

# KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 20, No. 15

01-15 August, 2025 (Fortnightly)

₹20



**"THIS IS INDIA'S TIGER HILL, IT  
WILL REMAIN INDIA'S TIGER HILL"**



**"CURRENT MONSOON SESSION IS A MOMENT OF  
GREAT PRIDE AND VICTORY CELEBRATION"**





BJP National President and Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda salutes the martyrs on the "Kargil Vijay Diwas Samaroh" in New Delhi on 26 July 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda discussing with His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enhance the economic partnership between the two countries in New Delhi on 13 July 2025



BJP National President and Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda, BJP National Vice President Shri Baijayant Panda, BJP National Gen. Secretary Shri Vinod Tawde and others listening "Mann ki Baat" in New Delhi on 27 July 2025



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing at the 'Uttarakhand Investment Festival 2025' in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, on 19 July 2025



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participating at the 'Cooperation and Employment Festival,' in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 17 July 2025



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paying tributes to India's bravehearts on Kargil Vijay Diwas at National War Memorial, in New Delhi on 26 July 2025

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## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

**@Narendramodi**



India is honoured to work closely with the Maldives in areas such as housing, connectivity, infrastructure, defence, digital technology and more. Climate change and renewable energy are also two vital pillars of our bilateral cooperation.

(25 July, 2025)

**@JPNadda**



India and the UK have signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement, opening a new chapter in our bilateral ties. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi ji, this deal gives Indian exports duty-free access to the UK market and offers a big boost to sectors like agriculture, pharma, chemicals, MSMEs, and labour-intensive industries. This is more than just a trade pact. It represents a leap towards the vision of 'Make in India for the World'. The agreement will further strengthen our strategic partnership with the UK and unlock new opportunities for trade, investment and economic growth.

(24 July, 2025)

**@AmitShah**



Gratitude to Modi Ji for boosting Bharat's renewable energy sector through two significant decisions at the Union Cabinet today. Increasing investment limits of NTPC and NGEL in the sector to ₹20,000 crore will speed up our journey towards achieving the goal of producing 60 GW of green energy by 2032. On the other hand, the special exemption provided to NLC India Limited (NLCIL) will enable it to invest ₹7,000 crore in green energy, standing out as our firm commitment to creating a greener Bharat and a healthier planet.

(16 July, 2025)

**@Rajnathsingh**



The arrival of the first batch of Apache helicopters for the Indian Army is a significant step towards strengthening India's defence capabilities. These advanced helicopters will enhance the Army Aviation wing's operational effectiveness, specially in challenging terrains. A proud moment reflecting our commitment to modernising the Armed Forces

(22 July, 2025)

**@B.L Santhosh**



It takes tonnes of patience, total commitment to national interests & a sense of universal brotherhood (Vasudaiva Kutumbakam) to achieve the impossible in Diplomacy. PM Sri @narendramodi achieved exactly the one with Maldives.

(25 July, 2025)

**@Dharmendra Pradhan**



In the field of education, India and UK are writing a new chapter. Six UK universities are opening campuses in India. Just last week, the University of Southampton's campus was inaugurated in India's Gurugram city.

(24 July, 2025)

**₹4,800 CRORE**  
Push for Tamil Nadu by  
**PM MODI**

**NEW AIRPORT**  
20L flyers, export-ready cargo

**HIGHWAY UPGRADES**  
NH-36 & NH-138 = faster freight

**POWER LINE**  
Kudankulam power transmission line

**BOOST FOR TN'S YOUTH MSMEs & STARTUPS**

**FROM PORTS TO POWER, TAMIL NADU IS RISING**



**KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR**  
wishes a very happy  
**RAKSHA BANDHAN** (09 AUGUST)  
to all of its readers



# DEMOCRACY WILL THRIVE AND PROSPER

While the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi called the current Monsoon Session as a moment of pride and an occasion for victory celebration, it is highly unfortunate to note that the Congress led Opposition is bent upon disrupting the proceedings of both the houses of the Parliament. The Monsoon Session 2025 is an occasion to salute the valour and courage of Indian armed forces and celebrate the glorious success of Operation Sindoor but it is highly regrettable that the first week of the session, commencing July 21, 2025, was marred by repeated disruptions led by Congress led Opposition resulting in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha being adjourned several times daily, often within minutes of proceedings beginning. No meaningful legislative work was completed. It has created a situation wherein the functioning of the Parliament has become difficult in contravention to the principles of healthy democratic system.

From the very first day, it became clear that the opposition had chosen a path of confrontation rather than discussion. Instead of making use of the robust tools available in a democracy, questioning, debating, moving motions, or issuing censures, opposition members repeatedly brought normal proceedings to a standstill. The strategy seemed to prioritize showmanship over substance, with frequent shouting, sloganeering, and displays of placards inside the chambers. Its interruption not only prevented ministers from answering to elected representatives, but also deprived citizens of the transparency and accountability such proceedings are meant to guarantee. The purpose of Parliament, providing a forum for open discussion of laws and policies, was thus left unfulfilled and with no business transacted in Parliament, taxpayer's money gets wasted every minute.

**It is highly unfortunate to note that the Congress led Opposition is bent upon disrupting the proceedings of both the houses of the Parliament**

The tactics employed by the opposition were widely criticized. Speaker Om Birla and senior government ministers decried the disruptions as “undemocratic” and called for a return to orderly discussion. What is especially notable about the disruptions is their effect on the perception and credibility of the opposition itself. While parliamentary democracy absolutely requires a strong and vocal opposition to challenge the government and bring diverse opinions to the fore, this role is best played through evidence-based arguments and focused debate. Instead, the visible preference for disruption came off as a rejection of the very mechanisms designed to empower contrary voices within the parliamentary system.

The 2025 Monsoon Session's disruptions also brought into question the health of parliamentary democracy more broadly. Indian democracy has always prized debate, allowing even heated disagreements to be worked out through structured, reasoned dialogue. The repeated resort to noise and interruption in place of traditional debate undermines this ethos. It diverts attention from urgent legislative business and signals to the public that Parliament is more theater than workshop for national progress. At a deeper level, this approach risks eroding trust in the institution itself. This damages the opposition more than anyone else, as their vital role in questioning and improving government actions is devalued by persistent obstruction.

In summary, the Monsoon Session of 2025 has provided a cautionary tale in the misuse of parliamentary tactics. Instead of advancing their priorities through argument and alliance-building, the opposition undermined both their credibility and the effectiveness of Parliament. The events serve as a reminder that in a democracy, the power to dissent comes with the responsibility to do so constructively. Disruption for its own sake sets back not just the government, but the nation's progress, weakening the very system the opposition is meant to defend.

When the parliament should have joined the nation in celebrating the remarkable success of Operation Sindoor and rejoiced the historic unfurling of tricolour in the International Space station for the first time, it's highly condemnable that the Congress led Opposition has resorted to tactics which is depriving the nation of such glorious moments. As the nation marches ahead under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to realise the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', the nation will defend the parliamentary system and democracy even in the face of demoralizing tactics by the Opposition. While the nation continues to progress with unprecedented achievements, democracy will thrive and prosper. ■



## **MONSOON SESSION STANDS AS A PROUD MOMENT FOR THE NATION, A TRUE CELEBRATION OF OUR COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS: PM**

**The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the media before the start of the Monsoon Session of 2025 at the Parliament premises on 21 July 2025. Welcoming everyone to the Monsoon session, the Prime Minister remarked that the monsoon symbolises innovation and renewal, highlighting that current weather conditions across the country are progressing favourably, bringing beneficial forecasts for agriculture. Shri Modi stated that, based on current information, water reservoir levels this year have tripled compared to the past ten years. This increase, he emphasized, will significantly benefit India's economy in the coming days**

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "The current monsoon session is a moment of great pride for the nation, it represents a celebration of victory for India", stated the Prime Minister, underlining the historic moment when the Indian tricolour flag was unfurled at the International Space Station for the first time, calling it a source of immense pride for every Indian citizen. He emphasized that this achievement has sparked new enthusiasm and excitement across the country for science, technology, and innovation. Shri Modi further noted that the entire Parliament—both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha—as well as the people of India are united in expressing their pride in this accomplishment. He added that this collective celebration will serve as inspiration and

encouragement for India's future space exploration missions.

### **Strength and capability of India's armed forces**

Describing the current monsoon session as a celebration of India's victories, Shri Modi stated that the world has witnessed the strength and capability of India's armed forces. Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister highlighted that the Indian Army achieved its targeted objectives with 100 percent success. He emphasized that in just 22 minutes, under Operation Sindoor, India's forces neutralized high-value targets at their own bases. He mentioned that he had announced this operation at a public event in Bihar, and the armed forces proved their mettle swiftly. Shri Modi noted



growing global interest in India's emerging "Made in India" defence capabilities, sharing that during his recent international interactions, world leaders have expressed admiration for India's indigenously developed military equipment.

### **Naxalism and Maoism rapidly shrinking**

The Prime Minister highlighted that the nation has long suffered from various violent incidents, be it terrorism or Naxalism, which have persisted since independence. Remarking that the geographical spread of Naxalism and Maoism is now rapidly shrinking, Shri Modi stated that India's security forces, with renewed confidence and accelerated efforts, are progressing steadily toward the goal of completely eliminating Naxalism and Maoism. With pride, he affirmed that hundreds of districts across the country are now breathing free, having emerged from the grip of Naxal violence.

### **World's third-largest economy**

Highlighting that when their government took charge in 2014, India was part of the Fragile Five economies, the Prime Minister said that at that time, India held the 10th position in the global economic rankings, but today, India is moving rapidly toward becoming the world's third-largest economy and is knocking on the doors of that milestone. He emphasized that 25 crore people have emerged from poverty, a transformation that has been widely recognized and appreciated by global institutions. Shri Modi noted that prior to 2014, India grappled with double-digit inflation. "Today, with inflation rates hovering around 2 percent, citizens are experiencing relief and improved ease of living. The low inflation coupled with high growth reflects a strong and steady development journey", stated Shri Modi.

Highlighting India's major achievements at a recent global summit of international organizations, Shri Modi cited the International Labour Organization (ILO), which reported that over 90 crore individuals in India are now covered under social security, a landmark accomplishment in social welfare. The Prime Minister also referenced the World Health Organization (WHO), which has declared India free of trachoma, an eye disease commonly seen during the monsoon season. He emphasized that this

recognition marks a significant milestone in India's public health efforts.

### **Exposed Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism**

Recalling the brutal killings in Pahalgam that shocked the world and brought global attention to terrorism and its sponsors, the Prime Minister remarked that in response, representatives from most political parties and states rose above partisan interests and embarked on international outreach in service of the nation. He highlighted the success of this unified diplomatic campaign, which exposed Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism on the global stage.

Shri Modi expressed confidence that collective efforts will strengthen India's pursuit of self-reliance in the defence sector. He urged the nation to recognize and applaud the strength of the armed forces. Addressing the public and political parties, the Prime Minister highlighted the strength that comes from unity and the impact of speaking in one voice. He called upon all Members of Parliament to advance this sentiment in Parliament. Acknowledging the diversity of political parties and their respective agendas, Shri Modi stated that while opinions may differ on party interests, there must be harmony of intent in matters of national interest. He concluded by reaffirming that this session will include several proposed bills aimed at boosting the nation's development, empowering citizens, and strengthening India's progress. He extended his best wishes to all Members of Parliament for productive and high-quality debates.

### **Highlights**

- The world has witnessed the strength of India's military power.
- In Operation Sindoor, Indian soldiers achieved their objective with 100% success.
- Today, the influence of Naxalism and Maoism is shrinking rapidly.
- The red corridors of the past are now transforming into green zones of growth and development.
- The brutal massacre in Pahalgam shocked the entire world.
- Rising above party lines, representatives from across India united to expose Pakistan's role. ■



## BIHAR'S PROGRESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR INDIA'S PROGRESS : PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation development projects worth over Rs 7,000 crore in Motihari, Bihar on July 18, 2025. Offering his salutations at the feet of Baba Someshwarnath during the sacred month of Sawan, the Prime Minister sought blessings, expressing his wish for happiness and prosperity in the lives of all residents of Bihar. Addressing the gathering, Shri Modi said this is the land of Champaran, a land that has shaped history. During the freedom movement, this land gave Mahatma Gandhi a new direction. He emphasized that the inspiration from this very land will now shape Bihar's new future. He extended congratulations to all present and to the people of Bihar for these development initiatives.

### New momentum in development

Shri Modi remarked that the 21st century is witnessing rapid global progress, noting that the dominance once held solely by Western nations is now increasingly shared by Eastern countries, whose participation and influence are growing. He emphasized that Eastern nations are now gaining new momentum in development. Drawing a parallel, the Prime Minister stated that just as Eastern countries are advancing globally, in India, it is the era of the eastern states. He affirmed the government's resolve to ensure that, in the coming times, Motihari in the East becomes as prominent as Mumbai in the West. Shri Modi envisioned equal opportunities in Gaya as

in Gurugram, industrial growth in Patna akin to Pune, and development in Santhal Pargana comparable to Surat. He expressed hope that tourism in Jalpaiguri and Jajpur would set new records like Jaipur, and that the people of Birbhum would progress like those in Bengaluru.

### Determination of its mothers and sisters

Crediting Bihar's progress to the strength and determination of its mothers and sisters, Shri Modi stated that women in Bihar clearly understand the significance of every step taken by their government. He acknowledged the large presence of women at the event and recalled the days when they had to hide even Rs. 10, lacking access to bank accounts, and were denied entry into banks. The Prime Minister affirmed his understanding of the dignity of the poor and recounted how he questioned banks on why their doors were closed to the underprivileged.

He highlighted the massive campaign launched to open Jan Dhan accounts, which greatly benefited women, with approximately 3.5 crore women in Bihar now having Jan Dhan accounts. Shri Modi emphasized that government scheme funds are now being transferred directly into these accounts. He further mentioned that the Bihar government, under Shri Nitish Kumar, recently increased the monthly pension for the elderly, differently-abled, and widowed mothers from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,100. The Prime Minister pointed out that this money is being deposited directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. He further



## PM DEDICATES PROJECTS WORTH 7,000 CRORE IN MOTIHARI, BIHAR

stated that in the past one and a half months alone, over 24,000 self-help groups in Bihar have received more than Rs. 1,000 crore in assistance, attributing this success to the financial empowerment provided by Jan Dhan accounts held by mothers and sisters.

### **Bihar will advance when its youth move forward**

‘Bihar’s progress is essential for India’s progress’, Shri Modi emphasized that Bihar will advance only when its youth move forward. He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to a prosperous Bihar and employment for every youth. The Prime Minister stated that significant efforts have been made in recent years to create employment opportunities within Bihar itself, commending Shri Nitish Kumar’s government for appointing lakhs of youth in government roles with full transparency. He noted that new resolutions have been taken by Bihar Chief Minister to further employment for Bihar’s youth, and assured that the Central Government is fully supporting these efforts shoulder to shoulder.

### **Youth are now dreaming big**

The Prime Minister highlighted the decisive action taken against Naxalism in recent years, which has greatly benefited the youth of Bihar. He stated that districts like Champaran, Aurangabad, Gaya, and Jamui—once held back by Maoist influence—are now witnessing the decline of extremism. He emphasized that in areas once overshadowed by Maoist violence, youth are now dreaming big, and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to completely freeing India from the grip of Naxalism.

“This is a new India—an India that spares no effort in punishing the enemies, mobilizing forces from both land and sky”, declared Shri Modi, recalling that it was from the soil of Bihar that he had resolved to launch Operation Sindoor. He affirmed that today, the success of that operation is being witnessed by the entire world.

### **Bihar lacks neither capability nor resources**

The Prime Minister affirmed that Bihar lacks neither capability nor resources and today, Bihar’s resources are becoming instruments of its progress. He highlighted the rise in makhana prices following

efforts by their government, attributing it to the integration of makhana farmers with larger markets. He also mentioned the formation of a Makhana Board to further support this sector. Shri Modi listed several key products—banana, litchi, Mircha rice, Katarni rice, Zardalu mango, and Maghai paan—as examples of Bihar’s agricultural richness. He emphasized that these and many other products will connect Bihar’s farmers and youth to global markets.

### **Increasing farmers’ produce**

Stating that increasing farmers’ produce and income is a top priority for the government, Shri Modi highlighted that under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, approximately Rs. 3.5 lakh crore has been disbursed to farmers across the country. He noted that in Motihari alone, over 5 lakh farmers have received more than Rs. 1,500 crore through this scheme.

Highlighting the inauguration and foundation laying of railway and road projects worth thousands of crores, Shri Modi stated that these projects will significantly enhance convenience for the people of Bihar. He also flagged off the Amrit Bharat Express on four different routes across the country. The Prime Minister also highlighted that the Amrit Bharat Express will now run directly from Motihari-Bapudham to Anand Vihar, Delhi, mentioning that the Motihari railway station is being redeveloped with modern facilities and a new look. He added that the doubling of the Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj rail line will greatly improve travel convenience on this route.

### **Dedicated efforts of Bihar Government**

Prime Minister Shri Modi praised the dedicated efforts of the current Bihar Government and urged everyone to collectively accelerate Bihar’s development and move toward a brighter future. He concluded by calling for a shared resolve to build a new Bihar and congratulated the people for the development projects inaugurated today.

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

# VIKSIT BANGLA MODI KI GUARANTEE

In a stirring address to an enthusiastic crowd in Durgapur, West Bengal on July 18 2025, PM Shri Narendra Modi reignited the dream of a Viksit Bengal and assured the people that change is not just possible but inevitable. From invoking Bengal's proud industrial and cultural legacy to exposing TMC's failures, PM Shri Modi presented a clear roadmap for restoring the state's glory and integrating it into the journey of Viksit Bharat. He reaffirmed his unwavering commitment with a resounding assurance: "Viksit Bangla, Modi ki Guarantee!"

PM Shri Modi paid tribute to Bengal's visionary leaders like Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Dr. B.C. Roy, Dwarkanath Tagore, and Sir Biren Mukherjee, who once made the state the industrial heart of India. "Durgapur, Asansol, Bardhaman once drove India's industrial growth, but under TMC, industries are shutting down, and youth are forced to migrate for jobs," he said. He pledged that with a BJP government, Bengal can once again become one of India's top industrial states.

## TMC's violence, corruption, and syndicate raj

Exposing how TMC's violence, corruption, and syndicate raj have created an anti-investment environment, Shri Modi declared, "TMC's goonda tax and mafias drive investors away and deprive the youth of opportunities. The day TMC's wall of obstruction falls, Bengal will soar on the wings of development." He urged voters to "TMC hatao, Bangla bachao" to ensure security for people and businesses alike.

Shri Modi sharply criticised the TMC's systemic fraud and corruption in education and jobs, which have ruined the careers of thousands. "From the teacher recruitment scam to the growing insecurity for daughters even in hospitals and colleges, TMC has betrayed Bengal's youth," he said, citing the recent incidents of atrocities against young women and how TMC leaders shield the guilty.

Emphasising BJP's deep roots in Bengal's soil, PM Shri Modi assured that BJP stands for preserving



Bengali culture, pride, and identity. He slammed TMC's appeasement politics and support for infiltrators, calling it a grave threat to Bengal's culture and India's security.

Shri Narendra Modi highlighted how TMC blocks central schemes and stalls development projects funded by thousands of crores from Delhi. From PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, to Har Ghar Jal, he listed schemes that TMC has deliberately denied to the poor and tribal communities. "BJP's double-engine government will ensure that every family in Bengal benefits from these welfare schemes — this is Modi ki Guarantee," he reiterated.

Shri Modi also reminded the people that it was the BJP government that honoured Bengali pride by granting Bangla the status of a Classical Language — a fitting tribute to literary legends like Bishnu Dey.

PM Shri Modi urged the people of Durgapur and West Bengal to give the BJP a chance to form a government that is honest, efficient, and strong. "Viksit Bangla, Modi ki Guarantee. Viksit Bangla, BJP-r Shankalpo!" he declared to thunderous applause.

## PM Modi launches multiple projects worth over ₹5,400 crore in Durgapur, West Bengal

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation development projects worth over Rs 5,400 crore in Durgapur, West Bengal today. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that Durgapur, known as a Steel City, is also a major hub of India's labour force. He acknowledged the



significant contribution to India's development and stated that today presents an opportunity to further strengthen that role. Shri Modi emphasized that the projects launched today will enhance connectivity in the region and boost gas-based transport and the gas-based economy and reinforce Durgapur's identity as a Steel City. The Prime Minister added that these projects align with the vision of "Make in India, Make for the World," and will help propel West Bengal forward. He affirmed that numerous new employment opportunities will be created for the youth of the region. He extended heartfelt congratulations to all for these development projects.

### **India's resolve to become a developed nation**

The Prime Minister stated that the global discourse today revolves around India's resolve to become a developed nation. He attributed this to the transformative changes underway in India, which are laying the foundation for a developed Bharat. Emphasising that a major aspect of these changes is infrastructure including social, physical, and digital, Shri Modi highlighted key achievements: over 4 crore pucca houses for the poor, crores of toilets, more than 12 crore tap water connections, thousands of kilometers of new roads and highways, new railway lines, airports in small towns, and widespread internet access reaching every village and household. He affirmed that this modern infrastructure is benefiting every state, including West Bengal. The Prime Minister also noted unprecedented progress in train connectivity in West Bengal, stating that Bengal is among the leading states operating a large number of Vande Bharat trains. He highlighted the rapid expansion of the Kolkata Metro and ongoing work on new rail lines, track doubling, and electrification. Shri Modi further mentioned that numerous railway stations are being modernized and a large number of rail overbridges are being constructed.

### **Generates employment for thousands of youth**

Highlighting that the region's airport has been integrated with the UDAN scheme, Shri Modi pointed out that over 5 lakh passengers have traveled through this facility in the past year alone. He emphasized that such infrastructure not only enhances convenience but also generates employment for thousands of

youth. He noted that even the production of raw materials used in these projects is creating substantial job opportunities.

### **In 11 years India made unprecedented progress**

Underlining that in the past 10–11 years, India has made unprecedented progress in gas connectivity, the Prime Minister stated that LPG has reached households across the country during this decade, earning global recognition. He emphasized the government's work on the "One Nation, One Gas Grid" vision and the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Yojana. Under this initiative, gas pipelines are being laid across six eastern states, including West Bengal. Noting that the goal is to deliver affordable piped gas to industries and kitchens in these states, the Prime Minister remarked that gas availability will enable vehicles to run on CNG and industries to adopt gas-based technologies. He expressed satisfaction that Durgapur's industrial region has now become part of the National Gas Grid. Shri Modi stated that this project will benefit industries in the area and deliver affordable piped gas to nearly 30 lakh households in West Bengal. He affirmed that this will ease the lives of millions of families, especially mothers and sisters, and generate employment for thousands.

The Prime Minister announced that major steel and power plants in Durgapur and Raghunathpur have been upgraded with new technology, stating that an investment of approximately Rs. 1,500 crore has been made in these facilities. He emphasized that these plants are now more efficient and capable of competing globally.

The Prime Minister stated that whether in India's factories or its fields, every effort is being driven by a single resolve—to make India a developed nation by 2047. He outlined the government's path forward: empowerment through development, self-reliance through employment, and good governance through responsiveness. Shri Modi concluded by affirming that by upholding these values, West Bengal will be made a strong engine of India's development journey.

The Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Union Ministers Shri Hardip Singh Puri, Shri Shantanu Thakur, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar were present among other dignitaries at the event. ■

# Power to the People

## The Boom and Transformation of Cooperatives in India

India is witnessing a resurgence of its cooperative culture, with grassroots institutions emerging as powerful engines of socio-economic empowerment and inclusive growth. A remarkable example of the transformative power of cooperatives in India comes from Rajasthan's Borkheda Gram Seva Sahakari Samiti. Established in 1954 with just 15 members and a share of only Rs. 30, the society has grown into a thriving institution with over 8,299 members and share of Rs. 107.54 Lakh today—more than 70% of whom belong to marginalised communities. Over the decades, it has evolved far beyond its agricultural roots. It now operates a Mini Bank with three branches and, in 2018–19 alone, it mobilised deposits worth Rs. 4.55 crore. Its e-Mitra Plus centre provides critical citizen services ranging from insurance and Aadhaar-linked facilities to caste and income certificates and utility bill payments. The cooperative society has been honoured with the NCDC National Cooperative Excellence Award (2010) and the NCDC Zonal Award (2018). This transformation is not an isolated case—it is part of a nationwide movement to revitalise the cooperative sector.

At present, India has more than 8.44 lakh cooperative societies spanning 30 sectors, including credit, housing, marketing, dairy, fisheries, and more—functioning as essential instruments for rural credit, self-employment, and collective economic strength.

The momentum of growth is visible even among children in Gujarat. The Bal Gopal Savings and Credit Cooperative Society, based in Sabarkantha, is India's only cooperative exclusively for children aged 0–18. Through this unique "Baal Bachat Sanskar" model, children are given saving boxes, and the amounts collected each month are deposited into their bank accounts at 6% annual interest. As of March 2024, 19,020 child members from 335 villages have saved Rs. 17.47 crore. The cooperative also extends self-guaranteed loan to the guardian of a member child and loan against property for child's higher education. A total of 1,070 children's guardians have been given loans and a total of 5,370 children have been financially counselled.

The wave of transformation began in 2021 with the creation of the Ministry of Cooperation. In just four years, it has launched 61 structured initiatives designed to modernise, digitise, and diversify cooperative societies.

In Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, the

Arakandanallur PACCS offers a powerful example of digital preparedness. When devastating floods destroyed its physical infrastructure and paper records, the society's prior adoption of PACS computerisation and cloud-based storage enabled swift recovery. Staff accessed member and transaction data remotely, and services resumed quickly, with minimal disruption. This case has since become a model for disaster-resilient cooperative design. Similar is the case of the Kharsai Vividha Karyakari Society in Maharashtra.

The government's strategy also includes massive expansion. As of July 22, 2025, 23,173 new multipurpose PACS, dairy, and fisheries cooperatives have been registered. These PACS are being designed to handle grain storage, fertiliser and seed distribution, LPG and petrol pumps, and Jan Aushadhi Kendras, based on a single ERP-based digital architecture.

**The vision is clear:** one cooperative in every village, functioning as a multi-service hub.

The digital shift isn't limited to finance. As of March 31, 2025, 667 cooperative societies have been registered as buyers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Efforts are also being made to onboard cooperatives as sellers to boost rural artisans' access to national markets. By March 31, 2025, 2,986 transactions have taken place by these cooperative societies, amounting to Rs 319.02 crore.



Moving from the digital to the sustainable, the Dhondi Solar Energy Producer Cooperative Society in Gujarat's Kheda district is a notable example. Registered in collaboration with Tata Consulting and IWMI, it is India's first cooperative solar energy society. Solar panels have been installed in the fields of 9 out of 12 farmer-members to irrigate their land using solar power, and sell surplus energy to the state grid. In two years, they've earned Rs. 8 lakh through green energy, reducing dependence on diesel and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Cooperatives in India are increasingly serving as local community hubs, offering a unified platform for financial services, educational development, welfare schemes, healthcare access, and essential utilities—fostering inclusive development at the grassroots level. Stories from West Bengal further reinforce this nationwide momentum.

The Madhusudankati Agricultural Credit Society (SKUS) has gone from basic agri-credit to becoming a full-service multipurpose PACS. It extends Kisan Credit Card and Self-Help Group loans, operates as a retail and wholesale dealer of fertilisers and pesticides—including IFFCO and BENFED products. The Society also runs a Custom Hiring Centre, Rural Water Project, Agricultural Produce Procurement Centre, and consumer goods stores. In addition to its economic activities, it actively contributes to social welfare by organising health camps and operating a medical centre, children's park, and community centre. Similarly, the Murakata Samabay Krishi Unnayan Samity (SKUS) began with 45 members and had grown to 1,603 members by 2022.

In Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch district, the Gold MPCS Limited stands out for its comprehensive rural services. It provides crop loans, insurance, PM Surya Ghar scheme facilitation, and acts as a Common Service Centre (CSC). In FY 2023–24, the CSC of this society completed 641 transactions, while in FY 2024–25 (till November 11, 2024), it recorded 1,852 transactions, reflecting its growing popularity and usefulness. In the last six months, transactions worth Rs. 9.16 lakh were carried out through the CSC—helping citizens with PAN card generation, insurance, and bill payments. Similarly, in Kishtwar (J&K), the Atholi Multipurpose Cooperative Society acts as a lifeline for the local community. Operating under model bylaws,

the society runs a Jan Aushadhi Kendra and provides CSC services and nutritional supplies to Anganwadi centres. In FY 2024–25, its business turnover was Rs. 18.66 lakh, reflecting its growing commercial success and influence in the community.

India's cooperative reforms have also taken shape at the national level. In 2023, three multi-state cooperatives were formed to give cooperatives access to markets, branding, and export capacity:

- **National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)**
- **National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)**
- **Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)**

As of March 31, 2025, NCEL has already onboarded 8,863 PACS/cooperatives to facilitate collective exports. Further, NCEL has successfully exported approximately 13.08 LMT of agricultural commodities, including rice, wheat, maize, sugar, onion, and cumin seed, valued at Rs. 5,239.5 crore to 27 Countries. While, 5,185 PACS/ cooperative societies have become member of NCOL. NCOL has launched 21 products worth around Rs. 167.1 lakh under 'Bharat Organics Brand'. NCOL has also signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with nodal agencies across 10 states. On the other hand, 19,171 PACS/ Cooperative Societies have become member of BBSSL. BBSSL has been granted a seed license in 13 states.

Further, as part of the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025 declared by the United Nations, the Ministry of Cooperation has launched a comprehensive National Action Plan to position Indian cooperatives on the global stage. The plan focuses on showcasing India's successful cooperative models—like AMUL, IFFCO and KRIBHCO—through international exhibitions, documentation of best practices, and digital outreach. The government is also working to promote cooperative exports, support startups within cooperatives, and facilitate cross-country learning. The initiative aims to make India a global hub for cooperative innovation by leveraging its grassroots strength and vast membership base. India's cooperative boom is no longer an abstract ideal—it is a grounded, grassroots revolution.

Cooperatives are not just empowering people—they're reimagining what inclusive, democratic growth can look like. What began as a people's movement over a century ago may now be the key to India's equitable and inclusive growth. ■

## **CABINET APPROVES THE PRIME MINISTER DHAN-DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16 July approved the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana" for a period of six years, beginning with 2025-26 to cover 100 districts. Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana draws inspiration from NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme and first of its kind focusing exclusively on agriculture and allied sectors.

The Scheme aims to enhance agricultural productivity, increase adoption of crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices, augment post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improve irrigation facilities and facilitate availability of long-term and short-term credit. It is in pursuance of Budget announcement for 2025-26 to develop 100 districts under "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana". The Scheme will be implemented through convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments, other State schemes and local partnerships with the private sector.

100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement. The number of districts in each state/UT will be based on the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings. However, a minimum of 1 district will be selected from each state.

## **BIMA SAKHI SCHEME ENROLLS OVER 2 LAKH WOMEN**

The Government of India launched Bima Sakhi- "Mahila Career Agent (MCA) Scheme" on 9.12.2024. LIC has paid Rs 62.36 crore to Bima Sakhis as stipend in FY2024-25. In the current Financial Year(2025-26), LIC has provided a budget of Rs 520 crore for the scheme, out of which Rs115.13 crore has been paid up to 14.7.2025. At present, there are 2,05,896 Bima Sakhis in the country.

LIC provides opportunities to Bima Sakhis, in furtherance of their career by way of several performance-based incentives. Graduate Bima Sakhis, after completion of 5 years, may participate in the recruitment process for the post of Apprentice Development officers of LIC, upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

Apart from above, LIC pays stipend to Bima Sakhis for first 3 years from their appointment to support them build a life insurance agency career. The stipend scheme is in addition to their commission pay-outs and is subject to certain performance parameters. The amount of the stipend ranges from Rs 7000/- per month in the first year to Rs 5000/- in the third year.

This information was given by Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 21 July. ■

## **EPFO RECORDS ALL TIME HIGHEST ADDITION OF 20.06 LAKH NET MEMBERS DURING MAY 2025; 9.42 LAKH NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED**

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has released provisional payroll data for May 2025, revealing a net addition of 20.06 lakh members, marking the highest recorded addition since payroll data tracking began in April 2018. This figure depicts an increase of 4.79 % in net payroll additions during the current month as compared to the previous month of April 2025.

Further, the year-on-year analysis reveals a growth of 2.84 % in net payroll additions compared to May 2024, signifying increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives.

Speaking about this achievement, Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on 21 July said, "The EPFO has recorded an all-time high net member addition in May 2025, a testament to the growing strength of India's formal employment landscape. This historic achievement is the direct result of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visionary leadership and the government's unwavering commitment to pro-youth, pro-worker reforms. Under the Prime Minister's guidance, our focus on ease of doing business and economic empowerment is yielding tangible outcomes, and we remain dedicated to building a robust and inclusive labour ecosystem for a Viksit Bharat." ■

## **"MERI PANCHAYAT" APP WINS WSIS CHAMPION AWARD 2025**

The Government of India's mobile application "Meri Panchayat" received the World Summit on



the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2025 Champion Award under the category "Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content"

Awarded at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event held in Geneva from 7–11 July 2025, the honour was officially presented to Union Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh) at a ceremony in New Delhi on 21 July 2025. The event was attended by Minister of State Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj, and other senior officials.

Meri Panchayat, launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), is a pioneering m-governance platform serving over 25 lakh elected representatives and 950 million rural residents across 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats. The app offers features like real-time access to budgets, payments, Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), public infrastructure data, social audits, grievance redressal (geo-tagged/fenced), multilingual support in 12+ Indian languages, local weather forecasts, and participation tools such as project proposals and Gram Sabha agendas. ■

## PARLIAMENT PASSES 'BILLS OF LADING, 2025' ON FIRST DAY OF MONSOON SESSION, REPLACES 169 YEARS OLD COLONIAL-ERA SHIPPING LAW

On the first day of the Monsoon Session, Parliament passed the landmark 'Bills of Lading, 2025' bill, marking a significant milestone in India's maritime legislative reform. Tabled by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, the bill was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on July 21, 2025, after earlier approval by the Lok Sabha in March 2025, and now awaits Presidential assent.

The bill aims to replace the colonial-era Indian Bills of Lading Act, 1856, which had governed maritime shipping documentation for 169 years. The reform introduces a modern, simplified, and globally aligned framework that reflects India's constitutional values and economic aspirations under the Vision 2047 initiative for Viksit Bharat.

Shri Sonowal described the bill as a move toward eliminating colonial remnants and embracing statutes crafted for contemporary India. The new law adopts clear, business-friendly language, simplifies complex legal provisions, and introduces an enabling clause

allowing the Central Government to issue directions for effective implementation. It also includes repeal and saving clauses to ensure legal continuity.

By streamlining rights and obligations for carriers, shippers, and consignees, the bill reduces litigation risks and enhances Ease of Doing Business (EODB). Importantly, it aligns India's maritime documentation with international standards, thereby boosting India's global trade competitiveness.

Highlighting the strategic importance of maritime dominance, Sonowal invoked the adage, "Whoever rules the waves, rules the world," underscoring India's ambition to lead in the maritime domain. The bill represents a pivotal step in strengthening India's shipping infrastructure, ensuring legal clarity, and fostering an investor-friendly trade environment. ■

## SEMICONDUCTOR STARTUPS IN INDIA ATTRACTING RECORD INVESTMENT

The semiconductor design ecosystem in India is getting stronger day by day. Startups supported under the Ministry of Electronics and IT's (MeitY) Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme and Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme are now gaining significant traction.

### Netrasemi gets VC investments of Rs. 107 cr

Netrasemi, a startup supported under the government's chip design scheme, has received Venture Capital (VC) investment of Rs. 107 crore. The company is working on making chips for smart vision, CCTV cameras, and Internet of Things (IoT) applications.

Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, welcomed the development & stated, "India has significant design capabilities. With India Semiconductor Mission supporting Design in India, the success of Netrasemi will encourage other Indian startups."

### Commitment of Rs. 234 crore to Indian startups

Since the launch of the DLI Scheme in 2022:

- Government had committed the support of Rs. 234 crore for the chip design projects from 22 companies with a total project cost of Rs. 690 crore
- These chips will be used in CCTV cameras, mobile networks, satellites, cars, smart devices, etc.
- These startups have together raised over Rs. 380

## GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

crore from VC investors

- Five startups have already built and tested their chip designs with global chip manufacturers
- More than 72 companies have been given access to advanced software tools to help them design chips

### Few other examples of startups getting backed through private investment are as follows:

- Mindgrove Technologies (CCTV chip design) raised Rs. 85 crore
- Fermionic Design (satellite communication chip) raised Rs. 50 cr
- Morphing Machines, InCore Semiconductors, and BigEndian Semiconductors are progressing rapidly towards production stages

In the spirit of becoming a 'product nation', the government is encouraging young companies to take bold steps in chip design, while private investors are now supporting them to grow and bring their chips to the market. ■

## 10.18 CR WOMEN SCREENED FOR CERVICAL CANCER UNDER AYUSHMAN AROGYA MANDIRS AND NHM

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has achieved a major milestone in women's health with over 10.18 crore women aged 30 years and above screened for cervical cancer across the country. This achievement is part of the population-based initiative for screening, prevention, and management of Non-Communicable

Diseases (NCDs), being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) through the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs).

The initiative targets women aged 30 to 65 years, with screening primarily done using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) at Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres under AAM by trained health workers. VIA-positive cases are referred to higher centres for further diagnostic evaluation.

At the grassroots level, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) play a critical role by using Community Based Assessment Checklist (CBAC) forms to identify individuals at risk and facilitate their participation in regular health check-ups and screenings at AAMs. ASHAs also help generate awareness about the importance of early detection and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Under NHM, States and Union Territories are provided with dedicated funds for awareness generation activities as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

As of 20th July 2025, data from the National NCD Portal indicates that 10.18 crore women out of an eligible population of 25.42 crore females aged 30 years and above have been screened for cervical cancer—reflecting the government's strong commitment to comprehensive and preventive healthcare delivery through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on 26 July. ■

**KAMAL  
PUSHP**

Sahyog, Samarpan  
Aur Sanskar

**HARISHANKAR TIWARI**

Late Shri Harishankar Tiwari did his Post Graduate in Political Science from Banaras Hindu University in 1957. As a student, he was an active member and worker of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. During that time, roaming around villages, he was engaged in the work of strengthening the Jana Sangh. He actively participated in the underground

movement during the Emergency. In 1980, he contested elections from the Ramnagar Vidhan Sabha constituency of West Champaran under the Bharatiya Janata Party. He also took an active role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, and continued to work for the party and motivate the party workers till the last days of his life. He passed away on 23 June 2015. ■



स्व.हरिशंकर तिवारी

Date of Birth  
17/06/1932

State  
Bihar

Town/City  
रामनगर, बेतिया

Post in Organisation  
District Executive  
Member

Gender  
male

District  
Paschim  
Champaran

Level  
District

Active years  
1956-2004

## BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT ADDRESSES "KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS SAMARON"



**“This is India's Tiger Hill, it will remain India's Tiger Hill”**

**B**JP National President and Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda, while addressing the programme organized on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas at the BJP Central Office in New Delhi on 26 July 2025, saluted the brave soldiers and martyrs of the country who hoisted the flag of victory and bravery in the Kargil war and put their lives at stake and paid tribute to the martyrs.

Shri Nadda said that along with the bravery of the army, the role of policy makers is also important in the defense of the country. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has given a clear message by conducting surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor that India will enter the enemy's house to protect its citizens and this is the new normal of the New India.

The BJP National President said every year the brave sons of the country and their valour and the victory of Operation Vijay are remembered in the office of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Once again on this day, we salute their valour here, we remember those immortal martyrs with a heartfelt salute. 26 years ago, in February 1999, the Pakistani army had tried to capture Kargil sector, Drass sector, Batalik sector, Moscow sector and Tiger Hill by stabbing them in the back. In Kargil, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had ordered the army to take back that place and hoist the tricolor flag there, and he also gave the slogan that "This is India's Tiger Hill, it will remain India's Tiger Hill".

Shri Nadda said it was a very difficult battle because tactically and strategically the Pakistani army was sitting on the heights of Tiger Hill and the Indian Army was below, so the Indian Army was in a difficult situation

and the Pakistani Army was constantly watching the movements on India's National Highway. In such a situation, "Operation Vijay" started. Despite the height of 15,000 feet as well as icy winds, heavy rains, the warriors of Mother India fought this battle. After 81 days of fighting, the Indian Army won it and today, on 26 July, the whole country celebrates "Operation Vijay Diwas". In this operation, the Indian Air Force conducted Operation Safed Sagar, in which helicopters, MiG and Sukhoi aircraft contributed a lot, due to which India got this success. The biggest thing was that the soldiers of the Indian Army climbed a steep slope. By climbing straight up to about 1000 feet, where there was no place to hide, the Indian Army captured Tiger Hill and taught a befitting lesson to the Pakistani Army by fighting for five days.

Shri Nadda said India's defence production and defence exports have increased. 75% of the capital expenditure is now being spent on indigenous equipment. At one time, India did not have any aircraft other than Mig, but today India has 36 Rafale, 28 Apache helicopters and surface to air missiles. Earlier the Indian Army did not have bulletproof jackets, there was a shortage of assault rifles. Today India is not only making all these equipment, but is also exporting them.

This is the new India; this is the new normal. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Indians are moving towards a safe and self-reliant India. Today the whole country salutes the brave warriors who raised the flag of valor in Kargil and the BJP government is determined to ensure that their sacrifice is not wasted. Every citizen has a responsibility and the whole of India stands with the guards. ■





# PASSING THE MANTLE: HOW MODI JI BUILDS ON VAJPAYEE'S BLUEPRINT FOR VIKSHIT BHARAT



DR. K LAXMAN

Leadership, if understood in essence, is not defined by the power it wields but by the legacy it bequeaths. A true leader is the one whose actions leave behind a legacy that encourages others to dream bigger, learn further, achieve more and grow into better well rounded individuals, who work not only for themselves but also for society at large. India has produced many such great leaders but Atal Bihari Vajpayee stands apart as someone who is the epitome of this ideal. He was often referred to as 'Ajat Shatru-one with no enemies.

His ideas of politics, governance and inclusive development have inspired millions if not more in my generation. As a proud member of Parliament and a dedicated member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for Four decades, Atal ji's Ideas have inspired me deeply and his transformative leadership has been a guiding light. His ideas of inclusivity are now imbibed in the motto of PM Narendra Modi ji's government 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

Vajpayee ji's transformative ideas and his style of leadership has been an influence on me since

I was a young activist working with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and started my political activism at Osmania University in the 1970s.

After which when I joined the BJP in the 1980s and started working on grassroots as well as collaborating on national issues, Vajpayee ji's ideals profoundly shaped my own value system and furthered my actions. He has been

**A true leader is the one whose actions leave behind a legacy that encourages others to dream bigger, learn further, achieve more and grow into better well rounded individuals, who work not only for themselves but also for society at large**

a mentor not just for me but many others among my ranks.

I have had the unique privilege of working closely not only with Vajpayee ji but also under the visionary and transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has profoundly built on Atal ji's ideas. This essay is more of a tribute to these towering personalities; it is my heartfelt testament which tries to capture my personal interactions, my learnings and reflections on how Atal ji's ideas that inspired a generation are

now coming to fruition under the leadership of Modi ji, who has reinvigorated and expanded that vision into the 'NEW INDIA'.

## Ideas and Legacy of Vajpayee

Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was not just a leader of a party or the Prime Minister of a nation, he was a statesman whose very being radiated a blend of intellectual depth, poetic sensibility and an unwavering commitment to the Indian Ethos.

Many of Atal ji's speeches delivered in his own quintessential shayarana andaaz (poetic manner) with unparalleled eloquence are still listened to this day even among the young generations making them a form of legends. One of those speeches where a vote of no-confidence was issued against his government he says "Sarkare to ayengi jayengi, yeh desh rehna chahiye" (Government will come and go, this nation is what should remain and endure) shows his determination on putting nation first.

A reflection of this determination can be seen in India's current external policy, which Modi ji calls as the "India first" policy.

Atal ji's speeches also underscored his genuine care for the common people of the nation, he was someone whose vision was rooted in empathy and understanding rather than sympathy. He was a democrat who

believed in dialogue, consensus building and had a steadfast commitment to the democratic values that Bharat was built upon.

### **Vajpayee ji's Vision: Ideas that lit the path**

Atal ji's vision for the nation was far more comprehensive and far-reaching, it encompasses several key pillars that still continues to define India's Developmental trajectory, these include:

### **Inclusive Development: 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishvas'**

Modi ji slogan of Sabka saath, sabka vikas (Coming together, for everyone's growth and development), is inspired by Vajpayee ji's vision of Inclusive development, who championed the progress where no one is left behind. Vajpayee ji didn't think of inclusive development just as an economic strategy for growth but rather as a moral imperative of the leaders in power.

He firmly believed that the benefits of growth and development MUST reach every citizen, especially those who are socio-economically marginalized by their circumstances of birth based on caste, class or anything else.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee truly embodied Deen Dayal Upadhyay principle of 'Antyodaya,' which means upliftment of the last person. As a Prime Minister, Atal ji put these ideas into action by launching several initiatives such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. He recognised that education was the most effective tool for the empowerment of the marginalized

communities and for breaking the cycle of poverty. Therefore this was a monumental effort to universalize elementary education.

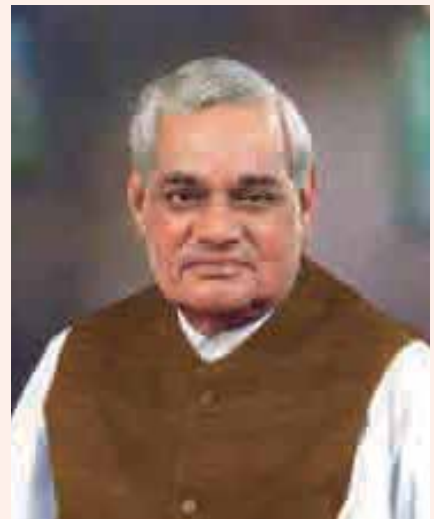
Atal ji understood that national progress could only be achieved when no one was left behind and therefore he also laid down the groundwork for rural development schemes which sought to improve the lives of many who were living in remote villages and cut off from the fruits of progress. His approach was not about handouts, but about creating opportunities and building capabilities for self-reliance. As self respect can only come from self-reliance.

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**Atal ji's vision for the nation was far more comprehensive and far-reaching, it encompasses several key pillars that still continues to define India's Developmental trajectory**

### **Paving the way of progress through modernization of Infrastructure**

Vajpayee ji's astute understanding of the crucial role that robust infrastructure plays in driving industrial and economic growth through national integration led him to initiate several infrastructure building projects. Most iconic of which would be the Golden Quadrilateral project which envisioned joining four of India's most developed metro cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, with a network of world-class highways across the length and breadth of the country.



This project was not just about building roads or a highway but rather about creating economic corridors, reducing travel time which will facilitate trade and foster regional development. I remember the excitement and skepticism surrounding the project initially, given its sheer scale. But Vajpayee Ji's resolve was unwavering. He saw it as a foundational step towards transforming India into a modern economic powerhouse.

Apart from the Golden Quadrilateral, recognising that connecting villages to markets and services was very crucial for rural prosperity, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna was started by Atal ji's government. Significant advancements were also made in the telecommunication sector during this time, which laid down the groundwork for the digital revolution that would follow. India is now, under Prime Minister Modi's government term, one of the countries with the cheapest internet and network charges in the world.

## **Self- Reliance in Nuclear Power**

Asserting sovereignty and resolve has been one of the Key hallmarks of the Indian Republic. Nowhere its importance was more underscored than in Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji government time during the Pokhran II nuclear tests back in 1998. This was perhaps one of the most defining decisions of Vajpayee ji's career which highlighted his visionary leadership and resolve toward self-reliance.

The bold decision to do the Pokhran II test dubbed popularly as Mission Shakti was taken in face of immense international pressure of economic sanctions and boycott from a superpower like the United States. For Atal ji, the sovereignty of India is not something that can be compromised with. He asserted his position powerfully on the global stage and dealt with the fallout with remarkable composure and diplomatic finesse.

He reiterated India's firm policy of 'No First Use' when it comes to nuclear weapons while also unequivocally establishing its strategic autonomy. This was one of the moments that filled the heart of every Indian nationalist with immense national pride and signaled the world that India was a nation that would stand firm on its principle, now and always, even when challenged.

## **Policy of Good Governance: People Centric Development**

Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and his government had an absolute commitment towards good governance. Atal ji believed in

the principles of transparency, accountability and stability of Democratic institutions. He navigated political challenges while leading a complex coalition government with a focus on consensus building and maintaining a stable administration.

Atal ji focused on people-centric policies, making sure government programs directly benefitted citizens who they govern. His focus on governance was pragmatic and yet principled. He consistently put the nation's welfare ahead of narrow political interest.

**For Atal ji, the sovereignty of India is not something that can be compromised with. He asserted his position powerfully on the global stage and dealt with the fallout with remarkable composure and diplomatic finesse**

## **Fostering National Unity: Advocating Harmony and Consensus**

In a nation as wonderfully diverse as India, the principle of unity in diversity stands as an undeniable reality. Atal ji, with his profound foresight, consistently championed national unity and harmony, frequently elevating discourse beyond the narrow partisan lines so as to forge consensus.

His nuanced approach towards the intricate Jammu and Kashmir issue was a testament to this philosophy, beautifully

encapsulated in his tripartite vision of: Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat and Kashmiriyat meaning humanity, democracy and the unique essence that is Kashmir. This guiding principle underscored his commitment to resolving complex challenges through open dialogue and genuine empathy, rather than resorting to forceful measures.

He was a leader who underscored the profound truth that Indian's strength lay in its diversity which was intricately woven into the fabric of the nation. He firmly believed that cultivating harmony among all stakeholders and communities is not only desirable but absolutely essential for propelling the nation forwards on its path of progress. He distinguished himself as a leader with a remarkable capacity to engage constructively with the opposition, patiently heading dissenting voices, and diligently seeking common ground. In doing so, he also personified the very essence and true spirit of parliamentary democracy.

My close association with Vajpayee Ji allowed me to witness firsthand his unwavering commitment to dialogue, his profound humility in leadership, and his unshakeable belief in a strong yet compassionate India. He taught me that leadership is not about dominating, but about serving; not about commanding, but about convincing; and not about personal glory, but about collective good...

**(To Be Continued) ■**

**(The Writer is National President - BJP  
OBC Morcha & MP, Rajya Sabha)**



# A Milestone visit in India-UK Comprehensive Partnership



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's official visit to the United Kingdom on July 24, 2025, marked a defining moment in the evolving relationship between India and the UK. At the invitation of British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi undertook a high-level visit, accompanied by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, and a delegation of senior officials and business leaders. This visit was both historic and forward-looking, culminating in the signing of landmark agreements and reaffirming the strategic depth of India-UK bilateral ties.

The highlight of the visit was the signing of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a transformative deal that is expected to significantly boost trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two countries. Signed in the presence of both Prime Ministers by India's Commerce Minister and the UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, the agreement lowers tariffs on a wide range of goods, especially labor-intensive sectors crucial for India like textiles, leather, seafood, toys, and gems and jewellery. The deal also opens Indian markets to key British exports such as medical equipment and aerospace components. Alongside CETA, a Double Contribution Convention was agreed upon, which will facilitate easier cross-border employment for professionals and service providers, reduce business costs, and enhance the ease of doing business in both countries.

This landmark trade agreement was further supported by the launch of the India-UK Vision 2035 document, an ambitious roadmap outlining strategic cooperation for the next decade. The vision is structured around five major pillars—economic growth and jobs, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate and clean energy, and education and people-to-people ties. Under this plan, India and the UK aim to deepen their collaboration in high-tech sectors including semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and biotechnology. The document also reaffirms the commitment of both nations to a rule-based global order and reforms in multilateral institutions like the UN, WTO, and IMF to reflect contemporary realities.

Prime Ministers Shri Modi and Starmer met with top

business leaders from both countries, representing sectors such as healthcare, IT, financial services, textiles, logistics, energy, and telecommunications. One of the major themes of the visit was educational cooperation. India and the UK pledged to expand transnational education by encouraging leading British universities to establish campuses in India. Notably, the University of Southampton recently opened its campus in Gurugram, becoming the first foreign university to do so under India's National Education Policy. Additional British institutions are expected to follow suit. The leaders also supported the implementation of the Green Skills Partnership, aimed at equipping the youth of both countries with skills in sustainability and climate-resilient industries. They also reaffirmed support for youth exchange programs such as the Young Professionals Scheme and Study India Programme.

In a special and personal gesture, Prime Minister Shri Modi met with His Majesty King Charles III at the Sandringham Estate. The meeting was warm and reflective of shared values, particularly in the areas of sustainable living, Ayurveda, and yoga. The two leaders discussed strengthening bilateral relations, the importance of climate action, and India's progress in the renewable energy sector. As part of India's tree plantation initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (One Tree for Mother), Prime Minister Shri Modi presented a sapling to King Charles, which is to be planted at Sandringham during the next planting season.

Both Prime Ministers took a strong stand against terrorism and extremism. They condemned the recent Pahalgam terror attack in India and resolved to work jointly to combat terrorism in all its forms. They emphasized the

## Unveiled the India-UK Vision 2035

To infuse long-term strategic energy into bilateral cooperation, the two Prime Ministers unveiled the India-UK Vision 2035—a transformative roadmap for the next decade. It is built around five key pillars:

- Growth and Jobs
- Technology and Innovation
- Defence and Security
- Climate and Clean Energy
- Education and People-to-People Ties

### The Vision 2035 document emphasizes mutual goals such as:

- Establishing transnational university campuses,
- Collaborating on semiconductors, AI, clean energy, and biotechnology,
- Advancing joint defence capabilities and maritime security,
- Accelerating green finance and

climate-smart investments,

- Strengthening the rules-based global order and reforming multilateral institutions.

### Signing of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

At the heart of the visit was the signing of the much-anticipated India-UK CETA by India's Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Mr. Jonathan Reynolds, in the presence of Prime Ministers Modi and Starmer.

- This FTA marks a significant milestone in India's engagement with major developed economies and reflects a shared commitment to strengthening economic integration. As the world's fourth and sixth largest economies respectively, India

and the UK's bilateral engagement holds global economic significance.

- CETA secures unprecedented duty-free access for 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering nearly the entire trade basket. This is expected to open new opportunities for labour-intensive industries such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery, alongside fast-growing sectors like engineering goods, auto components, and organic chemicals.
- The services sector, a strong driver of India's economy, will also see wide-ranging benefits. The agreement provides greater market access in IT and IT-enabled services, financial and legal services, professional and educational services, and digital trade.

need to prevent the misuse of democratic freedoms by extremist elements and agreed to intensify cooperation in law enforcement, intelligence sharing, and judicial collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the UK's National Crime Agency to facilitate cooperation in tackling transnational crimes and expediting the extradition of economic offenders.

In the sphere of global diplomacy, the two leaders discussed shared concerns related to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific, the war in Ukraine, and conflicts in West Asia. They emphasized the importance of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, and reiterated their commitment to development and diplomacy over expansionism and conflict.

Another important dimension of the visit was the recognition of the Indian diaspora in the UK, which Prime Minister Shri Modi described as a "living bridge" between the two nations. The diaspora's contributions to the UK's economy, culture, sports, public life, and innovation were acknowledged and celebrated. Upon his arrival, Prime Minister Shri Modi received a festive

welcome from members of the Indian community, reflecting the deep cultural ties between the two countries.

The visit concluded with Prime Minister Shri Modi extending an invitation to Prime Minister Starmer to visit India. Starmer accepted the invitation, affirming the desire of both governments to maintain high-level political engagement in the years ahead. Both sides also agreed to review the implementation of Vision 2035 annually through ministerial mechanisms, ensuring time-bound progress in all areas of cooperation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 2025 visit to the United Kingdom successfully elevated the India-UK relationship to a new strategic level. Through visionary agreements such as the CETA and Vision 2035, and through dynamic engagements across sectors, the visit reaffirmed both countries' commitment to building a partnership based on shared values, mutual interests, and long-term goals. As Prime Minister Shri Modi aptly put it, India and the UK are committed to building a "high-scoring solid partnership," driven by trust, innovation, and common purpose. ■



## PM's visit to the Republic of Maldives

# SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN REINFORCING INDIA'S COMMITMENT TO ITS "NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST" POLICY

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's two-day state visit to the Republic of Maldives on July 25–26, 2025, marks a significant step forward in reinforcing India's commitment to its "Neighbourhood First" and "Vision MAHASAGAR" policies. This visit, PM Shri Modi's third to the island nation and the first by a foreign head of government under President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's administration, underscores the deep-rooted strategic, developmental, and cultural ties between India and Maldives. The visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of Maldives' independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations with India, adding historic weight to the already vibrant partnership.

### Ceremonial Welcome and Diplomatic Engagements

Upon his arrival, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour and a cultural welcome at the airport—a special gesture by President Muizzu. Formal talks took place at the President's Office in Malé, where both leaders reaffirmed the robust and time-tested friendship between their nations.

### Key Agreements and MOUs

A pivotal outcome of the visit was the signing of six Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and agreements, reaffirming the expanding scope of India-Maldives collaboration:

### Prime Minister attends the 60th anniversary celebrations of the independence of Maldives as Guest of Honour

During his ongoing visit to Male, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 26 July attended the 60th anniversary celebrations of the independence of Maldives as the 'Guest of Honour'. This is the first time that an Indian Prime Minister is attending the Independence Day celebrations in Maldives. Prime Minister Modi is also the first foreign leader at the level of Head of State or Government to be hosted by President Muizzu.

Prime Minister, accompanied by H.E Dr. Mohammed Muizzu, President of Maldives, witnessed the Independence Day parade at Republic Square. On the occasion, Prime Minister extended warm greetings to the people and government of Maldives. The celebrations showcased a lively parade by the Maldivian National Defence Forces and other local units, along with a string of cultural performances that dwelt on the achievements of Maldives as a modern nation.

PM Shri Modi thanked President Muizzu and the people of Maldives for their gracious invitation.



1. **Fresh Line of Credit:** A Rs. 4,850 crore (~USD 550 million) concessional line of credit—the first ever denominated in Indian rupees—was extended to Maldives for critical infrastructure and development projects.
2. **Debt Relief:** An amendatory agreement on existing Lines of Credit reduced Maldives' annual debt repayment by 40%, from USD 51 million to USD 29 million.
3. **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** Strengthening one of Maldives' key economic sectors through knowledge and capacity-sharing.
4. **Meteorology Cooperation:** An MOU between Indian and Maldivian meteorological institutions to enhance weather forecasting and disaster preparedness.
5. **Digital Public Infrastructure and UPI Adoption:** Agreement to implement India's digital payment systems like UPI and RUPAY in Maldives, facilitating tourism and bilateral trade.
6. **Indian Pharmacopoeia:** Recognition of Indian pharmaceutical standards to boost medical trade and healthcare access.

The leaders also agreed to initiate negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty, offering new avenues for economic collaboration.

## Defence Cooperation and Infrastructure Projects

A major highlight was the joint inauguration of the new Ministry of Defence building in Malé, a state-of-the-art eleven-storey structure built with Indian financial assistance. This landmark symbolizes the shared commitment to maritime security and regional stability.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also handed over 72 vehicles and equipment for the Maldivian National Defence Force and immigration authorities, bolstering operational readiness.

### Further, he inaugurated:

- The Roads and Drainage System Project in Addu City.
- Six High-Impact Community Development Projects across various cities.
- 3,300 Social Housing Units in Hulhumalé, built under India's Buyer's Credit scheme.

These initiatives reflect India's dedication to improving infrastructure and community welfare in the Maldives.

## Humanitarian and Technological Cooperation

In a demonstration of India's commitment to regional health resilience, PM Shri Modi handed over two Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Health Cubes to the Maldivian government. Each unit can treat up to 200 casualties and sustain six medical personnel for up to 72 hours in emergencies.

Such collaborative tools represent the convergence of India's technological innovations and its humanitarian outreach.

## Environmental Commitment and Cultural Bonds

In a symbolic gesture of environmental solidarity, PM Shri Modi and President Muizzu planted mango saplings, linking India's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign with Maldives' "Pledge of 5 Million Trees". This not only reinforced ecological cooperation but also reflected shared civilizational values.

The leaders also unveiled commemorative stamps to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations, adding a cultural dimension to the strategic partnership.

## Regional and Global Cooperation

The two leaders committed to working together on climate change, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and other Global South priorities. As island nations vulnerable to climate shifts, India and Maldives reaffirmed joint action for sustainability and climate justice.

President Muizzu thanked India for its role as Maldives' First Responder during crises, while PM Shri Modi expressed gratitude for Maldives' condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, reflecting shared values in combating extremism.

## Outreach to Indian Diaspora and Maldivian Civil Society

On the second day, PM Shri Modi participated in Independence Day celebrations at Republic Square as the Guest of Honour, meet Indian community members and ITEC alumni, and engage with Maldivian political leaders, further strengthening people-to-people ties. ■

# PM MODI ENSURING UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY: AMIT SHAH

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the 'Uttarakhand Investment Festival – 2025', organized on the occasion of realisation of Rs. 1 lakh crore worth of investments in Uttarakhand, and inauguration and foundation laying ceremony of various development projects worth Rs. 1,271 crore by the state government on 19 July 2025. On this occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Yog Guru Baba Ramdev, along with several other dignitaries, were present.

Addressing the 'Uttarakhand Investment Festival 2025', Shri Amit Shah said that every time he visits Uttarakhand, he returns with a renewed sense of energy. He stated that during the 2023 Global Investors Summit held in Uttarakhand, when Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami informed him that the state had received MoUs worth Rs. 3.56 lakh crore, he had remarked that signing MoUs is not a major achievement—implementing them on the ground is the real challenge.

Shri Shah noted Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, despite all adverse circumstances and by breaking traditional perceptions, has successfully brought in investments exceeding Rs. 1 lakh crore in the state. He added that along with these investments, more than 81,000 jobs have been created in Uttarakhand. Additionally, it is estimated that ancillary industries will generate around 2.5 lakh new employment opportunities. Importantly, investment has reached even Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. He emphasized that industrial growth in the state has been pursued while maintaining a balance with environmental sustainability. He praised Chief Minister Shri Dhami for outlining a new roadmap for Uttarakhand's development, marked by transparency in policy, speed in implementation, and vision in planning.

Shri Amit Shah said that Modi Ji has drawn the blueprint for the development of the entire country. Whether it is development of infrastructure, bringing clarity in education policy, laying the foundation of



industrial development of the country, taking the economy forward, Modi Ji has made many records in every field. He said the Modi government has increased the length of national highways by 60 percent in the last 10 years. Work has been done to build 8 lakh kilometer of new roads in rural areas. Convenient 'Vande Bharat' trains have reached 333 districts of the country. 45 thousand kilometers of railway lines have been electrified. 88 new airports have been built and inland waterway cargo has increased 11 times. It is the result of these development works that Atal Ji had then brought the economy of this country at number 11 position, which Modi Ji has upscaled it from number 11 to number 4 in 10 years.

## Highlights

- The Union Home Minister congratulates the Uttarakhand Chief Minister and his team on bringing investment of more than one lakh crore in Uttarakhand to reality.
- Uttarakhand is an excellent example of balance between environment and industrial development.
- Ayurveda, Yoga, Organic Farming and Natural Treatment are set to become four important pillars of development of Uttarakhand.
- Opposition should stop the practice of disrupting development of states.
- Shri Narendra Shri Modi has busted the myth that industrial development and welfare of the poor can't take place simultaneously. ■



# BENCHMARK DEAL...

## TRADE WILL DOUBLE BY 2030



PIYUSH GOYAL

The landmark India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will make Indian farmers, fishermen, artisans and small businesses shine globally, create numerous jobs and help the common man get high-quality goods at competitive rates in line with PM's vision.

This follows similar agreements with other developed countries including Australia, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and UAE. It is a part of Modi gov't's strategy to maximise economic growth and job creation to achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047.

**GOI strategy |** In 2014, Modi gov't adopted a determined strategy to rebuild global confidence in the Indian economy and make it attractive for Indian and foreign investors. Signing FTAs with developed countries is a part of this wider strategy. FTAs also increase investor confidence by removing uncertainty about trade policies.

FTAs with developed countries, which do not have competing trade interests with India, are a win-win situation, unlike the previous gov't's approach of endangering Indian



CETA will ensure comprehensive market access for Indian goods in the UK market across sectors. It eliminates tariffs on about 99% of tariff lines covering almost 100% of trade value. This creates huge opportunities for the \$56bn bilateral trade that's estimated to double by 2030 with CETA's help

businesses by recklessly opening India's doors to competitors.

In UPA's term, developed countries had abandoned trade talks with India, then regarded as one of the world's 'Fragile Five' economies. Under PM's leadership, India's GDP has almost tripled since 2014 to about Rs.331L cr. Game-changing reforms, ease of doing business and PM's global stature helped India emerge as a compelling opportunity. Today, the world wants to participate in the India story - and sign FTAs.

**Market access, competitive edge |** CETA will ensure

comprehensive market access for Indian goods in the UK market across sectors. It eliminates tariffs on about 99% of tariff lines covering almost 100% of trade value. This creates huge opportunities for the \$56bn bilateral trade that's estimated to double by 2030 with CETA's help.

Small businesses will prosper as Indian products will have a clear competitive edge over rivals. Companies that make soccer balls, cricket gear, rugby balls and toys, among other products, are poised to significantly expand business in UK.



**Numerous jobs** | India's competitiveness will boost exports substantially and trigger a wave of investment and job creation. India is well-positioned to become one of the top three suppliers to UK in textiles, leather, and footwear, which will help small businesses, artisans including women, and craftsmen emerge as key players in global value chains. Gems & jewellery, engineering goods, chemicals and electronic products such as phones are also expected to see exports jump.

**Farmers first** | Over 95% of agricultural and processed food tariff lines will attract zero duty, paving the way for rapid rise in agri-exports and rural prosperity. Duty-free market access is estimated to increase agri-exports by over 20% in three years, contributing to India's goal of \$100bn agri-exports by 2030 as CETA unlocks the premium UK market for Indian farmers, matching or exceeding benefits enjoyed by Germany, Netherlands, and other EU nations.

Turmeric, pepper, cardamom, and processed goods like mango pulp, pickles, and pulses will also get duty-free access. Higher exports will boost farm income and give greater incentives for quality, packaging and certification. It will create numerous jobs across the agricultural value chain.

**Protecting the vulnerable** | CETA excludes India's most sensitive agri sector to protect domestic farmers. India has given no tariff concessions on dairy products, apples, oats and cooking oils. These exclusions reflect Modi govt's strategy of prioritising food security, domestic

price stability, and vulnerable farming communities.

**Fishermen to flourish** | Indian fishermen, particularly those in Andhra, Odisha, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, will see dramatic

**Over 95% of agricultural and processed food tariff lines will attract zero duty, paving the way for rapid rise in agri-exports and rural prosperity. Duty-free market access is estimated to increase agri-exports by over 20% in three years, contributing to India's goal of \$100bn agri-exports by 2030 as CETA unlocks the premium UK market for Indian farmers**

expansion through access to UK's marine import market. UK's import duty on shrimp and other marine products will fall to zero from the current level of up to 20%. The potential is phenomenal as India has only 2.25% of UK's \$5.4bn marine imports.

**Services & professionals** | The agreement will catalyse services including IT/ITeS, financial services and education, creating new avenues for Indians. India has secured favourable mobility provisions for skilled professionals, including contractual service providers, business travellers, investors, yoga instructors, musicians and chefs.

• **Innovative FTAs** | Under PM's leadership, India's FTAs go far

beyond goods and services. They set new benchmarks. With EFTA countries, India had secured a guarantee of \$100bn investment that will create 1mn direct jobs in India. With the Australian FTA, India resolved the double-taxation issue troubling IT companies.

One of the most significant aspects of the agreement with UK is the Double Contribution Convention. This exempts employers and temporary Indian workers in UK from social security contributions for three years. This will significantly enhance the competitiveness of Indian service providers.

**Quality goods** | Trade agreements increase competition, which helps Indian consumers get high-quality goods at competitive prices. Modi govt has provided policy support, issued Quality Control Orders and negotiated FTAs to encourage and incentivise quality.

GOI has held extensive stakeholder consultation with industry and other stakeholders before signing any FTA. It is heartening to note that industry bodies have overwhelmingly supported and welcomed every FTA signed by Modi govt.

CETA is a benchmark for equitable and ambitious trade deals between large economies. It opens up attractive global opportunities for the underprivileged, without compromising our core interest. It is a shining example of how New India does business.■

**(The writer is Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, GoI)**



# SETTING SAIL FOR VIKSIT BHARAT WITH MARITIME GROWTH PUSH



**SARBANANDA SONOWAL**

India's ports are transcending traditional roles as logistical nodes to become modern gateways of commerce. A focus on capacity expansion, mechanisation, digitisation, and ease of doing business has propelled ports such as Visakhapatnam, Mundra, JNPA, and Kamarajar up in the global rankings.

The World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023 acknowledged India's efficiency and speed, placing it ahead of many developed nations. The country has risen in key logistics indicators, ranked 38th of 139 countries in 2023, up from 54th in 2014. India's rank in the international shipment category improved dramatically from 44th to 22nd in the period, while average container dwell time reduced to approximately 2.6 days, a competitive figure globally. The turnaround time (TRT) of major ports has also sharply declined from around 94 hours to about 48.06 hours.

Substantial infrastructure development underpins this progress. Cargo handling capacity at major ports, over the past decade, reached 1,681

million tonnes per annum (MTPA) from 800.5 MTPA. Ninety-eight port modernisation projects, costing over Rs. 32,000 crore, have been completed, adding more than 230 MTPA to the annual port capacity.

Major ports' financial performance has been equally impressive, with total income rising from Rs. 11,760 crore

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in FY15 to Rs. 24,203 crore in FY25 — a 7.5% CAGR over 10 years. Operating surplus nearly tripled to Rs. 12,314 crore, driven by a 13% CAGR over the same period. Operational efficiency also improved significantly, with the operating ratio declining from 64.7% in FY15 to 42.3% in FY25, reinforcing the ports' financial sustainability.

Significant projects like the Tuticorin International Container Terminal (TICT) and the foundation stone laying for

the Rs. 76,000 crore Vadhavan Port mark crucial milestones in enhancing infrastructure and logistics efficiency. The Vizhinjam International Seaport will boost India's trans-shipment capabilities.

Ten Indian ports have now made it to the Global Top 100 in the World Bank's CPPI 2023 Report, with the Visakhapatnam Port climbing to 19th position from 122nd in 2022. India is also reclaiming its rivers, once vibrant arteries of commerce, for modern logistics. Under the NDA government, 106 rivers have been upgraded as National Waterways, including the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. This drives a seven-fold increase in inland waterways-based freight movement, from 18.1 million metric tons (MMT) in FY14 to 146 MMT in FY25. The sector is now equipped with multimodal terminals, night navigation, and digital monitoring systems. Global attention has been drawn to this revival, with collaborations enhancing technology and promoting sustainable freight movement. The budgetary allocation for Inland Waterways Authority of India of Rs. 1,700 crore for FY26 is more than the total expenditure on inland waterways for the 28 years from 1986 to 2014.

The Cargo Promotion Scheme, providing a 35%

incentive for inland waterway utilisation, further bolsters this growth. The first Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) meeting committed an investment of Rs. 45,000 crore for river-cruise tourism development by 2047.

Cruise tourism is also experiencing a significant upswing, with major international companies now docking at Indian ports like Mumbai, Kochi, Goa, and Visakhapatnam. The launch of the Cruise Bharat Mission in September 2024 aims to double cruise passenger traffic by 2029, with plans for six new international cruise terminals. Sea cruise passengers increased from 84,000 in 2014 to 4.92 lakhs in 2024-25, registering a whopping 500% increase.

India's commitment to sustainability in the maritime sector is evident through pioneering green initiatives. The Harit Sagar Green Port guidelines aim to reduce carbon intensity, and the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) targets a 30% reduction in GHG emissions from port vessels of major ports by 2030, in line with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. Three major ports are being developed as green hydrogen or ammonia hubs under the National Hydrogen Mission. The Harit Nauka guidelines promote 100% green vessels by 2047, and India also launched its first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell vessel.

India has been re-elected to the Council of the International

Maritime Organisation (IMO) for the biennium 2024-25 with the highest tally. New routes of collaboration are being forged, notably with the signing of the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement with the UAE for the India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The long-term contract for the development of Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal, Chabahar, signed with Iran, is a pivotal step in opening up the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to Central Asia.

Beyond infrastructure, human capital and heritage are also

**The development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat, as a world-class maritime museum and cultural centre, along with the first-ever India Maritime Heritage Conclave, underscores a commitment to preserving and showcasing India's rich maritime history**

key focus areas. An astounding 200% growth was achieved over the last decade in increasing India's presence in the global seafaring community, raising the number of active Indian seafarers from 1.08 lakh in 2014 to 3.20 lakh this year. The number of women seafarers has risen from 341 in 2014 to 2,557 in 2025. The ministry of ports, shipping and waterways also launched Sagar Mein Samman to increase the participation of women in the maritime sector.

The development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat, as a world-class maritime museum and cultural centre, along with the first-ever India Maritime Heritage Conclave, underscores a commitment to preserving and showcasing India's rich maritime history.

Budget FY26 announced an array of fiscal incentives for shipbuilding and ship recycling, including the Maritime Development Fund, Ship Building Financial Assistance Policy 2.0, inclusion of large ships above a specified size in the Infrastructure Harmonised Master List, measures to facilitate shipbuilding clusters, extension of tonnage tax regime to inland vessels, extension of basic customs duty exemption on raw materials and components for ship building and ship repair for another 10 years.

This bouquet of initiatives has started attracting major global shipbuilding companies to joint ventures with Indian shipping companies. This is bound to create massive employment opportunities and investment multiplier effects.

In essence, the past decade has marked a decisive shift in India's maritime narrative. India is rapidly transforming into a preferred maritime destination for trade, innovation, and investment as it charts the course for Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat. ■

**(The writer is Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, GoI)**





# Kargil Vijay Diwas: Legacy of Victory, Valor, and National Resolve



TARUN CHUGH

Every time I visit Drass and gaze at the towering heights of Tiger Hill, it feels as if time has stood still, frozen at the very moment when our soldiers laid down their lives to defend the motherland on those unforgiving cliffs. I've been there on multiple occasions, and each time I step onto that soil, a wave of emotion hits me, raw, unshakable, and beyond what words can capture.

The names etched on the Kargil War Memorial aren't just a list of martyrs, they are immortal stories of courage and sacrifice. Looking up at Tiger Hill, one begins to grasp the unimaginable odds our soldiers faced, the sheer determination with which they climbed, fought, and reclaimed it. There's a gravity in that air—silent but powerful—that reminds every Indian that protecting the nation doesn't end in speeches; it demands sacrifice to the last breath.

On Kargil Vijay Diwas, India commemorates the triumph of our forces in the 1999 Kargil War – a day etched in national memory. Every year on 26th July, the Prime Minister leads the nation in paying homage to the martyrs of Kargil at memorials like Amar Jawan Jyoti in New Delhi. This day, marking 26 years since the victory, is a poignant reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of our soldiers and the unwavering unity and pride

of all Indians.

The Kargil War was a saga of astonishing bravery. Facing covert incursions by Pakistani forces into Indian territory, the Indian Army launched Operation Vijay in May 1999 to evict the intruders from the icy heights of Kargil. For over two months, our soldiers fought ferocious battles at dizzying altitudes – 16,000–18,000 feet high, in freezing temperatures and against steep, rocky terrain. The Indian Air Force joined in with Operation Safed Sagar, pounding enemy positions on those snow-clad peaks. In these fierce clashes, 559 Indian soldiers and officers made the supreme sacrifice for the motherland. Thanks to their valor and determination, the Army recaptured strategic heights like Tololing and Tiger Hill from the enemy. Indeed, as we proudly recall, India lost some of its finest men but did not yield even an inch of its sacred land to the invader. The nation is forever indebted to these heroes, whose courage under impossible conditions safeguarded our sovereignty.

What makes this victory even more significant is the context of betrayal that preceded it. Just months before the conflict, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had traveled to Lahore, extending a sincere hand of friendship to Pakistan in the hope of lasting peace. However, Pakistan repaid this goodwill with perfidy – secretly sending its army to occupy the Kargil heights in a blatant violation of the Lahore Declaration. As Vajpayee lamented, Pakistan

had “betrayed India by making incursions in Kargil after signing the Lahore peace accord”. Yet India's response to this treachery was swift and resolute. Vajpayee rose to the occasion, giving our armed forces full backing to hit back, while also mobilizing global diplomatic support for India's stand. The world stood with India, and facing pressure from major powers, Pakistan was forced to withdraw its forces in disgrace. Vajpayee's firm and principled leadership turned a treacherous attack into a resounding triumph.

This conflict also united India like never before. As our jawans fought bravely in the mountains, people across the country came together to support them. There was an outpouring of patriotism – citizens held prayer meetings, school children wrote letters to soldiers at the front, and thousands volunteered to donate blood for the injured. The names of Kargil's martyrs were on everyone's lips; communities honored fallen heroes by naming roads, scholarships and sports tournaments after them. This collective resolve on the home front matched the courage on the battlefield. It sent a message that all of India stood firmly with its armed forces.

Politically too, the Kargil victory underscored the importance of strong and decisive leadership. Bharatiya Janata Party has always stood for an

**On Kargil Vijay Diwas, India commemorates the triumph of our forces in the 1999 Kargil War – a day etched in national memory**

uncompromising defense of India's national interest – a stance vindicated by the Kargil war. Unlike those who at times advocated a softer approach or were willing to compromise for temporary peace, the NDA government under Vajpayee demonstrated that firm resolve is the only answer to aggression. This clarity of purpose and nationalist resolve, a core ideological commitment of the BJP, was instrumental in converting Pakistan's betrayal into India's victory.

The victory in Kargil came at a high cost, but it also produced immortal legends of heroism. Take the example of Captain Vikram Batra, whose bravery during the war became iconic. Capt. Batra led from the front in recapturing the treacherous Point 5140 and later Point 4875 in the Drass sector, famously radioing “Yeh Dil Maange More!” as a signal of victory. He eventually laid down his life in the fierce fight for Point 4875, but not before securing that peak – for which he was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest gallantry award. Fittingly, Point 4875 is today named “Batra Top” in his memory. Along with Capt. Batra, hundreds of other heroes – from Lt. Manoj Pandey (another Param Vir Chakra awardee,

**The legacy of Kargil is not just one of remembrance, but also of renewed resolve – a resolve to build a stronger, more secure India**

whose valor is commemorated in a gallery at the Drass War Memorial) to countless unsung jawans – displayed

unparalleled courage and devotion. Their sacrifices and feats of valor will inspire generations to come, instilling in us a deep sense of national pride and duty.

The Kargil War Memorial in Drass, Ladakh stands as a proud tribute to India's fallen heroes. Its central feature is a pink sandstone wall engraved with the names of all the soldiers who died during Operation Vijay. From this memorial one can see Tololing, Tiger Hill and “Batra Top” – the very mountains where our jawans fought and won against all odds. This hallowed ground, where the tricolor flies high, keeps the memory of their sacrifice alive and reminds every visitor of the valor that defended our nation.

The legacy of Kargil is not just one of remembrance, but also of renewed resolve – a resolve to build a stronger, more secure India. The BJP-led government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, since 2014, made it its mission to bolster the nation's defenses and honor our armed forces. Long-pending issues like One

Rank, One Pension for veterans were finally resolved after decades, and historical military reforms – such as the creation of a Chief of Defense Staff – have been implemented to streamline and strengthen our security structure. Our forces are being equipped with modern weapons and technology, and border infrastructure has been upgraded so that the Army can take on any threat head-on. Equally important, a culture of utmost respect for soldiers has been institutionalized. The Prime Minister now spends each Diwali with troops at forward posts (in 2022 he celebrated with jawans in Kargil), underlining that the nation stands firmly with its sentinels. In a historic gesture, 21 islands of the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago have been renamed after Param Vir Chakra awardees – including heroes of Kargil – to eternally honor their valor. Across the nation, Vijay Diwas is now observed with great pride – from solemn ceremonies at the Drass memorial to youth-led initiatives, to pay tribute and to warn Pakistan against any mischief. From the 2016 surgical strikes in PoK to the Operation Sindoor of 2019, the Modi government has shown that India will respond decisively to every act of terrorism and aggression. Whether through new memorials, welfare initiatives, or decisive operations against threats, the spirit of Kargil continues to guide India's leadership in strengthening the country's security.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is a day to reaffirm our unity and sense of purpose as a nation. It reminds us that India's sovereignty and dignity are non-negotiable, and that we must always be prepared to defend them. As we salute the heroes of Kargil, let us pledge to carry forward their legacy by being vigilant and patriotic citizens, and by supporting those who guard our nation. We must strengthen the hands of those who protect Bharat – be it our brave soldiers or a leadership that prioritizes national security and honor. We can never afford to become complacent or return to an era of weak responses; the sacrifice of our martyrs demands that we remain strong and steadfast. The triumph of Kargil was not just a military victory, but a victory of the indomitable Indian spirit. Today, that spirit burns bright as ever. Let us harness it to build an India that is strong, united and truly invincible.

Jai Hind!  
Vande Mataram!  
Bharat Mata Ki Jai! ■

**(The writer is National General Secretary of the BJP)**



# Unforgettable 11 years of Modi Government dedicated to true service of the motherland



**RAJKUMAR  
CHAHAR**

**T**he 11-year tenure of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be remembered as a golden era in India's history — an era that laid the strong foundation for a developed and self-reliant nation. Under his leadership, India not only strengthened its global identity but also showcased its power and potential on the world stage. Over these 11 years, Prime Minister Shri Modi transformed the country into a symbol of credibility.

For decades after independence, unstable governments and the Congress regime eroded public trust and diminished India's global image. But in the past 11 years, a corruption-free, appeasement-free, and united India has emerged under Modi Ji's leadership.

India has achieved a new stature in social welfare, good governance, economic progress, and national security. Transparency and accountability have become the hallmark of this government, ensuring that development reaches every section of society without discrimination. A new balance between progress and heritage has been established. Today, benefits are delivered not on the basis of influence or identity, but on the principles of fairness and equality. The vision of

"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas" has become the guiding philosophy of governance, making this journey of 11 years truly historic.

Before 2014, India's image was that we want peace, but now if someone imposes war on us, spreads terror or threatens our security, the answer will be surgical strike, air strike and Operation Sindoor. All this has happened through 'Made in India' and the world has seen India's power. Our

**For decades after independence, unstable governments and the Congress regime eroded public trust and diminished India's global image. But in the past 11 years, a corruption-free, appeasement-free, and united India has emerged under Modi Ji's leadership**

government abolished Article 370, which was in force since 1952, and strengthened India's unity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The Modi government has empowered women by running the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign. Modi Government has given priority to agriculture and farmers and has brought about a 'profound transformation' in India's agriculture sector through various government schemes and

increased budgetary allocations over 11 years, empowering farmers to lead the country from food security to global food leadership. This transformation has focused on inclusiveness by supporting small farmers, women-led groups and allied sectors, while establishing India as a global agriculture leader.

India's agriculture sector has undergone a profound transformation under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the last 11 years, based on the philosophy of Seed to Market. The budget estimate for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has increased from Rs 27,663 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,37,664.35 crore in 2024-25, an almost five-fold increase. India's foodgrain production is projected to increase from 265 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 347.4 million tonnes in 2024-25, indicating robust growth in agricultural production.

The Modi government has also significantly increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The MSP of wheat has increased from Rs 1,400 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs 2,425 per quintal in 2024-25, while the price of paddy has increased from Rs 1,310 per quintal in 2013-14 to Rs 2,369 per quintal in 2025-26. Under the PM-KISAN scheme launched in February, 2019, the government has disbursed Rs 3.7 lakh crore to over 11 crore farmers. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme has provided



loans worth about Rs 10 lakh crore to 7.71 crore farmers.

The procurement figures show improvement in various crops. The total procurement of Kharif crop between FY 2014-15 to FY 2024-25 stood at 78.71 crore tonnes, while between 2004-05 to 2013-14, the procurement was 46.79 crore tonnes. Procurement of pulses at MSP increased from 1,52,000 tonnes during 2009-2014 to 83 lakh tonnes during 2020-2025, while procurement of oilseeds at

MSP has increased manifold in the last 11 years. The government's approach has focused on modern irrigation, credit access, digital markets and agri-tech innovations, while reviving traditional processes like millet cultivation and natural farming.

Allied sectors, including dairy and fisheries, are also expanding. As India enters the Amrit period, its empowered farmers are ready to take the country from food security to global food leadership.

While serving the motherland and Mother India, Modi ji has set historic records in these 11 years, for which we express special gratitude to PM Modi and this sentence dedicated to his true loyalty and dedication to the countrymen gives meaning 'Janani Janma Bhoomischa Swargadapi Gariyasi', the place of mother and motherland is even above heaven.■

**(The writer is National President of BJP Kisan Morcha & MP, Lok Sabha)**

## **'SAHKAR & ROJGAR UTSAV' IN JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN**

# **PM Modi elevated India to the world's fourth-largest economy and lifted 27 crore people out of poverty: Amit Shah**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the 'Sahkar & Rojgar Utsav' in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 17 July 2025, marking the International Year of Cooperatives – 2025. The event, attended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Minister of Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat among others.

During the event, Shri Shah virtually inaugurated 24 grain storage warehouses and 64 millet outlets, distributed Rs. 12 crore in loans to 1,400 cowherds under the Gopal Credit Card Scheme, and provided micro-ATMs to over 2,300 milk-producing committees. He also launched the White Revolution 2.0 online registration platform for Primary Dairy Cooperative Societies (PDCS) and released a compilation of success stories under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gareebi Mukht Gram Abhiyan and Vande Ganga Water Conservation Campaign. Additionally, 100 new vehicles for the Rajasthan Police and armed forces were flagged off.

Shri Shah emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's establishment of the Union Ministry of Cooperation has extended cooperative benefits to villages, farmers, and the poor. He noted that cooperatives are active in 98% of rural areas, contributing significantly to India's agricultural and economic landscape, including 20% of paddy and wheat procurement, 35% of fertilizer production, and 30% of sugar production. Over 31 crore people are connected to 8.5 lakh cooperative bodies.



Highlighting the Ministry's achievements, Shri Shah stated that within four years, 61 initiatives have strengthened cooperatives, including the creation of 40,000 new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) out of a target of two lakh, full computerization of PACS, and the establishment of cooperative institutions for organic products, exports, and seed promotion. He also underscored the Modi government's commitment to purchasing pulses, oilseeds, and maize at Minimum Support Price (MSP) through NAFED and NCCF, ensuring farmers' financial security.

Shri Shah praised the Rajasthan government's efforts under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, including cracking down on paper leaks through a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and signing MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore at the Global Investment Summit. Other initiatives include reducing VAT on fuel, providing LPG cylinders for Rs 450, and advancing water supply projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. ■



WELCOME BACK  
TO EARTH

*An Odyssey of Courage, Strength, and Inspiration*

## Cabinet Resolution welcomes the Return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

On 15th July 2025, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has landed back safely on Earth from his space journey, representing the infinite aspirations of India. This is a moment of pride, glory and joy for the entire nation.

The Cabinet joins the nation in celebrating the return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to Earth, following the successful completion of his historic 18-day mission aboard the International Space Station.

Launched on 25th June 2025, with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as Mission Pilot, this mission marked a watershed moment - the first time an Indian astronaut travelled to the International Space Station. It heralds a new chapter in India's space programme and gives a golden glimpse of our future space programme.

The Cabinet commends the Indian Space Research Organisation and the entire community of our scientists and engineers whose relentless efforts have made this achievement possible.

During his time aboard the International Space Station, Group Captain Shukla worked seamlessly with fellow members of the Axiom-4 Crew and Expedition 73, embodying India's growing leadership in international space cooperation.

He conducted pioneering experiments in microgravity on subjects such as muscle regeneration, algal and microbial growth, crop viability, microbial survivability, cognitive performance in space, and the behaviour of cyanobacteria. These studies will deepen global understanding of human spaceflight and microgravity science, and provide critical inputs for India's future missions.

This successful mission significantly elevates India's global standing in space exploration. It is a vital stepping stone towards India's own human

spaceflight ambition, including the Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksha Station. It reaffirms India's resolve to be at the forefront of human space exploration.

The Cabinet applauds the visionary and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, whose strategic foresight, unwavering belief in India's space potential, and consistent guidance have enabled the country to chart new frontiers and emerge as a leader among spacefaring nations.

The Cabinet also recalls with pride India's recent landmark achievements, including the historic landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the South Pole of the Moon on 23rd August 2023, a day etched in history as India's National Space Day. Likewise, India's Aditya-L1 Mission launched in 2023 has significantly enhanced humanity's understanding of solar activity. These feats reflect the spirit of scientific excellence and national self-reliance.

Through sustained reforms in the space sector, the Government has unlocked unprecedented growth in India's space economy. The emergence of around 300 new start-ups in this sector has not only led to job creation at a large scale, but also nurtured a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship and technology-driven development.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission is not just a personal triumph - it is a beacon of inspiration for a new generation of young Indians. It will ignite the scientific temper, fuel curiosity, and inspire countless youth to pursue careers in science and embrace innovation.

The Cabinet reaffirms its firm conviction that this mission will energise the national resolve to build Viksit Bharat—a Developed India—by 2047, as envisioned by the Prime Minister. ■





PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Keir Starmer and receiving a rousing welcome by Indian community at London in United Kingdom on July 23, 2025.



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets with the President of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu at Malé in Maldives on July 25, 2025.



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts with beneficiaries of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, in Maldives on July 26, 2025.



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the foundation stone laying and inauguration of various projects at Durgapur, in West Bengal on July 18, 2025.



PM Shri Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone, inaugurates and dedicates to the Nation various projects at Motihari, in Bihar on July 18, 2025.





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Office of Posting : Lodhi Road H.O. New Delhi "REGISTERED"

36 Pages with Cover

Published on: 31 July, 2025

RNI No. DELENG/2006/16838

**PM Modi** overtakes  
**Indira Gandhi**  
as PM with Second-Longest  
Unbroken Stint

**4,078**  
days  
(and Counting)

**4,077**  
days



As an elected head of a government,  
**in state and at the Centre, Narendra Modi**  
**already enjoys the longest stint**