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**'EMERGENCY: THE DARKEST
CHAPTER OF DEMOCRACY'**



PM MODI'S HISTORIC VISIT TO SEYCHELLES

'THIS RELATIONSHIP IS LONG-STANDING & HISTORIC'



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin paying floral tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his Balidan Diwas at BJP HQ in New Delhi on 23 June 2026



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin addressing a seminar organized in Karol Bagh, Delhi, on the Balidan Diwas of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on 23 June 2026



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin at the Telangana BJP State Executive meeting at Ghatkeswar (Aushapur), Telangana on 30 June 2026



Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah launching the 'Bharat Taxi' service based on the cooperative model in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 27 June 2026



Union Minister Shri J.P. Nadda inaugurating the "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" programme in Patna, Bihar on 25 June 2026



Union Minister Shri Rajnath Singh along with the CM of Maharashtra Shri Devendra Fadnavis at the 'Bhoomi Poojan Samaroh' for the state-of-the-art 10,000-Tons Aluminium Extrusion Press in Nagpur on 19 June 2026

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@Narendramodi

Digital India is the strong foundation of a developed and self-reliant India. Over the past 11 years, it has played a crucial role in empowering the poor and deprived while making the lives of citizens easier. From the expansion of optical fiber networks to digital transactions, the unprecedented success of this campaign has drawn the attention of the entire world towards India.

(01 July, 2026)



@Nitin Nabin

Today, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the Union Cabinet has approved the Kanpur-Kabrai (NH-34) access-controlled highway project in Uttar Pradesh at a cost of ₹7,145 crore. This 117.7 km long highway will ensure fast and convenient connectivity between Kanpur, Kabrai, Sagar, Bhopal, and major regions of Madhya Pradesh. As a result, travel time will reduce from three and a half hours to just one and a half hours, while also giving a new impetus to industrial, mining, agricultural, and commercial activities.

(01 July, 2026)



@Rajnathsingh

Through transparent policies for industries, Ease of Doing Business, and Technology Transfer, our government is building a strong industrial ecosystem. Atmanirbhar Bharat means an India that stands confidently on its own feet and moves forward as an equal partner with the world.

(30 June, 2026)



@AmitShah

New Horizons for India's Glory. Congratulations to PM Shri @narendramodi Ji on being conferred with the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon', the highest distinction for leadership in sustainable development and environmental protection, by the Government of Seychelles. This honour is a proud declaration of India's ascent on the world order as a role model in revitalising natural ecosystems while leading the world in growth and sustainable development.

(28 June, 2026)



@B.L. Santhosh

Sacrilege ..forge reports .. Use Police dept for covering up ... Guilty on three counts @AamAadmiParty Govt in Punjab run by liquor scam experts from earlier Delhi administration doesn't have anything to hide now. Only way left for CM@BhagwantMann is to resign immediately.

(24 June, 2026)



@Jagat Prakash Nadda

The most joyful aspect is that the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme, which the Kejriwal government had halted and deprived ordinary citizens of its benefits, has been immediately implemented by the BJP government. Today, more than 48,500 people have already benefited from it. I am satisfied that Delhi is now moving forward rapidly on the path of development. For this, heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all of you.

(30 June, 2026)





Dr. Mookerjee's vision continues to illuminate the path of 'Viksit Bharat'

As India observes 'Balidan Diwas' on 23rd June and celebrates his 125th birth anniversary, the nation remembers one of its most glorious sons Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee not merely as the founder of a political movement, but as a visionary nation-builder whose ideals continue to inspire the journey towards 'Viksit Bharat'. A distinguished scholar, educationist, parliamentarian, and patriot, Dr. Mookerjee devoted his entire life to the service of Maa Bharati, leaving behind an enduring legacy of national unity, cultural pride, and principled public life. Born on 6 July 1901 in Calcutta, Dr. Mookerjee displayed extraordinary academic brilliance from an early age becoming the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta at the age of 33, where he championed educational excellence while promoting India's intellectual and cultural heritage. As Independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supply, he laid important foundations for industrial development and economic self-reliance during the initial years of the independence.

When Dr. Mookerjee resigned from the Union Cabinet in 1950 in protest against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, he firmly believed that national duty must always prevail over political office. His conviction that the unity, dignity, and security of the nation were non-negotiable established him as one of India's tallest nationalist leaders. His famous belief that public life must be guided by principles rather than positions continues to inspire generations of political workers. While recognising the need for a political movement rooted in cultural nationalism, national integration, and good governance, Dr. Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951, sowing the ideological seeds that would ultimately evolve into today's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Dr. Mookerjee's uncompromising opposition to the special constitutional status granted to Jammu and Kashmir became one of the defining chapters of his life. His historic declaration—'Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Nishan aur do Pradhan nahin challenge'—captured his unwavering belief in one Constitution, one Flag, and one sovereign India

do Nishan aur do Pradhan nahin challenge'—captured his unwavering belief in one Constitution, one Flag, and one sovereign India. His supreme sacrifice in 1953 transformed him into a symbol of nationalist resolve. His life remains a shining example of courage, sacrifice, integrity, and unwavering devotion to Maa Bharati. His vision of a united, strong, self-reliant, and culturally confident India continues to illuminate the path of 'Viksit Bharat' under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has not only took the bold decision of abrogating Article 370 paving the path of complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir to India, but also enacted CAA, New Education Policy, restarted the projects like fertilizer factory at Sindri and gave the mantra of 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'.

As the nation observed 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' on 25 June, it was a solemn reminder of one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history—the imposition of the Emergency in 1975. On this day, the then Congress government led by Indira Gandhi, suspended fundamental rights, silenced the free press, imprisoned thousands of opposition leaders, social activists, students, and journalists without trial, and undermined the very spirit of the Constitution. Democratic institutions were assaulted, dissent was criminalized,

and the voice of the people was suppressed through iron hand. For the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and countless democracy defenders, the Emergency was not merely a political struggle but a battle to protect the Constitution and the democratic soul of Bharat. Thousands of dedicated workers endured imprisonment and persecution while refusing to surrender their commitment to liberty and constitutional values. 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' is a tribute to their sacrifice and a reaffirmation of the BJP's unwavering commitment to democracy, constitutional governance, individual freedoms, and the principle that no government is above the Constitution or the will of the people. ■

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**INDIA REITERATED
ITS COMMITMENT TO
SUPPORTING SEYCHELLES
IN ENHANCING ITS
MARITIME DOMAIN
AWARENESS: PM**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a historic three-day State Visit to Seychelles from June 27 to June 29, 2026, at the invitation of President Mr. Wavel Ramkalawan. The visit marked a significant milestone in India-Seychelles relations as both countries celebrated 50 years of diplomatic ties. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between the two maritime nations and laid the foundation for deeper cooperation in security, development, digital connectivity, climate resilience, and the blue economy. Seychelles is a very important member and a very important partner for India in its vision MAHASAGAR, which is mutual and holistic advancement for security and growth across regions, as well as in India's commitment to the Global South. This is a relationship that is long-standing, that is historical. It was referenced several times that dating back of course to the arrival of the first people from the Indian subcontinent as far back as 1770.

The visit was accorded the highest ceremonial honours by the Government of Seychelles, reflecting the warmth and trust that characterize bilateral relations. Prime Minister Shri Modi held extensive discussions with President Ramkalawan and other senior leaders on regional and global issues, with particular emphasis on maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, sustainable development, and enhancing economic cooperation. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership and ensuring a free, open, secure, and inclusive Indian Ocean.

1,250 crore Line of Credit by India

One of the major highlights of the visit was the announcement of a new Rs. 1,250 crore Line of Credit by India to support priority development projects in Seychelles. This financial assistance demonstrates India's continued commitment to being a reliable development partner for Seychelles. The credit line will facilitate infrastructure

development, capacity building, and projects that contribute to the country's long-term socio-economic growth. India also reaffirmed its readiness to extend technical expertise and developmental assistance in sectors identified by the Seychellois government.

Bilateral agreements and MoUs

The two countries signed nine bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering a wide range of sectors. These included cooperation in maritime security, legal assistance, digital payments, health, education, and capacity building. A landmark achievement was the introduction of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Seychelles, making it one of the latest countries to adopt India's globally recognized digital payment system. The rollout of UPI is expected to promote financial inclusion, facilitate tourism, and strengthen business-to-business transactions between the two nations.

Maritime cooperation remained a central pillar of the discussions. India reiterated its commitment to supporting Seychelles in enhancing its maritime domain awareness and coastal security capabilities. As part of this commitment, India gifted a Fast Patrol Vessel, ten utility vehicles, and five sets of laser rangefinders to the Seychelles Defence Forces. These initiatives are intended to strengthen the country's ability to safeguard its maritime territory, combat illegal fishing, piracy, and other transnational maritime challenges. Both sides recognized that peace and stability in the Indian Ocean are essential for regional prosperity and sustainable development.

Climate change and environmental sustainability also featured prominently during the visit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reiterated India's support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), emphasizing the importance of climate resilience, renewable energy, disaster preparedness, and ocean conservation. He highlighted India's MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision as the guiding framework for deeper maritime cooperation. The initiative seeks to promote collective security, sustainable utilization of marine resources, and regional collaboration in addressing common

PRIME MINISTER MODI HONOURED WITH 'GUARDIAN OF THE BLUE HORIZON' PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTION



At a special ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was on 28 June conferred with a Presidential Distinction - 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' by the President of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie. The honour has been conferred upon Prime Minister for his green leadership, and efforts towards advancing the interests of developing countries and his longstanding commitment towards promoting the Blue Economy, climate action, sustainable management of ocean resources, and the developmental aspirations of Small Island Developing States. This is the first time that this distinguished honour has been bestowed.

Prime Minister dedicated the honour to all the countries who are committed to environmental conservation and fighting climate change. He underlined that the recognition, at a time when both countries are celebrating 50 years of their diplomatic relations, would go a long way in further enhancing the special friendship. The honour acknowledges Prime Minister's longstanding commitment towards a greener planet, including the International Solar Alliance, Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (Plant for Mother), International Big Cat Alliance, among others. This recognition is the latest in a series of such honours bestowed upon Prime Minister for promoting sustainable development, including the Agricola Medal by FAO, Seoul Peace Prize and the UN Champion of the Earth Award.

The honour underscores the importance attached by Seychelles to India's growing role as a trusted partner in supporting capacity building, environmental action, sustainable development initiatives, and advancing shared priorities across the Indian Ocean Region. ■

PM Modi addresses to the National Assembly of Seychelles

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the National Assembly of Seychelles on June 28, 2026, becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so. The



address marked a historic milestone during Seychelles' Golden Jubilee celebrations, commemorating 50 years of independence and reaffirming the enduring friendship between India and Seychelles.

The Prime Minister highlighted the centuries-old cultural and historical ties between the two nations, recalling that Indians were among the earliest settlers in Seychelles in the 18th century. He emphasized that the Indian Ocean serves as a bridge connecting the two countries, fostering people-to-people relations and shared values of unity in diversity.

Underscoring the strategic importance of bilateral relations, the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening cooperation in maritime security, defence, hydrography, and capacity building. He introduced the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), aimed at promoting peace, security, and sustainable development across the Indian Ocean region. ■

challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

Recognizing his contribution to strengthening bilateral relations and advancing global efforts for ocean conservation, Prime Minister Modi was conferred Seychelles' prestigious honour, the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon." Accepting the award, he dedicated the recognition to all nations working collectively to combat

climate change and protect marine ecosystems. The honour symbolizes the growing convergence between India and Seychelles on environmental sustainability and responsible stewardship of the oceans.

People-to-people ties also received considerable attention. The leaders discussed expanding cooperation in education, healthcare, skill development, culture, and tourism. India reaffirmed its commitment to capacity-building initiatives through scholarships, professional training, and technical assistance for Seychellois citizens. These initiatives are expected to deepen human resource development and strengthen the enduring friendship between the people of the two countries.

Seychelles a key partner

India considers Seychelles a key partner in its Vision SAGAR and MAHASAGAR frameworks. The visit demonstrated India's broader commitment to the Indian Ocean Region by promoting inclusive development, maritime security, digital innovation, and sustainable economic growth. Officials noted that the agreements concluded during the visit would provide fresh momentum to bilateral cooperation while reinforcing India's role as a trusted and dependable partner in the region. ■



EMERGENCY

THE DARKEST CHAPTER OF DEMOCRACY: NITIN NABIN

The BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin, on the occasion of 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' on 25 June, 2026 described the Emergency as the darkest chapter in the history of Indian democracy. Writing on X, he said the Emergency imposed by the then Congress government on 25 June 1975 was not merely a political decision, but a deliberate attack on the

Constitution, democratic institutions, and civil liberties. In the greed to save power, an attempt was made to crush the democratic soul of the nation, but the struggle of democracy fighters, nationalist organizations, and millions of citizens ultimately paved the way for the restoration of democracy. 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' not only reminds us of that era but also provides a



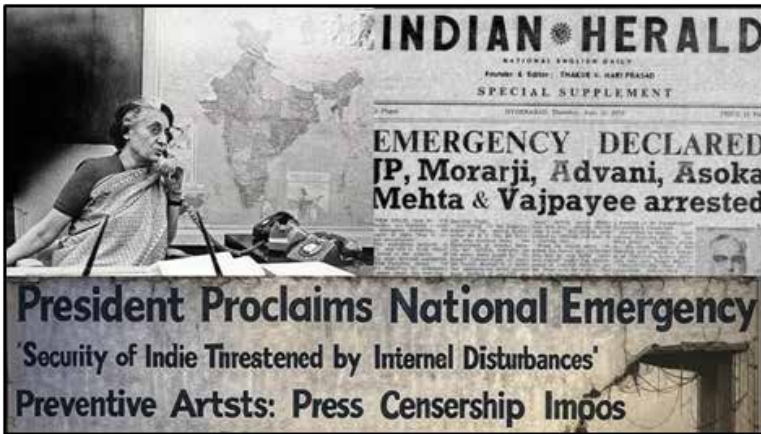
The Emergency was a direct assault on our Constitution: PM Modi

"Today(25 June), we pay homage to all those who steadfastly defended democratic values during one of the darkest chapters in India's history, the Emergency. The Emergency was a direct assault on our Constitution. It witnessed the suspension of civil liberties, curbs on freedom of expression, arrests of political leaders, journalists, social workers and an assault on institutions that are the bedrock of our democracy. At the same time, it also revealed the extraordinary courage of countless citizens who refused to remain silent and upheld the ideals enshrined in our Constitution. For all of us, our Constitution is an embodiment of the aspirations, rights and duties of 140 crore Indians. We reaffirm our collective commitment to safeguarding constitutional values. Guided by the spirit of our Constitution, we will build an India that remains ever committed to justice, liberty, equality and fraternity."

pledge to remain constantly vigilant in protecting the Constitution and democratic values.

Election of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi invalid

Shri Nabin wrote that, on 12 June 1975, the Allahabad High Court declared the election of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi invalid. After this, national interest was not prioritized, but rather the interest of power. To save one person's chair, the freedom of the entire country was taken hostage, and the constitutional values and democratic norms established by Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji attempted to be crushed. Leaders and Karyakartas who raised the voice of democracy were arrested in large numbers. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan Ji, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, Lal Krishna Advani Ji, along with thousands of democracy fighters, were put in jails. Censorship was imposed on the press, forced sterilization campaigns were carried out, fundamental rights were suspended, and civil liberties were suppressed through laws like MISA. This



not about accountability but about blame. If Parliament does not function, the blame is on the government; if elections are lost, the blame is on the system; if people do not support them, the blame is on institutions. The biggest question is: why has the party that today invokes the Constitution never offered an unconditional apology to the nation for the Emergency? If they truly cared about the Constitution, the first step would have been to apologize for that crime of murdering democracy. For decades, attempts were made to erase this dark chapter of the Emergency from the nation's collective memory.

was not merely a political crisis, but a direct assault on democracy.

Several amendments were made to the Constitution to make power absolute

The BJP National President said several amendments were made to the Constitution to make power absolute. Attempts were made to limit the powers of the judiciary. But the democratic soul of India could not be suppressed. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the youth and common citizens of the country united to struggle against this dictatorship and paved the way for the restoration of democracy. During that struggle, as a young pracharak, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, evading arrest, disguised himself and carried the message of the movement to every household. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, keeping national interest and the protection of democracy above its personal and organizational interests, merged into the Janata Party. Thousands of volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh worked underground to protect democracy, while the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad organized student power and led public awakening. This sacrifice, dedication, and nationalism is a golden chapter of Indian politics.

Self-proclaimed protectors of the Constitution

Shri Nabin stated that today the country is witnessing a strange irony. Those who carried out the biggest attack on democracy are now trying to become its self-proclaimed protectors. When the people reject them in elections, they lose faith in the Election Commission. Questions are raised on EVMs. When court decisions do not align with their political interests, questions are raised on the impartiality of the judiciary. Congress politics today has become

Justice has been done to history

The struggle of democracy fighters and the assault on the Constitution were pushed to the margins of history. But under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, by deciding to observe 25 June as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', justice has been



done to history. Samvidhan Hatya Diwas not only reminds us of the past but also resolves that we must always remain vigilant and dedicated to protecting the Constitution, democracy, and civil rights. ■

Government remains firmly committed to upholding the Constitution in both letter and spirit: Rajnath Singh

"On this day in 1975, the Emergency was imposed in India. The Emergency remains one of the darkest chapters in the history of Indian democracy. During that period, freedom of speech and expression was curtailed, attempts were made to control and undermine the judiciary, and the rights of millions of citizens were violated.



The Emergency reminds us that when those in power become authoritarian, the lives of citizens, democratic institutions, and constitutional values come under serious threat. Therefore, this day is not only an occasion to remember the past, but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to democracy, the Constitution, and the rights and freedoms of citizens. Our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi, remains firmly committed to upholding the Constitution in both letter and spirit and to strengthening India's democratic institutions. The nation remains indebted to all those who stood against the injustices and excesses of the Emergency and courageously defended democracy and the Constitution."

25 June 1975 is the dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy: Amit Shah

"25 June 1975 is that dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy, when the arrogance and greed for power of Indira Gandhi and the Congress Party attempted to crush the soul



of the Constitution, the freedom of the press, and the right to expression. On the occasion of Samvidhan Hatya Diwas, I pay my respectful homage to all those warriors of democracy who fought against the Emergency to protect democratic values. The purpose of the Modi government observing 25 June as 'Constitution Murder Day' is to keep this dark chapter alive in the nation's memory and to ensure that the Congress Party can never again inflict such an assault on democracy and the Constitution in the future."

Congress Party's decision to impose emergency shook the very pillars of democracy: JP Nadda

Union Minister and BJP senior leader Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda at a programme in Patna, Bihar on June 25 said that on June 25, 1975, the Congress Party's politically driven decision to impose a state of emergency shook the very pillars of the country's democracy and tried to trample over the Constitution given by Dr B. R. Ambedkar. In a social media post, Shri Nadda said during this period, those who today claim to be guardians of Indian democracy made no effort to suppress voices raised in defence of constitutional values. He said, Today, we reflect on the sacrifices made by our country's great heroes who bravely stood as



preservers of democracy during emergencies. Shri Nadda said that he is proud that his party belongs to that tradition, which resisted the emergency tooth and nail and worked to protect democracy.

Shri Nadda also paid tribute to individuals who opposed the Emergency, saying their sacrifices helped preserve democratic values.

He stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party traces its political legacy to those who resisted the Emergency and worked to safeguard democracy despite difficult circumstances.

The Emergency, imposed by the government led by Indira Gandhi from June 1975 to March 1977, remains one of the most debated periods in independent India's political history. It was marked by the suspension of civil liberties, press censorship, arrests of opposition leaders, and expanded executive powers. Supporters of the Congress have argued that the Emergency was declared in response to extraordinary circumstances facing the country, while critics view it as a serious assault on democratic institutions.



On the Balidan Diwas of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

'Under the leadership of PM Modi Dr. Mookerjee's vision for India is being translated into reality'

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Nabin on 23, June 2026 paid floral tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the pioneer of nationalism and national unity, on his 73rd Balidan Diwas at a seminar organized in Karol Bagh, Delhi. Introducing the life and legacy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri Nabin highlighted his decision to relinquish his ministerial position in the Government of India in the national interest and establish the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Jammu & Kashmir remained an integral part

He also spoke about Dr. Mookerjee's movement to ensure that Jammu & Kashmir remained an integral part of India and his ultimate sacrifice for this cause. Delhi BJP President and Union Minister of State Shri Harsh Malhotra, Lok Sabha MP Sushri Bansuri Swaraj, and several other leaders were present on the occasion.

A staunch nationalist

Shri Nitin Nabin said that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a staunch nationalist, an eminent thinker, and India's first Minister for Industry. The India he had envisioned and the ideals for which he sacrificed his life

are today being realized in a meaningful manner.

Founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951

Shri Nabin stated that when Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951, it was with the vision and resolve of providing strong leadership to nationalist ideology. Today, the Bharatiya Janata Party is carrying forward that very nationalist thought while working for India's progress and development.

True tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

The BJP National President asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is a true tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Shri Nabin added that the Bharatiya Janata Party has now established its government even in West Bengal, the birthplace of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

The vision that Dr. Mookerjee had for India is being translated into reality today under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The efforts of the Prime Minister and crores of BJP karyakartas to fulfil Dr. Mookerjee's dreams and objectives constitute our true tribute to his memory. ■

Telangana would witness a BJP government in 2028: Nitin Nabin

BJP National President, Shri Nitin Nabin, addressed the Telangana State Executive Meeting held at Aushapur, Telangana, on June 30, 2026. Addressing the gathering, Shri Nabin described the Congress government in Telangana as anti-people and said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the true alternative to the aspirations of the people. He expressed confidence that Telangana would witness a BJP government in 2028.



BJP National President, Shri Nitin Nabin described the journey of every BJP karyakarta as one of ideology, sacrifice, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the nation. He added, every party worker is an integral part of this journey. The BJP's growth into the world's largest political party, he said, is the result of the tireless efforts and dedication of its grassroots karyakartas. Recalling the party's humble beginnings in 1980, when it won only two seats in Parliament, Shri Nabin said its remarkable rise reflects the perseverance and commitment of workers at the booth level who have consistently worked to strengthen the organisation.

Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat

Shri Nabin said that under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, the past 12 years have witnessed the successful implementation of development programmes that have reached the last person in society. He said the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat has become a reality, with India's tricolour flying proudly from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. He added, the credibility and integrity of the Modi government are reflected in the fact that, despite years in office, no minister in the Union government has faced credible allegations of corruption. He described this as the hallmark of BJP's model of good governance.

Shri Nabin urged BJP karyakartas to intensify their engagement with the people by taking up public issues at the grassroots level. He said meaningful political change can only be achieved through sustained public outreach and active participation in people's struggles. Expressing confidence in the party's prospects, he asserted that if BJP workers continue to work among the people with dedication, the year 2028 will mark the formation of a BJP government in Telangana.

Shri Nabin said the BJP's greatest strength lies in its

commitment to fulfilling the promises it makes. Referring to the popular slogan, "Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai," he remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees are synonymous with delivery, whereas the Congress, he alleged, has repeatedly failed to honour its commitments. He added that wherever BJP governments have come to power, they have ensured that projects inaugurated during their tenure are also completed and dedicated to the people.

Highlighting the Centre's welfare initiatives in Telangana, Shri Nabin said the Narendra Modi government has consistently worked for the welfare of the state's farmers. He noted that more than 3 million farmers in Telangana are benefiting from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), while over 3.3 million farmers have received access to affordable institutional credit through Kisan Credit Cards. He also pointed to the establishment of the Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, which, he said, has opened new market opportunities for turmeric growers in the state.

Centre significantly strengthened Telangana

Shri Nabin further stated that the Centre has significantly strengthened healthcare and financial inclusion in Telangana. He said more than 8.2 million Ayushman Bharat health cards have been issued in the state as part of the nationwide programme, while nearly 13.2 million Jan Dhan bank accounts have been opened to promote financial inclusion among economically weaker sections.

Shri Nabin stated that while some political parties pursue appeasement politics, the BJP believes in the politics of inclusive development and public satisfaction. He reiterated that the party remains committed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guiding philosophy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas," which seeks to ensure equitable development for every section of society. ■

12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare A Nationwide Campaign of Innovation and Public Participation

The completion of twelve years of NDA governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was marked by a nationwide campaign titled "12 Years of Trust, Development, and Public Welfare" informed by BJP National General Secretary Shri Arun Singh. More than a celebration of achievements, the campaign served as a comprehensive public outreach initiative that showcased the government's commitment to inclusive development, environmental sustainability, citizen welfare, and nation-building. Through innovative activities conducted across states and districts, the campaign successfully connected millions of citizens with the government's developmental journey while reinforcing the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

The campaign began with a series of organizational workshops held between 20 and 27 May 2026 across all 37 organizational regions of the country. The discussions focused on communicating the achievements of the government over the past twelve years, strengthening grassroots engagement, and ensuring effective implementation of future developmental initiatives.

One of the campaign's most significant initiatives was the observance of World Environment Day on 5 June 2026 through the nationwide "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. Citizens from all walks of life, including students, educational institutions, community organizations, and volunteers, participated enthusiastically in large-scale tree plantation drives and environmental awareness programmes.

Media engagement formed another important pillar of the campaign. Large-scale media interactions were organized to effectively communicate the government's developmental achievements. A notable programme in Uttar Pradesh witnessed the participation of nearly 450 journalists, providing an opportunity to present the accomplishments of the past twelve years and engage constructively with the media.

A special moment during the campaign came on 10 June 2026, when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi became India's longest continuously elected Prime Minister. To mark this historic occasion, prayer meetings and social service activities were organized across the country. Temples, Gurudwaras, Buddhist monasteries, Ravidas temples, and Valmiki temples conducted prayers, havans, and religious ceremonies for the Prime Minister's good health and long life.

Public outreach remained central to the campaign. In Delhi, an extensive cleanliness drive was organized

simultaneously at 28 Yamuna ghats with the active participation of 624 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and thousands of volunteers. Community service programmes, including devotional gatherings, community meals, and the distribution of drinking water, reflected the campaign's emphasis on social harmony and civic responsibility. In Uttar Pradesh, a large-scale public contact programme reached more than 42,000 distinguished citizens, with elected representatives and party workers personally meeting intellectuals, professionals, and community leaders to share literature highlighting the government's achievements and future vision.

Public exhibitions showcasing the achievements of the government over the past twelve years were organized at 409 prominent public locations across Maharashtra, including malls and railway stations.

Among the most impactful initiatives were the Jan Kalyan Shivirs organized across multiple states. In Madhya Pradesh alone, 726 camps processed more than 2.5 million applications, achieving an impressive resolution rate of approximately 94 percent. Similar welfare camps were conducted across Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, ensuring the timely delivery of government services, faster grievance redressal, and improved access to welfare schemes, particularly for citizens at the grassroots level.

The promotion of natural farming also emerged as a key focus area. Hundreds of workshops were organized across West Bengal and Odisha, while a major workshop in Jaipur attracted nearly 5,500 participants.

The campaign concluded with the nationwide celebration of the 12th International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2026. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led a mass yoga session with approximately 35,000 participants at Kolkata's historic Red Road. Prior to Yoga Day, more than 7,000 yoga training camps were organized, promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging citizens to make yoga an integral part of their daily routine.

The "12 Years of Trust, Development, and Public Welfare" campaign demonstrated how governance can be strengthened through active public participation, innovative outreach, environmental responsibility, social service, and transparent communication. By combining developmental achievements with citizen engagement, the campaign reinforced the vision of a self-reliant, inclusive, and Develop India. ■

GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PM COMMISSIONS INDIAN NAVY'S FRONTLINE PLATFORMS - INS DUNAGIRI, INS SANSKODHAK & INS AGRAY



In a landmark moment for India's maritime preparedness and indigenous defence capability, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21st June commissioned three frontline platforms - INS Dunagiri, an advanced stealth frigate; INS Sanshodhak, a survey vessel (large); and INS Agray, an anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft - into the Indian Navy in Kolkata, West Bengal. These state-of-the-art platforms will significantly enhance the nation's operational capabilities, maritime security against geopolitical threats, and domain awareness.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister noted that June 21 is also observed globally as World Hydrography Day and described it as a remarkable coincidence that India's most advanced hydrographic survey vessel, INS Sanshodhak, is commissioned on the same day.

Congratulating the Indian Navy, scientists, engineers, workers and all citizens of the country, he said the achievement reflected India's growing technological and maritime capabilities. "No nation can emerge as a major power without strong maritime capabilities. Development, security and prosperity are closely linked to the oceans. Most of the world's trade moves through sea routes, while vast global data networks operate beneath the oceans", he stated while emphasising the importance of maritime strength in the modern world. PM Shri Modi stated that India fully understands this reality and is preparing itself accordingly. "The commissioning of the three naval platforms stands as testimony to the country's growing capabilities and skills", he remarked.

Recalling the commissioning of INS Vikrant, he said that it had marked the beginning of a new chapter

in India's maritime journey and announced India's growing naval strength to the world. He noted that the journey from INS Vikrant to the commissioning of INS Agray, INS Dunagiri and INS Sanshodhak is not merely a story of new warships but also a reflection of India's increasing self-reliance. ■

COUNTRY'S FIRST PINS INSTRUMENT APPROACH PROCEDURE FOR HELICOPTER OPERATIONS APPROVED

India has achieved a major milestone in aviation safety and technology with the approval of its first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure for helicopter operations at Undavalli Heliport. The development has been jointly executed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in line with ICAO standards and DGCA regulations.

The PinS procedure uses advanced satellite-based navigation to enable helicopters to perform precise instrument approaches to heliports lacking conventional landing infrastructure. This innovation significantly improves operational safety, especially during adverse weather conditions and in remote areas where ground-based navigation aids are unavailable. It will enhance all-weather accessibility, operational efficiency, and reliability of services. The system is expected to benefit critical sectors such as emergency medical services, disaster relief, tourism, offshore operations, pilgrimage connectivity, and regional transport. ■

INDIAN RAILWAYS REGISTERS ROBUST 4% GROWTH

Indian Railways recorded robust operational growth in June 2026, reinforcing its position as a key driver of India's economic activity. The national transporter handled 142.21 million tonnes of freight during the month, marking a 4% increase compared to 136.71 million tonnes in June 2025. Freight earnings also rose by around 430 crore, reflecting a 3% year-on-year growth.

Key commodities contributed significantly to this expansion. Fertiliser loading grew by 19.1%, followed by other goods at 17.3%, iron ore at 9.4%, and coal supplied to power plants at 7%. Passenger traffic also showed steady growth, with Indian Railways carrying 63.81 crore passengers in June 2026, up from 62.37 crore in the same month last year. Non-suburban travel increased by 3.9%, while suburban services rose by 0.9%. ■

WHY JANA SANGH ?

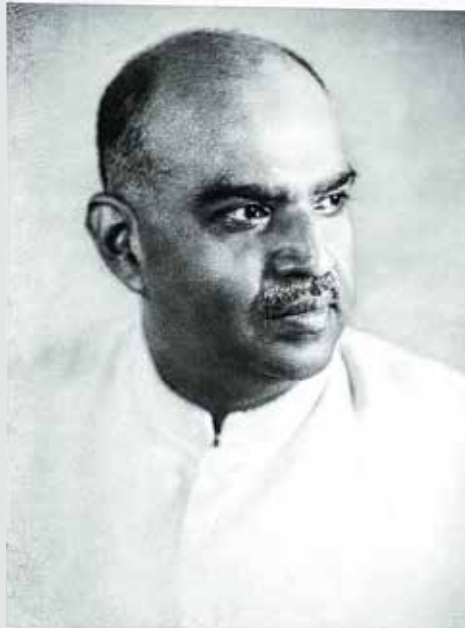
Continuing...

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

Regarding Kashmir our party feels that the case should be withdrawn from U.N.O. and there should be no further question of plebiscite. Kashmir is an integral part of India and should be treated as any other State. It is indeed tragic that one-third of Kashmir should be in the hands of the enemy and our Government should be unable to free the area from foreign occupation in spite of occasional outbursts of determination to fight any future penetration. From what I have stated above it will appear that our party claims to deal with national and international problems in a spirit of realism consistent with the honour and dignity of India. We have been attacked vigorously by some spokesmen of other parties specially Mr. Nehru, the President of the Congress.

Since he also happens to be the Prime Minister of India his utterances naturally carry great weight. The vigour of his repeated attacks has given us added strength and determination. We will not succumb to threats and abuses. Indeed they have provided us with widespread publicity and for this our thanks are due to him. It is open to anyone to criticize another party's programme freely and unequivocally but such criticisms should not amount to misrepresentation of facts. The main charge against us is that we are a communal party with retrograde ideas.

A bare examination of our programme will convince



any right-thinking man that this is a perversion of truth. The charge of pandering to communalism really lies at the door of the Congress and specially against Mr. Nehru himself. Let him coolly examine his own performances during the last thirty years. At every step when he and his colleagues had to deal with the intransigence of Muslim League, they ran away from the fight and ultimately succumbed to it by dividing their motherland. Dr. Ambedkar's recent proposal to partition Kashmir on the basis of Hindu and Muslim population has shocked many.

We also do not approve of this. Such concession do not settle disputes but only create fresh jumping grounds for Pakistan for making fresh demands. That was indeed the old Muslim League technique. But surely this was exactly what Mr. Nehru and his friends had done with regard to India in 1947. It is true that some of us supported the partition of Bengal and Punjab in 1947 but be it recorded that we were forced to do so when Bharat's division was imminent.

We always wanted to keep these and other provinces within United Bharat. When we found that this was not possible due to the betrayal of the Congress and the pact between itself and Muslim League supported by an astute British policy, we were anxious to save as much of these provinces as possible and keep them within free India. Otherwise they would have been lost to India in their entirety.

If Bharat had not been partitioned, there would have been no occasion to partition these great provinces whose people have suffered enormously for the sake of Bharat's liberation. Having repeatedly sacrificed Bharatiya nationalism at the altar of Muslim

communalism and even after partition having surrendered to the whims and howls of Pakistan Government it does not lie in the mouth of Mr. Nehru to accuse others of communalism. There is no communalism in Bharat today except the new policy of Muslim appeasement which has been started by Mr. Nehru and his friends for the purpose of winning their votes at the forthcoming election.

We have provincialism and other types of class or caste differences in the country today. Let us jointly try to remove these evils so as to lay the foundation for a truly democratic India. The cry of communalism raised by Mr. Nehru is to sidetrack the real issues now before the country. The problem before the country today are clearly related to hunger, to poverty, to exploitation, to maladministration, to corruption, to abject surrender to Pakistan, all being evils for which the main responsibility rests on the Congress and the Government under it. Mr. Nehru, the Arch-Fascist of India, accuses others of fascism. Such efforts to hoodwink the public will meet with miserable failure.

New Era of Hope

We firmly believe that the inauguration of this party will usher in a new era of hope, peace and strength. Our goal and objective are sound but our success will depend on the organisation that we can set up and the confidence that we can create in the minds of the people themselves. That will take time and much patient labour. Let its not be completely overshadowed by the forthcoming elections. No doubt we will face them boldly and appeal to the electorate wherever we can to trust us with their votes explaining the viewpoints that we are claiming to advocate.

There is however greater chance of defeating the Congress at the elections if there is at least electoral understanding among the principal parties in opposition. The main basis for such understanding should be popularity and confidence of the voters. The Congress has collected enormous funds and all sorts of pressures are being put upon various classes of people for getting their support for the Congress. It enjoys the powers of Government today and there is every likelihood that it will not hesitate to manipulate the official machinery for winning the elections. From our recent experience in Delhi elections it is feared that elections may not be free and fair.

The manner in which the official machinery was utilised for the Delhi session of the Congress also

indicates how Congress and Government have become synonymous expressions. Such abuse of power creates most unhealthy precedents. All opposition parties should, therefore, unite in demanding that the conditions for free and fair election should be scrupulously observed. Even Delhi elections, where the Congress has won, reveal interesting conclusions. Of the total voters barely 30 per cent have voted for the Congress.

Thus the majority of the voters are anti-Congress. This has been the case in the capital city of Bharat in spite of feverish and hectic efforts of the Prime Minister and others to win success for the Congress. But for the fact that the contestants were too many in number and in some places Congress gave tickets to non-Congress independents, the majority of the votes would have been cast against the Congress and the Congress would have been ultimately defeated. In any case our party, although barely two months old, has secured about 24 per cent of the total votes and in many cases the difference between the Congress candidates and ours was very small. This is no small achievement. Our workers must march ahead in full confidence of the justice of our cause and the support which we have already received in different parts of the country.

Service and Sacrifice

We enter upon our task with full faith, hope and courage. Let our workers constantly remember that only through service and sacrifice will they be able to win the confidence of masses of the people. The great task of revitalising and reconstructing free Bharat awaits us. The mother calls her children, irrespective of class, caste or religion to come to her and serve her. However dark the present clouds may be, Bharat has a great destiny to fulfil in the years to come. May our party whose symbol in the forthcoming elections is a humble earthen 'Pradip' try to carry this light of hope and unity, faith and courage to dispel the darkness that surrounds the country.

The journey has just begun. May Providence endow us with strength and fortitude to remain ever on the right path, not cowed by fears or tempted by favours, and to help to make Bharat great and strong, spiritually and materially, so that she may become a fit and noble instrument in the preservation of world peace and prosperity.

Jai Bharat!. ■



YOGA FOR HEALTHY AGEING: ADDING LIFE TO YEARS

C.P. Radhakrishnan

(The writer is Vice President of India)



For ages, Bharat's unique distinction has been its noble vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – of seeing the entire world as a single entity and all living beings as one. Rooted in the spiritual wisdom of Bharat, Yoga is an ancient discipline that harmonises body, mind, and spirit. The fundamentals of yoga include asanas – physical postures, pranayama – breathing techniques, and meditation. A combination of these elements of yoga enhances physical fitness, mental clarity, and emotional balance.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, while addressing the United Nations General Assembly, on September 27, 2014, highlighted the need to change people's lifestyles to create a more habitable and sustainable world. He said that yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. At the behest of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the United Nations General Assembly, on December 11, 2014, approved the proposal, co-sponsored by a record of over 174 countries, to declare June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. Since 2015, millions of people around the world gathered in public spaces to practice yoga together – transforming our ancient wisdom into a global movement.

On June 21 this year, as the Prime Minister, Shriman Narendra Modi Ji leads the Yoga Day in Kolkata, I am visiting Ladakh for the very same celebrations. Personally, for many years, I have also experienced the benefits of practicing Yoga and Panchakarma, which are often hailed as 'sister sciences'. It is these deeply enriching personal experiences that have inspired me to pen down my reflections on Yoga and its profound impact on human well-being.

Yoga: A timeless legacy of Bharat

'Yoga' – a timeless practice for physical, mental,

and spiritual well-being is believed to have started with the very dawn of our civilization. In the yogic lore, Lord Shiva is seen as the first yogi or Adi Yogi, and the first Guru or Adi Guru, while Maharishi Patanjali is hailed as the father of classical yoga for systematizing its principles in the Yoga Sutras. Maharishi Patanjali shares a deep spiritual association with Tamil Nadu. His physical Jeeva Samadhi is also believed to be located in Thirupattur.

Our revered Rishis and Munis gifted the world the invaluable treasure of Yoga. Through years of meditation, austerity, and spiritual inquiry, the rishis and sages developed a holistic system that unites the body, mind, and soul. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa expounded the three great paths of Yoga – Jnana Yoga, the path of wisdom and knowledge; Karma Yoga, the path of selfless service and righteous action; and Bhakti Yoga, the path of pure love and devotion. He taught that all three paths ultimately converge in the realization of the Supreme Truth.

Yoga today transcends geographical, cultural, and religious boundaries, standing as a living testament to the timeless wisdom of India's sages and their enduring contribution to the well-being of humanity.

Yoga for Healthy Ageing

Every year, International Yoga Day is celebrated enthusiastically in our country with a meaningful theme. This year's theme of 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' holds special significance. Remarkable advances in healthcare, public health systems, and declining mortality rates have increased human life expectancy across nations. Bharat too is witnessing this profound demographic transition. The India Ageing Report 2023, released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), states that by 2050, nearly one in five Indians will be above the age of 60.

While we celebrate this invaluable gift of longevity, it simultaneously places upon society a solemn responsibility of ensuring that added years to life also mean added life to years. Within this context, the theme for the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 – "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" – emerges as a timely message.

This demographic transition has led to the emergence of expansion in the 'Silver Economy', focusing on the goods and services related to healthcare and the needs of senior citizens, in Bharat. Industry experts have estimated that this is nearly Rs. 73,000 crore as of now. This sector is expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

The realities of modern-day ageing have exposed how senior citizens navigate through a complex web of vulnerabilities. The World Health Organisation, in this context, has also repeatedly highlighted the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, mental health concerns, and social isolation among elderly populations across the world.

I also believe that now the pressing need of the hour is to initiate people into yoga at an early age. The earlier one begins the practice of Yoga, the greater the cumulative benefits throughout life. I am pleased to note that the National Education Policy 2020 accords Yoga a significant place as an integral component of health, wellness, and value-based education. This is a positive step in the direction of initiating the young into yoga. It will certainly serve as a means to cultivate discipline, concentration, emotional balance, and a healthy lifestyle among students.

Thus, we see that to successfully navigate the evolving demographic horizon across the world, Bharat offers the world a unique paradigm — one that harmoniously bridges ancient civilizational wisdom with modern scientific validation - YOGA.

Yoga - a solution for modern-day ageing

Today, modern science is increasingly validating the timeless insights of our sages and yogis who attained remarkable longevity, vitality, and mental clarity through disciplined living, yoga, and spiritual practice. Academic and clinical interest in the therapeutic dimensions of yoga has grown exponentially in recent years.

Premier institutions such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Harvard Medical School, and several peer-reviewed journals, such as *Lancet*, through their studies, have demonstrated that regular yoga practice safely improves balance, flexibility, and mobility among senior citizens, thereby significantly reducing the fear and risk of falls. Research has also shown measurable benefits of Yoga in improving bone density, alleviating arthritic pain, enhancing respiratory efficiency, stabilising blood pressure, and supporting mental well-being. Equally important, meditative and breathing practices have been found to improve sleep quality, emotional resilience, and cognitive functioning among the elderly.

But I would like to emphasise that the true strength of Yoga lies in its holistic nature. Beyond physical rehabilitation, Yoga nurtures emotional balance and social connectedness. I have witnessed that one of the deepest challenges of ageing today is the growing sense of isolation experienced by many seniors. Yoga gently

transforms this inward loneliness into a broader sense of collective belonging. It encourages individuals to move from an “I-centric” orientation towards a “We-centric” consciousness rooted in empathy, interconnectedness, and inner peace.

Importantly, as per my own experiences, ‘Yoga For Healthy Ageing’ does not demand strenuous physical exertion. Classical yogic practices have been thoughtfully adapted into gentle and accessible protocols suitable for senior citizens. These include Yogic Sukshma Vyayama or subtle joint movements, chair-assisted postures, guided breathing techniques, and meditation practices that strengthen the neuroendocrine system and immunity without placing stress on ageing physiology.

At the same time, Yoga also serves as a source of resilience for caregivers and family members who shoulder the emotional and physical demands of elderly care. Recognising these immense benefits, the Ministry of Ayush has introduced the landmark initiative on “10 Yoga Protocols for Non-Communicable Diseases and Target Groups,” including a dedicated evidence-based Yoga module for geriatric health. Further, the Yoga 365 initiative, a nationwide campaign offering a free 100-day guided online Yoga programme, has been designed to ensure that Yoga becomes an accessible and enduring companion in everyday life for citizens across all age groups.

More than two thousand years ago, the great scholarly Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar advocated a personalized approach to health through the *Kural* (949), “Consider the patient’s condition, the nature of the disease, and the proper time before undertaking treatment.” This timeless wisdom mirrors the modern principles of Yoga for Healthy Ageing, where practices are carefully adapted to an individual’s age, health, and needs, enabling people to enjoy a healthier, more active, and more dignified life in their later years.

As we observe the International Day of Yoga 2026, I urge every citizen, educational institution, civil society organisation, healthcare professional, and community leader to embrace yoga not merely as an occasional exercise, but as a lifelong cultural and wellness practice. The true measure of a society lies in how it cares for its elderly. Let us therefore strive to create an ecosystem where our senior citizens live not in fear, dependence, or isolation, but with dignity, vitality, purpose, and peace. By making yoga a rhythm of life, we can collectively ensure that the golden years of our citizens truly become years of health, harmony, and fulfilment! ■



BEYOND CROPS, TOWARDS PROSPERITY

**Shivraj Singh
Chouhan**

(The writer is Union Minister of
Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare,
and Rural Development, GoI)



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian agriculture has over the past 12 years entered a completely new era. Earlier, our biggest concern was ensuring that the country did not face a shortage of foodgrains and that hunger could somehow be prevented. Today, Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership and farmer-centric policies have transformed agriculture from being merely a "sector of production" into an integrated foundation for farmers' prosperity, risk protection, nutritional security, green technology and rural development. For the first time since the Green Revolution, policy focus has shifted from simply asking "how much production" to deeper questions such as "what is the farmer's actual income, how sustainable is agriculture, and how strong is the rural economy." It is with this broader thinking that the Pulses and Oilseeds Mission, Cotton Mission, National Mission on Natural Farming, Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY), Khet Bachao Abhiyan, digital agriculture and research-led innovation are all being connected through one comprehensive vision for agricultural transformation and rural prosperity.

Beyond Production: Income, Security and the Rural Economy

Today, India has achieved a record foodgrain production of 376.563 million tonnes, the highest in the nation's history. Paddy, wheat, maize, pulses and oilseeds have all registered remarkable growth. This is not merely a story of increased production; it is evidence of the expansion and strengthening of the overall rural economy. Alongside this, the Modi government has placed equal emphasis on farmers' risk protection and income security. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-

KISAN), more than Rs 4.27 lakh crore has so far been directly transferred into farmers' bank accounts through 22 installments, providing regular annual income support to over nine crore farmer families across the country. At the same time, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has provided a strong insurance shield to crores of farmer applicants by protecting them against crop losses caused by natural disasters and other adverse conditions.

Investments in irrigation, rural roads, agricultural infrastructure, warehouses and cold-chain systems have strengthened all three critical pillars of agriculture — production, storage and market access. Agriculture today is no longer confined to the boundaries of farmland alone. Dairy, fisheries, poultry, horticulture, beekeeping, food processing, storage systems, rural industries, solar energy and the service sector are all combining to create a new and diversified rural economy. This transformation is generating employment opportunities, increasing rural incomes and building resilience among farming communities. The government's vision is not merely to support farming activity, but to create an entire ecosystem where agriculture becomes the foundation of economic growth, entrepreneurship and rural development.

Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton Missions: Self-Reliance and Price Security

For a long time, the sectors of pulses, edible oils and cotton remained below their full potential. India remained dependent on imports for pulses and edible oils, while cotton farmers frequently had to face volatility in global markets. Recognising the strategic importance of these sectors, the Modi government has accorded them special priority and launched separate missions to address their challenges in a comprehensive manner.

Through the National Pulses Mission, work is being carried out across the entire value chain — from seeds to markets — in order to increase both the cultivated area and productivity of tur, urad, masoor, gram and other pulses. This includes the promotion of high-yield varieties, cluster-based farming, processing units, a strengthened MSP (minimum support price) framework, government procurement systems, storage facilities and export support. The objective is clear: India should become fully self-reliant in pulses, reduce its import bill and ensure that farmers receive sustainable incomes from

these high-value crops.

Similarly, under the Oilseeds Mission, special emphasis is being placed on crops such as mustard, soybean, sunflower, sesame and palm oil. This is not merely a programme aimed at increasing production. It is part of a larger national strategy to achieve self-reliance in edible oils, strengthen the country's oil security and provide better prices to farmers. The mission seeks to improve productivity through scientific interventions, modern agricultural practices and improved market linkages.

Alongside these efforts, the Cotton Mission is focusing on high-yield and pest-resistant cotton varieties, advanced farming systems, integrated pest management, crop diversification, better integration with the textile value chain and quality improvement measures. Cotton is a major cash crop for millions of Indian farmers, and the mission aims to ensure that farmers not only increase production but also receive stable incomes, better market value and globally competitive quality standards. Through these initiatives, the government seeks to reduce dependence on imports while simultaneously strengthening farmers' incomes and India's agricultural economy.

National Mission on Natural Farming: A New Path for 1 Cr Farmers Across 75 Lakh Hectares

Rapidly increasing dependence on chemicals, declining soil health and growing pressure on groundwater resources are warning signs that farming methods must change. Recognising this challenge, natural farming is being advanced as a national mission under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our commitment is to sensitise one crore farmers towards natural farming practices, actively prepare around 18 lakh farmers to adopt natural farming and gradually bring nearly 75 lakh hectares of land under natural cultivation practices in a phased manner.

This transformation is being carried out gradually,

Natural farming is also being viewed as a sustainable response to climate change. By reducing excessive chemical usage and promoting ecological balance, the mission seeks to preserve biodiversity, conserve water and restore long-term productivity of agricultural land

on the basis of scientific evidence and farmers' own experiences. Small farmers are being encouraged to experiment with natural farming models on a portion of their land. They are being provided training, locally sourced input packages, certification support, branding assistance and market connectivity. The broader objective is to improve soil fertility, reduce chemical input costs, make crops more resilient against climate-related shocks and provide consumers with healthier and more nutritious food.

Natural farming is also being viewed as a sustainable response to climate change. By reducing excessive chemical usage and promoting ecological balance, the mission seeks to preserve biodiversity, conserve water and restore long-term productivity of agricultural land. The government believes that the future of Indian agriculture lies not only in higher production but also in sustainability, environmental protection and improved health outcomes for both farmers and consumers.

Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Focus on 100 Low-Productivity Districts

In a vast country like India, some regions progress rapidly while others continue to lag behind for various reasons. To reduce this imbalance, the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana has been conceptualised. Under this initiative, nearly 100 low-productivity districts have been identified where per-hectare yields remain significantly below the national average and farmers are unable to obtain expected returns from agriculture.

In these districts, convergence of 36 schemes from 11 departments is being implemented through an integrated development package. This includes irrigation, soil health management, seeds, fertilisers, crop diversification, animal husbandry, horticulture, agricultural equipment, skill development, infrastructure and market linkages — all being brought together under one coordinated framework. The central idea is that government schemes should not function in isolated 'silos'; instead, they should work collectively with the farmer and the village at the centre of planning and implementation.

This marks an important shift in policy thinking. The focus is no longer limited to 'how much production is taking place', but also on identifying areas where productivity remains low and ensuring that targeted investments and interventions help increase yields and raise farmers' incomes. The scheme seeks to create balanced agricultural growth and reduce regional disparities in rural development.

Balancing Soil, Water and Farmers' Interests

In the race to increase production, pressure on soil and water resources has intensified in many regions. Imbalanced fertiliser use, excessive extraction of groundwater and limited crop rotation have adversely affected the health of agricultural land. If corrective measures are not taken in time, future generations may inherit weakened soils and degraded farmlands.

Keeping this challenge in mind, the Khet Bachao Abhiyan has been launched. This campaign is not merely about protecting soil; it is about safeguarding farmers' incomes, ensuring food quality and securing the country's long-term food security. The campaign carries five key messages. Every farmer should use fertilisers based on soil testing; excessive dependence on DAP (diammonium phosphate) and urea should be reduced while balanced NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) use, micronutrients, bio-fertilisers and nano-fertilisers should be promoted; green manure, organic manure and integrated nutrient management should be encouraged; farmers should remain vigilant against fake seeds, fertilisers and pesticides and immediately inform authorities about such cases; and organised movement towards natural farming and climate-resilient agricultural practices should be strengthened.

The objective is not to abruptly reduce fertiliser usage, but to ensure that every farmer uses the right quantity, at the right time and in the right combination. This will help maintain long-term soil health, reduce cultivation costs and protect productivity. The campaign also seeks to create awareness among farmers about sustainable farming methods that balance profitability with environmental conservation.

Science, Digital Agriculture and the Role of ICAR

Science, research and digital technology form the backbone of all these efforts. Between 2014 and 2025, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) developed nearly 3,000 climate-resilient crop varieties capable of withstanding drought, floods, heat waves, salinity and other environmental stresses. In total, more than 3,800 high-yield varieties and over 200 bio-fortified varieties have been released, strengthening not only productivity but also nutritional security.

Under the Digital Agriculture Mission and 'AgriStack', systems such as Farmer IDs, digitisation of crop plots, drone-based services, pest and disease monitoring, weather-based advisories and location-specific recommendations

are being developed. These initiatives are rapidly reducing the gap between laboratories and farms, and between data collection and decision-making.

Through platforms such as e-NAM, Kisan Saarthi, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) networks, mobile messaging services, WhatsApp groups, community radio and social media, scientists, extension workers and farmer leaders are now able to communicate directly with farmers. Agriculture and rural development are increasingly being viewed together through a holistic lens. Roads, electricity, internet connectivity, Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), rural industries and skill-development programmes can accelerate employment generation, entrepreneurship and social transformation in villages only when they move in step with agricultural development.

Technology is also helping create transparency and efficiency in governance. Digital systems are making subsidies, insurance benefits and advisory services more accessible to farmers. The integration of modern research with grassroots implementation is enabling Indian agriculture to become more competitive, sustainable and resilient in the face of future challenges.

Beyond the Quantity of Crops: Concrete Steps Towards Farmers' Confidence

In the coming years, India will have to further strengthen its agricultural system amid global food, nutrition and climate challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is clear — farmers' incomes must rise, their hard work must receive proper value and respect, and self-reliance in pulses, oilseeds and cotton must strengthen nutritional, edible oil and textile security.

Through PM-KISAN, PMFBY, natural farming, the Khet Bachao Abhiyan and climate-resilient technologies, the government seeks to ensure the protection of soil, water and farmers themselves. Through the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, targeted investment in low-productivity districts will reduce regional disparities and help every farmer progress. Science, research and digital technology will make farming more efficient, resilient, sustainable and globally competitive.

When the farm survives, the farmer survives. When the farmer survives, agriculture survives. And when agriculture survives, India's future will remain secure, prosperous and self-reliant. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this is the essence of India's new agricultural journey — moving beyond crops towards the confidence of farmers and the prosperity of rural India. ■



Building energy systems for the future

INDIA'S BRICS CHAIRSHIP seeks to place the Global South at the centre of a secure, resilient, equitable, and sustainable global energy future.

The global energy landscape is undergoing rapid transformation. Nations are striving to balance economic growth, energy security and sustainability, while building resilience against geopolitical uncertainties and climate-related disruptions. For developing economies, this challenge is particularly acute, making cooperation and innovation more important than ever. It is precisely in this context that BRICS assume greater significance, providing an opportunity for emerging economies to work together, share solutions, and shape a more resilient and sustainable energy future.

India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit under the theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Few sectors embody this theme more completely than energy. Energy is the foundation upon which every other national aspiration rests — be it economic growth, job creation, education, agriculture or the digital economy. As energy ministers and delegates representing nearly half of humanity gathered in Delhi, it is an appropriate moment to reflect on the deliberations of the Summit and India's role in shaping the energy systems of the future.

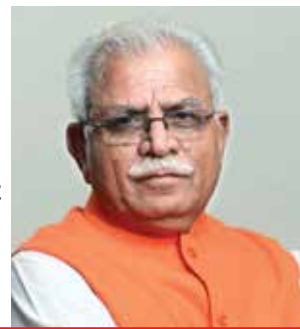
The contours of this energy system were laid by the Prime Minister of India when he announced India's resolve to become net zero by 2070 at COP26. "Energy for All" is the framework which reflects the common priorities of BRICS nations. The core pillars identified in this framework are:

- **Energy access & equity**
- **Energy security & sustainability**
- **Technology and innovation**
- **Energy access**

India has championed universal electricity access with a record 286 million houses electrified under the flagship Saubhagya Scheme. This expansion of access to every household has increased electricity consumption per capita to 1,450 units, a 52% increase from 2013-14 levels. India's per capita electricity consumption is projected to rise to nearly 2,000 units by 2030 and around 4,000 units

MANOHAR LAL

(The writer is the Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Minister of Power, GoI)



by 2047, reflecting rising prosperity and improved living standards.

India has already more than doubled its installed power generation capacity to over 540 GW during the last 12 years. This rapid growth has helped us meet the highest-ever peak demand of 270.8 GW during the current summer season.

Importantly, India has already crossed 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, more than five years ahead of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitment. This reflects India's ability to simultaneously meet rising energy needs while remaining firmly on track to achieve its climate goals.

Building on this strong foundation, India is now preparing for the next phase of its energy transformation. Peak electricity demand is projected to reach around 459 GW by 2035-36, requiring an installed capacity of nearly 1,121 GW. This expansion will be driven largely by renewable energy, particularly solar and wind.

Distribution companies will now be required to plan and procure long-term capacity according to their coincident peak obligations. This marks an important evolution in India's power sector, reflecting the growing maturity, sophistication and resilience of our electricity system.

Energy security has gained importance like never before in the wake of current geopolitics. India is aiming for a well-diversified energy basket focused on electricity.

Having good coal reserves, we have already reduced imported coal blending in thermal plants and are exploring blending domestic coal in imported coal-based plants. Coal gasification is another priority area to reduce import dependence while meeting growing industrial requirements. This has led to a National Coal Gasification Mission with a target of 100 million tonnes by 2030.

Green hydrogen and its derivatives are also emerging as alternative fuels, not only for domestic needs but also as a major export commodity. The government is scaling up adoption of electric vehicles to reduce oil import dependence.

Solar is the mainstay of our renewable energy transition. Our solar capacity, currently at 157 GW, has

increased 54 times compared to 2014-15 and is projected to cross 500 GW over the next decade. India ranks third in the world in solar capacity.

The unsung hero of this massive renewable energy expansion is the transmission sector. Over the past decade, the transmission network has grown into one of the world's largest synchronized grids, delivering the scale and flexibility needed for a low-carbon transition.

Tech and innovation

Digital innovation is increasingly shaping the future power system. Smart meter installation has already gathered pace, with 60 million smart meters installed, making the grid smarter and enabling time-of-day/use tariffs.

Intelligent and connected systems of tomorrow will create as much value as physical infrastructure does today. Every consumer now has the opportunity to become a producer.

PM Surya Ghar Yojana is already making inroads with

four million household installations and will open the door to peer-to-peer energy transactions.

India Energy Stack is creating India's digital public infrastructure to facilitate this transformation. The UPI moment for the power sector is approaching.

Decentralisation is the next phase of this shift towards a consumer-centric energy system. The distribution sector is already showing signs of revival, with AT&C losses reduced to 15% and utilities becoming PAT positive for the first time.

India has always believed that resilient energy systems are built not only through strong domestic policies but also through stronger international partnerships.

The true strength of BRICS lies in its complementarity. No single BRICS country possesses every solution, but together we possess almost every ingredient required for building secure, resilient and sustainable energy systems.

As India continues to lead BRICS this year, our endeavour is to translate this shared vision into tangible outcomes, shaping a sustainable world. ■

ABHINANDAN !

ABHINANDAN !!

ABHINANDAN !!!

The second phase of the 2026 Rajya Sabha elections marked another significant milestone in the evolving composition of the Upper House of Parliament. The BJP further strengthened its presence in the Rajya Sabha with the election of several new members from different states across the country. Representing diverse regions and bringing with them extensive political experience, administrative expertise, and public service. The newly elected members are as follows.

LIST OF BJP RAJYA SABHA MPS ELECTED IN JUNE 2026			
S.No.	State	NAME	Period in Rajya Sabha
1	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Tarun Chugh	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
2	Rajasthan	Dr. Satish Poonia	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
3	Rajasthan	Dr. (Smt.) Alka Singh Gurjar	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
4	Karnataka	Prof. M Nagaraja	12/06/2026 to 11/06/2032
5	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Rajneesh Agrawal	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
6	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Mahesh Kewat	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
7	Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Tai Tagak	24/06/2026 to 23/06/2032
8	Manipur	Smt. Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
9	Gujarat	Shri Jitendra Kanzariya	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
10	Gujarat	Shri Mansingh Parmar	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
11	Gujarat	Shri Mukeshbhai Rathwa	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
12	Gujarat	Shri Rajubhai Shukla	22/06/2026 to 21/06/2032
13	Odisha	Shri Debashish Samantaray	11/06/2026 to 03/04/2030



PEOPLE TRUST MAKES LIFE EASIER

Piyush Goyal

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



Prime Minister's vision that the aspirations of 21st-century India cannot be fulfilled through the archaic methods of colonial rule

India's regulatory system historically operated with a mindset of suspicion, often subjecting citizens to harsh consequences for minor procedural errors or even mere allegations. The Modi government has ushered in a significant shift by promoting a governance model rooted in trust, empathy, and respect for every citizen. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken decisive steps to reform India's legal and regulatory landscape by supporting citizens and businesses, simplifying compliance requirements, and acknowledging the practical challenges faced by the business community. Through measures such as reducing compliance burdens, expanding digitalization, and implementing single-window clearance systems, the overarching goal of this transformation has been to make governance more rational, efficient, and citizen-centric.

The Prime Minister's vision of governance founded on trust and empathy is clearly reflected in the Jan Vishwas Act, 2026, building on the reforms initiated through the corresponding legislation enacted in 2023. To foster a citizen-friendly regulatory environment and promote voluntary compliance, the new legislation establishes clear principles for addressing minor offenses: issuing warnings before imposing penalties, calibrating fines according to the severity of the offense, ensuring swift and transparent resolution, and

maintaining a dynamic penalty framework subject to periodic revision. Together, these measures ensure that enforcement remains effective, relevant, and responsive to evolving needs.

This approach marks a fundamental shift in India's compliance and enforcement framework, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision that the aspirations of 21st-century India cannot be fulfilled through the archaic methods of colonial-era governance.

The scale of this reform is unprecedented. The Jan Vishwas Act amends 784 provisions across 79 central laws administered by 23 ministries. It decriminalizes 717 provisions and rationalizes 67 others to enhance the ease of living for citizens. This represents the largest decriminalization initiative in the legislative history of independent India. The Act also rationalizes over 1,000 offenses and, by eliminating obsolete provisions, strengthens the framework for adjudication and appeals outside the criminal justice system.

Under the previous legal framework, a person could face up to three months' imprisonment for failing to provide a satisfactory explanation for their presence in a house, building, or vehicle between sunset and sunrise. This colonial-era provision, which treated ordinary movement with suspicion, has now been abolished. Similarly, driving immediately after the expiry of a driving licence was previously treated as a criminal offense. The new law replaces this with a 30-day grace period, reflecting a more practical and citizen-friendly approach.

Similarly, under the earlier legal framework, failure to update registration details under the Apprenticeship Act constituted a criminal offense. Under the new law, however, stringent action will be taken only in cases of repeated non-compliance. Likewise, procedural

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lapses in the documentation requirements of a mining company previously carried the possibility of imprisonment; these are now addressed through monetary penalties, reflecting a more proportionate enforcement approach.

In this context, the Jan Vishwas legislation exemplifies Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment to making governance simpler and improving the ease of living for all citizens. This objective has remained central to his 12 years of service as Prime Minister, as well as during his earlier tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The Jan Vishwas initiative builds upon a strong foundation. Through the first Jan Vishwas Act, enacted in 2023, India decriminalized 183 provisions across 42 central Acts, demonstrating that governance can be made more efficient through decriminalization without compromising regulatory enforcement. The 2026 legislation expands this effort nearly fourfold, underscoring that this is not a one-time exercise but part of a sustained and evolving reform agenda.

Viewed holistically, replacing criminal penalties for minor offenses with administrative and monetary measures is beneficial not only for ordinary citizens but also for small businesses. It enables enforcement agencies to focus on serious violations instead of routine technical lapses, while allowing courts to devote greater attention to cases that genuinely require judicial intervention. Together, these reforms contribute to a more efficient, proportionate, and citizen-centric regulatory framework.

The benefits of regulatory simplification extend

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beyond governance to the economy and the investment climate. In an increasingly competitive global economy, regulatory credibility is a critical factor in attracting investment. For years, the fear of legal consequences for minor procedural infractions discouraged investment and increased the cost of doing business. The impact of regulatory simplification is now becoming evident in investment trends. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India grew by 43 percent between 2014 and 2025, and this positive momentum continues. These reforms are intended to further strengthen investor confidence by positioning India as a more predictable, reliable, and stable destination for investment and business.

These reforms will also provide significant relief to the judicial system. Approximately 5.5 crore cases are pending before courts across the country, a substantial number of which involve minor violations that have now been decriminalized. Resolving such matters through administrative mechanisms, rather than criminal proceedings, is not merely a business reform but a judicial reform as well. It enables courts to devote their limited time and resources to serious offenses, complex disputes, and issues that genuinely require judicial determination.

At the same time, it is important to emphasize that serious violations will continue to attract stringent action. The law will remain uncompromising where the gravity of the offense warrants it. The transformation lies not in weakening enforcement but in changing its approach. Governance is shifting from suspicion to trust, from prosecution to reform, and from fear to freedom. ■

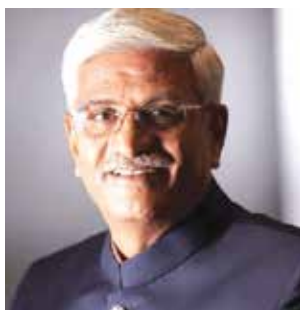


LONG LIVE DEMOCRACY

WHY REMEMBERING FREEDOM MATTERS

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

The writer is Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, GoI



Fifty years since the imposition of the Emergency, the nation continues to reflect upon this period which is remembered as one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history. The objective of observance of the closing ceremony of the national commemoration of Samvidhan Hatya Diwas: Long Live Democracy (Loktantra Amar Rahe) is not merely to remember history, but to reflect on the enduring values that sustain our Republic.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar once remarked: "The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document; it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of the age."

Few statements capture the essence of our constitutional journey more powerfully than these words. The Constitution is not simply a legal framework that governs the affairs of the State. It is a living covenant between citizens and institutions, between rights and responsibilities, between liberty and accountability.

Democracy must be preserved

India's democratic ethos is deeply rooted in our civilisational traditions. For centuries, our society nurtured institutions of consultation, collective deliberation, and public participation. It is essential to recall that Bharat did not inherit democracy; it nurtured it. From ancient sabhas and samitis to the post-Independence parliamentary system, we have always believed in the collective will of the people.

The Constitution transformed these traditions into a modern democratic framework while preserving the

values that had sustained them through generations. The Preamble remains our constitutional compass — Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

These are not merely constitutional ideals. They are national aspirations. They guide public policy, shape institutions, and define the relationship between the State and the citizen. At the same time, history reminds us that democracy can never be taken for granted.

The Emergency of 1975–77 remains one of the most significant tests faced by independent India. It demonstrated how democratic institutions can come under strain when constitutional safeguards are weakened and public freedoms are curtailed. The impact of that period extended beyond political life. It touched the everyday experiences of citizens across the country.

It carried a profound human cost. These experiences serve as a powerful reminder that constitutional rights are not abstract legal principles; they are safeguards that directly shape the dignity, liberty, and everyday lives of citizens. When these rights are curtailed, it is not merely institutions that suffer — it is ordinary people, families, and communities whose freedoms and aspirations are most deeply affected. Yet the enduring lesson of that period is one of democratic resilience.

The people of India demonstrated extraordinary faith in constitutional methods. Democratic processes ultimately corrected democratic distortions. Through peaceful participation and the ballot box, citizens reaffirmed the principle that sovereignty resides with the people. That remains one of the greatest strengths of Indian democracy — its ability to learn, adapt, self-correct, and emerge stronger from periods of challenge.

Marking this occasion, a curated exhibition forms an important segment of the commemoration. It serves as a visual journey through one of the most challenging times in Indian democracy, presenting archival material, stories of resistance, constitutional milestones, and people's experiences during the Emergency.

Another crucial element marking the occasion is a special memorial lecture by Padma Bhushan veteran journalist and author Shri Ram Bahadur Rai — one

that lends contemporary relevance to the larger theme of constitutional vigilance and democratic renewal.

In contemporary times, nearly eight decades after Independence, the meaning of democracy continues to evolve. Citizens increasingly seek not only representation but participation; not only rights but responsive governance. Initiatives promoting financial inclusion, grassroots participation, and citizen-centric governance have widened the reach of democracy.

At the same time, the responsibility of citizenship has become even more important. A strong democracy depends upon informed citizens. Today, when the world turns to India and calls her the “Mother of Democracy,” it is a recognition of our long civilisational journey – from the dharma of ancient kings to the will of modern voters.

The Living Legends of Freedom

The components comprising this closing ceremony reflect this broader understanding of democracy as a living and evolving national experience.

The exhibition on Digital District Repository (DDR) – a pioneering initiative launched under the commemoration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) in 2021 – aims to bring to the forefront hundreds of lesser-known stories of sacrifice, courage, and public participation from every corner of the country.

The Ministry of Culture has also created ten short films pertaining to these lesser-known narratives from our freedom struggle. Together, these initiatives remind us that democracy is strengthened when constitutional values are reinforced by cultural memory, historical awareness, and a deep sense of national belonging. So far, DDR has more than 19,500 narratives on the dedicated website section.

Among the institutions and departments that have contributed to the DDR initiative, the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture, has played an important role in documenting and curating a substantial number of stories that illuminate lesser-known dimensions of India’s struggle for Independence.

On this occasion, we are privileged to be joined by two living freedom fighters who stand before us as living embodiments of courage, sacrifice, and service:

Shri Sheshrao Laxmanrao Khot of Maharashtra, who joined the Hyderabad Liberation Movement as a young student.

Shri Eddula Suryanarayana Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, who began supporting the freedom movement as a child and was detained by the police at the age of eleven years.

Their presence reminds us that freedom is not a distant history but a living memory.

Virasat and Cultural Continuity

Complementing this is the third edition of Virasat, which celebrates the cultural traditions, artistic expressions, and shared heritage that have fostered dialogue, diversity, and social cohesion across generations. It honours the memory of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay – freedom fighter, cultural visionary, and institution builder.

The classical presentations draw upon musical traditions that have evolved through centuries of dialogue between generations, regions, and schools of thought. Indian classical music itself is a testament to the values of continuity, diversity, discipline, and creative freedom – values that are equally essential to a vibrant democracy.

The presentation “Loknaad – Janjatiya Samrasta ka Swar Sangam” celebrates the rich cultural traditions of Assam and the North-East. Through its music and dance traditions representing diverse communities, it beautifully demonstrates the idea of unity in diversity, one of the foundational principles of our Republic. It reminds us that India’s strength lies in its ability to accommodate multiple identities.

Particularly meaningful is the special thematic presentation by the CCRT scholars, “From Silence to Voice, From Darkness to Dawn.” Through the language of Indian classical music, it traces the journey from fear and suppression to courage, renewal, and democratic resurgence.

Another milestone in connection with the commemoration relates to the laying of the foundation stone for the Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Kala Gurukul & Kalagram, designed to establish centres where India’s artistic heritage can be studied and practised. This is inspired by the age-old tradition of the Gurukul system.

Just as democratic values must be passed from one generation to the next, cultural traditions too require institutions that sustain and renew them. In line with this principle, Seva Parv shows that cultural expressions still have a profound impact on people’s consciousness and civic sense. ■



A DECADE OF NARI SHAKTI THE ASCENT OF VIKSIT BHARAT

Annpurna Devi

The writer is Union Minister of Women and Child Development, GOI



Walk into any village, hamlet or far-flung corner of the country today and look closely at the kitchen. The smoke is gone. Where a chulha once stung the eyes of a young bride, an Ujjwala flame now burns clean and blue. The bucket that her mother-in-law carried from a distant handpump has been replaced by a Har Ghar Jal tap. The open field behind the house is no longer her only option; a Swachh Bharat toilet stands in the courtyard. The pucca roof above her is registered in her own name. In her purse sits a Jan Dhan passbook, in her phone a UPI app, and on her wrist, sometimes, the watch of a Lakhpati Didi who now earns more than her husband.

This is not an imaginary picture printed on a poster. It is a truth of women's empowerment over twelve years of the Modi government — one that crores of Indian women are living every single day. This is the story of an era in which, guided by the vision of Women-Led Development, the Indian woman is becoming the

More than 12 crore household toilets built across the country have given women dignity. Over 10.5 crore Ujjwala connections have freed them from smoke. Today, tap water has reached more than 16 crore homes — against a mere 17 per cent of households in 2014. Of the nearly 4 crore homes built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 73 per cent stand in the names of women

architect of a Viksit Bharat.

Contrast this with the decade that preceded 2014. In 2007-09, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio stood at 212 deaths per lakh live births. The nation's anguish over a tragedy like Nirbhaya spilled onto the streets, yet the system betrayed a deficit of policy will and sensitivity. The Women's Reservation Bill, first introduced in 1996, was allowed to lapse four times. No decisive action was taken on Triple Talaq for decades. The chulha kept burning. The handpump kept squeaking. And the woman kept waiting.

Begin with the most sacred indicator: the right of an Indian woman to survive childbirth. India's Maternal Mortality Ratio has fallen sharply, from 212 to 88. According to the UN-MMEIG, while the global decline in maternal mortality was a mere 48 per cent, India recorded a historic fall of 86 per cent. Institutional deliveries have risen from 38.7 per cent to 90.6 per cent. Nearly nine in ten Indian women now deliver in a hospital, attended by trained hands. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has transferred over Rs. 20,000 crore directly into the bank accounts of more than four crore mothers. A first pregnancy in India today is no longer a coin toss with mortality.

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From dignity came ownership, and ownership gave the confidence to decide. This widening of economic participation ran from the bank account to entrepreneurship. Of nearly 56 crore Jan Dhan accounts, 56 per cent are in the names of women. The World Bank acknowledges that India has brought the gender gap in account ownership to zero within a decade — a feat without precedent in global financial inclusion. Of more than 52 crore collateral-free Mudra loans, 68 per cent

have gone to women. Stand-Up India has extended over Rs. 43,000 crore to women entrepreneurs, and 91 lakh Self Help Groups under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) have mobilised Rs. 12 lakh crore in capital. Ahead of schedule, 3 crore sisters have already become Lakhpati Didis.

This change is just as clear in education and employment. The Female Labour Force Participation Rate has risen from 23.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 41.7 per cent in 2023-24, while in rural areas it has reached 47.6 per cent. Under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, over 3.33 lakh crore now stands deposited across 4.53 crore accounts. In higher education, our Gender Parity Index has crossed one, and with daughters making up 43 per cent of enrolment in STEM education, India stands among the first in the world.

This change shows not only in lived experience but in the record itself — the SRS, NFHS, PLFS, the World Bank and the UN all point the same way: for the Indian woman, access has widened and self-reliance has arrived.

This same economic and social awakening is now visible in political and democratic participation. In the 2019 general elections, for the first time, women voted in a higher proportion than men. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, 31.2 crore women exercised their franchise

— the largest by women anywhere in the world. It was in this spirit that the long-pending Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was passed in Parliament with historic unanimity. Today, more than 14.5 lakh elected women representatives lead our Panchayats. Women fly Rafales. Women command warships. Women cadets pass out of the National Defence Academy.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 placed an effective check on Triple Talaq, bringing such cases down by 82 per cent. At 973 One Stop Centres nationwide, women in distress now receive medical care, legal aid and counselling under one roof. The Women Helpline 181 has assisted over one crore women. Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya and Saksham Anganwadi form the spine of a Naari-led Bharat.

There are, of course, still challenges, and the government is working on them with full commitment. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam itself awaits the coming delimitation.

For the first time in the history of our Republic, the Indian woman is — at the table of policymaking — no longer merely a beneficiary but its active co-creator. She is no longer a spectator to the work of nation-building. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, she is its participant, its co-builder, and its very author. ■

BJP National President shares the transformational journey of India

Under the KNOW BJP initiative, BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin interacted with Mission Heads of 23 European Union member countries along with the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to India at the BJP National Headquarters in New Delhi on 26 June 2026.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to India appreciated the KNOW BJP initiative and said such interactions help deepen understanding of India's democratic and political processes. He also expressed happiness over the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations, noting it



as an important development in the India-EU partnership.

During the interaction, Shri Nitin Nabin spoke about the BJP's historical journey, ideology, organisational structure and growth as the world's largest political party. He highlighted the party's deep grassroots connect, disciplined organisational

framework and commitment to public service. Shri Nabin also shared the transformational journey of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He referred to the digital revolution in India, the expansion of digital public infrastructure and the role of technology in empowering ordinary citizens. He also mentioned India's growing focus on clean energy, artificial intelligence, semiconductor development and emerging technologies.

The meeting was also joined by BJP National Media Head Shri Anil Baluni and In-charge, BJP Foreign Affairs Department Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale. ■



IYD 2026: From India's eternal heritage to global well-being

On June 21, 2026, the world is observing the 12th International Day of Yoga. This year's theme, 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing,' reflects not merely the message of an annual campaign but a global response to changing demographic trends, rising life expectancy, and the growing need for healthy, active, and dignified ageing.

It is particularly significant that the 12th International Day of Yoga is being observed at a time when India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is marking 12 years of governance focused on development, public service, and welfare. More than a coincidence, this convergence symbolizes the transformative vision that elevated India's ancient tradition of yoga into a global mass movement.

A Celebration From Kolkata to the World

This year, the main national celebration is being held on the historic Red Road in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is leading the yoga session alongside thousands of participants. The event is expected to set a new Guinness World Record through unprecedented public participation. Special yoga sessions are also being organized at 12 iconic locations across the country, including the Red Fort in Delhi, the Gateway of India in Mumbai, Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar, and the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

At the same time, International Day of Yoga is being celebrated at approximately 2,500 locations worldwide—from the United Nations Headquarters in New York and Times Square to venues across Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, and Latin America—with the support of Indian embassies, community organizations, and yoga institutions. This global participation reflects how yoga has evolved beyond its origins in India to become a shared cultural and wellness movement for all humanity.

PM Modi: The Visionary Who Gave Yoga Global Recognition

First and foremost, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for elevating India's ancient tradition of yoga to the global stage and transforming it into a powerful medium for global health

Sanjay Seth

The writer is Minister of State for Defence, GOI



and well-being. While addressing the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014, Prime Minister Shri Modi stated: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action."

This historic appeal received unprecedented international support. Within just over two months, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, with the backing of a record 177 member states. At the time, it was the fastest-adopted resolution of its kind and received one of the highest levels of support in the history of the United Nations. The first International Day of Yoga was observed on June 21, 2015. Since then, yoga has continued to grow into a global movement that promotes health, harmony, and unity across cultures and nations. Today, the observance of the International Day of Yoga in more than 180 countries stands as a testament to India's cultural diplomacy, soft power, and the global impact of Prime Minister Modi's initiative.

India's Greatest Civilizational Contribution

The word Yoga is derived from the Sanskrit root Yuj, meaning "to connect," "to unite," or "to establish harmony." Yoga is the science of integrating the body, mind, intellect, and soul. It is not merely a form of physical exercise but a holistic way of life. Defining yoga, Maharishi Patanjali states: "योगश्चित्तवृत्तिनिरोधः"—the restraint of the fluctuations of the mind. In other words, yoga is the discipline of mastering the mind, cultivating balance in thought, and attaining inner stability. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Shri Krishna presents yoga as a philosophy of life: "योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्"—meaning that yoga is the pursuit of excellence and equanimity in action. Similarly, the Bhagavad Gita says: "समत्वं योग उच्यते"—meaning that yoga is a state of equanimity, enabling one to remain balanced in happiness and sorrow, gain and loss, and success and failure.

This timeless wisdom is why yoga continues to offer a path to balance, inner peace, and self-realization in an increasingly stressed, divided, and rapidly changing world.

Yoga and AYUSH: A Renaissance of India's Knowledge Tradition

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Department of AYUSH was elevated to the status of a full-fledged ministry on November 9, 2014. This decision marked a historic step toward revitalizing India's traditional systems of medicine and wellness, including Yoga, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy. Today, the AYUSH sector serves as an important pillar of healthcare for millions of people. The establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, represents a significant milestone in securing global recognition for India's traditional medical systems. Initiatives such as Heal in India, the AYUSH Visa, medical value tourism, and a growing emphasis on preventive healthcare are strengthening India's position as a leading global wellness destination.

Viksit Bharat @2047 and the Role of Yoga

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set the goal of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047. This vision extends beyond economic progress; it represents a commitment to building a healthy, capable, self-confident, and productive society.

Healthy citizens are the true strength of a developed nation. In this context, Yoga and Ayurveda play a vital role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. Yoga not only helps prevent disease but also promotes mental well-being, enhances work efficiency and productivity, and improves overall quality of life. As such, it serves as a powerful instrument for strengthening the human capital that will drive India's journey toward becoming a developed nation.

Why Is "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" Important?

This year's theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," addresses one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. According to the World Health Organization, the global elderly population is expected to grow rapidly in the coming decades. In this context, extending life expectancy alone is not enough; ensuring that people lead healthy, active, independent, and dignified lives in old age is equally important.

Yoga contributes significantly to healthy ageing by:

- Enhancing physical balance and flexibility;
- Strengthening bones and muscles;
- Improving cardiovascular health, including blood pressure regulation;
- Reducing stress, anxiety, and depression;

- Supporting memory, cognitive function, and mental concentration; and
- Promoting independence while improving overall quality of life in later years.

In this context, Union Minister of State for Ayush Shri Prataprao Jadhav has emphasized that, in an era of rising life expectancy, learning the art of healthy and dignified ageing has become essential, and yoga is among the most effective means of achieving this objective.

12 Years of International Day of Yoga

The year 2026 marks a historic convergence. On one hand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is commemorating 12 years of governance focused on development, good governance, healthcare, digital transformation, self-reliance, and enhanced global standing. On the other hand, the International Day of Yoga has entered its 12th year. The underlying spirit of both journeys is the same: connecting India's ancient wisdom with the well-being of the modern world. Just as India has strengthened its global stature over the past 12 years, yoga has reached millions of people across the world, emerging as a symbol of health, harmony, and holistic well-being. Together, these 12 years represent not merely the success of an initiative but a significant chapter in the global recognition of India's cultural heritage, civilizational legacy, and enduring contribution to humanity.

Not Just for a Day, but a Way of Life

Today, there is a need to ensure that yoga is not confined to June 21 alone. It should become an integral part of our daily lives, with every family encouraging its practice—especially among the elderly, youth, and children. Yoga can serve as the foundation of a healthy family, a healthy society, and a healthy nation. Let us all resolve to make yoga not merely an annual celebration, but a way of life. As the Bhagavad Gita reminds us: "योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्"—meaning that yoga is excellence in action. By embracing yoga as a lifelong discipline, we can strengthen ourselves, enrich our communities, and contribute to building a healthier, more capable, and more prosperous nation.

In conclusion, let us invoke the timeless Vedic benediction:

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः।

सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु।

मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत्॥

That is, may all be happy, may all be free from disease, may all experience well-being, and may no one suffer sorrow. ■

Let us come together to save every drop of rain: PM



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the 135th episode of Mann Ki Baat aired on 28 June 2026, reflected on the achievements of the nation during the first half of the year and highlighted India's remarkable progress in the fields of defence, aviation, self-reliance, yoga, and citizen-led development. The Prime Minister emphasized that the true strength of India lies in its people and their collective efforts toward nation-building

Addressing the nation, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that six months of 2026 had already passed and that the country had witnessed several significant achievements during this period. He stated that many of these accomplishments were directly connected to India's security, technological advancement, and the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). He expressed pride in the nation's growing capabilities and the increasing contribution of Indian innovation and industry in strengthening national development.

One of the major achievements highlighted by the Prime Minister was the induction of three indigenously built naval vessels into the Indian Navy. Recalling his recent participation in a naval event in Kolkata, he informed listeners that INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray had been commissioned into the Navy. He underlined that these vessels were completely indigenous, from design and engineering to manufacturing and construction. This achievement, he said, represents India's growing maritime strength and demonstrates the country's capability to develop advanced defence platforms using domestic expertise and resources. The induction of these ships is expected to enhance India's naval preparedness while also showcasing the success of the government's efforts to promote indigenous defence production.

The Prime Minister also highlighted a significant milestone in India's aviation sector. He spoke about the successful maiden flight of the C-295 transport aircraft manufactured in India. The aircraft is an example of India's growing aerospace capabilities and a symbol of the nation's commitment to becoming a major manufacturing hub. He

noted that 40 such aircraft are being produced within the country, creating new opportunities for Indian industries and workers. The manufacturing project is expected to provide a major boost to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and strengthen the domestic aerospace ecosystem. It will also generate employment opportunities and encourage technological innovation, thereby contributing to the broader vision of self-reliance in strategic sectors.

Another achievement mentioned by the Prime Minister was the successful testing of an indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He stated that the missile was developed through close collaboration between DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners. The successful test demonstrates the growing maturity of India's defence research and manufacturing capabilities. The Prime Minister remarked that such achievements indicate how India is becoming increasingly secure and self-reliant across land, sea, and air domains. The development of advanced indigenous defence technologies not only strengthens national security but also reduces dependence on foreign imports.

Turning to global events, Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted the enthusiastic participation witnessed during International Yoga Day 2026. He noted that India's efforts to promote yoga as a universal practice have received worldwide support and recognition. This year, yoga programmes were organised at more than 2,500 locations across the globe, reflecting the growing acceptance of yoga as a means of achieving physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Within India, crores of citizens participated



BJP National President Shri Nitin Nabin and other senior leaders of the party listening to the 135th episode of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme along with the members of BJP Karyalaya Parivar at his residence in New Delhi on 28 June 2026

in yoga sessions held at various locations, demonstrating the deep connection between the people and this ancient tradition. The Prime Minister described the overwhelming participation as a source of pride for the nation and evidence of yoga's expanding global influence.

The Prime Minister also referred to the World Yogasana Championship held in Ahmedabad during June 2026. The championship generated considerable interest and discussion across the country. India emerged as the leading nation in the competition, securing a total of 114 medals, including an impressive 102 gold medals. This outstanding performance enabled India to top the medal tally. Congratulating the athletes, Prime Minister Modi praised their dedication, discipline, and commitment. He said their success had brought honour to the country and inspired young people to embrace yoga and sports. The achievement also reflected India's leadership in promoting yoga not merely as a cultural heritage but also as a competitive sporting discipline.

A major theme of the Prime Minister's address was the role of ordinary citizens in driving positive change. He observed that countless efforts taking place across the country — whether large or small — offer valuable lessons and inspiration. According to him, these initiatives demonstrate that meaningful transformation becomes possible when determination is combined with community participation and social support. He encouraged listeners to continue sharing stories of innovation, social service, environmental conservation, and local development occurring in their neighbourhoods. Such stories, he said, often inspire people across the nation and create a ripple effect of positive action.

Prime Minister Shri Modi reiterated that India's greatest strength lies in its people. He noted that the country's

progress is not solely driven by government programmes or institutions but also by the active participation of citizens who work tirelessly to improve their communities. Through collective effort, India is achieving significant milestones in diverse sectors ranging from defence and technology to health, education, culture, and environmental sustainability. The Prime Minister stressed that every citizen has a role to play in the nation's journey towards becoming a developed country.

Concluding the programme, the Prime Minister drew attention to the importance of water conservation. We must save every single drop of rainwater. We cannot let the momentum of the 'Catch the Rain' campaign slacken in the slightest. He added, So, I urge you specially: let us come together to save every drop of rain. Emphasizing that every drop of rainwater is precious, he called upon people to work together to conserve water resources and ensure sustainable management of this vital resource. Water conservation, he noted, is not merely an environmental responsibility but a national necessity. By harvesting rainwater and promoting efficient use of water, communities can contribute significantly to the country's future resilience and prosperity.

The 135th episode of Mann Ki Baat thus presented a comprehensive picture of India's achievements in self-reliance, defence, aviation, yoga, and citizen participation. Through examples of indigenous technological progress and community-driven initiatives, the Prime Minister conveyed a message of confidence, unity, and collective responsibility. The address underscored India's ongoing transformation into a stronger, more self-reliant, and globally respected nation while encouraging citizens to continue contributing to the country's development journey. ■



Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi attending the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II (Padma Awards- 2026) held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on June 23, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi holds bilateral talks with the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie followed by delegation-level discussions between the two sides in Seychelles on June 28, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi alongwith the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie in a group photograph during the handing-over ceremony of the Fast Patrol Vessel with Cars and Ambulances at Seychelles Coast Guard Base, in Seychelles on June 27, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by Indian Community during his historic visit to Seychelles on June 27, 2026



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets with National Security Advisors and senior security officials of BRICS countries in New Delhi on June 23, 2026



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G RAM G: Advancing the vision of a truly 'Viksit Bharat'

Under the Viksit Bharat Gram Gaurav Act 2025 employment guarantee has risen from 100 to 125 days backed by a central allocation of Rs. 95,692 crore. This reflects a steadfast commitment to dignified livelihoods stronger rural resilience and inclusive growth. Every additional day of work is strengthening families and advancing the vision of a truly Viksit Bharat.



VIKSIT BHARAT-
G RAM G ACT,
2025

Rozgar Bhi,
Samman Bhi



Employment Guarantee:

Earlier:
100 Days

Now:
125 Days



₹95,692.31 crore* Central share

Largest allocation for a rural
employment programme