs 2,80,000 crores to farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Rs 1,50,000 crores under PM Fasal Bima Yojna at a premium of Rs 30,000, formation of a dedicated Ministry for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and PM Kisan Credit Cards for fishermen and cattlemen. He also mentioned 50 crore vaccinations for foot and mouth disease to save animal lives.

OPPORTUNITIES CREATED FOR THE YOUTH

Throwing light on the opportunities created for the youth of India, the Prime Minister spoke about the advent of the startup age, unicorns, the emergence of digital creators and the Gift economy. PM Modi underlined that today, India is the leading digital economy of the world and it will create numerous new opportunities for India's youth. He also touched upon mobile manufacturing in India and the availability of cheap data. He also acknowledged the growth in India's tourism sector and aviation sector. The PM stressed the government's approach to providing employment opportunities and social security to the youth of India.

Shri Modi informed the House that the infrastructure budget of the country has increased from 12 lakh crore in the last 10 years before 2014 to Rs 44 lakh crores in the last 10 years. He also mentioned encouraging India's youth towards making the country a research and innovation hub of the world by developing proper systems and economic policies. Highlighting the government's efforts to make the nation Atmanirbhar in the energy sector, the Prime Minister touched upon India taking the lead in investments in the green hydrogen and semiconductors sectors.

PLEDGED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

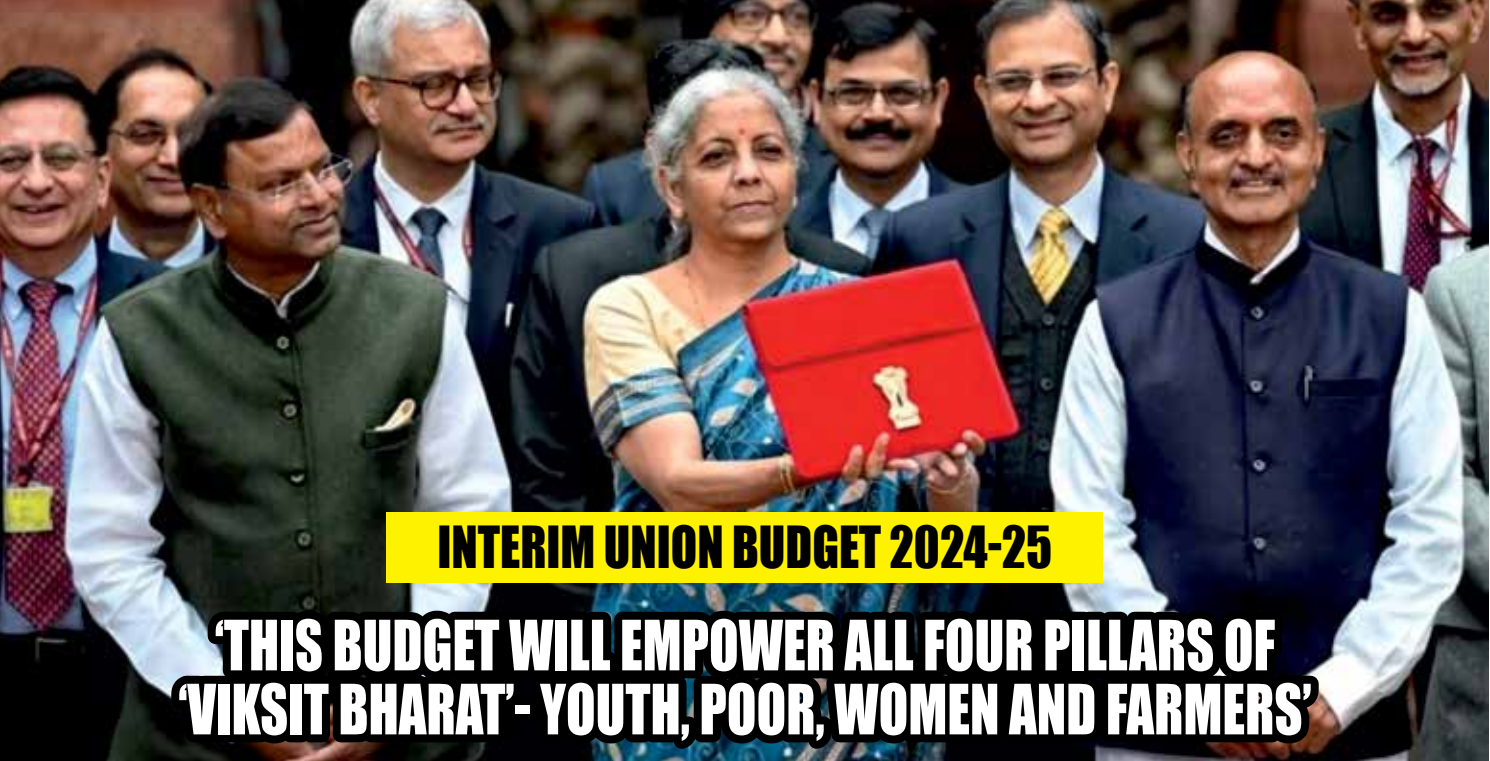
The Prime Minister pledged to fight corruption to the very end and said, "Those who looted the nation will have to pay back." Praising the efforts of the government to maintain peace and tranquillity

HIGHLIGHTS OF PM'S ADDRESS IN RAJYA SABHA

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi replied to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to Parliament in Rajya Sabha on February 7, 2024.
- "Rashtrapati Ji's address emphasized India's burgeoning confidence, promising future and immense potential of its people"
- "The opposition cannot suppress my voice, because the people of the country have given strength to this voice".
- "India has come out of the days of Fragile Five and Policy Paralysis to the days of being among the top 5 economies"
- "Last 10 years will be known for the historic decisions of the government"
- "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is not a slogan. It is Modi's guarantee"
- "Modi 3.0 will leave no stone unturned to strengthen the foundations of Viksit Bharat"
- The Prime Minister reiterated that the four most important castes namely Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti, the poor and Anna Data, the development and progress of these four main pillars of India will lead to the nation becoming developed.
- Abrogation of Article 370 ensured that rights and development of SC, ST and OBC communities get the same rights as the rest of the country in Jammu and Kashmir.
- "By 2047, India will re-live its golden period", the Prime Minister said underlining the government's commitment to Viksit Bharat.

in the nation, the Prime Minister reiterated that the world is obligated to follow India's policy of zero tolerance for terrorism. He expressed pride and faith in the capabilities of India's defence forces while condemning the ideology of separatism. He also lauded the developments taking place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Shri Modi urged the Members of the House to come forward shoulder to shoulder for the development of the nation. "I ask for your support in the development of 'Maa Bharti' and its 140 crore citizens", he concluded. ■



INTERIM UNION BUDGET 2024-25

'THIS BUDGET WILL EMPOWER ALL FOUR PILLARS OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT'- YOUTH, POOR, WOMEN AND FARMERS'

With the 'Mantra' of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas' and the whole of nation approach of "Sabka Prayas", the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Interim Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament, on 01 February, 2024. The key highlights of the Budget are as follows:

PART-A

Social Justice

Prime Minister to focus on upliftment of four major castes, that is, 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) and 'Annadata' (Farmer).

'Garib Kalyan, Desh ka Kalyan'

- Government assisted 25 crore people out of multi-dimensional poverty in last 10 years.
- DBT of Rs. 34 lakh crore using PM-Jan Dhan accounts led to savings of Rs. 2.7 lakh crore for the Government.
- PM-SVANidhi provided credit assistance to 78 lakh street vendors. 2.3 lakh have received credit for the third time.
- PM-JANMAN Yojana to aid the development of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG).
- PM-Vishwakarma Yojana provides end-to-end support to artisans and crafts people engaged in 18 trades.

Welfare of 'Annadata'

- PM-KISAN SAMMAN Yojana provided financial assistance to 11.8 crore farmers.
- Under PM Fasal BimaYojana, crop insurance is given to 4 crore farmers

- Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) integrated 1361 mandis, providing services to 1.8 crore farmers with trading volume of Rs. 3 lakh crore.

Momentum for Nari Shakti

- 30 crore Mudra Yojana loans given to women entrepreneurs.
- Female enrolment in higher education gone up by 28%.
- In STEM courses, girls and women constitute 43% of enrolment, one of the highest in the world.
- Over 70% houses under PM Awas Yojana given to women from rural areas.

PM Awas Yojana (Grameen)

- Despite COVID challenges, the target of three crore houses under PM Awas Yojana (Grameen) will be achieved soon.
- Two crore more houses to be taken up in the next five years.

Rooftop solarization and muft bijli

- 1 crore households to obtain 300 units free electricity every month through rooftop solarization.
- Each household is expected to save Rs.15000 to Rs.18000 annually.



Budget carries the guarantee of strengthening the foundation of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047: PM Modi

Today's Budget, though an Interim Budget, is an inclusive and innovative Budget. This Budget carries the confidence of continuity. This Budget will empower all four pillars of 'Viksit Bharat' -- youth, the poor, women, and farmers. Nirmala ji's Budget is a Budget for building the future of the country. This Budget carries the guarantee of strengthening the foundation of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. I congratulate Nirmala ji and her team wholeheartedly.

This Budget reflects Bharat's young aspirations. Two important decisions have been taken in the Budget. A fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore has been announced for research and innovation. There has also been an announcement in the Budget to expand the tax exemption for start-ups.

While keeping the fiscal deficit under control in this Budget, a historic high of Rs. 11 lakh 11 thousand 111 crore has been allocated for capital expenditure. In the language of economists, this is somewhat of a sweet spot. This will not only lead to the construction of 21st-century modern infrastructure in Bharat, but also create countless new opportunities for employment for

the youth.

We set a big goal, achieve it, and then set an even bigger goal for ourselves.

We have built more than 4 crore houses for the poor in villages and cities. Now we have set a goal of building 2 crore more new houses.

Our initial goal was to make 2 crore women 'Lakhpati Didis'. Now, this goal has been increased to making 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis'. The Ayushman Bharat scheme has greatly helped the poor. Now, Anganwadi and ASHA workers

will also benefit from this scheme.

In this Budget, significant emphasis has been placed on empowering the poor and middle class, creating new income opportunities for them. Under the Rooftop Solar campaign, one crore families will receive free electricity through solar rooftop panels. Not only this, people will also earn an additional income of 15 to 20 thousand rupees annually by selling surplus electricity to the government. This income will be available to every family.

The announcement of the income tax remission scheme today will provide significant relief to nearly one crore middle-class individuals. ■

Ayushman Bharat

- Healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme to be extended to all ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers.

Agriculture and food processing

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana has benefitted 38 lakh farmers and generated 10 lakh employment.
- Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Yojana has assisted 2.4 lakh SHGs and 60000 individuals with credit linkages.
- A corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore to be established with fifty-year interest free loan to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors and low or

nil interest rates.

Infrastructure

- Capital expenditure outlay for Infrastructure development and employment generation to be increased by 11.1 per cent to Rs.11,11,111 crore, that will be 3.4 per cent of the GDP.

Railways

- 3 major economic railway corridor programmes identified under the PM Gati Shakti to be implemented to improve logistics efficiency and reduce cost
- Energy, mineral and cement corridors
- Port connectivity corridors
- High traffic density corridors

Budget is development and progress oriented: JP Nadda

Addressing a press conference on the Interim Budget 2024-25, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and her entire team.

He said the interim budget is focused on poor's welfare and is development and progress oriented. This budget has vision for Ram Rajya and it cares about the women and poor. It also has the commitment of a developed India and it talks about achieving the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The budget also has in it the commitment for poor's welfare, upliftment of farmers, honour of women folks and happiness of our youth. I on behalf of crores of the BJP workers thank and congratulate our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and her entire team for giving us such a progressive



budget which is cares for welfare and upliftment of all sections of our country.

In the past 10 years our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has toiled hard to bring over 25 lakh people out of the poverty line, while under him our country has broken all the records of growth and development of our economy. This budget also lays the strong foundation of making a developed India.

We don't give the slogan of "garibi hatao" but eradicates poverty through our hard work and policy initiatives.

The interim budget has taken into account the aspirations and wishes of all sections of our society including farmers and villagers, women and youth, and our huge middle class, it will take our economy and our growth on the right path and promise us a bright and prosperous future. ■

- Forty thousand normal rail bogies to be converted to Vande Bharat standards.

Aviation Sector

- Number of airports in the country doubled to 149.
- Five hundred and seventeen new routes are carrying 1.3 crore passengers.
- Indian carriers have placed orders for over 1000 new aircrafts.

Green Energy

- Coal gasification and liquefaction capacity of 100 MT to be set up by 2030.
- Phased mandatory blending of compressed biogas (CBG) in compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport and piped natural gas (PNG) for domestic purposes to be mandated.

Tourism sector

- States to be encouraged to take up comprehensive development of iconic tourist centres including their branding and marketing at global scale.

- Framework for rating of the tourist centres based on quality of facilities and services to be established.
- Long-term interest free loans to be provided to States for financing such development on matching basis.

Investments

- FDI inflow during 2014-23 of USD 596 billion was twice of the inflow during 2005-14.

Reforms in the States for 'Viksit Bharat'

- A provision of Rs.75,000 crore rupees as fifty-year interest free loan is proposed to support milestone-linked reforms by the State Governments.

Revised Estimates (RE) 2023-24

- RE of the total receipts other than borrowings is Rs.27.56 lakh crore, of which the tax receipts are Rs.23.24 lakh crore.
- RE of the total expenditure is Rs.44.90 lakh crore.
- Revenue receipts at Rs.30.03 lakh crore are expected to be higher than the Budget Estimate, reflecting strong growth momentum and formalization in the

economy.

- RE of the fiscal deficit is 5.8 per cent of GDP for 2023-24.

Budget Estimates 2024-25

- Total receipts other than borrowings and the total expenditure are estimated at Rs.30.80 and Rs.47.66 lakh crore respectively.
- Tax receipts are estimated at Rs.26.02 lakh crore.
- Scheme of fifty-year interest free loan for capital expenditure to states to be continued this year with total outlay of Rs.1.3 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is estimated to be 5.1 per cent of GDP
- Gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs.14.13 and Rs.11.75 lakh crore respectively.

Direct taxes

- FM proposes to retain same tax rates for direct taxes
- Direct tax collection tripled, return filers increased to 2.4 times, in the last 10 years
- Government to improve tax payer services
- Outstanding direct tax demands upto Rs 25000 pertaining to the period upto FY 2009-10 withdrawn
- Outstanding direct tax demands upto Rs 10000 for financial years 2010-11 to 2014-15 withdrawn
- This will benefit one crore tax payers
- Tax benefits to Start-Ups, investments made by Sovereign wealth funds or pension funds extended to 31.03.2025
- Tax exemption on certain income of IFSC units extended by a year to 31.03.2025 from 31.03.2024

Indirect taxes

- FM proposes to retain same tax rates for indirect taxes and import duties
- GST unified the highly fragmented indirect tax regime in India
- Average monthly gross GST collection doubled to Rs 1.66 lakh crore this year

GST tax base has doubled

- State SGST revenue buoyancy (including compensation released to states) increased to 1.22 in post-GST period(2017-18 to 2022-23) from 0.72 in the pre-GST period (2012-13 to 2015-16)
- 94% of industry leaders view transition to GST as

largely positive

GST led to supply chain optimization

- GST reduced the compliance burden on trade and industry
- Lower logistics cost and taxes helped reduce prices of goods and services, benefiting the consumers

Tax rationalization efforts over the years

- No tax liability for income upto Rs 7 lakh, up from Rs 2.2 lakh in FY 2013-14
- Presumptive taxation threshold for retail businesses increased to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore
- Presumptive taxation threshold for professionals increased to Rs 75 lakh from Rs 50 lakh
- Corporate income tax decreased to 22% from 30% for existing domestic companies
- Corporate income tax rate at 15% for new manufacturing companies

Achievements in tax-payer services

- Average processing time of tax returns has reduced to 10 days from 93 days in 2013-14
- Faceless Assessment and Appeal introduced for greater efficiency
- Updated income tax returns, new form 26AS and pre-filled tax returns for simplified return filing
- Reforms in customs leading to reduced Import release time
- Reduction by 47% to 71 hours at Inland Container Depots
- Reduction by 28% to 44 hours at Air Cargo complexes
- Reduction by 27% to 85 hours at Sea Ports

Economy-then and now

- In 2014 there was a responsibility to mend the economy and put governance systems in order. The need of the hour was to:

Attract investments

- Build support to the much-needed reforms
- Give hope to the people
- The government succeeded with a strong belief of 'nation-first'
- "It is now appropriate to look at where we were till 2014 and where we are now": FM
- The Government will lay a White Paper on the table of the house. ■

THE 'WHITE PAPER' ON INDIAN ECONOMY

In 2014 when the BJP-led NDA formed the government, the economy was in a fragile state; public finances were in bad shape; there was economic mismanagement and financial indiscipline, and there was widespread corruption. It was a crisis situation left behind as a legacy by the UPA Government. However, during the BJP-led NDA Government, every challenge of the pre-2014 era was overcome through economic management and good governance. Now under the dynamic leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA has placed the country on a resolute path of sustained high growth.

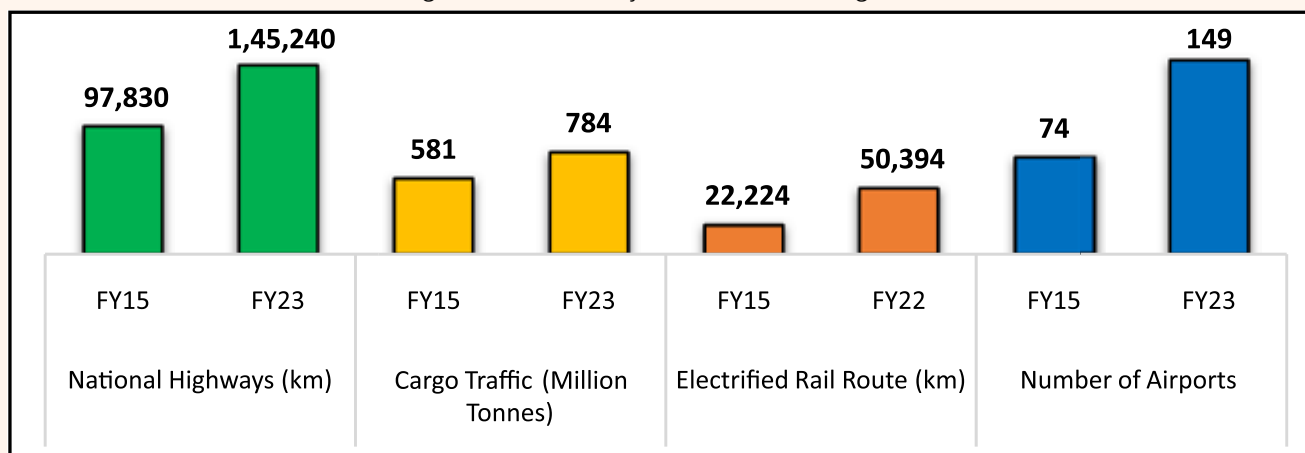
This has been possible through the right policies, true intentions, and appropriate decisions. This "White Paper" seeks to apprise the Members of the Parliament and the people of India, of the nature and extent of governance, economic and fiscal crises that were bequeathed on this NDA government when it assumed office in 2014, and measures that the BJP-led NDA government took to restore the health of the economy and make it vigorous and capable of fulfilling the growth aspirations of the people in the 'Amrit Kaal'. Following are the excerpts of the "White Paper":

Despite inheriting a thriving economy with a growth rate of 8%, the UPA government struggled to sustain momentum, leading India towards a 'fragile-five economy'.

- Under the UPA, a major concern was the legacy of a banking crisis that witnessed a substantial increase in loans from **Rs. 6.6 lakh crore** in March 2004 to **Rs. 39 lakh crore** by March 2012. Further, the **consistently high fiscal deficit**, hovering above **4.5% of GDP** for six consecutive years (FY09 to FY14), impacted the overall economic health. The government's reliance on market borrowings hindered capital expenditure, with the share of capital expenditure as a total expenditure dropping from **31% in FY04 to 16% in FY14**.
- Similarly, **forex reserves saw a decline** from approximately **USD 294 billion** in July 2011 to about **USD 256 billion** in August 2013, barely

covering slightly over 6 months of imports by September 2013.

- The UPA further **misused the Global Financial Crisis to justify excessive revenue expenditure**, primarily for political purposes. In ten years of UPA administration, **only 16,000 kilometres of National Highways were added** further highlighting the lack of willingness to infrastructural development.
- Strict coastal regulations imposed by the **UPA government stifled economic growth** and development in 83 coastal districts. Additionally, major scandals, such as the **2G spectrum scam and the coal gate scam**, created an environment of heightened political uncertainty and adversely impacted India's reputation as an investment destination.
- The UPA government faced criticism for the





delay in implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST), hindering the vision of a unified market. Additionally, Aadhar, introduced in 2006, **struggled with inter-ministerial differences** and lacked a common purpose, failing to achieve its intended purpose.

- The UPA decade is often **characterised as a lost one**, as it missed the opportunity to build upon the strong foundational economy and reforms initiated by the Vajpayee government.
- **Inefficient policy planning during the UPA** years left Rs. 94,060 crore unspent in 14 major social and rural sector ministries from 2004 to 2014. In contrast, under the Modi government, from 2014 to 2024, only Rs. 37,064 crore, which was less than 1% of the cumulative budget estimate, remained unutilised.
- There was **widespread corruption** under the UPA government, spanning from the **coal block allocation scam, Commonwealth scam, 2G Scam, and Antrix-Devas Deal to the Saradha Chit Fund scam**. Instead of prioritising development, the UPA government seemed to implicate every sector in corruption, leaving no area untouched!
- The Modi Government's era is marked by achievements such as **eradicating open defecation, successfully vaccinating the entire**

eligible population with indigenous vaccines, and spearheading the **digital revolution**, in contrast to the perceived inefficiencies and piecemeal delivery of the **UPA regime that led India to become a fragile five economy**.

- The transformative approach by the Modi Government **brought India to the League of the Top Five** in just a decade and is now on the path to becoming the **third-largest economy by 2027**.
- The UPA's mishandling of the macroeconomy is evident by the **negative current account balance as a % of GDP of -4.8 in 2013-14** and **sluggish Y-o-Y GDP growth of 5.5** compared to the Modi government's **GDP growth of 9.1 in 2021-22**.
- Under the Modi Government, capital expenditure rose **to 28% in FY24 from 16% in FY14**. UPA's negligence left **national highway construction at a mere 12 Km/day in FY15**, while under the Modi government, it rose by more than **2.3X to 28 km/day in FY23**. The cargo traffic at major ports has risen from 581 MT to 784 MT, while **electrified rail routes** and the **number of airports** have **doubled from FY15 to FY22**.
- The Modi government has adopted the philosophy "*sabka sath, sabka vikas*" in the true sense:
 - ❑ While the UPA Government constructed **only 1.8 crore toilets from 2011-2014**, the Modi government built a remarkable **11.5 crore**

	UPA government		NDA government	
Scheme	Period	Outcome	Period	Outcome
Affordable Housing - Rural	2003-2014	2.1 cr	2016-2024	2.6 crore
Construction of Toilets	2011-2014	1.8 crore toilets constructed	2014-2024	11.5 crore household toilets constructed
Affordable Pension for unorganised sector workers	2011-2014	36.4 lakh beneficiaries	2015-2023	6.1 crore beneficiaries
Minimum Zero Balance Bank Accounts	2005-2012	10.3 crore accounts	2014-2024	51.6 crore accounts
Rural Electrification	2005-2014	2.15 cr households	2017-2022	2.86 crore households electrified
Affordable medicines	2008-2014	164 Jan Aushadhi Stores opened of which 87 functional	2014-2023	10,000 stores opened ¹
Optical Fibre Network	2011-2014	6577 km of optical fibre laid	2015-2023	6.8 lakh optical fibre laid
Maternity benefit for the poor	2010 - 2013	9.9 lakh beneficiaries in 53 districts	2017-2023	3.59 crore beneficiaries across India

household toilets from 2014-2024. Minimum Zero Balance Bank Accounts increased 500 times from 2005-12 to 2014-2024.

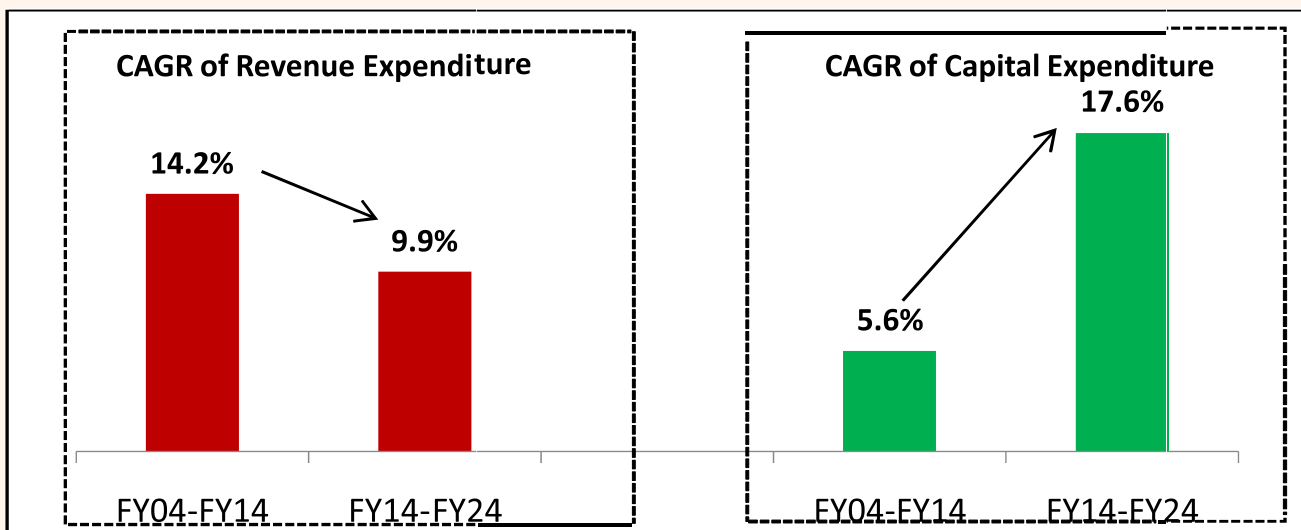
- ❑ The UPA government merely opened **164 Jan Aushadhi stores**, of which only **87 were functional**. However under the Modi government, there was a phenomenal expansion to **10,000 Jan Aushadhi stores from 2014-2023**.
- The **average headline inflation** decreased to **5% in FY14 - FY23** from **8.2% in FY04 - FY14**. India's **service sector has seen a growth of 97%** during the Modi Government tenure, compared to world services export of **36%**, showcasing India's world leadership in the sector.
- Indian **foreign direct investment has also almost doubled between FY15 and FY23**, enabled by strategic liberalisation through PLI that allowed 100% FDI through automatic routes to several sectors.
- The Modi Government successfully **implemented the GST**, resolving the UPA government's decade-long struggle. The Modi Government's commitment to cooperative federalism is evident in the devolution share increase from **30-32% to 41-42%**. The absolute quantum of resources devoted to States increased almost four times, translating to approximately 1% of GDP.
- India achieved a **historic record coal production level of 893.19 million tonnes in FY23**, and overall coal production has grown about 57.8% compared to FY14.
- Under the Modi Government, the **Gross Non-Performing Assets for public sector banks dropped to 3.2%** in September 2023, while the **Return on Asset** increased from **0.50% in 2013-14 to 0.79% in 2022-23**, and the **Return on Equity** increased to **12.35%**.
- India has made remarkable strides from the era of scandals and limited access to modern technologies to a landscape of extensive 4G coverage at affordable rates and the world's fastest 5G rollout in 2023. Similarly, the country has **transitioned from opaque practices in resource allocation**, exemplified by the Coalgate scandal, to transparent and objective auction systems aimed at bolstering the economy and public

finances. Additionally, the **shift from providing exclusive gold import licences** to establishing a **transparent bullion exchange in GIFT IFSC** signifies India's commitment to fostering fair and accessible economic platforms for all.

The Economy In 2014 - An Inheritance Of Loss

- In 2004, the **economy grew at 8%** and was described as '*in a resilient mode in terms of growth, inflation, and balance of payments*'. The UPA government in **2004 inherited this healthy economy** which could have led to potential reforms; however, they ensured that it remained non-performing for the next 10 years.
- Between 2004 - 2008, **the economy experienced rapid growth** because of the reforms carried out by the then Vajpayee led NDA and favourable global conditions. Although the UPA government did not **shy away from claiming credit** for the high growth during this period, it **failed to sustain it over the long term**.
- While boasting about the 1991 reforms, the UPA **undermined several macroeconomic foundations** post-2008 by engaging in profound mismanagement and indifference.
- The UPA regime under the Congress government could not control price stability leading to **double-digit inflation peaking at 12.3% in 2009-10**, while the average inflation rate between **2004 - 2014 was 8.2%**.
- During the end of the NDA-I, the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio in Public Sector banks was **7.8%**. After UPA's tenure, the **GNPA in September 2013** had climbed to **12.3%**.
- The UPA government left a **legacy of the banking crisis in the country**. While they inherited public sector banks with loans of **Rs. 6.6 lakh crore**, by March 2012, these had already increased to **Rs. 39 lakh crore**. The former RBI governor himself has asserted that most of the **bad loans** had originated during **2006 - 2008**.
- Throughout the UPA government's tenure, **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)** grew at a **CAGR of 21.1%**, leading to the Indian currency being vulnerable. So bad was the situation that the Forex reserve to external debt ratio tanked from **95.8 % in FY11 to 68.8 % in FY14**.

- However, in the subsequent nine years, from FY14 to FY23, the growth rate of the ECB slowed to an annual **rate of 4.5%** and through other financial methods, Indian currency and forex reserves were strengthened.
- The UPA Government's response to the **2008 Global Financial Crisis** (a fiscal stimulus package) was a worse problem than the one it intended to address. The **scale of the stimulus package exceeded** the Union Government's financial capacity and sustainability.
- During the UPA government's six consecutive years from FY09 to FY14, India's Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio consistently remained at a **minimum of 4.5%**. Further the Kelkar committee report, constituted by the UPA itself, highlighted the underlying **deficit being higher than the budgeted deficit**.
- Because of extensive borrowings from the market, the UPA had to prioritise interest payments and could not focus on capital expenditure. **Capital expenditure as a total expenditure (excluding interest payments) halved from 31% in FY04 to 16% in FY14.**
- The UPA government acknowledged its shortcomings in infrastructure development, informing that in the ten years of administration, only about **16,000 Km of National Highways** were constructed.
- Ineffective policy planning and execution during the UPA years led to significant unutilised funds in various social sector schemes, undermining the efficiency of government initiatives. Across **14 major social and rural sector ministries**, a total of **Rs. 94,060 crore** in budgeted expenditure remained **unspent** during the UPA Government's tenure **from 2004 to 2014**. In contrast, under the Modi government, from 2014 to 2024, **Rs. 37,064 crore, a mere 1% of cumulative budgeted expenditure, was left unspent.**
- During the UPA government's tenure, healthcare expenses remained a major concern for Indian households. Out-of-pocket expenditure accounted for **64.2% of the total health expenditure** in India in FY14, showing only a slight improvement from the **69.4% OOE recorded in FY05.**
- The RBI's April 2009 report highlighted a notable rise in Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) during the third quarter of 2008-09. This increase was attributed to various factors, including the **Sixth Pay Commission payout, agricultural debt waiver, oil and fertiliser subsidies, and counter-cyclical fiscal measures.** Importantly, a significant portion of this expenditure expansion took place before the Global Financial Crisis. This underscores how the UPA government leveraged the financial crisis to justify excessive revenue expenditure, primarily for



In absolute numbers, the budgeted capital expenditure has increased over five-folds from FY14 to FY24 (RE), without any heating-up of the economy.

political purposes, without delivering significant economic benefits to society.

- The UPA government's policy paralysis hindered long-term national development, particularly in defence preparedness, leading to prolonged **delays in procuring fighter aircraft** and essential gear for Indian Army soldiers. Additionally, strict regulations on industrial development in coastal districts stifled economic growth **across 83 areas**, paralysing the tourism sector and limiting options for economic expansion due to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

Pervasive Corruption

- There was pervasive corruption under the UPA government in various activities, including procurement, allocation of natural resources, and regulatory approvals. Procurements **vital for the nation's security were also not free from corruption**. The scams and corruption cases had shaken the confidence of the people. Following is the current status of some of the high-profile cases
- **Coal Block Allocation:** This financial scandal involved irregularities and corruption in the allocation of coal blocks by the UPA government to private companies for captive use, leading to an estimated loss of Rs. 1.86 lakh crore to the exchequer, as estimated by the CAG. Final Reports have been filed in the Courts in 47 Cases, and 10 cases are under investigation. In 14 cases the accused have been convicted by the trial courts. The remaining cases are under trial.
- **Commonwealth Games:** The event was marred by widespread corruption, mismanagement, and financial irregularities in the planning and execution of various projects related to the games under the UPA Government. Chargesheets were filed in 8 cases which are under trial in the courts of Delhi.
- **2G Telecom:** The very well-known scam under the UPA Government involved a loss of about Rs. 1.76 lakh crore of potential revenue to the government, as estimated by the CAG (at the rates paid for 3G spectrum). The corruption cases are in the appellate court.
- **Saradha Chit Fund:** This was a Ponzi scheme with the diversion of funds for personal use and luring investors with the promise of high returns. The scam unfolded in 2013 under the corrupt UPA Government when the group collapsed, leaving millions of investors in financial distress.
- **Antrix-Devas Deal:** The UPA government was involved in a controversy involving irregularities and corruption in a satellite deal between Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Devas Multimedia Pvt. Ltd. The case also highlighted irregularities in the allocation of scarce S-band spectrum, resulting in wrongful gains for Devas Multimedia. The Supreme Court has substantiated the findings of fraud in this matter, and a charge sheet for the criminal offence has been filed.
- **Allotment/Release of Prime Land in Panchkula and Gurgaon:** During the UPA regime, multiple cases relating to the release of prime land from acquisition in connivance with the private builders and allotment of industrial land to close associates surfaced. After investigation, chargesheets have been filed in trial courts.
- **J&K Cricket Association:** The case involves the misappropriation of nearly Rs. 44 crore by opening "bogus" bank accounts, which is a common thing under the UPA Government. After investigation, a charge sheet has been filed.
- **The Embraer Deal:** The case is related to corruption, bribery and kickbacks in the purchase of aircraft, which had become the business under the UPA Government from the Brazilian aerospace company Embraer. After investigation, a charge sheet was filed, and the case is pending in trial court.
- **Pilatus Basic Trainer Aircraft:** The UPA government faced allegations of corruption in the procurement of 75 Pilatus basic trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force in 2009.
- **Hawk Aircraft Purchase:** The involvement of the UPA Government in the case concerning payment of bribery to unknown officers of the Ministry of Defence during the period 2003–2012 in the procurement of Hawk Aircraft from M/s Rolls Royce plc, UK. The case is under investigation.
- Cases like **INX Media Case and Aircel-Maxis**, which involved money laundering and irregularities

in foreign investment, are also under trial.

Rescue of the Economy from a State of Crisis, Despair and Paralysis

- The Modi Government assumed power in 2014 amidst the **challenging economic landscape created by the UPA's flawed policies**, setting the nation on an uncertain path. The Modi Government rectified the economy and infused a renewed sense of dynamism and optimism through a **transparent and clean governance paradigm** and involving citizens in policy making.
- India has undergone a transformative journey under the Modi Government, which is a comprehensive shift from the UPA era, marked by achievements such as **eradicating open defecation, successfully vaccinating the entire eligible population** with indigenous vaccines, and spearheading the **digital revolution**, in contrast to the perceived inefficiencies and piecemeal delivery of **UPA regime that led India to become a fragile five economy**.
- The transformative approach by the Modi Government **brought India to the League of the Top Five** in just a decade and is now on the path to becoming the **third-largest economy by 2027**.
- The UPA's mishandling of the macroeconomy is evident by the **negative current account balance as a percentage of GDP of -4.8 in 2013-14** and **sluggish Y-o-Y GDP growth of 5.5** compared to the Modi government's **GDP growth of 9.1 in 2021-22**.
- Under the Modi Government, a paradigm shift in **capital expenditure** is evident, with its **share rising to 28% in FY24 from 16% in FY14**. UPA's negligence left **national highway construction at a mere 12 Km/day in FY15**, a stark difference from the Modi government's achievement, which rose by more than **2.3X to 28 km/day in FY23**. The cargo traffic at major ports has risen from 581 MT to 784 MT, while **electrified rail routes and airports have doubled from FY15 to FY22**.
- The Modi Government's **focus on defence procurement, exemplified by fighter jet acquisition and indigenous submarine development**, contrasts with the UPA era's lack of priorities. Additionally, the introduction of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 reflects the true spirit of **balancing 'Prakriti' and 'Pragati'**, which was wholly missing in the regulations of 2011.
- The announcement of **India's inclusion in JP Morgan's Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM)** is a milestone event, showing India's growth in the global economy. India, under the Modi Government, is now a must-have in one's portfolio.
- The Modi government has adopted the philosophy "*sabka sath, sabka vikas*" prioritising universal access to basic amenities and presented a much better track record of programme delivery than its predecessor.
- While the UPA Government constructed **only 1.8 crore toilets from 2011-2014**, the Modi government built a remarkable **11.5 crore household toilets from 2014-2024**. Minimum **Zero Balance Bank Accounts increased 500 times from 2005-12 to 2014-2024**.
- The UPA government merely opened **164 Jan Aushadhi stores**, of which only **87 were functional**. In stark contrast, the Modi government's commitment to healthcare accessibility is evident, which saw a phenomenal expansion to **10,000 Jan Aushadhi stores from 2014-2023**.
- The Modi Government used technology, and the JAM Trinity has revolutionised governance, addressing execution challenges that plagued the UPA era. Through initiatives like JAM-PAHAL and transparent monitoring, **leakages in LPG subsidies were reduced by 24%**. The Modi government's commitment to "**reaching the last mile**" is evident in **Aadhaar-enabled DBT**, transferring over **Rs. 34 lakh crore to 1,167 crore beneficiaries**.
- The **average headline inflation decreased to 5% in FY14 - FY23** from **8.2% in FY04 - FY14** showing how the Modi Government tackled the high inflation inherited from the UPA government.
- India's **service sector has seen a growth of 97%** during the Modi Government tenure, even when the world services export only grew by **36%**, showcasing India's world leadership in the sector.
- Indian **foreign direct investment has almost doubled between FY15 and FY23**, enabled by

strategic liberalisation through PLI that allowed 100% FDI through automatic routes to several sectors. This has ensured India's strong and safe external sector, with forex reserves extending by USD 314 billion between March 2014 and January 2024.

- The long-term economic rebuilding under the Modi Government ensured **India was cushioned to global shocks** like the USA's taper tantrum of 2021-22. While under UPA Raaj in 2013, the **Indian currency depreciated by 14.9%** in a mere **4 months of Fed's interest announcements**, in 2021, the **rupee depreciation recorded in four months** of tantrum was a mere **0.7%** reflecting the strong position of Indian currency.
- The Modi Government has brought down the **average current account deficit significantly to 1.1 %** from the UPA's legacy of **2.3% of GDP** due to the increase in merchandise export and service sector exports.
- With the implementation of GST, the Modi Government slashed **more than 400 rates and commissions to bring all states and UTs under one structure**. The GST implementation has led to households saving approximately **Rs. 45,000 crore per month** while increasing the monthly average revenue from GST for the government to **Rs. 1.7 lakh crore in FY24**.
- The Modi Government, in the true spirit of **cooperative federalism**, accepted the recommendations of the **14th and 15th Finance Commission**. Over the last decade, around **41-42% of Central taxes have been shared with the States**, a substantial increase from the earlier devolution share of 30-32%. This has resulted in a significant leap in the absolute quantum of resources devoted to States, about **3.8 times higher than earlier**, translating to approximately **1% of GDP**.

Sectoral Transformation led by the Modi Government

• Power

- The Modi Government has **effectively cleaned the coal sector** through legislative reforms and liberalisations. Due to the government's strong efforts, India achieved a **historic record coal**

production level of 893.19 million tonnes in FY23, and overall coal production has grown about 57.8% compared to FY14.

- Within a year of governance, the Modi Government ensured that no **coal plant faced a coal shock**, unlike how they inherited from UPA, with two-thirds of plants in critical shocks. Efforts like capacity building and **One Nation One Grid One Frequency** have reduced the gap between Energy Requirement and Energy Supplied from **4.2% in 2013-14 to 0.3 % in 2023-24**.

- In the true spirit of welfare, the Modi government has ensured **electric connection and quality power availability**, increasing power availability in rural areas from **12 hours in 2015 to 20.6 hours**. In urban areas, we have almost reached **24 hours of power availability**.

• Banking Sector

- Under the Modi Government, the banking sector witnessed a **commendable revival**, marked by a significant **drop in Gross Non-Performing Assets to 3.2%** in September 2023. This contrasts starkly with the UPA era's negligence, which left balance sheets in disarray.

- The current success is evident in key ratios for public sector banks like **increased Return on Asset from 0.50% in 2013-14 to 0.79% in 2022-23**, and **Return on Equity from 8.48% to 12.35%** highlights the UPA's failure to ensure financial health and resilience in the banking sector.

• Telecommunication

- The Modi government has implemented substantial telecom industry changes since 2014 and **improved spectrum utilisation** by introducing **open trading, auctioning, and sharing spectrum** techniques. Furthermore, the **5G network rollout** in the nation, which was globally the fastest, was made possible by enhanced cash flow for TSPs, making capital investments in 5G technology easier. Under UPA, **India had a 2G scam**; now, the Modi Government has ensured extensive coverage of the population under **4G with the lowest rates and the world's fastest rollout of 5G in 2023**. ■

THESE FIVE YEARS HAVE BEEN ABOUT 'REFORM, PERFORM AND TRANSFORM': PM MODI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the last sitting of the 17th Lok Sabha on 10 February, 2024 while addressing the House, the Prime Minister said today's occasion is significant for India's democracy. Prime Minister Shri Modi lauded the efforts of all Members of the 17th Lok Sabha in making important decisions and giving direction to the country.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that today marks a special occasion to dedicate to the nation the ideological journey and time for its betterment. "Reform, Perform and Transform has been the mantra for the past 5 years", he said, noting that it can be experienced by the entire nation today. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the people of India will continue to bless the 17th Lok Sabha for its efforts. Underlining the contributions of all members of the House, Shri Modi expressed

subsidized canteen facilities for the Members that were the cause of people's adverse comments.

New Parliament Building and Sengol

The Prime Minister lauded the Speaker for bringing all members on the same page about the creation of the New Parliament Building which led to its construction and the present session taking place here.

Speaking about Sengol established in the New Parliament Building, the Prime Minister underlined that it is a symbol of the reclamation of India's heritage and remembrance of the first moment of independence. He also hailed the Speaker's decision to make the Sengol a part of the annual ceremony and said that it will connect future generations with the moment when India achieved independence while being a source of inspiration.

G20 Summit Presidency

The Prime Minister noted the global recognition that the G20 Summit Presidency brought and for which every state showcased its national capabilities. Similarly, the P20 summit bolstered India's credentials as the mother of democracy.

The Prime Minister also pointed out the expansion of ritual anniversary floral tribute into nationwide events by conducting speech and essay contests. The top 2 contenders from every state come to Delhi and speak about the dignity. This, PM Modi said, connected lakhs of students with the Parliamentary tradition of the country. The Prime Minister also mentioned the momentous decision to open up the Parliament Library for common citizens.

Prime Minister Modi touched upon the concept of paperless Parliament and the implementation of digital technology introduced by the Speaker and thanked him for the initiative.



gratitude towards them, especially the Speaker of the House. The Prime Minister thanked the Speaker and complimented him for his ever-smiling, balanced and impartial handling of the House.

The Prime Minister mentioned the biggest calamity of the century that befell on humanity during the period i.e Corona pandemic. He said arrangements were made in the Parliament and the nation's work was not allowed to stop in the House. He also thanked the Members for relinquishing Saansad Nidhi and a 30 percent cut in their salary by the Members during the pandemic. He also thanked the Speaker for removing



The Prime Minister credited the combined effort of the members and skills of the Speaker and the awareness of the Members for taking the productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha to about 97 percent. Even though it is a remarkable number, the Prime Minister urged the Members to take the resolve and increase productivity to 100 percent at the onset of the 18th Lok Sabha. He informed the House that 7 sessions had been more than 100 percent productive when the House presided till midnight and allowed all Members to speak their minds. The Prime Minister informed that in the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, 30 bills were passed which is a record.

‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’

Noting the joy of being a Member of Parliament during the ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the Prime Minister praised the members for making the Mahotsav a people’s movement in their constituencies. Similarly, the 75th year of the Constitution also inspired everyone.

The Prime Minister said that the strong foundation of 21st-century India can be seen in the game-changer reforms of the period. “We can say with great satisfaction that many things for which generations used to wait were accomplished through the 17th Lok Sabha”, the Prime Minister said. He said that with the abrogation of Article 370, full splendor of the Constitution was manifested. This must have pleased the framers of the Constitution, he said. “Today our commitment to social justice is reaching the people of Jammu and Kashmir”, PM Modi added.

The strong foundation of 21st-century India can be seen in the game-changer reforms of the period. We can say with great satisfaction that many things for which generations used to wait were accomplished through the 17th Lok Sabha

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam

The Prime Minister also thanked the Speaker for initiating the proceedings in the New Parliament Building with the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Even though the first session was shorter than the rest, the Prime Minister said that it is the result of the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam that the House will be filled with women members in the times to come. He also spoke about the 17th Lok Sabha abolishing Triple Talaq to ensure the rights of

women.

Next 25 years for the nation

Throwing light on the significance of the next 25 years for the nation, the Prime Minister said that the nation has taken the resolve to accomplish its dreams. Pointing out the initiative and laws for the youth, the Prime Minister noted the strong law against the problem of paper leak. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of research and acknowledged the far-reaching importance of the National Research Foundation Act. He expressed the confidence that this Act will help in making India a global hub of research and innovation.

Economic reforms

Touching upon the economic reforms carried out by the 17th Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister informed that thousands of compliances were removed to make the lives of common citizens easier. Reiterating the belief in ‘Minimum Government

and Maximum Governance’, the Prime Minister said that the capabilities of any democracy can be maximized by ensuring minimum government intervention in citizen’s lives.

The Prime Minister said more than 60 obsolete laws were removed. This was needed to improve the ease of doing business, he said. PM Shri Modi emphasized the need for trusting the citizens. He informed that Jan Vishwas Act decriminalized 180 activities. The Mediation Act has helped in breaking unnecessary litigation-related issues.

“The journey of India’s democracy is everlasting and the nation has its purpose to serve the entire humanity”, the PM remarked and mentioned the world accepting India’s way of life and urged the Members to carry this tradition forward.

Referring to upcoming elections, the Prime Minister said elections are a natural and essential dimension of democracy. “I am confident that the elections will be in accordance with the glory of our democracy,” said the Prime Minister.



UNION CABINET PASSES RESOLUTION ON 'PRAN PRATISHTHA' OF SHRI RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA & PRAISES PM MODI FOR CONDUCTING IT SUCCESSFULLY

Union Cabinet on 24 January, 2024 passed a resolution lauding Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the successful conduct of the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Shri Ram Lalla at the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya. The resolution says that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi fulfilled the age-old dream that Indian civilization was dreaming of for the last five centuries. The resolution noted:

"Prime Minister, today's cabinet is historic. Historical events may have happened many times, but since this cabinet system was formed and if we include the period of the Viceroy's Executive Council with the British time, then such an opportunity would never have come. Because the work that has been done through you on January 22, 2024 is unique in history. It is unique because this opportunity has come after centuries. We can say that the body of this country became independent in 1947 and now the soul has been established in it. This has given everyone a feeling of spiritual joy.

You had said in your address that Lord Ram is the influence, flow, policy and destiny of India.

And today we can say, not from a political point of view, but from a spiritual point of view that destiny

has chosen you (PM Modi) to consecrate the life of Maryada Purushottam Lord Ram, the pillar of India's Sanatani flow and global influence.

In fact, Lord Shri Ram is the destiny of India and with destiny, the real union has now taken place. In reality, this opportunity for the cabinet members is not a once in a lifetime opportunity but can be said to be a once in many lifetimes opportunity."

"If we look at reality, then this opportunity for the cabinet members cannot be called a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but once in many lifetimes. We are all fortunate that on this occasion we are present in the country's highest committee, the Cabinet," it added.

"The Prime Minister, through his actions, has raised the morale of this nation and strengthened cultural confidence. The kind of emotional outpouring of people we saw across the country in the Pran Pratishtha ceremony, we have never seen such a wave of emotions before," the resolution stated further. The Ram Lalla idol was unveiled at the elaborate 'Pran Pratishtha ceremony' on January 22, which involved hour-long rituals in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who led the ceremony." ■

Consecration ceremony of Ram Temple

The Prime Minister thanked all Members of the House for their contributions to the functioning of the 17th Lok Sabha. Referring to the resolution passed today about the consecration ceremony of Ram Temple, the Prime Minister said that it will give constitutional powers to the future generations of the country to take pride in its heritage. He said that

the resolution comprises 'Samvedna', 'Sankalp' and 'Sahanubhuti' along with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister said that Parliament will continue to inspire its members to leave behind a legacy for future generations and work to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of future generations with the collective effort of all its Members. ■

It is a historic and glorious time for all of us: JP Nadda

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda participated in a short discussion in Rajya Sabha on the historic construction of Shri Ram Temple and the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony on 10 February 2024. Shri Nadda said the temple will serve as a symbol embodying the finest human values and stands as a reminder of peaceful coexistence, even amid global conflicts. The House later adopted a resolution hailing the consecration of Shri Ram Temple on January 22

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said the day the idol of Shri Ram Lalla was consecrated at the newly constructed grand temple in Ayodhya "is a day of a renaissance of the spiritual and cultural consciousness of the country which will be remembered for centuries" even as he further added that its construction was never a political issue for BJP and the party never tried to take advantage of it. How is it a BJP event?

Rejecting the opposition's allegations that the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony was made an event of BJP and RSS, Shri Nadda said despite being the National President of the party, he could not be a part of the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony.

It was the Nyas which invited the PM. How is it a BJP event? But if some people's conscience is gnawing at them for having refused to join the ceremony, I can't do anything about it," Shri Nadda said.

BJP did not try to score political points over Ayodhya

He said the BJP did not try to score political points over Ayodhya's Ram Temple as not a single political statement was made by the party during its consecration ceremony. "We have not tried to score political points over this. When we were just two in Parliament (1984), we were struggling for Ram and when we are 300, we are still struggling for Ram. Not a single political statement was made by the BJP during the consecration ceremony. It was our conviction, our commitment, which we tried to fulfill," Shri Nadda said.



PM Modi consecrated Shri Raghunath

He said, there was a time when a Prime Minister considered it a sin to attend the consecration ceremony of the Somnath temple. This is also the time when the respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi consecrated Shri Raghunath by adopting the life of a Sanyasi while following all the rules of Yama & Niyama.

Many generations have passed in this long struggle of 500 years. After the demolishing of his Janmabhoomi temple, the exile of Lord Shri Ram lasted for 500 years. After this extensive struggle, today, when Shri Ram Lalla is seated in his grand temple, it is a historic and glorious time for all of us

BJP resolution during Palampur convention

The BJP National President said in its resolution during Palampur convention in 1989, BJP had committed to clearing the path for constructing

a grand temple at Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya. "I have seen the struggle for the construction of the temple at the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram with my own eyes, have been a witness to it and it has given me strength".

Struggle of 500 years

Shri Nadda said many generations have passed in this long struggle of 500 years. After the demolishing of his Janmabhoomi temple, the exile of Lord Shri Ram lasted for 500 years. After this extensive struggle, today, when Shri Ram Lalla is seated in his grand temple, it is a historic and glorious time for all of us.

He further said, Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram is the soul, values and way of life of this country. Lord Ram is present in many religious texts; many countries have also adopted Shri Ram from the religious point of view. ■

22 January 2024, will be a historic day for 10,000 years: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in the discussion in the Lok Sabha on 10 February, 2023 under Rule 193 on the construction of the historic Ram Temple and the consecration of Shri Ram Lala. Shri Amit Shah said, 22 January 2024 is going to be a historic day for ten thousand years

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that January 22 marks the end of the struggle and movement against injustice that started in 1528. He said that 22 January is the day of aspiration and accomplishment of crores of devotees of Lord Ram, the renaissance of spiritual consciousness of entire India and the beginning of the journey of a Great India. He said that 22 January is the day to pave the way for Maa Bharati to become a Vishwa Guru. He expressed gratitude to all the warriors who fought for Shri Ram Temple from 1528 to 2024.

India cannot be imagined without Lord Ram

The Union Home Minister said India cannot be imagined without Lord Ram and Ram Charitra and those who want to get acquainted, know and feel this country, cannot do so without Lord Ram and the Ramcharit Manas. He said that Lord Ram's character and Lord Ram is the soul of the people of this country. He said that those who imagine India without Lord Ram do not know India and they represent our era of slavery.

Shri Amit Shah said that we are all among those fortunate people who wanted to see the Ram Temple in Ayodhya since 1528. He said that the history of Ram Janmabhoomi is very long, and many kings, saints, organisations, and legal experts have contributed to it.



Consecration of Shri Ram Lalla

He said that Prime Minister Modi performed the Bhoomi Pujan of Ram Setu and performed the consecration of Shri Ram Lalla. Shri Shah added that even before this movement gained momentum in 1990, his party had made this promise to the people of the country. He said Shri Narendra Modi does whatever he says. He said that the decision of the Supreme Court has shown the secular character of India to the whole world.

- The case of Shri Ram Temple, which was buried in the court papers for years, got voice and expression after Modi ji became the Prime Minister.
- Gratitude to all the warriors who fought for Shri Ram Temple from 1528 to 2024.
- 22 January is the day of aspiration and accomplishment of crores of devotees of Lord Ram.

PM Modi has shown the qualities of leadership

Shri Shah said that during the judgement of the Supreme Court and the construction of Ram temple, many people said that there will be violence in the country, but Shri Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of this country. Modi ji's visionary thinking also converted the court's judgement into an order of the apex court acceptable to all instead of victory or defeat.

He said that when invited to perform Bhoomi Pujan after the construction, PM Shri Modi kept a difficult fast penance, for 11 days. Shri Shah said that the Prime Minister performed consecration by not sleeping on the bed for 11 days, drinking only coconut water and immersing in the devotion of Lord Ram. He said that the Bhakti movement is not new in India. He added that in the thousands of years-long cultural and political history of India, a leader has shown the qualities of leadership. He said that this country needed such leadership for a very long time. ■

INTERIM BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT IN A BRIEF

Interim Budget Session, 2024 of Parliament, which commenced on 31st January, 2024 has been adjourned sine-die on 10th of February, 2024. The session provided nine sittings spread over a period of 11 days. The session was extended by a day to discuss the Prana Pratishtha of the Ram Mandir at Ram Janmabhoomi. Over the Session, the Modi Government presented its exemplary track record on the work done for the welfare of the four castes - Youth, Women, Farmers, and Poor

During this Session, a total of 10 Bills were introduced. 12 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 12 Bills were passed/returned by Rajya Sabha. The total number of Bills passed/returned by both Houses of Parliament is also 12. The productivity of Lok Sabha was 148% and that of Rajya Sabha 137% approximately.

The Interim Union Budget for 2024-25 was presented on 1st of February, 2024. General Discussion on the Interim Union Budget and Interim Budget of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2024-25 was held in both the Houses.

Lok Sabha in a brief

During the 15th Session of the 17th Lok Sabha, which marked the final gathering before the general elections in 2024, the House convened for a total of 63 hours and 26 minutes.

The session commenced with the customary Presidential Address followed by a Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, in which 115 members participated, including the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. A total of 1,500 questions including 1,380 unstarred and 120 starred questions raised by members were answered. The House devoted a significant portion of its time to legislative business, with twelve hours and twenty-four minutes dedicated to discussing seven crucial bills.

Rajya Sabha in a brief

The 263rd Session of Rajya Sabha was held between January 31st, 2024 and February 10th, 2024. The session witnessed productive deliberations over 116 issues of public importance spanning nine days, with a total productivity rate of 137%. A total of 1,050 questions including 960 unstarred and 90 starred questions raised by members were answered. Notably, members spoke in 15 regional languages during this session, demonstrating the parliament's multilingual character.

Highlights of the Interim Budget Session

- The Rajya Sabha passed three bills, including the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Bill, Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Bill, and the Constitution Amendment Bill for SC/ST communities. Additionally, 22 Private Member's Bills (PMBs) were introduced.
- The Interim Budget of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 2024–2025 was laid on the table. Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2024-25. An interim budget Rs. 1.18 lakh crore was proposed.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi responded to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. He delivered farewell to retiring members in the Rajya Sabha, acknowledging their invaluable contributions and experiences.
- BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda emphasised the significance of the consecration of the Ram Mandir as a reawakening of the world's spiritual consciousness. He commended Prime Minister Modi for attending the Ram Temple's inaugural ceremony and participating in all rituals, showcasing a commitment to his constitutional role.
- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah emphasised that Ram Rajya was not centered around any particular religion but rather represents an ideal state that embodies righteousness and justice for all.
- Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman noted that 33 speakers have contributed to the budget debate. She emphasised that although the budget speech and Finance Bill aligned with the spirit of a vote on account and an interim budget, members have raised specific aspects that she addressed in her response. ■

'The rule of 'Prabhu Ram' was also a source of inspiration for the makers of our Constitution'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 28 January, 2024 addressed the 109th edition of 'Mann Ki Baat'. In the address the Prime Minister said that this time the parade of 26th January was awesome, but the most discussed element was seeing Women Power in the Parade



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said when the women contingents of Central Security Forces and Delhi Police started marching on Kartavya path, everyone was filled with pride. On Seeing the Marching of the women's band and seeing their tremendous coordination, people in the country and abroad were thrilled.

Woman power protecting the country

This time, out of the 20 contingents that marched in the Parade, 11 were of women. We saw that even in the tableaux that went by, all the artistes were women. About one and a half thousand daughters took part in the cultural programs that took place. Many female artistes were playing Indian musical instruments like Conch, Nadaswaram and Nagada.

The tableau belonging to DRDO also attracted everyone's attention. It showed how woman power is protecting the country in every field - water, land, sky, cyber and space. India of the 21st century is thus moving ahead with the mantra of Women Led Development.

Further strengthen India as the mother of Democracy

In the beginning of his address he stated, "This year (2024) our Constitution is also attaining completion of 75 years... and the Supreme Court is also completing 75 years. These festivals of our democracy further strengthen India as the mother of

Democracy. The Constitution of India has come into being after such intense brainstorming that it is called a living document. In part three of the original copy of this very Constitution, the fundamental rights of the citizens of India have been described and it is noteworthy that at the beginning of Part three, the makers of our Constitution had allotted due space to the pictures of Bhagwan Ram, Mata Sita and Lakshman ji.

'Ram se Rashtra'

This year (2024) our Constitution is also attaining completion of 75 years... and the Supreme Court is also completing 75 years. These festivals of our democracy further strengthen India as the mother of Democracy

The rule of Prabhu Ram was also a source of inspiration for the makers of our Constitution and that is why on January 22 in Ayodhya, I had talked about 'Dev se Desh'... I'd referred to 'Ram se Rashtra'."

Khelo India Youth Games

He added, just a few days ago, Khelo India Youth Games were inaugurated in Chennai. More than 5,000 athletes of the country are participating in this.

Expressing happiness Prime Minister said, "I am happy that today such new platforms are continuously being created in India, in which players are getting an opportunity to display their potential."

Concluding his address, he said "My dear countrymen, that's all this time with me in 'Mann Ki Baat'. Shall talk to you once again in February. Our focus will be on how the country is marching ahead through the collective and individual efforts of the people of the country." ■

FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LK ADVANI TO BE HONOURED WITH 'BHARAT RATNA'

PM MODI CONGRATULATES SHRI LK ADVANI JI

Former Deputy Prime Minister of India Shri Lal Krishna Advani will be honoured with the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India.

His contribution to the development of India is monumental: Modi

On this decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that it was an emotional moment for him. PM Shri Modi said via X "I am very happy to share that Shri LK Advani Ji will be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I also spoke to him and congratulated him on being conferred this honour. One of the most respected



statesmen of our time, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister. He distinguished himself as our Home Minister and I&B Minister as well. His Parliamentary interventions have always been exemplary, full of rich insights. Advani Ji's decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment to transparency and integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics. He has made unparalleled efforts towards furthering national unity and cultural resurgence. The conferring of the Bharat Ratna on him is a very emotional moment for me. I will always consider it my privilege that I got countless opportunities to interact with him and learn from him."

LK Advani thanks President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi for bestowing 'BHARAT RATNA'

On being conferred the Bharat Ratna Honour Shri LK Advani issued a press statement and thanked President Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for bestowing the honour on him. He said he accepts 'Bharat Ratna' with utmost humility and gratitude. In the statement he said, It is not only an honour for me as a person, but also for the ideals and principles that I strove to serve throughout my life to the best of my ability. Ever since I joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh as its volunteer at the age of 14, I have sought reward in only thing – in dedicated and selfless service of my beloved country in whatever task life assigned to me. What has inspired my life is the motto "इदं न मम" "This life is not mine. My life is for my Nation."

He added, "Today I gratefully remember two persons with whom I had the honour of working closely – Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. My heartfelt gratitude to millions of my party workers, swayamsevaks and others with whom I had the privilege of working throughout my journey in public life. I also express my deepest feelings for all members of my family, especially my dear departed wife Kamla. They have been the greatest source of strength and sustenance in my life. My sincere thanks to President Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for bestowing this honour on me.

May our great country progress to the pinnacle of greatness and glory, he said.

BJP National President expresses happiness

Over the Union Government's decision to confer 'Bharat Ratna' to Shri L.K. Advani, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Via X said, "The decision to honour senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani with 'Bharat Ratna' is extremely pleasant and cheering. For this decision, on behalf of all BJP workers, I express my gratitude to the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and congratulate Advani ji."



Extremely happy with the announcement: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, via X, expressed happiness over the decision to confer the Bharat Ratna Award on Shri LK Advani. He said, "Extremely happy with the announcement of awarding 'Bharat Ratna' to our senior leader and former Deputy Prime Minister of the country, respected Shri Lal Krishna Advani. Advani Ji has been dedicated to serving the country and his countrymen selflessly throughout his life. While holding various constitutional responsibilities, like being the Deputy Prime Minister of the country, he did unprecedented work for the security, unity,



and integrity of the country with his strong leadership. Advani Ji is known as the politician who set the standards of authenticity in Indian politics. In his long public life, he fought tirelessly for issues related to the country, culture, and people. His immense contribution to the party and ideology cannot be summed up in words. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's decision to honour him with 'Bharat Ratna' is also an honour for crores of countrymen."

Advani ji, an inspiration to all of us: Rajnath Singh



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Via X said, "The decision to award Bharat Ratna to the revered Lal Krishna Advani ji, an inspiration to all of us and a senior leader of the country, has brought great joy and happiness. He is a symbol of purity, dedication and determination in politics. The significant contribution that Advani ji has made to the country's development and nation building in various roles during his long public life is unforgettable and inspiring. He has also played an important role in keeping the unity and integrity of India intact. As a national leader, he has strengthened the country and democracy through his scholarship, parliamentary and administrative abilities. It is a matter of joy for every Indian to receive the honour of Bharat Ratna. I thank the Prime Minister @narendramodi for this decision and congratulate Advaniji." ■

INDIA CELEBRATES 75TH REPUBLIC DAY

This year, India commemorated its 75th Republic Day, marking the adoption of the constitution on 26 January 1950, and the attainment of sovereignty. The theme of this year's Republic Day was 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat: Loktantra ki Matruka', which symbolise the country's aspirations and its role as the nurturer of democracy.

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the guest of this year's parade, French President Mr. Emmanuel Macron, Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and other dignitaries were present during the parade.

Throughout the parade, 13,000 women reached the centre stage



in a display of national strength and vibrance. For the first time ever, the parade was heralded by over 100 women artists who played Indian musical instruments. Before the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi observed the solemn ritual of paying homage to the fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. ■

BHARAT RATNA for Former PMs PV Narasimha Rao & Chaudhary Charan Singh and scientist MS Swaminathan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced on 10 February, 2024 that former Prime Ministers Shri PV Narasimha Rao and Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, alongside renowned agricultural scientist Shri MS Swaminathan, will be awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi informed about Bharat Ratna for former Prime Minister Shri PV Narasimha Rao. He mentioned that Shri Narasimha Rao's tenure as Prime Minister was marked by significant measures that opened India to global markets, fostering a new



era of economic development.

Shri Narendra Modi also informed about the conferment of the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna on former Prime Minister Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh. He praised the leader for dedicating his entire life to the rights of farmers and their welfare.

Along with these Dr. MS Swaminathan, known for his pivotal

role in the Green Revolution, will be conferred the highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna. The Prime Minister said Dr. MS Swaminathan's visionary leadership has not only transformed Indian agriculture but also ensured the nation's food security and prosperity.

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and other leaders across political parties have hailed the decision to award Bharat Ratna to PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and M S Swaminathan and hailed the PM Shri Narendra Modi for rising above party politics. ■



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PM Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to the martyrs at the National War Memorial on the occasion of 75th Republic Day in New Delhi on January 26, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi welcomes the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu and French President, Mr. Emmanuel Macron at Kartavya Path on the occasion of 75th Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi on January 26, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi remarks media ahead of Interim Budget Session 2024 at Parliament House in New Delhi on January 31, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts with students at 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' in New Delhi on January 29, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi attends prayer meeting in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi on January 30, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets a delegation of religious leaders at Parliament in New Delhi on February 05, 2024



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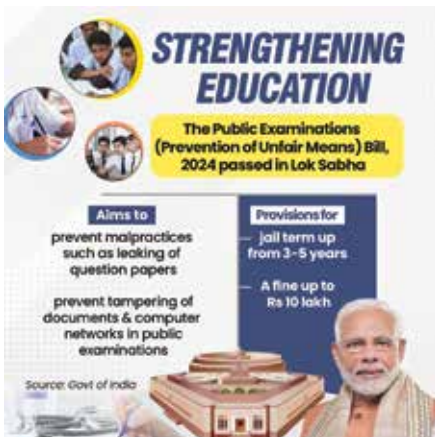
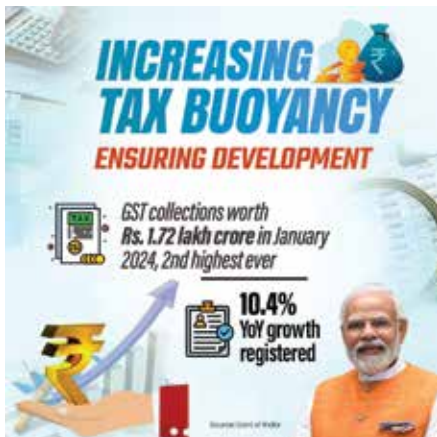
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