

» Volume 1, Issue 9

» November 1-15, 2020
FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION

New India SAMACHAR



MAKING LOCAL GOING GLOBAL

India's aim of becoming self-reliant is rooted in our age-old values of sharing what we have with others. India's self-reliance is also about the happiness, cooperation and peace of the world

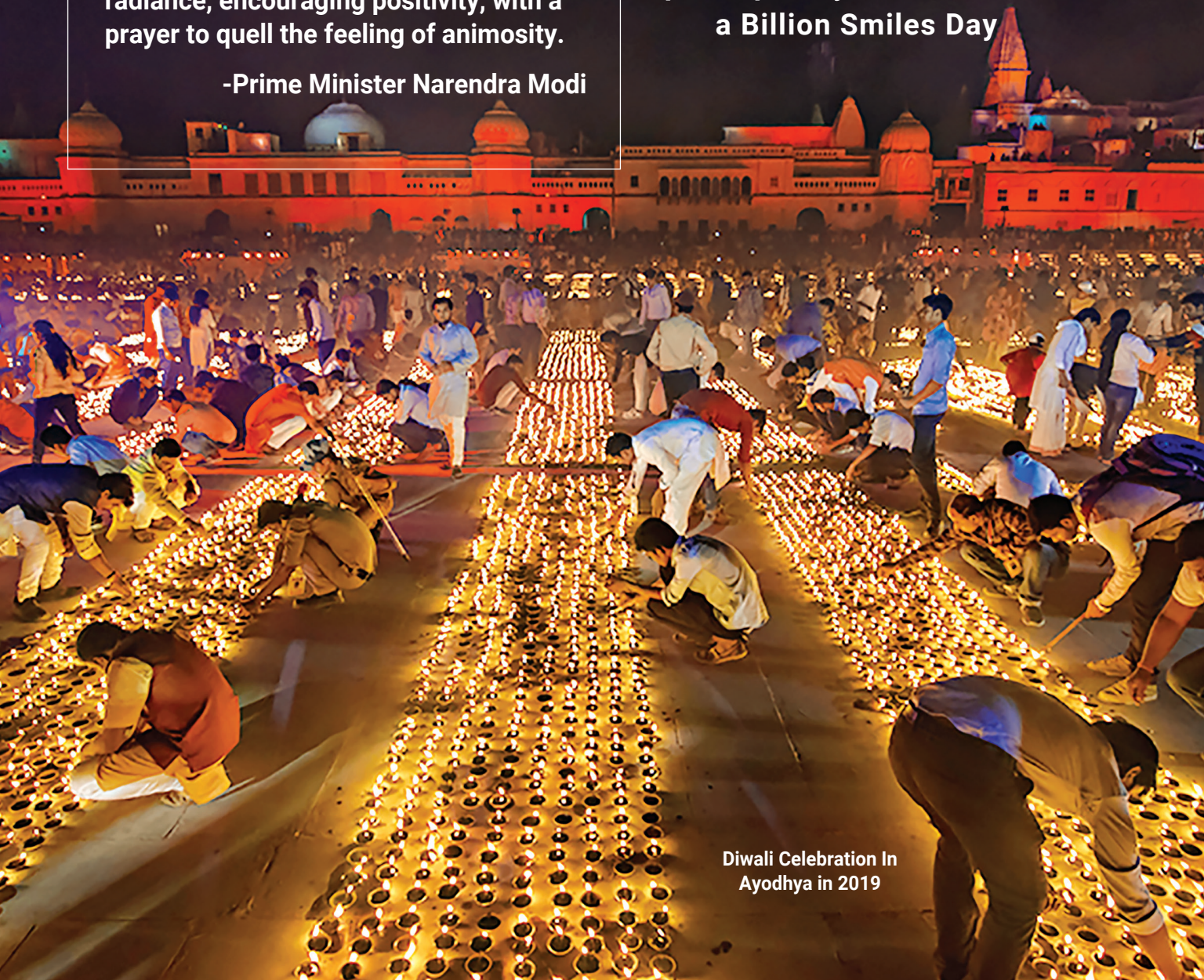
Shubham Karoti Kalyanam, Aarogyam Dhansampadaa. Shatrubudhdhi Vinashaay, Deepajyoti Namostute!!

“

What a fine, purposeful message! The shlok says: It is Light that ushers in joy, health and prosperity into our lives, dispelling negative thought, bringing in positivity. I salute the divine flame respectfully. To make this Diwali memorable, what could be a better way than an attempt to let light spread its radiance, encouraging positivity, with a prayer to quell the feeling of animosity.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

On the Occasion of the Festival of Lights, let us bring joys to the lives of the underprivileged. When we buy local, it brings smiles on their faces, it gives them a reason to perk up. May this Diwali be a Billion Smiles Day



Diwali Celebration In
Ayodhya in 2019



New India SAMACHAR

Volume 1, Issue 9

November 1-15, 2020

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Editor

Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia,
PDG, PIB, New Delhi

Consulting Editor

Vinod Kumar

Assistant Consulting Editor

Sharat Kumar Sharma

Designer

Ravindra Kumar Sharma

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Vijay Kumar

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response-nis@pib.gov.in

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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar,

The festive season is here adding new enthusiasm, energy and happiness in our lives. The country is celebrating a range of festivals. While we have just celebrated *Navratri*, *Durga Puja* and *Dussehra*, we will now be celebrating *Diwali*, *Bhai Dooj* and *Chhath Puja*. Wish you all the very best for the festival season.

Festivals add new resolves in our mind. We need to be very careful during this festive season and follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three '*mantras*' to fight the coronavirus infection – 'wear a mask, keep two yards' distance and wash hands frequently'.

Your love and support for *New India Samachar* is no less than a gift for us. More than 7,000 people have written to us to share their views and emotions. Beginning with the next edition, we will be making your messages a part of the magazine.

In this season of festivals, you will be happy to know that the resolve of 130 Crore Indians is not just defeating the challenge of Coronavirus but also making the mantra of 'Vocal for Local' a movement. As a result, people are opting for local products. Not only this, India is also going ahead with exports. India striding on the path of progress forms the Cover Story in this Edition.

Once again wishing you a Happy and Prosperous Festival Season.

We are eagerly waiting for your feedback and suggestions.

Please send your response:

Address : Bureau of Outreach and Communication,
IInd Floor, Soochna Bhawan,
New Delhi - 110003

e-mail : response-nis@pib.gov.in

With your blessings


(K S DHATWALIA)



A VISIONARY FOR RURAL SELF-RELIANCE

Nanaji Deshmukh's *Gramodaya* initiative in Chitrakoot is a living example of transforming a dream into reality

With a vision to bring about total transformation and development of society through people's participation, Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh i.e. *Rashtra Rishi* Nanaji Deshmukh took many initiatives. He started off by setting up a *Saraswati Shishu Mandir* school in Gorakhpur in 1950. The school reflects on his love for education and knowledge. He went on to establish the first rural university *Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya* at Chitrakoot where he settled finally.

The Chitrakoot project is an integrated and holistic model for the development of rural India and creating a society based on complementarities of the family, primary school and the local population. The project was launched on January 26, 2002, to cover 500 villages around Chitrakoot. The objective was achieved by August 15, 2010. The key to the campaign was the concept of *Samaj Shilpi Dampati* i.e. the 'graduate' couples who live within the villages. Each couple has the responsibility of motivating and guiding a cluster of five villages. Prior to the Chitrakoot project, Nanaji had set up Jayaprabha Gram Project in Gonda district named after Jayaprakash Narayan and his wife Prabhavati. Land for the project was donated by Maharani Rajlakshmi Kumari of Balrampur estate whom he had defeated in the Lok Sabha election. Nanaji believed to the core that a country could progress only by uplifting its rural poor and improving the village life. His precepts "*Gramodaya*" and "*Swavalamban*" reflect the philosophy of the great personalities like Swami Vivekananda, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma



"I don't live for myself, I stand for those who are impoverished and deprived."
Nanaji Deshmukh

BORN : OCTOBER 11, 1916

DIED : FEBRUARY 27, 2010

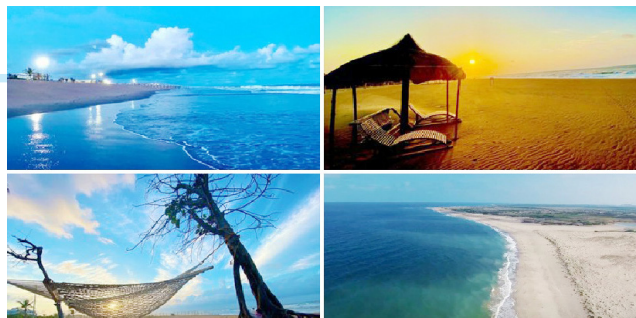
Gandhi.

Born on October 11, 1916, at Kadoli, a small town in Parbhani district in Maharashtra, Nanaji was inspired by the nationalist ideology of Lokamanya Tilak and Dr K B Hedgewar. Nanaji participated actively in the Bhoodan Movement launched by Vinoba Bhave spending two months with him. On Jayaprakash Narayan's call for 'Total Revolution', Nanaji extended his support to the movement. Nanaji's hand was fractured while he tried to protect JP from police lathi charge in Patna in 1974. This incident was recalled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Nanaji's 101 birth anniversary. In 1977, Nanaji was elected from Balrampur Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh but he refused ministerial berth offered to him by the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai. After that he devoted his entire life to Deendayal Research Institute that he himself established in 1968. He was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1999. A grateful nation honoured him with Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2019. ■



EIGHT INDIAN BEACHES GET 'BLUE FLAG' CERTIFICATION

It's a proud moment for India as eight of its beaches have been awarded the 'Blue Flag' certification by an International Jury comprising the UNEP, UNWTO, FEE, and IUCN. Beaches that have earned this distinction are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Beach in Odisha and Radhanagar in A&N Islands. Also, India has been placed third by the International Jury under the International Best Practices category for pollution control in coastal regions. "It is an outstanding feat considering that no nation has ever been



awarded 'Blue Flag' for 8 beaches in a single attempt. This is also a global recognition of India's conservation and sustainable development efforts," Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said. India is also the first country in Asia-Pacific region which has achieved this feat in just about 2 years' time. Japan, South Korea and UAE are the other Asian nations with a couple of Blue Flag beaches. ■

DAUGHTER OF VARANASI IN RAFALE'S COCKPIT

Varanasi, the Parliamentary Constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is in news again with yet another inspiring story. Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh, who hails from Varanasi, has been selected to fly the newly inducted most advanced fighter jet Rafale. As the first woman pilot of Rafale, she has become an inspiration



for women with dreams in their eyes. Shivangi's father says, "Girls must be allowed to venture out and should be encouraged to choose the field they want to opt." Shivangi was Commissioned in the Indian Air Force in 2017 as part of second batch of women fighter pilots. Since her commissioning, she has been flying MIG-21 Bison. Not only her family but the entire country is proud of this daughter of Varanasi. ■

PROTECTING GOOD SAMARITANS

Now no police officer or any other person can compel a Good Samaritan to disclose her/his name, identity, address or any other personal detail. Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published rules to protect 'Good Samaritans'. The rules also provide that every public and private hospital will have to publish a charter in Hindi, English and any other Indian language at the entrance or any other conspicuous location, and on their website stating the rights of Good Samaritans. Further, if a person has voluntarily agreed to become a witness in the case in which he has acted as a Good Samaritan, she/he will be examined in accordance with the provisions of this rule. Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, provides that a Good Samaritan will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of the victim of an accident involving a motor vehicle, where such injury or death resulted from the Good Samaritan's negligence in acting or failing to act while rendering emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance. ■



GOVERNMENT TO BOOST TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Under its Centre for Excellence Initiative, Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) have launched a new three-year initiative for Tribal Entrepreneurship Development'.

This initiative aims to develop the potential of tribal communities and build their capacities so as to enhance their contribution in socio-economic growth. These programmes would understand and enhance the untapped potential and skills of rural and tribal communities, and provide possible solutions for their livelihood. Tribal communities have great knowledge and skills. Under this initiative, 1,000 tribal artisans would be identified and helped to create a unique brand identity with a differentiated value proposition. They will be connected with potential customer base through exhibitions, virtual road shows and participation of entrepreneurs in events across the country and world. ■



NEW PAMBAN BRIDGE: AN ENGINEERING MARVEL



A new railway bridge is coming up along the existing 100-year-old bridge which connects Pamban Island with Mandapam on the mainland of India. The construction work for the new bridge is going on in full swing and will be completed by December 2021. The Rs 280 Crore project deploys the latest vertical lift technology which allows its 63-metre navigational span to rise up and let big ships to pass under it. Spanning 2.07 kilometres, the new Pamban Bridge will also help in increasing the number of tourists in the Rameshwaram area as thousands of tourists and pilgrims visit Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi temples. ■

TELE-LAW PROGRAMME REACHES 3 LAKH BENEFICIARIES

To pursue the 'Digital India Vision', the Department of Justice has been harnessing 'emerging' and 'indigenous' digital platforms to make access to justice for all a reality. To meet this objective, Tele-Law programme was launched in 2017 to address cases at pre-litigation stage. To commemorate the three years of Tele-Law programme, the Department of Justice has released its first booklet "Tele-Law -- Reaching the Unreached, Voices of the beneficiaries". The booklet is a collection of real-life stories of beneficiaries, and the assistance given under the programme to

resolve disputes that affect their day-to-day life. Encompassing 260 districts including 115 aspirational districts and 29,860 CSCs across 29 States and Union Territories, the programme has benefited over 3 Lakh people in the various geographically difficult and far flung areas. The initiative harnesses smart technology, and telephone/instant calling facilities available at the vast network of Common Service Centres at the Panchayat level to connect indigent, down-trodden, vulnerable, and unreached groups & communities with a panel of lawyers for providing timely and valuable legal advice. ■

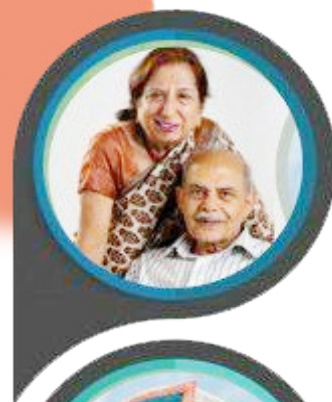


BIOMETRIC-ENABLED DIGITAL SERVICE FOR PENSIONERS

Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners Scheme, known as *Jeevan Pramaan*, digitises the entire process of securing life certificate, making it hassle-free for pensioners

Making lives of senior citizens easy has been the priority of the Government. More than one Crore families in India can be classified as pensioner families, where the pension disbursed by the various Government bodies is the main source of income. However, pensioners have to provide life certificate every year to the authorised pension disbursing agencies like banks, post offices etc., following which their pension is credited to their respective accounts.

In order to get life certificate, the pensioners are required to either personally present themselves



ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE

- It can be generated from anywhere, including home
- Auto SMS to pensioners regarding DLC
- Auto transfer of DLC to Pension Disbursing Agency
- Sending SMS by Pension Disbursing Agency after processing

PENSION DISBURSING AGENCIES

Pension Disbursing Agency means the Life Certificate processing agency for the pensioner. Following Disbursing Agencies may be eligible for on-boarding:

- Banks
- Post Offices
- State/UTs Government Offices (Treasuries)
- Central Government

Offices

- Autonomous bodies / statutory organizations / societies / PSUs of Central Government
- Autonomous bodies / PSUs of State Government
- Bodies created through Parliament / State Legislation
- Judicial Organizations

before the Pension Disbursing Agency or have the Life Certificate issued by authority where they have served earlier, and have it delivered to the disbursing agency.

This very requirement of appearing personally at the disbursing agency office for getting a life certificate often becomes a major hurdle in the process of seamless transfer of pension amount. It has been noted that it causes a lot of hardship and inconvenience particularly to the aged and infirm pensioners.

Additionally, many employees move to a different location after their retirement either to be with their family or for some other reasons. This creates a huge logistical issue when it comes to accessing their rightful pension. Jeevan Pramaan was launched to make lives of senior citizens easy. It is a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners of Central Government, State Government or any other Government organization.

ABOUT JEEVAN PRAMAAN

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched the *Jeevan Pramaan* portal as a Digital India initiative to mitigate the hardships of pensioners. Now, the pensioner need not visit the office of the disbursing agency for physical submission of life certificate and may use the Aadhaar-enabled biometric authentication mechanism to generate Digital Life Certificate (DLC). It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 10, 2014. Since then, 358.55 Lakh pensioners have submitted the Digital Life Certificates. Between November 1, 2019 and October 12, 2020, a total of 95.31 Lakh pensioners have submitted the DLC. ■

PRE-REQUISITES FOR DLC GENERATION

- Pensioner must have an Aadhaar number
- Pensioner must have a working mobile number
- Registration of Aadhaar number with Pension Disbursing Agency
- A Biometric device
- PC with Windows 7.0 and above or Android Mobile/Tablet 4.0 and above
- Internet connectivity

DLC FOR PENSIONERS SETTLED ABROAD

For the senior citizens who have settled abroad after retirement, the Government has issued Consolidated Instructions on Life Certificate and commencement of Family Pension vide which the concerned Bank Branch abroad and the Indian Embassy/ Consulate/High Commission have been instructed to provide Life Certificate and commencement of Family Pension there itself.

ALSO ON UMANG APP

To ensure safe and secure door-step delivery of its services to its 66 Lakh pensioners, EPFO brought the facility of View Pensioner Passbook as well as the updation of Jeevan Pramaan Patra on UMANG App. During the COVID-19 pandemic period from April to July 2020, 18.52 Lakh API hits were received to View Pensioner Passbook service while 29,773 API hits were recorded on updating Jeevan Pramaan Patra service.

ADDITIONAL TIME GIVEN THIS YEAR

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, pensioners can submit life certificates between November 1 and December 31. Earlier, life certificates used to be submitted only in November for maintaining continuity of pension.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

PHONE: 1800 111 555 / (91)-0120-3076200

MAIL: jeevanpramaan@gov.in

SMS: JPL to 7738299899 and get a list of *Jeevan Pramaan* centres near your pincode



WORLD'S LONGEST Highway Tunnel

Atal Tunnel, an engineering marvel, will give a major impetus to India's border infrastructure and strategic command, and spur the economic growth in the region



The development of a nation has a direct correlation with connectivity. Greater connectivity means faster development particularly in the border areas. Also, the connectivity in these areas is directly related to the country's defence requirements. However, before 2014, the kind of seriousness and political willpower needed for improving the connectivity was not demonstrated.

After 2014, several projects related to better connectivity gained momentum. One such landmark project is the Atal Tunnel, which has given a push to the connectivity in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020, inaugurated this world's longest highway tunnel.

In his address, the Prime Minister termed the day as historic as it not only fructifies the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee but also the decades-old wish and dreams of crores of people in the region. The tunnel, which connects parts of Himachal Pradesh and Leh in Ladakh with the rest of the country, would expedite the economic progress. The Prime Minister said that farmers, horticulturalists and youth will now have easy access to Delhi and other markets.

The tunnel will also help the security forces in ensuring regular supplies and in patrolling.

“

We could show our unflinching resolve today when we were able to pierce through the impregnable Pir Panjal ranges. I salute the hard working men like soldiers, engineers, all the worker brothers and sisters who have risked their lives for this great project.

”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi



TO WATCH THE
VIDEO OF THE ENTIRE
PROGRAMME,
SCAN THE QR CODE

ABOUT THE TUNNEL

- The tunnel cuts the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometers and the travel time by about 4 to 5 hours
- Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world
- The 9.02-kilometre-long tunnel ensures all-weather connectivity between Manali and Lahaul-Spiti Valley. Earlier the Valley was cut off for about six months every year owing to heavy snowfall
- The South Portal of tunnel is located at a distance of 25-kilometre from Manali at an altitude of 3,060 metres, while its North Portal is located near village Teling, Sissu, in Lahaul Valley at an altitude of 3,071 metres
- It is a horseshoe-shaped, single-tube double-lane tunnel with a roadway of 8-metre. It has an overhead clearance of 5.525 metres

COST

In 2005, the tunnel was estimated to cost about Rs 900 Crore. But persistent delays pushed the cost to Rs 3,200 Crore, which was more than three times the original cost estimated.

KEY SAFETY FEATURES

- Entry barriers at both Portals
- Telephone at every 150-metre
- Fire hydrant mechanisms at every 60-metre
- Auto incident detection system with CCTV cameras
- Air quality monitoring at every kilometre
- Evacuation lighting/exit signs at every 25-metre
- Broadcasting system throughout the tunnel
- Fire-rated dampers at every 50-metre
- Cameras at every 60-metre

The Prime Minister said that taking care of the needs of the security forces of the country is one of the highest priorities of the Government. But this, too, was compromised earlier and interests of the country's defence forces were at risk. Atal Tunnel will give new strength to India's border infrastructure and be a living proof of world-class border connectivity.

The Prime Minister said infrastructure should be developed at a fast pace as

the country needs to progress economically and socially, adding that this needs an unflinching political will and commitment for the progress of the Nation.

JOURNEY OF THE TUNNEL

The decision to build a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken on June 03, 2000, when late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The foundation stone for the access road to the South

Portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002. However, till the year 2013-14, the work was so neglected that only 1,300 metres – less than 1.5 km – of the tunnel could be built.

The breakthrough from both ends was achieved on October 15, 2017. On December 24, 2019, on the eve of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Vajpayee, the Union Cabinet decided to name the Rohtang Tunnel as Atal Tunnel to honour his contribution. ■



FUNCTIONAL TAP CONNECTION

TO EVERY RURAL HOUSEHOLD

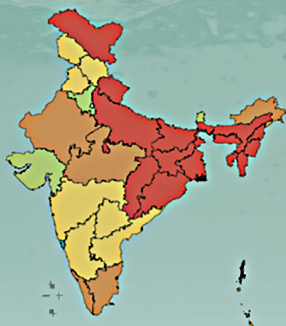
To provide good quality drinking water in adequate quantity at regular interval in rural areas, the Government has launched *Jal Jeevan Mission* with the target of providing universal coverage of drinking water by 2024

Water is elixir of life whose importance can never be overstated. For many of us gushing water is available at the turn of a tap; for a vast majority this basic necessity of life is virtually a luxury more so in rural areas. Let alone running taps, this silent majority lacks even the hand pumps and is forced to walk miles every day to fetch their daily pail of water. But no longer, for the current dispensation has resolved to connect every rural household to piped water by 2024.

Acknowledging the stark reality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August, 15, 2019, said that almost half of the houses in India do not have direct access to drinking water. He announced *Jal Jeevan Mission* and promised a change in this scenario in the next five years.

Under the Mission, every day about one Lakh households are being provided with tap

Household Tap Connections
as on 1st April 2019



Coverage in percentage

0-10% 11-25% 26-50% 51-75% 76-99% 100% NA

* NA represents data not available

India

19,01,66,385
Total Rural Households

5,63,67,982
Households with Tap
Connections

13,37,98,430
Remaining Households

Household Tap Connections
as on October 16, 2020



Coverage in percentage

0-10% 11-25% 26-50% 51-75% 76-99% 100% NA

* NA represents data not available



BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

- It will mitigate the drudgery of women as fetching water is their responsibility
- It will improve the 'ease of living' in rural areas
- Good quality of drinking water will check the water-borne diseases and thus improve the life of rural people
- It will provide opportunities for economic activities for rural women by saving their precious time, which otherwise is lost in fetching water from a distance

Likely timeline of the Mission

The Mission has to cover 15.81 Crore households in a time-bound manner while ensuring the functionality of already provided connections. This means 3.2 Crore households have to be covered every year i.e. about 88,000 tap connections to be provided every day. The Mission aims for 100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connection across the nation and has a tentative timeline for each state:

- 2021:** Bihar, Puducherry, Telangana [Goa attains target]
- 2022:** Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim
- 2023:** Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh
- 2024:** Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

water connections, which indicate the speed and dedication of the Government in fulfilling its promise. This Mission aims at ensuring potable water supply in adequate quantity – 55 litres per person per day – and of prescribed quality to every rural household on a regular and long-term basis.

The objective of the Mission is universal

coverage and emphasis is laid on the principle of 'equity and inclusiveness' i.e. every family in the village gets tap water connection in their households. Of the Rs 3.60 Lakh Crore needed for this Mission, the Central Government will contribute Rs 2.08 Lakh Crore and the remaining Rs 1.52 Lakh Crore will be borne by States.



ABOUT JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- The Mission was launched in August, 2019
- In seven months of 2019-20, around 84.83 Lakh rural households were provided with tap connections
- A dashboard indicating the progress of the Mission up to the district level has been created and is available on Ministry's website
- After the Mission came into being, States were requested to undertake a revalidation exercise of baseline data. The exercise revealed that rural India has over 19 Crore households of which only 3.23 Crore households had tap connections. The remaining 15.81 Crore households are to be provided with tap connections
- The aim of the Mission is to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household
- Ensuring functionality of water supply systems is the focus
- Priority is given to saturating villages in waterscarce and water-quality affected areas, aspirational districts, SC/ST majority villages/ habitations, villages coming under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, etc
- Special focus is given to the districts affected with Japanese Encephalitis/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/ AES) which is one of the reasons behind infant mortality in the affected districts
- As on date, 3.01 Crore households are there in 61 JE / AES endemic districts of five states -- Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Out of this, 27.32 Lakh (9%) households have FHTCs and remaining 2.74 Crore households (91%) are to be provided with FHTCs under JJM

In 2019-20, Rs 10,000 Crore was allocated for the Mission and during 2020-21, a provision of Rs 23,500 Crore was made for it. In the past one year, about 2.20 Crore rural households were provided tap connections.

100-DAY CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE PIPED WATER IN SCHOOLS AND ANGANWADI CENTRES

To take care of the future of the nation by ensuring safe water to children is the priority of the Government as they are most vulnerable to water-borne diseases. Therefore, provisions have been made under Jal Jeevan Mission for ensuring safe water through tap water





GOA: FIRST 'HAR GHAR JAL' STATE

Goa has earned the unique distinction of becoming the first 'Har Ghar Jal' State in the country by providing 100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connections to all its 2.30 Lakh rural households. The two districts of Goa i.e. North Goa with 1.65 Lakh rural households and South Goa with 98,000 rural households in 191 Gram Panchayats are fully saturated with assured piped water supply through tap connections.

EFFORTS CONTINUED DESPITE COVID-19 FEAR

Since Unlock 1, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic about 45 Lakh tap connections have been provided so far in the year 2020-21. Everyday about 1 Lakh households are being given tap connections. To ensure transparency, every asset created is being geo-tagged and connections are being linked with the Aadhar of the head of the household. In the prevailing pandemic situation, works related to water supply and water conservation continued in villages. The project has not just ensured availability of potable water supply in the rural areas but also created job opportunities for the skilled/semi-skilled migrant workers

connection in schools, Anganwadi centres, health care centres, etc.

To provide clean and safe drinking water to children across the country, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on October 2, 2020, launched a special mission mode campaign to provide potable piped water supply in all schools and Anganwadi Centres within 100 days. The Prime Minister on September 29, 2020, envisaged this idea. He appealed to states to make the best use of this campaign to ensure provision of potable piped water supply in these public institutions. ■



CABINET GETS VOCAL FOR LOCAL

The recent Cabinet decisions will attract investment in Natural Gas sector, generate employment, protect environment, save money and boost the cyber security of the country



DECISION: 'Natural Gas Marketing Reforms' approved.

BENEFITS: Investor-driven Open Acreage Licensing Policy has substantially increased the acreage in the country. The entire eco-system of policies related to production, infrastructure and marketing of natural gas has been made more transparent with a focus on ease of doing business. These reforms will prove to be significant for *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* by encouraging investments in the domestic production of natural gas and reducing import dependence. They will also prove to be another milestone in moving towards a gas-based economy by encouraging investments.



DECISION: Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of cyber security between India and Japan



BENEFITS: The MoC will enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which include inter-alia, capacity building in cyberspace; protection of critical infrastructure; cooperation in emerging

technologies; sharing information on cyber security threats/incidents and malicious cyber activities, as well as best practices to counter them; developing joint mechanisms for practical cooperation to mitigate cyber threats to the security of Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure etc.

DECISION: Revised cost estimate of Rs 8,575 Crore approved for the Kolkata East West Corridor project after the realigned route.

BENEFITS: The decision will help providing a safe, efficient and environment-friendly transport system. The realigned route will reduce commuting time, fuel consumption, capex on road infrastructure, pollution, accident and enhance Transit Oriented Development. It will generate additional revenue, create jobs, and incorporate the spirit of '*Aatma Nirbhar Bharat*' and '*Vocal for Local*'.

DECISION: Ratification of seven Persistent Organic Pollutants listed under Stockholm Convention.

BENEFITS: The ratification would enable India to access Global Environment Facility financial resources in updating the National Implementation Plan.

DECISION: Improving school education with 'STARS'.

BENEFITS: The Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project covering Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. Of the total project cost of Rs 5,718 Crore, the World Bank will contribute Rs 3,700 Crore. Under this project, six states will be supported in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes.

The overall focus and components of the STARS project are aligned with the objectives of National Education Policy, 2020 of Quality-Based Learning Outcomes. The project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

DECISION: A Rs 520 Crore Special Package for 10 Lakh women from J&K and Ladakh under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

BENEFITS: Though the package was approved in 2013, it could not be fully implemented due to various reasons including disturbed conditions in the state. The Package worth Rs 520 Crore was for a period of five years i.e. till 2023-24. It will ensure funding of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on a demand driven basis without linking allocation with poverty ratio during this extended period. So far, 6.90 Crore women members of around 63 Lakh Self Help Groups across the country have joined the initiative. More than Rs 3 Lakh Crore of bank credit has been accessed under the scheme which has been repaid. Around Rs 1 Lakh Crore is still unpaid and the status of NPA is only 2 per cent.

DECISION: Rs 3,874 Crore spending on stocking oil.

BENEFITS: The Cabinet post-facto approved an expenditure of Rs 3,874 Crore on stocking low-priced crude-oil in three strategic underground crude oil storages. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) also allowed Abu Dhabi National Oil Co, which has hired a part of the strategic storage, to trade the stocked oil. Taking advantage of the low crude-oil prices in the international market, India purchased 16.71 million barrels of crude in April-May 2020 and filled all the three Strategic Petroleum Reserves created at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur. It saved over Rs 5,000 Crore on this account. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas spent Rs 3,874 Crore on buying such oil.

DECISION: Demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) from National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Ltd. and strategic disinvestment of demerged entity.

BENEFITS: NSP is a three million ton per annum Integrated Steel Plant being set up by NMDC at Nagarnar, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh in an area of 1,980 acres.

With demerger, NMDC can focus on its core activities of mining. After demerger, NSP shall be a separate company and the managements of NMDC and NSP shall be accountable for their respective operations and financial performance. Shareholders of NMDC will also be shareholders of the demerged company (NSP) in proportion of their shareholding. After the demerger, investors will have better visibility of the operations and cash flow of NMDC and NSP separately. The demerger will also be tax neutral from the point of view of capital gains. ■



SCAN QR CODE FOR CABINET DECISIONS



INDIA BUYS : SELLS MORE MORE LOCALLY : GLOBALLY

The COVID-19 pandemic has failed to subdue the business and entrepreneurial streak in India. Our exports, the demand for local products and global outreach are continuing on the upward trajectory after minor hiccups, sending the message to the world:

**“ THE INDIA STORY IS STRONG TODAY AND
STRONGER TOMORROW ”**



Photo: Vijay Kumar



Festivals are the occasion to rekindle an awakening in our lives especially on Diwali when every family brings home something new. The more local we buy, the better it is. I urge all to buy something produced by our weavers and khadi producers.



– Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India is gearing up for the festive season, which, this year, is special for a number of reasons coming as it is at a time when the world is adapting to a new normal amid the COVID-19 pandemic. India is among those few nations in the world which have shown resilience and emerged as a land of solutions to overcome the multifarious problems related to manufacturing, supply chains, etc in the post COVID-19 times. Despite disrupted logistics, India continued to deliver. People are going 'Vocal for Local' and India is not only catering its local needs but also taking care of the global demands.

India's goods exports have posted a 5.27 per cent growth in September 2020 (year-on-year) with some crucial sectors such as readymade garments, engineering goods, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and carpets on then upswing. On the other hand, India's imports in September 2020 declined 19.6 per cent. During March-June, India's agricultural exports rose by 23 per cent despite the fact that the entire country was straitjacketed in the Lockdown. It was during this time that the Prime Minister gave the call for "Vocal for Local" and "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" or Self-Reliant India.

Agriculture

43.4%
growth in exports

● Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, exports of agri-commodities grew by 43.4% to Rs 53,626.6 Crore in the first half of the current fiscal.

- In September 2020, agri-exports rose by 81.7% to Rs 9,296 Crore from Rs 5,114 Crore in September 2019
- Exports of groundnut grew by 35%, refined sugar 104%, wheat 206%, Basmati rice 13% and non-Basmati rice 105%
- Agriculture Export Policy was announced in 2018 to boost exports in the sector
- A package of Rs 1 Lakh Crore was announced for building agriculture infrastructure
- Agriculture Reform Bills were implemented to augment farmers' income



To promote the use of earthen lamps and idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh, and decorative items, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will sell them online

'VOCAL FOR LOCAL' MANTRA ON DIWALI

Though, the Prime Minister called upon the nation to be 'Vocal for Local' in 2020, the Centre had been working on this motto since 2014 so as to enable the local products get a foothold in the market. Several initiatives were taken to encourage locals to opt for the locally made products.

In July 2017 edition of 'Mann ki Baat', the Prime Minister spoke about how festivals are linked to the economy of the poor. He said: "When we light a 'diya', an earthen lamp on Deepawali, it is not merely a festival of lights, a festival that illuminates the entire house; it is directly connected with those poor families who make small 'diyas' or earthen lamps. Today as I speak about festivals and how they are linked to the economy of the poor, I want to touch upon the subject of environment as well." To promote the use of *diyas* and earthen idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh, and other decorative items, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is selling these online. It has set a target of selling at least one lakh Lakshmi-Ganesh idols apart from earthen lamps online. Potters from Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Leh, Haryana and Gujarat have geared up for the same. This will allow potters from the far-flung villages to sell their products in cities like Delhi and Mumbai. According to the data provided by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), every year sales worth about Rs 1 Lakh Crore take place during Diwali season with products ranging from jewellery to earthen items.

Medical Exports

India becomes the largest producer of PPE kits and ventilators



24.36%

rise in exports of drugs-pharmaceutical in April-September 2020

- India supplied hydroxychloroquine to 150 countries to help them fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports of medicine and pharmaceuticals jumped by 24.36 per cent
- Earlier, PPE kits were not manufactured in India; now five Lakh PPE kits are produced daily
- There was negligible production of ventilators before January 2020; now India is able to export these
- India was producing around 10 Lakh liter alcohol-based sanitizers every year. Now, this has gone up to 38 Lakh liters per day

POTTERS LEAD INDIA WITH "SWADESHI ONLY"

The potters' community in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi is set to lead the country with "Swadeshi only" products this festive season. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) trained the potters in Varanasi in making earthen lamps, idols of deities and other pottery items as part of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan".

The KVIC distributed electric potter's wheels to 80 potter families from four villages in Varanasi. The KVIC has set a target of distributing 1,500 potter's wheels in Varanasi

Exports

9.2%

increase in exports over the last year; imports decline

- India's exports in September 2020 stood at Rs 2,02,694.07 Crore, a growth of 9.2% over the exports of Rs 1,85,642.32 Crore in September 2019. During the same period, imports fell by 19.60%
- Exports of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery items in September 2020 grew by 11.94% over September 2019
- The non-oil and non-gold imports declined by 13.29%
- The top five export items saw historical rise in September 2020 over September 2019. Exports of other grains grew by 337.22%, iron ore 109.65%, paddy 93.86%, edible oil 47.52%, carpets 42.89% ceramics and glassware 36.17%

in the next 3 months. It has so far distributed over 17,000 electric potter's wheels across the country. The electric potter's wheels not just save time and energy but also increase production. The work which may take up to three days in the traditional way can be done in less than 10 hours with these electric potter's wheels. Thus, a potter who could produce only 200 *kulhads* in a day, can now produce up to 1000 pieces per day.

Kishan Prajapati, a potter, said that he is able to sell nearly 3,000 *kulhads* every day at the Varanasi Cantt railway station after he

The potters' community in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi is set to lead the country with "Swadeshi only" products this festive season

received the electric potter's wheel. Another potter Akshay Kumar says he is now able to sell nearly 4,000 *kulhads* and plates in the local Choona market in Mirzapur district and is financially self-dependent now.

'AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN' SHOWS THE PATH AHEAD

When the Prime Minister announced the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' on May 12, he was very clear that the nation was not advocating self-centric arrangements when it comes to self-reliance. He said India's self-reliance is ingrained in the happiness, cooperation and peace of the world.

"India's goals and actions impact global welfare. When India is free from open defecation, it has an impact on the image of the world. Be it TB, malnutrition, polio, India's campaigns have influenced the world. International Solar Alliance is India's gift against Global Warming. The initiative of International Yoga Day is India's gift to relieve stress. Indian medicines have given a fresh lease of life to the people in different parts of the world. These steps have brought laurels for India and it makes every Indian feel proud. The world is beginning to believe that India can do very well, so much good for the welfare of mankind can give," he said, adding that to make India *Aatma Nirbhar*, we need a combined resolve of 130 crore citizens. He also outlined five pillars of *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* – Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography



The Rs 20 Lakh Crore package was for the cottage industry, home industry, small-scale industry, and MSMEs, which are a source of livelihood for millions of people and make a strong foundation for the resolve for a self-reliant India

and Demand. Along with the *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* campaign, the Prime Minister also announced a Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 Lakh Crores - equivalent to 10 per cent of India's GDP. It was not just a package but a roadmap for making Self-Reliant India, the glimpses of which can be seen in this festive season. This package brought relief for the cottage industry, small-scale industry, and MSMEs, which are a source of livelihood for millions of people and lay a strong foundation for the resolve for a Self-Reliant India. It was for labourers and farmers of the country who are working day and night in every situation and season. It was also for the middle class of the country, which pays taxes honestly and contributes to the development of the country. The package also included industries, which gave a boost to the economic potential of India.

INDIA: PHARMACY TO THE WORLD

As the entire world came to a standstill during the Lockdown, India provided medicines to around 150 countries playing the role of the pharmacy to the world.

Before the pandemic, India hardly manufactured any PPE kits; now not only does India manufacture millions of PPE kits every month for its own consumption but it also exports these to the other parts of the world. In July, India exported 23 Lakh PPEs to five countries – the US, the UK, the UAE, Senegal and Slovakia. This has helped India to position itself in the global export market

Telecom

India is now second-largest producer of mobile phones

33 Crore

Mobile phones produced in 2019

- India is the second-largest mobile producer in the world producing 33 Crore mobile phones in 2019 in comparison to six Crore in 2014.
- India, today, has 300 mobile phone manufacturing units; in 2014, there were just two
- Companies like Pegatron, Lava, Dixon and Samsung will invest Rs 11.5 Lakh Crore over the next five years generating 12 Lakh new employment opportunities

of PPEs.

India's efforts in the world's fight against the COVID-19 were recognised globally: Seeking the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine from India Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro likened India to Lord Hanuman who had brought *Sanjivini* to save the life of Lakshman during his battle with Lankan king Raavan. US President Donald Trump called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "great" when he sought his

To boost production, industrial corridor and special economic zone were encouraged. Also, single-window clearance was introduced to attract foreign investors. As a result, the FDI grew to \$358.29 billion during 2014-20 from \$231.37 during 2008-14



Defence Sector

India in top 25 countries in defence exports

- According to a report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India is now among the top 25 countries in defence exports. India is exporting bullet-proof jackets to over 100 countries
- Indian defence exports grew from Rs 994 Crore in 2014-15 to Rs 4,682 Crore in 2018-19 and to Rs 10,745 Crore in 2019-20
- India was considered to be a country importing defence products and arms and ammunition. But, in the past five years, Indian arms imports have come down by 32%

help in importing the anti-malarial drug from India to treat Covid-19 patients in the US. India had banned the export of hydroxychloroquine to ensure that domestic requirements were met. However, later India revoked the ban to supply the medicine to several countries.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, INNOVATIONS

In 2019, India received \$51 Billion in foreign investment and was on the ninth position globally. India has risen from 81 to 48 in the Global Innovation Index rankings in the last 5 years. It has also moved up from 142 to 63 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings in the last five years. Results of these improvements are there for everyone to see. India received around \$70 Billion from Institutional Investors between January 2019 and July 2020. This is almost equal to the

In March 2012, the cover page of the Time Magazine said "Modi Means Business". Since he became the Prime Minister, he has shown a new direction to the world

amount India received in four years between 2013 and 2017. The continuing confidence of the global investor community in India is seen by the fact that FDI into India went up by 20 per cent in 2019, that too when global FDI inflows fell by 1 per cent.

India is undisputedly the only country shining in all investment parameters like having political stability, investment and business friendly policies, transparency in governance, skilled talent pool and a large market. India is offering an opportunity for everyone including Institutional Investors, manufacturers, supporters of innovation ecosystems and infrastructure companies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made his presence felt on the global platform even as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In September 2011, a report prepared by the US Congressional Research Service identified Gujarat under him as offering perhaps the best example of effective governance and impressive development in India, and observed that under his watch the state had become a key driver of national economic growth. It went to the extent of calling him a "King of Governance". In March 2012, the cover page of the Time Magazine said "Modi Means Business". Since he became the Prime Minister, he has shown a new direction to the world. The Prime Minister, in his keynote address at the Invest India Conference in Canada on October 8, 2020, said there is an opportunity for everyone in India – institutional investors,



PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT

India is witnessing the festive season. Entire family gathers to celebrate these festivals. While most of us will have enough resources to celebrate, there are several people who cannot afford celebrations. On one hand, there are houses with excess of clothes and sweets, on the other hand, there are houses where people cannot fulfil their even basic needs. However, the real joy of festivals can be experienced if everyone around us is happy and has enough wherewithals to celebrate.

We should share our resources with those who are in need. Try sharing the excess food, clothes and gifts with those who need it more than you do so that they can also have a happy festival. It will not just give happiness to the poor and the needy around us, it also doubles our joy and happiness. In September 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat' urged the people that they should share joy and happiness with everyone. He said people should not only think about 'delivery in' but also about 'delivery out', saying people should share the joy with those in needs. He said: "When we experience the 'Delivery In' of sweetmeats, apparel, gifts and so on, let us think for a moment on the process of 'Delivery Out'. At least in our homes, items that are in excess and thus, not required anymore, could be allocated for 'Delivery Out'."



SHARING HAS BEEN PRIME MINISTER'S APPEAL

'GIVE UP LPG SUBSIDY' CAMPAIGN: In March 2015, he motivated and urged LPG users who could afford to pay the market price for LPG to voluntarily renounce their subsidy. Within a year, more than one crore LPG consumers gave up their cooking gas subsidies.

'GIVE UP SENIOR CITIZEN CONCESSION' CAMPAIGN: In 2016, the railways gave the senior citizens an option to give up either the full concession given to them on tickets or half of it. Up to March 31, 2018 about 40 Lakh senior citizens had voluntarily given up concessions which saved Rs 77 Crore for the Railways. So far, more than 63 Lakh senior citizens given up this subsidy voluntarily.

DOCTORS GIVE FREE ANTE-NATAL CARE ON 9TH OF EVERY MONTH: In 2016, the *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan* was launched. It encouraged doctors to provide voluntary, quality ante-natal care free of cost to pregnant women on the 9th of every month. Until 2018, more than 4,800 private sector doctors had pledged to volunteer under PMSMA. At least 1 Crore pregnant women have availed the free check up facility.

RECORD JUMP IN TAXPAYER'S NUMBER: In 2018-19, the number of income taxpayers recorded sharp growth in the last five years. It jumped 14 per cent as 8.45 Crore people paid tax, up from 7.42 Crore in 2017-18.

manufacturers, supporters of innovation ecosystems and infrastructure companies. "There is an opportunity to invest, to set up units and to run businesses. There is an opportunity to partner with our private sector and with the governments. There is an opportunity to earn as well as learn, not only that as well as to lead, there is an opportunity to grow," the Prime Minister said. His message was very clear -- The India story is strong today and stronger tomorrow. ■



3 commandments to fight COVID-19

SANITIZATION, MASK AND SAFE DISTANCING (SMS)

ARE THE THREE BULWARKS AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC TILL
A VACCINE IS DEVELOPED

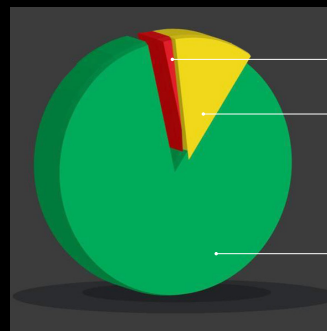
The Government has once again launched an all-out campaign against COVID-19 as the country prepares to welcome the festive season. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a campaign urging people to follow three crucial safety norms to keep COVID-19 at bay. Put succinctly as SMS, these norms are Sanitization, Mask and Safe Distancing.

MAKING PUBLIC AWAKENING A MOVEMENT

The Union Cabinet on October 7, 2020, reviewed the COVID-19 pandemic scenerio and concluded that there was no reason to press the panic button over it. However, people need to become increasingly vigilant especially as winters are around the corner. To make the awareness campaign successful, the Government is putting up posters, banners at all such place where these can catch people's eye. These measures are also necessary as India has the lowest death rate and the highest recovery rate.

Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilai nahi'

ACTIVE CASES HAVE GONE DOWN BELOW 7 LAKH



1.51%

DEATH RATE

8.96%

ACTIVE CASES

89.53%

RECOVERY RATE

- Till October 23, more than 70 Lakh Corona patients have been cured, the highest in the world
- India has done 10,01,13,085 tests so far with 14,42,722 tests on October 22
- Of the all patients succumbing to COVID-19 so far, 70 per cent were men
- Fifty-three per cent of the total deaths are in the 60+ years age group

AYURVEDA COMES TO RESCUE

Ayurveda, a traditional healing system, has helped people a lot in the times of Corona pandemic. The AYUSH Ministry guidelines issued in the fight against Corona recommend:

Drink warm water; take milk added with turmeric; 30-minute Yoga and Pranayam; add turmeric, cumin, coriander and other spices to food; eat hot and freshly-cooked food; take one spoon of Chyavan-

prash in the morning; drink herbal tea or *kadha* once or twice in a day; apply coconut or sesame seed oil in nostrils and take steam after adding mint or carom seeds (Ajwain) in water.



Prime Minister celebrating **Diwali** with soldiers

Ever since he assumed office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always spent Diwali with soldiers to boost their morale. It began in 2014, when the Prime Minister visited Siachen Base Camp unannounced. Addressing Officers and Jawans, he said: "I am here as one of your own... All of you are here far away from your families so that your fellow countrymen can celebrate Diwali with their families with all cheer and joy. You are braving these vast white sheets of snowy mountains. You are making great sacrifices for the sake of your fellow countrymen." The Prime Minister, who entered 20th consecutive year as a democratically elected head of a government, considers people of the nation as his family.



October 23, 2014

Reached Siachen Base Camp situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet.



November 11, 2015

Paid homage to the martyrs of 1965 War at the Dograi War Memorial



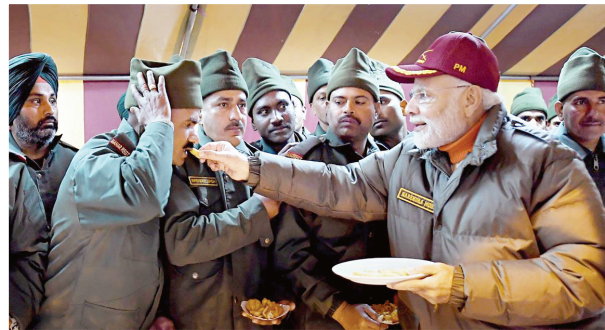
October 30, 2016

Spent Diwali in a strategic area in Himachal Pradesh, adjoining the Chinese border. The Prime Minister interacted with personnel from the ITBP, the Dogra Scouts and the Army at Sumdoh, located on the border of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts some 330 km from Shimla



 **October 19, 2017**

Reached unannounced the Gurez Valley along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to spend time with soldiers



 **November 7, 2018**

Visited Kedarnath, celebrated Diwali with Jawans of Army, and ITBP personnel at Harsil in Uttarakhand



 **October 27, 2019**

At the Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir



THE 'PHILANTHROPIST' PRIME MINISTER

As the head of the Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has only one motto – *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*. But his philanthropic pursuit has taken him to a different league altogether. Donations from his personal savings and proceeds of auctions of gifts have exceeded Rs 103 Crore so far.

As Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Prime Minister donated Rs 21 Lakh from his personal savings for the education of daughters of the Gujarat Government employees. He also raised Rs 89.96 Crore by auctioning gifts that he received as Chief Minister and donated the money to the "Kanya Kelavani Fund" – the scheme for the education of girl-child.

The entire prize money of Rs 1.3 Crore of Seoul Peace Prize in 2018 was donated by the Prime Minister to the 'Namami Gange' project. The Prime Minister also donated Rs 21 Lakh from his personal savings to the corpus fund for the welfare of sanitation workers of Kumbh Mela in 2019 when he visited Prayagraj. The Prime Minister initiated auctioning of gifts that he received till 2015 and the auction held in Surat raised Rs 8.35 Crore. The entire money was once again donated to the 'Namami Gange' project. In another auction of mementos received by the Prime Minister during his tenure as the Prime Minister held in 2019, Rs 3.4 Crore were collected, which were also donated to the 'Namami Gange' project. ■



India aims to become **GLOBAL HUB** for **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Home to the world's third largest startup ecosystem, elite science and technology institutions like IITs, robust and ubiquitous digital infrastructure, and millions of newly-minted STEM graduates every year, India is well-positioned to become a global leader in the development of artificial intelligence. Industry analysts predict that AI could add up to Rs 7 Lakh Crore to India's economy by 2035



"The need of the hour is to ensure more youngsters develop interest in Science.

For that we must get well-versed with science of history and history of science," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi while inaugurating the VAIBHAV Summit

At every step of history, India has led the world in knowledge and learning. In today's age of IT as well, India is making outstanding contributions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 5, 2020, inaugurated RAISE 2020 -- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'. In his address, the Prime Minister said: "We want India to become a global hub for AI. Many Indians are already working in this area. I hope many more do so in the times to come. Our ap-

proach to this is powered by the core principles of teamwork, trust, collaboration, responsibility and inclusivity."

He emphasized, "We must ensure that human intellect should always be a few steps ahead of AI. While we discuss AI, let us also have no doubts that human creativity and human emotions continue to be our greatest strength. They are our unique advantage over machines. Even the smartest of AI cannot solve mankind's problems without blending with our intellect."



VAIBHAV: CELEBRATING SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

The VAIBHAV summit saw participation of more than 3,000 overseas Indian-origin academicians and scientists from 55 countries and about 10,000 Indian scientists. Around 700 overseas panelists from 40 countries and 629 resident panellists from eminent Indian academia and Science and Technology departments deliberated on 18 different verticals with 80 sub-topics in 213 sessions.

Science has remained at the core of progress of human-kind. The temporal journey of humanity so far has been divided into various overlapping time periods such as Stoneage, Bronze age, Iron age, Industrial age, Space age and Digital age each named after the technological advances made therein. These advances have transformed the human life-style. It also increased scientific curiosity.

Working upon the same, the Government has taken numerous measures to cultivate scientific temper and boost research and innovation. Apart from innovation of a number of vaccines to boost health of the masses, the Government has also launched major missions on supercomputing and cyber-physical systems. These have expanded on fundamental research and application in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Sensors and Big Data Analytics. This will provide a great fillip to Indian manufacturing. It will not just help in creating skilled young human resources, but will also help the startup sector in prospering. So far, 25 Technology Innovation Hubs have been launched in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2, 2020, launched the *Vaishwik Bhartiya Vaigyanik* (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020 to celebrate

science and innovation from India and the world. He called it a "True *Sangam* (confluence)" of great minds.

Organised by 200 Indian academic institutes and S&T departments, led by Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijayaraghavan, VAIBHAV aimed to bring out a comprehensive roadmap leveraging the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for

Panellists from various countries – the US, Japan, Australia, UK, France, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Brazil and Switzerland -- working in different domains such as computing and communication, Sonochemistry, high energy physics, manufacturing technologies, management, geo-science, climate changes, microbiology, IT security, Nanomaterials, smart villages, and mathematical sciences, interacted with the Prime Minister during the inaugural session.

addressing the emerging challenges for universal development. The summit reflected on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India and abroad. The goal was to create an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

RAISE 2020 is a first-of-its-kind global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence conceived to drive India's vision and roadmap

for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment through responsible AI. Organized by the Government along with the Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog, the event witnessed robust participation from global industry leaders, key



Key points of Prime Minister's speech at VAIBHAV

- We are meeting on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. I am reminded of something that Gandhiji had said. He wanted fruits of scientific progress to reach rural India, where most of our people live
- Indian diasporas have been successful in many fields. Academics are one shining example. Through VAIBHAV, we present to you a great opportunity to connect and contribute
- Binary code – 1 and 0 – are the base of computing. When one speaks of zero, how can one not speak of India? Zero made much of mathematics, and commerce, accessible to all
- Inspired by our glorious past and powered by our achievements in the present, we are looking ahead with great hope. We are aiming to build a secure and prosperous future for the coming generations
- India got a National Education Policy after over three decades. It gives a much-needed boost to research and innovation
- Our agricultural scientists have toiled to ramp up our production of pulses. Today we import a very small fraction of our pulses. Our food-grain production has hit a record high



Highlights of Prime Minister's speech at RAISE

- We are home to the world's largest unique identity system – Aadhaar. We also have the world's most innovative digital payments system – UPI. This has enabled providing access to digital services, including financial services, like Direct Benefit Transfer to the poor and marginalised
- In the pandemic situation, we saw how India's digital readiness was a great help
- India is rapidly expanding its optical fibre network. The aim is to provide every village with high-speed internet connectivity
- The National Educational Technology Forum is being formed. This will create an e-Education unit to boost the digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity
- Virtual labs are being established to provide hands-on experience to learners
- We have also launched the Atal Innovation Mission to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. We aim to keep pace with emerging technologies

opinion makers, Government representatives and academia. With 45 sessions, the summit was organised between October 5 and 9. It saw participation of around 300 speakers from academia, industry and the Government. It is estimated that AI has a potential to add \$9,570 Crore to India's GDP and boost India's annual growth by 1.3

percentage points by 2035.

FOCUS ON AI FOR INDIA

The Prime Minister has put special focus on AI for India. He said: "We need to make Artificial Intelligence in India and make Artificial intelligence work for India." He suggested a number of ways to use AI for the benefit of the society while

adding: "Why not use AI to seamlessly bridge language barriers. Let us think about simple and effective ways of how AI can empower Divyang sisters and brothers." He also said India's National programme on Artificial Intelligence will be dedicated towards the rightful use of AI in solving societal problems. ■



DESTINATION NORTH EAST

Blessed with pristine natural beauty, a rich tapestry of folk culture and wondrous arts, the North East has everything that it takes to emerge as a major destination on the world tourism map

Source: <http://northeasttourism.gov.in/>

“Once a year, go some place you’ve never been before,” says Dalai Lama. What else could be better than the North Eastern Region of the country which holds in its bosom some of the most beautiful tourist destinations? ‘Destination North East’, a four-day virtual event, was organised to show-case the cultural brilliance of the region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Destination North East-2020 on September 27, 2020. The theme of the festival this year was ‘The Emerging Delightful Destinations’, which speaks of the tourist destinations emerging stronger and attractive when the sector picks up momentum. Destination North East is a calendar event of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to strengthen national integration. The Home Minister said: “North East is the jewel of India; without it, the Indian culture is incomplete.” ■

WHAT THE NORTH EAST REGION HAS TO OFFER

Eco-Tourism: North Eastern Region is ideal for both passive and adventure forms of Eco-Tourism with wildlife sanctuary/parks, scenic beauty, waterfalls, forests etc

Culture: The diverse and rich tribal heritage and culture differentiate North East from the rest of India. Another major differentiator is the rich and varying Arts and Crafts across all eight North Eastern States. Handicrafts are part of everyday life in the region

Heritage: Heritage tourism has picked up considerably with a participatory approach where tourists also get to actively participate rather than just seeing the monuments, old tea estates etc

Pilgrimage: The region has many famous and old religious places, which have been integrated with national tourism circuits

Business: In view of the attractive natural environment and growing trends of outbound business meets, the region also offers ample opportunities for the business tourism segment

TAKEAWAYS FROM UNION MINISTER AMIT SHAH'S SPEECH

- The Prime Minister has visited North East more than 30 times the most by any Prime Minister
- The 14th Finance Commission increased allocation for the North East by 251 per cent to Rs 3,13,375 Crore
- The Government will spend 21 per cent of the budget of the North East Council on backward districts, villages and deprived communities
- Six railway projects worth Rs 15,088 Crore have been completed. Also, Rs 553 crore will be spent on the development of airports and about Rs 10,000 Crore on 19 road projects of 869 km length





Namami Gange

Rejuvenating Ganga



LARGEST INTEGRATED RIVER CONSERVATION MISSION

Under the *Namami Gange* Mission, projects worth over Rs 20,000 Crore are either in progress or have been completed to rejuvenate the Ganga River

“

Now the Namami Gange Abhiyan is being taken to a new level. Apart from the cleanliness of the Ganges, now there is a focus on the development of the economy and environment of the entire area adjacent to the Ganges. A comprehensive plan has been formulated by the government to provide benefits of organic farming and Ayurvedic plant farming to the farmers of all states

”

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi
said on September, 29, 2020**

Ganga River has been the economic, religious and spiritual lifeline of Indians quenching their thirst, watering their fields and it is believed that at the end of their journey in this world providing a smooth passage to the next. However, rapid urbanisation along its banks and the accompanying industrialisation had rendered

its water less than holy. To rejuvenate and restore Ganga River to its past glory and purity, the Government launched Namami Gange Programme in 2014 as the 'Flagship Programme'. The programme comprised effective abatement of pollution, and conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga.

When Prime Minister Naren-

DESPITE PLANNING AND BUDGETS, GANGA

The first major mission to clean up Ganga River was "Ganga Action Plan" launched by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. The project was estimated to cost Rs 462 Crore. Yet Ganga River remained as polluted as before, if not more. In 2008, when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister, Ganga River was declared a 'National River' to achieve objectives of the clean-up operation. Soon

after, the National Ganga River Basin Authority was constituted. All these steps were aimed at cleaning Ganga and to stop the inflow of polluted water in the river with the help of sewage treatment plants. However, there was no change in the condition. In 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, he accorded prime importance to cleaning up the Ganga after which the mission acquired



GANGA AVALOKAN: THE FIRST OF ITS KIND MUSEUM ON GANGA RIVER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 29, 2020, inaugurated the 'Ganga Avalokan Museum' at Haridwar. It is the first of its kind museum. He also released a book "Rowing Down the Ganges". The Prime Minister said that the Museum would be a special attraction for pilgrims and it would further enhance the understanding of the heritage associated with Ganga.

Achievements of Namami Gange Mission

- Sixty-three sewerage management projects under implementation while 12 new sewerage projects launched in Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and WB
- Twenty-eight River-Front Development projects and 33 entry-level projects for construction, modernization and renovation of 182 ghats and 118 crematoria initiated
- Surface cleaning for collection of floating solid waste from the ghats and river and its disposal are afoot at 11 locations
- Launched programmes for Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation, Fish and Fishery Conservation in Ganga River, Ganges River Dolphin -- Conservation Education Programme
- Five Biodiversity centres – at Dehradun, Narora, Allahabad, Varanasi and Barrackpore – have been developed for restoration of identified priority species
- Activities such as events, workshops, seminars, conferences and IEC activities were organized to make a strong pitch for public outreach and community participation in the programme
- Forestry interventions for Ganga River under execution as per the project report prepared by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun for a period of five years (2016–21) at a cost of Rs 2,300 Crore. Work commenced in seven districts of Uttarakhand for medicinal plants
- Against the target of 15, 27,105 units, MoDWS has built 8,53,397 toilets
- Consortium of seven IITs is engaged in preparing Ganga River Basin Plan; 13 IITs have adopted 65 villages to develop them as model villages

dra Modi visited Varanasi, in May 2014, after getting elected to Parliament from there, he said, "It's my destiny to serve *Maa Ganga*".

The programme has posted landmark improvements since then. Taking the programme to the next level, the Prime Minister on September 29, 2020, launched six major projects in Uttarakhand to make River Ganga '*Nirmal*' and

REMAINED POLLUTED

the urgency so typical of his style of functioning.

Spending so far: In the first three years of the scheme (between 2014–15 and 2016–17) Rs 3,673 Crore were spent. In 2019–20, Rs 20,000 Crore were approved. Under *Namami Gange*, so far Rs 22,273 Crore have been approved for 230 projects that included sewerage infrastructure; to check on industrial pollution and development of riverfronts, Ghats and crematoriums.



ABOUT THE MISSION

- *Namami Gange* was launched in June 2014 with a budget outlay of Rs 20,000 Crore
- The scheme commenced on July 10, 2014
- Five states – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal – are included in the scheme
- The Programme is to be completed in 18 years
- The World Bank sanctioned around Rs 2,800 Crore (\$400 million) for *Namami Gange* on July 7, 2020
- Earlier, 15 Crore litre of sewage was being discharged into the river between Kanpur and Varanasi every day

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To ensure effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation of Ganga River by adopting a river basin approach to promote inter-sectoral co-ordination for comprehensive planning and management
- To maintain the minimum ecological flow in Ganga River so as to ensure water quality and environmentally sustainable development

FOUR-PRONGED STRATEGY FOR GANGA'S REJUVENATION

- Started building a network of STPs to prevent the waste water from flowing into Ganga River
- STPs have been designed keeping in mind the needs for the next 10-15 years
- Nearly one hundred big towns/cities and 5,000 villages along Ganga River now free from Open Defecation
- Making an all-out effort to stop pollution in the tributaries of Ganga River

'Aviral'. Ganga River begins its journey from Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand. The Haridwar-Rishikesh zone dumps about 80 per cent wastewater load into River Ganga. The Prime Minister launched several sewage treatment plants (STPs) to check this pollution, including building a 68 MLD STP, upgrading the existing 27 MLD STP at Jagjeetpur in Haridwar and building an 18 MLD STP at Sarai in Haridwar. He also inaugurated a 26 MLD STP at Lakkadghat in Rishikesh.

The Prime Minister termed the *Namami Gange* Programme as the largest integrated river conservation mission which not only aims at the cleanliness of Ganga River but also focuses on its comprehensive upkeep.

This new approach had

made the River Ganga return to life. "Had the old methods been adopted, the situation would have been equally bad today. Old methods lacked public participation and foresight," the Prime Minister said. Sewage treatment capacity of Uttarakhand alone has increased four times in the past six years. More than 130 drains in Uttarakhand were stopped from flowing into the Ganga River. The Prime Minister referred specially to the Chandreshwar Nagar drain, an eyesore to visitors and rafters at *Muni Ki Reti*, in Rishikesh. He applauded the closing of the drain and the construction of a four-storied STP at *Muni Ki Reti*. The Prime Minister said that cleanliness and hygienic ambience experienced by pilgrims at the Prayagraj

Kumbh will be replicated at the Haridwar Kumbh as well.

Not just rejuvenation, but the beautification of hundreds of ghats along Ganga River is also going on simultaneously; the riverfront at Haridwar is being given a modern look. Another integral part of the *Namami Gange* Programme is the development of the economy and environment of the entire Gangetic belt. The Government has made comprehensive plans to promote organic farming and Ayurvedic farming as well. The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of keeping the Ganga River clean as it plays a significant role in sustaining the lives of about 50 per cent of the country's population – from its origin in Uttarakhand till West Bengal. ■



SMART, ABHYAS AND BRAHMOS TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

In the past couple of weeks, India took many steps towards augmenting its defense capabilities with the successful test flights of SMART, ABHYAS and BrahMos

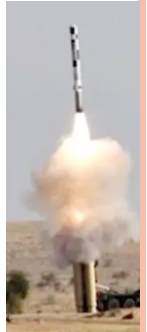


Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) was successfully flight tested on October 5, 2020, at Dr. Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. SMART is a missile-assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range. This is significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities. All the mission objectives including missile flight up to the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM) were achieved perfectly.

SMART is a game-changer technology demonstration in the Anti-Submarine Warfare, said Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary DD R&D & Chairman DRDO. Technologies required for SMART have been developed by a number of DRDO laboratories including DRDL, RCI Hyderabad, ADRDE Agra, NSTL Visakhapatnam. ■

BrahMos: Successful test flight of SMART was preceded by successful test flight of surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos on September 30, 2020.

- BrahMos features indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' sub-systems. It is a major step in enhancing indigenous content
- BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile cruised at a top speed of Mach 2.8 i.e 2.8 times the speed of sound



ABHYAS: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on September 22, 2020, successfully flight-tested ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT). The vehicle can be used as target for

evaluation of various missile systems. ABHYAS has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), DRDO. The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight.



RUDRAM: On October 9, 2020, India successfully tested its first indigenous anti-radiation missile RUDRAM. The new generation missile, meant for the Indian Air Force, was launched from SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft. Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), it has capability of varying range based on launch conditions. Equipped with INS-GPS navigation with Passive Homing Head for the final attack, RUDRAM hit the radiation target with pin-point accuracy. The missile is a potent weapon for IAF for Suppression of Enemy Air Defence effectively from large stand-off ranges.



Empowering Villagers with Property Cards

Ownership of land and house plays a big role in the development of a country. Armed with proper property papers, citizens can confidently approach banks for loans against property; banks are more than willing to extend credit to borrowers whose property papers are in order. This opens up many avenues of self-employment and job creation

Social reformer and politician Nanaji Deshmukh once said that as long as the people in villages remain mired in web of property disputes, neither they nor the society will be able to develop themselves. On Nanaji's birth anniversary on October 11, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme. The Prime Minister said, "He also believed the ownership will become a great medium to end many disputes in our villages."

In the pilot phase around one Lakh property owners can download their Property Cards through the SMS link delivered on their mobile

phones. This would be followed by physical distribution of the Property Cards by the respective state governments.

The Prime Minister said that the SVAMITVA Scheme will strengthen the Panchayati Raj system for which efforts are underway for the past six years. He also said that an unprecedented level of development has taken place in the villages in the past six years which had not been witnessed in the nearly seven decades since the Independence.

The Prime Minister assured that the Scheme will make village management easier for the gram panchayats, on the lines of municipalities and municipal corporations.

About SVAMITVA

- Survey of Villages And Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- It was launched by the Prime Minister on the National Panchayati Raj Day – April 24, 2020 – with a projected outlay of Rs 79.65 Crore for the pilot phase (2020–21)
- The Scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to household owners in rural areas, and issue Property Cards
- The Scheme is being implemented across the country in a phased manner. Over a period of four years (2020–24) it would eventually cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the country.
- About 1 Lakh villages in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, and few border villages of Punjab and Rajasthan, along with establishment of Continuous Operating System (CORS) stations' network across Punjab and Rajasthan, are being covered in the Pilot phase (2020–21)
- All these six states have signed MoU with Survey of India for drone survey of rural areas and implementation of the scheme
- These states have finalised the digital property card format, and the villages to be covered for drone-based survey

BENEFITS OF SVAMITVA

- Helps in a streamlined planning and revenue collection
- Provides clarity over property rights in rural areas
- Will make it easy for the property owners to seek and get loans from financial institutions
- Disputes related to property would also be settled through the title deeds allotted through this scheme
- Clear the way to buy and sell property without any dispute for the villagers

PILOT PHASE COVERS 763 VILLAGES

- The one Lakh beneficiaries, who have so far received the Property Cards under the scheme, are spread over 763 villages across six states. Of these, 346 are in Uttar Pradesh, 221 in Haryana, 100 in Maharashtra, 44 in Madhya Pradesh, 50 in Uttarakhand and 2 in Karnataka.
- Beneficiaries from all these states except Maharashtra will receive the physical copies of the Property Cards within one day. Maharashtra has a system of recovering a nominal cost of Property Card, so it will take a month's time.

NOMENCLATURE VARIES ACROSS COUNTRY

- These Property Cards are called 'Title deed' in Haryana, 'Rural Property Ownership Records (RPOR)' in Karnataka, 'Adhikar Abhilekh' in Madhya Pradesh, 'Sannad' in Maharashtra, 'Svamitva Abhilekh' in Uttarakhand, and 'Gharauni' in Uttar Pradesh

COMMUNITY ASSETS ALSO COVERED

- Gram Panchayat and community assets like village roads, ponds, canals, open spaces, school, Anganwadi, health sub-centres, etc. would also be surveyed under the scheme

He said that the country has taken another major step in the direction of *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*. "The SVAMITVA scheme is going to be of great help in making our brothers and sisters from the villages self-reliant... I believe that the SVAMITVA scheme will also become a major medium of ending

various disputes in our villages," he said.

For creating the correct land records of every village, drones are being employed in survey and mapping. "With the accurate land record, all the work related to the development of the village will be done very easily," the Prime Minister said. ■



INNOVATIONS AND INITIATIVES MAKE GLOBAL MARK

Diyas made from cow dung, and a thriving hydroponics startup show the people's commitment to the vision of Self-Reliant India

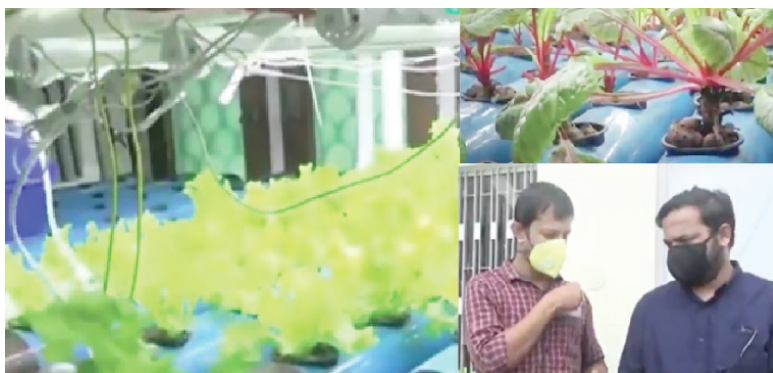
DIYAS MADE FROM COW DUNG

In the Sanatan tradition, cow dung holds a special position. For Diwali celebrations, cow dung is used to sanctify the prayer room where idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh are installed for worship during the festivities. And now are available diyas made from cow



dung. This initiative has been taken by the management of much-revered Mata Bala Sundari Temple situated in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The Temple authorities in association with the local administration and animal husbandry department are making diyas with dung generated in the Temple's gaushala. This initiative has not only ensured proper utilisation of cow dung but also created a source of income for local women in a major step towards realising the dream of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. ■

AGRICULTURE STARTUP USING HYDROPONICS




Hydroponics is a technology that enables one to grow plants without soil by using mineral nutrient solutions in an aqueous solvent. Two friends from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh – Gaurav Rastogi and Deepankar Gupta – have launched a startup 'Beyond Organic'. They are growing over 12 vegetables including Lettuces, Parsley, Purple Basil, and American Corns on especially erected stands under the LED lights and 21 degree temperature maintained by air conditioner. They are growing immunity-booster green leafy vegetables. Gaurav says, "We are using coconut coir in place of soil, and germinate non-GOM seeds in a tray which takes 10-12 days. After that they are transplanted into the system." Gaurav quit his job of a financial analyst in Mumbai and Deepankar was engaged with a chartered accountant firm. They decided to go for indoor farming and used their empty house for hydroponics. Now they have plans to grow strawberry and cucumber. The technology saves 80 per cent water over the traditional method. ■



TREM Stage-IV) from Oct this year to 1st Oct next year. Acting upon the request from Ministry of Agriculture, Tractor Manufacturers & Agriculture Associations,

This will strengthen rail network in the region & also connect it directly with New Delhi.

#AtmanirbharBharat, this would ensure more coal availability and less imports.



Coal India's e-auction allocation jumps

65 pc in Apr-Sept - ET EnergyWorld

The statement added that the launch will enable around one lakh property holders to download their Property Cards through the SMS link delivered on their mobile phones. This would be followed by

New Delhi: Food and consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan, one of India's most hated Dalit politicians with a long innings in public life, died Tuesday at an elite hospital where he had undergone a heart surgery recently. Paswan had experienced serious health problems for some time.

Narendra Modi launches the physical distribution of property cards under the SWAMIYA Scheme on Sunday.

100k get house owners' scheme

for new scheme

virtually

The campaign, launched via a series of tweets with the hashtag #UniteEIPforCorona, has garnered major support on social media, including endorsements from Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor, who said in an interview, "I am distancing and maintaining hand hygiene". The government also plans to implement a coordinated plan along with state governments and Union Territories.

Pull report on www.zeel.in

...enduring ap-
...achievement
...service level.
...at a time
...ing discontent,
...lay the founda-
...challenge to
...mination at the
...of his life.

4 missile tests, 1 deployed in

Shishir Gupta
shishir@indianexpress.com

NEW DELHI: The government recently approved the induction and deployment of the 770th Airborne Brigade to the border range surface-to-surface missile capable Shaurya strategic missile

Russia was keen on hosting the leaders of the five Brics countries but several members expressed apprehensions about the holding of an actual summit in view of the risk of infections.

Following the referendum, the government announced a series of measures related to labour and farm sector as other highlights of the term. "We have achieved all this in the face of unprecedented challenges and this is just the beginning. Just wait to see the 'revolution' on the horizon," he said.

He also announced that the government would launch a "hyperballistic missile" in the 5,000 km range K-5 submarine-launched ballistic missile, people familiar with the matter said. They added that the 800-km range sub-sonic (below the speed of sound) missile would be launched from the Hyderabad-based Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), the pre-cursor to building missiles that can travel at a minimum of five times the speed of sound (September 7).

Analysts said that coming time when India is engaged

Stay Protected from Corona



Wear your mask properly



**Frequently wash
your hands with soap**



Maintain safe distance



भारत सरकार
Government of India



JAN ANDOLAN

“Jab tak Dawai nahi, tab tak Dhillai nahi”

No Carelessness until there is a Cure