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SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN WEST BENGAL, ASSAM & PUDUCHERRY

**'COMMITTED TO TAKING THE DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY OF
BENGAL, ASSAM AND PUDUCHERRY TO GREATER HEIGHTS'**



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and other senior leaders participating in the swearing-in ceremony of West Bengal government in Kolkata on 9 May 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Amit Shah and other senior leaders participating in the swearing-in ceremony of Assam government in Guwahati on 12 May 2026



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin along with BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri BL Santhosh and other senior leaders attending the oath taking ceremony of NDA leader Shri N. Rangasamy as the Chief Minister of Puducherry on 13 May 2026



Odisha BJP, led by CM Shri Mohan Charan Majhi and State President Shri Manmohan Samal welcoming BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahabhiyan in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 18 May 2026



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurating & laying the foundation stones for various development projects in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 18 May 2026



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh unveiling the statue of former Vice President of India and senior BJP leader Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat in Jodhpur, Rajasthan on 14 May 2026

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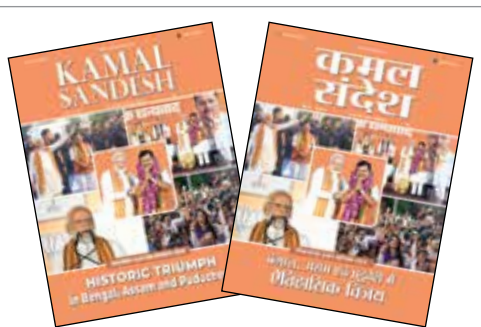
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@Narendramodi

It is with great humility that I accepted the FAO Agricola Medal at a ceremony in the FAO Headquarters in Rome. My gratitude to the FAO. I dedicate this honour to India's Annadatas...our food providers. It is a recognition of the hard work of our farmers, those associated with the world of livestock and fisheries, our agriculture scientists and innovators. It is also an acknowledgement of India's unwavering commitment to human welfare, food security and sustainable development. @FAO

(20 May, 2026)



@Nitin Nabin

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the first all-women expedition team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which has made history by scaling Mount Everest. By successfully unfurling the Tricolour on the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, our 11 brave women mountaineers have given a splendid demonstration of courage, discipline, and the power of womanhood. This achievement is a moment of pride for the entire nation. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the daughters of India are today continuously enhancing India's pride and honour on the global stage by setting new benchmarks in every field.

(22 May, 2026)



@Rajnathsingh

The biggest difference in future wars will not depend on how many soldiers you have, but on how Advanced and Capable your country is from the perspective of Munition and Automation. We are witnessing a glimpse of this in the Russia-Ukraine war and also in the ongoing conflict in West Asia. India too had demonstrated this strength of its during Operation Sindoor.

(23 May, 2026)



@AmitShah

It is a matter of pride for all that the meeting of the Mid-Regional Council is being held today in Jagdalpur, in the very Bastar region that was once under the shadow of red terror. No disputes of any kind remain today between the member states of the Mid-Regional Council, which is a major achievement. Today, this entire region is not only free from Naxalism but also free from disputes. The meeting featured meaningful discussions on key issues such as eliminating malnutrition, reducing school dropouts, ensuring 100% conviction in sexual crimes, and establishing a state-level cyber helpline.

(19 May, 2026)



@B.L Santhosh

In 1952, Makhanlal Sarkar was arrested during the movement to hoist the Indian tricolour in Srinagar under the leadership of Dr Syamaprasad Mookerjee. At the age of 98, Shri Makhanlal Sarkar remains one of the early grassroots figures associated with the nationalist movement in post-Independence India. PM Sri Narendra Modi greeted & took his blessings.

(09 May, 2026)



@Jagat Prakash Nadda

As Chair of BRICS in 2026, India was privileged to host the BRICS Health Ministers at the Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, on the sidelines of #WHA79. Appreciated the continued engagement and support of BRICS Member States towards India's Chairship, and extended an invitation to the BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting to be held in Chandigarh, India, in July 2026.

(18 May, 2026)





ADVANCING VISION OF A STRONG, SELF-RELIANT AND 'VIKSIT BHARAT'

As Shri Suwendu Akhikari took oath of office as Chief Minister of West Bengal, a new era of hope, trust and aspiration has dawned in the State with people starting to feel change in governance, political culture and approach towards administration under the newly elected BJP government. A land celebrated as 'Sonar Bengal', long bruised by self-centred and corrupt politicians and misguided policies and ideas, is now looking forward to regain its momentum and recover its lost decades. Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma has taken oath as Chief Minister of Assam for the second time as NDA forms government in the State for the third time in a row. The people of Assam have once again reaffirmed their faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his unwavering commitment to the Northeast, affectionately described as 'Ashtalakshmi'. Similarly, in Puducherry, the people have once again bestowed their blessings upon the NDA, blessing Shri N. Rangasamy to continue as Chief Minister. This victory reflects the electorate's preference for stability, efficient governance, and seamless coordination with the Union Government. As the people have chosen the politics of performance, development, and national progress over the politics of violence, corruption, appeasement, policy paralysis and administrative failure, the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', having overwhelmingly blessed by the people, has become the driving force for the nation.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's recent five-nation visit to the United Arab Emirates, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy showcased India's growing stature as a leading global power and reflected the Modi government's vision of positioning India at the center of emerging geopolitical and economic partnerships. In the UAE, discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in trade, energy security, digital payments, fintech and infrastructure investment. The growing strategic partnership highlights the success of India's proactive diplomacy and reinforces the confidence of

global investors in India's growth story.

The visit to the Netherlands advanced cooperation in semiconductors, green hydrogen, logistics and water management—key sectors aligned with the government's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. As India seeks to become a global manufacturing hub, such partnerships are crucial for building resilient supply chains and technological capabilities.

The Nordic leg of the tour underscored India's expanding engagement with innovation-driven economies. In Sweden, discussions centered on defence manufacturing, artificial intelligence, clean technology and innovation ecosystems, while in Norway, cooperation was strengthened in renewable energy, maritime security, climate action and emerging technologies. The prestigious national honours conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi by both Sweden and Norway reflected international recognition of India's growing influence and leadership.

In Italy, talks focused on manufacturing, defence, industrial technology and clean mobility. Prime Minister Shri Modi was also awarded the Agricola Medal by the FAO, acknowledging India's achievements in food security, agricultural innovation and sustainable development. From promoting millets globally to operating the world's largest food support programme, India has emerged as a model for inclusive growth.

Beyond bilateral agreements and diplomatic engagements, the visits demonstrated a larger reality: under Prime Minister Shri Modi's visionary and dynamic leadership, India is no longer merely adapting to global changes but actively shaping them. The visit reinforced India's image as a trusted partner, a major economic force and a confident voice on the global stage, advancing the vision of a strong, self-reliant and 'Viksit Bharat'. ■

A land celebrated as 'Sonar Bengal', long bruised by self-centred and corrupt politicians and misguided policies and ideas, is now looking forward to regain its momentum and recover its lost decades

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SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN WEST BENGAL



BJP'S 'SONAR BANGLA' ERA BEGINS SUVENDU ADHIKARI TAKES OATH AS WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER



Five Cabinet Ministers Also Sworn In

In a historic and grand ceremony attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, senior BJP & NDA leaders and lakhs of enthusiastic party Karyakartas, Shri Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the new Chief Minister of West Bengal at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata on 09 May 2026. Shri Adhikari, who emerged as one of the most prominent faces of the BJP in Bengal, registered victories from both Bhabanipur and Nandigram constituencies in the recently concluded Assembly Elections, defeating Mamata Banerjee in the latter, is the the ninth Chief Minister of the State since independence. The ceremony marked the dawn of a new political era in Bengal and officially ended the 15-year misrule of the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee.

Along with Shri Adhikari, five BJP MLAs also took oath as Cabinet Ministers. The ministers sworn in included Shri Dilip Ghosh, Smt. Agnimitra Paul,

Shri Nisith Pramanik, Shri Ashok Kirtania, and Shri Kshudiram Tudu. The oath of office and secrecy was administered by West Bengal Governor Shri R. N. Ravi.

The grand ceremony commenced at 11 AM and concluded around 1 PM amid chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" "Jai Maa Kali" "Jai Bengal" and "Jai Shri Ram" by lakhs of BJP Karyakartas and supporters gathered at the venue. The atmosphere at Brigade Parade Grounds reflected celebration, emotion, and a sense of historic achievement among BJP supporters.

Apart from the Prime Minister, the swearing-in ceremony witnessed the presence of BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri J. P. Nadda, Union Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, several Union Cabinet Ministers, BJP and NDA Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from across the country, senior party leaders, all BJP In-charge and Co-in

Heartiest best wishes for a successful tenure: PM Modi



"Congratulations to Shri Suwendu Adhikari Ji on taking the oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He has established his identity as a leader closely connected with the people. He has come to know their hopes and aspirations very closely. I extend my heartiest best wishes to him for a successful tenure in the future." "Congratulations to Shri Dilip Ghosh Ji, Agnimitra Paul Ji, Ashok Kirtania Ji, Kshudiram Tudu Ji, and Nisith Pramanik Ji on taking oath as ministers of the West Bengal government. These leaders have worked tirelessly at the grassroots level and served the people. I am confident that as ministers, they will further strengthen West Bengal's journey of development. My very best wishes."

Beginning of a new chapter in West Bengal: Nitin Nabin



"I extend my heartfelt congratulations and boundless best wishes to the esteemed Shri Suwendu Adhikari as he takes the sacred oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I am fully confident that, under the visionary guidance of the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and your robust leadership, West Bengal will stride forward with resolute steps towards a new chapter of good governance, progress, and prosperity, forever liberated from the pervasive darkness of rampant corruption, extreme misgovernance, and anarchy that has plagued it for decades. From the depths of my heart, I offer my sincere best wishes for this historic and successful tenure of yours."

charges of the State and distinguished personalities from numerous fields.

Following the ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Suwendu Adhikari and his team in a message posted on social media platform X. The Prime Minister stated that Shri Adhikari had established himself as a leader closely connected to the people of Bengal and expressed confidence that his tenure would usher in a new era of development and public welfare in the state. He said, "Congratulations to Shri Suwendu Adhikari Ji on taking the oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal. He has established his identity as a leader closely connected with the people. He has come to know their hopes and aspirations very closely. I extend my heartiest best wishes to him for a successful tenure in the future."

Noteworthy, the Bharatiya Janata Party secured a historic and overwhelming mandate in the recently concluded Assembly elections, winning 207 out of 293 seats, while the Trinamool Congress was reduced to 80 seats. The BJP's victory in West Bengal is being seen as one of the most significant political transformations in the history of the state, as Bengal has for the first time since Independence, elected a BJP government.

Despite West Bengal long being considered politically challenging terrain for the BJP, the party's rise from a marginal force to the ruling party represents decades of ideological commitment, organisational expansion, and sustained grassroots struggle. Political observers have described the victory as not merely an electoral achievement, but the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration of the BJP and a defining moment for eastern India's political landscape.

The formation of the BJP government in West Bengal



HEARTFELT SALUTATIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE OF WEST BENGAL

is widely viewed as the beginning of the long-envisioned "Sonar Bangla" era. With the BJP now in power both at the Centre and in West Bengal, the double-engine government is set to usher in a new era of accelerated development, modern infrastructure, transparent governance, enhanced women's safety, industrial revival, and strengthened national security in the state.

The historic oath-taking ceremony not only marked a change of government but also symbolised a major political shift in eastern India, reaffirming the BJP's growing influence across the region and opening a new chapter in the political history of West Bengal. ■

Will steer West Bengal towards a brighter future: Rajnath Singh



"Heartiest congratulations to Shri @SuvenduWB on taking the oath of Chief Minister of West Bengal. Many congratulations to all the ministers who took the oath today. This new beginning on the sacred 'Pochishe Boishakh' is an auspicious sign for the prosperity, development, and public welfare of West Bengal and its people.

I am confident that under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji, Shri Suvendu Adhikari will steer West Bengal towards a brighter future- rooted in good governance, transparency, development, and inclusive growth- and will fulfill the dream of 'Sonar Bangla'. My best wishes to the new government for a successful, stable and transformative tenure dedicated to the service and aspirations of the people of West Bengal."

Build a developed, prosperous and fearless West Bengal: Amit Shah



"Today's day is historic for Bengal, because Shri Shubendu Adhikari ji has taken the oath as the first Chief Minister of the Bharatiya Janata Party, dedicated to the hopes and aspirations of Bengal's people and elected by the masses. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Shri Suvendu Adhikari ji on taking the oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal and to all other colleagues on taking the oath as members of the Council of Ministers. From today, a new chapter of good governance, development, and public welfare will begin in Bengal, and West Bengal will move forward on the path of progress and prosperity. I have full faith that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, Chief Minister Shri @SuvenduWB ji's BJP government will realize the dream of the great luminaries' 'Sonar Bangla'. This resolve to free the people of the state, who have endured the scourge of corruption, extortion, and syndicate rule for years, and to build a developed, prosperous, secure, and fearless West Bengal will surely be fulfilled under your leadership."

Suvendu Adhikari elected as **BJP LEGISLATIVE PARTY LEADER**

A day before the swearing-in ceremony, Shri Suvendu Adhikari was unanimously elected leader of the BJP Legislative Party during a meeting held in Kolkata on 8 May 2026, in the presence of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah and senior party leaders. While announcing Shri Adhikari's election as leader of the BJP Legislative Party, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said, "I announce the name of Suvendu Adhikari as the elected leader of the West Bengal BJP Legislative Party".

Shri Amit Shah described the BJP's victory as a mandate against fear, corruption, infiltration, appeasement politics, and political violence. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the BJP government in Bengal would write a new chapter of development, security, transparency, and prosperity.

Following the meeting, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in a social media post congratulated Shri Suvendu Adhikari and said, "Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Shri @SuvenduWB ji on being elected as the leader of the BJP Legislative Party. The people of Bengal have given the Bhartiya Janata Party the opportunity to serve by delivering a resounding mandate against fear, infiltration, corruption, and appeasement. Under the esteemed leadership of Shri Modi ji, the BJP government in Bengal will write a new chapter of development, security, and prosperity in the state." ■





UNION HOME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE BJP LEGISLATURE PARTY IN KOLKATA

BJP government will accelerate Bengal's progress at an unprecedented pace: Amit Shah

Addressing the Legislature Party meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kolkata on 08 May 2026, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah described the BJP's historic victory in West Bengal as not merely an electoral triumph, but the beginning of a new era for the state. Speaking before the newly elected BJP legislators, Shri Shah said the overwhelming mandate reflected the aspirations of the people of Bengal for democracy, development, security, and freedom from decades of political violence and fear.

Shri Shah said seeing such a large number of BJP MLAs in Bengal fills every nationalist with immense joy and pride. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of the state for placing their trust in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP despite years of intimidation, violence, and suppression of democratic voices. According to him, Bengal had endured decades of ideological domination first under communist rule and later under the Trinamool Congress, where freedom of expression became increasingly difficult. Yet, the people displayed extraordinary courage and gave the BJP a resounding mandate.

The dream of "Sonar Bangla"

Invoking the timeless words of Rabindranath Tagore – "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" – Shri Shah said Bengal has now embarked on a historic journey toward realizing that vision. He remarked that the state, once celebrated for its intellectual, cultural, and spiritual leadership, had suffered years of economic decline, lawlessness, and political intimidation. The BJP government, he asserted, would now work tirelessly to restore Bengal's lost glory and fulfil the dream of "Sonar Bangla."

Victory historically significant

Calling the victory historically significant, Shri Shah said the BJP's ideological journey, which began under the leadership of Syama Prasad Mookerjee in 1950, had reached a defining milestone in 2026 with the formation of a BJP government in his home state. He recalled that

while the abrogation of Article 370 had fulfilled one long-cherished dream, the rise of the saffron flag in Bengal remained another emotional aspiration for BJP workers across the nation.

BJP's remarkable rise in Bengal

Shri Shah traced the BJP's remarkable rise in Bengal, from opening its account in a by-election in 2014, to winning 3 seats in 2016, 77 seats in 2021, and finally securing a massive mandate of 207 seats in 2026. He described this journey as inspiring yet deeply painful, remembering the sacrifice of 321 BJP karyakartas who lost their lives during years of political violence. He paid homage to these workers, saying their sacrifices strengthened both the party and national security.

Highlighting the strategic significance of the BJP's victory, he stated that with BJP governments now in Assam, Tripura, and Bengal, infiltration and cow smuggling would be effectively curbed. He asserted that Bengal would become a strong bastion of national security and development. Referring to the record voter turnout and peaceful conduct of elections, he congratulated the Election Commission, CAPFs, polling officials, and police personnel for ensuring violence-free polls in a state historically associated with electoral unrest.

Would end corruption

Shri Shah assured the people that the BJP government would end corruption, syndicate culture, hooliganism, and politicization of administration. He promised that women's security, civilian safety, industrial growth, modern agriculture, and infrastructure development would become top priorities. With BJP governments both at the Centre and in the state, he declared, Bengal's development could no longer be obstructed. Shri Shah said the BJP government would strive to restore Bengal's leadership in art, culture, literature, education, and economic progress, making true once again the famous words of Gopal Krishna Gokhale: "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow." ■

Our West Bengal will move forward on the path of development: Samik Bhattacharya



After the oath ceremony West Bengal BJP President Shri Samik Bhattacharya in a social media post on X said, "Embracing in his heart the love, trust, struggles, and blessings of crores of people, Shri Suwendu Adhikari took the oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

This moment today is not just about taking the oath; it is the beginning of the hopes, self-confidence, and new dreams of the people of West Bengal.

The people of Bengal will once again hold their heads high and get the opportunity to live with dignity.

Our West Bengal will move forward on the path of development."

Our government is committed to build a "Sonar Bangla": Suwendu Adhikari



After taking oath as Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Suwendu Adhikari in a social media post on X said, "Greetings, West Bengal! Today, on the birth anniversary of the world poet Rabindranath Tagore, I remember him with a grateful heart and offer my humble salutations at his feet. His thoughts and ideals will forever guide our path. Today, I took the oath as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal. In the presence of the esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the esteemed Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji, Chief Ministers of various states, Union Ministers, and distinguished personalities of West Bengal, I have resolved to establish good governance, security, and all-round development in West Bengal. This government is committed to every citizen of West Bengal in pursuit of building a "Sonar Bangla." Development, employment, women's safety, cultural dignity, and protection of democratic rights will be our primary goals. I express my gratitude and humble salutations to the people of West Bengal for giving me the opportunity to serve as your servant."

ABHINANDAN!

ABHINANDAN!

ABHINANDAN!

- Shri Suwendu Adhikari was born on 15 December 1970 to Shri Sisir Adhikari and Smt. Gayatri Adhikari at Karkuli in the Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- Shri Adhikari obtained a Master of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from Rabindra Bharati University in 2011.
- He was elected as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Nandigram in 2016, 2021, and 2026, and was also elected from Bhabanipur in 2026.
- Earlier, he was elected from Kanthi Dakshin in 2005 and served as Member of Parliament from Tamluk in 2009 and 2014.
- In the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, Shri Adhikari defeated the then Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from the Nandigram Assembly constituency in a closely watched contest.
- He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 2021 to 2026.
- Following the 2021 Assembly elections, large-scale political violence was reported across several parts of West Bengal, during which many BJP workers and supporters were targeted. During this period, Shri Adhikari emerged as one of the principal opposition voices raising concerns over the incidents of post-poll violence.
- Shri Adhikari was also a prominent opposition voice during the unrest and atrocities in Sandeshkhali and became one of the leading faces of the BJP's campaign on the issue.
- On 8 May 2026, he was unanimously elected as the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party Legislative Party in West Bengal.
- Shri Adhikari took oath as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on 9 May 2026 at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, becoming the first BJP Chief Minister and the ninth Chief Minister of the state. ■



LIFE SKETCH
Shri Suwendu Adhikari



PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting and taking blessings of Shri Makhonlal Sarker, the devoted patriot who had worked with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and was arrested during his time as a companion in Jammu and Kashmir



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying floral tributes to Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary in Kolkata during the Oath Taking ceremony of BJP Government in West Bengal on 09 May 2026

PM MODI PAYS TRIBUTES TO PARTY KARYAKARTAS KILLED IN WEST BENGAL

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin and other senior leaders paid homage to BJP workers killed in the violence following the 2021 West Bengal assembly elections, saying their sacrifice would continue to inspire generations of party workers.

A temporary memorial honoaring the slain BJP workers was erected near the stage at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground, where Shri Suwendu Adhikari and his council of ministers took oath earlier in the day. The memorial displayed the names of the "martyrs" along with the districts they belonged to.

Posting a picture of the memorial on X, PM Shri Narendra Modi said, "A tribute to the courageous BJP Karyakartas! Even in the midst of celebrations at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata today, on the



formation of the first ever BJP Government in West Bengal, we remembered all those BJP Karyakartas who laid down their lives in the service of an ideal greater than themselves. Their sacrifice is etched forever in the journey of the Party. Their courage will remain a source of strength for all of us." ■

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN ASSAM



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM

FOUR MINISTERS ALSO SWORN IN AMID GRAND CEREMONY IN GUWAHATI

In a grand, glittering and historic swearing-in ceremony attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, senior BJP & NDA leaders, BJP & NDA Chief Ministers and thousands of party Karyakartas, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma consecutively for the second term took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam in Guwahati on 12 May 2026. The swearing-in ceremony marked the continuation of the BJP-led NDA government uninterruptedly for the third time in a row in Assam and reaffirmed the people's strong faith in the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Along with Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, other BJP and NDA leaders- Shri Rameswar Teli, Shri Atul Bora, Shri Charan Boro, Smt. Ajanta Neog like also took oath as Cabinet Ministers. The oath of office and secrecy

was administered by Assam Governor Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya in the presence of a massive gathering of supporters and dignitaries.

The ceremony commenced amid enthusiastic chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," "Jai Aai Axom," and "Jai Shri Ram" by BJP Karyakartas and supporters who had gathered from different parts of the state. The atmosphere reflected celebration, confidence, and optimism as the BJP-led alliance secured another historic and decisive mandate in the state Assembly elections.

Among those present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Health, Family Welfare Shri JP Nadda, Union Minister of Transport Shri Nitin Gadkari, NDA Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief

A great day for Assam: PM Modi



"A great day for Assam! For the third consecutive time, the NDA Government assumes office. Congratulations to Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Ji on taking oath. He has made a mark as a wonderful administrator and has done pioneering work for the state. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead."

Ministers from across the country, senior BJP office-bearers, alliance leaders, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and distinguished personalities from various sectors of society.

Following the ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Council of Ministers and expressed confidence that the government would continue to accelerate Assam's growth and prosperity. In a message posted on social media platform X, the Prime Minister praised Shri Sarma's leadership and dedication towards development, welfare, and good governance in the state. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "A great day for Assam! For the third consecutive time, the NDA Government assumes office. Congratulations to Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Ji on taking oath. He has made a mark as a wonderful administrator and has done pioneering work for the state. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead."

After taking oath Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "With the blessings of Maa Kamakhya, Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev and the people of Assam, I took oath as the Chief Minister. Along with the Council of Ministers, we look forward to serving our people and continue to fulfil all their aspirations."

The BJP-led NDA alliance secured a sweeping victory in the recently concluded Assam Assembly elections, reflecting continued public support for the government's agenda of development, infrastructure expansion, peace, cultural pride, and welfare-oriented governance. Political observers noted that the mandate reaffirmed Assam's trust in the BJP's vision of stability, economic growth, and inclusive development.

Noteworthy, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam has witnessed rapid infrastructure development, improved connectivity,

Take the state to new heights: Nitin Nabin



"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma ji on assuming the responsibility of Chief Minister of Assam once again. I am fully confident that under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji and your leadership, the double-engine NDA government will further strengthen the pace of development, good governance, and public welfare in Assam, taking the state to new heights of progress and prosperity."



expansion of healthcare and educational facilities, investment promotion, and strengthened law and order. The renewed mandate is being viewed as a strong endorsement of the government's developmental initiatives and commitment to the welfare of all sections of society.

The formation of the new BJP-led government in Assam is expected to further strengthen the vision of a developed and prosperous Northeast, with special emphasis on youth empowerment, industrial growth, women's welfare, tourism, border security, and

Assam will scale newer heights of growth, inclusive development: Rajnath Singh



"Heartiest congratulations to Shri @himantabiswa on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Assam. I am confident that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and his able leadership, Assam will scale newer heights of growth, inclusive development, and prosperity. I wish Himanta ji a highly successful, impactful, and transformative tenure ahead. Many congratulations to all the ministers who took the oath today."

Now a grand edifice of progress will be built: Amit Shah



"Congratulations to the Chief Minister of Assam Shri @himantabiswa Ji, and all the ministers on their taking the oath of office. Electing the BJP-led NDA for the third consecutive term, the people of Assam have reaffirmed that the BJP-NDA governments are the dispensations of trust. People continue to elect them repeatedly for their track record of accomplishments. In the last ten years the NDA government laid a robust foundation of development and security, on which now a grand edifice of progress will be built."

Prayers to Maa Kamakhya for a wonderful tenure ahead: Dilip Saikia



Following the oath taking ceremony of Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second time with an unprecedented mandate that has made history, the BJP State President of Assam Shri Dilip Saikia extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Chief Minister and his team.

In a Social Media post on X he said, "Heartiest congratulations to HCM Dr. @himantabiswa dangoriya on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second time.

Prayers to Maa Kamakhya for a wonderful tenure ahead, filled with progress and development for Assam!"

We will keep working till we realise the dream of a Viksit Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma



"Joi Ma Bharati" "Joi Aai Axom"

"With all humility I bow down to the people of Assam. It is an extremely emotional moment as I took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second consecutive term. This would not have been possible without the Margdarshan of Adarniya @narendramodiji whose guidance throughout has been the biggest motivating factor for our government. It is his leadership and vision which has guided us in our path of Sewa and Samarpan. I would also like to place on record my deep gratitude for Rashtriya Adhyaksh Shri @NitinNabinji, whose leadership galvanised all NDA karyakartas in Assam to take the message of our good governance to every household. Today's occasion would not have been possible without the mentorship of Adarniya @AmitShahji who has stood with us like a rock in our path to bring back peace and prosperity to the State and work towards delivering our promises to the people. And last but not the least to each of our karyakartas across Assam, who toiled hard to achieve this historic victory. We will keep working till we realise the dream of a Viksit Assam. Gratitude."

preservation of Assam's rich cultural heritage.

Noteworthy, the NDA won a record 102 seats of the 126-member Assembly, including 82 from the BJP. The BJP allies, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland Peoples' Front (BPF), bagged 10 seats each.

The swearing-in ceremony symbolised not only the continuation of political stability in Assam but also

reaffirmed the BJP's growing strength and influence across the northeastern region of India. ■



Himanta Biswa Sarma Elected Leader of BJP Legislature Party

A day before the swearing-in ceremony, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma was unanimously elected leader of the BJP Legislature Party at a meeting held in Guwahati on 10 May 2026 in the presence of BJP central observer and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, senior BJP leaders and other co-observers. Following his election as Legislature Party leader Senior party leaders congratulated Shri Sarma and expressed confidence in his leadership for steering Assam towards greater development and prosperity.

Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in a social media post said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Shri @himantabiswaaji on being elected as the leader of the BJP and NDA Legislature Party. The people of Assam have given their blessings for the third consecutive time to development, stability, and public welfare. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiJi, the double-engine government will play an important role in building a "Developed India" while realizing the resolve of "Developed Assam."

Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma also thanked the people of Assam for their overwhelming support and assured that the BJP-led government would continue working with commitment and dedication for the development, security, and prosperity of the state.

On the same day Shri Sarma submitted the proposal for government formation to the Hon'ble Governor Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Raj Bhavan. ■



ABHINANDAN!

ABHINANDAN!

ABHINANDAN!

- Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma was born on February 1, 1969, in Jorhat, Assam, to writer Shri Kailash Nath Sarma and literary activist Smt. Mrinalini Devi.
- He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science from Cotton College and Guwahati University, respectively.
- He also holds an LL.B. and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Guwahati University.
- During his time at Cotton College, he was highly active in the student politics and was elected General Secretary of the college's student union for three consecutive terms.
- He practiced law at the Guwahati High Court between 1996 and 2001 before entering mainstream electoral politics.
- Shri Sarma began his political career as an MLA in 2001 from Jalukbari. He held pivotal cabinet portfolios—including Health, Education, and Finance—over 14 years and played a crucial role in reforming the state's education and public health infrastructure.
- He was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam in May 2021. His administration focused on extensive infrastructure development, job creation, and modernizing healthcare facilities.
- Following a decisive victory in the 2026 assembly elections, Shri Sarma was sworn in for a second consecutive term as Chief Minister on 12 May 2026.



LIFE SKETCH
Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN PUDUCHERRY



N. RANGASAMY TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF PUDUCHERRY

Following the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) decisive victory in the 2026 Puducherry Assembly polls, NDA leader Shri N. Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for a record fifth term on 13 May 2026. The ceremony took place at Lok Niwas in Puducherry, marking the return of the National Democratic Alliance government.

Lieutenant Governor Shri K. Kailashnathan administered the oath of office and secrecy. Along with the Chief Minister, A. Namassivayam (BJP legislature party leader) and Malladi Krishna Rao (AINRC legislator) were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

The event was attended by senior political figures, including BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri B. L. Santhosh, and State BJP President Shri V. P. Ramalingam.

Noteworthy, the AINRC-led NDA coalition retained power in the 30-member House. In the elections, the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) secured 12 seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party won 4 seats. Supported by one seat each from the AIADMK and the Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi, the alliance achieved a stable majority of 18 seats to form the government.

Following the oath-taking ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri A. Namassivayam and his team through a message on social media platform X. The Prime Minister stated that the new NDA government in Puducherry would work with dedication for the welfare of the people and accelerate the pace of development in the Union Territory. He said, "Congratulations to Thiru N. Rangasamy Ji on taking oath as Puducherry's Chief Minister. He has made a

mark as an experienced and effective administrator who has strengthened Puducherry's growth journey. Looking forward to working with him for the people's well-being. My best wishes for the tenure ahead."

The NDA's victory in Puducherry is a significant political development in southern India, reflecting growing public support for the alliance's governance model and development agenda and a clear endorsement of stability, transparency, and people-centric governance. The historic oath-taking ceremony not only marked the formation of a new government in Puducherry but also symbolised the NDA's expanding political influence in southern India, opening a new chapter in the political journey of the Union Territory. ■

N Rangasamy re-elected as Puducherry NDA legislature party leader

Following the NDA's massive victory in the recently completed Puducherry Assembly polls in 2026, incumbent Chief Minister and the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) founder Shri N Rangasamy was re-elected as the leader of the NDA legislature party in Puducherry on 08 May 2026.

In the same meeting, Home Minister Shri A Namassivayam was elected as the Deputy Leader of the NDA legislature party.

A day before, Shri N Rangasamy resigned as the Chief Minister of Puducherry to Lieutenant Governor Shri K Kailashnathan at Lok Bhavan to facilitate the formation of the new government at the Union Territory.



It will add momentum to Puducherry's progress: Narendra Modi

"Congratulations to Thiru N. Rangasamy Ji on taking oath as Puducherry's Chief Minister. He has made a mark as an experienced and effective administrator who has strengthened Puducherry's growth journey. Looking forward to working with him for the people's well-being. My best wishes for the tenure ahead. I would like to congratulate Thiru A. Namassivayam Ji and Thiru Malladi Krishna Rao Ji on taking oath as Ministers in the Puducherry Government. I am confident they will add momentum to Puducherry's progress and improve 'Ease of Living' for the people. My best wishes."



It will ensuring accelerated progress and public welfare: Nitin Nabin

"Attended the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government at Lok Nivas, Puducherry today. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiJi and the leadership of Chief Minister Shri N. Rangasamy Ji, the people's trust in the NDA's development agenda will continue to strengthen through this double-engine government, ensuring accelerated progress in infrastructure, connectivity, and public welfare."

LIFE SKETCH Shri N Rangasamy

- Shri N Rangasamy is a veteran political leader and was born on 4 August 1950 in Puducherry to Shri Natesan Krishnasamy and Smt. Panchali.
- He completed his Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com) from Tagore Arts College and later obtained a Bachelor of Laws (L.L.B) from Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Puducherry, in 1977.
- He is a bachelor known for living a highly humble, monastic lifestyle, often spotted riding a simple motorized two-wheeler even during election campaigns.
- From 1991-2001 he served as a cabinet minister handling vital portfolios including Agriculture, Public Works, Education, and Tourism under three different chief ministers.
- He assumed office as the Chief Minister of Puducherry for the first time on 27 October 2001.
- He was re-elected and served a second consecutive term until August 2008.
- From 2011-2016 he led the AINRC government as Chief Minister from 2011 to 2016.
- He subsequently served as the Leader of the Opposition from 2016 to 2021.
- From 2021-2026 he was CM for the Fourth Term.
- He led the NDA to a successive victory in the April-May 2026 assembly elections, securing 18 out of 30 seats and took oath as CM for the Fifth Term.



Puducherry's development will reach new heights: Rajnath Singh

"Congratulations to Thiru N. Rangasamy Ji, a seasoned administrator and dedicated leader, on taking oath as Puducherry's Chief Minister. I am confident that under his able leadership, Puducherry's development and public welfare will reach new heights at an unprecedented pace. Best wishes to him for a successful and transformative tenure. Many congratulations to other ministers who took the oath today."



We are determined to build a developed Puducherry: Amit Shah

"Congratulations to Puducherry CM Thiru N. Rangasamy and ministers on their oath-taking ceremony. Re-election of NDA in Puducherry is the victory of the aspirations of people. Modi Ji-led NDA over the last five years has put the union territory back on the track of progress through unprecedented welfare and development initiatives. We are determined to build a developed Puducherry by building it as a centre of trade, tourism and production in the forthcoming times."

PM NARENDRA MODI'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

FIVE NATIONS VISIT

UAE

NETHERLANDS

SWEDEN

NORWAY

ITALY



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's diplomatic engagements in Europe during May 2026 marked a significant phase in India's expanding strategic outreach toward Europe and the Nordic region. The multi-nation visit included the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, participation in the 3rd India–Nordic Summit in Oslo, and Italy. These visits reflected India's growing emphasis on technology partnerships, green transition, trade diversification, defence cooperation, innovation, and multilateral engagement. The tour was highly productive and future-oriented, aimed at strengthening India's role as a trusted global partner.

A photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan shaking hands. They are standing in a room with the Indian and UAE flags. PM Modi is wearing a white kurta and Nehru jacket, while the UAE President is in traditional white thobe and ghutra. The text 'PM MODI'S visit to UAE' is overlaid in a red box in the top left corner.

**PM MODI'S
visit to UAE**

VISIT WAS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE AND STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on May 15, 2026 marked another important milestone in the rapidly expanding India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The visit was highly substantive and reflected the deep trust and close friendship between the leadership of the two countries. Prime Minister Shri Modi visited the UAE as the first stop of his five-nation diplomatic tour and held extensive discussions with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.

The two leaders reviewed the progress achieved in bilateral relations and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, technology, defence, infrastructure, and regional security. The Foreign Secretary emphasized that India and the UAE have witnessed extraordinary growth in their strategic partnership in recent years, supported by strong political trust and regular high-level exchanges.

Economic cooperation emerged as a major focus during the visit. Both countries reviewed the successful implementation of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which has significantly boosted bilateral trade and investment flows. Discussions also focused on expanding collaboration in renewable energy, green hydrogen, food security, digital payments, fintech, and advanced technologies. Prime Minister Modi invited greater Emirati investments into India's infrastructure, manufacturing, and innovation sectors under initiatives such as "Make in India" and "Digital India."

Connectivity and strategic infrastructure projects also featured prominently in the discussions. The leaders reviewed progress on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which is expected to enhance trade connectivity and economic integration between India, the Gulf region, and Europe. Cooperation in ports, logistics, shipping, and energy connectivity was also discussed.

Regional and global developments formed another key component of the talks. Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's strong condemnation of terrorism and emphasized the need for dialogue, stability, and peaceful resolution of conflicts in West Asia. Both leaders exchanged views on maritime security, regional peace, and the importance of maintaining a rules-based international order.

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted the strong people-to-people relationship between India and the UAE. The Indian community in the UAE, one of the largest expatriate groups in the country, was acknowledged for its contribution to strengthening bilateral ties and supporting the UAE's economic growth.

Overall, the visit was described as highly productive and strategically important. It reinforced the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and opened new avenues for cooperation in trade, technology, connectivity, energy, and regional stability, while underlining the shared commitment of both nations toward peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. ■

PM'S VISIT TO NETHERLANDS

A HISTORIC ADVANCEMENT IN INDIA-NETHERLANDS RELATIONS

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands on May 16-17, 2026 marked a historic advancement in India-Netherlands relations, with both nations elevating their ties to a "Strategic Partnership." The visit was part of the Prime Minister's five-nation diplomatic tour and focused on expanding cooperation in technology, trade, semiconductors, water management, clean energy, and global governance.

During the visit, Shri Modi held official talks with Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten in The Hague. The leaders reviewed bilateral relations and emphasized stronger cooperation in emerging and strategic sectors. They acknowledged the long-standing trade relationship, growing economic engagement, and strong people-to-people contacts between the two nations.

One of the key outcomes of the visit was the launch of the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership Roadmap for 2026-2030. The roadmap outlined collaboration in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, maritime security, renewable energy, green hydrogen, digital technologies, agriculture, and healthcare. Both sides also emphasized the need for resilient and trusted global supply chains amid increasing geopolitical uncertainties.

The semiconductor sector emerged as a major highlight of the visit. Shri Modi witnessed the signing of an agreement between Dutch semiconductor giant ASML and Tata Electronics to support semiconductor manufacturing in India. The agreement was viewed as strategically important for India's ambition to become a global semiconductor manufacturing hub.

Sustainability and water management also featured prominently during the visit. The Netherlands, known globally for expertise in flood control and water conservation, agreed to deepen cooperation with India in climate resilience and water infrastructure. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Afsluitdijk Dam symbolized the growing partnership in sustainable infrastructure and environmental management. ■



CHOLA-ERA COPPER PLATES FINALLY RETURNED HOME

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi formally received the historic 11th-century Chola dynasty copper plates, known as the "Leiden Plates," during his official visit



on 16 May to the Netherlands. The sacred copper inscriptions were handed over by Leiden University, marking a major diplomatic and cultural milestone in India's ongoing efforts to reclaim its lost heritage from abroad. In a post on X PM said "A joyous moment for every Indian! Chola Copper Plates dating back to the 11th Century will be repatriated to India from the Netherlands. Took part in the ceremony for the same in the presence of Prime Minister Rob Jetten."

"The Chola Copper Plates are a set of 21 large plates and 3 small plates and largely contain texts in Tamil, one of the most beautiful languages of the world. They relate to the great Rajendra Chola I formalising an oral commitment made by his father, King Rajaraja I. They also showcase the greatness of the Cholas. We in India are immensely proud of the Cholas, their culture and their maritime prowess," the PM added. He also thanked the Government of the Netherlands and Leiden University in particular, where the Copper Plates were kept since the mid-19th century.

VISIT SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENS INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPE

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sweden on May 17, 2026 further strengthened India's engagement with the Nordic region and the European Union. The visit focused on innovation, green transition, technology partnerships, trade, defence cooperation, and sustainable development.

In Stockholm, Prime Minister Modi held delegation-level talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. Both leaders reviewed bilateral relations and expressed



satisfaction over the expanding cooperation in clean technology, health care, climate action, digital innovation, advanced manufacturing, and defence production. The discussions emphasized

promoting investments and strengthening economic ties.

A major highlight of the visit was Prime Minister Modi's participation in the European Round Table for Industry in Gothenburg. He interacted with leading European industrialists and business leaders, highlighting India's emergence as a global manufacturing and technology hub. Discussions focused on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, renewable energy, green mobility, and sustainable industrial development.

The visit reinforced India's commitment to environmentally sustainable growth. Sweden's expertise in green technologies, waste management, electric mobility, and circular economy practices made it an important partner for India's green transition goals. Both countries agreed to expand collaboration in innovation and research to support climate-friendly development.

Another important aspect of the visit was Prime Minister Modi's interaction with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Discussions centered

PM RECEIVES THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE POLAR STAR, DEGREE COMMANDER GRAND CROSS IN SWEDEN



In a special ceremony hosted in Gothenburg on 17 May, 2026 Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross,' one of Sweden's oldest and most distinguished honours, instituted in the 18th century. The award is Sweden's highest honour conferred on foreign Heads of Government in recognition of exceptional public service and contribution towards strengthening relations with Sweden.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi expressed his deep gratitude to Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria and to the people of Sweden for this honour. He dedicated the award to the 1.4 billion people of India and to the enduring friendship between India and Sweden. ■

on India-EU strategic ties, trade negotiations, digital partnerships, resilient supply chains, maritime security, and cooperation on emerging technologies and climate change.

The MEA briefing also highlighted growing strategic convergence between India and Sweden on international issues. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, multilateralism, and a rules-based international order. Defence and security cooperation, including advanced technology partnerships and innovation-driven collaboration, also formed an important part of the discussions.

Overall, the Sweden visit significantly strengthened India's engagement with Europe and reinforced India's image as a reliable partner in technology, innovation, sustainability, and strategic cooperation. ■



**PM'S VISIT TO NORWAY
VISIT OPENS NEW AVENUES FOR
COOPERATION IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY
AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Norway on May 18, 2026 was historic, as it marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in over four decades. The visit focused on green energy, maritime cooperation, technology, research, and sustainable development.

Prime Minister Modi held delegation-level talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo. Both leaders agreed to elevate bilateral ties into a "Green Strategic Partnership." Discussions focused on renewable energy, green hydrogen, clean technology, fisheries, healthcare, maritime cooperation, and space collaboration. Several agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed to strengthen cooperation in these areas.

A major outcome of the visit was the signing of a triangular development cooperation agreement between India and Norway aimed at supporting development initiatives in the Global South. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the agreement would combine the expertise and resources of both countries to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in developing nations.

Climate action and green transition formed the core of the discussions. Norway's expertise in offshore wind energy, carbon capture technology, electric mobility, and sustainable shipping was seen as valuable for India's renewable energy ambitions and green industrial transformation. Prime Minister Modi also addressed the India-Norway Business and Research Summit in Oslo. He invited Norwegian companies to invest in India's expanding economy and highlighted opportunities in manufacturing, healthcare, fisheries, clean energy, and digital innovation. He remarked that India and Europe were entering a "new golden era" of partnership driven by technology, trade, and sustainability.

The two leaders additionally discussed maritime security, Arctic cooperation, terrorism, and the importance of a rules-based international order. Norway's support to India following the Pahalgam terror attack was acknowledged by Prime Minister Modi during the visit. The Norway visit was described as future-oriented and strategically important, opening new avenues for cooperation in green technology, research, innovation, and global development. ■

PM Receives the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit



In a special ceremony hosted in Oslo on 18 May, His Majesty King Herald V of Norway conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit'. The award is Norway's highest honour bestowed on foreign Heads of Government, and is conferred in recognition of the outstanding service in the interest of Norway and humankind.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty King Herald V and to the people of Norway for this honour. He dedicated the award to the historic friendship between India and Norway, calling it a tribute to the enduring warmth, trust, and affection shared between the people of India and the people of Norway.

The conferment stands as a symbol of the deep bonds of goodwill that exists between India and Norway, and will guide their journey of friendship and collaboration into the future. ■

PM Modi participated in 3rd India–Nordic SUMMIT



Summit reinforces India's growing engagement with the Nordic region

Prime Minister Modi's participation in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo on May 19, 2026 represented another significant step in India's engagement with the Nordic region. Leaders from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland participated in the summit, which focused on technology, sustainability, innovation, digital transformation, and global governance.

Hosted by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, the summit built upon earlier India-Nordic Summits held in Stockholm in 2018 and Copenhagen in 2022. Leaders acknowledged the changing geopolitical and technological environment and emphasized the need for closer cooperation between India and Nordic nations.

One of the most important outcomes of the summit was the decision to elevate India-Nordic relations into a "Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership." Discussions centered on climate action, renewable energy, green transition, circular economy, and sustainable development.

Technology and innovation emerged as major pillars of cooperation. The summit covered collaboration in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, digitalisation, 5G and 6G technologies, and advanced manufacturing. Both sides also emphasized partnerships in STEM education, innovation ecosystems, and scientific research.

Trade and economic cooperation received significant attention. Leaders welcomed progress in the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations and implementation of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA countries. Discussions also highlighted resilient supply chains, investment partnerships, and easier mobility for researchers, students, and skilled professionals.

The summit further addressed maritime cooperation, Arctic research, blue economy initiatives, multilateral reforms, and defence collaboration. Prime Minister Modi emphasized that democracy, rule of law, and commitment to multilateralism make India and the Nordic countries "natural partners."

The summit reinforced India's growing engagement with the Nordic region and created new opportunities for strategic cooperation in technology, sustainability, and innovation. ■

PM Modi receives FAO Agricola Medal, the highest recognition of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi continued to receive significant international recognition for his leadership and contribution to global cooperation, diplomacy, and development. Several countries and international organisations honoured him with their highest civilian and institutional awards during his recent foreign visits, reflecting India's growing global stature.

One of the most notable honours was conferred during his visit to Italy, where PM Modi was awarded the FAO Agricola Medal, the highest recognition of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The award was presented in recognition of his contribution to global food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. This honour highlighted India's growing role in addressing global hunger and agricultural sustainability challenges. ■

PM's Visit to Italy

ADVANCING A SPECIAL Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Italy on May 19-20, 2026 marked a major milestone in India-Italy relations, with both countries elevating ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership." The visit reflected the growing convergence between the two countries in defence, technology, trade, connectivity, and global affairs.

Prime Minister Modi met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome. Both sides reviewed progress under the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029 and agreed to deepen collaboration in science and technology, defence, artificial intelligence, innovation, energy, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

Trade and investment emerged as a major focus. India and Italy set a target of increasing bilateral trade to €20 billion by 2029. Leaders emphasized the importance of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and encouraged industries to strengthen supply chains and industrial partnerships.

Defence cooperation became one of the most important outcomes of the visit. India and Italy adopted a Defence Industrial Roadmap aimed at promoting co-design, co-development, and co-production of defence equipment. Discussions covered aerospace systems, naval platforms, and advanced defence technologies.

Cooperation in emerging technologies and connectivity also received major attention. Agreements were signed in critical minerals, scientific research, maritime transport, education, and innovation. India and Italy agreed to cooperate on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), recognizing its importance for trade and connectivity.

Cultural ties were also strengthened during the visit. Both countries announced that 2027 would



be celebrated as the "Year of Culture and Tourism between India and Italy." Agreements promoting academic exchanges, research cooperation, and mobility of skilled professionals were also signed.

A notable highlight was Prime Minister Modi's visit to the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the first by an Indian Prime Minister in three decades. During the visit, he received the Agricola Award in recognition of his leadership in food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.

The Italy visit was described as highly successful and strategically important, opening new opportunities for collaboration in defence, connectivity, trade, innovation, and culture. ■



INDIA AND SWEDEN: DELIVERING GROWTH, RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY... TOGETHER

At a time of growing geopolitical uncertainty, energy insecurity and economic fragmentation, the world faces a defining choice — retreat into narrow national approaches or strengthen partnerships that deliver growth, resilience and sustainability together.

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, the value of international cooperation and multilateralism has become even more evident. At the same time, the need to reform global governance institutions to reflect contemporary realities has become impossible to ignore.

A rules-based international order anchored in international law and sovereign equality has helped create decades of relative stability and development. Yet today's challenges of climate change, industrial transformation, supply-chain disruptions and energy transition require a renewed spirit of practical and inclusive cooperation.

Few challenges are as universal or consequential as climate change. It affects societies and economies across all regions, whether in India, Sweden or elsewhere. But climate action cannot be divorced from development aspirations. Billions of people continue to seek better living standards, jobs, modern infrastructure and energy access. Delivering growth and opportunity while advancing sustainability is therefore not a contradiction, it is the defining economic and political task of our times.

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies while pursuing one of the world's largest renewable energy transitions. The approach is guided by a clear objective: To bridge climate ambition with development realities.

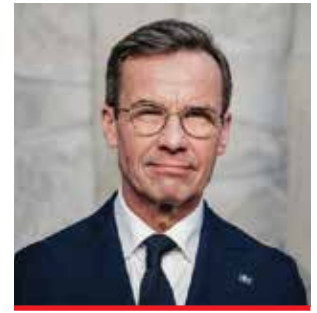
As a major growth engine, and a responsible voice of the Global South, India's two defining milestones for the near future are to achieve 'developed country' status by 2047 and Net Zero emissions by 2070. These domestic goals are deeply intertwined.

Thanks to global cooperation, including the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) and



Narendra Modi

The writer is Prime Minister of India



Ulf Kristersson

The writer is Prime Minister of Sweden

other global platforms that India has formed with the United Nations and international partners — including the International Solar Alliance, the Global Biofuels Alliance and Mission LiFE, India is a responsible voice of the Global South.

Simultaneously, Sweden leads the way in European climate action. Thanks to bold decisions taken decades ago, the electric grid is 98 per cent fossil-free. The contribution of the private sector in innovation and exports of climate-friendly solutions cannot be overstated. All in all, emissions have decreased by more than a third since 1990 — and during this time, the size of Sweden's economy has almost doubled.

The approaches of India and Sweden reflect a broader belief that climate action can create jobs, expand opportunity, strengthen energy security and improve lives. The aim is not only to decarbonise domestic development pathways, but to help build partnerships that make clean industrialisation at scale possible.

It is in this spirit that India and Sweden met in Gothenburg on May 17. Our partnership reflects a shared conviction that industrial transformation can be driven through collaboration between governments, industry, innovators and financial institutions.

The green transition is not only an environmental imperative, it is also central to competitiveness, economic resilience and long-term growth.

India and Sweden have demonstrated the value of such cooperation through the LeadIT, launched jointly by both countries in 2019 with the support of the United Nations. LeadIT has helped place industrial decarbonisation and hard-to-abate sectors at the centre

As a major growth engine, and a responsible voice of the Global South, India's two defining milestones for the near future are to achieve 'developed country' status by 2047 and Net Zero emissions by 2070

of the global climate discussion. More importantly, it has shown that developed and developing economies can co-create solutions through trust, innovation and shared responsibility.

Today, however, the scale and urgency of the challenge demand that we move further and faster.

The next phase of LeadIT should move from words to action, meaning implementation at scale. It has proved to be a useful platform for action by accelerating technology partnerships, enabling industrial pilot projects, mobilizing sustainable finance, strengthening resilient clean-energy supply chains and building globally competitive low-carbon industries.

The next phase should aim to support workforce transitions, skills development and financial architecture that reduce risk and lower the cost of capital for industrial transformation.

Not every country needs to invent every solution, but every country should have the opportunity to adapt, deploy and scale technologies suited to its developmental circumstances and priorities. Emissions do not recognise borders, and neither can the solutions.

We, therefore, call for a broadening and

deepening of this coalition through 2030. We invite more countries, including Nordic partners with strong innovation ecosystems and clean technology leadership, to join and actively contribute to this effort. The industrial transition can succeed only if it can deliver tangible economic value and social progress.

Solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear energy, storage technologies and low-carbon industrial solutions will all have important roles to play depending on national circumstances and priorities.

No country can secure every critical technology, mineral or industrial input alone. Nor can any nation address climate change in isolation. Emissions do not recognise borders – which is why solutions must be international.

The opportunity before us extends far beyond climate policy. It is about shaping a new era of industrial cooperation.

India and Sweden remain committed. At a moment of global uncertainty, our message is clear: Cooperation, rather than fragmentation, will define the pathway to shared prosperity and a sustainable future. ■

FORMER UTTARAKHAND CM BC KHANDURI PASSES AWAY

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and veteran BJP leader Shri B. C. Khanduri passed away in Dehradun on 19 May 2026 at the age of 91. His death marked the end of an era in Uttarakhand politics, where he was widely respected for his integrity, discipline and commitment to development.

Born on 1 October 1934 in Dehradun, Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri began his career in the Indian Army and rose to the rank of Major General before entering politics. He represented the Garhwal constituency multiple times in the Lok Sabha and also served as Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in the Vajpayee government. In 2007, Khanduri became the first elected BJP Chief Minister of Uttarakhand after the party secured victory in the Assembly elections. He later served a second term as Chief Minister from 2011 to 2012.

Leaders across the political parties expressed their condolence on his demise. Hon'ble President Smt.



SHRADHANJALI

Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also expressed grief and remembered his contribution to the nation and public life.

Expressing his condolence the BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin said on a post on X "The news of the demise of BJP's senior leader and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri (Retd.) Ji, is extremely heartbreaking.

He dedicated his entire life to the service of the nation and the highest ideals of good governance. His contribution to Uttarakhand's journey of development and his role as Minister of Road Transport and Highways in the Central Government will always remain memorable. I pray to God that He grants the departed soul a place at His sacred feet and provides strength to the bereaved family during this difficult time. Om Shanti."

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami described his demise as an "irreparable loss" for both the state and national politics. ■



ITALY AND INDIA: A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE INDO- MEDITERRANEAN

The relationship between India and Italy has now reached a decisive stage. In recent years, our ties have expanded with unprecedented momentum, evolving from a cordial friendship into a special strategic partnership grounded in the values of freedom and democracy, and a common vision for the future.

At a time when the international system is undergoing a profound change, the partnership between Italy and India is guided by regular exchanges at higher political and institutional levels, and is gaining a new and higher dimension that combines our economic dynamism, societal creativity, and millennia-old civilisational wisdom. Our cooperation mirrors our shared awareness that prosperity and security in the 21st century will be shaped by the ability of nations to innovate, manage energy transitions, and strengthen strategic sovereignty. To this end, we have committed to deepen and diversify our bilateral relationship with a view to pursuing new objectives and pooling our complementary strengths. We aim to forge a powerful synergy between Italian design, manufacturing excellence, and world-class supercomputers - reflecting Italy's position as an industrial powerhouse - and India's rapid economic growth, engineering talent, scale, and innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem with over 100 unicorns and 200,000 start-ups. This is not a simple integration, but a co-creation of value where our respective industrial strengths amplify one another.



Narendra Modi

The writer is Prime Minister of India



Giorgia Meloni

The writer is Prime Minister of Italy

The Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India paves the way for increased trade and investment in both directions. We want to reach and exceed the Euro 20 billion target for trade between Italy and India by 2029, with a focus on defence and aerospace, clean technologies, machinery, automotive components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agri-food, tourism and more.

"Made in Italy" has always been synonymous with excellence worldwide, and today it finds a natural synergy with the high-quality goals of the "Make in India" initiative. In this context, the growing interest of Italian businesses in the production for India and the increasing presence of Indian industries in Italy, numbering over 1,000 from both sides now, is a positive sign that will strengthen the integration of our supply chains.

Technological innovation lies at the very heart of our partnership. The coming decades will be shaped by a technological revolution of unmeasurable scope, marked by advances in sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and digital infrastructure. India's dynamic innovation ecosystem, coupled with highly skilled professional talent pool, and Italy's advanced industrial capabilities make our cooperation in the above sectors both natural and strategic. The growing partnership between our universities and research centres will support this.

India's Digital Public Infrastructure is already finding resonance with a large number of countries particularly in the Global South. Artificial Intelligence,

"Made in Italy" has always been synonymous with excellence worldwide, and today it finds a natural synergy with the high-quality goals of the "Make in India" initiative

in particular, is already impacting our societies and the global economy. Italy and India have long been collaborating to ensure that AI development is responsible and human-centred. From this perspective, India and Italy also see AI as a powerful instrument for inclusive development, especially for the Global South, where digital public infrastructure and accessible, multilingual technologies can bridge divides rather than deepen them. Building on India's vision of MANAV-putting human at the centre of technology and Italy's leadership in promoting a human-centric 'algor-ethics' rooted in its humanist tradition, our partnership seeks to ensure that AI acts as a catalyst for social empowerment. Our approach combines India's digital scale with Italy's ethical and industrial expertise, ensuring technology serves human dignity. By sharing best practices in secure digital cooperation, capacity-building and resilient cyber infrastructure, we aim to create an open, trustworthy and equitable digital space in which every nation can shape and benefit from AI. This perspective forms the core of Italy's G7 Presidency and outcomes of the AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi. Conceiving AI as a tool created by humans for humans means firmly asserting that technology cannot replace individuals or undermine their fundamental rights, nor be used to manipulate public debate or alter democratic processes. Our approach to defending freedom and human dignity in an increasingly interconnected world hinges on this very challenge.

Our cooperation also covers the space sector. India's impressive advancements in space exploration and satellite technology, together with Italy's aerospace engineering excellence, offer significant opportunities for joint initiatives and next-generation technology development.

Security and stability remain essential to ensuring nations' prosperity. Italy and India intend to further strengthen their cooperation in sectors such as defence, security and strategic technologies. Our collaboration will help ensure the security of critical maritime routes, strengthen resilience in the face of threats, such as terrorism, international criminal networks, drug trafficking, cyber-crimes and human trafficking.

Energy is another key pillar of our partnership. The global transition towards diversified energy sources requires innovation, investment, and cooperation. India and Italy are collaborating from renewable

energy to hydrogen technologies, and from smart grids to resilient infrastructure. While India's push for becoming a hub for green hydrogen exports offers immense potential, it perfectly complements Italy's advanced technology in renewable infrastructure and its strategic role as an energy gateway for Europe. Our collaboration along with other countries in key India-led initiatives - International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) - is also important in this context.

Physical, digital and human connectivity is the thread that weaves us together. Both India and Italy are located at the very heart of two crucial hubs of the global economy, the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean-regions that cannot be viewed as separate spheres, but instead as increasingly interconnected spaces.

As a matter of fact, we are witnessing the emergence of what might be termed the Indo-Mediterranean, an important corridor for trade, technology, energy, data and ideas tying the Indian Ocean to Europe. It is precisely within this interconnected space that our bond naturally evolves into a special strategic partnership-one that bridges two continents and shapes new global dynamics.

In this context, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor represents a vision aimed at connecting our regions through modern transport and infrastructure, digital networks, energy systems, and resilient supply chains. India and Italy are also committed to working together with other partners to make this vision a reality.

We can address our shared challenges by drawing upon the profound partnership and the enduring cultural ties between our nations. Within Indian culture, the concept of "Dharma" evokes the sense of responsibility that must guide our actions, whilst the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - the world is one family-resonates powerfully in this interconnected digital age. Such values find a natural echo in Italy's humanist tradition, rooted in the Renaissance, which highlights the dignity of each individual and the power of culture to unite peoples and societies.

Our shared vision, therefore, aims to lay the foundation for a strong and forward-looking India-Italy partnership with our people at the centre. ■

Statement against PM Modi reflects the anarchist mindset of Rahul Gandhi and Congress Party: Nitin Nabin

BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin on 20 May 2026 strongly condemned Rahul Gandhi's indecent, objectionable, and shameful remarks against the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, calling them unfortunate and stating that they reflect Rahul Gandhi's anarchist and desperate mindset. Indian politics has always upheld traditions of respect and purity, but repeated rejection and dismissal by the people, along with Congress's continuous electoral defeats, have led to frustration and despair becoming evident in Rahul Gandhi's nature. Shri Nabin accused Congress of weakening the nation's land and conscience, as well as failing to boost the morale of soldiers, and said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country has become secure and self-confident.

Statement is extremely unfortunate

He stated that Rahul Gandhi's statement today against Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is extremely unfortunate and, in some way, reflects his anarchist mindset. In Indian politics, there has always been a tradition of purity, sociability, and mutual respect, and in such a context, Rahul Gandhi's statement is deeply regrettable. The continuous defeats and despair are now becoming visible in Rahul Gandhi's nature and character. This very frustration and hopelessness are reflected in his words and statements of this kind. Rahul Gandhi, your ancestors committed the sin of always mortgaging the land and conscience of this country and never worked to boost the morale of the nation's soldiers. Whereas, under the leadership of the Shri Narendra Modi, the nation's land has become secure and the conscience of the people has grown stronger.

Terrorism has also been curbed

Shri Nabin said that whenever Congress has been in power in the country, the entire governance has been deeply immersed in corruption. Today, the BJP government is working with a policy of zero tolerance against corruption. Under the leadership of the Shri Narendra Modi, terrorism has also been curbed, which



has completely shattered the morale of those who nurture terrorism. Rahul Gandhi should explain what kind of words he is using. Is eliminating Naxalism treachery? Is securing the nation's land treachery? Is enhancing the honor of India's tricolor across the world treachery? The use of such words by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is beyond comprehension and entirely condemnable.

Rahul Gandhi continuously pollutes the atmosphere of nation's politics

Shri Nabin said during the Congress government, the heads of the nation's soldiers were severed, yet Congress remained silent. But the opportunity given today to the Indian Army to work with dignity and self-respect has come under the decisive leadership of the Prime Minister. Rahul Gandhi has become such a "Rahu" in Indian politics, who continuously pollutes and contaminates the atmosphere of the nation's politics. Rahul Gandhi's statement is extremely unfortunate. Rahul Gandhi has insulted not only the Prime Minister but also the 1.4 billion citizens of the country. Rahul Gandhi perhaps never learns from past incidents. Whenever Rahul Gandhi has insulted the Shri Narendra Modi, the people of the country have showered even greater blessings upon the Shri Narendra Modi, extended their support, and adorned him with the garland of victory. In the coming times as well, Rahul Gandhi and Congress will have to pay a heavy price for their unfortunate statements. ■



DOUBLE-ENGINE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ODISHA TO NEW DIMENSIONS OF DEVELOPMENT: NITIN NABIN

During his two-day visit to Odisha starting from 17 May 2026, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Nabin, participated in several organizational programmes and meetings. Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, BJP State President Shri Manmohan Samal, Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Juel Oram, and many senior party leaders were present with him in these meetings.

BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin first chaired the BJP State Core Committee meeting at the party's state office in Bhubaneswar, where he reviewed the ongoing programs of the party in Odisha. He stated that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, the double-engine government of BJP is taking Odisha to new dimensions of development.

Visits the sacred Puri Dham

Post the training camp program, the BJP National President visited the sacred Puri Dham, where he had the divine darshan of Lord Jagannath and performed rituals. Following the worship, Shri Nabin asserted that after the elections in West Bengal and several other states, having the darshan of Lord Jagannath is a moment of great fortune for all. Along with the Chief Minister of Odisha, they prayed for happiness, peace, and prosperity for the people of Odisha, the citizens of the nation, and every section of society. Just as Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the entire nation have continually received the blessings of Lord Jagannath, in the same way, they will keep bowing humbly at His feet in the future and always seek His divine grace. Subsequently, Shri Nabin partook of Mahaprasad at the residence of Puri Lok Sabha MP and BJP National Spokesperson Dr. Sambit Patra

Following the darshan of Mahaprabhu, Shri

Nitin Nabin held meetings at the BJP state office in Bhubaneswar with state party office bearers, Morcha presidents, and the council of ministers of the state government. In these meetings, detailed discussions were conducted on organizational activities and upcoming programs. Alongside, deliberations were held on the functioning of the state government, organizational coordination, and various public interest issues. A comprehensive review was also undertaken of the ongoing efforts to advance the state and build a Viksit Odisha, with in-depth discussions on multiple related subjects.

Highlights

- BJP National President addressed the inaugural session of the Bhubaneswar District BJP training camp and inaugurated the training exhibition
- Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, BJP's double-engine government is taking Odisha to new dimensions of development
- BJP is the largest political party in the world, and its responsibility is equally vast
- With the spirit of "Nation First," every worker, under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, continues to uphold national interest as paramount and advances the resolve of public service
- After the elections in West Bengal and several other states, having the darshan of Lord Jagannath is a moment of great fortune for all of us
- We all pray to Mahaprabhu that the people of Odisha, the citizens of the nation, and every section of society may attain happiness, peace, and prosperity ■

BJP National President inaugurates Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahabhiyan

BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin inaugurated the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahabhiyan of BJP Bhubaneswar District in Odisha and addressed the opening session on 18 May 2026. In a telephonic conversation with the Kamal Sandesh team, the BJP Bhubaneswar Organisation District President Shri Niranjan Mishra and the Varg Pramukh Shri Sushant Jena highlighted the details about the Training Programme. Excerpts:

'BJP National President greatly motivated the Karyakartas'



Shri Niranjan Mishra

What was the main objective of organizing the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan in Bhubaneswar?

The District Prashikshan Mahabhiyan was organized in Jatni, Khordha district, with the objective of strengthening interpersonal relationships among Karyakartas, promoting teamwork and further strengthening the organization and unity of the party in the district.

How many workers got training in your district?

A total of 237 party Karyakartas from Bhubaneswar district got training through this initiative.

How was the list of speakers for the training camp prepared?

The list of speakers was finalized after discussions among the state office bearers. Speakers were assigned topics based on their expertise, experience, and areas of interest to ensure effective and meaningful training sessions.

What arrangements were made at the Training Camp?

Comprehensive arrangements were made for the successful conduct of the two days programme. Transportation was provided from the state office to the training place. Separate accommodation facilities were arranged for male and female participants. Proper arrangements for refreshments, meals, and other essential amenities were ensured throughout the programme. A dedicated management committee was formed to oversee all arrangements and ensure smooth execution.

How significant was the presence of BJP National President at the programme?

The presence of BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin Ji was highly significant and inspiring. As the leader of the world's largest political party, his participation greatly motivated the Karyakartas and office bearers. His interaction with the participants made the programme memorable and further strengthened their commitment to the party's ideology, organizational values, and mission. ■

'The objective is to create a disciplined, dedicated, and ideologically committed cadre'



Shri Sushant Jena

Which main topics were discussed in this training program?

On the first day of the District Training Camp, detailed discussions were held on party expansion, the development of karyakartas, understanding our extended organizational family, and strengthening the party's presence in both traditional media and social media platforms. On the second day, sessions focused on the various pro-poor welfare schemes and developmental initiatives of the Central and State Governments.

What message did the BJP National President convey through this program?

The BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin called upon the karyakartas to strengthen the organization at the booth level and maintain continuous contact with the people. Emphasizing grassroots empowerment, he urged all Karyakartas to build a strong and vibrant organizational structure from "Panchayat to Parliament".

What kind of expectations are placed on the party workers through this training program?

Under the Pt. Deendayal Prashikshan Mahabhiyan, the objective is to create a disciplined, dedicated, and ideologically committed cadre. Through the training sessions, karyakartas gained valuable knowledge about organizational discipline, the history and growth of the party, booth management, and effective outreach strategies. The training is expected to significantly strengthen the organizational network and enhance the efficiency of party workers.

What is the extent of youth and women's participation in the training programme?

Special emphasis was placed on ensuring the active participation of women and youth in the training camp. Out of the total 237 participants, 32 were women and 90 were youth trainees. Their enthusiastic participation reflects the party's commitment to empowering women and young karyakartas and increasing their role in organizational activities. ■

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR POLITICIAN

Erik Solheim

Former Head of UN Environment



Western leaders have much to learn from Narendra Modi's consistent focus on the environment

On Monday 18 May, the world's most popular politician will visit Norway. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be received by King Harald, promote Indian business, meet with the Indian diaspora and attend an India-Nordic prime ministers' meeting. The Nordic prime ministers should listen carefully. They have a lot to learn from their Indian counterpart.

Whilst Nordic prime ministers barely enjoy a domestic approval rating of 30 per cent, Modi stands at around 70 per cent in the polls. No leader in any major country is nearly as popular at home as Modi.

Modi has been in power in India for more than twelve years. Should he choose to stand again, all the signs suggest he will be re-elected. A distant dream for European leaders. His success can be attributed to rapid economic development, a winning ideology, the world's strongest political party and his own life story.

Modi's background is almost unique in a world where almost all heads of state come from the upper middle class. Modi's parents owned three stalls where they sold tea at the railway station in Vadnagar, a tiny provincial town that hardly any Indians have heard of. He has no one to thank for his career but himself – and the Hindu nationalist movement. He is an Indian Einar Gerhardsen – self-taught, an organiser.

Einar was Norway's former prime minister.

He is fortunate to be leading a rapidly developing India, and he himself is a strong driving force behind that growth. The Indian economy is currently growing at seven per cent, faster than China's and far outpacing any other major economy. Growth is uneven, and there is a wide gap between the richest and poorest states in India. India lacks the highly educated workforce that China has. There is still too much bureaucracy, and India has not managed to develop any major export industry for the global market. But at current growth rates, India's economy will quadruple by 2050. India will then be the world's second-largest economy, rivalling the US.

I have travelled to almost every state in India and see signs of development everywhere – new, modern airports; better roads leading to the most remote corners of the country; the world's largest solar park under construction in Gujarat; and the world's largest solar-wind-hydro power plant in Andhra Pradesh.

Modi is the guarantor of green growth. India is now the world's third-largest producer of solar and wind energy; no one should be surprised if they overtake the US and take second place. Last year, coal emissions in India fell for the first time.

Western leaders can learn a great deal from Modi's consistent green message. I attend many conferences where Modi is the keynote speaker. Modi almost never talks about global climate negotiations or emissions. He asks no one to make sacrifices for the environment. The message is that India can lift 1.5 billion people out of poverty through green growth. There is no longer a choice between the economy and the environment.

Even if secular parties were to win the next election, India's ideology will remain Hindu nationalism. Hindu nationalism is India's answer to the question that all non-Western countries have faced since the Industrial Revolution. How to modernise without becoming like the West? Japan was the first to untangle that knot – becoming ultra-modern, yet remaining deeply Japanese. Korea is now richer than Japan and a major exporter of Korean culture and

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NARENDRA MODI KEEPS RUNNING CIRCLES AROUND HIS CRITICS

Bill Drexel

Senior fellow at the Hudson Institute



For years, Western liberals and India's opposition have both consoled themselves with a theory: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an authoritarian, India's overwhelming diversity is ultimately incompatible with strongman rule and thus his illiberalism will naturally backfire.

That theory met perhaps its largest setback yet on Monday, when Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party — the largest political party in history

— captured one of the states that should have been most impossible for it to appeal to: a fiercely independent, culturally distinct region home to more people than California, Texas and New York combined. The opposition would do well to try to learn from its latest loss.

Monday's vote did more than flip a state. For decades, India's most powerful regional parties have been the most resilient limit on the BJP's national expansion — locally rooted political machines, fluent in their states' language and identity, that the BJP's predominantly northern, Hindi-speaking culture often struggled to penetrate. West Bengal's Trinamool Congress, led by the formidable Mamata Banerjee, was among the most prominent of them, lending credibility to the idea that India's pluralism is simply too expansive for any one party to knit together — much less one pushing for a specific, muscular vision of cultural nationalism. In routing Banerjee on Monday, the BJP demonstrated it can now break the regional and cultural barriers that were supposed to

contain it.

Even before this win, the numbers behind the BJP's ascent were already staggering. The BJP boasts 140 million members, more than any political party on Earth, exceeding the Chinese Communist Party — its only peer — by 40 percent. More votes have been cast for Modi than for any politician in human history, by a margin in the hundreds of millions. Modi has comfortably outperformed every other democratically elected leader in the world in Morning Consult's global leader approval tracker for many years, despite the longevity of his tenure. By the metrics that translate to power in a democracy, the Hindu right is already the contemporary world's most successful political movement.

Critics counter — not without reason — that electoral successes are not the only way to measure democratic strength, and that the BJP and the broader Hindu nationalist movement have eroded India's liberal institutions, press freedoms and pluralist social fabric, with minorities facing rising violence and discrimination under its rule.

They further claim the ballots are not all that they appear, and accuse the BJP of tilting the playing field — stacking the election commission and engineering a now-defunct donation scheme that gave the party steep financial advantages over its rivals. The West Bengal vote drew its own controversy after the election commission purged about 9 million names, roughly 12 percent of the electorate, from the voting rolls — a move supporters defended as removing duplicate, ineligible or deceased voters, and that critics decried as a weapon to disenfranchise the Muslim minority that votes predominantly for the opposition.

But electoral engineering alone cannot account for the BJP's successes. The party took more than two-thirds of West Bengal's seats on Monday, and in less than 50 years has gone from a fringe outfit to leading 21 states — while the Indian National Congress, the party that led India to independence, has been reduced to four holdouts.

The contrast with its principal rival is instructive. The Congress party inherited its dominance: It spearheaded the independence movement, won the buy-in of India's English-speaking elite and built the institutions of the state it would govern for most of the country's first half-century, animated by fashionable international ideas about how to manage society. The BJP built its dominance the hard way – from the ground up through decades of grassroots organizing, painstakingly melding together a coalition that now spans castes, languages, regions and religious traditions that have otherwise had little reason to vote together.

Its foundation is the Sangh Parivar or “organization family,” of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organization, now a century old, focused on cultivating millions of cadres and dozens of organizations devoted to reviving its vision of Hindu society. In concert with the BJP, the RSS spreads its message through a network of other organizations it founded alongside the BJP: India's largest labor union, largest private school network,

largest student union and the most influential council of Hindu religious leadership, to name but a few. That unique set of on-the-ground, ideological and social ties across Indian society, combined with hard-nosed dealmaking and shrewd alliance building, has been the foundation of the BJP's extraordinary rise.

The BJP is consolidating power just as India takes its place among the world's great powers: largest by population, second-largest by military personnel, on the way to becoming third-largest by economy, and the only nation with the potential to counterbalance China in Asia. Monday's victory in West Bengal shows that the BJP's rise has not yet reached its ceiling.

The BJP's opponents may keep waiting for the reckoning they've long predicted. It may yet arrive. But anyone watching the evidence should instead prepare for the India of the coming decades – and the balance of power in Asia – to be built in no small part by the Hindu right. ■

(Courtesy: The Washington Post)

Continuing from page no. 32

music. China anchors its modernity in its own roots – in Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.

The BJP is currently the world's largest political party, with over 100 million members. The party has dedicated activists in every single constituency across northern and central India. The party has achieved something truly unique and unprecedented in India: the BJP enjoys the same level of support amongst high-caste, low-caste and untouchable communities. It has the support of both India's billionaires and tribal peoples in the country's remotest corners.

Among Western analysts, it has become something of a pastime to find fault with the BJP. The critics are right in saying that the BJP stands for the unification of Hindus. But there is little evidence to suggest that there have been more conflicts between Muslims and Hindus under the BJP. There was more violence and more pogroms when the Congress Party was in power. Millions of Muslims are crossing into India from neighbouring countries; hardly any Muslims are fleeing the other way.

But the BJP's insistence that Islam and Christianity are foreign religions, and that Muslim invasions in the Middle Ages and British colonialism can be equated,

creates a sense of insecurity among many Muslims. Many of the BJP's proposals are common sense – such as the idea that there should not be a separate marriage law under which Muslim men can divorce more easily than other men. But in the emergence of a new, strong India rooted in Hindu dharma, the real test will be whether the BJP can also find room to include the world's largest minority: the two hundred million Muslims in India.

India is the only large, poor former British colony to have chosen a democratic model. This is not down to the British. If it were to their credit, as they often claim, surely Pakistan, Myanmar and the Gulf monarchies would also be democracies? India is democratic because democracy is deeply rooted in Indian culture and tradition.

In a world where Norway needs new allies for a rules-based international order and Norwegian business needs new horizons, we have much to gain from closer ties with India. But this requires us to be willing to listen, not just to lecture. Then countless win-win opportunities could open up. ■

(Courtesy: DN)



PM Shri Narendra Modi participates at the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav at Somnath Temple in Gujarat on May 11, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav releasing the commemorative postage stamp and special coins at Somnath Temple, Gujarat on May 11, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi and the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan witnessing the Exchange of MoUs between India and UAE at Abu Dhabi, in United Arab Emirates on May 15, 2026.



PM Shri Narendra Modi receiving a grand welcome at the Indian Community event in The Hague, Netherlands on May 16, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian Community in Norway on May 18, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi holds bilateral engagements with the Prime Minister of Italy, Ms. Giorgia Meloni at Rome, in Italy on May 20, 2026



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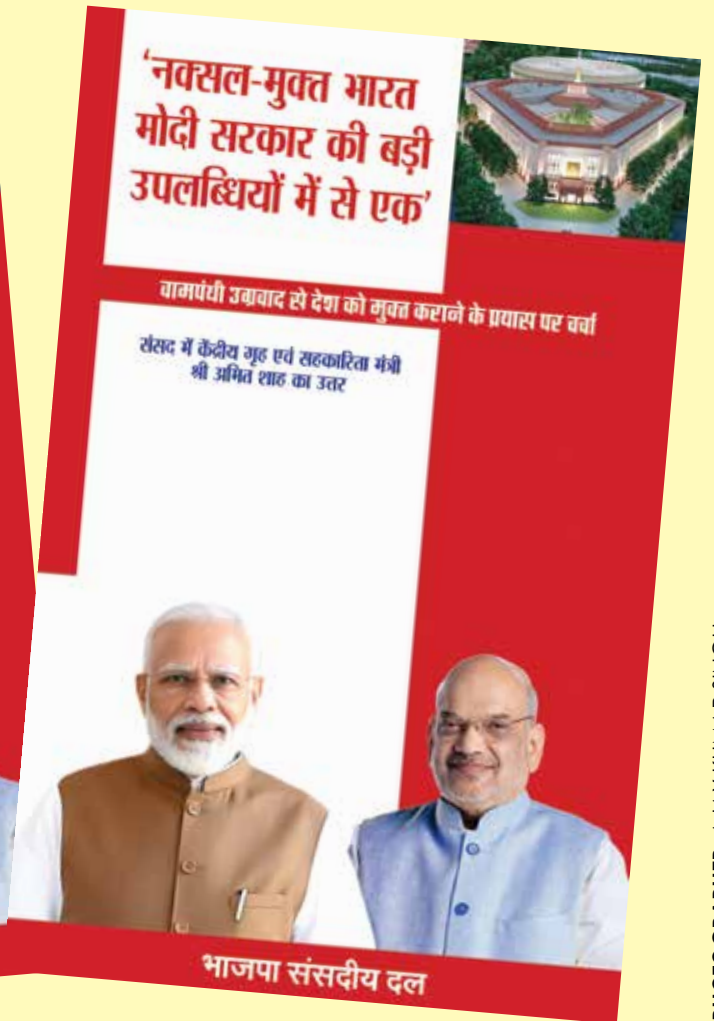
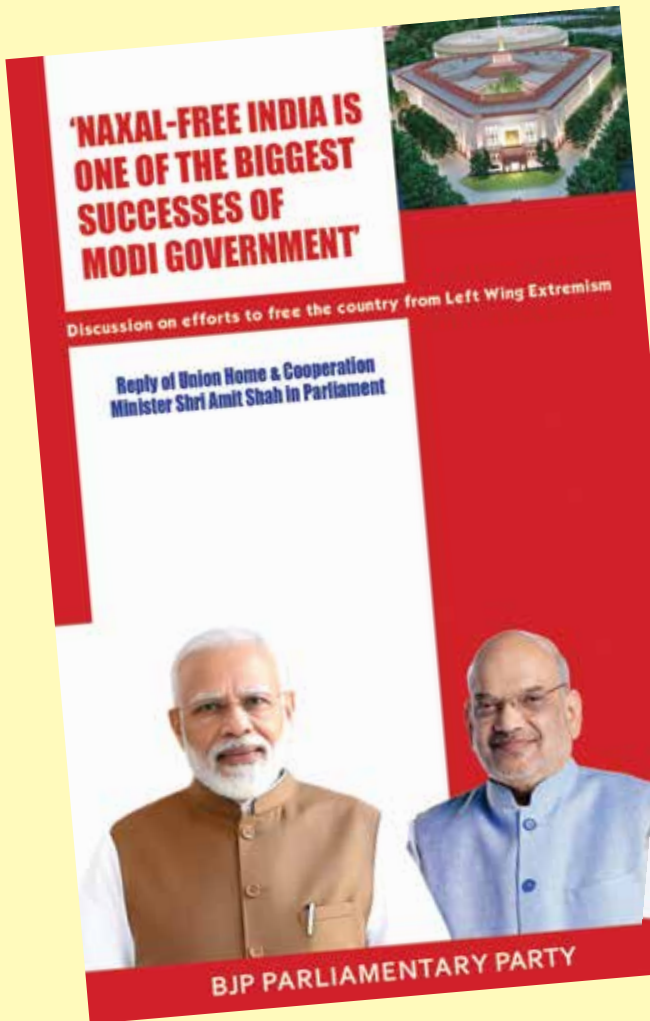
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