

Volume 1, Issue 17

New India

March 1-15, 2021

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

SAMACHAR



PURVODAYA

A new mantra for New India

The Government's resolve and initiatives to bring parity in the development between eastern and western regions are propelling growth and development in eastern part of the country

World Consumer Rights Day



Consumer confidence, trust at peak in New India

- As per the Conference Board Global Consumer Confidence Survey, consumer's confidence in India is at peak from the past several years.
- Amid Coronavirus pandemic, the Government notified the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 in July 2020, replacing the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Act listed the duties and obligations of e-commerce entities for the first time.
- In July 2020, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was established to regulate matters relating to violation of rights of consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements.
- Face masks and hand sanitizers were added in the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act till June 2020 to ensure their availability and stop hoarding or short supply amid pandemic.
- To register complaints dial national consumer helpline: 1800-11-4000 or 14404 or login at- <https://consumerhelpline.gov>.



Greetings on World Consumer Rights Day. The consumer plays an important role in the economy. The Government is not only focussing on consumer protection but also consumer prosperity

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

New India SAMACHAR

Volume 1, Issue 17

March 1-15, 2021

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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar!

The New India Samachar is getting an upbeat response from its readers. Similarly, people's growing faith in the Government is giving it a new energy to undertake more development initiatives. And, it is our endeavour to keep you posted about such developments which are propelling the country's growth trajectory. North Eastern states have become the focus of 'Act East' policy, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he took reins in 2014. Under this, the region is being connected with Highways, i-Ways, Railways and Airways to give Ease of Life to people.

This edition of the magazine focuses on eastern India's growth story which was once the business hub of the country. The Government is making Eastern India the driver of its growth trajectory now. West Bengal, along with the entire North Eastern region, will play a leading role in this plan.

The issue also offers stories about women achievers of the country as we observe International Women's Day. You can also read about the initiatives taken by the Government for wildlife conservation. The current issue has reports on development of southern states besides a report on Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana.

Keep writing your feedback to us with the same affection and trust...

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11nd Floor, Soचना Bhawan, New Delhi - 110003
e-mail : response-nis@pib.gov.in


(Jaideep Bhatnagar)

MAIL BOX



Sir,

I am really happy to receive and read New India Samachar. It is indeed a good initiative to publish real news about India and progressive Government's activities in the overall interest of the country and its people. This is the print medium through which people should know activities, events, and development in the country. It is suggested that the same may be made available to overseas Indian.

This magazine is helpful even to schools, colleges, universities, youth, teachers, and professors to know about new projects and developments. I wish all success and would like to learn more about the overall news and development in the country.



Jai Hind
Kaushik Vyas

Digital Calendar



The Government of India's digital calendar and diary provides latest information on various schemes, events and publications of the Government along with a list of official holidays and various important dates

It can be downloaded from Google Play Store and iOS

Google Play Store link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.gov.calendar>

iOS link

<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/goi-calendar/id1546365594>

<https://goicalendar.gov.in/>

Dear Sir,

It is a good initiative to start e-edition of New India Samachar by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and thanks for sharing this magazine. The magazine is very helpful for students as it gives valuable information on recent scientific innovations, social policies and economic progress. Hope it is creating a great impact on young minds. Wishing you all success.

With best regards,



Dr. S. T. Raghavama, Associate Professor
Chalapathi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Andhra Pradesh
stvraghavamma@gmail.com

Dear Sir,

A warm welcome and thanks to you for not only publishing a news magazine but also providing very informative content in it. I have a suggestion to add some content on topics like how to send your child in right direction.

Thanks



Prakashbhushan
mailme_prakashbhushan@rediffmail.com

Dear Sir,

Let me congratulate the editorial team of New India Samachar. I happened to see Vol.1 and No.15 of it for the first time. Excellent articles like war against COVID-19, sustainable development and India's commitment are very informative. I strongly advise not to change the title of the magazine...I wish the magazine a great success!

Thanks and Regards



ABSV Prasada Rao,
Sr Scientist (Retd) ISRO Hyderabad, Telangana
anupojukk@gmail.com

Hello,

I am thrilled to read the New India Samachar Feb 1-15 issue.

The content is very informative covering diverse areas. It not only helps daily newspaper readers like me but is also very helpful for students preparing for competitive examination like UPSC, NDA etc.

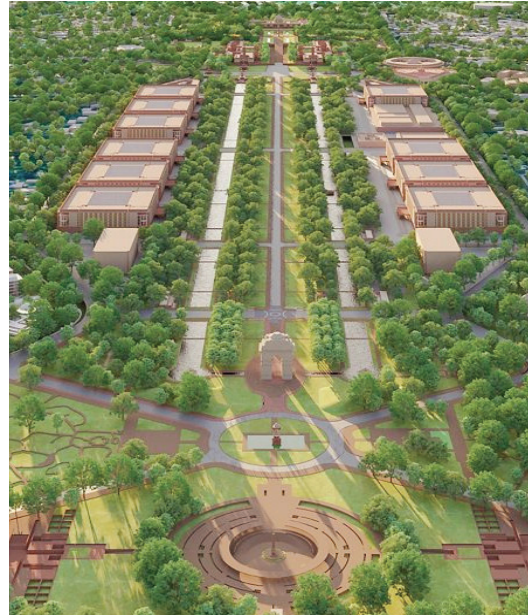
My good wishes to the entire team of New India Samachar. Keep up the good work.



Regards,
Anand Kishore Pandey, New Delhi
pandey.anandkishore6@gmail.com

NEXT YEAR'S REPUBLIC DAY ON NEW RAJPATH

When India enters the 75th year of its Independence in 2022, it will also witness another landmark event. The Republic Day celebrations will be organised on the redeveloped Rajpath. On February 4, 2021, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri performed the Bhoomi Poojan of Central Vista Avenue. He said that the work on the project is being taken forward by following a timeline. During the 75th year of India's Independence Day celebrations, the country will step out of the infrastructure made by the British. Also, the Rajpath will have a new face when India will have the 73rd Republic Day parade. Under the project, the green areas around the Rajpath will be increased and there will be public amenities like toilets, drinking water facilities, parking space etc.



'AYUSHMAN CAPF' FOR PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS OF CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES



The world's biggest healthcare scheme, Ayushman Bharat, providing free treatment up to Rs 5 Lakh, will be extended to the personnel and dependents of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). The 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme will be fully implemented by May 1, 2021. On January 23, India celebrated 'Parakram Diwas' on the 125th birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the scheme during an event in Guwahati in Assam to mark the day. Shah said that there cannot be a better day to start this scheme. With this, all CAPF personnel and their families will receive free treatment in 24,000 hospitals with a simple card swipe.

RS 6 CRORE IMPORT DUTY, GST WAIVED OFF ON MEDICINE FOR 5-MONTH-OLD

Showing sensitivity towards the plight of a 5-month-old battling a rare genetic disease, the Government waived off Rs 6 Crore import duty and GST on imported medicine. Five-month-old Teera Kamat is suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 1. In this disease, a complete breakdown of nerve cells leads to zero control over muscle movement. One of the medicines used in her treatment is Zolgensma, which is imported from the USA and costs Rs 16 Crore. The family had been raising this money through crowd funding, while repeatedly requesting the Government to waive import duty and GST on imported medicines. The Government took note and surprised the family by waiving off all the taxes on February 9, 2021.



NATIONAL SCHEME LAUNCHED TO MENTOR YOUNG WRITERS

As India will celebrate its 75 years of Independence in 2022, the Government is launching a national scheme for mentoring young authors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about it during his *Mann Ki Baat* programme on January 31, 2021. This will not only help in developing a stream of writers who can write on varied subjects, but will also provide them an opportunity to articulate themselves in their mother tongue. This scheme aims to nurture and create a pool of authors in 22 Indian languages. Young authors will be mentored to write in various genres like fiction, non-fiction, travelogues, memoirs, drama, poetry etc.



The National Book Trust (NBT) will organise the training of the authors in two phases. Phase I will be a two-week Writers' Online Programme. Under this, young writers will be trained by two eminent authors/mentors from NBT for each language groups. For Phase II, the young authors will get to hone their skills through interaction at various international events such as Literary Festivals, Book Fairs, Virtual Book Fair, Cultural Exchange Programmes, etc. A book or a series of books written by the young authors will be published by NBT as the outcome of the mentorship programme. To apply, send application to: director@nbtindia.gov.in.

ALAPPUZHA BYPASS OPENS FOR PUBLIC AFTER NEARLY FOUR DECADES WAIT



After a wait of nearly four decades, the 6.8 km two-lane Alappuzha bypass was inaugurated in Kerala on January 28, 2021. The project is built at a cost of Rs 348 Crore. It will connect Kommady to Kalarcode. This bypass will reduce traffic bottlenecks on the Thiruvananthapuram-Ernakulam stretch, ensuring a smooth transit for commuters. Foundation for this project was laid in 1980, but the construction got delayed due to several constraints. Travelling on this bypass will be interesting for commuters as it also provides a view of the Arabian Sea. Out of the 6.8 km, around 3.2 km stretch is built like an elevated highway. It also includes a flyover which runs parallel to Alappuzha beach. It is on this stretch that people will get a fascinating view of the sea.

INDIA SET TO BECOME THIRD LARGEST ENERGY CONSUMER BY 2030

India will overtake European Union (EU) to become the third largest energy consumer by 2030.



This projection was made by International Energy Agency (IEA) in its Energy Outlook 2021. The agency forecasted that India would account for the biggest share of energy demand growth over the next two decades. The report also states that solar energy is set for explosive growth in India. Solar energy accounts for less than 4 per cent of India's electricity generation. But this is set to rise to 18 per cent by 2040. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, India's energy demand was projected to increase by almost 50 per cent between 2019 and 2030. But now growth over this period is projected to be closer to 35 per cent. It further stated that by 2040, India will witness the largest increase in energy demand by any country. ■

Celebrating the spirit of women

A strong and empowered woman is a force to reckon with. On the occasion of International Women's Day, we are paying tribute to some such strong women who defied all odds and created history...



Every year, March 8 is celebrated as the International Women's Day. This is a day that celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year's theme for Women's Day is #ChooseToChallenge. Idea behind this is to create a gender equal world. In line with this year's theme, we are celebrating women achievers; to highlight that women can rise and shine when provided with equal opportunities.



Cornelia Sorabji

She was India's first woman lawyer. After receiving a first class degree from Bombay University, she went on to Oxford University for further studies. She could not graduate since women were not awarded degrees at that time. She returned to India in 1894, and after a long struggle, became legal advocate for women in *purdah*. She fought gender bias and practised law at a time when women were not encouraged to study.



Anandi Gopal Joshi

She was India's first woman doctor. Her interest in learning medicine was sparked by a personal tragedy. She lost her 10-day old son due to lack of proper medical care. This gave her determination to become a doctor and save other women from a similar fate. She went to the USA to study, and completed her MD in Medicine in 1886. At a time when women could not step out of their houses, let alone study further, she set a precedent and became an inspiration for generations of women.



A Lalitha

A young widow and a single mother, who went on to break stereotypes and became India's first woman electrical engineer. She was interested in science since childhood. After her husband's death, she decided to pursue engineering despite facing opposition from several quarters. She represented India in 'International Conference of Women Engineers & Scientists' in 1964.



Anna Chandy

India's first female judge who went on to become country's first female High Court judge as well. Defying odds and gender disparity she completed her post graduation in Law in 1926. In 1937 she was appointed *Munsif* in Travancore thus making her the first female judge in the country. In 1959 she became the first woman High Court judge after her appointment to Kerala High Court.



Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy

She was the first Indian woman legislator. She was appointed to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926. She was also the first woman medical student to graduate in India in 1912. She was deeply influenced by Dr Annie Besant and Mahatma Gandhi, and decided to devote her life for the upliftment of women. She worked for women emancipation at a time when women were rarely seen or heard in public spaces.



Priya Jhingan

She is Cadet 001. The first female cadet to join the Indian Army in September 1992. When the Army opened its doors to women, Jhingan and 24 others, became its first women officers. With a background in Law, she was appointed Judge Advocate General. She served the Army for 10 years. She retired as a Major in 2002. She was felicitated by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.



Sarla Thakral

She was India's first female pilot. In 1936, she got her pilot license at the age of 21 and flew a Gypsy Moth solo. And what's more, this mother of a four-year-old did that in a sari! She continued her 1,000 hours of flying and was the first woman in India to obtain an 'A' license. Thakral was a trailblazer who opened avenues for other women to follow in her footsteps.



Anna Rajam Malhotra

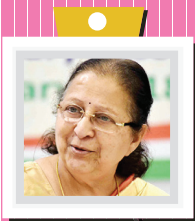
She was India's first woman IAS officer. Malhotra joined the civil services in 1951. But even after succeeding in the exam, she had to struggle to get posted as an IAS. Her efforts paid off and eventually she got posted as Sub Collector, becoming the first woman to do so. She set an example for other women to follow in her footsteps. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan. ■

Saluting Women Achievers...

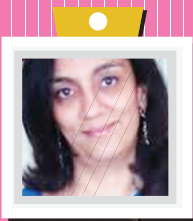
#ChooseToChallenge



Krishnan Nair
Shantakumari Chithra



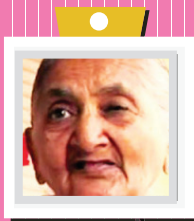
Sumitra Mahajan



Niru Kumar



Lajwanti



Jaswantiben
Popat



Bombay Jayashri



Sindhutai Sapkal



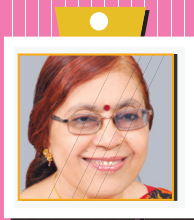
Sudha Singh



Mridula Sinha
(Posthumous)



Nidumolu
Sumathi



Usha Yadav



Bhuri Bai



Birubala Rabha



Chutni Devi



Dulari Devi



Guru Maa Kamali
Soren



Sanjida Khatun



Lakhimi Baruah



Pappammal



P. Anitha



Sanghumi Bualchhuak



Shanti Devi



Bijoya Chakravarty



Anshu Jamsenpa



Rajni Bector



Mouma Das



Purnamasi Jani



Radhe Devi



Prakash Kaur

On the occasion of International Women's Day, we are paying tribute to 29 women achievers, who were honoured with the Padma Award this year. They are trailblazers who set an example for others. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is - **#ChooseToChallenge**. Idea behind this is to create a gender equal world.

Rs 50,000 Crore oil and gas projects approved for Tamil Nadu in past 6 years

Union Budget 2021-22 puts special emphasis on the development of coastal states. Working on the same, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala and inaugurated a slew of developmental projects. In the past six years, over Rs 50,000 Crore worth oil and gas projects were approved for implementation in Tamil Nadu

With a commitment to promote tourism, culture and further accelerate development in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones of key projects in the coastal states on February 14, 2021.

NEW PROJECTS FOR TAMIL NADU:

- Inaugurated Chennai Metro Rail Phase I
- 143-km-long natural gas pipeline from Ramanathapuram to Tuticorin launched. It is part of a larger natural gas pipeline project being developed at a cost of Rs 4,500 Crore
- Inaugurated Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar metro line, connecting north Chennai with airport and Central Railway station
- Inaugurated railway electrification of single line section in Villupuram-Cuddalore-Mayiladuthurai-Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai-Thiruvavur
- Laid the foundation stone for the modernisation of the 636-km-long Grand Anicut Canal System
- Laid the foundation stone of Discovery Campus at IIT Madras

ARJUN: Indigenously designed battle tank

The Prime Minister handed over indigenously designed and manufactured Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A to the Army. He said this is a step in the direction of making India Self-Reliant.



It is our honour to work towards preserving and celebrating the culture of Tamil Nadu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW PROJECTS FOR KERALA:

- Inaugurated Rs 6,000 Crore Propylene Derivatives Petrochemicals close to BPCL Kochi Refinery. This will help save foreign exchange up to Rs 4,000 Crore
- Inaugurated Ro-Ro Vessels at Willingdon Island in Kochi
- Inaugurated Rs 25.72 Crore international Cruise Terminal Sagarika in Kochi which would encourage tourism, employment and earning of foreign currency
- Inaugurated Rs 27.5 Crore Marine Engineering Training Institute 'Vigyan Sagar' of Cochin Shipyard Ltd. India's only institute of marine engineering can enroll 114 students in undergraduate courses
- Laid foundation stone for reconstruction of the South Coal Berth. This will reduce logistics costs and improve cargo capacities ■



Scan the QR codes to listen to Prime Minister's full address

ENSURING PENSION FOR UNORGANISED SECTOR WORKERS

As long as it gets going, the able-bodied can always eke out a living, however, the thought of surviving with their feeble bodies during the old age always bothers all and one. While most of the workers in the organised sector are ensured of a secure financial support, it is those in the unorganised sector who are rendered rudderless in their old age. The PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme, launched two years ago, caters to the financial security of the workers in this sector



Making ends meet becomes difficult for people working in the unorganised sector after attaining certain age. So to extend a helping hand to workers in the unorganised sector and to mitigate financial difficulties arising out of such situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana on March 5, 2019, at Vastral in Gujarat. PM-SYM is a pension scheme for approximately 42 Crore unorganised sector workers. The scheme ensures economic and social security for the beneficiaries once they are old.



I would also urge all the families in the country to assist their domestic helps in getting connected to the Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme. This act by affluent class will greatly benefit the poor. Your contribution towards those who are engaged in your service will give more strength to the nation



-Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Workers in the unorganised sector constitute around 85 per cent of the total labour force of the country, and contribute around 50 per cent of the country's GDP. They mostly comprise of domestic workers, home-based workers, agricultural workers, landless labourers, rickshaw pullers, street vendors, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, washer men, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and those involved in similar other occupations. The Government honoured these workers by recognising them as 'Shram Yogi'.

- The scheme is for unorganised sector workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000 per month or less. They should have a savings bank account and Aadhaar number
- The minimum age for joining the scheme is 18 years and the maximum is 40 years
- It is a voluntary and contribution-based scheme. The subscriber gets an assured minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 from the age of 60 years onwards
- For enrolment in PM-SYM only a form needs to be filled with Aadhaar number and bank details. The cost incurred by the Community Service Centre (CSC) for enrolling a beneficiary is borne by the Government
- The subscriber for PM-SYM is required to contribute a prescribed amount every month. The contribution of a subscriber ranges from Rs 55 to Rs 200 depending on his entry age which is 18 to 40

This scheme is active in all States and Union Territories. The enrolment is carried out by Community Service Centre (CSC) through its **3,52,598 centres across India**

So far **44,88,676 enrolments have taken place**

- The contribution happens on 50:50 basis. The Central Government also gives a matching contribution towards beneficiary's pension account
- If the subscriber dies, his/her spouse shall be entitled to receive 50 per cent of the pension amount
- The subscriber's contributions to PM-SYM shall be made through 'auto-debit' facility from his/her bank account or Jan-Dhan account
- Exit provisions of this scheme are flexible. The subscriber can exit the scheme any time. Upon exit, the beneficiary's share of contribution will be returned to him as per the provisions of the scheme
- PM-SYM is a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and CSCs
- LIC is the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for pension pay out. The amount collected under PM-SYM pension scheme is invested as per the investment pattern specified by the Central Government ■

LEGISLATIONS ARE MEANT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY, AND NOT THOSE OF A VOCAL FEW

The Government brings laws keeping in mind the need of the hour. They are enacted because they are necessary for a progressive society. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was addressing the issue of Farm Bills in the Lok Sabha. Replying to the motion of thanks on the President's address in both the houses of Parliament, the Prime Minister spoke about the Government's achievements, while also mentioning its commitment to tackle the various issues. Read on to find out on what all issues the Prime Minister spoke in both the houses of Parliament...



On Farm Bills

No Mandi has shut, MSP has remained

The Government and we all respect farmers who are voicing their views on the farm bills. This is the reason why topmost Ministers of the Government are constantly talking to them. There is a great respect for farmers. After the Laws relating to agriculture were passed by Parliament, no Mandi was shut down. Likewise, MSP has remained. Procurement on MSP has remained. The Budget has proposed to strengthen mandis. These facts can't be ignored. Agricultural reforms, Kisan Rail, e-NAM, all these things are a part of an effort to provide vast opportunities to small and big farmers of the country.

On violence in Kisan andolan

Andolanjivi: A new breed in the country

Toll plazas in this country are a system unanimously accepted by all governments. Vandalising the toll plaza, capturing it and making it non functional, aren't these attempts to tarnish the ongoing agitation? We are familiar with some words – Shramjivis, Buddhijivis. But I have noticed that for some time, a new community has come forward. That is Andolanjivi. If there is a lawyers' protest, they are seen there; if there is a students' agitation, they are seen there; if there is a protest by labourers, they can be seen there. Sometimes,

The Prime Minister said efforts were taken to provide financial aid and relief measures to street vendors during the Coronavirus pandemic. "I am glad that this was successfully achieved."



Scan the QR codes to listen to Prime Minister's full speech in Parliament

they are behind the curtains, sometimes in front of it. There is a breed of Andolanjivis. They can't live without agitation and find ways to keep themselves alive through them. The country is progressing, we are talking about Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), but these days a new FDI has come into the fray. It is Foreign Destructive Ideology, and we should save the country from this.

COVID-19

Warriors are manifestations of divinity!

Crediting the frontline workers for ably handling Corona, the Prime Minister said, "Our doctors, nurses, COVID warriors, Safai Karamcharis, those who drove ambulances...such people and so many others became manifestations of the divine who strengthened India's fight against the global pandemic." He pointed out that during the pandemic, the Government could help the affected people through direct benefit transfer of Rs 2 Lakh Crore directly in their accounts. Jan-Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) trinity made a positive difference in people's lives. It helped the poorest of the poor, the marginalised and the downtrodden. But it is unfortunate to think that once people were fighting tooth and nail to stop Aadhaar, the same Aadhaar proved so useful during the pandemic.

On economy

Hope of double digit growth

Reforms continued during the pandemic as well, and this is creating a new momentum in the economy and there is hope of double digit growth. The Prime Minister said that the Government is working for strengthening infrastructure to create new opportunities for the poor and middle class. The Government is focussing on taking the country towards balanced development. The result is that today there is a record sale of tractors and cars. The GST collection has been the highest ever. All these figures are resulting in a buoyant economy.

AatmaNirbhar

India is good for the World

The Prime Minister pointed out that the post-COVID world is turning out to be different. In such times, remaining isolated from the global trends will be counter-productive. That is why India is working towards building an AatmaNirbhar Bharat, which seeks to further global good. He said that India becoming stronger and AatmaNirbhar is good for the world. "Today, we are self-reliant in pharmacy. We are coming to the world's rescue. It is necessary for us to push for self-reliant India," the Prime Minister said. Today, Vocal-for-Local is resonating with the people in every nook and corner of the country. This expression of self-pride is a great thing for a self-reliant India.

On reforms

Eliminating obstacles in the way of progress

- In the Employees Provident Fund (EPFO), people were getting Rs 7 and Rs 25 as pension till 2014. We modified and made it Rs 1,000
- People used to say one can't get a job without recommendation. We ended that
- There was a post of Churchill Cigar Assistant (CCA) in Tamil Nadu. When Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940, he used to get Cigars from Trichy. The task of CCA was to ensure that the cigar reaches Churchill on time. Even after the country gained Independence, this post of CCA continued. Many such futile arrangements were going on in the country. Earlier, it was necessary to get the certificates attested. There used to be long lines for this. The Prime Minister said, "What is the use of all this? ... We eliminated all such practices. It has benefitted the people a lot." ■

FLOURISHING EAST FOR A THRIVING NEW INDIA

From Kolkata to Kohima, Champaran to Andaman, Brahmaputra to Bay of Bengal and beaches of Puri, nearly 50 Crore people live in eastern India. But in comparison to other regions of the country, this area was left behind due to lack of development. Now, for the first time, a Government has given a clarion call for 'Mission Purvodaya', that is balanced development of India. Work is underway on mission mode to improve the quality of life of people. Development of rail, road, airports, ports, waterways is an attempt to restore the economic glory of Eastern India by setting up new paradigms of development and trust



A NEW DAWN IN THE EAST

Absence of a bridge on the Brahmaputra River was a major impediment for the people of the region. Earlier, the only means to cross the Brahmaputra River at this location was by ferry, and even this was not possible during floods. This was the scenario three years back. Even now, those memories give goosebumps to Sadiya's 42-year-old Sandeep Sharma. Sadiya is the same place where now the Bhupen Hazarika Setu stands. Sandeep, who owns a business of making disposable plates from tree leaves, used to find it very tough to cross the river and take his mother to Dibrugarh for her cancer treatment. He says, "Construction of Bhupen Hazarika Setu and Bogibeel Bridge on Brahmaputra River is a boon." After the bridge was constructed, he started his factory and is now able to sell his products from Tinsukhia to Kaziranga. His travel time has reduced drastically from 8 hours to 45 minutes now. Another such success story is of Pranab Gogoi

from Dibrugarh. His resort business is booming after the construction of the Bogibeel Bridge. This bridge also enabled Rajdeep Borgohain, from Kulajan Tiniali town in Dhemaji district, on the northern bank of Brahmaputra River, to attend Dibrugarh University on the southern bank. Bogibeel, the country's longest rail-road bridge, has enhanced 'ease of living' in the North Eastern region. While giving boost to education and business sectors, this bridge has become a lifeline for the locals. It has reduced rail travel distance between Itanagar and Dibrugarh from 700 km to 200 km and travel time from 24 hours to 5-6 hours. This 5-km-long bridge is not only connecting the North Eastern states but helping accelerate pace of development in the North East region and making it self-reliant. This story of change is not only confined to the lives of the common people of the Eastern and North Eastern regions, but has given impetus to industries as well.



"What was earlier unimaginable has become doable now. I have started my factory. The development has benefitted all sectors like business, health, education, security. It is helping to expand and broaden people's mindset. There were people in our region who had not seen a train before, but now they can use the train to travel to places like Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai."

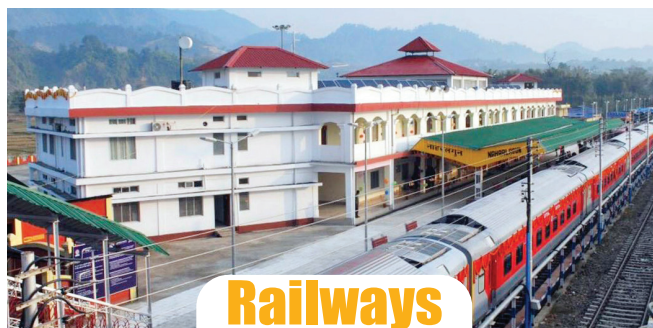
-Sandeep Sharma

Haldia in West Bengal, a major trading and industrial hub, is not only emerging as a focal point for AatmaNirbhar Bharat, but is ready to leave its mark on the world map. The 350-km-long Dobhi-Durgapur pipeline was dedicated to the nation in February 2021. The development of Haldia and West Bengal can also be understood from the fact that about two years ago, cargo of a renowned FMCG company was sent from Haldia to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh by the Inland Waterways Transport system. This was the first time since Independence that India successfully utilised its waterways for trade and business. Eastern India is now connected with the Bay of Bengal through the water route. This waterway has opened new avenues for farmers and people associated with small scale industries in this region. It will play a pivotal role in transporting raw material for industries and agriculture and sending the products back after value addition.

This waterway between Haldia and Varanasi has transformed the way of life and business for the people of Eastern India.

Before Independence, the eastern part of India used to be an important business centre. However, over the years, it lost its glory despite being rich in mineral resources, natural beauty and biodiversity. The richness of the region can be assessed from the fact that it has some of the prominent ports of the country like Paradip, Vizag, Haldia and Kolkata. Resource-rich states like West Bengal, Odisha and the eight North Eastern states having diverse flora and fauna are part of the region. Despite so much to offer, these states largely remained neglected.

Not just this, but the eastern part of India serves as the country's gateway to South-East Asia and has international borders with five countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and China. While no significant development was done in the region since Independence, it was former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee who launched the 'Look East' policy during his tenure. Taking the legacy of the late Prime Minister forward, the Government, since 2014, started working towards changing the picture. To restore the lost glory and to make it a crucial business hub again, the 'Look East' policy was modified to 'Act East' policy by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As a result, Highways, i-Ways, Railways and Airways (HIRA), art and culture, sports, industry-trade came to the forefront, so much so that they are now playing an important role in making India self-reliant. Since 2014, the focus has been on infrastructure development in the region along with improving connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar through waterway. The result was that now India's business with various South East Asian countries has reached a historic mark, and the credit for this goes to the mineral-based industries in eastern India. While the focus of the Government was on development, it also acknowledged that peace in the region is important to sustain the development. For this, historic agreements with Bodo, Naga and Bru-Reang were signed to bring an end to conflicts.



Six railway projects worth Rs **15,088** Crore completed in the North East



39.12 km

long Belonia-Sabroom railway line completed providing easy access to Southern Tripura and Chattogram Port in Bangladesh

- Bridges on Brahmaputra at Saraighat and Tezpur Silghat approved. Electrification of entire 2,352-km-long BG railway network of NER underway
- 140-km-long railway electrification project completed in Katwa-Azimganj and Monigram-Nalhati sections of Howrah and Malda divisions at a cost of Rs 219 Crore. 14-km-long triple line on Howrah division, 27.17-km-long double line on Malda and Sealdah divisions of the Eastern Railways started
- During 2014-19, 231 km of New Lines were commissioned in the North Eastern Region. 41 new Railway Stations were constructed. Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya are now connected with Railways for the first time



Aviation

- Work on Greenfield airport at Hollongi for connectivity to Arunachal Pradesh started. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 955.67 Crore, is likely to be completed by 2022
- In 2018, Sikkim got its first airport. Other States are also witnessing opening of new airports or augmenting of the facilities and capacities of the existing ones. Now, there are about 13 operational airports in the North East at present
- To expand the existing airports in the region, including Imphal Airport, more than Rs 3,000 Crore are being spent to build modern facilities



INFRASTRUCTURE GETS A NEW PACE

The longest road and rail bridge has been built on Brahmaputra River connecting Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam. Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have emerged on the rail map of the country. Besides construction of thousands of kilometres of New Highways and start of 92 airways under Udan scheme, operationalisation of 19 new National waterways and 13 airports after 2014—all these initiatives have become the true development tale of India



ASSAM



Bhupen Hazarika Bridge and Saraighat Bridge have become part of Assam's modern identity. Soon, bridges at Dhubari and Majuli will be built

In the current Budget, more than Rs 34,000 Crore is earmarked for over 1,300 kms of National Highways in the State

A new flyover built at the cost of Rs 190 Crore in Haldia, West Bengal. It will improve connectivity and reduce travel time

35 National Highway Projects having a length of 536 km, with an estimated cost of Rs 7,707.17 Crore awarded. 3 projects (66 km length) have been completed in Arunachal Pradesh

Road construction in North East
3,178km by Ministry of Highways and Road Transport
22,882km by Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
987km by Border Road Organisation

Figures from May 2014 to 2019

Length of National Highways in Odisha increased from 4,632 km in 2014 to 9,426 km in 2018

96 projects of road and bridges sanctioned in North East beginning 2014. Out of these, 6 projects are completed, while 90 are ongoing

The Government has launched North East Road Sector Development Scheme for development and maintenance of inter state roads within the region

Asom Mala Project

In the next 15 years, the Asom Mala project on the lines of 'Bharat Mala Project' will build modern road infrastructure. With a network of wide highways, all the villages will be connected to the main roads.

Capital cities to be connected

The capital cities of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura are connected by Broad Gauge rail network. Work on new Broad Gauge lines started by Railway to connect the remaining capitals of Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim.

Waterways

- Bulk cargo and container movement from Kolkata and Haldia Ports to Guwahati Terminal via Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route and NW2 (Brahmaputra) is operational. Inland Waterway Authority of India is working on a plan to build a multimodal terminal at Haldia
- Mahabahu-Brahmaputra project launched in Assam. It will facilitate Ro-Pax vessel operations between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari. Ro-Pax services in these regions will reduce the distance drastically
- Sonamura-Daudkandi inland waterways protocol route connecting Tripura to Bangladesh became active in May 2020
- 34 projects worth Rs 20,000 Crore have been identified for Odisha under Sagarmala



New employment opportunities

Supply of gas for Durgapur and Sindri fertilizer factories. Growth of these two factories will create new employment opportunities and provide adequate and cheaper fertilizer to the farmers

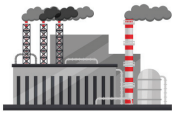
348-km-long gas pipeline

348-km-long Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline section, part of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga pipeline, was dedicated to the nation

Benefit to West Bengal

Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline to directly benefit 10 districts of West Bengal as well as Bihar and Jharkhand

Mission Purvodaya



Under Mission Purvodaya, the Central Government is building an Integrated Steel Hub in eastern India

₹ 9,265 Crore

Approved for North East Gas Grid project of Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd. The 1,656-km-long gas pipeline would cover all eight States and will boost industrial growth in the region

Giving pace to Industries ...

North Eastern region is a resource rich region. Minerals ranging from gold to limestone, dolomite, bauxite, graphite, sillimanite and iron are found here. At the same time there is also a wide potential for agriculture

₹47.02 Crore to MSMEs

Disbursal of Rs 47.02 Crore for promotion of MSMEs in the North Eastern Region during June 2019 to May 2020

The development in the region is so far-reaching that now the eastern part of India is driving the country towards progress.

NEW MANTRA OF 'PURVODAYA'

Eastern India serves as India's gateway to South-East Asia. Since 2014, the Government has been working on mission mode towards this goal, with its mantra of 'Purvodaya'. "Eastern India and Western India are the two arms of Mother India. Western India has developed, but without the development of Eastern India, India's development is not possible," said Amit Shah, Union Home Minister. With this approach, the Government is promoting the development of 3Cs – connectivity, commerce and culture – in the region.

WEST BENGAL EMERGING AS INDUSTRIAL HUB

West Bengal is not just the name of a state but a way of life. Continuous efforts are going on for rapid development and providing basic facilities in the region. The Central Government plans to make West Bengal an industrial and manufacturing hub so that it can regain its lost glory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi says:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only Prime Minister who has visited the North Eastern states more than 40 times. A ministerial visit is also scheduled every 15 days

This is the first time that a Government has made mandatory for all ministries and departments to allocate at least 10 per cent of their annual budget expenditure for North East

“What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow. Taking inspiration from this, we have to move forward.”

Be it national highways, waterways, air routes, ports or broadband connectivity in villages, continuous work is going on for the development of the state. Empowerment of the locals is essential for the development of any region. In such a scenario, ‘Ease of Living’ has become a new norm for the locals due to the Government schemes. From building 30 Lakh houses for poor to providing free gas connections to 90 Lakh women under Ujjwala scheme, opening bank accounts for 4 Crore people under the Jan Dhan Yojana, providing piped water supply to 4 Lakh households through Jal Jeevan Mission, continuous work is going on to improve lives in West Bengal.

To enhance international connectivity, work is underway on a road project connecting Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Rs 8,500 Crore have been allocated for East-West Metro Corridor in Kolkata. It will be the first underwater Metro in the country.

In order to improve the quality of life and business in Eastern India, the closed industries are also being revived in addition to the work being done in rail, roads, airports, ports and waterways. Scarcity of gas was leading to closure of industries hence the Government decided to connect Eastern India with eastern ports and western ports. Under the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project, a 350-km-long Dobhi-Durgapur pipeline was launched in February 2021,



Extremism Reined in

After 2014, the Government took efforts to bring growth parity between the east and west parts of the country. It attached highest priority to bring peace, security, connectivity and economic development in East India. Because development is not possible without peace

In 2015, a peace accord signed between the Government and the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland brought peace to the troubled North East. Signing of the pact culminated after over 80 rounds of negotiations

Under ₹750 Crore

Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) package, 65 projects costing Rs 749.64 Crore were sanctioned. Of this, Rs 711.19 Crore are released



Bodo Accord: The Central and state Governments signed the Bodo Peace Accord in January 2020, with various insurgent groups in Assam

Total of 2,259 cadres belonging to different outfits surrendered after signing of Bodo Accord in January 2020

₹350 Crore

given under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC) package



Under KAATC package, 20 projects costing **Rs 187.28 Crore** sanctioned and **Rs 95.71 Crore** released

Security situation in Manipur has improved considerably 2018 onwards as it witnessed decline in insurgency related incidents by 24 per cent from 2017

Under special development package of Rs 200 Crore for Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC), 10 projects costing Rs 121.39 Crore sanctioned and Rs 73.80 Crore released

Government focus on Ease of living

More than half of the total 8 Crore beneficiaries of Ujjwala Scheme are from Eastern India. Out of total 29 Crore LPG connections, 11.5 Crore; out of total 2 Crore houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, 1.12 Crore; out of 10 Crore toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission, 4.5 Crore; and over 1 Crore electricity connections were provided in the region



₹ 13,199.36

Crore released by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to North Eastern States between 2014-15 and 2020-21

Gas connections for 90 Lakh women in West Bengal under the Ujjwala Yojana. This constitutes more than 36 Lakh SC/ST category women



LPG gas coverage in West Bengal. In 2014, it was only 41 per cent

Crores of rupees were transferred to the accounts of 7.5 Lakh tea garden workers under Dhan Puruskar Mela Scheme



- Newly inaugurated LPG import terminal at Haldia can play a big role in meeting the high demand and will serve crores of families in West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and North East as more than 2 Crore people will get gas from here



- Under Ujala scheme, 92.29 Lakh LEDs distributed in West Bengal; 4.33 Lakh in Meghalaya; 71.76 Lakh in Assam; 4.99 Lakh in Arunachal Pradesh; 10.99 Lakh in Nagaland; 2.99 Lakh in Manipur; 10.54 Lakh in Tripura and 6.15 Lakh in Mizoram. 100 per cent electrification achieved in Odisha



- Tap water connection is being provided to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission. Coverage in Sikkim has increased to 73.16 per cent while for Manipur, it is at 42.01 per cent
- Out of 41.84 Crore Jan Dhan accounts, 16.22 Crore are from the region

directly benefitting 10 districts of West Bengal along with Bihar and Jharkhand. Apart from providing piped gas to the state, the project also generated around 11 Lakh man days of employment for the locals. Not just industries but this pipeline will also ensure piped gas to crores of houses and CNG for vehicles to keep a check on pollution and also a relief to their pockets. It will also enable continuous supply of gas for Durgapur and Sindri fertilizer factories in West Bengal and Jharkhand. The consumption and demand of LPG has increased considerably after the launch of Ujjwala Yojana in eastern India. The LPG import terminal at Haldia would play an important role in meeting this growing demand. It will help crores of families in West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, UP and the North East. In this year's Budget Rs 25,000 Crore are allocated for development of economic corridor in West Bengal.

Bengal was always ahead of the times. If it had accelerated its pace in the past few decades, then imagine where Bengal would have reached today

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

POLICY CHANGE FUELLING RISE OF NEW EASTERN INDIA

The roadmap for the transformation of Eastern India rests on four basic pillars of giving topmost priority to the development of the region; expanding and expediting infrastructure and connectivity projects; launching projects which provide livelihood to people; and taking new steps for the overall development of the region.

To realise any vision, a strong mechanism is needed. It also requires constant monitoring.



Education and Sports

2020

December

Foundation stone of a new medical college laid down in Guwahati. There were six medical colleges till 2016.

Six more new medical colleges were built in past five years

Work of Guwahati AIIMS is going on in full swing.

The first batch has already started. New AIIMS is being built in Changsari. Two new engineering colleges and 16 new polytechnics have started

A new SAI Training Centre in Guwahati will be named after local star sportspersons



Every fortnight, a Cabinet Minister has to visit the region to review the development projects. This ensures timely-delivery. Further strengthening the mechanism and to ensure that there is no delay or hold-up in any of the schemes in the North East, a Joint Secretary level officer is deputed as Chief Nodal Officer and a Director level officer as Nodal Officer. The officers have to review the progress of the projects through frequent site visits, with special focus on aspirational districts.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the only region-based ministry having a territorial jurisdiction. It focuses on the needs of North East India. Funds assigned to it are non-lapsable. This not only ensures speedy development of infrastructure but also increases the flow of budgetary financing for new infrastructure projects/schemes in the region. Also, the Budget allocation to DoNER has continuously increased since 2014. In 2019-20, the Ministry of DoNER had a record 100 per cent spending.

The Government is taking steps to give proper space to people from North East. For the students from North East India, Jawaharlal Nehru University in the national capital, is setting up a Rs 27.50 Crore hostel. Also, Rs 116 Crore North East Convention Centre is being constructed



Mobile App for classes 6 to 10

Assam launched Biswa Vidya Assam Mobile App. Sikkim Edutech App connects all the schools of Sikkim

- To provide national recognition to Manipur martial art, Thang-Ta, it has been included in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021
- In Budget 2021-22, it is proposed to establish 750 Eklavya model residential schools in tribal areas. Of these, 304 are proposed in Eastern India for tribal students
- Ministry of Education has set up three Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT) in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in North Eastern region

Helpline "Bharosa"

Launched in Odisha to provide Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services to all university students in the state

Special project has been undertaken to improve internet connectivity. 2,004 towers are providing mobile coverage in 2,128 villages. Over 6,000 villages in the North East are being provided internet connectivity



Agriculture & Forestry

In order to provide support to agricultural activities in the North East region, the Government has launched a lot of initiatives

Saffron in North east

Saffron bowl of India extends to the North East



Krishi Udaan Scheme operationalised and transport of agricultural produce such as pineapple, ginger, kiwi, organic produce has commenced from Bagdogra, Guwahati and Agartala airports

First fully organic state



Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by converting around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land into sustainable cultivation

₹1000

**Cre
allocated**

for the welfare of Tea workers especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal in General Budget 2021-22

- Kiwi fruit grown in Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro Valley was given organic certification in October 2020 by the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the North East
- Around 35 per cent area under bamboo cultivation falls in North Eastern States. The Government changed Bamboo's classification from tree to grass in Indian Forest Act 1927
- The Government launched 22 bamboo clusters in 9 States in September 2020 under National Bamboo Mission

Arts, Culture, Food and Tourism



Launch of Destination North East-2021

A new policy introduced to promote economic development and tourism in the North East

Several schemes to raise awareness regarding local tourism for domestic and international tourists

100% assistance to North Eastern states for organising fairs and festivals

Kaziranga identified as one of the 17 sites for development in the country under the Development of Iconic Tourist Site scheme

in Delhi's Dwarka. To identify various constraints in the way for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the North Eastern region, NITI Forum for North East was formed in February 2018. It was India's first Regional Forum by NITI Aayog. The Forum is co-chaired by the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and the DoNER Minister. The North Eastern Council (NEC) works as the Secretariat of the Forum. It has representation from all the North Eastern states and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments. Its members include eminent experts and representatives of reputed institutions of North East, like IIT Guwahati, IIM Shillong, NERIST, RIS, and RFRI.

NORTH EAST BECOMING ENGINE OF GROWTH

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura are not just India's North Eastern states but are the engine of growth for the country. Clubbed with West Bengal, these states are heading towards growth at par with other parts of the country. The eight states have special importance as they are India's gateway to South East Asia and its markets. They have international borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and China.

After 2014, the 'Act East' policy has helped in increasing India's connection with South East Asian countries. The rapid pace of development in the region has increased India's trade with Myanmar by more than two times since 2014.

Cabinet Decision

INCHING TOWARDS AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

The Government assistance to BVFCL will give further boost to the growth and development of North Eastern region



DECISION: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Crore to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup, Assam, to sustain operations of its urea manufacturing units.

BENEFITS:

- Minimum functional repair to be undertaken for smoother operation of the plants with procurement of mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and catalyst items etc. This will attract an estimated expenditure of Rs 100 Crore.
- BVFCL is operating its two plants i.e. Namrup-II and Namrup-III in the premises of BVFCL in Namrup.
- The grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Crore to BVFCL will restore the urea production capacity of 3.90 Lakh MT per annum and ensure timely availability of Urea to Tea Industry & Farming Sector in the entire North Eastern region specially Assam.
- It will also continue the existing employment of about 580 employees on permanent basis and another 1,500 persons on ad-hoc basis.
- 28,000 people will indirectly benefit by this establishment.



“ We are now working towards making the North-East, which was once described by Netaji as the Gateway of India's Independence, into Gateway of New India's development story ”

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Owing to better infrastructure, Assam is now developing as an important driver of AatmaNirbhar Bharat. Over the years, around 11,000 km of roads were constructed in the villages of Assam. Be it Bhupen Hazarika Setu, Bogibeel Bridge or Saraighat Bridge, they have all helped in enhancing connectivity in the state. This ended the commuting woes of the locals and gave a push to industries. The North East states are developing as a hub for organic farming as well as tourism with a new identity to its culture.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: “Modern processing units will be made available close to the tribal companions who are collecting vast wealth of forest produce. Besides, clusters will also be made for Bamboo and Organic Products. The entire North East can become a major hub for organic farming.” The region, which was backward for decades, is liberating and heading towards development through ‘Purvodaya’. The ongoing efforts by the Government in coordination with the States are helping the region in becoming self-reliant. Re-establishing the lost glory to the region can be a boost to New India as well. ■



Scan the QR code to
listen to Prime Minister's
full speech at Haldia

BARD OF BRAHMAPUTRA

Unparalleled beauty and culture of Assam are reflected through various means like its tea, handicrafts, handloom, silk, and much more. Apart from all this, Assam also gave the world a multi-faceted talent like Bhupen Hazarika. The oeuvre of his songs continues to enthrall music lovers long after he is gone...

Bhupen Hazarika was born in Sadiya, Assam, to Nilakanta and Shantipriya Hazarika. He was a child prodigy who recorded his first song at the age of 10 and wrote his first song at the age of 13. He completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Political Science from Banaras Hindu University. Later he went on to complete his PhD in Mass Communication from Columbia University in New York. During his time at Columbia University, he got influenced by Paul Robeson, a legendary singer and civil rights activist. Taking inspiration from Robeson's 'Old Man River', Hazarika composed 'Bistirno Parore' (translated into Hindi by Gulzar as 'O Ganga Behti Ho Kyon'). He received Lisle Fellowship from Chicago University, USA, to study the use of educational project development through cinema.

Hazarika donned many hats from being a poet, music composer, singer, actor, journalist, author and filmmaker. This self-proclaimed *jajabor* (wanderer) took the folk heritage of Assam and interpreted it beautifully through his songs.

Hazarika's prowess was not limited to only Assamese language. He wrote a number of songs in Bangla and Hindi languages as well. Though he composed for many Hindi films, he is best remembered for his work in the film *Rudaali*. The song *Dil Hoom Hoom Kare...* from this award-winning film still manages to capture hearts of listeners. The corpus of his lyrics and compositions is called Bhupendra Sangeet in Assam. He produced, directed, composed music and sang for Assamese films like *Era Batar*



BORN: September 8, 1926 DIED: November 5, 2011

Sur, Shakuntala, Pratidhwani, Lotighoti, Mon Projapati, Swikarokti etc. Some of his famous works in Hindi include films like *Rudaali, Ek Pal, Darmiyaan, Daman, Papiha, Saaz, Gajagamini* etc. Many of his compositions are in the form of ballads. He wrote and composed several

In 1975, Hazarika received the National Award for Best Music Direction for the film *Chameli Memsaab*. He was also conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Bharat Ratna

masterpieces teeming with social consciousness. His *Dola, Dola*, is one such song. He also has to his credit more than 1,000 lyrics and around 15 books. He also edited the monthly magazine *Amar Pratinidhi* and *Pratidhwani* for over two decades. Popular as the 'Bard of Brahmaputra', he created a musical tapestry that still leaves listeners enraptured. Honouring his contribution, the Government named the country's longest road bridge in Assam, as the Bhupen Hazarika Bridge. ■



WON'T LET ANYONE TAKE EVEN AN INCH OF OUR LAND: DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH

India never encroached upon the land of any other country. But it also ensured that its borders are protected and did everything for its protection. The result of this is that after the nine-month standoff, China and India have reached an agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of Pangong Lake. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke in Parliament about this on February 11, 2021

After a nine-month long standoff that started in May 2020, India and China reached the agreement on disengagement in the north and south banks of Pangong Lake. There were nine rounds of meetings between Senior Commanders of both sides. Also, the two countries have held parallel diplomatic talks to resolve the face-off. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that India's strategy and approach was based on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that no one can take even an inch of land from India. He assured that India has not lost anything in this agreement.

Agreement reached upon following points:

- The two sides have reached an agreement on disengagement in the north and south bank of Pangong Lake
- Both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner
- The Chinese side will keep its troop presence in the north bank area to east of Finger 8
- Indian troops will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3
- Any structure that had been built after April 2020 in both north and south bank areas will be removed and landforms will be restored



THREE KEY PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED FOR TALKS

The Defence Minister said that armed forces responded to the challenges posed by the unilateral Chinese action and showed valour and courage. India followed three key principles in its approach: Both sides should strictly respect and observe the LAC; neither side should attempt to alter the status quo unilaterally; and all agreements and understandings between the two sides must be fully abided by in their entirety.



Aero India showcases India's growing defence capabilities

Indian Air Force is constantly enhancing its capacities. To display its strength, a biennial air show and aviation exhibition is organised. Over the years, it has emerged as Asia's largest military aviation exhibitions and is second largest globally. In the 13th edition of the show, held between February 3 and 5, 2021, in Bengaluru, the world witnessed India's potential

The first edition of Aero India was held in 1996 in Bengaluru's Yelahanka Air Force Base. Since then, the event is organised biennially and it has gradually earned global recognition. However, this year's exhibition proved to be extra special. Reason being, it was the foreign companies which used to display their technology at this exhibition so far, and their Indian counterparts would have to make do with their products and equipment. During the silver jubilee year of Aero India in 2021, the world witnessed the power and potential of 'Make in India' and Self-Reliant India at the Yelahanka air base for the first time. The theme of this year's Aero India show was "Leveraging Aerospace Power for Security and Stability". During the Aero India show, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

said: "121 MoUs, 19 transfers of technology, 4 handing over, 18 product launches and 32 major announcements are the indication that Aero India 2021 has been a grand success."

INDIA HEADING TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENCE PRODUCTION

India has been among the largest arms importers of the world. As per the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, a Stockholm-based independent resource on global security, India was the world's largest importer of major arms during 2012-18, accounting for 13 per cent of the total global share. But, keeping in mind the future requirements, the Government is now emphasising on making India self-reliant in defence production.

Contract for 83 Tejas handed over to HAL

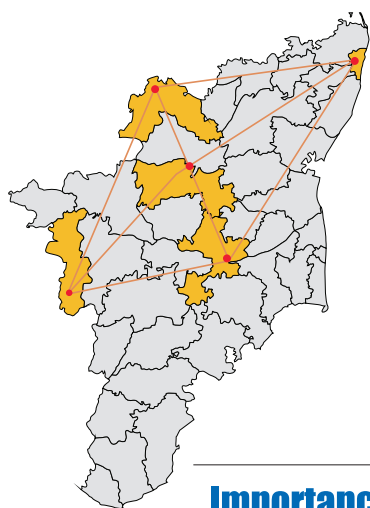
At the Inaugural Ceremony of Aero India 2021, a contract for 83 Light Combat Aircraft Tejas was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Of these, 73 were LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircrafts and 10 were LCA Tejas Mk-1 Trainer aircrafts. The Rs 48,000 Crore contract is the largest-ever Defence contract for indigenous manufacturer till date. MSMEs participating in Aero India have bagged orders worth Rs 203 Crore.

AERO INDIA 2021: WORLD'S FIRST 'HYBRID' AIR SHOW

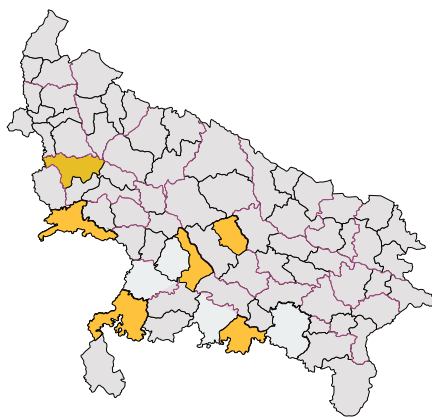
Aero India 2021 became the first-of-its-kind hybrid air show. So far only those who were physically present at the show could have enjoyed it. But this time round, people attended the show virtually as well. This was helpful as a number of people were not able to come for the show due to COVID-19 restrictions. At least 338 foreign companies took part in the show virtually.

A PUSH FOR MAKE IN INDIA

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for AatmaNirbhar Bharat, the flying display featured formations showcasing India's cutting edge technology and capabilities in the aerospace sector. Viewers enjoyed unique flying display of HAL's 'AatmaNirbhar Formation Flight' consisting of LCA trainer (LIFT Trainer), HTT-40, IJT, Advanced Hawk Mk 132 and Civil Do-228, flying in a special formation. In addition, BrahMos missile, Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters, Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv, light combat helicopter and light utility helicopter were also part of the show.



Tamil Nadu
Defence Industrial Corridor:
Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchirappalli have been identified for this



Uttar Pradesh
Defence Industrial Corridor:
Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot are part of the second Defence Industrial Corridor. This comprises the Bundelkhand region

Importance of these corridors:

India is not just working on enhancing the production of defence items and weapons but also wants to develop the industry for export. These corridors will help in this. This will also help in ensuring a proper supply chain for the global market. These corridors would catalyse indigenous production, thereby reducing the dependence on imports and promoting export.

What are the Expectations?

India is aiming for domestic defence production of \$25 Billion by 2025. To achieve this, these corridors will play a crucial role by helping in enhancing the potential of the defence production. This will also help India in achieving the twin goal of becoming a manufacturer and exporter of indigenous arms in future. ■



Protecting Wild, Protecting India

One-horned Rhinoceros had reached the brink of extinction by the end of the 20th century with less than 200 animals in the wild. However, with timely efforts and stringent protection and management by the Government, the population of Rhinos in the country has revived. Currently India houses about 75 per cent of the entire population of the species. A number of animals, including leopards, lions and tigers share a similar story in India

Respect for animals has been an integral part of Indian culture and value system. The country acknowledges contribution of wildlife in ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic fields. Animals are also crucial for sustainable development. However, due to numerous reasons, many animals faced the danger of extinction. The Government took concerted efforts and launched various initiatives to save such endangered species. At least 22 wildlife species have been included in the protection programme. India has witnessed a drastic jump in the population of leopards, lions and tigers and this is a testimony to the conservation efforts.

As the world celebrates World Wildlife Day on March 3, here is a look at an improved picture of the wildlife in India.



Leopards
Total number
12,852
As of December
2020

60 per cent rise in Leopard population

- In 2014, the estimated number was 7,910
- Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra recorded the highest Leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783 and 1,690, respectively

Lions

- An increase of 28.87 per cent from the previous growth of 27 per cent during 2015
- The distribution of the lions increased from an area of 22,000 sq. km in 2015 to 30,000 sq. km in 2020 — a 36 per cent rise
- The Government launched Asiatic Lion Conservation Project in 2018

Total number
674
As per the population
estimation
conducted
in 2020



“ 70 per cent of the global tiger population, 70 per cent of Asiatic lions and more than 60 per cent of leopards population in India is a certificate of India's thriving biodiversity, as these big cats sit at the top of the food chain and their growing numbers shows the well being of the whole ecosystem ”

-Prakash Javadekar,

Minister of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change



Tigers



**Tiger count rises
by 33 per cent**

- As per the 2018 census, count of tigers in India has risen to 2,967
- Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, followed by Karnataka at 524 and Uttarakhand at third position with 442 tigers
- India realised its commitment to the St. Petersburg Declaration, of doubling Tiger population, much in advance of the 2022 deadline
- India's 2018 Tiger Census set a New Guinness Record for being world's largest camera trap wildlife survey
- India now has nearly 70 per cent of the global tiger population

DEALING WITH HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife on January 5, 2021, approved the advisory for management of Human-Wildlife Conflict in the country. It makes important prescriptions for States and Union Territories for dealing with Human-Wildlife conflict situations.

22 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE RECOVERY PROGRAMME

To protect critically endangered species, the Government is running recovery programmes. In January 2021, Caracal, a medium sized wildcat, was added to the list of critically endangered species. With this, now, there are 22 wildlife species under recovery programme. This includes Snow Leopard,

Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, One-horned Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer, Jerdon's Courser, Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, and Red Panda.

GOVERNMENT TO RANK AND AWARD BEST MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS

Starting from 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will rank and award the 10 best National Parks, 5 coastal and marine parks and top 5 zoos in the country. The Ministry also issued Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 146 National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country.

INCREASING PROTECTED AREAS

The forest cover in the country has grown considerably. There has also been an increase in the protected areas. In 2014, there were 692 protected areas, which increased to more than 860 in 2019. The Community Reserves have also grown from 43 in 2014, to more than 100 in 2019.

OTHER INITIATIVES FOR PROTECTING WILDLIFE

Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 programme: Efforts are currently going on to protect the existing rhino population and also to increase the distribution of the species through the programme. Currently, about 75 per cent of the entire population of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros is found in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Project Dolphin: This was announced in 2020 to save both river and marine dolphins. The Government has declared river dolphin as National Aquatic Animal. As per the studies conducted on river dolphins, the population of dolphins is known to be stable in the main stem of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers, although there has been a decline in the tributaries. Under the Development of Conservation Action Plan for River Dolphins, important habitats of Gangetic River Dolphin along the Ganges River have been notified as Protected Areas.

National Marine Turtle Action Plan: With a view to conserve marine turtles in India, the Government launched 'National Marine Turtle Action Plan' in January 2021. The vision behind this Action Plan is to create a viable and healthy marine ecosystem for marine turtles and associated species through a coordinated and participatory mechanism.

Project Snow Leopard: India has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat. The Government is committed to landscape restoration for snow leopard habitat conservation, and implementing participatory landscape-based management plans. Protecting snow leopard and its habitat ensures protection of the major Himalayan rivers that support the teeming millions downstream. The Government has identified snow leopard as a flagship species for high-altitude Himalayas.



Project Elephant: According to the 2017 census by Project Elephant, India has the largest number of wild Asian Elephants estimated at 29,964. India is supporting more than 60 per cent of the global Asian elephant population. India has nearly 2,700 captive elephants. The Government of India has declared Indian elephant as National Heritage Animal.

Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-25: India has nine species of vultures in the wild. The population of three species i.e. White-backed Vulture, Slender billed Vulture and Long billed Vulture has declined drastically. All three vulture species were listed by IUCN, the World Conservation Union, in 2000 as 'Critically Endangered'. The new Action Plan will work on saving the vulture population. ■

VACCINE MAITRI: INDIA'S GIFT OF LIFE TO THE WORLD

The real test of friendship and leadership comes in times of difficulty. India not just battled the Coronavirus pandemic skillfully but also extended help to over 20 countries with its Made in India vaccine

At the beginning of Corona pandemic, there was a widespread concern that if India could not handle it properly, it would be a big crisis not only for India, but for the entire human race. The loss of lives would be unimaginable. Nobody had any inkling what an unknown enemy could do. No one had any protocol on how to deal with the infection spread and protect citizens of its country. But with tough decisions, proper thinking and preparedness, India succeeded in doing so. And today it has emerged as a ray of hope for more than 100 countries in the world.

While speaking in the Rajya Sabha recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "Today, Corona has given India a new meaning in its relations with the world. Initially, when it was not known which medicines would work and there was no vaccine, the attention of the world was drawn towards Indian medicines. India emerged as the hub of pharmacy in the world. This country has also provided medicines to 150 countries during that time. We did not lag behind to protect mankind. Not only that, the world proudly claims that it has received the Indian vaccines."

World's Biggest Vaccination Drive in India

The way India is witnessing a rapid decline in Corona cases, it can be said that the country has left the pandemic behind. Currently, the world's biggest vaccination drive is on in India. On February 19, 2021, the cumulative number of people vaccinated against COVID-19 was 10 Million. India's active case per million population (104) is amongst the lowest in the world. National Recovery Rate (97.26 per cent) continues to be one of the highest globally.



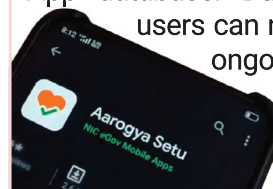
Dawai Bhi, Kadai Bhi (Figures till February 19, 2021)



Death rate (1.42%) Total Deaths- 1,56,111

AROGYA SETU APP TO PROVIDE VACCINATION INFORMATION

Arogya Setu App is the world's most downloaded App in the health sector. It has now been linked to the Co-Win App database. Due to this development, the users can now get information about the ongoing vaccination drive in the country. Besides this, they can also get certification for vaccination through this App.



Extending the hand of Friendship to the World

After Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Seychelles, Myanmar and Mauritius, the Made in India vaccines have now been sent to Barbados and Dominica. The vaccines have also been sent to Brazil, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Morocco. Till now, over 20 countries have received more than 2.29 Crore Corona vaccines. ■



TOWARDS A HEALTHY INDIA

Healthy citizens are an asset for a country's growth in a real sense. The health of the masses becomes even more crucial when the world is fighting with a pandemic. Keeping all this in mind, Budget 2021-22 is not just visionary and revolutionary but puts sharp focus on the health sector

Investing in people's health requires vision and shows the boldness of the Government. The Union Budget 2021-22 is one such Budget where the allocation for the health and wellness sector has substantially been increased in comparison to past Budgets. Health and wellbeing has been acknowledged as one of the six fundamental pillars of the Budget. The total allocation to the health sector for 2021-22 has been increased to Rs 2,23,846 Crore from Rs 94,452 Crore in 2020-21.

The huge increase in the Budget allocation for health and wellbeing firmly depicts

the consistently increasing trend in the budgetary allocation and expenditure in the health sector. Since 2014, several people-centric initiatives have been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this has established the vision and commitment of the Government towards holistic health and wellness. With a strong budgetary support, innovative schemes, strengthened systems of health research and healthcare delivery, India will emerge as a world leader in public health, setting examples to be emulated by other countries.

WHAT'S NEW?

With an outlay of Rs 64,180 Crore for over six years, the newly announced centrally sponsored PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana will develop capacities of primary, secondary and tertiary care, strengthen delivery health care systems, develop institutions for detection and cure of new and emerging diseases and strengthen the existing National Health Mission independent of it. The Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasthya Bharat Yojana will give a tremendous boost to India's public health infrastructure. The National Centre for Disease Control will now have 5 regional branches and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units. Along with expansion of integrated health information portal to all

The main elements of the scheme are:



Support for 17,788 rural and 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centers



Setting up integrated public health labs in all districts and 3,382 block public health units in 11 states



Establishing critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts and 12 central institutions



Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control

States/UTs to connect all public health labs, 17 new public health units will be operationalised.

Ministry/Department	Actuals	BE	
	2019-20 (in Rs crores)	2020-21 (in Rs crores)	2021-22 (in Rs crores)
D/o Health & Family Welfare	62,397	65,012	71,269
D/o Health Research	1,934	2,100	2,663
M/o AYUSH	1,784	2,122	2,970
CoVID related Special Provisions			
Vaccination			35,000
D/o Drinking Water & Sanitation	18,264	21,518	60,030
Nutrition	1,880	3,700	2,700
FC Grants for Water and Sanitation			36,022
FC Grants for Health			13,192
TOTAL	86,259	94,452	2,23,846

INDIA AND ITS RESPONSE TO COVID-19

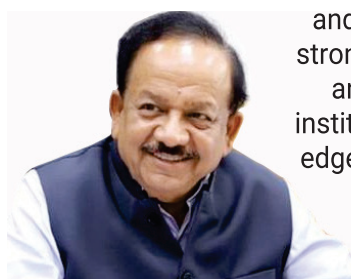
India has firmly positioned itself as the world leader in its fight against Coronavirus and also in terms of COVID-19 vaccines. As of February 15, India performed 20.67 Crore cumulative testings. Out of the 1.09 Crore who were infected with COVID-19, 1.06 Crore people have recovered. India is now self reliant in manufacturing of COVID-19 diagnostic commodities, enabling export of the surplus quantity.

Rs 35,000 Crore for Coronavirus vaccine:

With a budgetary boost of Rs 35,000 Crore, the country's fight against COVID-19 has been strengthened. India's leadership is visible in its production capacity and also in the speed of vaccination. Around 87 Lakh beneficiaries were vaccinated till February 15.

20 more vaccines in the pipeline: India is working on at least 18 to 20 vaccines, which are on different stages. While some of them are at pre-clinical trial stage, some are at clinical trial stage, others at phase 1, phase 2 and at phase 3 stage, the latter can be used to vaccinate the public in the next few months. India is also exporting vaccines to many countries. ■

Sturdy and resilient health systems of any country are built on strong health infrastructure of primary, secondary and tertiary tiers supported by equally strong institutions of diseases detection and surveillance, teamed with R&D institutions providing world class cutting edge research derived evidence to drive policies and actions



Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan

India giving due credit to its heroes



As India enters the 75th year of its Independence, the Government feels that it becomes all the more important to remember those who have made immense contribution for freedom. One such contributor Maharaja Suheldev, was remembered by the nation on February 16, 2021, as the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district

Maharaja Suheldev's contribution to protect Indianness was ignored. Maharaja Suheldev has been kept alive in the hearts of people by the folklore of Awadh, Tarai and Poorvanchal despite being ignored by the textbooks

**Prime Minister
Narendra Modi**



Scan the QR code to listen to Prime Minister's full address

For any culture and country, it is important to remember all such people who sacrificed everything for the land. While remembering one such son of India, Maharaja Suheldev, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as India enters the 75th year of its independence, the contribution of people like Maharaja Suheldev becomes all the more important. Maharaja Suheldev was the King of Shravasti known for his courage. He had killed Ghazi Syed Salar Masood, nephew of Mahmud of Ghazni, in a battle in the 11th century. The Prime Minister said the people who sacrificed their all for India and Indianness have not been given their due in the history books. These irregularities and injustice against the makers of Indian history by the writers of Indian history are now being corrected by the Government.

On Maharaja Suheldev's anniversary on February 16, 2021, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Maharaja Suheldev Memorial and development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich district. He also inaugurated

“Transformation for AatmaNirbharta is a tribute to all the freedom fighters”



Mass participation was key in India's fight for Independence. There were numerous incidents which played a crucial role in India's struggle for freedom. One such incident took place in Chauri Chaura on February 4, 1921. The commoners challenged the British by setting a police station on fire 100 years ago. This incident gave a new direction to the country's freedom struggle. Due importance is now being given to the historical struggle of Chauri Chaura. On February 4, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Chauri Chaura' centenary celebrations. He also released a postal stamp dedicated to the Chauri Chaura centenary event.

It was the collective strength that broke the shackles of slavery. The same power of collectivity is the basis of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Campaign. "We also have to resolve that the unity of the country and respect for the country are most important for us. With this spirit, we have to move forward with every countryman," the Prime Minister said.

As India enters into the 75th year of its Independence, it is also marking centenary celebrations of the 'Chauri Chaura' incident — a landmark event in country's freedom struggle. Efforts have been made to connect the centenary celebration programmes with local art, culture and self-reliance. This will be a true homage to the freedom fighters

TAKEAWAYS FROM PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

- What happened in Chauri Chaura 100 years ago was not just an incident of torching a police station. The message of Chauri Chaura was huge and encompassing. It was not just the police station that was set on fire; the fire had been raging in the hearts of the people
- Chauri Chaura has a special place in India's freedom struggle as it is rare to find a single episode where 19 freedom fighters were hanged for one incident
- The programmes will be held throughout the year beginning February 4, 2021
- We should pay homage and remember the efforts of Baba Raghavdas and Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya who saved around 150 freedom fighters from hanging
- Continuous efforts have been made for the progress of farmers in the last six years so that they become self-reliant

the medical College building named after Maharaja Suheldev.

The Prime Minister recalled Maharaja as a sensitive and development oriented ruler and said that the establishment of medical college and expansion of health facilities will make life easy for the locals. Along with inspiring the generations to come, the memorial for Maharaja Suheldev will also promote tourism and will be a tribute to the

King. The Prime Minister said: "The biggest goal of the monuments related to history, faith and spirituality, built in the last few years is to promote tourism."

The Prime Minister also said that the history of India is not only the history written by colonial powers or those with colonial mindset. Indian History is what has been nurtured by the common people in their folklore and taken forward by the generations. ■



PROTECTING, RESCUING INDIA FROM DISASTERS

Due to its unique geo-climatic and socio-economic conditions, India is vulnerable, in varying degrees, to floods, droughts, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, urban flooding, landslides, avalanches and forest fires. At the time of

these disasters, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the apex body for Disaster Management in India, comes to the rescue. Over the years, India has proved that disaster management is not just confined to compensation and relief materials

With a vision to build a safer and disaster resilient India, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been working actively. Be it a natural disaster or a man-made or the Coronavirus pandemic, the NDMA has been at the forefront in the fight.

As an apex body for disaster management, the NDMA lays down policies, plans and guidelines to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. It envisions the development of an ethos of 'Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response'. The Government strives to promote a national resolve to mitigate the damage and destruction caused by natural and man-made disasters, through sustained and collective efforts of all Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and people's participation. This is planned to be accomplished by

HOW VULNERABLE IS INDIA?



Out of the 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) in the country, 27 are disaster prone. 58.6 per cent landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity; 12 per cent land is prone to flood and river erosion; 5,700 km coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; hilly areas are at risk from landslides and avalanches. Urban flooding, fire incidents, industrial accidents and other manmade disasters involving chemical, biological and radioactive materials are additional hazards. Disaster risks were further compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to unplanned urbanisation, development within high-risk zones and other factors.

NDMA AND CORONAVIRUS

It was with the help of the NDMA Act that India fought such a great battle against the Coronavirus pandemic. Disaster Management Act was invoked for the first time by the various States and UTs before the national lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020, by the Government on NDMA's recommendation. This Act helped save the lives of millions of people and became the basis to bail out the country from a huge crisis. It is estimated that the decision of lockdown, by slowing down the progress of pandemic in India, has prevented 14–29 Lakh cases and 37–78 Thousand deaths.



AAPDA MITRA: FRIENDS IN NEED

Recognising the importance of community in times of disaster, the Government launched 'Aapda Mitra' in 2015. The scheme is now set to expand from its pilot status to a people's movement for disaster response and risk reduction. Its volunteers played crucial roles in preparation for Cyclone Fani-2019 in Odisha; saved 135 lives in a boat accident in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district on August 20, 2020; and saved 125 people from drowning in the Ganga River during Kawad Yatra in 2018-19 in Uttarakhand's Haridwar. The women and girls involved as volunteers are called 'Aapda Sakhi'.



adopting a technology-driven, proactive, multi-hazard and multi-sectoral strategy for building a safer, disaster resilient and dynamic India.

HOW APPROACH TOWARDS DISASTERS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS

In India, disaster management was considered to be the work of the Agriculture Department as disaster meant floods or droughts. It was the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his term as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, that

brought the real change in the picture. In 2001, Gujarat witnessed one of the worst earthquakes. The Governments were not prepared for this disaster. Soon after, the charge of the state was given to Narendra Modi as Chief Minister. Among the initial reforms he planned, as the Chief Minister of the state, was the creation of the Gujarat State Disaster Management Act in 2003. Under this act, for the first time in the country, disaster management was taken out from the



NDMA Saving Lives:

In April-May 2019, Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani hit Odisha. Over one Crore people were affected. The toll was not even in triple digits, while at least 10,000 people were killed in the 1999 cyclone in the state

Similarly, in June 2020, Cyclone Amphan hit Odisha and West Bengal. The NDMA got into action just as the IMD made the prediction, and managed to contain the loss of lives to just double digits

In 2018, the North Indian Ocean cyclone season was one of the most active since 1992 as it witnessed the formation of 14 depressions and 7 cyclones. The authorities evacuated thousands of people limiting the toll to around 200

In 2018, Kerala witnessed an extraordinary monsoon season. Rains were accompanied by landslides. More than 54 Lakh people were affected across all the 14 districts of the State. The toll was around 450

Amid Coronavirus pandemic, in June 2020, India had cyclone in Western Coast. The toll was in single digits

In January 2015, River Phuktal, a tributary of River Indus was blocked due to a major landslide. It led to creation of an artificial lake. There was potential danger of reservoir breaching, leading to flash floods. The NDMA constituted an Expert Team and created a channel which averted a disaster

OVER THE YEARS, INDIA HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN ISSUING ACCURATE AND TIMELY EARLY WARNINGS, ESPECIALLY FOR CYCLONES

Following the Himalayan Earthquake Tragedy in Nepal in April 2015, NDMA coordinated the rescue and relief operations from India. It mobilised the expert teams to provide technical guidance and oversight

Agriculture Department and was entrusted with the Home Department. This act became a blueprint for the Centre, which formulated the Disaster Management Act for the entire country. The 2005 Act envisaged the creation of NDMA, headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities, headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

In 2014, Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. His visions for reforms in disaster management initiated several steps to strengthen the NDMA. Along with intensified training and awareness, India, in 2015, also launched a national disaster helpline 1078.

Since its inception till 2015, the NDMA has prepared 18 National Disaster Management

Guidelines on various cross cutting themes of disaster management, with five guidelines issued in 2014-15 alone.

On June 1, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). This is the first ever national plan prepared in the country for disaster management. Also, it was the world's first ever national plan explicitly aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to which India is a signatory. The plan was revised in 2019. It incorporated the Ten Point Agenda on DRR, enunciated by the Prime Minister.

In 2019, the NDMA released the 'National Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction'. With this, India became the first country in the world to come out with such guidelines. ■

Avalanche in Uttarakhand's Chamoli; 51 KILLED, 153 MISSING



STEPS TAKEN BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

On February 7, 2021, around 10 AM, an avalanche occurred in the upper catchment of Rishi Ganga River, a tributary of Alaknanda River in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. This led to a sudden rise in the water level of Rishi Ganga River. The Centre and the State Governments have been keeping a strict vigil on the situation since the incident occurred.

Satellite data of February 7, 2021, suggested that a landslide triggered an avalanche covering about 14 sq km area in catchment of Rishi Ganga River at the terminus of the glacier at an altitude of 5,600 metre. This caused a flash flood in the downstream of Rishi Ganga River, taking away everything in its path. A functional Rishi Ganga small hydro project of 13.2 MW was washed away. The flash flood also affected the under construction 520 MW NTPC Hydro Power Project downstream at Tapovan on the river Dhauliganga. A multi-agency operation to rescue trapped people started soon after. The Central Government directed the concerned agencies to work in close coordination and extend all requisite assistance to the State administration. As of February 15, 2021, at least 51 bodies were recovered and 153 people were still missing. The rescue operations are still on. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured that the Centre is extending all possible assistance for relief and rescue work to the State Government. ■

- Situation was being monitored 24x7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was himself monitoring it closely
- Raj Kumar Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and Renewable Energy, visited the site and supervised the rescue and relief operations
- ITBP set up a Control Room and 450 personnel with all necessary equipment were engaged in rescue and relief operations
- Five NDRF teams were engaged in rescue and relief operation
- Eight teams of Indian Army, including one Engineer Task Force (ETF), were carrying the rescue operation. One Medical column with two ambulances were also deployed. One diving team of Indian Navy also reached the site
- Five Indian Air Force helicopters were engaged in the rescue operation. A Control Room was established at Joshimath. One team of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and a team of Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) /DRDO was at the site

MONPA HANDMADE PAPER

Revival of 1,000-year-old heritage art

Monpa handmade paper or “Mon Shugu” from Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh was on the brink of extinction. Thanks to a special mention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his radio programme *Mann Ki Baat*, this 1,000-year-old heritage art has come to life once again

Surrounded by picturesque mountains, Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh is home to the Monpa tribe. The tribe is skilled in making Monpa handmade paper or “Mon Shugu”. This is an ancient art form which involves making paper from the bark of Shugu Sheng shrub. The process does not involve cutting down of trees. The paper was once produced in every household in Tawang but in the last 100 years, this art was gradually fading out.

Monpa handmade paper once again caught public attention when Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about it in *Mann Ki Baat*, “The locals make this paper from the bark of a plant named Shugu Sheng, hence trees do not have to be cut to make this paper. Besides, no chemical is used in making this paper, thus, this paper is safe for the environment and for health too.”

Few facts about Monpa

- The art of making Monpa paper originated over **1,000** years ago
- The paper is weightless but its natural fibres add great tensile strength to this paper making it apt for various art works
- Writing on this paper is also known to be tamper-proof
- This is used for writing Buddhist scriptures, manuscripts and for making prayer flags
- This paper was once exported to many countries like Tibet, Bhutan, Myanmar and Japan. But with the advent of new technologies, this art almost disappeared in the last **100** years



ONLINE SALE OF MONPA THROUGH KVIC

After a mention by the Prime Minister, the demand for Monpa handmade paper is quickly catching up. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is selling Monpa handmade paper through its e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in. On the first day of its launch, more than 100 sheets of Monpa paper were sold. One sheet of this handmade paper is priced at Rs 50. Monpa paper is not only supporting environment protection but has also opened new avenues of income for the local artisans. ■



Narendra Modi @narendramodi
A special day in our journey to become Aatmanirbhar in the defence sector. Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) was handed over to the Army. A tank made in Tamil Nadu will protect our borders. This is a glimpse of Bharat's Ekta Darshan.

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
India's EAM, @DrSJaisankar in his insightful article published in @Newsweek has reimaged Diplomacy in the post COVID world.

He writes that the next world order would be more multi-polar, pluralistic and rebalanced. And India will help make a difference. Do read

Amit Shah @AmitShah
पहले J&K में योग्यता नहीं चिट्ठियों के आधार पर नौकरी बांटी जाती थी लेकिन हमने नौकरियों को सेवा चयन बोर्ड द्वारा ही देने का निर्णय लिया व 2022 से पहले 25,000 युवाओं को सरकारी नौकरी देंगे।

Back to Village कार्यक्रम के तहत लगभग 13,000 छोटी इकाइयों के मामलों को ऋण भी दिया गया है।



Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
In continuation to our effort to reduce costs through innovation, all steel whether produced from ore, billets, pellets or melting of scrap would be allowed to be used for NH construction as long as it meets the standards required for specific grades of steel.

Dr. S. Jaishankar @DrSJais...
-Strong cooperation with Japan has made a difference to India, specifically to the development of Assam.

-Act East must begin by giving the necessary attention and resources to our own States in the East and North-East.

Dr Jitendra Singh @DrJiten...
#NewNortheast

MIB India #StayHo...
NE Region has received adequate funds from the Centre to fight the #COVID19Pandemic effectively: Union Minister @DrJitendraSingh.



Modi breaks down in RS as he bids adieu to Ghulam Nabi Azad

V-P Venkaiah Naidu describes Azad as a voice of sanity in public life

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, February 9
Prime Minister Narendra Modi teared up, choking while he bade farewell to the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday. Azad's term comes to an end on February 15 along with three other MPs from Jammu and Kashmir.

Pranab Mukherjee's efforts when people from Gujarat were stuck in Kashmir in the terror attack. That night, Ghulam Nabiji called me," recounted the PM, choking, drinking water. "He sounded concerned like people are concerned for their family. This is the kind of feeling he showed."

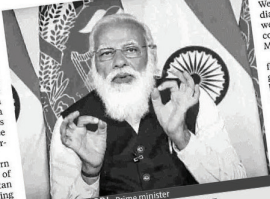


India, Afghanistan in pact to build 2nd dam in Kabul

Modi, Ghani discuss development, terror, and bilateral ties at virtual meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 9 February

In a message of solidarity with Afghan people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said "no external power" can stop the development of Afghanistan or its friendship with India and that both the neighbours and that both the neighbours want to see their regions free from the "grave" threat of terrorism and extremism. He also expressed concern over increasing incidents of violence in Afghanistan including cowardly targeting of innocent citizens, journalists and activists, and noted that India supports a comprehensive ceasefire to end the hostilities. Modi was speaking at a virtual meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani which was organised to help in the drinking water requirement of Kabul city. "I want to assure every Afghan brother and sister from Badakhshan to Nimroz and Herat to Kandahar that India stands with you. At the end of your journey...



NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister
"NO EXTERNAL POWER CAN STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, OR THE INDIA-AFGHANISTAN FRIENDSHIP"

their backers in the Taliban embolden a true political solution, seen as a clear reference to Pakistan. The Afghan President said terrorism must be seen as a "full eco-system" and not as isolated groups or individuals, noting that the "destructive forces" are threatening the region.

Vaccination in city hits new high with 12k jobs

Anonna Dutt
anonna.dutt@timesgroup.com

NEW DELHI: For the first time in the national capital, over 12,000 people were vaccinated against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in a single day on Tuesday. A total of 12,717 health-care and front-line workers received the shot across 183 vaccination sites in Delhi. This is an increase of 2,977 beneficiaries over Monday's 9,740 - the highest number of people to be inoculated in a single day so far. The uptick in numbers was largely owing to a special drive conducted to vaccinate police personnel - some of the vaccination sites were exclusively kept aside to cater to them. At one such site at Lok Nayak Hospital, 57 of the 100 people who had been called in, received the shot. "Today, we started vaccinating front-line workers at our hospital. Of the 100 people who were called in, 57 turned up. Currently, we do not allow front-line workers to walk in out of turn," said one of the senior doctors at the hospital. Health-care workers can walk in at any vaccination site and get the shot even if their names are not on that day's list of beneficiaries. That benefit hasn't been allowed to front-line



A health worker receives a Covishield vaccine job at a Super Speciality Hospital.

last week. However, Tuesday's vaccine coverage rate - proportion of people who received the shot among those targeted - was just 69.1%, which, in comparison to previous vaccination days, is not all that remarkable. There were several days in the past when the city had seen a coverage rate of over 90%. Two districts - north and north-east - saw over 100% coverage, with north-east registering 150%. "That was because of more front-line workers getting the shot. Over the past two days, nearly 80% of those who received the vaccine at our sites

Put nation first, go vocal for local, PM tells party

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Asserting his pride at having "nation first" at the core of BJP ideology, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged party cadres including lawmakers to adopt the principle of "vocal for local" in letter and spirit, which, he said will be a great push to make the country "self reliant" thereby fulfilling one of the ambition and vision of party ideologue



PM Narendra Modi addresses BJP workers on the occasion of 53rd death anniversary of Deen Dayal Upadhyay in Delhi on Thursday

party president (J P Nadda), party workers should approach the voters with positivity. People have seen our policies, intentions in the past six years and have rewarded us. We have to move forward with this very confidence. We shall succeed once again," the PM said.

the forthcoming assembly polls in five states including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry. Addressing party lawmakers on the occasion of "Samarpita Diwas" to mark the death anniversary of Deen Dayal Upadhyay, the PM said, "Make a list of how many India made products you use from morning till evening and how many are manufactured internationally. You will be shocked." "We must get rid of such things. We must take responsibility to ensure that the local products made with the sweat and hard work of our workers are used by us," the PM said and added, "It doesn't mean that you start discarding your belongings... but more than 80% of our consumer products we use are not made in India."

Govt, Parliament have respect for farmers: PM in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the motion of thanks on President's Address, PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday reached out to agitating farmers, saying the government and Parliament had great respect for them, which was why topmost ministers had been talking to them. Once again accusing the "andolanjevis" of exploiting the "pavitra andolan" of the farmers, he urged the pro-

MANDIS, MSP TO STAY



PM MODI IN LOK SABHA

testers to come forward for a dialogue. Amid disruptions by Opposition MPs, PM Modi defended the farm laws, saying these were enacted to meet new challenges in the agriculture sector. He allayed fears, saying neither any "mandi" had been shut "RAIL ROKO" ON FEB 18: UNIONS

down nor had the MSP been discontinued, rather the MSP had been hiked. "No one asked for laws against dowry, triple talaq... but these laws were enacted because they were progressive," he said. **BACK PAGE**

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NATYANJALI

(From 11 March [Maha Shivratri] to March 15, 2021)

Starting from Maha Shivratri, a five-day Natyanjali Dance Festival is held every year in Tamil Nadu's Chidambaram. Organised in the 1,000-year-old Chidambaram Nataraja temple, the festival is dedicated to the Lord of Dances and the Cosmic Dancer, Lord Nataraja. The festival exhibits the rich dance culture of India and its amalgamation with the devotional feeling. Classical dancers from all over the world and from all parts of India participate in this festival.

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