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'BJP WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ERADICATE NARCOTICS FROM PUNJAB'



12TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



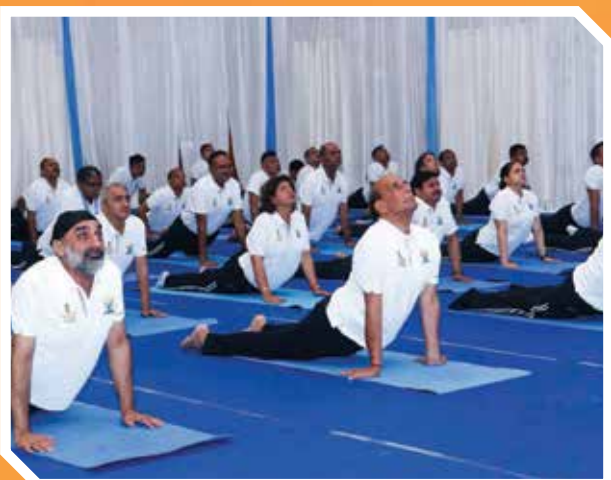
'YOGA CONNECTS US ALL AND BRINGS US TOGETHER'



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the national observance of the 12th International Day of Yoga from the Red Road in Kolkata, West Bengal on 21 June 2026



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin attended the 12th International Day of Yoga celebration at LPU, Jalandhar in Punjab on 21 June 2026



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh attended the 12th International Day of Yoga by leading a session with soldiers from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army at the Eastern Air Command Headquarters in Shillong, Meghalaya on 21 June 2026



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in the International Day of Yoga in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 21 June 2026



On the occasion of the 12th 'International Day of Yoga', Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda practiced yoga along with yoga enthusiasts on Shanti Path in New Delhi on 21 June 2026



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation moved to a new research office at 9 Ashoka Road in New Delhi. This new office was inaugurated by BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin along with other senior colleagues on 19 June 2026

KAMAL SANDESH

FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

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@Narendramodi

This visit to France has been rich in terms of exchanges and outcomes. It began in Nice, where the Bharat Innovates program was taking place, continued in Évian for the G7, then in Paris, where I spoke at VivaTech 2026 and an important program addressed to the Indian community, and where I met with business leaders. I am particularly grateful to my friend President Macron, to the Government and to the French people for their warm welcome. The Franco-Indian friendship will be strengthened even further in the period ahead.

(18 June, 2026)



@Nitin Nabin

The honouring of the Honourable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji with Slovakia's highest civilian award, the 'Order of the White Double Cross,' in the capital city of Bratislava, is a historic acknowledgement of India's rising global prestige and effective leadership. This honour is not just for one individual but a symbol of the collective strength, the trust of 1.4 billion Indians, and the strengthening friendship between India and Slovakia. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India is steadily advancing toward the resolve of a developed India, with its strong identity on the global stage.

(16 June, 2026)



@Rajnathsingh

In today's competitive era, 'Research and Development' and 'Capital Infusion' are the primary foundations of progress for any industrial institution. Only those institutions that embrace innovation lead the future. It is only through modern technology, R&D, and continuous modernization that we can achieve the goals of 'Self-Reliant India' and 'Developed India 2047'.

(19 June, 2026)



@AmitShah

India has risen as a trusted friend of the world in 12 years of the Modi gov't. Driven by the mission of India First and the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a new doctrine of diplomacy is shaping partnerships that advance global good and our national interests. By virtue of this new stature, India received ₹70 lakh crore in FDI, clocked ₹17 lakh crore bilateral trade with GCC states, secured preferential access worth ₹2850 lakh crore to the US market, forged 100% consensus at the G20 Summit in Delhi, and built partnerships with 160 nations for training and capacity building, while standing tall as a nation that the world listens to.

(19 June, 2026)



@B.L. Santhosh

A party which bends backwards to please its partner, the Muslim League, doesn't have an iota of morality to criticise some Vice Chancellors. They have exhibited their nationalist credentials, which you are afraid of, for the love of the chair & fear of bosses.

(14 June, 2026)



@Jagat Prakash Nadda

Over the last 12 years, India's foreign policy has become stronger, more confident, and more respected across the world. Guided by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji's Nation First approach and rooted in the timeless Indian value of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India has built deeper partnerships with countries across regions. Initiatives like Neighbourhood First and Act East have strengthened ties with our neighbours and strategic partners. Today, India is not only advancing its national interests but also contributing to global solutions. As we move towards the goal of Viksit Bharat, India's voice continues to carry greater weight on the world stage.

(19 June, 2026)





YOGA HAS BECOME A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

As the world celebrated the 12th International Yoga Day with the 2026 theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,”, yoga is getting increasingly popular across the globe highlighting its ever growing relevance in addressing modern lifestyle challenges and promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being across generations. In the last twelve years after the United Nations passed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s historic proposal, ‘International Yoga Day’ stands as a shining symbol of a resurgent India that celebrates the vision of ‘Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi’ and is proud of its roots and confident in sharing its ancient wisdom with the world. It reflects the India’s commitment to cultural resurgence, global leadership, and the vision of a healthier, more harmonious humanity and also aligns with India’s vision of making wellness accessible to all. From the banks of the Ganga to the halls of the United Nations, Yoga has become a global movement and one of the most enduring legacies of India’s civilizational diplomacy in the 21st century.

A history was created in 2014 when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly in September and presented to the world one of India’s greatest civilizational gifts—Yoga. As a tradition since time immemorial, Yoga is known for harmonizing mind, body, and spirit embodying the philosophy of holistic development, harmony with nature, preventive healthcare, and the ancient Indian belief of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” – the world is one family. While Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proposed June 21st as the ‘International Day of Yoga’, it received an unprecedented diplomatic support with a record 177 nations co-sponsoring the resolution, which was finally adopted unanimously by the UN. The International Day of Yoga has since become one of the most successful examples of India’s cultural diplomacy and soft power outreach which is firmly rooted in India’s ancient spiritual traditions yet universally relevant in the modern world; Yoga has emerged as a bridge connecting nations, cultures, and communities through the shared

pursuit of health, wellness, and inner harmony.

As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 52nd G7 Summit in France, India’s emergence as the global growth engine was further acknowledged and accepted at the global stage. Invited as a Partner Country leader, Prime Minister Shri Modi convincingly articulated the aspirations and concerns of the Global South, advocating reforms in international development financing and greater representation for developing nations in global decision-making institutions. His active engagement in discussions on artificial intelligence, economic resilience, climate action, and technological cooperation highlighted India’s growing role in shaping solutions to 21st-century challenges. On the sidelines,

Prime Minister Shri Modi held a series of high-level engagements with leaders from major global powers, reaffirming India’s position as a trusted partner and bridge-builder across geopolitical divides. India’s increasing participation at global forums reflects its growing acceptance under Prime Minister Shri Modi in helping shape the global agenda. It is a testament to India’s rising economic strength, strategic influence, and leadership in advancing the vision of an inclusive, equitable, stable and peaceful world.

Today, as we look back at the first International Day of Yoga in 2015 led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi, setting global records as

a worldwide movement, participation has expanded exponentially, with millions of people across more than 190 countries joining celebrations annually over the years. As Yoga has been integrated into national health initiatives, educational institutions, public awareness campaigns, and international engagement efforts, reinforcing India’s position as a global leader in wellness, it has also become an active component of advancing the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’ while contributing significantly to India’s economy through wellness tourism, research, teacher training, and traditional healthcare industries, generating opportunities while strengthening India’s global cultural footprint. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org

PM MODI LEADS THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA IN KOLKATA



YOGA TEACHES US THE ART OF LIVING A BALANCED LIFE: PM MODI

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the national observance of the 12th International Day of Yoga from Red Road in Kolkata on 21 June 2026. Shri Modi participated in the Common Yoga Protocol session along with thousands of Yoga practitioners. Extending his greetings to people across the world on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga, Shri Modi observed that June 21 is marked by the longest day of the year in several parts of the world and has also emerged as one of the largest collective celebrations of humanity through yoga.

Addressing the gathering in Kolkata, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that inspiring images of yoga were being witnessed from different parts of the world. “From the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean, and from Bengal and the Northeast to the western region of Saurashtra, the entire nation appeared energized by the spirit of yoga. The country and the world seemed connected through a shared commitment to wellness and harmony, reflecting the unifying power of yoga”, remarked Shri Modi.

The Prime Minister also praised the people of Kolkata for their efforts under the “Swachhta Se Swagat” initiative. He said that the dedication, hard work and civic responsibility demonstrated by the citizens in maintaining cleanliness had become an inspiration for people across the country.

“Yoga for Healthy Ageing”

Shri Modi stated that celebrating Yoga Day in West Bengal carried special significance because of the



12TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

state's rich spiritual and cultural heritage. He recalled that Bengal is the land where Bhagwan Ramakrishna Paramahansa lived and taught, from where Swami Vivekananda introduced India's spiritual wisdom and yoga traditions to the world, and where Maharshi Aurobindo and Lahiri Mahasaya contributed immensely to the advancement of yogic thought and practice. Referring to the teachings of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the Prime Minister said that true human identity is shaped through meaningful connections with the world around us, a principle that lies at the heart of yoga. He also cited Maharshi Aurobindo's belief that the whole of life is yoga, observing that when yoga becomes part of one's nature, it strengthens the foundation of human unity. "Yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise and cannot be confined to any particular age group. It is a source of consciousness, vitality and inner illumination that enriches every stage of human life", Shri Modi emphasised. Referring to this year's International Day of Yoga theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", he said that yoga offers a pathway to remaining healthy, active and energetic even as one grows older.

Healthy ageing means

The Prime Minister stated that healthy ageing means ensuring that advancing years do not diminish human potential. He said that yoga encourages continuous growth and self-improvement throughout life. He expressed the aspiration that individuals should strive to be more flexible at forty than they were at twenty, more energetic at fifty than they were at thirty, and more resilient to lifestyle-related diseases at seventy than they were at fifty. He noted that yoga helps improve flexibility, sustain energy levels, reduce stress and promote mental well-being while also helping prevent lifestyle disorders. "Regular practice of yoga transforms individuals into lifelong learners of their own bodies and minds. He said that greater self-awareness leads to better self-management and a healthier way of life", Shri Modi observed.

The Prime Minister remarked that the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" is not limited to the elderly but is relevant for people of all ages, making yoga a lifelong companion in the pursuit of health, well-being and personal growth.

Means of overcoming suffering

Referring to the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, Shri Modi stated, "Balanced food habits, balanced

recreation, balanced actions, and balanced sleep and wakefulness enable yoga to become a means of overcoming suffering". He observed that balance is the very foundation of yoga and is equally essential for a fulfilling life. Yoga teaches the art of living in a balanced manner. It guides individuals on what should be done and what should be avoided, helping them develop a healthier lifestyle.

Yoga is not confined to physical well-being alone

The Prime Minister emphasized that yoga is not confined to physical well-being alone. Rather, it provides a pathway from mental wellness to physical wellness. Referring to the expression "Yukta Chestasya Karmasu," he said that yoga helps individuals develop the wisdom to distinguish between what is right and what is not. "Such awareness becomes a source of inner peace and also creates pathways towards global harmony. Yoga is no longer relevant only as a personal lifestyle practice; it has become a necessity for building a better future for the world", Shri Modi noted.

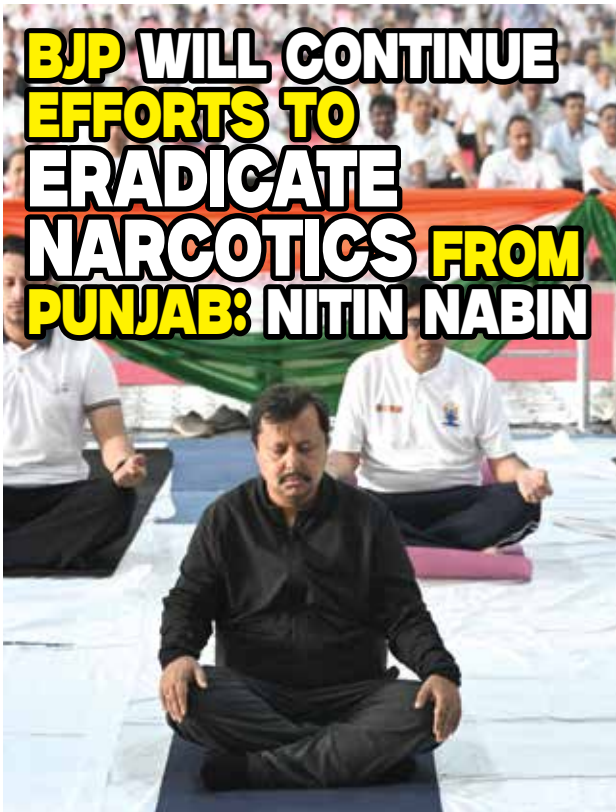
Making yoga an integral part of everyday life

Shri Modi stated that while millions of people participate in yoga activities every year on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga, the day also provides an opportunity to renew a collective commitment towards making yoga an integral part of everyday life. He called upon people to ensure that yoga is not restricted to a single day or a single event, but becomes a permanent part of their lives, their families, and the lives of future generations.

"Yoga 365"

The Prime Minister also highlighted the progress made under the "Yoga 365" initiative this year. "A 100-day online yoga programme was organized under the initiative and witnessed unprecedented public participation. More than three million people from 130 countries participated in the programme, reflecting the growing global acceptance and popularity of yoga", Shri Modi remarked.

Concluding his address, Shri Narendra Modi said that a healthy society lays the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous, and more confident nation. Expressing his wishes for the well-being of all, he invoked the ancient prayer, "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah". ■



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Nabin joined the 12th International Day of Yoga celebration at LPU, Jalandhar in Punjab on 21 June 2026. The celebration, witnessed the grand participation of over 12,000 students, faculty members, staff, common people and public representatives from across the region, making it one of Punjab's largest yoga gatherings. The grand celebration was observed under the global theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing", the celebration highlighted yoga's role in promoting physical vitality, mental well-being, and a healthier lifestyle across all age groups.

Lead the fight against drug abuse

Addressing the gathering, Shri Nitin Nabin said that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 must become a shared commitment of every Indian, especially the youth, who will be the driving force behind the nation's future. Referring to the call of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan" given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the LPU campus, Shri Nitin Nabin said that today's youth connects itself with the spirit of Anusandhan and is actively contributing to the

nation's progress through innovation. Shri Nitin Nabin, stressed the need to advance across sectors including research, healthcare, technology and public service to realise the goal of a developed India.

Shri Nabin also called upon the younger generation to lead the fight against drug abuse, stating that a strong and empowered youth is essential for a strong nation. Urging students to remain connected to their roots, uphold the highest values of integrity and perseverance, and place the nation above all else, Shri Nabin encouraged them to contribute meaningfully towards India's development journey.

Harmonious way of life

The celebration featured the Common Yoga Protocol, during which participants performed a series of yogic practices including Tadasana, Vrikshasana, Bhujangasana, Shishuasana, Pranayama, and meditation. The session highlighted yoga's enduring relevance in promoting physical well-being, mental balance, and a harmonious way of life.

A special attraction of the event was the creation of large scale human formations depicting the Map of India, the sacred 'ॐ' symbol, and the numerals '12' and '2047'. While '12' marked the 12th International Day of Yoga, '2047' symbolized the national vision of Viksit Bharat and India's aspiration to become a developed nation by the centenary year of Independence. The formations reflected the spirit of unity, collective responsibility, and the transformative role of yoga in nation building.

Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the event also witnessed the launch of the 'LPU Time Capsule' initiative. Participants recorded messages and pledges reflecting their aspirations for a healthier, stronger and more developed India. These were preserved in a time capsule that will be opened in 2047 during the centenary celebrations of India's Independence, capturing the hopes and expectations of the present generation for the nation's future.

Several eminent dignitaries, including BJP National General Secretary Shri Tarun Chugh, Punjab BJP President Shri Kewal Singh Dhillon, MP Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir Shri Narinder Singh Raina, Former Union Minister Shri Som Parkash, Former MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Vijay Sampla, Chairman Lovely Group Shri Ramesh Mittal and others also graced the event. ■

Defence Minister Celebrates International Yoga Day 2026 in Shillong

ADOPT YOGA AS A DAILY PRACTICE: RAJNATH SINGH

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh marked the 12th International Day of Yoga by leading a session with approximately 1,000 soldiers from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army at the Eastern Air Command Headquarters in Shillong, Meghalaya. The event was



held on June 21, 2026, as part of nationwide celebrations involving the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence. In attendance were notable figures including Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, and Eastern Air Command Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia.

Soon after the session, Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the media, describing yoga as a comprehensive science that connects the individual to self, society, and the cosmos. He elaborated on yoga's role in fostering mental clarity and emotional stability, reaffirming its importance in today's fast-paced world.

In a social media post on X, Shri Rajnath Singh acknowledged Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's efforts in promoting yoga globally. He stated that Shri Modi's visionary leadership has been instrumental in elevating yoga as a worldwide movement that offers numerous health benefits. He articulated that the practice of yoga serves as a symbol of India's ancient traditions, aiming to enhance the well-being of people everywhere.

During his address, the Defence Minister encouraged the public to adopt yoga as a daily practice. He emphasised that integrating yoga into everyday routines can lead to improved physical health, mental tranquillity, and ultimately contribute to a stronger nation. This reflection on collective well-being echoed throughout the celebrations. ■

Union Home Minister joins Yoga Day events in Gujarat

YOGA IS INDIA'S INVALUABLE GIFT TO HUMANKIND: AMIT SHAH

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in a yoga session in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 21 June 2026, marking the 12th International Day of Yoga, an event dedicated to promoting physical and mental health.



The International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on June 21 across the world through mass demonstrations and awareness programmes. This year's observance centres on the theme "Yoga For Healthy Ageing," emphasising yoga's role in supporting a healthier and more active life at all ages. This theme encourages individuals to adopt yoga as a means to achieve healthy ageing and overall well-being.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also extended greetings to the people on the occasion of International Yoga Day. In a social media post, Shri Shah said that yoga leads to a healthy body, a peaceful mind, and a life filled with patience. He described yoga not merely as a form of exercise but as a path to achieving balance in life and fostering positivity. He said, "Yoga is India's invaluable gift to humankind which nourishes holistic well-being through energising mind, body and soul. Joined millions across the world in Yoga Day celebration by participating in a public yoga session in Ahmedabad."

The Home Minister noted that under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, yoga has gained global recognition and is increasingly being adopted worldwide as a way of life. Shri Shah also urged citizens to make yoga a part of their daily routine and take a pledge to move towards a healthy, empowered, and balanced life. ■

MODI JI'S LEADERSHIP REPRESENTS A GOLDEN ERA IN INDIAN HISTORY: AMIT SHAH



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah described Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister as a historic milestone in the nation's democratic journey. Addressing the National Democratic Alliance meeting at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi 10 June 2026, Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership has ushered in an era of political stability, decisive governance, economic growth, national security, and public welfare, laying the foundation for a confident, self-reliant, and globally respected India

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah noted that this achievement is particularly remarkable in the age of competitive politics, where electoral success depends on performance and public trust. Being repeatedly chosen by the people and leading the country continuously for such a long period reflects the confidence that citizens have placed in Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership. He said this period will be remembered as an era of stable governance, effective policymaking, and consistent implementation.

Elevated India's stature on the global stage

Highlighting Prime Minister Shri Modi's role during times of crisis, Shri Shah recalled how he transformed Gujarat following the devastating earthquake in Kutch. He said that the Prime Minister's ability to lead from the front was again demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he united the Central Government, State Governments, and 140 crore Indians in a collective effort to combat the crisis. Under his leadership, India emerged as one of the first nations to develop vaccines and became a global example of effective crisis management.

According to Shri Shah, Prime Minister Shri Modi has consistently placed India's interests first in dealing with major international challenges, including geopolitical conflicts and regional tensions. His balanced and decisive foreign policy has elevated India's stature on the global stage while ensuring national interests remain paramount.

The Home Minister emphasized that Prime Minister Shri Modi's significance lies not merely in the duration

of his tenure but in the transformative impact of his leadership. Over the past 25 years as Chief Minister and Prime Minister, he has earned widespread democratic acceptance and guided India through a period of unprecedented development.

PM Modi bowed before Parliament

Shri Shah recalled that upon becoming Prime Minister in 2014, Shri Narendra Modi bowed before Parliament, describing it as the temple of democracy, and later introduced himself to the nation as "Pradhan Sevak," reinforcing the spirit of public service.

Constitution as his guiding principle

Shri Shah stated that Prime Minister Modi has governed with the Constitution as his guiding principle while embodying the ideals of service, humility, and nation-first governance. Taking office at a time marked by corruption, policy paralysis, and economic uncertainty, he developed long-term strategies that have transformed India's governance architecture and restored public confidence in institutions.

Referring to the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Shri Shah said Prime Minister Shri Modi successfully connected the younger generation with India's freedom struggle, cultural heritage, and unsung heroes. More importantly, he transformed the concept of Amrit Kaal into a national mission by presenting the vision of a developed India by 2047. What began as a government initiative has evolved into a collective aspiration shared by 140 crore Indians.



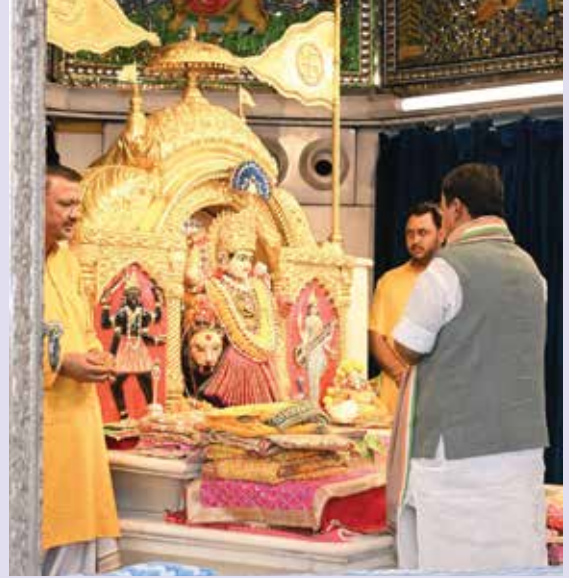
12 YEARS OF THE NDA GOVERNMENT

India set new benchmarks over the past 12 years: Nitin Nabin

BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin on 09 June 2026, inaugurated a special exhibition at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi showcasing “12 Years of the NDA Government under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.” On this occasion, BJP National General Secretaries Shri Arun Singh, Shri Dushyant Gautam, and Shri Tarun Chugh, Delhi BJP President and other senior leaders were also present.

Shri Nitin Nabin viewed the achievements, welfare initiatives, and various dimensions of nation-building undertaken during the 12 years of the NDA Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the special exhibition. The exhibition showcased key initiatives and accomplishments related to welfare of the poor, social justice, women’s empowerment, new opportunities for youth, infrastructure development, digital transformation, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

The BJP National President remarked that under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, India has set new benchmarks in service, good governance, and welfare of the poor over the past 12 years. Guided by the spirit of Antyodaya, unprecedented efforts have been made to ensure that the benefits of development reach the last person in society. Several historic initiatives have been undertaken to empower women, youth, farmers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and other deprived sections of society. Today, India is confidently moving towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, and every citizen of the country is becoming a participant in this transformative journey. ■



BJP National President offers Prayers at Jhandewalan Temple as PM Modi Becomes India’s Longest-Serving Prime Minister

BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin offered special prayers at the Jhandewalan Devi Temple in New Delhi on 10 June 2026 to mark the occasion of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi becoming India’s longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister.

Offering prayers with full rituals, Shri Nabin sought the blessings of Maa for the Prime Minister’s long life, good health, and continued leadership of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nabin said the achievement reflects the unwavering trust and affection of 140 crore Indians in Prime Minister Shri Modi’s leadership. He noted that under Shri Modi’s guidance, India has strengthened its global standing and taken significant strides toward becoming a leading world power.

Highlighting the government’s welfare initiatives, Shri Nabin said schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Har Ghar Jal have transformed the lives of millions of poor families. He added that more than 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty during the last decade.

The BJP President also emphasized the government’s focus on youth empowerment, women’s welfare, farmers, labourers, and small entrepreneurs. Describing Prime Minister Modi’s life, dedication, and service as a source of inspiration, Shri Nabin urged party workers to follow his ideals and contribute to nation-building with commitment and dedication. ■

India is increasingly driven by self-confidence

The Home Minister observed that Prime Minister Modi's vision has helped eliminate the sense of inferiority that once affected the national psyche. Today, India is increasingly driven by self-confidence, ambition, and a belief in its own capabilities. The youth, in particular, have embraced the vision of a prosperous, secure, and globally influential India.

Shri Shah highlighted the growth of the NDA under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, noting that it has evolved beyond a political alliance into a partnership committed to national development. He credited the Prime Minister's leadership for strengthening governance across large parts of the country while expanding public welfare initiatives on an unprecedented scale.

He pointed to landmark welfare measures that have transformed the lives of millions. Over the past twelve years, access to electricity, sanitation, drinking water, housing, healthcare, banking services, and cooking gas has expanded dramatically. Welfare programmes have improved living standards, empowered women, and provided social security to the poorest sections of society. The emergence of millions of "Lakhpati Didis" reflects the success of women-centric development initiatives.

Aspirational Districts Programme

Shri Shah also praised the Aspirational Districts Programme, describing it as one of the most innovative governance reforms undertaken under Prime Minister Modi. Districts once considered backward are now competing to achieve excellence in governance and development. This transformation, he said, demonstrates the effectiveness of a performance-oriented governance model.

According to Shri Shah, Prime Minister Modi has also redefined Indian politics by shifting the focus from caste-based, dynastic, and appeasement-driven politics to development-oriented governance. Citizens increasingly evaluate governments on performance, delivery, and outcomes, strengthening the foundations of Indian democracy.

The Home Minister highlighted several landmark decisions taken during the Modi government, including the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the abolition of triple talaq, implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, and major legal reforms through the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. He also credited the government for significant progress in combating terrorism and Left-Wing Extremism through a

policy of zero tolerance.

Shri Shah noted that India has undergone a remarkable economic transformation under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. From being grouped among the "Fragile Five" economies, India has risen to become one of the world's largest economies. Banking reforms, digital governance, foreign investment promotion, production-linked incentives, and the JAM Trinity have strengthened economic growth and transparency.

Women empowerment

Women empowerment has emerged as another defining feature of the Modi era. Through initiatives such as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and expanded opportunities in defence, policing, science, entrepreneurship, and sports, women have gained greater participation in nation-building.

The Home Minister also emphasized India's infrastructure revolution. Massive investments in highways, railways, airports, ports, metro systems, freight corridors, waterways, and digital connectivity have transformed the country's development landscape. Programmes such as PM Gati Shakti have created a foundation for sustained economic growth.

In the fields of culture, heritage, and spirituality, Shri Shah highlighted the construction of the Ram Mandir, redevelopment of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Mahakal Lok, and Kedarnath, as well as the successful hosting of the G-20 Summit, which showcased India's civilizational heritage to the world.

India's achievements

He further praised India's achievements in space, innovation, semiconductor manufacturing, defence production, renewable energy, and emerging technologies. Missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Gaganyaan, the National Quantum Mission, and the India Semiconductor Mission have positioned India as an emerging technological leader.

Shri Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's journey from a humble background to the highest office in the country represents the strength of Indian democracy. Completing 25 years in public office as Chief Minister and Prime Minister is a rare achievement in democratic politics. Through tireless dedication, personal integrity, and unwavering commitment to the nation, Prime Minister Modi has inspired millions and laid the foundation for a developed India by 2047. His leadership, Shri Shah asserted, will be remembered as a defining chapter in India's modern history. ■



Last twelve years laid a strong foundation for a developed and self-reliant India: JP Nadda

On the completion of 12 years of Modi Government, Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a press conference in Shimla on 13 June 2026. Shri Nadda highlighted the significant achievements of the Modi government in economic growth, infrastructure development, social welfare, healthcare, technology, and global diplomacy and said the last twelve years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi have been a period of unprecedented transformation in India's history.

Shri Nadda noted that Prime Minister Shri Modi has become the longest-serving Prime Minister in independent India, a milestone that reflects the trust and confidence reposed in him by the people through successive electoral mandates. He said this achievement is a testament to the Prime Minister's commitment to public service and his ability to deliver results through decisive and transparent governance.

Highlighting India's economic progress, Shri Nadda said the country has moved from being categorized among the "Fragile Five" economies to becoming the world's fourth-largest economy and one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. Inflation has remained under control, foreign investment has increased significantly, and India's economic fundamentals have strengthened. International institutions such as the IMF and World Bank have recognized India's growing role in driving global economic growth.

One of the most notable reforms, according to Shri Nadda, has been the successful implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Through technology-enabled governance, benefits have reached citizens directly, eliminating leakages and corruption while improving transparency and accountability. This has ensured

that welfare schemes effectively reach their intended beneficiaries.

The Modi government has also undertaken an unprecedented expansion of infrastructure. Massive investments in highways, railways, airports, digital connectivity, logistics corridors, and urban infrastructure have transformed the country's development landscape. Initiatives such as Vande Bharat trains, expressways, metro networks, and PM Gati Shakti have improved connectivity and accelerated economic growth.

Shri Nadda emphasized that social welfare has remained at the centre of the government's development agenda. Schemes providing housing, electricity, drinking water, toilets, healthcare, banking access, and cooking gas connections have improved the quality of life for millions of families. These efforts have particularly benefited the poor, marginalized, and rural populations.

Healthcare infrastructure has also witnessed substantial expansion. New AIIMS institutions, medical colleges, super-speciality facilities, and the Ayushman Bharat programme have significantly improved access to affordable healthcare services. The government has worked to strengthen both preventive and curative healthcare systems across the country.

Women's empowerment has emerged as a major focus area under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Through initiatives promoting financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, and political participation, women have gained greater opportunities and recognition. Shri Nadda highlighted that programmes aimed at empowering women have contributed significantly to social and economic development. ■

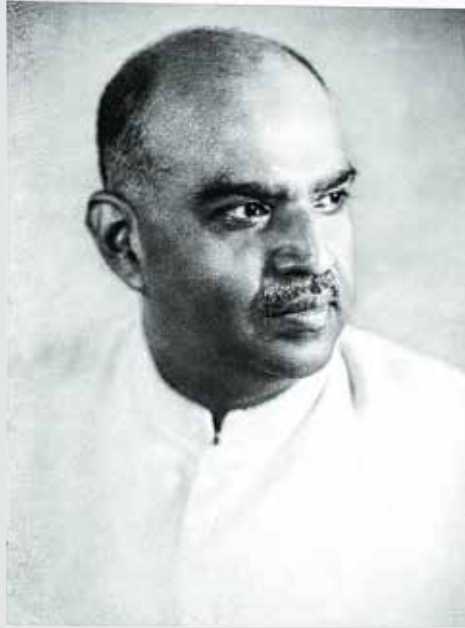
WHY JANA SANGH ?

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in his presidential address at the first Convention of All India Bharatiya Jana Sangh held in Delhi on 21st October, 1951 elaborated on the main reasons behind the formation of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. We are publishing the full text of his speech for our esteemed readers:

I rise to welcome you all to this historic Convention which meets at a momentous period in the history of India. I am well aware of the fact that the task ahead of us is a difficult one. We have many obstacles to struggle against and have to face powerful opposition. What, however, must hold us together is an unflinching faith in the great cause that our Party claims to serve and a clear appreciation of the objectives we have set before us.

I am confident that if we all proceed unitedly with undaunted courage and vigour, not deviating from the right path, keeping to service of the people and the advancement of the honour and dignity of our beloved motherland as the principal aim before us, we are bound ultimately to attain success. Let me make it clear at the outset that Bharatiya Jana Sangh is not coming into existence merely to fight the forthcoming general elections. The elections have no doubt an importance of their own and wherever circumstances allow, we will put up our candidates. The elections will mainly help us in carrying to the masses our ideology and in laying a firmer foundation for developing our Party on an All India basis.

Whatever may be the result of the elections, our Party must however continue to function thereafter carrying a message of hope and goodwill to all classes of people and trying to draw out from them their best efforts in



re-building a happier and more prosperous Free India. Four years have passed since the attainment of political independence and it is admitted on all hands that the country today is in a much worse condition, the distress and sufferings of the people are much deeper, than in the pre-independence days. If we take a detached view of the present situation, we will realize that while certain world events may be partially responsible for economic depression in India, the main reason for the present state of affairs is the failure of the Government in dealing with the essential problems facing the country in a manner which would have advanced the welfare of the masses.

Today the country is in the grip of deep-rooted discontent and frustration and the faith of the people in the capacity of Government to run the administration smoothly, impartially and efficiently has been rudely shaken. Black marketing, profiteering and corruption have demoralized our society.

Instead of attempting genuinely to appreciate the basic causes of this nationwide discontent and to remove them with the cooperation of the people. The government have been singularly intolerant of criticisms and have often tried to suppress the legitimate expression of free public opinion.

Need of Opposition Parties

It is indeed strange that the Congress which started with an enormous fund of goodwill four years ago has today lost the willing support of large sections of the public and has to keep itself in power by dubious means. One of the chief reasons for the manifestation of dictatorship in Congress rule is the absence of well-organised opposition parties which alone can act as

a healthy check on the majority party and can hold out before the country the prospect of an alternative Government.

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, therefore, emerges today as an All India Political Party which will function as the principal party in opposition. It does not mean that it will hesitate to take upon itself the reins of administration should it succeed in winning the confidence of the majority of the electorate, but where this is not possible, it will remain in opposition.

Whether inside or outside the legislature. Opposition does not mean a senseless or destructive approach to all problems that confront a responsible Govt. While, therefore, we may have to attack or criticize official measures or acts, our aim will be to approach all problems in a constructive spirit so that we may keep the public vigilant and make our humble contribution in developing a real democratic structure for the sound administration of our country. The programme of the Party will be settled in detail after consultation with the representatives who have assembled at this Convention. Our Party, however, has been functioning in the provincial sphere in different parts of India for the last few months and the main trends of its programme are already known.

Bharatiya Nationhood

We have thrown open our Party to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in matters of custom, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the spirit of a common motherland. Bharat today is divided by many conflicting slogans based on caste, or class or provincial ideology. Our party will strive to work for that unity in diversity which has been the key note of Bharat's culture and civilization.

This task of making the foundation of Bharatiya nationhood deeper and stronger is not an easy one. While it will be dangerous to encourage the growth of political minorities based on caste and religion, it is obviously the duty of the vast majority of Bharat's population to

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, therefore, emerges today as an All India Political Party which will function as the principal party in opposition. It does not mean that it will hesitate to take upon itself the reins of administration

assure all classes of people who are truly loyal to their motherland that they will be entitled to full protection under the law and to complete equality of treatment in all matters— social, economic and political. Our party gives this assurance unreservedly. We do recognize that there are large sections of Bharatiya people who are today backward and down-trodden.

Full opportunity must be given to them so that their social and economic status may become higher and they may function as worthy participants with their more fortunate brethren in building up a new Bharat. The Congress in its anxiety to maintain the secular character of Bharat has continued a suicidal policy of appeasement of Muslims and some of its leaders, specially the Prime Minister takes special delight in outraging Parity to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in matters of custom, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the spirit of a common motherland.

One may remain a good Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian or even a Muslim and yet be a staunch Indian devoted to the highest national cause. Our Party firmly believes that the future of Bharat lies in the proper appreciation and application of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada. Naturally, the growth of Bharatiya Culture and Civilization has been due to many factors arising out of clashes and conflicts, harmony and synthesis between different ideologies, both native and foreign.

In this great drama extending over thousands of years, empires and dynasties rode and fell and many a personality worthily played their part. Let all true sons and daughters of India—Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist—pride themselves in the thought that the heritage that has come to us from ancient days is something noble and enduring, that it must not be allowed to stagnate and degenerate and that free India's future must be closely linked up with Bharatiya ideals, which must if necessary undergo changes from time to time so as to make them respond to the needs of modern and scientific age. This must be suitably reflected in our system of national education. While we, therefore, aim at establishing a Dharma Rajya, or a Rule of Law, we only abide by the highest tradition of Bharatiya Sanskriti that binds all people together in ties of real amity and fraternity. ■

To be continued...

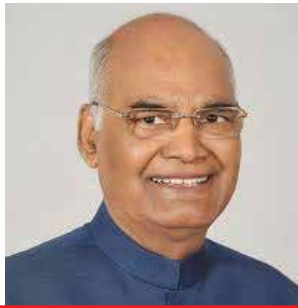


FROM DISCOVERY OF INDIA TO TRUST IN BHARAT

Aspirations of and scrutiny by the people have gone up exponentially compared to Nehru's times. Modi's success lies in having measured up to these and sustaining a bond of trust with the people.

Ram Nath Kovind

The writer is former President of India



June 10, 2026, marks a special occasion in the history of India after Independence. On that date Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru to become the longest continuously serving democratically elected PM of India. Though a historic landmark in itself, PM Modi's tenure being longer than that of Nehru does not capture the more important dimensions of what may be called the watershed period for India since Independence.

Since May 26, 2014, the course of Indian polity took a decisive turn towards Indian-ness of the kind advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari, K.M. Munshi and several other architects of modern India who had reimagined the ancient Indian culture and civilisation with a deep sense of pride in its heritage and legacies.

In the area of economic development, PM Modi has taken forward the model of Rajaji with inclusivity. Rajaji, as we know, was strongly critical of the "command and control" model of Nehruvian political economy which resulted in the "quota, permit and licence raj".

In the sphere of political discourse, despite the historic and scholarly statement by Ambedkar in his concluding address in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, that elements of parliamentary democracy were to be found in the Buddhist institutions dating back 2,500 years and that those Buddhist institutions would have adopted democratic practices from the then prevalent political institutions,

our students and jurists were made to believe that we owed our democracy to Western countries.

Modi has been asserting on global forums that India is the mother of democracy, referring to the ancient Indian democratic ethos and practices. The world is waking up to this fact of India being not only the most ancient but also the largest and most vibrant democracy.

The sheer size of India's electorate at nearly 100 crore is a mind-boggling phenomenon for the rest of the world. Incidentally, the size of the electorate is nearly three times the total population of India at the time of Independence. Added to the size is the growing complexity of the electoral dynamics. As many as 744 political parties participated in the 2024 general election compared to only 53 in the 1951-52 general election.

Aspirations of and scrutiny by the people have gone up exponentially compared to Nehru's times. To measure up to such rising expectations and sustain a robust bond of trust with the people is an exceptional success of Modi, whose approval ratings have remained consistently high compared with Nehru, who had to witness severe erosion in his stature and popularity during his tenure.

During the decades of the 1950s and 1960s, and even up to the 1970s, many democratically elected leaders across the world had long tenures at the helm. The world of the 21st century has witnessed much shorter shelf-life of political leaders. Modi stands as an exception to the global trend.

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It is rightly said that no people can become strong and respectable if they lack self-pride. India has been a great story of civilisational and cultural excellence through many centuries. However, the sense of inferiority instilled by the colonial rulers continued to cast its long shadow even after Independence.

Continuation, and even glorification, of several colonial practices continued after Independence and

A Legacy BEYOND RECORDS

**4,399 DAYS AS INDIA'S
LONGEST-SERVING PM**
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Longest serving Elected PM
of India

Serving a historic **3rd**
consecutive term as PM

32 international honours
and recognitions

19 addresses to foreign
parliaments

1st Prime Minister
born after Independence

0 Elections lost in his
political career

Only Prime Minister to have
completed a **full term** as CM

The Nehruvian period and its immediate aftermath witnessed a sense of embarrassment among the elite about most things Indian. People speaking and working or expressing themselves in Indian languages were looked down upon as inferior cousins. Cultural practices and symbols rooted in ancient Indian traditions were ignored in favour of ideologies and practices nurtured in alien soils

an elitist minority was created which perpetuated the ideas and ideals of Thomas Babington Macaulay. English was promoted as the language of power during the decades after Independence.

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The lack of organic continuity and growth of Indian traditions had resulted in lack of confidence and innovativeness.

Modi has front-staged Indian languages, systems, symbols and belief systems. There is a visible pride among the people in being Indian and expressing Indian-ness. This new sense of pride was shared with me by many people from among the Indian diaspora during my visits to several countries.

Modi chose a function organised by a leading English-language national daily to articulate the need to achieve the goal of mental decolonisation by 2035. In that function held in November 2025, he urged the people of India to undertake a 10-year national pledge to shed the colonial mindset rooted in Macaulay's legacy.

He also made a very emphatic statement that India isn't just an emerging market; it is emerging as a confident new model.

The contrast between India's initial decade since Independence and the last 12 years is highlighted by a major shift. The Nehru years were marked by keenness to seek approval and succour from the West, culturally and economically. The Modi years are marked by confidence in a robust domestic economy which is able to withstand the most severe global disruptions.

The Modi years are also characterised by a strong sense of pride in Indian languages, cultural symbols, values and traditions.

A young but very well-informed boy who happens to be related to us made a statement indicative of his precocity and also of the thinking of his generation. He told me that while I grew up in Nehru's India, he is growing up in Modi's Bharat. The boy also explained to me that his generation is better off for it. ■



A DECADE OF PMSMA

Transforming Maternal Health and Accelerating India's Journey Towards Safe Motherhood

**Jagat Prakash
Nadda**

The writer is Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers, GoI



Every safe pregnancy is a reflection of a nation's commitment to its women. In a country which experiences nearly 2.9 crore pregnancies annually, ensuring safe motherhood at scale requires robust health systems, sustained political commitment, timely interventions, and equitable access to quality healthcare services.

The remarkable decline in maternal mortality over the past decade stands among India's most significant public health achievements. This progress has been driven by sustained investments in maternal health, strengthened service delivery systems, community participation and a relentless commitment to ensuring that every woman has access to quality care throughout her pregnancy journey.

At the heart of this transformation is the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), which marks ten years of advancing safer motherhood across the country.

Envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi ji, the scheme was launched on 9th June 2016, PMSMA as a nationwide movement to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care services, free of cost, to all pregnant women on the 9th day of every month during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.

The choice of the 9th day carries a deeper significance. Pregnancy is a journey of nine precious months, each month bringing new hope, anticipation and responsibility. By dedicating the 9th day of every month to maternal health, PMSMA serves as a reminder that every pregnancy

deserves continuous care, monitoring and support throughout all nine months, until the safe arrival of a healthy newborn.

One of the most important lessons in maternal health is that no pregnancy is entirely risk-free. A pregnancy that appears normal today can develop serious complications tomorrow. Recognizing that any pregnancy can become high-risk without warning, PMSMA introduced a simple yet transformative approach by identifying risks early, monitor them closely and ensure timely referral and management. Every high-risk pregnancy identified represents an opportunity to prevent a maternal death, a stillbirth, a newborn complication or lifelong disability. By shifting the focus from treating complications to preventing them, PMSMA has strengthened India's maternal healthcare system and made pregnancy safer for crores of women.

One of the defining strengths of PMSMA has been the institutionalization of a fixed-day, assured platform for specialist-led antenatal care, bringing predictability, accountability and continuity to maternal health services across the country. Under the programme, pregnant women are screened for nearly 25 HRP conditions, including severe anaemia, hypertension, gestational diabetes, infections and other complications that can threaten maternal and newborn survival, if left undetected.

As evidence emerged that high-risk pregnancies require continued monitoring beyond routine antenatal care visit by a Specialist/Medical Officer under PMSMA, the Government of India further strengthened the programme through the launch of the Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA) strategy in 2022.

Under E-PMSMA, high-risk pregnant women receive additional follow-up visits over and above the regular PMSMA session to ensure timely management until safe delivery. The initiative introduced name-based tracking of high-risk pregnancies and strengthened follow-up mechanisms up to the 45th day after delivery, ensuring that vulnerable women remain under continuous care throughout pregnancy and the immediate postnatal

period. Incentives for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), accompanying high-risk pregnant women for additional visits have further strengthened referral compliance and continuity of care.

To further strengthen implementation, monitoring and accountability, the Government of India has developed a centralized PMSMA digital portal that serves as the backbone of programme management across the country. The portal enables real-time reporting of service delivery, name-based tracking of high-risk pregnancies, monitoring of programme performance and evidence-based decision-making at national and state levels. Importantly, the platform also allows private-sector specialists and community volunteers to register and contribute to the programme, reinforcing the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi Ji's vision of Jan Bhagidari that lies at the heart of PMSMA.

The success of PMSMA also highlights the importance of convergence across India's maternal health ecosystem. Working in synergy with initiatives such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), POSHAN Abhiyaan, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Ayushman Bharat and Midwifery Services, Optimization of Post Natal Care (OPNC), PMSMA has contributed to building a stronger continuum of care for women throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.

At the heart of this transformation are India's frontline healthcare workers i.e. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Community Health Officers (CHOs), nurses, midwives and medical officers. Their tireless efforts in community mobilization, counselling, screening, referral and follow-up have ensured that maternal health services reach women even in the most remote and underserved areas of the country.

The impact of these collective efforts is increasingly visible in national health outcomes. According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates for 2022-24, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined to 87 per 100,000 live births, bringing the country significantly closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of reducing the MMR to below 70 per lakh live births by 2030.

These gains are also reflected in broader maternal health indicators. The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24) reports that institutional deliveries have increased to 90.6% from 88.6% in NFHS-5 (2019-21), while antenatal care coverage has improved

from 92.6% in NFHS-5 to 95.9% in the NFHS-6. These achievements demonstrate that more women are accessing essential maternal health services than ever before, creating valuable opportunities for early detection of complications and timely interventions. Achieving such progress while managing one of the largest annual birth cohorts in the world underscores the scale and effectiveness of India's maternal health programmes.

A Decade of Impact

The scale and reach of PMSMA over the past decade have been unprecedented. Since its launch in 2016, more than 7.5 crore antenatal check-ups have been conducted under the programme across the country. Importantly, PMSMA has enabled the identification of over 1.17 crore high-risk pregnancies.

These achievements are not merely numbers. They represent millions of mothers whose complications were detected early, whose pregnancies were monitored more closely, and whose lives as well as those of their newborns were protected through timely and quality healthcare services.

For every mother, pregnancy is a journey of hope. For every family, it is the promise of a new beginning. Yet pregnancy continues to carry avoidable risks for far too many women across the world. PMSMA was built on a simple but powerful belief, that no woman should lose her life while giving life, and no family should lose a mother to a preventable pregnancy-related complication.

As India celebrates a decade of PMSMA, we celebrate much more than the success of a public health programme. We celebrate millions of safer pregnancies, healthier mothers, stronger beginnings for newborns and the collective efforts of healthcare workers, communities and families who have contributed to this transformation.

The journey ahead is clear. We must continue strengthening quality antenatal care, high-risk pregnancy tracking, midwifery-led services, digital innovations and equitable access to maternal healthcare. The experience of PMSMA has reaffirmed a simple truth: when every pregnancy is monitored, every risk is identified early and every woman receives timely, respectful and quality care, maternal deaths become preventable rather than inevitable.

Ten years of PMSMA is therefore not merely the celebration of a programme. It is a testament to what can be achieved when political commitment, empowered frontline workers, digital innovation, community participation and quality healthcare services come together with a singular purpose to ensure that every mother survives and every newborn thrives. ■



MODI MILESTONE IS AFFIRMATION OF STRENGTH AND OPENNESS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

Nitish Kumar

The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and former Chief Minister of Bihar



In a democracy as large and competitive as India's, public trust is hard to earn and even harder to sustain. Yet, despite constant political contestation and intense public scrutiny, Narendra Modi has continued to enjoy the confidence of the people. By becoming India's longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister, he has set a new benchmark in democratic politics.

Although we come from different parts of India, PM Modi and I belong to a generation whose political consciousness was shaped by the Emergency. We witnessed first-hand the assault on democratic freedoms and participated in the movement that sought to restore them. That struggle was not merely a political event but a formative experience that shaped our understanding of public life and democratic values.

For decades, there was a perception that the highest offices were reserved for a privileged few or those born into influential political families. PM Modi's journey has challenged that notion. Rising from humble beginnings to occupy the highest elected office, he has become a source of inspiration for millions of young Indians, especially those from modest backgrounds. His story reinforces the belief that in a vibrant democracy, determination, hard work, and ability can overcome barriers of birth and circumstance. This milestone is also a powerful affirmation of the strength and openness of Indian democracy.

As a follower of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and many other great socialist leaders, I have always viewed politics as a means to ensure the welfare of the people. Helping people rise

above poverty and live a life of dignity should be the highest priority of any political leader. In this respect, PM Modi has an impressive record. With his sharp focus on poverty eradication, the NDA government has helped bring 25 crore people out of poverty. Toilets, bank accounts, houses, gas connections, tap water, health insurance coverage and many other basic necessities have reached crores of people.

Large sections of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, extremely backward classes, women, poor families and first-generation beneficiaries of development programmes have now begun to see themselves as active participants in India's growth story. Youth have found new entrepreneurship opportunities through special schemes. Bringing these groups into the mainstream of national development has been the most important catalyst in ensuring social justice.

I have also seen the emphasis PM Modi has placed on women's welfare and dignity. Many of his schemes have directly benefited women and reduced hardships in their daily lives. It has been my experience in Bihar that when women are at the centre of development efforts, society progresses faster. Little wonder that the successes of our Jeevika experiment in Bihar are now spoken about globally.

Having served as Chief Minister for many years, I know the challenges associated with ensuring that benefits reach the intended beneficiary. Good intentions alone are not enough. Effective implementation is

PM Modi and I belong to a generation whose political consciousness was shaped by the Emergency. We witnessed first-hand the assault on democratic freedoms and participated in the movement that sought to restore them. That struggle was not merely a political event but a formative experience that shaped our understanding of public life and democratic values

important. I have also seen how the ability to convert policy decisions into results requires constant monitoring, reforms, administrative focus and attention to detail.

A defining feature of PM Modi's leadership has been his emphasis on ensuring that governance translates into tangible outcomes for citizens. He has consistently focused on efficiency, transparency and accountability. Through the extensive use of technology, direct benefit transfers and robust monitoring mechanisms, the gap between policy formulation and implementation has been significantly reduced. As government benefits reach people more effectively and with fewer leakages, public trust in institutions is strengthened. This trust is further reinforced by the PM's continuous engagement with citizens, helping foster a stronger connection between the government and the people.

PM Modi's political trajectory includes a long and successful stint as Chief Minister of Gujarat. In fact, he will soon complete 25 years of continuous service at the helm of an elected government. This experience at the state and national levels has given him a deep understanding of the needs of states. His tenure as PM has been marked by a strong commitment to cooperative federalism.

During my tenure as Chief Minister, I personally experienced his support for the development of Bihar, irrespective of political circumstances. I am especially inclined to mention the stupendous support that Bihar received during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budgets, including the establishment of the Makhana Board, the power plant in Bhagalpur, and funds for management of floods and a host of infrastructure projects.

PM Modi has great respect for the unique culture and traditions of Bihar. He has showcased Bihar's heritage on the global stage by gifting makhana, Madhubani paintings and other products from the state to international dignitaries. He ensured that Jannayak Karpoori Thakur

Compared to the decade before 2014, support and investment from the Centre have increased significantly. The construction of important bridges across the Ganga, the expansion of national highways, the development of airports, and rapid upgrades in railway infrastructure are helping drive Bihar's growth

was conferred the Bharat Ratna, a long-pending demand that had remained unfulfilled for decades.

Compared to the decade before 2014, support and investment from the Centre have increased significantly. The construction of important bridges across the Ganga, the expansion of national highways, the development of airports, and rapid upgrades in railway infrastructure are helping drive Bihar's growth.

Particularly commendable is the transformation taking place in railway infrastructure, something that has always been close to my heart. The introduction of new trains, such as Vande Bharat, has improved the ease of travel. Railway electrification and other modernisation projects have gathered remarkable momentum under PM Modi.

I have always practised and supported zero tolerance for corruption. One of the qualities that endears PM Modi to the people is his firm stance against corruption. It is rare to see leaders who have spent decades in positions of power without a single stain on their integrity. Along with curbing avenues for corruption through institutional reforms, he has also demonstrated the political will to pursue cases against corrupt politicians and officials through the legal process.

A notable aspect of PM Modi's tenure has been the way India has gained greater weight on the global stage. As an Indian, it makes me proud to see our voice being welcomed with respect in matters relating to the economy, climate change, technology, health and international cooperation. While maintaining strong relations with different countries and groups, PM Modi has consistently stood for peace and progress. As a result, the world increasingly looks towards our nation with hope as a major driver of global growth in the 21st century.

Having spent many decades in public life, I know that leadership demands continuous effort, relentless hard work and discipline. It requires constant travel, regular engagement with people, detailed review of government work and, at the same time, the ability to remain connected to a larger vision.

PM Modi's tireless energy and dedication have helped him retain the confidence of the people for such a long time. As he becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of India, it is an occasion to celebrate his contribution to public life and wish him many more milestones ahead. I congratulate him on this historic achievement and wish him good health and continued success in serving the nation. ■



India Opens a New Gulf Gateway for workers, farmers, MSMEs

PIYUSH GOYAL

The writer is Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Govt



The India-Oman Free Trade Agreement that comes into force from June 1 is a defining milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission to create global pathways to prosperity for India's students, artisans, women, farmers, fishermen and MSMEs by opening new markets and accelerating job creation.

India has a deep economic and people-to-people connect with Oman, home to nearly 7 lakh Indians, including merchant families whose roots there go back 200-300 years. Indian remittances from Oman amount to about \$2 billion annually, while more than 6,000 Indian enterprises operate there.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries significantly deepens economic and strategic ties. It immediately gives 100 percent duty-free market access in Oman to 98% of tariff lines covering 99.38 percent of exports.

This marks a dramatic improvement over the pre-CEPA system that allowed only 15.3 percent of India's exports enter Oman at zero duty. Goods from India that currently face a 5 percent import duty in Oman, worth about \$3.64 billion in exports, will become substantially more competitive.

For India's MSMEs, the agreement could be transformative as many sectors that gain from CEPA are dominated by small businesses. Iron & steel, textiles, leather, auto components and industrial equipment are some of the sectors where MSMEs are expected to get large international orders, which will boost production, investment and hiring.

In an era of growing global instability, the CEPA offers

Indian exporters a crucial opportunity to diversify markets and reduce dependence on traditional destinations facing economic slowdown and rising trade barriers.

Job Creation - The trade pact benefits labor-intensive sectors such as textiles & apparel, leather & footwear, food processing, marine products, gems & jewellery, and select engineering segments, which are major employers in India.

Increased textiles exports to Oman will boost production and create jobs across major clusters such as Tirupur, Surat, Ludhiana, Panipat, Coimbatore, Karur, Bhadohi, Moradabad, Jaipur, and Ahmedabad. Artisans and weavers across India will also gain from higher international demand for their products.

Numerous jobs will also be created in major leather and footwear hubs across India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as well as parts of Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh among others.

The gems and jewellery sector is another example of how the CEPA will accelerate employment growth. India already has strong capabilities in cut and polished diamonds, gold and silver jewellery, and handmade jewellery production. With tariff barriers removed, Indian exporters will get a decisive competitive edge over European and Asian rivals. The industry estimates that exports to Oman could grow by as much as USD 150 million over the next three years. This is expected to create substantial employment opportunities in jewellery-making clusters across West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

Farmers and Fishermen - To safeguard domestic

India has a deep economic and people-to-people connect with Oman, home to nearly 7 lakh Indians, including merchant families whose roots there go back 200-300 years. Indian remittances from Oman amount to about \$2 billion annually, while more than 6,000 Indian enterprises operate there

farmers and sensitive agricultural interests, India has given no tariff concession for major products such as wheat, rice, maize, millets, dairy, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, tea, coffee and honey.

India will get a competitive advantage over rivals in butter, honey, sweet biscuits, eggs and some confectionary products, which will increase demand for the country's farm produce and boost rural incomes.

The agreement also provides for acceptance and recognition of India's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) certification, which will give enormous opportunities for Indian farmers to sell organic output to Oman, which is a major food importer.

Marine products also have huge untapped potential. Oman's imports of marine products was about \$119 million between 2022 and 2024. Imports from India stood at only \$7.75 million, giving enormous opportunities for Indian seafood exports such as shrimp and frozen cuttlefish. The labour-intensive marine products industry is likely to generate additional jobs in fishing, processing, packaging, cold-chain logistics, and export operations.

Pharma and Traditional Medicine - Indian medicines approved by regulators such as USFDA, EMA, UK MHRA and TGA will receive automatic marketing authorisation in Oman within 90 days – a major win for Indian pharma exporters.

Significantly, CEPA creates opportunities for India's traditional medicine services. It provides for joint research

in traditional medicine.

Services and Mobility - Another important dimension of the agreement lies in services and mobility. Oman has undertaken commercially meaningful commitments in sectors of major export interest to India, including professional services, computer and IT services, education, healthcare, tourism, research and development, and environmental services. Indian professionals in areas such as accounting, engineering, medicine, construction, education, and consulting are expected to benefit from improved market access.

Crucially, Oman has agreed to enhanced mobility commitments for Indian professionals and workers. Intra-corporate transferees and contractual service suppliers will be allowed stays of up to four years, while business visitors and independent professionals will receive easier temporary entry provisions. It has raised the ceiling for intra-corporate transferees from 20 percent to 50 percent.

The Modi government's initiatives to sign trade pacts with developed countries is part of the Prime Minister's mission to improve the life of every Indian.

The agreement with Oman is a reminder that trade is a powerful instrument of growth, job creation and shared prosperity. In a fragmented and protectionist world, PM Modi is sending a clear message that the new, confident India will not retreat behind walls. It will rise through partnerships, competitiveness and global engagement. ■

DEFENCE PRODUCTION SOARS TO A RECORD 1.78 LAKH CRORE

India's annual defence production has surged to an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2025-26. The milestone represents a 15.6% growth over the previous fiscal year's output of Rs 1.54 lakh crore and a staggering 110% increase since FY 2020-21 when the figure was Rs 84,643 crore. The indigenous defence production has increased almost four times from Rs 43,746 crore in FY 2013-14.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other PSUs accounted for approximately 76% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%, which is a rise from 22% in FY 2024-25. The share of the private sector is at its all-time high of around Rs 42,000 crore in FY



2025-26, reflecting its expanding role in the defence ecosystem.

The achievement reflects the growing momentum of the Government's push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, spearheaded by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh credited the inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for taking India's defence production to newer heights, and lauded the collective efforts of the Department of Defence Production and public & private sectors for achieving the landmark. ■



PM SVANIDHI SCHEME

A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY OF EMPOWERMENT AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR STREET VENDORS



Manohar Lal Khattar

The writer is Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs

Urbanization in India is advancing rapidly. It is estimated that by 2050, nearly 50% of the country's population will reside in urban areas. At present, approximately 66% of the urban workforce is engaged in the informal sector, which forms a vital pillar of the urban economy. Among those working in this sector, street vendors play a particularly significant role. Millions of vendors selling fruits, vegetables, tea, snacks, clothing, and other daily-use items not only make life easier for citizens but also contribute substantially to the urban economy.

Despite their importance, street vendors historically had limited access to formal banking and credit facilities. In the absence of a credit history, they often relied on informal sources of finance at high interest rates, resulting in a significant portion of their income being spent on loan repayments. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further exacerbated their challenges, severely impacting their businesses.

In response to these unprecedented difficulties, the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched in June 2020 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is India's first comprehensive micro-credit scheme for street vendors, providing them with simple, dignified, and institutional access to formal finance for the first time.

Under the scheme, banks and financial institutions provide collateral-free working capital loans in three

tranches of Rs. 15,000, Rs. 25,000, and Rs. 50,000. To encourage timely repayment, beneficiaries who timely repay their loans receive an interest subsidy of 7%. Over the past six years, the PM SVANidhi Scheme has benefitted nearly 76 lakh street vendors and facilitated the disbursement of loans exceeding Rs. 17,800 crore across its three lending cycles.

Indian street vendors are known for their resilience and perseverance amid changing global circumstances and economic disruptions. PM SVANidhi has infused new energy into their entrepreneurial spirit. The scheme has gone beyond merely providing loans; it has become a powerful vehicle for dignity, recognition, and new opportunities.

A key factor behind the scheme's success has been the "Whole-of-Government Approach," which brought together coordinated efforts of the Central Government, State Governments, Urban Local Bodies, and banking institutions. This collaborative framework has enabled the scheme to achieve unprecedented outreach and remarkable outcomes across the country.

Under this scheme, the bank accounts of millions of street vendors became active, their financial transactions began to be recorded, and for the first time, a formal credit history was established for them. This made it easier for them to access larger loans and other financial services in the future, and today they have emerged as respected bank customers and entrepreneurs.

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Another significant aspect of the scheme is digital empowerment. Cashback incentives have been introduced to promote UPI and QR code-based digital payments. Through this initiative, over 55 lakh vendors have been integrated into the digital economy, making their transactions more transparent and strengthening their financial credibility.

The scheme's vision extends beyond business support. Through the SVANidhi se Samridhi initiative, beneficiaries and their families are connected to eight major welfare schemes of the Government of India. More than 50 lakh street vendor families have been profiled so far, and over 1.52 crore benefits have been sanctioned under these schemes. By facilitating access to pensions, insurance, healthcare, and social security benefits, the initiative has emerged as a comprehensive social protection mechanism for street vendors and their families.

In addition, collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has enabled the provision of training on food safety and hygiene. This has particularly benefited street food vendors by improving quality standards, hygiene practices, and customer confidence.

The scheme has also made a noteworthy contribution to women's empowerment. Women constitute nearly 46% of all beneficiaries. As a result, their income levels, social standing, and participation in household decision-making have significantly improved.

Independent impact assessments conducted in 2023 and 2025 have further validated the scheme's far-reaching impact. Approximately 95% of beneficiaries accessed formal credit for the first time in their lives, marking a historic achievement in financial inclusion. Moreover, nearly 30% of beneficiaries subsequently succeeded in obtaining loans from other formal financial institutions, reflecting growing financial confidence and stronger credit profiles.

Beneficiaries have reported an average annual

increase of nearly 20% in income. Improvements have also been observed in housing conditions, nutrition, healthcare access, and children's education. Between 2023 and 2025, the use of UPI-based transactions among beneficiaries increased significantly from approximately 45% to 83%.

Recognizing the scheme's broad and positive impact, the Union Cabinet, in August 2025, approved its extension in a restructured form until March 2030.

Under the revamped scheme, loan limits for street vendors have been enhanced, and the scope has been expanded beyond Urban Local Bodies to include Census Towns and peri-urban areas. Greater emphasis is also being placed on capacity building to help vendors strengthen and adapt their enterprises to evolving economic needs. In this direction, the introduction of the SVANidhi Credit Card marks another important step. The card provides vendors with access to short-term, interest-free credit to meet immediate financial and personal requirements.

While PM SVANidhi has significantly advanced the financial empowerment of street vendors, many of them are still not adequately recognized as an integral part of urban planning frameworks. They continue to face challenges such as the lack of designated vending spaces. The absence of organized vending zones affects both their livelihoods and customer accessibility. To address this challenge, State Governments and Urban Local Bodies should work toward integrating street vendors into urban planning framework in the coming years. One promising initiative in this regard is the development of Street Food Hubs, which will provide vendors with organized and accessible business spaces. Such efforts will not only strengthen their livelihoods but also contribute to cleaner, more organized, and more vibrant urban environments.

The PM SVANidhi Scheme embodies the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local at the grassroots level. Its success demonstrates that the benefits of inclusive development are reaching the most vulnerable sections of society.

The scheme has established an effective model of financial inclusion and social security for street vendors. It is expected that in the years ahead, PM SVANidhi will continue to empower millions of vendors, create new stories of transformation, and play a significant role in building a viksit Bharat. ■



INDIA'S ERA OF CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

RECLAIMING OUR CIVILIZATIONAL GLORY

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

The writer is Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, GoI



As India scales new heights across diverse sectors—from economic robustness and national security to cutting-edge science and infrastructure—the path to becoming a truly Viksit Bharat (Developed India) demands more than just material milestones. True national progression requires an unyielding anchor in our ancient culture, history, and heritage.

India stands as one of the world's oldest living civilizations. For centuries, our resilience was tested by brutal onslaughts from foreign invaders. Regimes changed and political power shifted, yet the core ethos of Bharat successfully endured, passed down seamlessly from one generation to the next. Though our sacred places of worship, ancient texts, libraries, and universities were systematically demolished during these turbulent eras, our cultural soul remained indomitable.

However, the most insidious blow to cultural India came later, through a systematically altered education system. This framework was deliberately engineered to instill a deep-seated inferiority complex within us toward our own heritage, intentionally severing us from our civilizational roots.

2014: The Dawn of a Cultural Reawakening

The year 2014 marked a historic paradigm shift. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India began shedding its colonial cloak and initiated a massive cultural resurrection. Today, a confident Bharat is not merely recalling its glorious past; it is actively restoring its grandeur, majesty, and spiritual values into the very fabric of our mainstream

social life.

Our timeless festivals, historical monuments, traditional cuisine, attire, fine arts, music, and profound craftsmanship are no longer viewed as mere relics of history—they have emerged as dynamic pillars of global fascination and respect.

Activating India's Cultural Soft Power

Over the past 12 years, the global acceptance and appreciation of Indian heritage have scaled unprecedented heights. The universal adoption of June 21st as International Yoga Day is a spectacular example. Yoga is not merely a physical regimen; it is a profound ancient Indian philosophy that the world has embraced for holistic human well-being.

Our commitment to our heritage is equally reflected in the aggressive repatriation of stolen antiquities—marking a sharp departure from past decades of institutional apathy:

Prior to 2013: A mere 13 stolen artifacts were brought back to India over several decades.

Past 12 Years: More than 640 sacred heritage artifacts have been successfully retrieved from foreign soils. This overwhelming shift proves that preserving culture is no longer just a rhetorical exercise; we are fiercely determined to reclaim the physical and spiritual symbols of our civilization. These artifacts are the living imprints of our ancestors' mastery over art, craft, and sciences, serving as eternal beacons of inspiration.

Furthermore, UNESCO's recognition of Durga Puja and Diwali as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity validates the timeless, universal messages embedded in our traditions—the eternal triumph of truth over falsehood and light over darkness. With 44 World Heritage Sites, India now ranks 6th globally and 2nd in Asia, offering a proud testament to our tangible historical legacy.

Reclaiming Forgotten and Suppressed Knowledge

For centuries, foreign forces who lacked respect for



historic excellence in spirituality, science, art, and craft, inspiring an unshakeable pride in their roots.

Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi: Rejuvenating Our Sacred Spaces

Our grand temples, imposing forts, and historical fairs are the physical anchors of our civilizational narrative. Yet, for nearly seven decades post-independence, these cultural landmarks faced systemic neglect and administrative apathy, while only a select few monuments were curated for global visibility. Temples in India have historically been the unifying threads of our diverse societal fabric. Over the past 12 years, we have completely

reversed this culture of neglect.

intellectual and spiritual traditions tried to obliterate India's knowledge repositories by burning our universities, dismantling gurukuls, and scattering our manuscripts. While dedicated sages and households quietly preserved these priceless scrolls in remote monasteries and temples, they unfortunately slipped out of public memory. Regrettably, even after gaining independence, past regimes made no structured, national-level effort to compile these texts and reclaim our civilizational wisdom.

To rectify this historic oversight, the 'Gyan Bharatam' National Manuscript Survey has been launched as a massive nationwide initiative. Today, over 1 Crore manuscripts have been successfully catalogued from across the country.

We are not just collecting these texts; we are pairing ancient wisdom with modern technological might. By leveraging cutting-edge tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced digitization, we are securing this intellectual wealth for eternity. This monumental archive will introduce future generations to India's

Through iconic transformations like the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Mahakal Lok Corridor, Kedarnath, and Somnath, we are executing a comprehensive overhaul of our spiritual landscape. By creating world-class infrastructure and seamless facilities for pilgrims, we have successfully championed the philosophy of 'Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi' (Heritage alongside Development)

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This revitalization has sparked a massive boom in spiritual tourism, directly fortifying local economies and transforming these holy towns into vibrant economic hubs.

Most heartening is the massive influx of youth to these sacred centers. Their growing presence is the ultimate symbol of India's cultural revival, proving that our younger generation is eagerly re-establishing its bond with our spiritual heritage during their journeys.

Bharat Reconnecting with its Eternal Roots

Today, India is confidently walking a dual path: keeping pace with the cutting-edge modern world while remaining deeply anchored in its ancient civilizational roots. We are writing a glorious new chapter of cultural decolonization. After centuries of existential struggle, Bharat is firmly asserting its timeless spiritual and cultural identity on the global stage.

We are demonstrating to the world how ancient traditions and state-of-the-art modernity can seamlessly coexist. The future belongs to this vibrant, self-reliant New India. In this Amrit Kaal, the thought, philosophy, and cultural values of Bharat are poised to give a fresh, holistic direction to the entire global community. ■



Healthy Earth, Healthy Farmer, and Healthy India

Bhajan Lal Sharma

The writer is Chief Minister of Rajasthan



The soul of India resides in its villages, and the soul of the villages resides in the farmer. Beyond being the provider of food, the farmer serves as the most vital link between nature and human life. Over the past few decades, the country's agricultural system has relied extensively on chemical fertilizers and pesticides to boost production. While this resulted in an immediate increase in output, it gradually began to manifest severe adverse effects on soil fertility, water quality, and human health. The indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is leading to a decline in land productivity, a rise in cultivation costs, and a failure of farmers' incomes to grow as expected.

In such times, the call given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi—to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, promote natural farming, and “save the health of Mother Earth”—represents a national resolve to safeguard the future of coming generations. For a vast agrarian state like Rajasthan, this message holds even greater significance.

Rajasthan is defined not only by its desert landscape but also by its hardworking farmers, who sustain agriculture and animal husbandry even amidst challenging conditions. The region already grapples with inherent challenges such as water scarcity, low rainfall, rising temperatures, and soil alkalinity. If the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers continues in such a state, the vitality of the soil could deteriorate even further in the coming years. The need of the hour is for farmers to move towards a model characterized by “low costs, high returns, and healthy farming.”

During the era of the Green Revolution, fertilizers such as Urea, DAP, and other chemical inputs were considered the bedrock of agriculture. While this approach boosted production in the initial years, their excessive and prolonged use eventually disrupted the natural nutrient balance of the soil.

Today, farmers are compelled to apply increasingly larger quantities of fertilizers every year, yet production levels remain stagnant. The escalating prices of chemical fertilizers have further driven up the overall cost of

cultivation. Natural and organic alternatives not only improve soil health but are also proving instrumental in reducing farming costs over the long term.

In regions of Rajasthan—such as Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Kota, Bundi, and Jhalawar—growing concerns have emerged regarding the adverse impact of excessive chemical usage on both land and water quality. Conversely, in areas like Nagaur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Barmer, and Jaisalmer, the imperative for sustainable agriculture is being keenly felt due to the limited availability of water resources.

On numerous occasions, Prime Minister Shri Modi has spoken about the initiatives “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” (A Tree in Mother's Name) and “saving Mother Earth from toxins.” The Central Government is actively promoting technologies such as natural farming, cow-based agriculture, Nano Urea, organic fertilizers, and drone-based precision spraying. Nano Urea, in particular, has kindled a new sense of hope among farmers. It is proving to be highly effective even when used in smaller quantities; this not only reduces cultivation costs but also minimizes environmental damage.

A positive climate regarding natural and organic farming is now emerging in Rajasthan as well. Many farmers are reverting to the use of cow-dung manure, vermicompost, and indigenous seeds. In several villages, farmers are forming collectives to market their organic produce, thereby securing better prices for their yields.

Farming is not merely about cultivating crops; it is a

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way of life that entails maintaining a harmonious balance between soil, water, livestock, and the environment. Today, the world is once again gravitating back toward this approach. The demand for organic products is witnessing rapid growth in numerous countries, including those in Europe and the Americas. By recognizing and seizing this opportunity, farmers in Rajasthan can carve out a strong identity for themselves in the global market. Rajasthan's coarse grains, millet (Bajra), green gram (Moong), fenugreek (Methi), cumin (Jeera), and organic vegetables hold immense potential on the international stage.

Rajasthan boasts a rich and enduring tradition of livestock rearing. The rural way of life in the region has historically been deeply intertwined with animals such as cows, buffaloes, camels, and sheep. If livestock rearing and natural farming are integrated effectively, farmers can achieve true self-reliance. Fertilizers derived from cow dung and cow urine—along with organic liquid formulations—can not only enhance soil fertility but also significantly reduce dependence on chemical inputs.

It is also essential for farmers to understand that the objective of natural farming is to make agriculture sustainable, profitable, and health-promoting. While some challenges may arise initially, as the quality of the soil gradually improves, agricultural yields begin to stabilize and enhance. Most importantly, the cost of cultivation

decreases, and the farmer becomes less dependent on expensive chemical products available in the market.

For centuries, our ancestors served and protected the Earth, regarding it not merely as a means of production but as a mother figure. While engaging in agriculture, they preserved the land's fertility, ecological balance, and natural wealth, passing them down to subsequent generations. Today, it is our shared responsibility to refrain from the indiscriminate use of chemicals and to safeguard the soil's vitality, its inherent strength, and the balance of nature, ensuring that future generations, too, inherit a prosperous and fertile Earth. We are the custodians of a culture that views the land not merely as a resource, but as a sacred entity worthy of reverence. Thus, for us, protecting the Earth is not merely a duty, but an act of sacred worship.

If the soil remains healthy, the farmer will prosper, the villages will flourish, and the nation will remain happy. Prime Minister Shri Modi's call to action is, in essence, the mantra of "Healthy Earth, Healthy Farmer, and Healthy India." Fellow farmers, let us step forward in this direction and resolve to work towards securing fertile land, clean water, and a safe environment for the generations to come. This will constitute true service to the nation and will pave the way for the enduring prosperity of Indian agriculture. ■

PM HIGHLIGHTS GROWING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT IN INDIA

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 19 June on the occasion of 12 years of India's First, highlighted India's readiness to contribute towards a better planet and noted that the world is engaging with and investing in India with hope and enthusiasm.

The Prime Minister stated that thanks to the 140 crore people of India, the world looks at India with hope and enthusiasm. He added that this is also why the world is engaging with India and investing in India.

The Prime Minister highlighted these observations under #12YearsOfIndiaFirst. The Prime Minister wrote on X; "India is always ready to do whatever is possible to contribute towards a better planet. At the same time, thanks to the 140 crore people of India, the world looks at India with hope and enthusiasm. That is also why the world is engaging with India and investing in India. ■

PM DISBURSES INCENTIVES WORTH 2,400 CRORE UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI VIKSIT BHARAT ROZGAR YOJANA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 19 June, addressed beneficiaries, industry representatives, and stakeholders associated with the Prime Minister Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, reaffirming the Government's commitment to empowering India's youth and accelerating employment generation across the country. Shri Modi disbursed incentives worth around 2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), marking a significant milestone in the implementation of PM-VBRY, the Government of India's flagship employment-linked incentive scheme, and expanding social security coverage across sectors. This incentive has supported the creation of 15 lakh employment opportunities across the country. ■

INDIA ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE PRINCIPLE OF “HUMANITY FIRST”: PM MODI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to France in June 2026 marked a significant milestone in India's diplomatic engagement with Europe and the broader international community. The visit, which took place from 14–19 June 2026, included participation in technology forums, bilateral meetings with world leaders, and attendance at the G7 Outreach Summit in Evian. The visit underscored India's growing role in global governance and focused on three key themes: technology, trade, and regional and international security.

The visit was conducted in three phases: beginning in Nice, continuing in Evian for the G7 and G7 Outreach meetings, and concluding in Paris. According to India's Foreign Secretary, the visit produced substantial outcomes and reinforced India's strategic objectives in several critical areas.

A major highlight of the visit was the emphasis on technology and innovation. In Nice, Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly launched the "Bharat Innovates" initiative. This flagship programme aims to showcase India's rapidly growing deep-tech ecosystem on the global stage and connect Indian startups with international innovators, investors, venture capital firms, and technology leaders.

More than 120 Indian deep-tech startups participated in the initiative, demonstrating India's growing capabilities in fields such as artificial intelligence, digital technologies, advanced manufacturing, and innovation-driven entrepreneurship. The success of Bharat Innovates



has encouraged policymakers to consider expanding the initiative to major technology events around the world.

VivaTech conference

The technology focus continued in Paris, where Prime Minister Modi participated in the renowned VivaTech conference. India was recognized as the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Country Partner and Country of Focus at the event. Addressing global technology leaders, the Prime Minister highlighted India's achievements in

deploying technology at scale for a population of over one billion people.

He emphasized India's vision of a human-centric approach to artificial intelligence, arguing that technology should serve humanity rather than dominate it. This perspective reflects India's broader commitment to ensuring that emerging technologies contribute to inclusive growth, social welfare, and sustainable development.

Trade and Economic Partnerships

Trade and economic cooperation formed another central pillar of the visit. During bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, Prime Minister Modi engaged with several world leaders to advance India's economic interests and strengthen trade relations.

PM's address on “Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity” at G7

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16 June addressed the Outreach Session on “Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity”, at the G7 Summit in Evian, France.

In his intervention, the Prime Minister underlined that, in an interconnected world, where energy, food, health, cyber, and economic security are intertwined, building international partnerships was a necessity for the progress and prosperity of humanity. He further added that, in an uncertain world, trade and technology were being misused for narrow interests, leading to a trust deficit in the international arena. Alluding to the lessons from the COVID pandemic, he called upon nations to focus on building trust and transparency in global partnerships.

Sharing India's approach to international cooperation, Prime Minister stated that India has always followed the principle of “humanity first”, and this thought continues

Historic Visit of PM Modi to Slovakia

PRESIDENT PELLEGRINI CONFERRED SLOVAKIA'S HIGHEST STATE HONOUR, 'THE ORDER OF THE WHITE DOUBLE CROSS, FIRST CLASS', UPON PM MODI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's state visit to the Slovak Republic marked a historic milestone in India-Slovakia relations. The visit, undertaken at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, was the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country's independence in 1993.

Prime Minister Shri Modi received a warm welcome in Bratislava and was accorded a ceremonial reception at Bratislava Castle. During the visit, he held extensive discussions with Prime Minister Fico, Slovak President Peter Pellegrini, and Speaker of the National Council Richard Raši.

A major outcome of the visit was the decision to elevate India-Slovakia ties to a Comprehensive Partnership, reflecting the growing depth and strategic importance of the relationship. Several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed. A significant achievement was the signing of an MoU on labour mobility to facilitate the safe and legal movement



of Indian professionals and skilled workers to Slovakia. Both countries also agreed to work towards an early conclusion of a Social Security Agreement.

In recognition of his contribution to strengthening bilateral ties, President Pellegrini conferred Slovakia's highest state honour, the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, upon Prime Minister Shri Modi. The Prime Minister dedicated the award to the people of India and Slovakia.

The visit also highlighted growing cultural and people-to-people ties, with increasing popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cuisine, and Indian cinema in Slovakia. Overall, the visit provided renewed momentum to bilateral cooperation and laid the foundation for a stronger and more comprehensive partnership between the two nations.

to be at the center of its efforts, be it pursuing action under the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Global bio-fuel Alliance, Mission LiFE or Ek Ped Maa ke Naam [Plant for Mother] campaign. He further added that this inclusive approach has also led India to be the first responder when natural disasters have struck various parts of the world - be it a cyclone in Sri Lanka, earthquake in Afghanistan, floods in



Mozambique or hurricane in Jamaica.

Speaking about India's inclusive and sustainable growth, Prime Minister elaborated that its mantra of "Sarv Jan Hitaye, Sarv Jan Sukhaye" [welfare and happiness for all], had led to appreciable results in fostering financial inclusion, health security, digital identity, technology-led empowerment of people and women-led development.

Prime Minister noted that international partnerships should move beyond the donor-recipient paradigm to one of solidarity and equal ownership. He also stated that lack of respect for international law was the biggest hurdle to building international solidarity, and needed to be addressed as a priority. He emphasized that for international partnerships needed to prioritize dialogue and diplomacy for ensuring peace and stability.

India-United Kingdom Trade Agreement

One of the most important developments was the announcement regarding the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The agreement, signed in the presence of both Prime Ministers the previous year, was confirmed to enter into force on 15 July 2026. The agreement is expected to expand bilateral trade, promote investment flows, reduce trade barriers, and create new opportunities for businesses in both countries. It represents a major achievement in India's strategy of securing beneficial trade agreements with key economic partners.

Progress in India–Canada Economic Relations

Prime Minister Modi also met with the Prime Minister of Canada. During the meeting, both leaders directed their negotiating teams to accelerate discussions on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and aim for its completion by the end of 2026.

The commitment to fast-track negotiations demonstrates the willingness of both countries to strengthen economic cooperation and diversify trade relations amid changing global economic conditions.

India–European Union Free Trade Agreement

Another significant development involved discussions with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa. The leaders reviewed progress on the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), one of the most ambitious trade negotiations currently underway.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to signing the agreement before the end of the year. Successful completion of the FTA would deepen economic integration between India and the European Union, improve market access, and strengthen strategic cooperation in multiple sectors.

India–United States Trade Negotiations

Trade discussions with the United States also featured prominently during the visit. Prime Minister Modi met U.S. President Donald Trump and reviewed progress on an interim bilateral trade agreement.

According to officials, negotiations are in their final stages, and both leaders instructed their teams to agree on the earliest opportunity. The planned visit of the U.S. Trade Representative to India reflects the importance attached to strengthening economic relations between the world's two largest democracies.

Addressing Regional and International Security Issues

The third major theme of the visit was regional and global security. Security concerns featured prominently

in discussions during both the G7 meetings and bilateral engagements with world leaders.

A key focus was the evolving situation in West Asia. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment to peace, stability, and dialogue in the region. India welcomed diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions and expressed hope for a rapid return to stability.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and uninterrupted maritime commerce through international waterways. Given India's extensive trade links and dependence on secure sea routes, maritime security remains a vital national interest.

Special attention was given to the welfare and security of Indian seafarers, who play a significant role in global shipping and maritime trade. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that ensuring their safety should be a collective responsibility of the international community.

India's Role at the G7 Outreach Summit

The G7 Outreach Summit provided India with an important platform to contribute to discussions on global challenges. This marked Prime Minister Modi's seventh participation in G7-related meetings, reflecting India's increasing significance in international affairs.

The summit focused on themes such as international solidarity, economic resilience, macroeconomic stability, technological transformation, and sustainable development. India actively participated in discussions aligned with the priorities of the French G7 Presidency.

India endorsed several important outcome documents related to cancer research, responses to Ebola outbreaks in Africa, and the creation of safer digital environments for children and minors. These endorsements demonstrated India's commitment to addressing global public health and digital governance challenges.

The Prime Minister also participated in a dedicated session on artificial intelligence, where he presented India as a provider of scalable technological solutions. He highlighted India's success in leveraging digital technologies for governance, financial inclusion, and public service delivery.

Furthermore, he advocated stronger international cooperation to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and enhance economic resilience, particularly for countries of the Global South. He emphasized the responsibility of international financial institutions to support developing countries during periods of global economic uncertainty. ■

PM addresses rally at the two years of Odisha Government in Rairangpur



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth more than 47,600 crore in Odisha during a grand event held at Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj in Odisha to mark the completion of two years of the BJP-led state government.

The programme, themed “Vikas Ra Dhara, Odisha Sara”, was attended by Hon’ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, who accompanied the Prime Minister during a visit to her native village, Pahadpur. Both leaders offered prayers at the sacred Santhali Jahera and Ho Jahera groves and visited educational and skill development institutions established in the area.

Addressing a large gathering, Prime Minister Shri Modi congratulated the people of Odisha on the successful completion of two years of the state government and highlighted the achievements of the “double-engine government” in accelerating development, attracting investment, creating employment opportunities and improving the lives of ordinary citizens.

Extending warm birthday wishes to President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Shri Modi described her journey from the tribal heartland of Mayurbhanj to the Rashtrapati Bhavan as an inspiration for the entire nation.

In a major announcement, the Prime Minister declared that Pahadpur village would be developed as a model Solar Village, ensuring solar power generation in every household. Drawing inspiration from Odisha’s iconic Sun Temple at Konark, he said Pahadpur would become a symbol of clean energy and sustainable development.

Highlighting the Centre’s vision of “Development of

Eastern India for the Development of India,” Shri Modi said Odisha occupies a central place in the Purvodaya initiative. He noted that record investments are being made in railways, highways, ports, industrial corridors, energy, semiconductors, green energy and modern manufacturing sectors to unlock the state’s enormous potential.

The Prime Minister stated that Odisha has emerged as a major investment destination through initiatives such as Utkarsh Odisha. He informed that investment proposals worth nearly Rs. 20 lakh crore have already been received, while several mega industrial projects valued at more than Rs. 3.5 lakh crore are under implementation.

Shri Modi also highlighted welfare measures undertaken by the Odisha Government, including paddy procurement at Rs. 3,100 per quintal, financial assistance to more than one crore women under the Subhadra Yojana, implementation of Ayushman Bharat, support for tribal students through the Madho Singh Haat Kharcha Yojana and the reopening of all four gates of the Shri Jagannath Temple.

Focusing on tribal welfare, the Prime Minister emphasized that tribal development remains a top priority of his government. He highlighted initiatives such as the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and PM JANMAN Mission, aimed at improving education, healthcare, housing, roads and basic services in tribal areas.

He noted that nearly 500 Eklavya Model Residential Schools have already been established across the country, with around 750 schools sanctioned. He also announced approval for a new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Mayurbhanj district to expand educational opportunities for local students. ■

PM Modi at the Paschimbanga Divas Celebrations in Tarakeswar

LET US CREATE A NEW AND GLORIOUS HISTORY IN WEST BENGAL: PM



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Paschimbanga Divas (West Bengal Day) celebrations held at Tarakeswar in Hooghly district on 20 June 2026 and launched a series of major development projects aimed at accelerating the state's growth and improving the lives of its people.

The state-level celebration, organized under the theme "West Bengal: Heritage, Harmony and Development," highlighted Bengal's rich cultural legacy, social unity, and developmental aspirations. During the event, the Prime Minister inaugurated, dedicated to the nation, and laid the foundation stone for multiple projects spanning railways, agriculture, fisheries, rural development, and animal husbandry sectors.

Addressing a massive public gathering, Shri Modi described the occasion as a historic moment that reflected a renewed spirit of optimism, confidence, and progress in West Bengal. He said the state had embarked on a new journey of development and nation-building, with people displaying tremendous enthusiasm and faith in a brighter future. The Prime Minister emphasized the significance of Paschimbanga Divas, stating that the day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made to preserve Bengal's identity, culture, and heritage during the turbulent years leading up to Independence and Partition. Paying tribute to the visionaries and leaders who safeguarded Bengal's interests, he particularly remembered Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee for his crucial role in ensuring that a part of Bengal remained within India during Partition.

Shri Modi also paid homage to iconic personalities such as Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, noting that their contributions continue to inspire generations across the nation.

Highlighting the government's commitment to development, the Prime Minister said that projects worth hundreds of crores of rupees related to railways, roads, agriculture, and fisheries would strengthen infrastructure,

improve connectivity, create employment opportunities, and boost the rural economy of the state.

A major highlight of the event was the release of the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). Under the scheme, more than Rs. 18,880 crore was transferred directly into the bank accounts of over 9.44 crore farmers across the country. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes to all beneficiary farmers and reiterated the government's commitment to their welfare.

Shri Modi also announced that every eligible poor family in West Bengal would now be covered under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme. He further highlighted several welfare initiatives, including the rollout of the Annapurna Scheme, expansion of drinking water facilities under the Jal Jeevan Mission, relaxation in age limits for government jobs, and free bus travel for women. He said these schemes would be implemented transparently through public outreach camps, ensuring direct delivery of benefits without middlemen.

The Prime Minister pointed to significant infrastructure projects that are being fast-tracked, including the completion of Kolkata Metro's Orange Line work at Chingrighata Crossing, the foundation stone for a new divisional railway hospital in Howrah, road overbridges in Purba Medinipur, and the Sankrail-Santragachi rail link project. For the farming community, he welcomed the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in West Bengal and the state's inclusion in the Digital Agriculture Mission. He also announced focused support for Purulia, Darjeeling, Alipurduar, and Jhargram districts under the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana.

Emphasizing the importance of fisheries, Shri Modi highlighted the expansion of the Fraserganj Fishing Harbour in South 24 Parganas and the development of a modern fish market in Birbhum. He also appealed to farmers nationwide to participate in the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" to promote soil conservation and natural farming. ■



PM Shri Narendra Modi in a group photo with World leaders on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France on June 16, 2026.



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron during the Bharat Innovates event in Nice, France on June 14, 2026.



PM Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with the President of United States, Mr. Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit-2026 at Evian in France on June 17, 2026.



PM Shri Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian Community on his arrival at Bratislava in Slovakia on June 14, 2026.



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the Prime Minister of Slovakia Mr. Robert Fico, in Bratislava, Slovakia on June 15, 2026.



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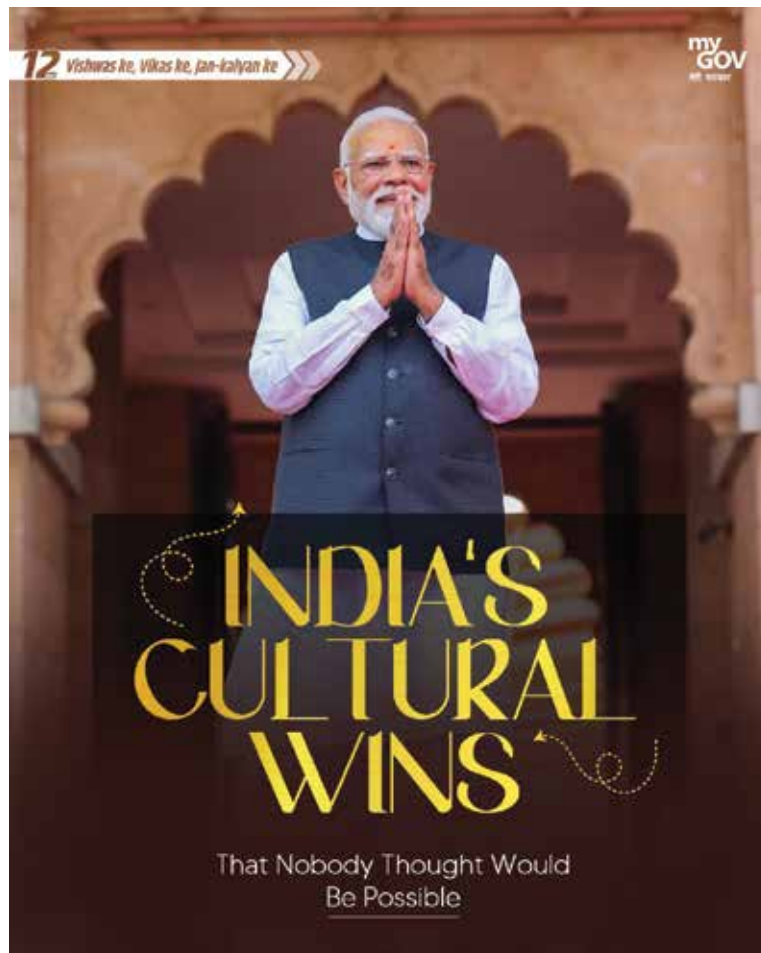
India's Culture **RISING STRONG TODAY**

"VIRASAT BHI, VIKAS BHI" RESHAPED INDIA'S APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT: PM MODI

Under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, the vision of "Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi" has reshaped India's approach to development. This journey is not just about preserving monuments but about restoring pride in India's civilisational identity while integrating heritage with national growth.

India has brought back over 668 stolen antiquities, strengthened spiritual infrastructure like Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, and expanded global recognition for Indian traditions.

At the same time, massive efforts in digitising manuscripts, expanding pilgrimage infrastructure, and improving tourism connectivity have ensured that India's cultural legacy is preserved and shared with future generations.



PHOTOGRAPHER: AJAY KUMAR SINGH