

# KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



**'INDIA WILL IDENTIFY, TRACK, PUNISH EVERY  
TERRORIST, THEIR HANDLERS AND THEIR BACKERS'**





BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar on his Jayanti at Mahaparinirwan Sthal, 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi on 14 April, 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta and other senior leaders distributing Ayushman Cards to beneficiaries in New Delhi on April 10, 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri JP Nadda, Odisha CM Shri Mohan Charan Majhi and other senior leaders launching and distributing co-branded cards of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to beneficiaries in Cuttack, Odisha on April 11, 2025



On the Punyatithi of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis and other senior leaders visiting the historic Raigad fort, which is a witness to the glorious history from 'Shivrajyabhishek' to the establishment of 'Hindavi Swaraj' on April 12, 2025



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah and senior leaders of State BJP & AIADMK are jointly holding a press conference in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 12 April, 2025



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh unveiling the Statue of Great Warrior King Maharana Pratap- who sacrificed everything to protect the motherland in Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra on April 18, 2025



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# CONTENT



## TERRORISM WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED; EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE: PM

Remarking that Bihar is the land where Mahatma Gandhi expanded the mantra of Satyagraha, PM Shri Narendra Modi highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's firm belief that India's rapid...



## 09 OUR EFFORT IS TO INCREASE THE POTENTIAL OF THE FARMERS OF HARYANA: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated...

## 11 INDIA TODAY IS CARRYING FORWARD BOTH DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE TOGETHER: PM MODI

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation...



## 13 CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN HIMACHAL IS THE MOST CORRUPT AMONG STATES: JP NADDA

The Bharatiya Janata Party National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed...

## 14 THOSE BEHIND THIS HEINOUS ACT WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE...: PM MODI

April 22, 2025, will always be remembered as a dark day in the history of Jammu & Kashmir and...



## ARTICLES

A LEADER FOR THE AGES, HE WAS AHEAD OF THE TIMES/ NARENDRA MODI	22
'INDIAN FIRST AND INDIAN LAST': DR. AMBEDKAR, A VISIONARY REFORMER/ RAJNATH SINGH	28
DR. AMBEDKAR: FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE SOCIETY TO THE CREATION OF A STRONG INDIA/ TARUN CHUGH	30
<b>OTHERS</b>	
INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION HITS SIX-YEAR LOW	16
7.39 LAKH NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED WITH EPFO	18
DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL RELEASE TRIALS OF LONG-RANGE GLIDE BOMB 'GAURAV' FROM SU-30 MKI AIRCRAFT	18
OVER 1.3 CRORE PERSONS INSURED THROUGH GEM IN FY 2024-25	19
THE NATIONAL HERALD CASE	20
KAMAL PUSHP	21
INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA WELCOME EXPANSION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL	24
SHIVAJI MAHARAJ STANDS AS A BEACON OF COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND PATRIOTISM: AMIT SHAH	26
IN THE UPCOMING TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, AN NDA GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED: AMIT SHAH	27
36 LAKH PEOPLE IN DELHI WILL BE BENEFITTED BY THE AB PM-JAY SCHEM: JP NADDA	32
ALMOST 3.52 CRORE PEOPLE OF ODISHA WILL BE COVERED UNDER	33

## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



**@Narendramodi**

India is far ahead of other countries in the field of Government Efficiency. Because of this thinking, our Ease of Doing Business Rankings have also improved.

(21st April 2025)

**@JPNadda**

This #WorldLiverDay, take a pledge to reduce your edible oil intake by at least 10% and embrace a healthier lifestyle. Small changes can lead to big results when we treat food as medicine. In response to Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's call, let's also pledge to raise awareness about obesity and its growing impact on our society. Together, let's work towards a future where healthier living is the norm, starting with the food we eat.

(19th April, 2025)



**@AmitShah**

Congratulations to every Indian on the grand occasion of the Gita and Natyashastra being included in the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. The scriptures depict the ancient wisdom of Bharat that has showed light to humanity to make the world better and lives more beautiful since time immemorial. Under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, Bharat has made incessant efforts to enshrine our cultural wisdom at the centre of global welfare. This is a great recognition of these efforts. @UNESCO

(18th April, 2025)



**@Rajnathsingh**

More than 12 crore toilets have been constructed since the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission, and toilet coverage which was earlier less than 40% in the country has now increased to 100%.

(20th April, 2025)



**@B.L Santhosh**

Congratulations Sri @NainarBJP on being unanimously elected as the State President of @BJP4TamilNadu. Your vast experience in Tamilnadu politics will herald a new era of growth for Party in an all imp state of Tamilnadu. Sri @kishanreddybjp conducted the election proceedings.

(12th April, 2025)



**@Dharmendra Pradhan**

A natural alliance and a solid template for people's blessings in the 2026 TN elections. NDA under the leadership of Hon'ble PM @Shri @narendramodi ji and AIADMK Chief Shri @EPSTamilNadu ji will be a game-changer.

(11th April, 2025)



### INDIA'S PHARMA INDUSTRY WITNESSING CONSISTENT GROWTH

Exports



US, UK, Brazil, France, and South Africa stand as India's biggest trading partners



Source: Govt of India



**KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR**

wishes a very happy

**BUDDHA PURNIMA (12 MAY)**

to all of its readers



# NATION STANDS UNITED AGAINST TERRORISM

The dastardly terror attack on April 22, 2025, in Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, has been strongly condemned across the world. It is not only an extremely cowardly act by the terrorists but also one of the most reprehensible crimes against humanity. The selective targeting of innocent tourists on the grounds of religion once again exposes the extremely monstrous face of terrorism and its evil designs, which cannot be tolerated in the civilised world. While the security forces have launched extensive search operations across Jammu & Kashmir targeting terrorist hideouts, the resolve of India as a nation to fight against terrorism has grown stronger, with people joining hands to unitedly express their solidarity with the victims and their families. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi vows for 'harshest response' to the perpetrators of this brutal terror attack, the nation stands united against terrorism.

It is to be noted that under the strong and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu & Kashmir, a region long plagued by terrorism, has seen significant transformation since 2014. In the last decade, the Modi government has pursued proactive military responses, diplomatic isolation of Pakistan, and major constitutional reforms, transforming Kashmir from a state of anarchy and terror into a more stable, development-orientated region. The dark days of stone-pelting, bomb blasts, and terrorism are now over. There has been an 80% reduction in the death

**The resolve of India as a nation to fight against terrorism has grown stronger, with people joining hands to unitedly express their solidarity with the victims and their families. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi vows for 'harshest response' to the perpetrators of this brutal terror attack, the nation stands united against terrorism**

of civilians in Kashmir. It was due to the consistent efforts of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that there has been a 70% decline in total terrorism-related incidents, an 81% reduction in civilian deaths, and a 48% decline in the death of security forces. There were 4,766 terrorist incidents between 2006 and 2013 in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2010, 6,235 civilians were injured in stone pelting, which is now zero. The Modi government has turned the tide on militancy in Jammu & Kashmir, a stark contrast to the Congress-led UPA era's turmoil, which resulted in terrorism claiming over 6,000 lives in Jammu & Kashmir between 2004 and 2014. Since 2014, terrorism incidents have dropped by 81% nationwide, from 1,936 in 2010 to 374 in 2024, with Jammu & Kashmir benefiting significantly. The abrogation of Article 370 has played a major role in this entire transformation, heralding an era of peace and security in the valley while giving an impetus to the democratic process involving the masses at the ground level. Apart from an elected government in Jammu & Kashmir, now, 36,000 elected public representatives at the Panchayat and Municipality levels wield authority, empowering the people and strengthening grassroots governance like never before. That's why the terrorist outfits and their cross-border

backers have developed cold feet and are repeatedly trying to disrupt peace and security in the region.

In response to one of the most brutal terror attacks in Pahalgam, the Modi government moved swiftly to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on April 23, 2025, which poses an existential threat to Pakistan while announcing a multi-pronged diplomatic response. At the same time, all visa services for Pakistani nationals were revoked, and Pakistani military diplomats were declared persona non grata and ordered to leave within a week. The main border crossing with Pakistan was closed, and the number of Pakistani diplomats in India was reduced significantly. To counter misinformation, 16 Pakistani YouTube channels, including Dawn News and Geo News, have been banned for spreading misinformation and provocative content post-attack. It is now a known fact that Pakistan, as the cradle of terrorism, trains, arms and exports terror to the entire world. It has become a safe haven for terrorists from across the world. As India continues to fight terrorism both inside and outside its borders on every global forum, the time has come for the world to wage war against terrorism unitedly. ■



# TERRORISM WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED; EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE: PM



PM MODI VISITS MADHUBANI, BIHAR

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 13,480 crore in Madhubani, Bihar on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2025. The Prime Minister appealed to everyone at the event to observe silence and pray for the departed souls in the Pahalgam attacks on 22 April 2025. Expressing deep sorrow over the brutal killing of innocent civilians by terrorists, Shri Modi remarked that the entire nation is distressed and stands in solidarity with the grieving families. He said, “The terrorists responsible for this attack, along with those who conspired it, will face punishment beyond their imagination”. Addressing on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day, he said the entire nation is connected with Mithila and Bihar. He remarked that projects worth thousands of crores of rupees, aimed at Bihar’s development, have been inaugurated and foundations laid

Remarking that Bihar is the land where Mahatma Gandhi expanded the mantra of Satyagraha, PM Shri Narendra Modi highlighted Mahatma Gandhi’s firm belief that India’s rapid development is only possible when its villages are strong. He emphasized that the concept of Panchayati Raj was rooted in this sentiment. “Over the past decade, continuous steps have been taken to empower Panchayats. Technology has played a significant role in strengthening Panchayats, with over 2 lakh Gram Panchayats connected to the internet in the last decade”, he added. Shri Modi pointed out that more than 5.5 lakh Common Service Centers have been established in villages, underlining that the digitalization of Panchayats has brought additional

benefits, such as easy access to documents like birth and death certificates, and landholding certificates. “Over the past decade, Panchayats have received more than 2 lakh crore, all of which has been utilized for the development of villages”, he said.

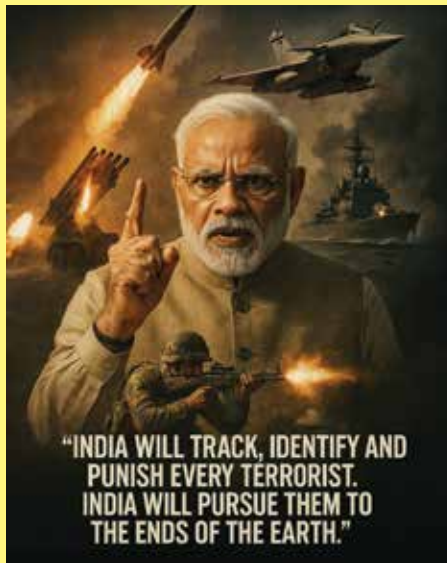
## Working in mission mode to increase women’s income

Emphasising that the government is working in mission mode to increase women’s income and create new opportunities for employment and self-employment, Shri Modi highlighted the transformative impact of the ‘Jeevika Didi’ program in Bihar, which has changed the lives of many women. He remarked that today, self-help groups of women in Bihar have

## KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS BY TERRORISTS IN PAHALGAM, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Expressing deep sorrow over the brutal killing of innocent civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on 22 April 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi remarked that the entire nation is distressed and stands in solidarity with the grieving families.

- He assured that every effort is being made by the government to ensure the speedy recovery of those undergoing treatment.
- He highlighted the profound loss suffered by families, where some lost their sons, brothers, or life partners, noting that the victims came from diverse linguistic and regional backgrounds—some spoke Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Gujarati, and some were from Bihar. Underlining that from Kargil to Kanyakumari, the grief and outrage over this attack are shared equally across the nation.
- Shri Modi remarked that this attack was not just on unarmed tourists but was a brazen assault on the soul of India.
- “The terrorists responsible for this attack, along with those who conspired it, will face



punishment beyond their imagination”, he declared in unequivocal terms, asserting that the time has come to eliminate the remaining strongholds of terrorism.

- “The willpower of 140 crore Indians will now break the backbone of the perpetrators of terror”.

### India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism

- The Prime Minister declared from the soil of Bihar that India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist, their handlers, and their backers, emphasising that India will pursue them to the ends of the earth.
- “India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism and terrorism will not go unpunished. Every effort will be made to ensure justice is served and the entire nation is firm in this resolve against terrorism”, he stressed.
- He further stated that everyone who believes in humanity stands with India during these times.
- He expressed his gratitude to the people and leaders of various countries who have supported India in these moments.

been provided financial assistance of approximately Rs 1,000 crore, noting that this will further strengthen the economic empowerment of women and contribute to the goal of creating 3 crore Lakhpati Didis across the country. He highlighted that the rural economy has gained new momentum over the past decade. He cited the example of the PM Awas Yojana, which aims to ensure that no family in the country remains homeless and that everyone has a permanent roof over their heads. He noted that over the past decade, more than 4 crore permanent houses have been constructed under this scheme. He highlighted that in Bihar alone, 57 lakh poor families have received

permanent houses.

### A decade of development for India

“The past decade has been a decade of infrastructure development for India”, said the Prime Minister, highlighting that this modern infrastructure is strengthening the foundation of a developed India. He noted that for the first time, over 12 crore rural families have received tap water connections in their homes, underlining that more than 2.5 crore households have been electrified, and those who never imagined cooking on gas stoves have now received gas cylinders. “Even in challenging regions

like Ladakh and Siachen, where providing basic facilities is difficult, 4G and 5G mobile connections have now been established, reflecting the nation's current priorities", he pointed out. The Prime Minister highlighted advancements in healthcare, noting that institutions like AIIMS were once limited to major cities like Delhi. He announced that AIIMS is now being established in Darbhanga, and the number of medical colleges in the country has nearly doubled in the past decade and mentioned the construction of a new medical college in Jhanjharpur. He emphasized that to ensure quality healthcare in villages, over 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country, including more than 10,000 in Bihar. He remarked that Jan Aushadhi Kendras have become a significant relief for the poor and middle class, offering medicines at an 80% discount.

### **Farmers- the backbone of rural economy**

"Farmers are the backbone of the rural economy, the stronger this backbone, the stronger the villages, and consequently, the nation", said Shri Modi. He highlighted the persistent challenges of floods in the Mithila and Kosi regions, noting that the government is set to invest 11,000 crore to mitigate the impact of floods in Bihar. He said that this investment will

facilitate the construction of dams on rivers such as Bagmati, Dhar, Budhi Gandak, and Kosi, adding that canals will be developed, ensuring irrigation arrangements through river water. "This initiative will not only reduce flood-related issues but will also ensure adequate water supply reaches every farmer's field", he added.

### **Makhana gained global recognition**

"Makhana, a cultural staple of Mithila, has now gained global recognition as a superfood", highlighted Shri Modi, mentioning that makhana has been granted a GI tag, officially certifying it as a product of this region. He added that the Makhana Research Centre has been accorded national status. He also highlighted the Budget announcement of the Makhana Board, which is expected to transform the fortunes of makhana farmers, emphasising that Bihar's makhana will now reach international markets as a superfood.

The Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Union Ministers Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Shri Jitan Ram Manji, Shri Giriraj Singh, Shri Chirag Paswan, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary were present among other dignitaries at the event. ■

## **Unbelievable devotion! Haryana man walks barefoot for 14 years waiting to meet PM Modi**

During a public meeting in Yamunanagar on April 14, 2025 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Shri Rampal Kashyap from Kaithal, Haryana. Fourteen years ago, Shri Kashyap had taken a vow – that he would not wear footwear until Shri Narendra Modi became Prime Minister and he met him personally.

Responding humbly, Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed deep gratitude for such unwavering affection. However, he also made an appeal to citizens who take such vows. "I am humbled by people like Rampal Ji and also accept their affection but I want to request everyone who takes up such vows - I cherish your love...please focus on something that is linked to social work and nation building," the Prime Minister said. ■





# OUR EFFORT IS TO INCREASE THE POTENTIAL OF THE FARMERS OF HARYANA: PM



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, on 14 April 2025. Extending his greetings to the people of Haryana, he paid homage to the sacred land of Haryana, acknowledging it as the origin of Maa Saraswati, the abode of Mantra Devi, the site of Panchmukhi Hanuman Ji, and the blessed Kapalmochan Sahib. “Haryana is a confluence of culture, devotion, and dedication”, he described. Shri Modi also conveyed his heartfelt wishes to all citizens on the 135th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, highlighting Babasaheb's vision and inspiration, which continue to guide India's journey toward development.

Boosting power infrastructure in the region along with the vision of electricity reaching the last mile, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of 800 MW modern thermal power unit of Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant at Yamuna Nagar. This unit, spread across 233 acres, is worth around Rs 8,470 crore, will significantly boost Haryana's energy self-sufficiency, and provide uninterrupted power supply across the state. Taking forward the vision of GOBARDhan, i.e., Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of a Compressed Biogas Plant in Mukarabpur, in Yamuna Nagar. He also inaugurated the 14.4 km Rewari Bypass project, worth around Rs 1,070 crore under the Bharat Mala Pariyojana. The Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Union Ministers, Shri Manohar Lal, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Underlining that Haryana is witnessing the double speed of development under the Union and State governments for the third consecutive term, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized the commitment to a developed Haryana as part of the vision for a developed India. He highlighted the government's dedication to serving the people of Haryana and fulfilling the aspirations of its youth by working at greater speed and scale. He pointed to the development projects launched today as a testament to this commitment and extended his congratulations to the people of Haryana for these new development initiatives.

## **Vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar**

Expressing pride in his government's commitment to advancing the vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Shri Modi highlighted Babasaheb's belief that industrial development was a pathway to social justice. He noted that Babasaheb identified the issue of small landholdings in India and emphasized that Dalits, lacking sufficient agricultural land, would benefit the most from industrialization. He shared Babasaheb's vision that industries would provide greater employment opportunities for Dalits, improving their standard of living. He also acknowledged Babasaheb's significant role in India's industrialization efforts, working alongside the country's first Industry Minister, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, to drive progress in this direction.

## **'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**

Emphasising that the essence of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' lies in fostering manufacturing,

Shri Modi underscored the government's focus on manufacturing, as reflected in this year's budget announcement of 'Mission Manufacturing'. "The mission aims to create maximum employment opportunities for Dalit, backward, underprivileged, and marginalized youth, provide them with essential training, reduce business costs, strengthen the MSME sector, equip industries with modern technology, and ensure Indian products are world-class", he stated. Underscoring the importance of uninterrupted power supply to achieve these goals and highlighting the significance of the event, he announced the commencement of work on the third unit of the Deenbandhu Chaudhary Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, which will benefit Yamunanagar and Haryana.

### Hard work of Haryana's farmers

Lauding the hard work of Haryana's farmers, which contributes to every Indian's plate, the Prime Minister emphasized that the governments at the Centre and state stand as steadfast partners in the joys and challenges of farmers. He highlighted efforts to empower Haryana's farmers, noting that the state government now procures 24 crops at MSP. He shared that lakhs of farmers in Haryana have benefited from the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, with claims exceeding Rs. 9,000 crore under the scheme. Additionally, he mentioned that Rs. 6,500 crore has been disbursed to Haryana's farmers through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, further supporting their livelihoods and growth.

### Haryana's rapid progress on the path of development

Prime Minister underlined Haryana's rapid progress on the path of development, mentioning his earlier visit to Hisar, where direct flight services to Ayodhya Dham were inaugurated. He also announced the new bypass for Rewari, which will ease traffic congestion in markets, intersections, and railway crossings, allowing vehicles to bypass the city smoothly. He noted that the four-lane bypass will reduce travel time between Delhi and Narnaul by an hour and congratulated the people on this achievement. ■

### PM Modi lays foundation stone of new terminal building of Hisar airport

In line with his commitment to make air travel safe, affordable, and accessible to all, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the new Terminal Building of the Maharaja Agrasen airport in Hisar, Haryana worth over Rs 410 crore on April 14, 2025. Addressing the gathering, he extended his greetings to the people of Haryana, acknowledging their strength, sportsmanship, and brotherhood as the defining traits of the state. He expressed his gratitude to the large gathering for their blessings during this busy harvest season.

Underlining the launch of flights connecting Haryana to Ayodhya Dham, symbolizing the direct link between the sacred land of Shri Krishna and the city of Lord Ram, the Prime Minister announced that flights to other cities will commence soon. He highlighted the foundation stone laying of the new terminal building at Hisar Airport, describing it as a step toward elevating Haryana's aspirations to new heights. He extended his congratulations to the people of Haryana for this significant milestone.

Reiterating his promise that even those wearing slippers would fly in airplanes, a vision now being realized across the country, Shri Modi highlighted that in the past 10 years, millions of Indians have experienced air travel for the first time. ■

### Highlights

- Viksit Haryana for Viksit Bharat, this is our resolve.
- Our effort is to increase the production of electricity in the country, lack of electricity should not become an obstacle in nation building.
- PM Suryagarh Muft Bijli Yojana started by us can reduce electricity bill to zero by installation of solar panels.
- Our effort is to increase the potential of the farmers of Haryana. ■





**PM MODI VISITS VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH**

# India today is carrying forward both development and heritage together: PM Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various development projects worth over Rs 3,880 crore in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on 11 April 2025. Mentioning the inauguration and foundation laying of numerous projects connected to Kashi and various parts of Purvanchal earlier in the event, Shri Modi emphasized the strengthening of connectivity through infrastructure projects, the campaign to provide tap water to every household, and the expansion of education, health, and sports facilities. He remarked on the commitment to provide better amenities to every region, family, and youth, stating that these initiatives will serve as milestones in transforming Purvanchal into a developed region. He noted that every resident of Kashi will benefit greatly from these schemes and extended congratulations to the people of Banaras and Purvanchal for these development efforts.

Emphasising the transformative impact of Banas Dairy in Kashi, which has reshaped the lives and destinies of thousands of families, Shri Modi highlighted how the dairy has rewarded hard work and given wings to aspirations. He proudly noted that the efforts have enabled many women in Purvanchal to become "Lakhpati Didis," transitioning from concerns of sustenance to a path of prosperity. He remarked that this progress is evident not only in Banaras and Uttar Pradesh but across the country. "India has become the largest milk producer globally, with a nearly 65% increase in milk production over the past decade", he highlighted, attributing this success to millions of farmers and livestock owners, recognizing that such achievements are the result of continuous efforts over the last ten years.

## Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards

The Prime Minister mentioned the privilege of distributing Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards to several senior citizens. He highlighted the sense of satisfaction evident on their faces, calling it a testament to the scheme's success. He acknowledged the concerns families have had for their elders' healthcare and recalled the difficulties faced across Purvanchal 10-11 years ago regarding medical treatment. Noting the drastic improvements in the region, he stated "Kashi is now becoming a health capital". He remarked that advanced hospitals, once limited to cities like Delhi and Mumbai, are now accessible near people's homes. He emphasized that this is the essence of development—bringing facilities closer to the people.

Emphasising the significant strides made in healthcare over the past decade, not only increasing the number of hospitals but also enhancing the dignity of patients, Shri Modi highlighted the Ayushman Bharat scheme as a boon for the poor, providing not just treatment but also instilling confidence. He remarked that thousands in Varanasi and lakhs across Uttar Pradesh have benefited from the scheme, with every treatment, operation, and relief marking a new beginning in their lives. He further noted that the Ayushman Bharat scheme has saved crores of rupees for lakhs of families in Uttar Pradesh, as the government has taken responsibility for their healthcare. Recalling his promise of free treatment for senior citizens, which led to the launch of the Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme, the Prime Minister highlighted that this initiative ensures free treatment for every senior citizen above 70 years of age, regardless of their income.

## Transformation of Kashi's infrastructure and facilities

The Prime Minister highlighted the remarkable transformation of Kashi's infrastructure and facilities, which have earned widespread praise from visitors. He noted that millions of people visit Banaras daily, offering prayers to Baba Vishwanath and bathing in the sacred Ganga, with many remarking on the city's significant changes. He emphasized the challenges Kashi would have faced if its roads, railways, and airport had remained in the same condition as a decade ago. He recalled the traffic jams during small festivals, where travelers had to navigate through the entire city, enduring dust and heat. He remarked on the construction of the Phulwariya flyover, which has shortened distances, saved time, and brought relief to daily life. The Prime Minister also highlighted the benefits of the Ring Road, which has drastically reduced travel time for residents of rural areas in Jaunpur and Ghazipur, as well as those from Ballia, Mau, and Ghazipur districts heading to the airport, eliminating hours of traffic congestion.

Underlining the improved connectivity in the region which has led to faster and convenient travel to cities like Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, and Azamgarh with widened roads, Shri Modi remarked that areas once plagued by traffic jams are now witnessing the speed of development. He emphasized the investment of approximately Rs. 45,000 crore over the past decade in enhancing connectivity in Varanasi and surrounding regions.

## Transformation in Uttar Pradesh

The Prime Minister highlighted the transformation in Uttar Pradesh over recent years, noting that the state has not only changed its economic landscape but also its outlook. He remarked that Uttar Pradesh is no longer just a land of possibilities but has become a land of capability and achievements. He stressed on the growing resonance of 'Made in India' globally, with Indian-made products now becoming global brands. He noted the recognition of several products with Geographical Indication (GI) tags, describing these tags as more than just labels—they are certificates of identity for the land. He remarked that GI tags signify that a product is

a creation of its soil, and wherever GI tags reach, they open pathways to greater market success.

## International recognition of the state's art, crafts, and skills

Underscoring Uttar Pradesh's leading position in GI tagging across the country, Shri Modi mentioned the growing international recognition of the state's art, crafts, and skills. He noted that over 30 products from Varanasi and its surrounding districts have received GI tags, describing them as a passport of identity for these items. He listed products from the region that have been recognized, such as Varanasi's tabla, shehnai, wall paintings, thandai, stuffed red chili, red peda, and tiranga barfi. He also mentioned that products like Jaunpur's imarti, Mathura's sanjhi art, Bundelkhand's kathiya wheat, Pilibhit's flute, Prayagraj's moonj art, Bareilly's zardozi, Chitrakoot's woodcraft, and Lakhimpur Kheri's Tharu zardozi have recently been awarded GI tags. "The fragrance of Uttar Pradesh's soil is now crossing borders, spreading its legacy far and wide", he added.

Remarking that preserving Kashi means safeguarding the soul of India, the Prime Minister concluded by emphasising the collective commitment to continually empower Kashi and to keep it beautiful and connect its ancient spirit with a modern identity.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Anandiben Patel, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath were present among others at the event.

## Highlights

- In the last 10 years, the development of Banaras has gained a new momentum.
- Banas Dairy in Varanasi has changed both the image and destiny of thousands of families in Kashi.
- Kashi is now becoming the capital of Good Health.
- Today, whoever goes to Kashi, praises its infrastructure and facilities.
- India today is carrying forward both development and heritage together, Our Kashi is becoming the best model for this.
- Uttar Pradesh is no longer just a land of possibilities but of competence and accomplishments. ■



# **Congress government in Himachal is the most corrupt among states: JP Nadda**

**T**he Bharatiya Janata Party National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a press conference on 20 April 2025, at the BJP state office in Himachal Pradesh, launching a scathing attack on the sluggish Congress government in the state.

Shri Nadda stated that the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh is failing to perform but is attempting to blame the central government for its shortcomings. The Modi government has already allocated funds for several welfare schemes in Himachal Pradesh, but the Congress government, in a state of 'Kumbhakarni neend', has not even been able to allocate land for these schemes. The people of Himachal Pradesh are dissatisfied with this government and will hold it accountable shortly.

BJP National President stated that in Himachal Pradesh, the government is trying to build a false narrative that they are not receiving funds from the Central Government or that the Centre is neglecting Himachal Pradesh. This is entirely false and misleading. The truth is that if there has been genuine development in any state of the country, it has been during the times when there has been an NDA government at the Centre. When Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, Himachal Pradesh was granted a special package. In contrast, when the Congress was in power, they deprived Himachal of the benefits given to "Special Hilly States." This has always been the Congress party's track record. Congress has had no substantial contribution to any major project in Himachal Pradesh. All major development works currently underway in the state were either initiated during the tenure of the revered Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or are being completed under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the past 11 years.



Therefore, I completely reject the false narrative being pushed by the Congress party.

Shri Nadda stated that for the financial year 2025, the Central Government has allocated a budget of Rs. 11,806 crore for year-round development works in Himachal Pradesh. Under the tax revenue share, the state was to receive Rs. 10,681 crore, out of which Rs. 8,915 crore had already been disbursed to the state by 10th January 2025. Additionally, Rs. 13,285 crore has been

provided as grants-in-aid. An amount of Rs. 1,050 crore has been sanctioned for capital investment, industrial development, and the digitization of land records.

## **Highlights**

- The Congress government in Himachal Pradesh stands out as one of the most corrupt among all Congress-ruled states.
- It has crossed all limits of mismanagement.
- Newspapers like National Herald, which don't even get published regularly, were shamelessly handed crores worth of government advertisements.
- The Congress-led Sukhu government is trying to build a false narrative that the BJP-led Centre is neglecting Himachal Pradesh. This claim is utterly baseless and misleading.
- Himachal is a non-performing government.
- Every single brick of development in Himachal Pradesh was either laid during the tenure of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji approved the establishment of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in Himachal Pradesh, but the state government has remained asleep even on land allotment for it. ■

# Those Behind This Heinous Act Will Be Brought To Justice...: PM Modi

## PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

**A**pril 22, 2025, will always be remembered as a dark day in the history of Jammu & Kashmir and India. In a horrifying and cowardly act of terror, tourists in Pahalgam were attacked by a bunch of terrorists. The inhuman act of violence has shocked the entire nation. The act occurred in the beautiful Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was for the first time in over decades that the entire nation, including the Kashmir valley, came to a standstill against terrorism. Citizens from every corner of society came out on the streets to condemn the violence. Following the attack, protest marches, candlelight gatherings, and silent demonstrations took place everywhere in India and various parts of the globe, displaying a powerful depiction of collective grief.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, cut down his state visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to New Delhi early on April 23. Upon arrival in Delhi, the Prime Minister convened an emergency meeting with National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval and External

Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar to assess the situation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, on 23 April in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The government vowed swift justice for those responsible and provided all necessary assistance to the victims and their families.

**Bharat will not bend to terror and the culprits of this dastardly terror attack will not be spared: Amit Shah**

**Union Home Minister visits Kashmir and pays last respects to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah paid his last respects to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack on 23 April 2025. Union Home Minister said Bharat will not bend to terror and the culprits of this dastardly terror attack will not be spared.

Shri Amit Shah also met families of victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. He said every Indian feels the pain of losing loved ones in the terrorist attack in

### PM Modi strongly condemns the terror attack in Pahalgam



**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. In a social media post on X, the PM said, "I strongly condemn the terror attack in

Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected.

Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice...they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable, and it will get even stronger." ■

### Those involved in this heinous act will not be spared: JP Nadda



**B**JP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "Deeply anguished by the news of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The brutal targeting of innocent civilians in

this cowardly attack is highly reprehensible. The Modi Government follows a Zero-Tolerance Policy against terrorism. Those involved in this heinous act will not be spared.

The Union Home Minister is visiting the affected area, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister is personally monitoring the situation. We are committed to supporting all the affected families and will provide all necessary assistance". ■





Pahalgam and this sorrow cannot be expressed in words. He visited the site of the Pahalgam terror attack and took a detailed briefing about the incident from officers. Shri Shah also visited the injured of the Pahalgam terror attack, admitted to the hospital and assured them of every possible assistance.

Shri Amit Shah said India has suspended the Indus water treaty as part of several steps that have been taken towards the killing of 26 innocent tourists by Pakistan-linked terrorists...Pakistan must understand that Indus Water Treaty has been a stand that India took in a positive time. If you continue to have this kind of ghastly terror attacks, this is one of the proactive steps the government has taken. ■

## India Suspends Indus Waters Treaty

Following the terror attack, India downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, on 23 April. India will hold the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan "in abeyance with immediate effect", Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced on April 23, 2025. It is part of the five-pronged response that was decided upon after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). ■

## India-Pakistan borders at Attari and Suchetgarh shut

Following the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, the government of India shut down the Attari-Wagah border in Amritsar along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab. The halting of civilian movement along the Octroi Post on the International Border (IB) in Suchetgarh and Chamliyal in Samba, Jammu, comes a day after India responded to the Pahalgam attacks by shutting the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari. ■

## Houses of terrorists razed in Kashmir

In a major crackdown on terrorism following the deadly Pahalgam attack, authorities have razed the houses of four terrorists across different districts of Kashmir on 23 April 2025. The demolitions were carried out in Pulwama, Shopian, Kupwara, and Kulgam districts, targeting properties linked to active militants. ■

### Dastardly attack on innocent civilians is an act of cowardice: Rajnath Singh



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Deeply anguished by the news of terrorist attack in Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir).

This dastardly attack on innocent civilians is an act of cowardice and highly reprehensible. My thoughts and prayers are with the innocent victims and their families. ■

### My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased: Amit Shah



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in a social media post on X said, "Anguished by the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. My thoughts are with the family members of the deceased. Those involved in this dastardly act of terror will not be spared, and

we will come down heavily on the perpetrators with the harshest consequences.

Briefed PM Shri @narendramodi Ji about the incident and held a meeting with the concerned officials via video conferencing. Will shortly leave for Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with all the agencies". ■

# INDIA'S RETAIL INFLATION HITS SIX-YEAR LOW

2024-25 Retail Inflation Drops to 4.6%, March Sees YoY Dip to 3.34%

Retail inflation in India, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects the cost of everyday goods and services, fell to a remarkable 4.6% in the fiscal year 2024-25, the lowest since 2018-19. This milestone highlights the effectiveness of the government of India's pro-growth monetary policy, which has successfully balanced economic expansion with price stability. Notably, the year-on-year inflation rate for March 2025 dropped to 3.34%, a decline of 27 basis points from February 2025, marking the lowest monthly inflation rate since August 2019. These figures demonstrate a sustained effort to curb price rises while fostering economic growth.

The government's strategic interventions have been pivotal in achieving this outcome. Key measures include bolstering buffer stocks of essential food items and releasing them periodically in open markets, alongside subsidised retail sales of staples like rice, wheat flour, pulses, and onions. Simplified import duties on critical food items, stricter stock limits to prevent hoarding, and reduced GST rates on essentials have further eased price pressures. Targeted subsidies, such as LPG support under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, have protected vulnerable households from rising food grain costs, ensuring that the benefits of lower inflation reach those who need it most.

## What is Consumer Price Index?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is one of the most important economic indicators used to measure changes in the general level of retail prices over time. It reflects how much households need to spend on a fixed basket of goods and services they typically consume, such as food, clothing, housing, and fuel. In India, the CPI is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and is currently calculated using the base year 2012. By tracking the cost of this basket over time, the CPI shows how prices rise or fall, affecting the purchasing power of

consumers and their overall welfare.

The CPI measures price changes by comparing the current cost of this fixed basket of goods and services to what it cost in a previous period. Since the contents of the basket are kept constant in terms of quantity and quality, any change in the index reflects only the change in prices. When prices increase, the CPI goes up, signalling inflation; when they fall, the CPI declines, indicating lower inflation or deflation.

Originally, CPI figures were developed to track changes in the cost of living for workers so that their wages could be adjusted in line with price movements. Over time, however, the CPI has evolved into a widely used macroeconomic tool. It is now a key benchmark for targeting inflation, monitoring price stability, and guiding monetary policy decisions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It also serves as a deflator in the National Accounts to measure real economic growth.

In India, along with the general CPI (CPI-Combined), segment-specific indices are also published to cater to different population groups:

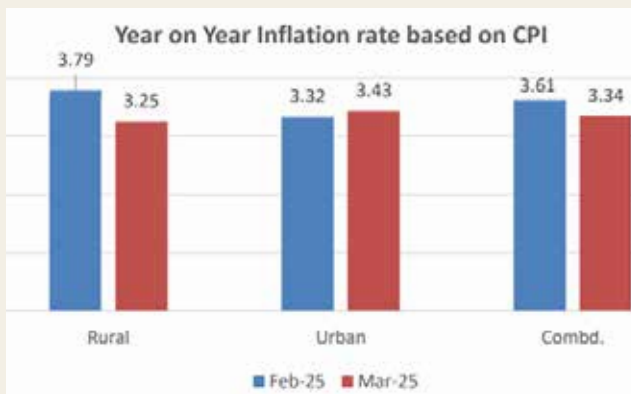
- CPI (IW) – Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers
- CPI (AL) – Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers
- CPI (RL) – Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers
- These indices help in wage revisions, rural planning, and understanding inflation trends in specific segments of the population.

## Key Highlights for March 2025

**Food Inflation:** The year-on-year food inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) stood at 2.69% in March 2025, the lowest since November 2021. This marks a sharp decline of 106 basis points from the previous month.

- Rural food inflation: 2.82%
- Urban food inflation: 2.48%

**Drivers of Decline:** The overall moderation in food prices was led by a drop in inflation across key categories such as vegetables, eggs, pulses and products, meat and fish, cereals and products, and



milk and products.

**Rural Inflation:** A notable fall was recorded in both headline and food inflation in rural areas.

### Headline inflation fell from 3.79% in February to 3.25% in March

### Food inflation dropped from 4.06% to 2.82%

**Urban Inflation:** Headline inflation in urban areas saw a marginal rise to 3.43% in March, up from 3.32% in February. However, food inflation declined significantly from 3.15% to 2.48%.

**Housing Inflation:** For the urban sector, housing inflation rose slightly to 3.03% in March 2025 from 2.91% in February.

**Fuel & Light:** Inflation in this category rebounded to 1.48% in March from -1.33% in February, covering both rural and urban areas.

**Education Inflation:** A moderate increase was noted in education-related inflation, rising to 3.98% from 3.83% the previous month.

**Health Inflation:** Prices in the health segment saw a mild rise, with inflation at 4.26% in March, up from 4.12% in February.

**Transport & Communication:** Inflation in this category increased to 3.30% in March 2025 compared to 2.93% in February.

**Items with Highest Inflation:** In March 2025, the top five items with the highest year-on-year inflation were coconut oil (56.81%), coconut (42.05%), gold (34.09%), silver (31.57%), and grapes (25.55%).

**Items with Lowest Inflation:** The items witnessing the steepest decline in prices were ginger (-38.11%), tomato (-34.96%), cauliflower (-25.99%), jeera (-25.86%), and garlic (-25.22%).

### Retail Inflation Eases for Third Year in a Row

Retail inflation in India has followed a steady downward path over the past three financial years, falling from 6.7

percent in 2022–23 to 5.4 percent in 2023–24, and further to 4.6 percent in 2024–25. This consistent moderation highlights the combined impact of the Reserve Bank of India's calibrated monetary policy and the Government of India's focused interventions to ease supply-side constraints and stabilise prices of essential commodities. The declining trend has helped ease cost-of-living pressures and fostered a more stable environment for economic growth.

### A Decade of Inflation Control

Between 2009–10 and 2013–14, India faced a prolonged period of high inflation, with the average annual rate remaining in double digits. Households across the country bore the brunt of steep increases in food and fuel prices, which eroded purchasing power and created a challenging environment for both consumers and businesses. Looking at a broader timeframe, the average annual inflation between 2004–05 and 2013–14 stood at 8.2 percent, reflecting a decade marked by considerable volatility in retail prices.

In sharp contrast, the ten-year period from 2015–16 to 2024–25 witnessed a marked decline in inflationary pressures, with the average rate coming down to 5 percent. This significant moderation reflects the sustained efforts of both the Government and the Reserve Bank of India to improve price stability through better supply-side management, fiscal prudence, and inflation-targeting monetary policy. The shift from a high-inflation era to a more stable pricing environment has provided greater certainty for consumers and strengthened the foundation for long-term economic growth.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the steady decline in retail inflation over recent years marks a crucial milestone in India's economic journey, reflecting the success of coordinated efforts by the Government of India. From proactive monetary policies to targeted fiscal measures that safeguard consumers, especially the vulnerable, from volatile price swings, the approach has been both inclusive and effective. With inflation now at its lowest since 2018–19, India has not only reinforced macroeconomic stability but also created an enabling environment for sustainable growth. This trajectory underscores the country's resilience and commitment to ensuring price stability without compromising on development goals. ■



**7.39 LAKH NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED WITH EPFO**

**T**he Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has released provisional payroll data for February 2025, revealing a net addition of 16.10 lakh members. The year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 3.99% in net payroll additions compared to February 2024, signifying increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives.

State-wise analysis of payroll data denotes that the top five states/ UTs constitute around 59.75% of net payroll addition, adding a total around 9.62 lakh net payroll during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra is leading by adding 20.90% of net payroll during the month. The states/UTs of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh individually added more than 5% of the total net payroll during the month.

From the month of April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period September 2017 onwards. In monthly payroll data, the count of members joining EPFO for the first time through Aadhaar validated Universal Account Number (UAN), existing members exiting from coverage of EPFO and those who exited but re-joined as members, is taken to arrive at net monthly payroll. ■

**MODERNIZATION OF COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT AS A SUB-SCHEME OF PM KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026 APPROVED**

**T**he Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today on 9 April approved the Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) as a sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the period 2025-2026 with an initial total outlay of Rs.1600 crore.

The scheme aims for modernization of the irrigation water supply network to supply of irrigation water from existing canals or other sources in a designated cluster. It will make robust backend infrastructure for micro-irrigation by farmers from established source to the Farm gate upto 1 Ha with underground pressurized piped irrigation. The use of

SCADA, Internet of things technology will be used for water accounting and water management. This will increase the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) at the farm level, increase agriculture production & productivity; and thereby increase the income of farmers.

The projects will be made sustainable by Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) to the Water User Society (WUS) for management of irrigation assets.

The Water User Societies will be given handholding support for linking them with existing Economic Entities like FPO or PACS for five years. The youth will also be attracted to farming, to adopt the modern method of irrigation. ■

**DRDO CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL RELEASE TRIALS OF LONG-RANGE GLIDE BOMB 'GAURAV' FROM SU-30 MKI AIRCRAFT**

**D**efence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' between April 08-10, 2025 from the Su-30 MKI aircraft. During the trials, the weapon was integrated to multiple stations in different warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 kms with pin-point accuracy.

LRGB 'Gaurav' is a 1,000 kg class glide bomb, designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Armament Research and Development Establishment and Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. Senior officials of DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) participated and reviewed these trials.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, IAF and industry for successful development trials of 'Gaurav'. He said the development of LRGB will further enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces to a great extent. ■

**INDIA'S INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION RECORDS GROWTH OF 2.9% IN FEBRUARY 2025**

**I**ndia's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of 2.9% in February 2025, marking a slowdown from the 5.0% growth seen in January 2025. This represents a six-month low for the IIP. The slower growth was attributed to a combination of factors, including high base effects and decelerating growth across all sectors. ■

## **NAMAMI GANGE MISSION 2.0: 7 MAJOR SEWERAGE INFRA PROJECTS COMPLETED IN UP, BIHAR AND DELHI**

Under Namami Gange Mission 2.0, the completion of 7 major projects in the second half of FY 2024–25 marks a significant achievement. Located in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi, these projects primarily focus on preventing sewage from entering rivers, thereby improving water quality and rejuvenating the rivers. Additionally, other projects in Uttarakhand has been partially ready for operation. The completed projects mark an important step in infrastructure advancement in sewerage treatment and would lead to furtherance of the objective of river rejuvenation. With the commissioning of these projects, the total capacity under Namami Gange Program stands at 3722 MLD and total number of STPs commissioned at 157. ■

## **OVER 1.3 CRORE PERSONS INSURED THROUGH GEM IN FY 2024-25**

Government e Marketplace (GeM), India's largest e-marketplace for public procurement, sets yet another milestone in services delivery in the FY 24-25. Apart from facilitating hiring of 1 million manpower resources in FY 24-25, GeM has successfully facilitated insurance of more than 1.3 crore individuals covering Health, Life and Personal Accident Insurance policies.

The Insurance Services category was introduced on GeM in January 2022 to bring greater efficiency, transparency and cost-effectiveness in procuring insurance policies. By ensuring that only Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) -approved service providers are onboarded. GeM has established a reliable and trusted mechanism for availing insurance services. Through this platform, buyer organizations can seamlessly procure Group Mediclaim, Personal Accident and Term Insurance policies, thereby offering financial security to a vast number of beneficiaries. ■

## **STARTUP SELECTED UNDER NQM LAUNCHES ONE OF INDIA'S MOST POWERFUL QUANTUM COMPUTERS**

Bangalore based QpiAI, one of the 8 startups selected under the National Quantum Mission,

coordinated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) announced the launch of one of India's most powerful quantum computers featuring 25 superconducting qubits, on the occasion of World Quantum Day yesterday.

QpiAI-Indus, the quantum computer launched, is the first full-stack quantum computing system in the country and combines advanced quantum hardware, scalable control, and optimized software for transformative hybrid computing. It integrates advanced quantum processors, next-generation Quantum-HPC software platforms, and AI-enhanced quantum solutions.

With this milestone, QpiAI is driving deep-science and deep-tech innovation across life sciences, drug discovery, materials sciences, mobility, logistics, sustainability, and climate action. ■

## **DIGITAL PORTAL FOR NATIONAL WATERWAYS LAUNCHED**

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal on 9th April launched a dedicated digital portal developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to invite private investment in infrastructure development on National Waterways.

With a ceremonial click, the Minister formally inaugurated the initiative, which is aimed at facilitating ease of doing business (EODB) and encouraging private investment in inland water transport (IWT) in the country. The launch follows the introduction of the National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, which lays out a framework for private players to invest in the construction and operation of jetties and terminals across India's national waterways network.

As per the newly notified National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025, any entity — including private players — can now develop or operate an inland waterway terminal on a National Waterway by securing a 'No Objection Certificate' (NoC) from the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The regulations apply to both existing and new terminals, whether permanent or temporary. ■

# **‘BUILDING ALLOTTED TO NATIONAL HERALD WAS NEVER USED FOR RUNNING A PRESS’**

**Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addressed a press conference at the BJP central office in New Delhi on 17 April 2025. During the conference, Shri Puri made major revelations about the involvement of Congress leaders in the National Herald case. He stated that the building allotted to the National Herald was never used for running a press. Instead, Congress leaders misused these buildings for personal and commercial purposes, thereby deceiving Congress workers and the entire nation. Excerpts:**

**S**hri Hardeep Singh Puri said that when the Enforcement Directorate filed this case, Congress leaders accused the Modi government of political vendetta and misusing central agencies. The BJP simply wants to tell Congress to engage in some self-reflection. The Congress party is misleading its own workers—when in reality, they should be protesting against their own leadership. The history of the National Herald is quite old; it was established in 1937. However, the publication of this newspaper ceased in 2008, and the National Herald case began around 2012–13, at a time when the BJP was not in power. The real question is: how was property worth Rs. 2,000 crore acquired with just Rs.50 lakh?

He stated that the National Herald case is one of fraud, corruption, and money laundering, and is essentially a shut-and-closed case. When the matter was brought before the Metropolitan Magistrate in 2014, the Magistrate had clearly stated, “It appears that Young Indian Limited (YIL) was created with the intent of converting public money to personal use.” Since 2014, the case has been moving through various courts, and the Congress party has repeatedly tried to delay the proceedings by deploying its team of lawyers. Young Indian Limited was registered in 2010 as a Section 25 company with the stated objective of charity and an initial capital of Rs.50 lakh. Despite this, the Congress party extended a loan of around Rs.80–90 crore to it. The pertinent question now is—what steps did the Congress party take to recover this amount? Subsequently, assets worth Rs.2,000 crore were acquired in exchange for just Rs.50 lakh.

## **Highlights**

- Congress's real interest was not in the newspaper; this family had already been active in real estate with the properties of AJL.
- Plot number 5A, located on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, was allotted to AJL in 1963 at a rate of Rs.1.25 lakh per acre. The plot was intended for a press and office, but an investigation in 2016 revealed that there was never a printing press in the building.
- The basement of this building was completely vacant, while the ground and first floors were rented out to the passport office, and the second and third floors were rented to Tata Consultancy Services, generating a significant rental income.
- Only Rs.50 lakh was paid for the transfer of 99% of AJL's shares to Young India, while the value of AJL's properties was over Rs.2000 crore. Some even claim that their actual value is close to Rs.5000 crore.
- Congress party workers should raise their voices against those leaders in their party who misused charitable purposes and used party resources for personal gain.
- In November 2010, the Gandhi family formed a new company called “Young India” and paid only Rs.50 lakh to settle a loan of Rs.90 crore.
- What were Kharge and other Congress leaders doing when the newspaper shut down in 2008? Please provide a list of the efforts Congress made to continue running the newspaper at that time.
- In 2008, the publication of the National Herald newspaper ceased, and the case began in 2012-13. There was no intervention from the BJP government in this matter.
- In 2014, when this case came before the Metropolitan Magistrate, the Magistrate clearly stated that “It appears that Young India Limited was created with the purpose of converting public funds into private use”.■



# TURNING ASPIRATIONS INTO ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its launch on 5th April 2016, the Stand-Up India Scheme has been on a mission to empower SC, ST, and women entrepreneurs. It aimed to break barriers by providing bank loans to help them start new businesses. Over the past 9 years, the scheme has not just funded businesses—it has nurtured dreams, created livelihoods, and driven inclusive growth across India.

## Achievements Under Stand-Up India

The Stand-Up India Scheme has shown remarkable growth over the years, with the total amount sanctioned increasing from Rs. 14,431.14 crore as of 31st October 2018 to an impressive Rs. 61,020.41 crore by 17th March 2025, since its launch. This reflects a substantial increase, highlighting the scheme's expanding impact in empowering entrepreneurs across the country.

The scheme reflected significant financial empowerment for the SC, ST communities and women entrepreneurs (from November 2018 to November 2024):

- SC accounts grew from 9,399 to 46,248 with loan amounts rising from Rs. 1,826.21 crore to Rs. 9,747.11 crore.
- ST accounts increased from 2,841 to 15,228 with sanctioned loans jumping from Rs. 574.65 crore to Rs. 3,244.07 crore.
- Women entrepreneurs accounts grew from 55,644 to

## Progress Under Stand-Up India



(As on 17.03.25 since launch of scheme)

1,90,844, with sanctioned amounts rising from Rs. 12,452.37 crore to Rs. 43,984.10 crore.

The Stand-Up India Scheme has been a transformative initiative, empowering SC, ST, and women entrepreneurs to turn their business ideas into reality. With significant achievements in loan sanctions and disbursements, it continues to foster inclusive growth. This scheme is not just about loans; it's about creating opportunities, inspiring change, and turning aspirations into achievements. ■

Sahyog, Samarpan  
Aur Sanskar



स्व. बाल्मीकि प्रसाद  
सिंह

## VALMIKI PRASAD SINGH

Shri Valmiki Prasad Singh was a District Secretary in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He took active role in the movement to ban cow slaughter. In 1971, he contested the Lok Sabha

elections from Samastipur on Jana Sangh ticket. During the Emergency Shri Valmiki Prasad was arrested and jailed for eight months under the DIR act (Defence of India Regulations Act). ■

Date of Birth  
10/11/1950

State  
Bihar

Town/City  
खालिसपुर समस्तीपुर

Post in Organisation  
District Secretary

Gender  
male

District  
Samastipur

Level  
District

Active years  
1967-2004



# A LEADER FOR THE AGES, HE WAS AHEAD OF THE TIMES

**For those of us who knew him, he was, first, the rarest of human beings, who touched and inspired everyone he met. He was compassionate to the core, generous in spirit, warm beyond measure and kind to a fault. He was deeply respectful of others and gifted with a rare sense of humour that he often turned upon himself**



**NARENDRA MODI**

In times of turbulence and disruption, a nation is blessed to have a leader who rises to become its moral compass and guiding spirit, providing vision, cohesion and direction to his people. And, in such a moment at the turn of the century, India found one in Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was gifted in spirit, heart and mind.

For those of us who knew him, he was, first, the rarest of human beings, who touched and inspired everyone he met. He was compassionate to the core, generous in spirit, warm beyond measure and kind to a fault. He was deeply respectful of others and gifted with a rare sense of humour that he often turned upon himself.

Orator without parallel, he could switch from disarming humour to a lofty vision with ease, with a rare ability to connect with people naturally, to stir them to self-belief and to a higher cause. Sharply perceptive, he could summarize the most complex issues and

discussions in a single sentence or question.

Born into a family of modest means and high ideals, he hailed from a small town in MP. His youth was defined by academic excellence and quest for public service during the gathering momentum of freedom struggle. Starting as an ordinary Karyakarta in the Jana Sangh, he organized the only truly national-level party to be formed in independent India – the BJP – and helmed its organization work after the passing away of Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Through the four decades of leadership in Parliament, the struggle against Emergency (who can forget that memorable rally in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan when his speech became the roar of the nation), the clarity to represent

his party with passion but always speak for the nation, he defined the spirit of democracy in India. Firm in his political beliefs, but always accommodating and respectful of other points of view, he set the standards of debate in Parliament. In his simplicity and integrity, in his dignity and empathy, and a sense of personal non-attachment to the office, he became an inspiration for a nation of youth.

He rescued the economy from the morass of the mid-1990s, when political instability at home and an uncertain global environment had threatened to derail a still incipient economic reforms process. He sowed the seeds of much of the economic success that we have experienced over the past two decades. For him, growth was a means to empower the weakest and mainstream the marginalized. It's that vision that continues to drive our government's policy.

It was Atalji who prepared the foundations of an India that is ready to take on the mantle of global leadership in the 21st century. The futuristic economic policies and reforms of his government ensured prosperity for several Indians. His thrust on next-generation infrastructure particularly roads and telecom

**He set the standards of debate in Parliament. In his simplicity and integrity, in his dignity and empathy, and a sense of personal non-attachment to the office, he became an inspiration for a nation of youth**



contributed to our country's economic as well as social empowerment.

Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power. It was not a decision he took lightly, but one he knew was of paramount importance in the face of mounting challenges to India's security. No longer would India's security be vulnerable. At that moment of surge in national pride, his was a voice of restraint and responsibility. And, the world listened to the wisdom of the man of peace. Equally important, he then brought to bear his extraordinary understanding of world affairs and formidable diplomatic skills to gain global acceptance of new realities. Indeed, it is the combination of his legacies of creating strategic capabilities, promoting stronger economic growth, undertaking multi-directional diplomacy and harnessing of diaspora energies that is today the basis for the respect we command across the world.

He transformed five decades of estrangement with USA into an enduring strategic partnership in the course of five years. He also steered India to deep friendship with a new post-Soviet Russia through a strategic partnership in 2000. I had the privilege of

accompanying him on a visit to Russia in November 2001 when we concluded a sister province agreement between Gujarat and Astrakhan.

With China, he made the boldest move for peace in an effort to overcome the burdens of a difficult past by establishing the mechanism of Special Representatives for boundary talks. Atal Ji's conviction that these two ancient civilisations – which are rising powers – can work together to shape the global future continues to guide my thinking.

A person of grassroots, our neighbours were his priority. In many ways, he was the inspiration for, and even pioneer of, our Neighbourhood First policy. He was unwavering in his support as an opposition leader towards Bangladesh's liberation. He went to Lahore in search of peace. With persistence and optimism that was his nature, he continued to search for peace and heal the wounds in J&K. But, he was resolute in winning the Kargil War. And, when

**Personally, Atalji was an ideal, a guru, and role model who inspired me deeply. It was he who entrusted me with responsibilities both in Gujarat as well as at the national level. It was he who called me one evening in October 2001, and told me to go to Gujarat as the chief minister**

our Parliament was struck, he made the world recognize the true nature and source of cross-border terrorism against India.

Personally, Atalji was an ideal, a guru, and role model who inspired me deeply. It was he who entrusted me with responsibilities both in Gujarat as well as at the national level. It was he who called me one evening in October 2001, and told me to go to Gujarat as the chief minister. When I told him that I had always worked in the organization, he said he was confident I would fulfill the people's expectations. The faith he had in me was humbling.

Today, we are a self-assured nation, brimming with the energy of our youth and resolve of our people, eager for change and confident of achieving it, striving for clean and responsive governance, building future of inclusion and opportunity for all Indians. We engage the world as equals and in peace, and we speak for principles and support the aspirations of others. We are on the path that Atalji wanted us to take. He was ahead of the times, because he had a deep sense of history, and he could peer into the soul of India from his grasp of our civilizational ethos.

A life is to be judged not just by the extent of grief that follows when its light goes out. It is also to be measured by the lasting impact on the lives of people and the course of time. For that reason, Atalji was a true Ratna of Bharat. His spirit will continue to guide us as we build the New India of his dreams. ■

**(The writer is Prime Minister of India)**





PM MODI VISITS TO SAUDI ARABIA

## INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA WELCOME EXPANSION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He reached Jeddah on 23rd April at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was the third visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after the previous visits in 2016 and 2019.

This was the first visit of Prime Minister Shri Modi to the historic city of Jeddah. This visit also follows the landmark visit of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India in September 2023. He was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the Al-Salam Palace. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Royal Palace. It was followed by detailed bilateral discussions, and also the meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council. These two meetings also were followed by informal meeting between the two leaders. The meeting began with the reference to the unfortunate terror attack that has happened in India. Both the leaders expressed their condemnation for the terror attack.

### Crown Prince conveyed his condolences and sympathies

His Royal Highness Crown Prince conveyed his condolences and sympathies and offered any help in this regard to us. The Prime Minister's bilateral meeting was very fruitful, substantial, and forward-looking. Both the leaders discussed the full spectrum of bilateral

relations, including energy partnership, defence, trade, investments, technology, culture and people-to-people ties.

Prime Minister and His Royal Highness also discussed the progress in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and both the leaders agreed that it is a vision which is beneficial to everyone in the region, and they agreed to expedite the work on that. Both the leaders also discussed other issues of interest. Prime Minister thanked His Royal Highness for taking care of the welfare of 2.7 million Indian diaspora members living in the Kingdom. His Royal Highness particularly mentioned his appreciation of the contribution of the Indian diaspora in the Kingdom. He said that everyone in Saudi Arabia loves Indians and there is no Saudi who doesn't have an Indian friend. He emphasized that in the next few years, due to many big developmental projects, they are looking at increasing the number of Indian workers.

Prime Minister and His Royal Highness also co-chaired the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. The two leaders reviewed the work under various committees and they signed the minutes of the Strategic Partnership Council meeting. Honorable Prime Minister, apart from his engagements at the Royal Palace, also met the Indian community.

The Secretary General of Muslim World League, Sheikh Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa today called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Jeddah. He strongly condemned the ghastly terror

## LIST OF OUTCOMES: STATE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO SAUDI ARABIA

### I. Strategic Partnership Council

- The second leaders meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was co-chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 22 April 2025 in Jeddah. The Council reviewed the work of the various committees, subcommittees and working groups under the SPC, which encompass political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, agriculture, culture and people-to-people ties. The discussions were followed by signing of the minutes by the two leaders.
- To reflect the deepening of defence partnership over the past few years – including joint exercises, training programmes, and collaboration in defence industry, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Defence Cooperation under the SPC.
- To strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties, which has significant momentum in recent years, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Tourism and Cultural Cooperation under the SPC.
- The four committees under the India-Saudi Arabia SPC shall now be as follows:
  - (1) Political, Consular and Security Cooperation Committee.
  - (2) Defence Cooperation Committee.
  - (3) Economy, Energy, Investment and Technology Committee.
  - (4) Tourism and Cultural Cooperation Committee.

### II. High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTF)

- Building on the commitment of Saudi Arabia to invest USD 100 billion in India in multiple areas including energy, petrochemicals, infrastructure, technology, fintech, digital infrastructure, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and health, the joint High-Level Task Force on Investment came to an understanding in multiple

areas to rapidly promote such investment flows.

- Both sides agreed to collaborate on establishing two refineries in India.
- The progress made by HLTF in areas such as taxation is a major breakthrough for greater investment cooperation in the future.

### III. List of MoUs/Agreements:

- MoU between the Saudi Space Agency and the Department of Space of India on Cooperation in the field of Space Activities for Peaceful Purposes.
- MoU between the Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India on Cooperation in the field of Health.
- MoU between the Saudi Arabian Anti-Doping Committee (SAADC) and the National Anti-Doping Agency, India (NADA) on Cooperation in the field of Anti-Doping Education and Prevention.
- Agreement between the Saudi Post Corporation (SPL) and the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications of India on Cooperation in Inward Surface Parcel.

attack in Jammu and Kashmir and offered deepest condolences on the innocent lives lost.

Prime Minister underlined that India attaches high importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia, which has today evolved into an enduring partnership across several domains. The close socio-cultural ties form an important facet of this partnership.

As you know, he was accorded special honors, including a 21-gun salute. The aircraft of Prime Minister was escorted by Saudi fighter jets when it entered the Jeddah airspace. These elements exemplify importance of Saudi Arabia attaches to its relations with India.

The two leaders also agreed to expand the scope

of the Strategic Partnership Council, and it has been agreed that from the current two committees, we will have four committees in the Strategic Partnership Council. And the two new committees which have been agreed upon are on the defense cooperation and another is on the tourism and cultural cooperation.

Both the leaders also welcomed the discussions under the Joint High-Level Task Force on Investment. They welcomed the decision to collaborate on establishing two oil refineries as a joint venture in India. They also welcomed the progress which has been made in the areas of taxation, and the forward-looking agreements made to facilitate the investment on both the sides. There were four MOUs signed. ■

# SHIVAJI MAHARAJ STANDS AS A BEACON OF COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND PATRIOTISM: AMIT SHAH

**U**nion Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on 12 April addressed a program held at Raigad Fort, Maharashtra, on the occasion of the 345th Punyatithi of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. On this occasion, many dignitaries were present, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

In his address, Shri Shah expressed that it was a matter of profound honour to stand on the soil of Raigad, the capital of Hindavi Swaraj and the site of Shivaji Maharaj's coronation. He described Raigad Fort not just as a monument, but as a living symbol of self-rule, valor, and national pride.

## Legacy of a Visionary Leader

Shri Amit Shah paid glowing tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, emphasizing that Shivaji ignited a revolutionary spirit across India. At a time when the Indian subcontinent was dominated by the Adilshahi, Mughal, and Nizamshahi empires, Shivaji Maharaj's vision transformed Maharashtra into the cradle of Hindavi Swaraj. His leadership inspired a wave of resistance and a revival of pride in Indian religion, language, and self-governance.

## Role of Rajmata Jijabai

Shri Shah lauded Rajmata Jijabai for shaping the young Shivaji's ideals and moral compass. She instilled in him the belief that India should be ruled by its own people, and that it was their sacred duty to preserve their religion, culture, and language.

## From Resistance to Empire

Despite lacking wealth, a powerful legacy, or a large army, Shivaji Maharaj created an invincible force that challenged the mighty Mughal Empire. With unmatched strategy, unwavering willpower, and the ability to unite diverse communities, he built a pan-Indian resistance that rekindled hope from Attock to Cuttack and from Bengal to Tamil Nadu.

Shri Shah stressed that Shivaji Maharaj's triumphs were not merely military but deeply symbolic. When his forces reached distant regions, the people began to believe that India's soul had been saved—its Dharma, culture, and Swaraj had found a defender.



## Preserving Shivaji's Legacy

Highlighting the historical and spiritual importance of Raigad, Shri Shah recalled the efforts of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who envisioned the fort as a national symbol of freedom and referred to it as "Shiv Smriti". He pointed out that the British tried to destroy Raigad Fort, fearing its power as a symbol of resistance, but leaders like Tilak kept its legacy alive with the slogan "Swaraj is my birthright".

Shri Shah announced that both the Central and Maharashtra governments are committed to preserving Raigad Fort and transforming it into a source of inspiration for the youth.

## National Integration of Shivaji's Message

Shri Shah emphasized that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legacy belongs to the entire nation, not just Maharashtra. He called upon citizens across India to draw inspiration from his life, particularly his teachings on Swadharma (self-duty), Swaraj (self-rule), and Swabhasha (mother tongue). These values, Shah said, form the cornerstone of human dignity and self-respect.

Shri Shah said PM Shri Modi's decision to incorporate Shivaji's Royal Seal as a symbol of the Indian Navy was a powerful statement of national pride and sovereignty. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to gain UNESCO World Heritage status for 12 historic forts associated with Shivaji Maharaj.

He concluded by affirming that Shivaji Maharaj stands as a beacon of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism, and that India remains committed to realizing his dream of a strong, united, and self-reliant nation. ■



# **IN THE UPCOMING TAMIL NADU ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, AN NDA GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED: AMIT SHAH**

Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed a press conference at the Tamil Nadu state BJP office in Chennai on 13 April 2025. During the press conference, Leader of Opposition in Tamil Nadu Assembly, former CM of Tamil Nadu and AIADMK General Secretary Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami and BJP State President Shri K Annamalai were also present along with other senior leaders. Shri Shah said the NDA government will be formed in the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. He formally announced an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections in 2026.

**S**hri Shah formally announced an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections in 2026. Shri Shah declared that the BJP will contest the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections under the leadership of AIADMK. He stated that the people of Tamil Nadu will expose the DMK's politics of corruption and scams, and will elect the BJP-AIADMK alliance to victory.

As far as NDA allies are concerned, all decisions will be taken jointly by the AIADMK and BJP within Tamil Nadu. The inclusion of AIADMK in the NDA is beneficial not only for the alliance but also for the AIADMK. The distribution of seats and allocation of ministries post-election will be finalized in consultation with alliance partners at an appropriate time.

## **DMK plagued by rampant corruption**

Union Home Minister launched a scathing attack on the DMK, stating that the party continues to raise issues like Sanatana Dharma and the three-language policy with the sole intent of diverting public attention from core governance failures. The DMK government in Tamil Nadu is plagued by rampant corruption, atrocities against Dalits and women, and a complete breakdown of law and order. Under Stalin's leadership, the state has witnessed multiple scams, including the Rs. 39,000 crore liquor scam. The public is now demanding answers from Stalin.

## **BJP takes immense pride in Tamil language**

Shri Amit Shah said that the Bharatiya Janata Party takes immense pride in the Tamil language, culture,

and people and holds them in high regard. It was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who honoured Tamil Nadu's rich heritage by installing the 'Sengol' in the new Parliament building, something the DMK never even proposed. Shri Narendra Modi launched the Kashi Tamil Sangamam and the Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam to celebrate the deep cultural ties. It was also under his leadership that the traditional Tamil martial art 'Silambam' was included in the Khelo India initiative. Shri Modi established the Central Institute of Classical Tamil with an investment of Rs. 25 crore and set up a Tamil Chair at the University of Houston in the USA. The government has also worked on translating the Thirukkural into various languages, completing translations in 63 so far. ■

## **Nainar Nagenthiran elected as new Tamil Nadu BJP President**

**B**JP MLA, Shri Nainar Nagenthiran was elected as the new BJP President of Tamil Nadu State unit in Chennai on April 12 2025. Union Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy, and BJP National General Secretary Shri Tarun Chugh, at a party meeting in Chennai declared Shri Nagenthiran duly elected as Tamil Nadu BJP President. Outgoing BJP State President Shri K. Annamalai on this occasion said the goal is to dislodge the 'Evil Shakti' the DMK from power in the 2026 Assembly election. ■





# 'INDIAN FIRST AND INDIAN LAST': DR. AMBEDKAR, A VISIONARY REFORMER



Rajnath Singh

Today marks the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, one of India's greatest visionaries. There have been deliberate and unjust attempts to downplay the legacy of Dr Ambedkar. After more than a century, the greatest injustice to his legacy is to reduce him to a Dalit leader. Today, he should be seen not merely as a symbol of resistance for Dalits and marginalised, which he undoubtedly is and always will be, but also as one of the foremost thinkers of modern India.

It is recorded that when he was at school, he was not even permitted to drink water from the common tap that other children drank from. One day, in the scorching heat, when he decided to drink from the source closest to him, he was assaulted for daring to violate this oppressive taboo. After such an incident, many young boys would have been resigned to their fate. Others may have become reactionary, rebelling against an unjust system through violent action. But Ambedkar channelised his inner angst into a zeal for learning. He went on to get a MA, MSc., PhD, DSc, DLitt and Bar-at-Law, including degrees at Columbia and the London School of Economics. If society wasn't willing

to let him have water from the same tap or study in the same schools, he would bypass them entirely and complete his education abroad. Despite this, he was always clear on returning to India, his *matribhoomi* and *karmabhoomi*.

Providence granted Dr Ambedkar unparalleled grit, intellect, and integrity, which he put to use as a social reformer, jurist, economist, philosopher, human rights champion, and nation-builder. The depth, length and breadth of Dr Ambedkar's scholarship are unparalleled. He wrote extensively on subjects and themes ranging from politics to ethics, sociology to anthropology, from economics to law and from political Economy to theology.

Dr Ambedkar's role as an institution builder also needs to be highlighted. Several institutions in modern India, such as the RBI and Central Water Commission, find their genesis in the farsightedness of Babasaheb. Building on his mastery of economics and economic history, he analysed the monetary problems facing India in his evidence to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance. In this thesis, he elaborated on how the system of fixed exchange being maintained by the British served only their interests in India. Ultimately, this became the foundation for the creation of the Reserve Bank of India to perform the functions of a central bank.

Being a staunch democrat

that he was, Dr Ambedkar also believed that a democratic form of Government presupposes a democratic form of society. He believed that without moral order in society, there cannot be democracy and the rule of law. It can also be said that for him, democracy, politics, and ethics formed a trinity just like liberty, equality, and fraternity. He held that "You may learn politics and you may know nothing about ethics, as though politics can work without ethics. To my mind, it is an astounding proposition" and "If there is no moral order, democracy will go to pieces." Like his greatest interlocutor, Gandhiji, Ambedkar was committed to fundamental social reform.

This is because he was deeply worried about the future of India, its democracy, and hard-earned independence. His trepidations found expression in his last speech in the Constituent Assembly. Amid loud cheers, Dr Ambedkar held that we must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood. He forewarned that India will lose its democracy and independence a second time if Indians become complacent. In one of his addresses in Poona, he said, "We have got a constitution which provides for democracy. Well, what more do we want? ... Let me warn you against this kind of smug feeling that with the making of the constitution, our task is done. It is not done. It has only begun." For the

principal architect of the Constitution to say this demonstrates how much of a visionary he truly was.

It is his words of caution that set India on the path of a vibrant democracy for almost eight decades. However today, we see the attempts by some people to reduce the fraternity between Indians based on social cleavages such as caste, religion, ethnicity, language, etc. We should be on guard to ensure that these divisive tendencies remain nothing but failed attempts. Re-reading and re-engaging with the oeuvre of Dr Ambedkar can be our guiding light in this pursuit.

For instance, Ambedkar mocked the Aryan invasion theory at a time when he could have gained most from the Aryan-Dravidian divide. "Whether a tribe or family was racially Aryan or Dravidian was a question which never troubled the people of India until foreign scholars came in and began to draw the line," Babasaheb wrote in a paper published in 1918. Elsewhere, he cited several instances where the rishis of the Yajur Veda and the Atharva Veda wished glory to Shudras, and on several occasions, a Shudra became the king himself. He also flatly rejected the theory that the untouchables are racially different from the Aryans and the Dravidians.

Furthermore, those who are attempting to use linguistic issues to further their narrow and sectarian interests would greatly benefit by reading Dr Ambedkar's views on the unity of the nation and the role of a language in this. On 10th September, 1949 he moved an amendment in the Constituent Assembly supporting Sanskrit –

one of the nine languages he had mastered – as the official language of the Union. In his 'Thoughts on Linguistic States', he also declared it the "bounden duty of all Indians to own up Hindi as their language." It is to be noted that Babasaheb was not a native Hindi speaker, yet said this because he put the nation first.

In one of his speeches, titled 'Conditions Precedent for the Successful Working of Democracy' and given on 22nd December 1952, Dr Ambedkar said that the form and purpose of democracy undergo change over time and the purpose of modern democracy is to bring about the welfare of the people. Working tirelessly with this vision, in the last 10 years, our government has succeeded in lifting 25 crore people out of poverty. We have worked to provide tap water to 16 crore homes. We have built 5 crore houses for poor families. In the year 2023, the Jan Man Abhiyan was started by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. This is aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and saturating PVTG households and habitations with basic facilities. We have also started the 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Our government's welfare work for the people, under the leadership and guidance of PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, speaks volumes of our dedication to democracy and our reverence for Babasaheb.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar believed that social and economic democracy goes hand in hand with political

democracy. PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji has set a target of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. This target conforms to the vision of Babasaheb. Furthermore, to ensure that future generations know more about the legacy and contributions of Babasaheb, our government has worked to develop Panchteerth. These five iconic places, associated with Dr. Ambedkar, are Mhow (Madhya Pradesh); Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur (Maharashtra); Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Home in London; Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi in Alipur Road (Delhi), and Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai (Maharashtra).

Last month, when the PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji visited Deekshabhoomi, he reaffirmed the Government's commitment to work even harder to realise the India which Babasaheb envisioned. The birth anniversary of Babasaheb presents all Indians with an opportunity to renew our pledge to the values and ideals given by him. Let us rise above our race, religion, region, caste and creed, and be 'Indian'. To truly honour his legacy, we must engage with the full range and profundity of his thought and resist all attempts to reduce him to the status of a sectarian leader. As he told the Simon Commission when asked to give evidence, the burning need was to create a sense among the people that "they are Indians first and Indians last" warning against giving in to "local patriotism and group consciousness." Babasaheb is God's gift to India and India's gift to the world. Today, 135 years on, let us give him the pedestal that he deserves, that both British India and the newly independent nation denied him. ■

**(The writer is Defence Minister, Government of India)**





# Dr. Ambedkar: From the Establishment of an All-Inclusive Society to the Creation of a Strong India

Some personalities in Indian history have left an enduring impact that transcends time. One such figure is Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, fondly called 'Baba Saheb'. He was not just an individual, but the embodiment of an ideology committed to social justice, equality, and human dignity



TARUN CHUGH

**B**aba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, whose entire life is a symbol of struggle, education, and equality, has a legacy that goes beyond celebration—his birth anniversary is not just a festival, but an opportunity to reflect on his thoughts and implement them in our lives. His life teaches us that education and self-respect can empower and organize society. It also proves that any obstacle can be overcome with determination and knowledge.

Some personalities in Indian history have left an enduring impact that transcends time. One such figure is Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, fondly called 'Baba Saheb'. He was not just an individual, but the embodiment of an ideology committed to social justice, equality, and human dignity. His thoughts and life continue to guide us intellectually, socially, politically, and philosophically. He transformed both the direction and the condition of Indian society while facing countless challenges.

Baba Saheb believed that democracy should not only be a system of governance but also

the foundation of social and economic equality. With this belief, he embedded values like equality, freedom, and justice into the Indian Constitution, giving it the power to address socio-economic disparities and provide equal opportunities to all. His contribution extended beyond drafting the Constitution—he gave Indian politics an inclusive and progressive direction. His ideas remain central to Indian democracy and continue to inspire the fight for social justice. He considered the caste system the greatest hurdle in Indian society and worked relentlessly to dismantle it. Today, his legacy inspires sensitivity to equality and human rights in Indian politics.

Baba Saheb's contribution to independent India was multifaceted. Beyond drafting the Constitution, he provided a strong foundation in social, economic, and political spheres. As the first Law Minister of independent India, he transformed the Constitution into an instrument of social revolution. He firmly believed that the success of the Constitution depends on the quality of its administrators.

His visionary thinking forms the cornerstone of Indian democracy today. He famously said, "No matter how good the Constitution is, if those who implement it are not good, it will be ineffective."

His thoughts and ideals are like a guiding light, leading Indian society toward equality, freedom, and justice.

Baba Saheb emphasized the importance of personal freedom, stating, "Equality and brotherhood are not possible without liberty." His vision for the Constitution centered on social, economic, and political justice, and its inclusion in the document reflects his philosophy. A staunch supporter of social equality, he deemed caste the greatest curse and advocated for its complete eradication. He believed that "true democracy cannot be established until caste discrimination is eliminated."

He championed education for the upliftment of the deprived, with his core mantra being: "Be educated, stay organized, struggle." His pioneering efforts for women's empowerment—especially through the Hindu Code Bill—ensured equal rights for women in property, divorce, and marriage.

Few know that Baba Saheb was also an accomplished economist. His book "The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution" offered a deep analysis of India's monetary policy, influencing the formation of the Reserve Bank of India. His contributions to water resource development and projects

like the Damodar Valley Project spurred industrial growth. He also introduced labor reforms, such as the 8-hour workday, minimum wages, and labor rights.

Baba Saheb often had ideological differences with the Congress Party, especially regarding Dalit and underprivileged representation in the freedom movement. He believed that Congress was indifferent to their plight and weakened his social reform agenda. He faced symbolic neglect even after death—denied a funeral space in Delhi and awarded the Bharat Ratna only in 1990, 34 years posthumously, by a non-Congress government. This neglect reflects Congress's disregard for his legacy, rooted in deeper ideological resistance, including opposition to caste-based reservations by leaders like Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi.

In contrast, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's government has revitalized Baba Saheb's memory and respect. The development of the Panchtirtha (Mhow, London, Nagpur, Delhi, Mumbai), the establishment of the Dr. Ambedkar International Center, the declaration of Ambedkar Jayanti as a public holiday, and the launch of the BHIM app all reflect efforts to honor him.

Baba Saheb's ideology resonates through initiatives like Jan Dhan, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, Mudra Yojana, and Stand-up India—schemes aimed at economic and social upliftment. Reforms such as the Triple Talaq law and the Citizenship Amendment Act reflect his vision of justice and equality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Skill India scheme empowers the youth of the country—especially those from underprivileged and weaker sections—by providing skill development training that enhances their employability. This initiative directly aligns with Dr. Ambedkar's vision of education and self-reliance for all. The Modi government's New Education Policy, which promotes inclusive education and the use of regional languages in instruction, represents a significant step toward making education more accessible to marginalized communities. Additionally, scholarship programs

**Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's thoughts and principles were relevant in his time, remain relevant today, and will continue to inspire and guide future generations**

for SC and ST students are clearly inspired by Dr. Ambedkar's commitment to educational equity and social upliftment.

Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar regarded the Indian Constitution as the foundation of democracy. In line with his philosophy, the Modi government has consistently worked to uphold constitutional values and has shown respect for the Constitution and the legal framework. The Citizenship Amendment Act, introduced by the Modi government to protect persecuted minorities from neighboring countries, reflects Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of justice and human rights.

Similarly, the Triple Talaq law, which safeguards the rights of Muslim women, draws inspiration from Baba Saheb's strong advocacy for women's empowerment and his support for a Uniform Civil Code.

Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's thoughts and principles were relevant in his time, remain relevant today, and will continue to inspire and guide future generations. His vision transcends eras, offering timeless guidance on social justice, equality, and empowerment. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's early life stands as a powerful example of struggle, determination, and inspiration, demonstrating how unwavering commitment to education and self-respect can overcome even the most difficult circumstances.

Despite facing social discrimination and financial hardships, Dr. Ambedkar's unwavering dedication to education and self-respect continues to inspire millions today. His life teaches us that no matter how challenging the circumstances, every obstacle can be overcome through education, dignity, and determination. His journey reminds us that personal development must go hand in hand with a commitment to the greater good of society. His philosophy encourages us to view adversity not as a setback, but as a force that strengthens us. These qualities make his life a timeless source of motivation, urging us to move forward and become an inspiration to others. ■

**(The Writer is BJP National General Secretary)**

# 36 lakh people in Delhi will be benefitted by the AB PM-JAY schem: JP Nadda

**T**he National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi achieved another significant milestone in healthcare by launching the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM- ABHIM), after the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of NCT, Delhi, on 10 April.

The signing ceremony was presided by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Chemicals and Fertilizers in presence of Smt. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister, Government of NCT Delhi; Shri Harsh Malhotra, Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Minister, Health and Family Welfare & Transport and Information Technology, Delhi; Shri Pravesh Sahib Singh, Minister, PWD, Legislative Affairs, Irrigation and Flood Control and Water, Delhi; Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister, Industries, Food & Supplies, Environment, Forest & Wildlife, Delhi; Shri Ashish Sood, Minister, Home, Power, Urban Development, Education, Training and Technical Education, Delhi and Shri Ravinder Singh, Minister, Social Welfare, Welfare of SC & ST, Cooperative, Delhi. The event was also attended by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Shri Manoj Kumar Tiwari, Shri Yogender Chandolia and Smt. Bansuri Swaraj) and Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi. Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary and Shri Dharmendra, Chief Secretary, NCT Delhi were also present during the event.

Addressing the gathering, Shri JP Nadda said that AB PM-JAY is the world's largest health coverage program under which 62 crore people are currently being benefitted. He said, "it is a moment of pride that 36 lakh people in Delhi will be benefitted by the AB PM-JAY scheme."

Shri Nadda also informed that with the implementation of AB PM-JAY in Delhi, all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be covered under Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana.

The union Health minister highlighted that "8.19 Crore people have already availed treatment under the scheme



and the government has cumulatively spent a total of Rs. 1.26 lakh crore for the same." He stated that out of these people, 19 lakh are downtrodden people who could not have afforded this treatment without the Ayushman Bharat health coverage. "As a result of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, out-of-pocket expenditure has declined from 62% to 38% today", he further stated.

## Health has always been a priority for the Union Government: Smt. Rekha Gupta

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Rekha Gupta stated, "Health has always been a priority for the Union Government. Besides improving health infrastructure and making quality and affordable medicines accessible to the masses, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasized on nutrition, yoga, meditation etc. which shows the emphasis being given to the health sector."

She informed that "for the NCT of Delhi, an amount of Rs. 1749 Crore has been approved for the establishment of 1139 Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM), the strengthening of 11 Integrated Public Health Laboratories (IPHLs), and 9 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) under PM-ABHIM during the scheme period."

Union Health Minister and other dignitaries distributed Ayushman cards of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to 30 beneficiaries of AB PM-JAY in Delhi. These beneficiaries represented different socio-economic profile of the population of the UT. Beneficiaries of the scheme in Delhi may now create their Ayushman cards. Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava stated that this is an important day for Delhi as joining PM-ABHIM will provide Delhi with resilient, inclusive and future ready health infrastructure, while under AB PM-JAY, beneficiary families in Delhi will be benefitted with Rs. 10 lakh health cover every year in any of the empaneled hospitals under the scheme. ■



## **Almost 3.52 crore people of Odisha will be covered under AB-PMJAY: JP Nadda**

Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister, Odisha, distributed cobranded cards of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana and Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana, in Cuttack on 11 April. The Ayushman Vaya Vandana Yojana was also launched during the event. Shri Jual Oram, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs; Shri Mukesh Mahaling, Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Odisha and Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly of Odisha were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Shri JP Nadda said that “today is a historic day for Odisha as the AB PM-JAY, the world’s largest health coverage program under which 62 crore people are currently being benefitted, will connect approximately 1.3 crore families, almost 3.52 crore people of Odisha.”

Shri Nadda informed that more than 8.19 crore people have availed services under the scheme and Rs 1.26 lakh crore have been spent under the same to provide healthcare services to the people of the country.

The Union Health Minister highlighted that around 61 crore people are covered under the scheme now. He said, “earlier, more than 55 crore people were covered under the scheme. Then ASHAs, Anganwadi workers and their families i.e. approximately 36 lakh people were added in the scheme. “In October last year, people over 70 yrs of age were covered under the scheme and now, with the implementation of Ayushman Vaya Vandana in Odisha, all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be covered”, he stated.

Shri Nadda pointed out that the out-of-pocket expenditure has declined from 62% to 38% today as



a result of the Ayushman Bharat scheme”. He also highlighted that under the 100-day TB Intensified Elimination Programme, Odisha proactively participated identified 16,500 new cases. “Under PM ABHIM, Rs. 1,411 crores have been provided for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure of Odisha”, he stated.

**From today onwards, beneficiaries of Odisha will get free healthcare facility: Mohan Charan Majhi**

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi highlighted that launch event as “another feather added to Odisha’s development story”. He stated that “from today onwards, beneficiaries of Odisha will get free healthcare facility. Odia people residing outside the state will also get the benefit. They can avail the facility in the hospitals outside the state.”

He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Ayushman Bharat scheme is benefiting people across the nation, especially the poor and underprivileged section.

Shri Majhi informed that more than 4,000 doctors have been appointed under the current administration and 5,000 more appointments are under process. He underlined the commitment of the state government to strengthen health infrastructure in the state and stated its aim to establish medical college in all the districts of the state.

Shri Jual Oram noted that tribals of Odisha will be greatly benefitted under the scheme. He stated that “people of the state are elated with the implementation of the scheme.”

Shri Mukesh Mahaling highlighted that “3.50 Cr people of the state will get health insurance cards under Ayushman Bharat & Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana and 23 lakhs elderly people in Odisha will also be benefitted under the Vaya Vandana Yojana.” ■

## PM Modi pays Tributes to Dr. BR Ambedkar on 135th Birth Anniversary

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 14 April 2025 paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, acknowledging his enduring influence on India's ongoing pursuit of social justice.

Taking to social media platform X, the Prime Minister said that Ambedkar's ideals continue to inspire the nation in building a self-reliant and developed India.

"On behalf of all the countrymen, I bow down to Bharat Ratna Pujya Babasaheb on his birth anniversary. It is due to his inspiration that the country is dedicatedly engaged in realizing the dream of social justice today. His principles and ideals will give strength and momentum to the creation of an 'Atmanirbhar' and 'Viksit' India," PM Shri Modi posted.

To mark the occasion, the Prime Minister also launched multiple development projects in Haryana. The Prime Minister flagged off a commercial flight from Hisar to Ayodhya and lay the foundation stone of various development initiatives in Yamuna Nagar and address a public gathering. ■



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**PM Shri Narendra Modi attends the delegation level talks with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on April 22, 2025**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian community at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on April 22, 2025**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Vice President of the United States, Mr. JD Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and children at his residence, in 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi on April 21, 2025**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju meeting the delegation of Dawoodi Bohra community, in New Delhi on April 17, 2025**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi chairs meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), in New Delhi on April 23, 2025**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in National Panchayati Raj Day programme in Madhubani, Bihar on April 24, 2025**





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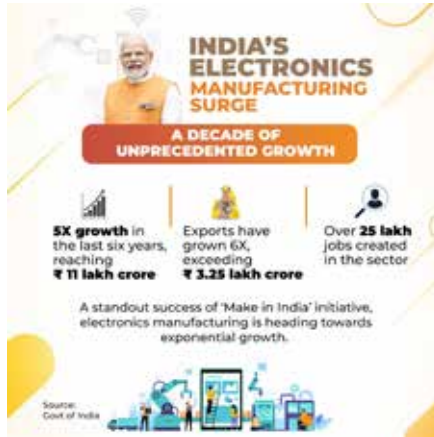
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