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NEW INDIA

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SAMACHAR



Amrit Yatra of Modern India...

INDIA MOVING TOWARDS AATMANIRBHAR ECONOMY

The general budget has raised expectations of the new India moving strongly towards the resolution of the golden year of independence



“ THE VIBRANCY OF INDIAN CULTURE HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ”

The collective spirit of the country is being manifested in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. More than one crore children have written to Prime Minister through their 'Mann Ki Baat' postcards. These postcards show how broad and wide is the vision of our new generation for the future of the country. These letters paint a picture of golden India at the time of the hundredth anniversary of independence. In his first 'Mann Ki Baat' program of 2022, Prime Minister, along with these letters, covered various topics including education, Republic Day parade, Padma awards, Indian culture leaving its indelible impact in the world, and attraction for India's spiritual strength. An excerpt:

- **National War Memorial:** In the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the country is re-establishing its national symbols through these efforts. I would urge all of you to certainly visit the 'National War Memorial' whenever you get an opportunity. Here you will feel a different energy and inspiration. A hologram statue of Netaji has been installed at India Gate. The whole country welcomed this move with great joy.
- **Children becoming the inspiration of the nation:** In the midst of these events of Amrit Mahotsav, many important national awards were also given away in the country. One of them is the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. We all must highlight about these children in our homes. Our children will also get inspiration from this and the enthusiasm to bring glory to the country will be awakened in them.
- **Honouring Unsung Heroes:** There are many unsung heroes in the country, who have been honored with Padma awards. You all must read their inspiring stories. Padma awards have been given to those unsung heroes of our country who have done extraordinary work under ordinary circumstances.
 - Basanti Devi from Uttarakhand fought to save the river and made an extraordinary contribution to the environment.
 - 77-year-old Lorembam Beino Devi of Manipur has been conserving the Liba textile art of Manipur for decades.
 - Arjun Singh of Madhya Pradesh has made a remarkable contribution to get global recognition for the art of Baiga tribal dance.
 - Tunnel Man, Amai Mahalinga Naik has done many commendable innovations in agriculture.
- **India has been the sacred land of knowledge:** India has been the sacred land of education and knowledge. The universities established by Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore are giving a new direction to the country and the young generation.
- **Indian culture makes a global imprint:** The diverse colours and spiritual strength of Indian culture have always attracted people from all over the world. Our culture is a priceless heritage not only for us but for the whole world. People all over the world want to know it, understand it, and live it.
- **AatmaNirbhar Bharat:** We should not forget the 'Swachhta Abhiyan'; we should accelerate the campaign against single-use plastic; "Vocal for Local" mantra is our responsibility, we have to work wholeheartedly for the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat campaign.
- **Stadium in Ladakh:** Ladakh will soon be blessed with an impressive Open Synthetic Track and AstroTurf Football Stadium. This stadium is being built at a height of more than 10,000 feet and its construction is going to be completed soon. This will be the largest open stadium in Ladakh where 30,000 spectators can sit together.
- **War against Covid:** India is fighting with great success with the new wave of the corona, it is also a matter of pride that till now about four and a half crore children have been administered the dose of Corona Vaccine. This means that about 60% of youth in the age group of 15 to 18 years have got their vaccines within three to four weeks. Within 20 days, one crore people have taken the precaution dose as well.



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AMRIT KAAL GENERAL BUDGET



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COLLECTIVE ACTION**



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**FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO
SACRIFICED THEIR
EVERYTHING
FOR THE NATION**



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FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Sadar Namaskar,

चल पड़े जिधर दो डग, मग में, चल पड़े कोटि पग उसी ओर
गड़ गई जिधर भी एक दृष्टि, गड़ गए कोटि दृग उसी ओर

In some ways, our collective destiny is intertwined with India's. Public participation cannot be limited to voting; it can become a powerful medium for realising all of the nation's hopes and dreams. Despite facing numerous challenges during the difficult period of the COVID pandemic, the nation pledged "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat" with this thought. The country demonstrated great fortitude. When we are steadfast in our determination to achieve the set goal with will power and strength, it is India's collective strength that pulls the country out of trouble. This is also one of the most remarkable lessons from our struggle for independence. In this regard, the poem by Sohan Lal Dwivedi mentioned above, emphasises the role of collective strength and the towering personality of the revered Bapu in our quest for independence.

A strong India is working to carry out the resolution made for the next 25 years. Our journey's guiding principle is to break free from imperial mentalities and practises. The general budget was once presented at four o'clock in the evening, as was customary during the colonial era. However, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government began presenting it at 11 a.m. The budget is now presented on February 1 rather than February 28 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Its primary objective was to avoid delays in implementing budget promises and provisions. This step represents the final burying of the ghost of imperial times. In recent years, the country has achieved the objectives that it set for itself. India is currently preparing a road map for the country's 100th anniversary of independence. As a result, the second Union Budget of the new decade of the 21st century will serve as a catalyst in solidifying the foundation of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. This time, our cover story examines the budget in depth, as well as its implications for the Amrit Yatra of the economy.

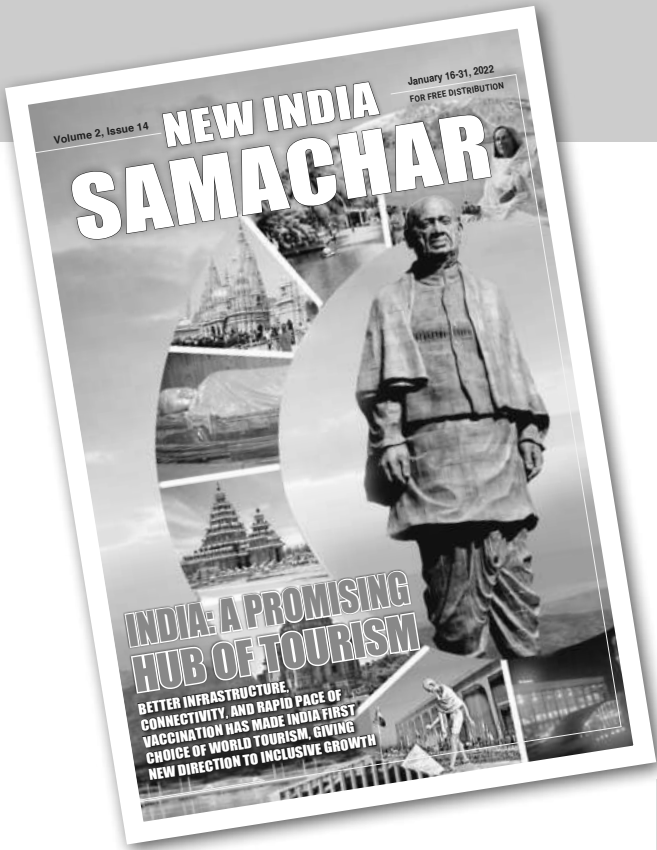
This edition includes stories about unsung heroes who received Padma Awards and children who received the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, the story of Chandra Shekhar Azad, Prime Minister's address at various global forums, startups, and new dimensions of development in Shri Somnath Temple are also highlights of this issue. Biographies of notable freedom fighters can be read in the Amrit Mahotsav section. Also included in this issue is a story about how India is keeping up the rapid pace of vaccination.

Send your suggestions on our E-mail: response-nis@pib.gov.in



(Jaideep Bhatnagar)

MAIL BOX



New India Samachar is a very informative magazine. I eagerly wait for it. It is also beneficial for various competitive exams. This time the article on the tourism industry was very attractive. Subhas Chandra Bose's biography inspired me a lot to do something for the country and society.



Pawan Kumar Roshan
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The January issue of New India Samachar was very good. This edition was very informative for a person like me who travels a lot. This edition is very beneficial for all the tourists and many thanks to all of you for this.

- Ram Nikumbh
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I read the fortnightly magazine New India Samachar online. Reading this regularly helped me in cracking the Rajasthan Administrative Services Preliminary Examination 2021. It is also useful in preparation of Rajasthan Administrative Services Main Examination. Thanks to the whole team for this.

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New India Samachar Magazine provides useful information on special achievements of the Government of India, schemes run by it which is very useful for various competitive examination. I express my special gratitude to the editor.

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After 20 years of active journalism, I am working as Course Coordinator (on contract) at Allahabad University's Center of Media Studies. I am regularly getting New India Samachar on my e-mail. The magazine is very useful.

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INDIA'S FOREST AREA INCREASED BY 2261 SQ. KMS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced his goal of achieving Net Zero by 2070 at the COP-26 meeting in Glasgow, the entire world hailed India. The declaration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the end of a seven-year endeavour to conserve the environment, which was undertaken with future generations in mind. The Forest Survey Report 2021 is just an example of this effort, according to which the forest and tree area of the country has increased by about 2261 km during the last two years. Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav released the biennial India State of Forest Report (ISFR), which examines the state of forests across the nation. Sharing the findings, Mr. Yadav said the total forest and tree cover

of the country is 80.9 million hectares, which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country. According to the Forest Survey Report-2021, there is an increase of 1,540 square kilometres of forest cover and 721 square km of tree cover compared to the 2019 report. The states with the highest increase in the forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km) followed by Telangana (632 square km) and Odisha (537 square km). Area-wise, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in India. Remote sensing technology and satellite data were used for the survey of forests. Compared to 2019, there is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country. The country has a total of 7,204 million tonnes of carbon stock in the forests.

"KEVADIYA STATION" IN GUJARAT RENAMED AS EKTA NAGAR RAILWAY STATION

Kevadiya, which is known for having the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Statue of Unity, has a new identity, as the Kevadiya railway station has been renamed as Ekta Nagar railway station. Ekta Nagar railway station's station code will be EKNR, and its numerical code will be 08224620. Kevadiya Colony is the name of the city where the Statue of Unity is placed.



Separate buildings, malls, nurseries, and gardens, all beginning with the letter Ekta, have been created in the region around the Statue of Unity. This is due to the fact that

Sardar Patel's birthday is also known as Ekta (unity) Diwas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this railway station in January last year and launched direct train services from 8 cities across the country from here.

INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK CUSTOMER BASE CROSSES 5 CRORE MARK IN 3 YEARS

Jandhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) has not only cleared the door for digital financial literacy in India, but it has also fulfilled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to development through financial inclusion. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) is a remarkable example of this, having reached the milestone of 50 million customers in just over



three years. It was established in September 2018 with the goal of bringing banking to people's doorsteps. With the support of roughly 1.47 lakh doorstep banking service providers, the IPPB has opened 5 crore bank

accounts in digital mode in 1.36 lakh post offices, of which, 1.20 lakh post offices are located in rural areas. Males make up 52% of account holders, while females make up 48%. Behind this success is the strength of 2 lakh 80 thousand employees who have ensured last-mile access to banking services by running the world's largest digital financial literacy program.

INDIA GETS ITS FIRST-EVER EXPORT ORDER FOR BRAHMOS MISSILES



India, once regarded as the world's largest buyer of weaponry, is rapidly positioning itself as an exporter. India has risen to become one of the top 25 arms exporters in the world as a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on indigenous defence production under the 'Make in India' initiative. In a major boost to India's defence export plans, India got its first-ever export order for BrahMos missiles last month when the Philippines' Defence Ministry signed a USD 374 million contract with the BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL) to supply the Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System. The BAPL, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

BIG SAFETY MOVE: SIX AIRBAGS TO BE MUST IN ALL CARS



In order to enhance the safety of the occupants in motor vehicles carrying up to eight passengers, the government has taken a big initiative making it mandatory for the car-makers to provide a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles. It will come into effect from October this year. Draft notification for this has been issued on January 14. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that in order to enhance the safety of occupants of the motor vehicle against lateral impact, it has been decided to enhance safety features by amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989. The airbags will be installed, to minimize the impact of frontal and lateral collisions to the occupants seated in both front and rear compartments. It has been decided that four additional airbags be mandated in the M1 vehicle category—two side/side torso airbags and two side curtain/tube airbags covering all outboard passengers. 'M1' defines "a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat". The government-mandated driver airbags from July 2019 and front co-passenger airbags from the beginning of January this year.

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN 9 SELECT SECTORS RISES TO 3.10 CRORE IN JULY-SEP 2021

Total employment generated by nine select sectors stood at 3.10 crore in the July-September 2021 quarter, which is 2 lakhs more than that of the April-June period. Of these, the manufacturing sector's participation is the highest at 39 percent. It was revealed in the second round of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry.

The overall percentage of female workers stood at 32.1 percent, higher than 29.3 percent reported during the first round of QES.

The nine sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO, and Financial Services.

The rise shows improvement in economic activities after the lifting of lockdown restrictions by states to curb the spread of the deadly virus after the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country in April 2021. ■

AMRIT YATRA OF UNION BUDGET-2

MOVING TOWARDS A SELF-RELIANT ECONOMY



The second general budget of the new decade of the 21st century is the second leg of the Indian economy's Amrit Yatra. This budget builds on the foundation laid over the last seven years with a holistic approach in which policy reforms will accelerate infrastructure, job creation, and manufacturing. Simultaneously, better use of science and technology will add new dimensions to the agricultural economy, ease of doing business, and common people's standard of living. So that, over the next 25 years, the flow remains on the path of development, with the efforts of everyone



“

A huge, democratic country like India, with its enormous diversity, is attracting the attention of the world. Even as the expectations are higher the country will have to move forward at a fast pace. Bring change, bring strength, this is the time for new opportunities, for the accomplishment of new resolutions. It is very important that India becomes AatmaNirbhar and a modern India should be built on the foundation of that AatmaNirbhar India.

“

This budget has ushered in new confidence in development in the midst of the biggest calamity in 100 years. Along with strengthening the economy, this budget will create many new opportunities for the common man. This budget is full of new possibilities for infrastructure, investment, growth, and jobs. A new sector has opened up and that is Green Jobs. This budget addresses the immediate needs and also ensures the bright future of the youth of the country.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

It is often said that a government which has the nation first in its thinking and is confident that it is going to last, then it will strengthen the foundation of the nation with visionary thinking – keeping in mind the immediate needs of the common citizens. It also shows courage to take tough decisions and also gets involved in fulfilling them. This thinking is the foundation for the development of any nation and its strong foundation of economy, which gives an opportunity to any government to take tough policy decisions. The glimpse of which is continuously visible in the general budget of New India. In the last seven years, India has written a new story of development, by dividing the development into pieces, not by thinking from here to there, but with all the sections, regions, villages, cities of the left out society, so that the development of the nation is all round, all-touching and inclusive.

This concept of all-round development has been expanded in the second general budget of the Covid period. Whether it is to give power to the speed of roads, health, trains, infrastructure, or pure drinking water, solar energy, providing pucca houses to all the poor, or digital education, education-economy with digital currency to new heights, it creates opportunities. Or empowerment of farmers, welfare of workers, women-led development, irrigating the infinite possibilities of youth, or making India self-reliant in the defence sector, giving emphasis to micro-small-medium industries, promoting 60 lakh new jobs in the production sector. For the second year in a row, this general budget will increase the "ease of doing" business and the "ease of living" by making better use of science and technology while maintaining social justice, equality, and equal opportunity. This will re-establish India as a Sone ki Chidiya (golden bird) during the Amrit Kaal. There is a general budget that is full of hope for development with the goal of creating. This is a continuation of the budget presented last year aimed at making India self-sufficient, with the goal of realising the dream of a Golden India (Sone ki Chidiya) over the next 25 years by meeting the then-requirements.

7-8 years ago India's GDP was 1 lakh 10 thousand crore rupees, now the country's economy is 2 lakh 30 thousand crores





The government will give a one-time extension to rectify the mistakes and omissions in the ITR filed, updated returns can be filed within two years

To ensure timely delivery of plans and announcements till the last mile, the government has made this thinking a mantra to get the general budget on the ground. There was a time when people used to forget after preparing and presenting the budget in the country. This is the first time in the history of the country when the presentation of the annual general budget is not just a formality of distributing salaries and giving benefits to the people of a few schemes, but a new beginning to give shape to the country's needs and capabilities post-COVID. In such a situation, when presented out of the box for the second consecutive year under the shadow of Covid, which has emerged as a vision document till the centennial year of India's independence (2047), in which every common citizen of the country is a participant, not the government.

The General Budget for 2022-23 has been increased to Rs 39.45 lakh crore, demonstrating that India's economy is growing rapidly even during the COVID period. In her budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also stated that the country's economic growth rate is expected to be 9.2 percent, the highest among the world's major economies. With these encouraging signs in mind, four priorities have been set in this budget for the next 25 years: PM Gati Shakti, Integrated Development, Production Promotion and Investment, Energy

Related Transformation, and Financial Support to Investment. Instead of populist announcements, the roadmap for the nation's strong development has been retained in the general budget. Despite Covid's losses, the tax structure has remained unchanged. Not only have farmers and business owners received direct benefits from the budget, but 80 lakh PM housing units for the poor are set to connect 3.8 crore families with the Nal Jal Yojana this year. PM-DevINE is a new initiative for social development in the Northeast. The "Vibrant Village Program" has set a target for development in border areas. Not only that, but infrastructure development to bring post offices under the purview of digital banking has increased infrastructure spending to Rs. 7.5 lakh crore. This budget proposes building 25 thousand kilometres of new highways, sourcing 68 percent of the defence budget from Indian manufacturers, and constructing 400 Vande Bharat trains to modernise and facilitate travel. Unique initiatives like Digital University to promote education-skills, the New Corridor of Natural Agriculture, and five more projects to be taken forward, like the Ken-Betwa River Link Project and the Implementation of the National Digital Health Ecosystem by expanding health services, Ease of Doing Business 2.0, advancing 5G, PLI, and expanding startups are among the priorities of this budget. With the launch of Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi, and Poshan 2.0, the emphasis has been placed on upgrading 2 lakh anganwadis, particularly for women.

AMRIT SANKALP: THE NEED OF THE DAY

This curiosity can be in anyone's mind. Why did the country require such a resolution after 75 years of independence? In fact, every nation comes to a

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION
AS PER THE DEPARTMENT**

Defence Ministry

5,25,166.15

**Consumer Affairs, Food, and
Public Distribution Ministry**

2,17,684.46

Road Transport & Highways Ministry

1,99,107.71

Ministry of Home Affairs

1,85,776.55

Ministry of Railways

1,40,367.13

Ministry of Rural Development

1,38,203.63

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1,32,513.62

All Figures in Crore Rupees

**Udyam, e-Shram, NCS and
ASEEM will be interlinked**

point in its history when it must redefine itself. The greatest disaster in the last century altered people's perceptions of the world, altered the way they worked and thought, and gave birth to new innovations. This provided world's youngest country India with the

same opportunity as the elixir of freedom, when India once again took up the task of becoming a nation of golden resolutions. When the Covid disaster struck the world, India was no exception. However, in saving the country from the Covid epidemic, the way the government prepared and made the harshest decisions not only prioritised saving lives with the mantra of Jaan Bhi Jahan Bhi, but also lifted the country's economy from a state of decline to a state of prosperity. Even in the midst of the epidemic, the economy took a big leap, and the GDP that had gone negative made a comeback, registering a record jump in the "V-shape."

In reality, the Corona era has made the country and the rest of the world believe that only a country that thinks outside the box and puts its ideas into action can today lead the world. This is why, during the Corona period, India disproved all the fears and, as a result of its success, turned the self-reliance campaign into a movement. The government played the role of guide and accomplice in the change in India's global image during the Corona period, whether it was the construction of specialised hospitals in the war against Corona or the initiative to lead India in the manufacture of ventilators, N-95 masks, PPE kits, and finally the vaccine. As a result, private-sector entrepreneurs gained confidence and increased their investments.

In the last few years, India has laid such a cornerstone of all-round development, due to which the world has started looking with hope towards this democratic country. Initiatives like multimodal infrastructure, favourable opportunities for investment, nutritious food for every citizen from the POSHAN Mission and globalisation of production through schemes like PLI have taken steps towards making India self-reliant. As a result of its strong leadership, India set a grand goal of becoming a group of developed nations in the next 25 years. Every year, the central government's general budget moves forward, drawing a long-term blueprint.

**FROM DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE
ULTIMATE GOAL**

The general budget is now completely paperless, and digital technology has become the basis for carrying out the government's resolutions. The significance of technology in the 21st century can also be gauged by the fact that, for the first time in the country, the last person in line of society became



This time in the budget, one thing which is the most special, and the most different is - Public Investment. How big is this step and how big its impact will be can be estimated from the fact that in the year 2013-14, Public Investment was only Rs1 lakh 87 thousand crores. This is 7 lakh 50 thousand crore rupees in this budget:

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



a direct beneficiary of government schemes, paving the way for the nation's welfare. Administrative reforms, electricity, rail reforms, curbing corruption, tax transparency, GST, one nation, one tax, skill India, start-up India, digital India, farmers-women have all benefited from science and technology. Steps in the right direction are being taken, from changes in the education sector to defence modernization, and decades of pending projects are being completed, which previously seemed impossible.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is believed to come from a school of thought that believes in problem solving. No other leader has embraced digital technology in the way he has. There is a lot of evidence of how he has used it in politics and policy. Its hallmark has emerged, from the election campaign to the adoption of Aadhaar by over a billion

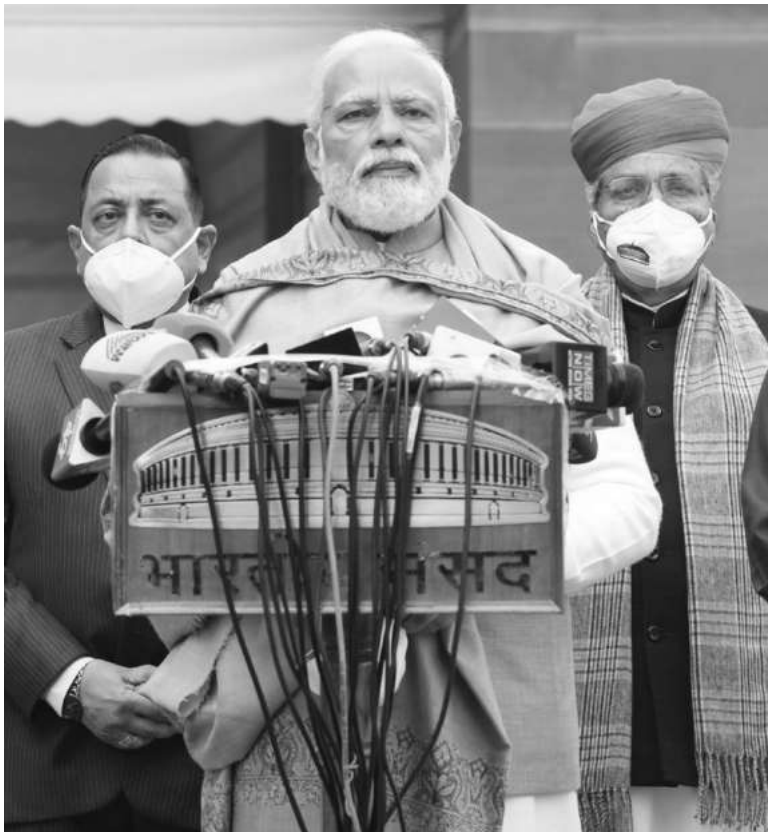
people. Even insisting on demonetisation resulted in a significant increase in digital transactions across the country. India is now one of the few countries that is developing technology policies with the future in mind. Today, India is embracing novel approaches to fully harness the power of technology.

With the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, as well as the concept of using technology for mass development, is providing a new direction for inclusive growth and progress. In the decades since, India has opened its market, become a nuclear power, attained high levels of development, and lifted millions out of poverty. Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used to alleviate poverty, improve farmer livelihoods, and make life easier for the differently abled. Artificial intelligence can be created in the coming years for a variety of applications ranging from cross-border infiltration and crime control to government services and natural resource management. It can also aid in the reduction of property and other disputes, increased transparency, and the fight against corruption in India. With the rate at which technology is advancing, there may soon be a pool of millions of certified and accredited skilled workers and service providers.

ACCOUNTABLE SYSTEM WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation cannot be limited to voting; it can become a powerful medium for realising all of the nation's hopes and dreams. The government's thinking has improved India's image in the world. The most important factor paving the way for a new India is public participation, and the government's strong, decisive leadership is also taking quick and decisive decisions with accountability. The Prime Minister's vision for budget reforms is very clear in this regard: "We did the budget a month

Expanding the Aspirational District Campaign, the Aspirational Block Program will be run i.e. it is a scientific way to take the benefits of development to the last mile.



ago. Doing it a month ahead of time requires me to run the country's economic system a month ahead of time. The historic budget that came after the disaster period is emerging as a vision document to strengthen the foundation of "New India" and make India an economic superpower as a result of the government's preparations.

In India, half the population is under the age of 25. This is a country that is constantly growing and full of youthful spirit and ideas. However, the general budget, which is the only tool available to the central government to propel the country's economy forward, is limited to income-expenditure activity. However, Prime Minister Modi has instilled new zeal in this, ensuring that the youth participates.

To make the entire country a partner in development, the government has given aspirational names to 115 backward districts, stating that

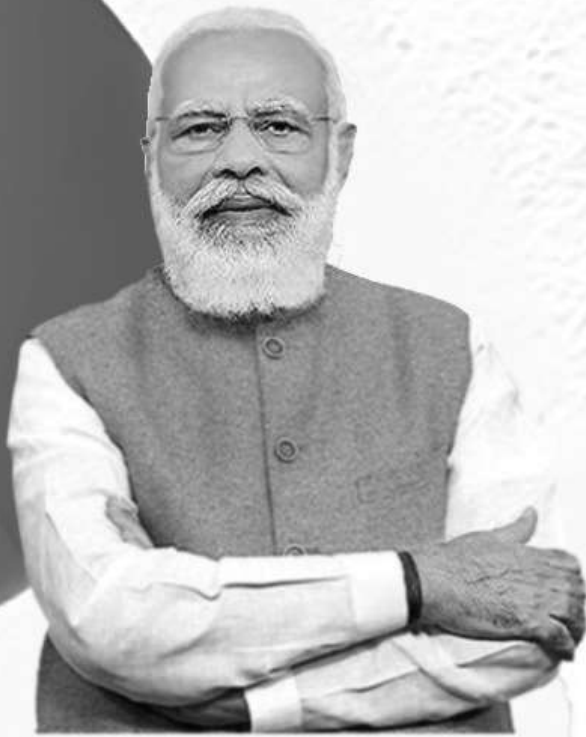
it is not only about satisfying the economic development needs of Delhi and Mumbai. Rather, it is to make everyone a participant in the formal economy by providing access to facilities to the last person, because people of working age are not voluntarily poor. They are poor because they lack access to many facilities and opportunities. Citizens residing anywhere in India, whether men or women, should all have access to basic individual and collective amenities. This makes life easier. The government's work in this direction, the general budget of the COVID period, is based on the same long-term thinking.

Previously, the focus of taxpayers and industry was solely on corporate tax, custom duty, changes in tax structure, and so on. However, the government's stance on this issue has shifted. That is, if the industry works hard and tries to dominate the global market with high-quality products, the government will encourage it, which is why the revolutionary PLI, or Production Linked Incentive, initiative has been expanded. The central government set aside Rs 1.97 lakh crore for this purpose in 14 sectors, and 60 lakh new jobs are expected to be created as a result.

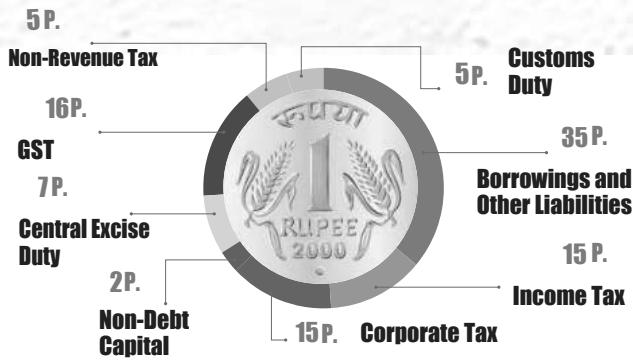
PLI led to a paradigm shift in industry thinking. Even during the Corona period, Indian entrepreneurs -- particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) -- recognized the opportunity and were encouraged by the government. The manufacturing sector was in decline during the Corona period, and there was a need for assistance, indicating a shift in perspective. In the aftermath of the disaster, government policies changed the picture.

The "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" and "Vocal for Local" campaigns have changed the way ordinary citizens think about life. Today, the country looks forward to not only the local products, but also to adopting them with trust. The thinking of "Maximum Governance and Minimum Government" is the reason for this shift in the general public's attitude towards the country.

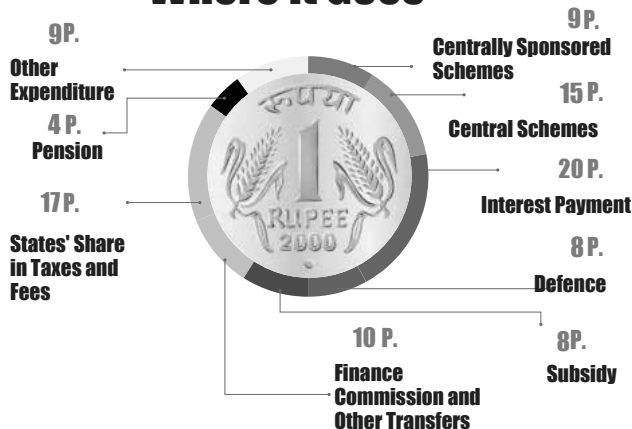
Despite the challenges posed by COVID, India is performing better than all world agencies' estimates because the country's and its top leadership has a far-sighted approach, synchronizing life and the economy through a vision. Looking forward to Amrit Kaal's journey for the next 25 years with determination.



Where the rupee comes from



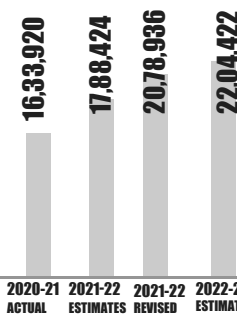
Where it Goes



Budget at a glance

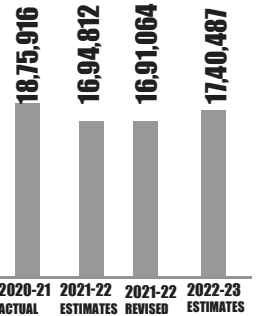
REVENUE RECEIPTS

Figures in Crores Rupee



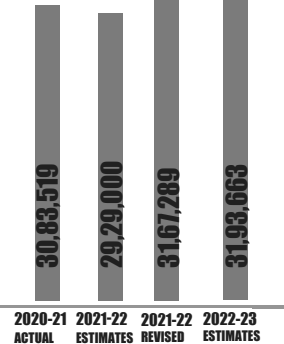
CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Figures in Crores Rupee



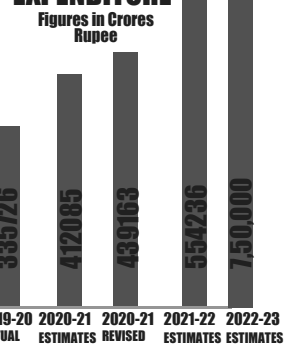
REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Figures in Crores Rupee



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Figures in Crores Rupee



THE DIGITAL RUPEE WILL NOW BE USED

- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the introduction of the digital rupee in the Union Budget 2022-23.
- This digital rupee will be issued by the Reserve Bank of India in 2022-23.
- The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) will give the digital economy a significant boost.
- According to the Finance Minister, digital currency will enable a more efficient and cost-effective currency management system. Block chains and other technologies will be used in digital currency.

SPORTS BUDGET HIKED

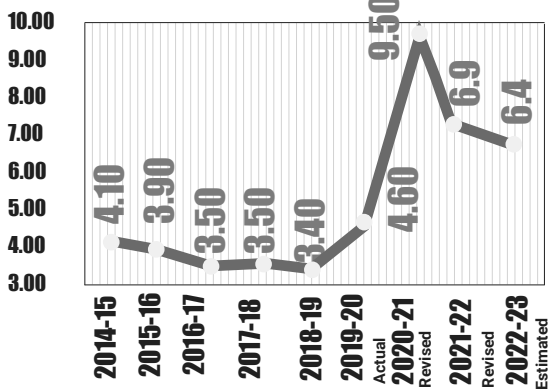
- This time, the sports budget has been increased by Rs 300 crore. The sports budget for the years 2021-2022 was Rs 2757.02 crore, but it has been increased to Rs 3062.60 crore for the years 2022-23.
- This time, the sports budget has been increased by Rs 305.58 crore.
- Khelo India's budget has also been increased as a result of this. Its budget was Rs 879 crore last year, but it has been increased to Rs 974 crore this year.

KEN BETWA LINK TO FULFILL DREAM OF CONNECTING RIVERS

- The Ken-Betwa connectivity project will be implemented at a cost of Rs 44,605 crore. It intends to provide irrigation services for 9.08 lakh hectares of farmland, drinking water for 62 lakh people, 103 MW of hydroelectric power, and 27 MW of solar power.
- The Revised Budget Estimates for 2021-22 allocate Rs 4,300 crore to this project, and Rs 1,400 crore in 2022-23.
- In addition, the draft DPRs of five river links namely Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi-Narmada, Godavari-Krishna, Krishna-Pennar and Pennar-Cauvery have been finalised.

FISCAL DEFICIT

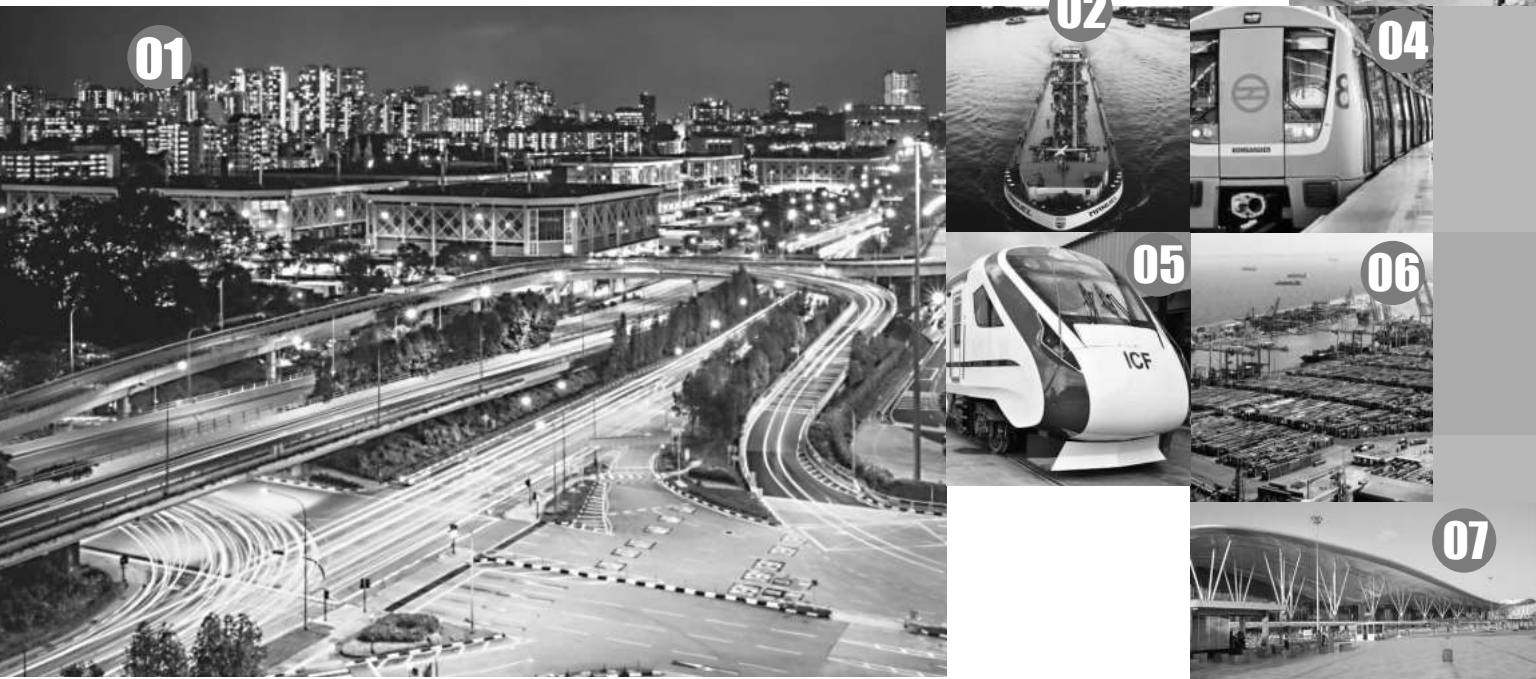
Percentage deficit trend of GDP



GOAL OF OVERALL WELFARE IN THE AMRIT KAAL

In the general budget, the government reflects its commitment to building a strong India on the completion of 100 years of independence, even while dealing with one of the worst disasters of the century. It emphasises investment, new facilities for village poor farmers, women, youth, and students, technology-based development, and digital and technological development. Although this is not a populist announcement, it does promise a new India with forward-thinking policies.

PM GATI SHAKTI: 7 ENGINES OF PROGRESS



If India resolved to walk the path of self-reliance in last year's budget, then a glimpse of how India will be after 100 years of independence can be seen in this year's general budget. The manner in which the country's economy is recovering from the pandemic's negative effects, as a whole, has shown our country's strength. For the first time, the public capital expenditure increased sharply by 35.4 per cent to 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from ₹ 5.54 lakh crore, in 2021-22. Such a significant increase implies that the government will spend more money on infrastructure related to rail, road, air, and waterways, among other

INCREASE IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY MORE THAN 35%.

things. It will spend more money to improve and promote research, technology, and the service sector, among other things. This will necessitate a significant investment. Foreign investment will be encouraged, and incentives will be provided. Naturally, as the flow of capital increases, economic activity rises, industries thrive, and



80 LAKH NEW HOUSES

In 2022-23, 80 lakh houses will be built for identified and eligible Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas. An allocation of Rs 48,000 crore has been made for this.

India's economic growth estimated at

9.2%

in 2022-23, to be the highest among all large economies of the world

The fiscal deficit is estimated at

₹16,61,196

crore in the year 2022-23.

The revised estimate of

₹37.70

lakh crore was for the financial year 2021-22.

The government intends to reduce the fiscal deficit to less than

4.5%

of GDP by 2025-26.

The budget estimate of

₹34.83

lakh crore was for the financial year 2021-22.

The total estimated expenditure is

₹39.45

lakh crore in the financial year 2022-23.

₹20.79 lakh crore of income by way of tax. This is Rs 2.9 lakh crore more than the estimate.

new direct and indirect jobs are created. The income tax slab has not changed, but tax relief for the differently abled has been proposed. When the parent or guardian reaches the age of 60, the handicapped will be able to receive a lump sum payment for the rest of their lives. The scope of tax exemption for government employees in the National Pension System (NPS) has been expanded. State governments have decided to increase the tax deduction on NPS contributions for employees from 10% to 14%. Central government employees get tax relief of up to 14% on their contribution to NPS.

Digital assets, such as cryptocurrency, will now be taxed as well. This income will be taxed at a rate of 30%. Every digital asset transaction, on the other hand, will be subject to a 1% TDS. This is the second year in a row that no new taxes have been imposed on taxpayers. In contrast, they have been given the facility to update the returns up to two years before the end of the assessment year. In addition, donations made under 80G for the reconstruction of religious structures will now be exempted from income tax. Previously, this exemption was only available for new construction.

RBI'S GREEN BOND AS A NEW INVESTMENT OPTION

The central government's priority is a safe environment, as well as overall development. As a result, the Sovereign Green Bond was announced to encourage investment in projects such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and batteries. These will be issued by the RBI.

AN E-PASSPORT WILL MAKE TRAVEL EASIER

Beginning in April of this year, e-passports will be issued with embedded chips and futuristic technology to improve the ease of travel for citizens abroad.

FOCUS ON GREEN ENERGY.

An electric vehicle battery swapping policy has been announced. special focus on artificial intelligence, drone technology,

PRIME MINISTER'S DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR THE NORTH EASTERN REGION

- PM-DevINE, a new scheme for infrastructure and social development projects and funding in the North East, has been launched.
- An initial allocation of Rs. 1500 crore has been made under this scheme to enable youth and women to engage in livelihood activities.

VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAM

- Vibrant Village Program for the development of border villages on the northern border with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure.

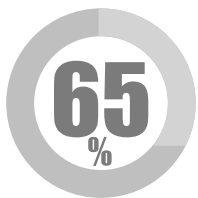


INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BEDROCK OF THE DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

“Infrastructure is part of national policy, not politics for us,” this statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the laying of the foundation stone of Noida International Airport was evident in the Union Budget where the Finance Minister not only stressed on the development of an advanced and world-class infrastructure but also presented a roadmap for 'India in the 100th year of independence' while presenting the budget...



An increase of



has been made in the budget of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

36.5 KM HIGHWAY WAS CONSTRUCTED PER DAY

in 2021-22. It was 11.7 km per day in 2013-14

20000 CRORE RUPEES WILL BE RAISED

for the expansion of the national highway network. 25,000 km of new national highways will be constructed in the new financial year.



SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- More than half of the country's population will be residing in urban areas by 2047. Under this backdrop, systematic urban development is very important so that the economic potential of the country can be harnessed. Therefore, a high-level committee has been formed to make recommendations on policy, capacity preparation, planning, re-implementation, and administration for cities. The committee will include eminent urban planners, urban economists, and institutions.
- Modernization of Building Bye-laws, Town Planning Scheme, and Transit-Oriented Development will be implemented. This will ease the movement of people. The states will get the benefit of public transport projects apart from the financial assistance of the central government given under the AMRUT scheme.
- For developing India-specific knowledge in urban planning and design, and to deliver certified training in these areas, up to five existing academic institutions in different regions will be designated as centers of excellence.
- Changes will be brought in the way public transport is used in cities. This will be complemented by cleantech and governance solutions, special mobility zones with zero fossil-fuel policy, and EV vehicles.
- New ways of financing will be adopted to make the metro system faster. Also, there are plans to provide multimodal connectivity between urban public transport and railway stations.
- To promote public transport in the cities, a plan to create a special mobility zone will be prepared soon.

as its seven engines. Efforts to accelerate the speed of these seven engines will continue to get the government's special attention. Finance Minister Sitharaman elucidated that this will not only ensure sustainable development but will also generate a large number of jobs. Infrastructural projects of state governments will also be included in the Gatishakti National Master Plan. For this, a separate allocation of Rs 1 lakh crore has also been made to the states. The touchstone of the Master Plan will be world-class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy among different modes of movement – both of people and goods – and the location of projects. Gati Shakti will give impetus to large private investment in infrastructure.

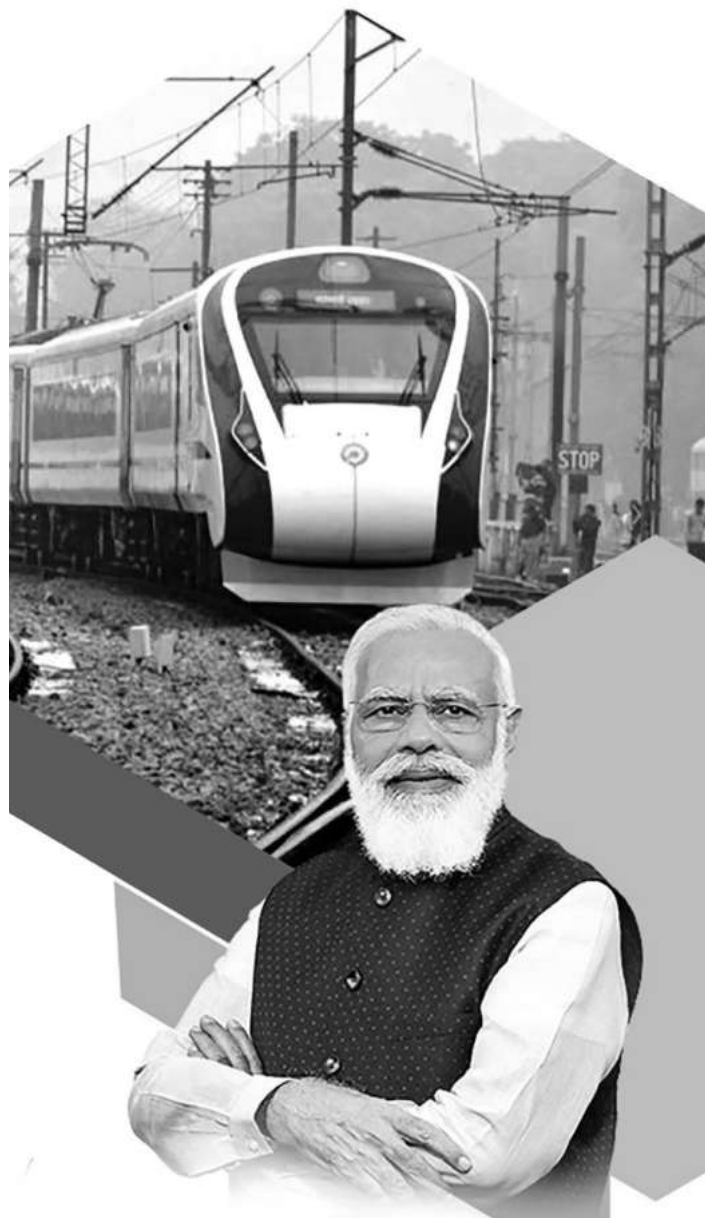


Railways got Rs
20,311

crore more allocation in
the revised figures for the
financial year 2021-22.

400 NEW VANDE BHARAT TRAINS IN 3 YEARS

- Four hundred new-generation Vande Bharat Trains with better energy efficiency and passenger riding experience will be developed and manufactured during the next three years. As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, 2,000 km of the network will be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world-class technology for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23. . During the next 3 years, 100 PM Gatishakti cargo terminals will be developed for multimodal logistics.
- One Station-One Product Scheme has been launched keeping in mind the welfare of small farmers. Under this, Railways will develop efficient logistics facilities for small farmers and enterprises. The 'one station, one product' scheme will be popularized to help local businesses & supply chains.
- Each railway station can be seen as a publicity center for a local product. It will help develop more efficient logistics for farmers and agri-enterprises and offer unique regional products to a wider audience, i.e. railway passengers passing through the stations.
- Postal and railway networks will be interconnected, so that parcel facility can be strengthened



'PARVATMALA' WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO TRAVEL IN THE MOUNTAINS

- The Parvatmala scheme has been announced to develop a modern system of transportation in the mountains. Through this, ropeways and other transport options will be created for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and the northeastern states.
- National Ropeway Development Program and Parvatmala Scheme will be taken up on PPP mode.
- These projects will cover congested hilly urban areas.
- Through this, there is a plan to promote tourism by improving connectivity for travelers.
- It will be introduced as a permanent alternative to the traditional hill roads.



The work done by the Aspirational District Campaign for the education, health, roads and electricity and water of the poor has also been praised by the United Nations. A special Vibrant Village Program has been announced in the budget for the development of border villages.

– Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Like



Digital Education to shape India's future aspirations



Boosting the education sector has been one of the top priorities of the central government. The Government has made several big announcements in this budget from an emphasis on digital education to the establishment of the digital university. It has made a record allocation of Rs 104277.72 crore for education in the budget of 2022-23 which is 11.86 per cent higher as compared to last year...

future

75 e-labs will be set up to impart skills in science and maths with 750 virtual laboratories

PM e-VIDYA's 'One Class-One TV Channel' program will be expanded from 12 TV channels to 200 TV channels to provide education in regional languages.

During the Covid pandemic, the government laid great emphasis on digital education, but due to the lack of necessary infrastructure in remote areas, there were difficulties in providing seamless education facilities. In this year's budget, a transformational initiative has been taken to address such challenges and use technology extensively in the country for students' access to digital education, which will improve and strengthen the education and skilling ecosystem. Several initiatives have been announced in this year's budget such as setting up of the digital university, allowing foreign universities to run courses in GIFT City, launch of DESH STACK e-portal and National Skill Qualification framework will be aligned with dynamic industry needs.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

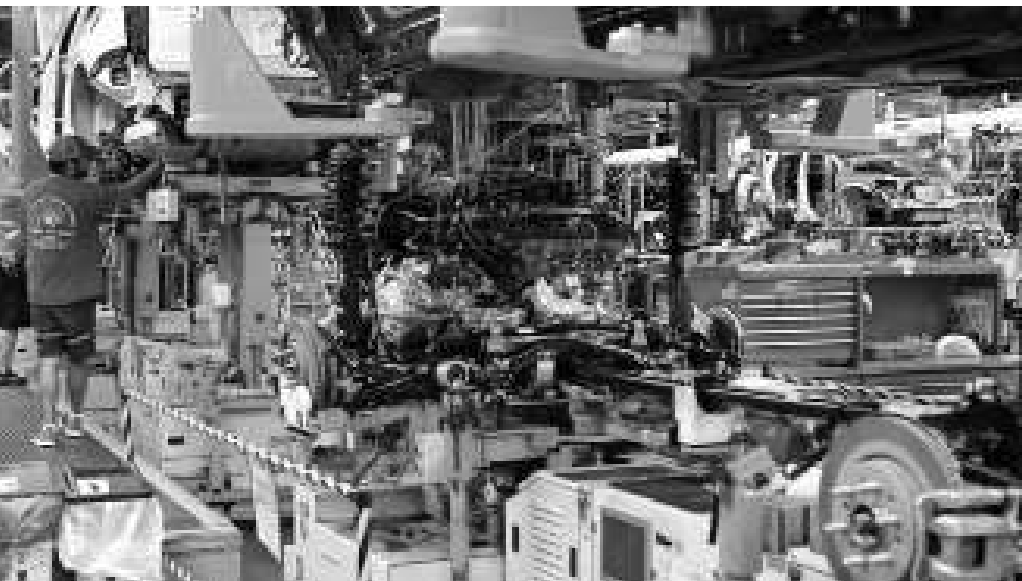
- There has been a total increase of Rs 8575.71 crore in the budget allocation of the Department of School Education and Literacy in this financial year as compared to last year.
- The total budget allocation in the financial year 2022-23 is Rs.63449.37 crore out of which plan allocation is Rs.51052.37 crore and non-plan allocation is Rs.12397 crore.
- The budget allocation for the financial year 2022-23 has increased by Rs 6333.20 crore under the flagship scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- There has been an overall increase of Rs 2477.7 crore (6.46%) in the budget allocation of the Higher Education Department in this fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to last year. The total budget allocation in the financial year 2022-23 is Rs 40828.35 crore.

INDUSTRY-MANUFACTURING BOOSTER DOSE OF HOPE

The manufacturing sector, which contributes significantly to the economy, has got a new 'booster dose' of budget expectations. While the target is to increase production by Rs 30 lakh crore through Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) in 14 sectors, the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme has been extended till March 2023 to support the MSME sector.



According to the economic survey

61,400

startups are registered in the country

Introduction of 5G for Better Connectivity and High Speed Network in the country

The PLI scheme launched to achieve the goal of self-reliant India has received a very good response. In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that this scheme has helped a lot in achieving the objective of AatmaNirbhar Bharat. This will create 60 lakh employment opportunities in the next five years. Also, it has the potential to increase production by an additional Rs 30 lakh crore. The PLI scheme has received excellent responses in 14 sectors. The government is all set to launch a scheme for designed manufacturing to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

Scheme. 5G spectrum will be auctioned in the year 2022. With its introduction, the development will get a boost which will open up new employment opportunities and encourage research. One Nation One Registration facility is being introduced for ease of doing business. At the same time, the market of electric vehicles in the country is growing at the rate of more than 50 percent annually. The Finance Minister has announced a battery swapping policy for electric vehicles to make long-distance travel more comfortable. The swapping facility will allow riders to exchange a worn-out battery with a fully-charged one for a fee at a battery station.



Tax exemption limit increased for startups

- Existing tax exemption limit for startups has been extended by one more year.
- Till now, the startup gets a tax exemption for three years, which has been increased to four years.
- The Finance Minister said that startups have emerged as a sector to advance the economy, in view of the Corona pandemic, tax exemption has been given to them.

CREDIT GUARANTEE OF 50 THOUSAND CRORE RUPEES TO THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

Since 2014, the central government has paid the most attention to the infrastructure related to the tourism sector. But to help the badly affected sector during the Corona period, the Finance Minister has given relief in the form of a credit guarantee of Rs 50,000 crore.

RS 65,000 CRORE WILL BE RAISED THROUGH DISINVESTMENT

A target to raise Rs 65,000 crore through disinvestment in the financial year 2022-23 has been set. Air India disinvestment has been completed. A strategic partner has been selected for Neelachal Ispat. The IPO of Life Insurance Corporation of India or LIC will also be released soon.

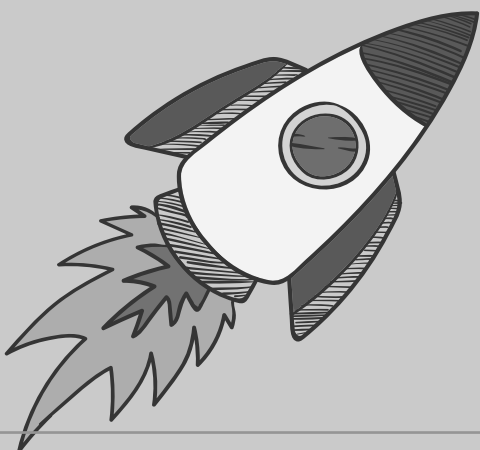


75 DIGITAL BANKING UNITS TO BE FORMED TO PROMOTE DIGITAL PAYMENTS

In order to promote digital payments in the country, the Finance Minister in Budget 2022 announced the creation of 75 digital banking units in 75 districts through scheduled commercial banks in the country.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES)

- An assistance of Rs 2 lakh crore has been announced to help the most affected MSME sector during the Corona period.
- The government has extended the Emergency Credited Line Guarantee Scheme for the MSME sector till March 2023 and increased it by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore.
- To strengthen the MSME sector, programs worth Rs 6000 crore will be started for this sector in the next 5 years.
- Udyam, e-Shram, NCS, and ASEEM portals will be interlinked and their scope will be widened.
- They will now perform as portals with live organic databases. It will enable credit facilitation and enhance entrepreneurial opportunities.



PROMOTING MAKE IN INDIA WITH AN EYE ON FUTURE

- Import duties of many items related to electronics, gems-jewelry, chemicals were cut, so as to encourage the manufacture of goods related to them at the domestic level.
- It has been decided to include data centers, energy storage in the infrastructure areas. Customs administration of SEZs will also be reformed.
- Indigenous manufacturing of defense products will be encouraged. With an eye on the future, the government will contribute to development and research in industries such as artificial intelligence, semiconductor, space economy, drone technology, and green energy.
- Special provisions have been made to achieve the target of 280 GW of installed solar power by 2030. Under this, an additional allocation of Rs 19,500 crore has been made for production-linked incentives for manufacturing high-efficiency solar modules.
- Contracts will be awarded through PPP format for setting up of Multimodal Logistics Park at 4 locations in 2022-23.

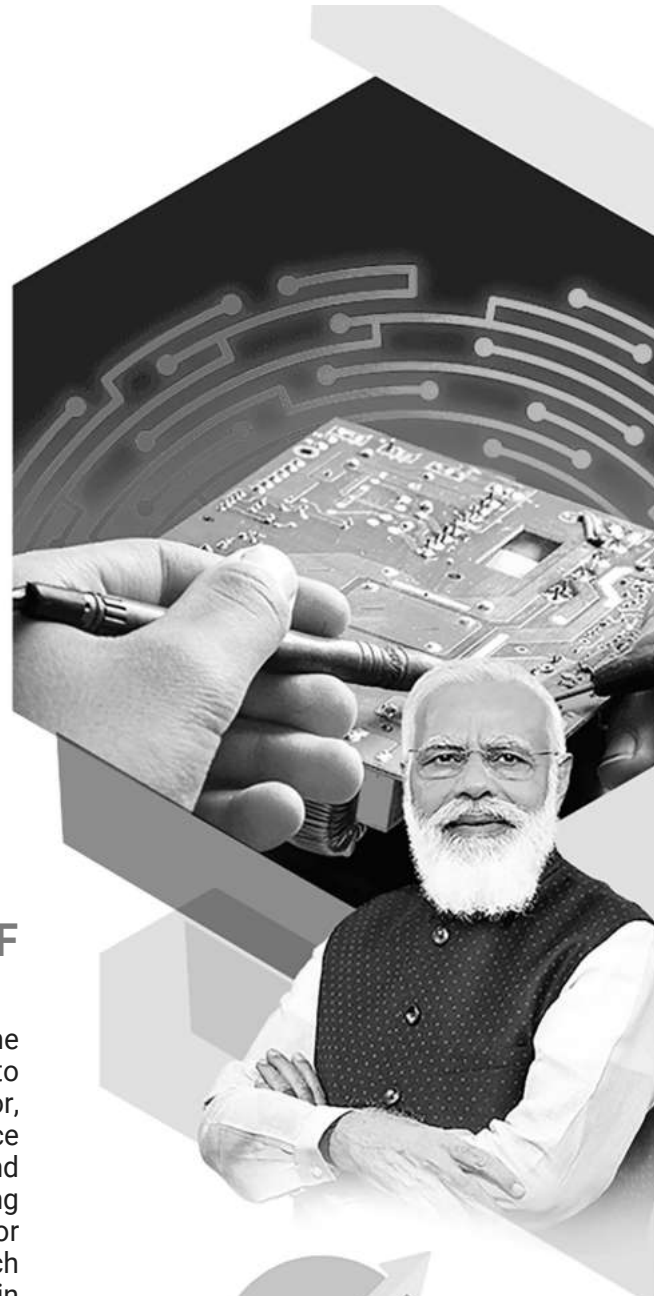
AVGC SECTOR WILL BECOME PART OF THE ECONOMY

Last year when Toy Fair and Toycathon were held in India for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his resolve to make India self-reliant in online gaming along with the toy sector, and now for the first time in the general budget, the Finance Minister also discussed animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics (AVGC) sector. It has emerged as the fastest-growing market in recent years. With an aim to give a boost to this sector Finance Minister announced the formation of a task force, which will recommend steps to be taken to promote it. This will help in generating 20 lakh jobs.

“

The budget has also talked about creating a task force for making India the global games developer and gaming services hub in the world.

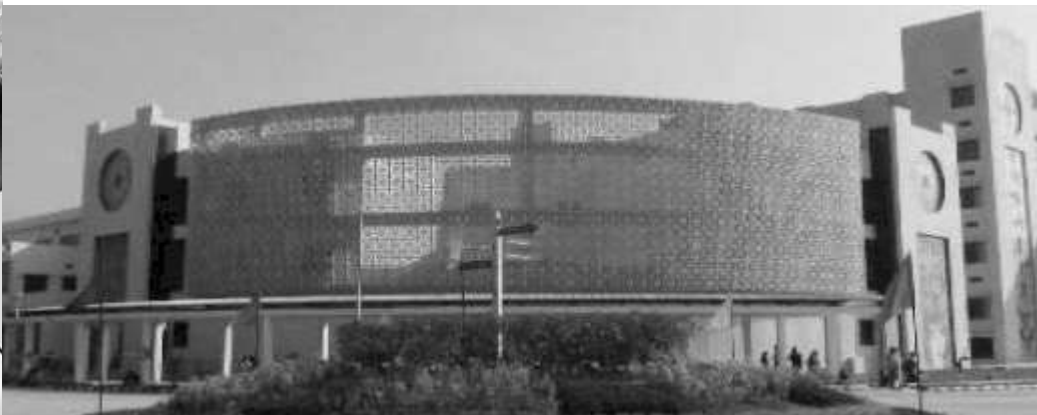
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



PROMOTING HOLISTIC HEALTH, BOOST TO THE MENTAL HEALTHCARE SECTOR



During the corona pandemic, there has been an increase in cases of mental illness. Under this backdrop, the 'National Tele Mental Health Program' has been announced in the budget. This budget will prove to be a milestone in promoting research and providing quality health facilities to the common man. This time, many initiatives have been announced for the health sector in the budget amidst the biggest pandemic in the last 100 years.



₹86,200

crore has been allocated for the health budget this time. This is an increase of 16 per cent over the previous year.

₹3,050

crore has been allocated for the Ministry of AYUSH. This is 2.69 per cent higher than last financial year.

Health is priceless wealth and it has been one of the top priorities of the Modi government. This is the reason why the central government last year increased the health budget by 137 per cent and tried to ramp up the health sector infrastructure. This process of reform continued in this year's budget for which several announcements were made in the budget. During the Covid pandemic, there has been a rise in cases of mental illness. With the announcement of the 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' this year, special emphasis has also been laid on technology with an eye on strengthening health infrastructure in the future. The announcements in the budget will impact the general public.

COUNSELING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

- In order to provide better access to quality mental health counseling and care services, a 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' has been announced in the Union Budget.
- This will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centers of excellence, with NIMHANS acting as the nodal center. International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIITB) will provide technical support for this.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

- The government has announced the launch of an open platform for the national digital health ecosystem, expanding health services. In this, there will be digital registration of health workers and self-service facilities with everyone having a unique self-identity.
- This ecosystem will help in ensuring access to health services to all. This will give special relief to the population living in rural areas and the elderly. Through this, the benefits of global health facilities can also be availed.

EMPHASIS ON VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE, DIGITIZATION

Villagers, poor and farmers are among the top priorities of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That is why, keeping in mind the improvement in the agriculture sector, this time in the Union Budget, the government has decided to make agriculture hi-tech and has made provisions to develop it in a new way by moving beyond traditional farming. From rural housing to chemical-free agriculture, a five-kilometer-wide corridor along the Ganges, and water for irrigation in Bundelkhand through the Ken-Betwa link project, all of this ensures that the budget caters to the needs of every Indian.



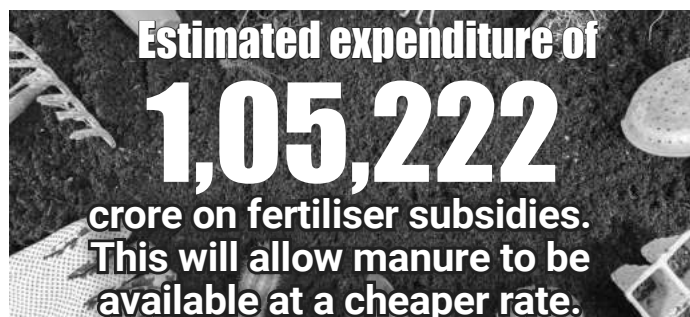
With the country's economy set to grow at a rapid pace, post Covid, the budget's agricultural provisions are intended to give agriculture, farmers, and villages a boost and help them become more self-reliant. This year's budget proposes to promote farmer drones, chemical-free farming and public-private partnerships for digital and hi-tech services to farmers across the country. For the agriculture sector, it is a balanced budget that focuses on strengthening agriculture and farmers with infrastructure promotion, incentives, and technological incentives. Farmers and villages will not only be able to improve their income, but they will also be able to become self-sufficient.

**At the Minimum Support Price (MSP),
the government will purchase a
record 1208 lakh tonnes of wheat
and paddy from**

1.63
crore farmers.

MSP DIRECTLY INTO ACCOUNT, FOCUS ON NATURAL FARMING

- The MSP price of 2.37 lakh crore will be paid directly into farmers' accounts. Government procurement included in the budget proposal for the first time. The government's approach is a fitting retort to those who disseminate misinformation about MSP.
- Chemical-free natural farming will be promoted throughout the country, with a focus on farmers' lands in 5-km wide corridors along the Ganges, at the first stage.
- The year 2023 has been designated as the Year of Millets by the government. Its objective is to raise awareness about the nutrition and cultivation of coarse cereals in the changing climatic conditions.
- A new public-private partnership (PPP) scheme will be launched to deliver digital and high-tech services to farmers.
- Through NABARD, financial aid will be provided to agricultural start-ups and rural entrepreneurs. The Emergency Credit Line Scheme will assist farmers.
- "Kisan Drones" will be used for crop assessment, digitization of land records, and pesticide and nutrient spraying.
- The alternative minimum tax payment for cooperatives has been reduced from 18.5 percent to 15percent.



OILSEEDS PRODUCTION SCHEME

- The implementation of a comprehensive scheme to promote domestic oilseed production has been announced in the budget. "A sensible and comprehensive plan would be adopted with the goal of enhancing domestic production of oilseeds to minimise our dependence on oilseed imports," stated Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

FOOD PROCESSING WILL GAIN TRACTION



- The Central Government, in collaboration with the State Governments, will provide a comprehensive package for "adopting appropriate varieties of fruits and vegetables" and "using appropriate production and harvesting techniques." State agricultural universities will also be encouraged to revise their curricula to meet the needs of natural, zero-budget, and organic agriculture; modern agriculture; value addition; and management.

BY 2025, ALL VILLAGES WILL BE INTERNET-CONNECTED.

- Broadband connectivity will be provided in PPP mode to enable all e-services to be delivered in villages as they are in cities. Under the BharatNet project, the work of providing optical fibre to rural areas will be completed by 2025.

TAP WATER TO 3.8 CRORE HOUSEHOLDS UNDER HAR GHAR, NAL SE JAL SCHEME

- An allocation of Rs 60,000 crore has been made to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal scheme. The current coverage of Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal is 8.7 crore, out of which 5.5 crore households were provided tap water in last 2 years itself.

80 LAKH NEW HOUSES WILL BE BUILT

- In 2022-23, 80 lakh houses will be built for identified and eligible Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas. 48,000 crores have been allocated for this purpose. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's most ambitious schemes.

NEW PM-DEVINE SCHEME

- A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East (PM-DevINE Scheme) will be launched to promote development in the North-East region. The new Vibrant Village Program will include villages on the country's northern border to promote development in these villages.

The river linking plan to address the water issue

- The budget includes Rs 1,400 crore for the Ken-Betwa river link project, which will provide irrigation and drinking water to the people of Bundelkhand, who are facing water scarcity. This scheme's goal is to provide irrigation facilities on 9.08 lakh hectares of agricultural land. In addition to providing drinking water to 62 lakh people, the project will generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power. This project's revised budget for 2021-22 is Rs. 4,300 crore.

SWADESHI WILL GET A BOOST WITH THE GOAL OF MODERNIZATION

The Defence budget was hiked by about 10 percent. Of the total allocation for defence, 68 per cent will be reserved for procurement from domestic industry, this will give a boost to the 'Make in India-Make for the world' initiative. The emphasis will be on strengthening diverse areas from research to strengthening border infrastructure...

The defense budget of the country will be

₹5.25

lakh crore. This is 13.31 percent of the total budget.

An amount of

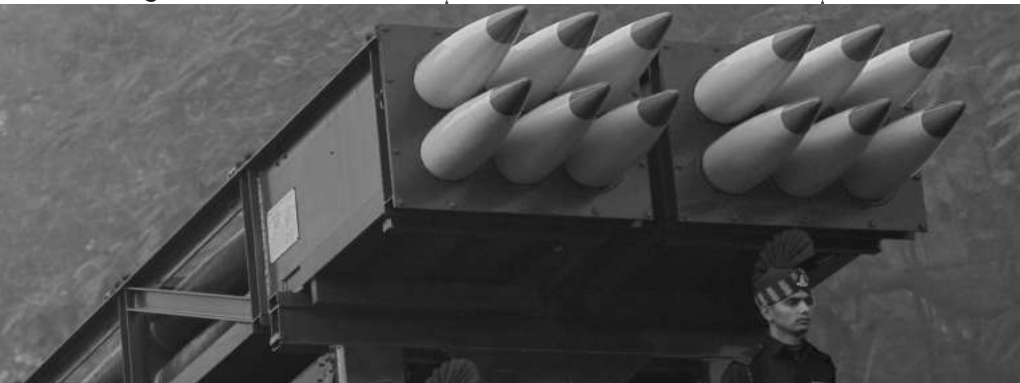
₹1.19

lakh crore has been earmarked for defense pension.

India ranks

3rd

in terms of defense spending



A strong army is indispensable for any nation. India, once known as the world's largest importer of defense products, is now emerging as a top exporter. Last year India ranked among the top 25 defense exporters. Also, many steps were taken to promote self-reliance in the defense sector and 'Make in India-Make for the world'. Of the total allocation for defence, 68 per cent will be reserved for procurement from the domestic industry. It was 58% in the last financial year. This will reduce the dependence on the import of defense equipment. A quarter of the research and development (R&D) budget of the Ministry of Defence will be set aside for private players, including start-ups. A nodal agency will also be formed for the testing and certification of indigenous products.

Infrastructure development and modernization of the Armed Forces have been accorded the highest priority. The capital expenditure for defense services (expenditure on modernization and procurement) has been pegged at Rs 1.52 lakh crore. This is an increase of 76 percent in a span of nine years. Moreover, during this period, the total defense budget including defense pension has increased by 107.29 per cent from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 5.25 lakh crore in 2022-23.

40%

per cent budget increased for construction on infrastructure on the border.

An increase of **9.8%**

percent in the pension budget of ex-servicemen.

VIBRANT VILLAGE WILL IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF VILLAGES NEAR THE BORDER

- Even as India faces security challenges on the border, the central government has increased the capital expenditure of the Border Road Organization by 40 percent. This has been increased to Rs 3500 crore this year as against Rs 2500 crore in the financial year 2021-22. This will accelerate the progress of the construction of border infrastructure including important tunnels (Sela and Nechiphu tunnels) and bridges over major rivers.
- Villages close to the border that lag behind in development due to low population and limited infrastructure and connectivity will be covered under the Vibrant Village programme. The facilities of basic infrastructure, houses, tourist centers, renewable energy projects will be started. Doordarshan and educational channels will reach through DTH. Along with this, a special fund will also be given here for livelihood. These will be linked to the existing schemes of the central government. ■

INVESTMENT IN IREDA, NCSK TERM EXTENDED

India has been promoting renewable energy as a way to safeguard the environment while also addressing the country's electricity needs. The Union Cabinet recently approved a Rs. 1500 crore equity investment in IREDA, a body that finances renewable energy. It also made significant decisions for the betterment of Safai Karamcharis by extending the commission's term for another three years.

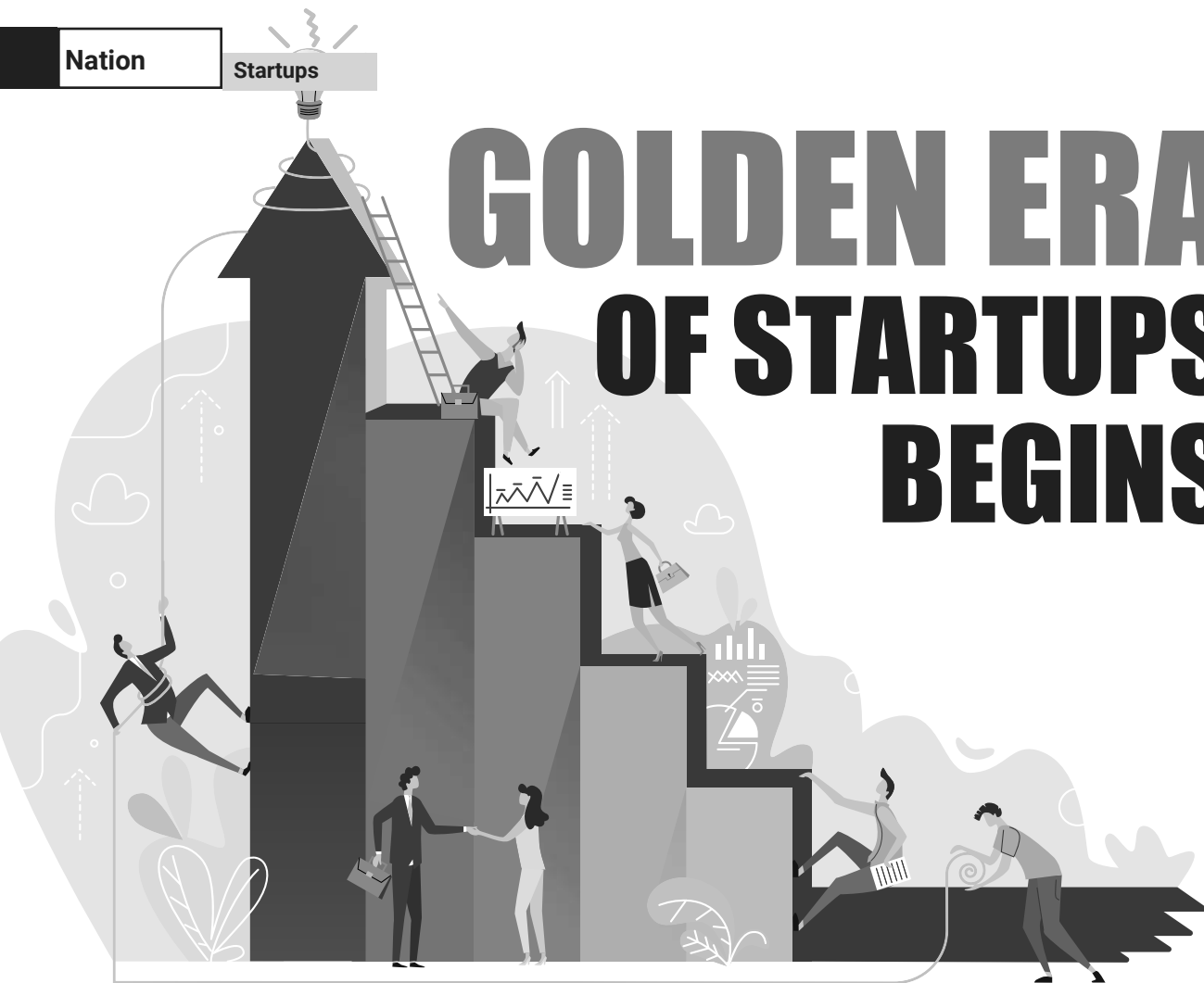
- **DECISION:** Cabinet approves the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA). IREDA was set up to work as a specialized non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.
- **IMPACT:** This equity infusion will enable IREDA to lend approximately Rs 12,000 crore to the Renewable Energy (RE) sector, thus facilitating the debt requirement of RE for additional capacity of approximately 3500–4000 MW. Furthermore, it will contribute to the creation of approximately 10200 jobs per year and the reduction of carbon emissions. Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advocated promoting renewable energy on a global scale, this is seen as a significant step in combatting climate change.
- **DECISION:** Tenure of the 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis' extended for another three years starting in April 2022. Its tenure will now last until 31 March 2025.
- **IMPACT:** The major beneficiaries would be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country. The number of Manual Scavengers identified under the MS Act Survey as on 31.12.2021 is 58,098. The overall cost of this expansion is expected to be roughly Rs 43.68 crore. The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) was constituted on 12th August 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament. Its mission is to recommend to the Central Government specific programmes of action to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is passionate about this issue. As a result, the government has launched a number of initiatives in this direction.

- **DECISION:** Cabinet has approved the payment of ex-gratia amount of Rs. 973.74 crore pertaining to remaining claims submitted by Lending Institutions (LIs) under Scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months to borrowers in specified loan accounts (1.3.2020 to 31.8.2020).
- **IMPACT:** This scheme would equitably provide ex-gratia payments to distressed and vulnerable categories of borrowers during the six-month moratorium period, regardless of whether or not they used the moratorium or not, to help them cope with a pandemic. ■

GOLDEN ERA OF STARTUPS BEGINS



India's startup ecosystem has come a long way in the six years since its inception on January 16, 2016. The Prime Minister's announcement to celebrate January 16 as National Startup Day, during an interaction with youngsters from the startup ecosystem on this day last month, has added more aspirations to their dreams. Young entrepreneurs' enterprises have given the country and the world not just a new identity, but also a new pace and direction.

New India has only one mantra: competition and winning. The youth of India are creating the story of world prosperity with the help of this mantra. People's perspectives have changed as a result of start-ups, and instead of taking up jobs, there is now a perception of giving jobs. This is why India's youth are in the world's unicorn system. The role of women's power in this is also significant.

As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a week-long (January 10–January 16) event, "Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem", was organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The Prime Minister interacted with startups during the event. The startups, grouped under six groups, gave presentations to the Prime

Minister on six themes. Participants included startup entrepreneurs from a wide range of industries, including agricultural, health, enterprise systems, space, industry 4.0, security, fintech, and the environment.

India's startup environment is always on the lookout for fresh opportunities. It is adjusting to the spirit of change and learning. India's start-ups are currently active in 55 distinct industries. Five years ago, there were just 500 startups; today, there are more than 60 thousand. The reason for this upswing is the government's initiative and support for this sector, even during the COVID period.

The government's commitment to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship has resulted in



Scan the QR code to listen the full address of the Prime Minister and view the full programme.

PROMOTING THE GROWTH OF RECOGNISED STARTUPS

Enhanced funding opportunities through the "Fund of Funds Scheme" with an amount of Rs

10,000

Creore.

- Rs 8085 crore will be invested in 540 startups and Rs 6495 crore in 80 alternative investment funds.
- 58 incubators selected as part of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, with a total investment of Rs 233 crores.

Startup facility Self-certification

- Exemption from capital gains tax in the first 3 years of operation; 90-day withdrawal window under the Bankruptcy Code
- IPR protection and expedited patent application. Patent Application can be purchased for up to 80% off.

Significant contribution of startups to women's empowerment: 45% representation of female entrepreneurs in startups

the startups of tomorrow becoming the unicorns of today. Their market value is in the millions of rupees. These are the country's new types of wealth generators. Because of their unique idea, they are standing up and moving forward. As a result of this, India has now become the third country with the most unicorns, surpassing Britain. Before 2014, most Indians were unfamiliar with terms like "start-up," and terms like "unicorn" were not even mentioned. Certainly, in this Amrit Kaal of Independence (75 years of Independence), India must be made self-sufficient, and then it must be committed to making India the world's best startup. Being the world's youngest country, Indian youths have that grit and determination to take it to greater heights. ■

INDIA IS THE THIRD LARGEST STARTUP ECOSYSTEM IN THE WORLD TODAY

61,400

Startups Have Been Accredited

In **30** states/ Union

Territories, there is a dedicated startup policy.

Its extension to

635

districts

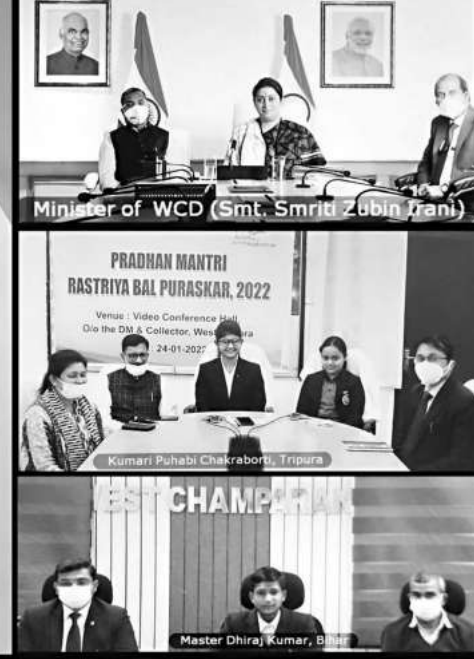
At least one DPIT-accredited startup in each of the

36 states/UTs.



EXCERPTS FROM PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF COMPLETION OF SIX YEARS OF STARTUP

- The year 2022 has brought with it even more opportunities for India's startup ecosystem. The 75th anniversary of India's independence gives the "Start-up India Innovation Week" even more significance. The importance of startups in constructing a great India on the completion of 100 years of independence will be enormous.
- 42 unicorns emerged in our country last year alone. These companies, worth thousands of crores of rupees, are the hallmark of a self-reliant, self-confident India. Today, India is rapidly moving towards creating the century of the unicorn. And I believe the golden age of India's start-ups is starting now.
- To ensure that this culture of start-ups reaches all corners of the country, January 16 has been declared as National Start-up Day. Startups should contribute to the development of rural areas of the country, which have enormous potential.
- This decade is being called the "Techade of India". There are three important aspects to the massive changes that the government is making in this decade to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship, and the start-up ecosystem.
- First, to liberate entrepreneurship and innovation from the web of government processes and bureaucratic silos; second, to create an institutional mechanism to promote innovation; and third, to handhold young innovators and youth enterprises!
- So, don't just keep your dreams local, make them global. Remember this mantra: Let us innovate for India, innovate from India!



RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

PROMISING CHILDREN NOW IDENTITY OF NEW INDIA

This is a new India where accomplishments and merits are recognized. When children who have made remarkable accomplishments are honored and rewarded they get encouragement and they are inspired to do something new. With this aim as part of 'National Girl Child Day' and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the Prime Minister's Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 on 24 January to unique and talented children for their extraordinary achievements.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the Prime Minister's Rashtriya Bal Puraskar winners and said, "You have received awards for your extraordinary achievements in various fields ranging from art and culture to gallantry, education to innovation, social service, and sports. And you have got these awards after a tough competition. Children from every corner of the country have come forward and you have been selected. The number of awardees may not be so much, but the number of promising children is unparalleled in our country." These words of Prime Minister Modi underscore that there is no dearth of courage and valor which is scripting the identity of New India. During the interaction of the Prime

“

Today we feel proud when we see the youth of India raising their laurels in the world of startups. Today, we feel proud when we see that the youth of India are making new innovations, taking the country forward.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Minister with children, their parents and DMs of the respective districts were also present. Every year the Prime Minister meets the children who have received this award in New Delhi, but this time it could not happen due to the Covid pandemic.



Scan the QR code to listen the full address of the Prime Minister and view the full programme.

THE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE AWARD



PUHABI FROM TRIPURA IS AN INNOVATOR

Kumari Puhabi Chakraborty, who hails from Tripura, is an innovator. She told Prime Minister Narendra Modi about her Covid related innovation. She also informed the Prime Minister about her fitness app for sportspersons.



SAVED FROM CROCODILE

Dheeraj Kumar of West Champaran, Bihar, told in a conversation with the Prime Minister about the incident in which he saved his brother from a crocodile attack. PM asked about the brave boy's state of mind while saving his younger brother and how he feels now after becoming famous. The Prime Minister praised his courage and presence of mind.



DISCUSSION ON DANCE

Interacting with Kumari Remona Evette Pereira from Karnataka, the Prime Minister discussed her passion for Indian Dance. He inquired about the difficulties she faced in pursuing her passion. The Prime Minister complimented her mother for ignoring her own adversities to realize her daughter's dreams.



APP ON COVID

Interacting with Master Meedhansh Kumar Gupta from Punjab, the Prime Minister enquired about his achievement of creating an app for COVID issues. The Prime Minister said that in children like Meedhansh he feels that the government efforts to promote entrepreneurship are bearing fruit.



THE BALANCE BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND SPORTS

While talking to Kumari Tarushi Gaur from Chandigarh, the Prime Minister enquired about her opinion on the balance between sports and studies. The Prime Minister said that the government is committed to providing all the facilities to the sportspersons and creating a mindset of winning at every level.

29 CHILDREN HONORED WITH RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored 29 children with the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022. The award winners were presented with digital certificates using blockchain technology. This technology was used for the first time for awarding certificates to award winners.
- Award Categories- Bal Shakti Puraskar and Bal Kalyan Puraskar (Individual and Institutional)
- Awardees selected from across India- These children have been selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in the categories of Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Educational (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Gallantry (3). Of these awardees from 21 states and union territories, 15 are boys and 14 are girls.
- Cash Prize - A cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- was given to the awardees of PMRBP 2022

SAVED MOTHER AND SISTERS FROM TERRORIST ATTACK



Gurugu Himapriya, hailing from Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh received the award in the gallantry category for saving her mother and sisters from a terror attack. When an armed group of terrorists attacked the Sunjuwan military camp in Jammu she managed to hold the terrorist by engaging in a lengthy conversation and keeping her mother and siblings out of harm.

Click the link to see the complete list of Bal Puraskar winners... <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1792269>



PEOPLE'S PADMA

Barefooted citizens dressed in a loincloth taking Padma awards have won the hearts of every Indian. This highlights the incredible journey of the Padma awards from being exclusively restricted to the elite class to becoming accessible to ordinary citizens. It was also for the first time that a Prime Minister appealed to the masses on Twitter to nominate talented and grassroots-level people. This demonstrates Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to make the Padma awards a 'Janta ka Padma'. Once again the Padma Awards were announced on the eve of 73rd Republic Day...

Be it Basanti Devi Ji of Uttarakhand, 77-year-old Lourebam Bino of Manipur, or Arjun Singh of Madhya Pradesh who popularised Baiga tribal dance or Amai Mahalinga Naik of Karnataka, popularly known as Tunnel Man are in the list of Padma awardees for 2022. Despite their humble background, their merit was recognized. Earlier these people were living in oblivion despite making immense contributions to society.

Till a few years ago, it was believed that Padma awards mostly go to those who have access to the corridors of power. Those whose drawing rooms are luxurious, where these awards framed on the wall testify to their status. Those who travel in business class in an airplane. The names are also mostly the same which is the center of power of Delhi or the glittering city of Mumbai or other metro cities. But this trend has changed in the last few years. Now the common man is also being honored with these

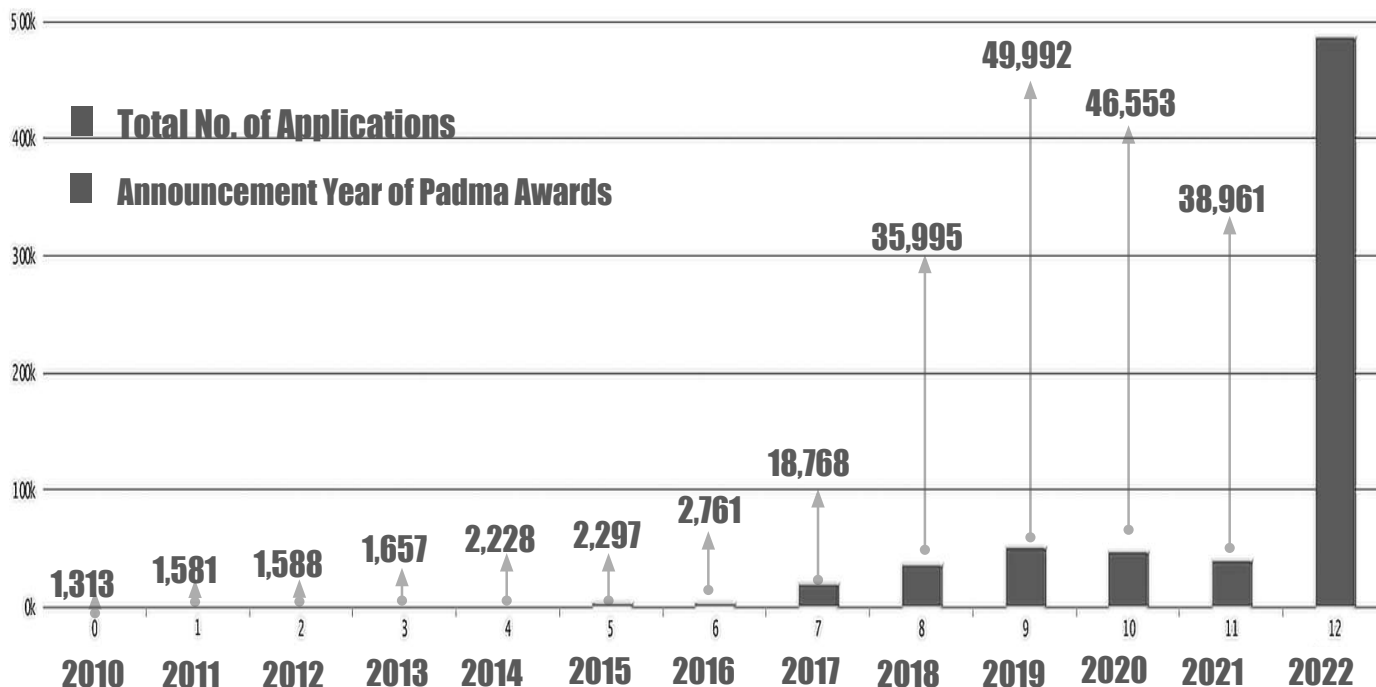
highest awards of the country. The unsung heroes whose stories inspire. Their work is a true example of social service and service to the country.

THE JOURNEY TO PEOPLE'S PADMA

The Government has been taking people's friendly initiatives. That is why the Central Government, which ended the VIP culture by banning the red beacon, started to bestow Padma awards to ordinary citizens from 2017. PM Modi made the process of nomination for Padma awards completely transparent. To enable people to apply for Padma Awards without any hesitation and hassle, a special website was created and online applications started from 2016. With the purpose to give careful consideration to the nominations of the people, the jury of these awards included prominent personalities from all walks of life, who have done great work in their respective fields. Over the years participation of the general public in Padma awards has increased manifold.

Record Public Participation in Padma Applications

4,85,122



PADMA AWARDS TO 128 PEOPLE FOR THE YEAR 2022

The Union Home Ministry announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day. The awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of a high order), and Padma Shri (distinguished service). The list includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri awards. 34 of the awardees are women.



4
Padma
Vibhushan



17
Padma
Bhushan



107
Padma Shri

34 women among the awardees

Padma awards

Ms. Prabha Atre



Art, Maharashtra

Radheshyam Khemka



**(Posthumous)
Literature and Education
Uttar Pradesh**

General Bipin Rawat



**(Posthumous)
Civil Service
Uttarakhand**

Kalyan Singh



**(Posthumous)
Public Affairs
Uttar Pradesh**

Full list of Padma Awards at this link <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/jan/doc20221269901.pdf> can be seen by visiting

When the applications for the 2017 Padma Awards were invited publicly for the first time in 2016, nearly 2200 people applied. Whereas 46000 nominations were filled for the Padma Awards for 2020 within the

stipulated time frame of September 2019, which is an increase of twenty times in just six years. For the Padma Award in 2022, this number reached about 4 lakh 85 thousand.

SHE SPENT HER WHOLE LIFE SAVING TREES

The Kosi river of Uttarakhand is the source of livelihood for thousands of people. But due to the increasing water use over time, the Kosi water level started decreasing which threatened the existence of the forests along its banks. This was not acceptable to Basanti Devi who took the initiative to give new life to the river and make people aware of the environment. She is affectionately called 'Basanti Behan' by people. Basanti Devi who lost her husband at the age of just 12, never gave up in life. After the death of her husband, Laxmi Ashram became her abode. Staying here, she completed her studies till the 12th, then started opening the 'Balwadi' ashram in the district. Here she herself taught. Basanti Devi, who had once suffered the brunt of child marriage, went from house to house and educated about its ill effects to the people. In 2003, a news report appeared that the Kosi river would dry up in the next 10 years due to deforestation, so Basanti Devi took the initiative to save it. Belonging to the land where 'Chipko Andolan' started she very well understood the necessity of saving the environment. She wandered from forest to forest to educate people not to cut trees or else the river will dry up. She would show the newspaper clipping to anyone cutting trees. Slowly but surely the scenario started changing. In the year 2016, Basanti Devi was awarded the country's highest award for women, the Nari Shakti Puraskar. Basanti Devi has been awarded the Padma Shri for 2022.

BASANTI DEVI

Padma Shri Awardee

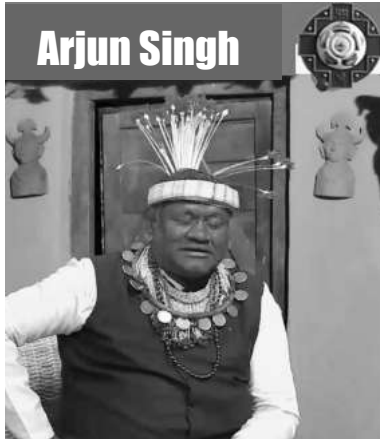
PEOPLE ONCE CALLED HIM A MADMAN BUT HE IS NOW FAMOUS AS THE 'TUNNEL MAN'

According to media reports, when the officials from Delhi informed Amai Mahalinga Nayak about receiving the Padma awards over the phone, he could not understand. Amai Mahalinga was a laborer who was very industrious. Impressed by his hard-working nature a person gifted him 2 acres of barren land as a reward. This barren land was in the hilly area and it was very difficult to grow crops without irrigation. Amai Mahalinga does not have either monetary means or knowledge of any technology for irrigation on the high hill. After which he decided to build a tunnel for the purpose. He built 5 tunnels in 4 years, but the water did not come which dampened his spirit. But Naik continued with the task. People started calling him mad. But after digging the seventh tunnel he finally succeeded in getting water. Eventually, water reached the barren land. His success story has crossed villages, cities, and the country to reach foreign shores. People from many countries have visited his farm to get a first-hand account of his accomplishments.

AMAI MAHALINGA NAIK

Padma Shri Awardee

The man who popularised the dance of the Baiga tribe



Arjun Singh

Padma Shri Awardee

Arjun Singh Dhurve, a resident of the Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh, is the flag bearer of Baiga folk art. He is famous for popularising Baiga folk songs and dance. For the last four decades, he has been working hard to get recognition for tribal art. He has performed the Baiga dance in front of the Chief Minister and Prime Minister. He has the distinction of being the first post-graduate from Baiga tribal society. He has also been a principal. In 1993-94, the MP government honored him with Tulsi Samman. Baiga Pardhauni dance is the main dance of the Baiga tribe. In this, the performers wear the mask of peacocks, elephants, horses, etc.

Manipur's Bino who took textile art to every doorstep

Lourembam Bino Devi



Padma Shri Awardee

77-year-old Bino Devi is a symbol of women's power. For more than five decades she has preserved the textile art named Liba in Manipur. Woolen shoes made by her are not only famous in India but in the world. This year she has been honored with Padma Shri.

A MASTER OF JURISPRUDENCE

Professor Vashistha Tripathi



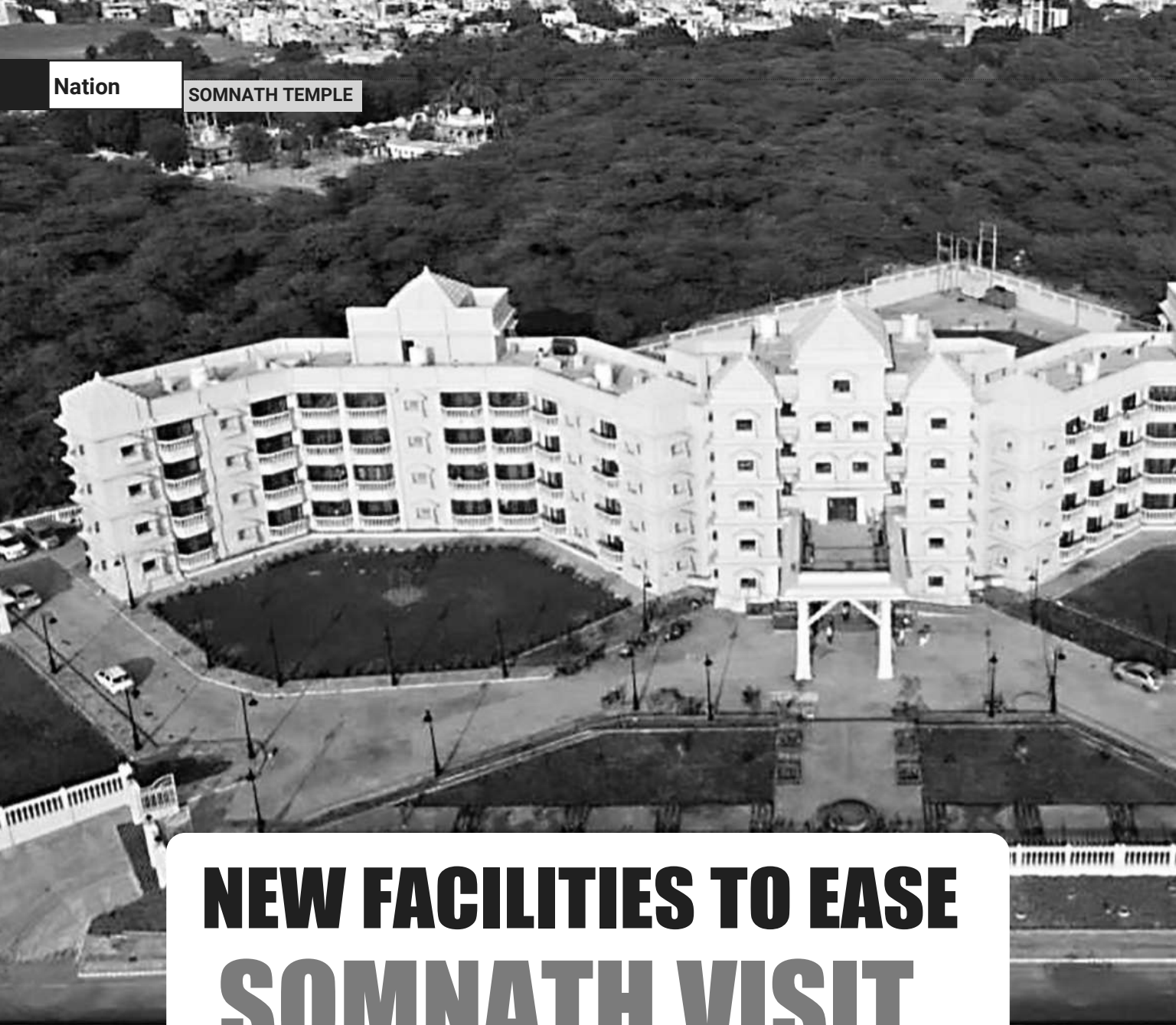
Padma Bhushan awardee

Professor Vashistha Tripathi is considered one of the renowned scholars of Jurisprudence. Originally from the Deoria district, Tripathi obtained the degree of Acharya from Sanskrit University in 1961. He retired in 2001. However, he remained closely associated with the education field. Soon his home in Kabirnagar turned into a hub of education activities. Even at the age of 81, he teaches 6 to 7 hours a day to the students, that too absolutely free. Prof. Tripathi is working hard to make students proficient in the subject. That is why the central government has decided to honor him with the Padma Bhushan award for 2022. ■



There are many such names among the recipients of Padma awards, about which very few people know. They are the unsung heroes of our country, who have done extraordinary things under difficult circumstances. The whole country values their achievements and we are all proud of their contribution to society. We will get to learn a lot from them.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



NEW FACILITIES TO EASE SOMNATH VISIT

In the last 7 years, continuous work has been done to realise the potential of tourism in the country. The heritage sites of the country, the development of our cultural heritage, are great examples of this. On January 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a unique gift to the devotees of Somnath by inaugurating a new circuit house equipped with state-of-the-art facilities near the Somnath temple. People visiting the place can now avail of special facilities at the circuit house, built at a cost of over Rs 30 crores.

In the adoration of Lord Somnath, our scriptures say: *Bhakti Pradanaya Kripa Avatirnam, Tam Somanatham Sharanam Prapadye*. That is, the grace of Lord Somnath is incarnated, and the blessing stores are unlocked. Somnath has served as an example of this, with development projects being completed one after the other. Many development projects, including the Exhibition Gallery and Vihar Sthan, were inaugurated here a few months ago. The foundation stone of Parvati temple was also laid, and now, recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Somnath Circuit House. In fact, about one crore devotees come every year to

OTHER INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE TOURISM

- Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, 15 theme-based tourist circuits are also being developed in the country. These circuits not only connect different parts of the country but also facilitate tourism by giving it a new identity.
- The Ramayana circuit allows you to visit all the landmarks linked with Lord Rama, as well as all of the things mentioned in the Ramayana. The railways have also started a special train for this route, which is gaining popularity.

PM'S EMPHASIS ON FOUR ASPECTS WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO BOOST OUR TOURISM SECTOR

Cleanliness: cleanliness of tourist places

Convenience: enhanced facilities, whether they are infrastructure or transport.

Time: Get the most out of your experience in the least amount of time.

Thought : Innovative thinking about your heritage.

“ Today, this development of tourist centres is not just a part of a government scheme, but a campaign of public participation. The heritage sites of the country, the development of our cultural heritage, is a great example of this.
-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

visit the Somnath temple, taking new ideas and experiences with them. That is, through travel and tourism, there is an exchange of ideas and experiences.

Keeping these things in mind, the heritage sites that were neglected earlier are now being developed with the efforts of everyone. The private sector has also come forward to cooperate in this. Campaigns like Incredible India and Dekho Apna Desh are promoting tourism by highlighting the country's pride. Tourism is now viewed in a more holistic way in the country.

"We hear about many countries in the world showing quite conspicuously how big the impact of tourism is in their economy," Prime Minister Narendra Modi says. At the same time,

he advises individuals planning to travel abroad to consult their families first and then visit at least 15-20 well-known locations in India. First, travel to India, see it, and then go anywhere else in the world.

Features of Somnath Circuit House: Somnath Circuit House has been designed in such a way that anyone living here will have a "Sea View." That is, when individuals sit peacefully in their rooms, they will be able to see the sea waves as well as the peak of Somnath. There was a lot of pressure on the temple trust when it wasn't a circuit house to cater for accommodation for individuals coming from outside. The temple's pressure has also been relieved as a result of the construction of this circuit house. ■



Scan the QR code to listen the full address of the Prime Minister and view the full programme.



VACCINATION CROSSES 168 CRORE MARK

INCHING CLOSER TO THE GOAL OF COMPLETE VACCINATION

COVID vaccines are the first line of defence against the virus. As a result, the government is committed to expanding the scope of COVID-19 vaccination and accelerating the vaccination programme across the country. The Indian government is making rapid progress toward its goal of achieving immunisation coverage. The availability of more vaccines has accelerated the immunisation campaign. Advance notice of vaccine availability is provided to states and union territories so that they can better plan for the vaccine and the supply chain for the vaccine can be streamlined.

In Jammu and Kashmir, there was heavy snowfall in the city of Baramulla. Despite this, the health workers did not abandon the vaccination campaign and worked tirelessly to meet the target. In the midst of heavy snowfall, our health army was tasked with carrying out the vaccination campaign with the assistance of the Indian Army. This passion demonstrates that, no matter how difficult the goal, India today has the ability to achieve it. A vaccination campaign for adolescents aged 15 to 17 years old

also began on January 3, 2022. Sukhi Chauhan, an Ahmedabad school student, benefited from the recent vaccination campaign for 15–17-year-olds. She says, "There was a vaccination programme in my school. I took my first dose of Covaxin" Now that the school is offline, I feel safe.

Ajay, a student from Katni in Madhya Pradesh, has also received the vaccine, like Sukhi. "Vaccination has taken place in my school," he explained. This was a fantastic process. I'd like to thank everyone

NEW INDIA'S NEW RECORD

Both doses of the Covid vaccine were given to

76 %

of the eligible population.

65 %

More than of children in the age group of 15-17 got the first dose of Covid.

The first dose of the Covid vaccine has been administered to

96 %

of the people.

1.35 crore

Health workers and senior citizens will be protected from receiving precautionary doses.

Figures as on 4th February 2022

THE INDIAN VACCINE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAVING LIVES.

- Eight vaccines have been approved for emergency use in the country.
- Three vaccines being made in India have also been approved by the World Health Organization for use in an emergency.



who helped me get vaccinated. Children have also demonstrated modern and scientific thinking in India's vaccination programme. Today, children like Sukhi and Ajay are protected by vaccines, and the elderly are also protected by vaccines.

Till February 4, more than 168 crore vaccines have been administered in the country, and India has set a record by administering the first dose of vaccine to more than 96 percent of its population. Simultaneously, 76% of those polled had taken both doses. The third dose of the Covid Vaccine, known as the precautionary dose, is currently being administered to healthcare workers, frontline workers, and people over the age of 60 who are already suffering from any other serious illness. India is continuously moving forward in this campaign under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, with the hard work and public participation of health workers.

COVAXIN, COVISHIELD WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE IN MARKET

Subject to certain conditions, the National Regulator, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), has approved the regular sale of two COVID-19 vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield. This does not mean that the government's free vaccination campaign will be discontinued; rather, it means that the government's vaccination campaign will continue as before, with everyone receiving first and second doses and seniors receiving preventive doses. Having the vaccine on the market will make it easier for those who want to take a precautionary dose. They are now able to do so in private clinics. To use this vaccine, however, it will be necessary to follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines.

TWO NEW FEATURES ADDED TO THE CoWIN PORTAL

Two new features have been added to the CoWIN portal for the benefit of vaccine recipients and the general public. With this feature, the names of six people can now be registered from a single mobile number, rather than just four. Previously, only four people could register on this platform using a single mobile number. At the same time, the beneficiary will be able to request that the mistake regarding the vaccine status in the certificate be corrected. This service has been provided to correct vaccination data entry errors made by vaccinators in a specific case. Indeed, technological solutions such as the Arogya Setu App for tracking COVID infections and the CoWIN portal for vaccination are sources of pride in India. CoWIN's online system, which includes everything from slot booking to certificate distribution, has piqued the interest of major countries as well. We saw how India, following the vision of "One Earth, One Nation," was saving millions of lives by providing essential medicines and vaccines to many countries during the time of Covid. India is now the world's third-largest producer of pharmaceuticals. The story of India's vaccination programme is the story of the country's one-of-a-kind journey.

REGULAR MEETINGS DURING THE THIRD WAVE OF COVID

During the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya held frequent meetings to review public health preparedness and national COVID-19 vaccination progress. On January 25, 2022, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya met with health ministers, principal secretaries, additional chief



secretaries, and administrators from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Ladakh, and Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was held to assess public health preparedness for COVID-19 management and prevention, as well as the progress of the National COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign.

MANY STEPS TAKEN TO CHECK SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

In addition to speeding up vaccination, the government has taken a number of other measures to protect people from the Omicron variant of COVID. The government attempted to bring non-vaccinated people under its purview through the "Har Ghar Dastak Abhiyan." In fact, during the Omicron variant of Covid, the majority of those admitted to the hospital were unvaccinated. So, it was crucial that those who have not been immunised get immunised as soon as possible. As a result, the Har Ghar Dastak campaign for 100% vaccination was launched, with efforts made to get the vaccine to those in need. Along with this, the government set up a slew of telemedicine facilities and consistently stood by every state in terms of

MESSAGE OF CREATING A SAFE AND HEALTHY NATION

To combat COVID, we have two main weapons. The first is complete immunisation, and the second is COVID-appropriate behaviour. In such a situation, people should remember to follow Covid guidelines even after vaccination to prevent an epidemic, such as wearing a mask, keeping their hands clean, and keeping a distance of two yards. It is prudent to strictly adhere to all of the rules. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also repeatedly urged people to emulate Covid's appropriate behaviour.



I salute everyone who is involved in the vaccination campaign. Our immunisation programme has greatly aided in the fight against COVID-19. It has both saved lives and protected livelihoods. Moreover, our doctors, nurses, and health workers play a vital role. When we see people in remote areas being vaccinated by our health workers or receiving the vaccine there, it fills our hearts and minds with pride. India's approach to combating the pandemic will always be scientific in nature. Let us all continue to follow COVID-19's friendly behaviour in order to defeat the pandemic.

-PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

essential medicines and infrastructure. Many states have strengthened their health infrastructure by utilising the special package of Rs 23 thousand crore given a few months ago. In addition, over 800 special paediatric care units for children have been approved in medical colleges and district hospitals across the country. A total of 1.5 lakh new oxygen, ICU, and HDU beds are being prepared, as are over 5000 special ambulances and over 950 liquid medical oxygen storage tanks.

Several efforts have been made to increase the capacity of emergency infrastructure, and Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has also released a commemorative postage stamp on the COVID-19 Vaccine to mark the first anniversary of India's National COVID Vaccination Programme. ■

INDO-MAURITIUS FRIENDSHIP SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

With its deepening relations with the region's island nations, India not only strengthens its position in the fast-changing strategic landscape of the Indian Ocean region but also sets a new example of friendship for the rest of the world. Narendra Modi launched the "Neighborhood First" initiative in 2014. As a result, the two countries relations have improved. Mauritius also became part of it. Mauritius' Prime Minister, Pravindra Jugnauth, and India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched a number of projects together on January 20, displaying the depth of their friendship.

The depth of the friendship between India and Mauritius becomes more apparent in the middle of a challenge like COVID-19. Mauritius and India have a good relationship, as evidenced by India sending the first batch of Covid-19 vaccines to Mauritius via the Vaccine Friendship Program and Mauritius sending roughly 200 oxygen concentrators to India during the second wave.

- In a show of close friendship, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart, Pravind Jugnauth, jointly opened a housing project in Mauritius on January 20 that is financed by the Indian government.
- As part of India's development assistance, the two Prime Ministers also laid virtual foundation stones for two other projects: the construction of a state-of-the-art civil service college and an 8 MW solar PV farm. The event was held via videoconference. On this occasion, an agreement was signed between India and Mauritius to provide a \$190 million line of credit (LoC) for the Metro Express project and other infrastructure projects.
- Mauritius' Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth, said that relations between India and Mauritius were at a new height under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership because of this. ■



MAURITIUS AND INDIA TIES ARE STRONG.

- The fact that Mauritius celebrates its national day on March 12, the anniversary of Gandhiji's Salt Satyagraha, demonstrates the close relations between India and Mauritius. Mauritius believes that due to this inspiration, it got independence from the British. Mauritius has always stood by India in major campaigns such as the Free Trade Agreement, Blue Ocean Economy, Maritime Security, and Anti-Piracy Operation.

INDIA IS A PARTNER IN MANY PROJECTS IN MAURITIUS.

- In 2016, India began construction of the New Mauritius Supreme Court as part of a US \$353 million special economic package given to Mauritius. This building was completed in the year 2020. Apart from this, Metro Express service was started in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, with the help of India. In addition, a state-of-the-art ENT facility with 100 beds has been built in collaboration with India.



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DAVOS AGENDA: PM MODI PITCHES INDIA'S PERSPECTIVES

The occasion was to discuss the 'present situation of the globe' as part of the World Economic Forum's Davos agenda. The event, which discussed the world's current pressing challenges and proposed solutions to address them, was attended by top industry executives, international organisations, and civil society members. India's leadership at the event made the world understand the country's power and will. It also gave the message - "This is the best time to invest in India".

Whether it's addressing environmental issues and inspiring people to live more environmentally responsible lives, or fostering a positive environment for investment through economic reforms from every perspective, India has shown and led the globe on a new path. Being a democratic country with diverse stakes in global institutions, it has emerged as a symbol of hope for the world in any crisis. Maintaining the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India has demonstrated its commitment to the world's welfare by providing medicines and vaccines to all those in need.

In his special address to the World Economic Forum's Davos agenda on January 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the world how India, with its young potential, is safeguarding humanity. Pointing to India's economic and policy reforms,

the Prime Minister also described the current opportunity as the most conducive for production and investment. Mr. Modi said, "Today, India is pushing 'Ease of Doing Business, we're striving hard to become the global supply chain's hub. In addition, we are promoting free trade agreements with a number of countries."

The Prime Minister also spoke about how, during the Corona period, India's 'One Earth, One Health' policy saved many lives by giving crucial medicines and vaccines to many countries. Referring to the Self-Reliant India program (Atmanirbhar Bharat), he said India's focus is not only on easing processes but also on boosting investment and output. He said India is formulating policies for the immediate future as well as the next 25 years. India has set a goal of achieving the highest levels of growth,

INDIA ON THE WORLD STAGE....

- India is now the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer; it serves as a global pharmacy.
- India is sending a record number of software developers to the rest of the world. In India, more than 50 lakh software developers are employed.
- India has the world's third-largest number of unicorns. In the last six months, over 10,000 start-ups have been registered. Their number has now crossed 60,000. It also includes over 80 unicorns, more than 40 of them were created in the year 2021.
- India now has the largest, most successful, and secure digital payment platform in the world. In India alone, UPI transactions reached 4.4 billion in December 2021.
- The world has taken notice of the Arogya Setu App for COVID infection tracking and the entire CoWin Portal vaccination system.
- India is currently improving the ease of doing business by minimizing government intervention. By lowering its corporate tax, India has become one of the most competitive economies in the world.
- Every global partner may benefit from India's innovation, ability to adopt the latest technology, and entrepreneurial zeal. As a result, it is an excellent time to invest in India.
- More than 6 lakh villages in the country are being connected with optical fibre. An investment of \$1.3 trillion is being made, especially on connectivity infrastructure.
- Through innovative financing tools like asset monetization, a target to generate \$80 billion has been set. India has also launched the Gati Shakti National Master Plan to bring every stakeholder on the same platform for promoting development.
- To encourage investment and production, production-linked incentives (PLI) worth \$26 billion have been implemented in 14 sectors. The \$10 billion incentive plan to roll out the fab, chip, and display industries reflects the government's commitment to facilitating global supply chains.
- The spirit of "Make in India, Make for the World" is driving India forward. Along with telecom, insurance, defence, and aerospace, India today offers endless opportunities in the field of semiconductors as well.
- Has set a target of net-zero emissions by 2070. India, with 17 percent of the world's population, may contribute only 5 percent to global carbon emissions, but its commitment to tackling the climate challenge is 100 percent.
- Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation are proof of this. As a result of our efforts over the years, non-fossil fuel sources now account for 40% of our energy mix. India fulfilled its promises made in Paris nine years ahead of schedule.

WHAT IS THE DAVOS AGENDA?

The World Economic Forum was established in 1971. Earlier, its name was European Management Forum. The name was changed in 1987. It is an NGO whose meetings are held every year in January in Davos, Switzerland, hence it is called the Davos Agenda. For the first time, this meeting was held in 1988. Its purpose is to discuss with all the national presidents the ongoing issues in the world on social issues like political, economic, globalization, the environment, and national-international problems.

welfare, and wellbeing within this time period, the PM said. Referring to how this period of development will be green, clean, sustainable as well as reliable, the Prime Minister said that 'Throw away' culture and consumerism have made the climate challenge more serious. It is very important to rapidly shift today's 'take-make-use-dispose', economy towards a circular economy. Mr Modi further said the same spirit is at the core of the idea of Mission LIFE that was discussed at the COP-26 meeting held in Glasgow. LIFE - means Lifestyle for Environment, a

vision of such a Resilient and Sustainable Lifestyle which will be useful in not only dealing with Climate Crisis but also with futuristic unpredictable challenges. Therefore, it is important to transform Mission LIFE into a global mass movement. A public participation campaign like LIFE can be made into a big base for, P-3, that is, 'Pro Planet People'. He stressed that India has given a beautiful gift to the whole world. In this bouquet of hope, we Indians have unwavering faith in democracy, technology, nature and capability. ■



YOUTH IS THE STRENGTH OF NATION FIRST

The nation's hope grows from the youth of a young country at a time when the country is celebrating its independence's Amrit Mahotsav and cherishing the dream of taking India to a glorious period through Amrit Kaal 2047. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly appealed to the youth to play a vital role in the development of a new nation. The accomplishment and success of India will be due to the youth's efforts, their resolutions, and their fulfilment.

The next 25 years of Amrit Kaal will be the tides of patriotism, and the challenge today is not whether or not anyone in the world will accept it. When the world looks to India with such certainty, it is vital that India does not get complacent in its efforts. This is why, addressing the National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally at Cariappa Ground recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that power should be such that it can lay the plot, cover the sky, and throw the cosmos on the palm, using a few lines from a poem by the legendary poet Makhn Lal Chaturvedi. The strength should be such that it can handle even the most difficult situations.

Not only that, but he urged the NCC cadets to work together. "Today, every young man and woman in the NCC is also a member of the NSS. The majority of them were born in this century. You have until 2047 to take India ahead." In fact, the Prime Minister believes that no power on earth will be able to halt a country whose youth begin to think in terms of the nation first. India's success in developing a startup environment and in sports is a shining illustration of this resolve.

Not only that, but the participation of women in military establishments is increasing. Efforts are also being made to open avenues for women and girls. The increasing number of female



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PM MODI INSPECTS GUARD OF HONOUR

- As NCC contingents marched past, the Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honor and took a salute.
- The Prime Minister witnessed NCC cadets displaying their skills in army action, slithering, microlight flying, parasailing, and cultural programmes.
- The Prime Minister also presented medals and batons to the top cadets.
- The Prime Minister invited the cadets to join the Self4Society platform, which aims to re-energize the country's collaborative efforts. The portal has over 7,000 organisations and 2.25 lakh users connected to it.

"I am happy to have served in the NCC as an active cadet, just like you. The training I received in NCC has given me tremendous strength in carrying out my responsibilities to the country today."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi



EXPERT COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO REVIEW THE NCC

The Defense Ministry has constituted a high level expert committee to comprehensively review the NCC. It will be headed by former MP Baijayant Panda. There are thirteen members in the committee. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathod, Vinay Sahasrabudde, Anand Mahindra, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sanjeev Sanyal, Najma Akhtar, Vasudha Kamat, Mukul Kanitkar, Rt. Major General Alok Raj, Milind Kamble, Rituraj Sinha, Vedika Bhandarkar, Anand Shah and Mayank Tiwari are part of the expert committee.

THE NCC IS A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT

- NCC holds enormous potential for nation-building. The NCC provides opportunities for the country's youth to develop holistically, with a sense of duty, commitment, dedication, discipline, and moral values, so that they can become capable leaders and responsible citizens.
- Provides hands-on experience for NCC cadets in a variety of activities, with a focus on social services, discipline, and adventure training.
- The NCC is open to all regular students in schools and colleges. The students are under no obligation to serve in the military.
- The objective of the NCC is to inculcate in young citizens the ideals of discipline, character, brotherhood, courage, and selfless service. Not

only this, it also aims to inculcate leadership qualities in the youth who will serve the nation, irrespective of the career they choose. It also motivates young people to choose a career in the Armed Forces.

- The NCC in India was established on July 15th, 1948 under the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, and its motto, Unity and Discipline, was adopted by the Central Advisory Committee on October 12th, 1980.
- The NCC lasts three years, with grades of "A," "B," and "C" awarded in the first, second, and third years. The NCC group is headed by an officer of the rank of Lieutenant General. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.

cadets is indicative of the country's shifting attitude. "The country needs your input, and there are enough prospects for that," the Prime Minister said. He stated that the country's daughters are now enrolling in Sainik Schools.

In the army, women are given significant tasks. This country's daughters serve in the Air Force as fighter pilots. In such a scenario, we should make every effort to include more and more daughters in the NCC. ■



President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



President of Turkmenistan



President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



President of the Republic of Tajikistan



A NEW ROADMAP FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Due to their geographical proximity, strategic location, and historical links, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are major partners of India. This is why, after 30 years of diplomatic relations with these countries, India has taken the initiative once again to elevate these relations to new heights.

When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, Central Asian countries rose to prominence on the global stage. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan, all of which are known as Central Asian countries, were among them. India's relations with the Soviet Union and afterwards Russia have always been great, and India has always expanded its ties with them from their inception in 1991. India considers Central Asian countries to be extended neighbours. These Central Asian countries are crucial from a geopolitical standpoint. They act as a key link between Europe and Russia.

Relations between India and Central Asian

countries have grown stronger since 2014. As a result, when India convened a summit for these five crucial Central Asian allies on January 27th, it was widely reported around the world. This virtual summit, hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a new endeavour to elevate India's rising activism in Central Asia and the rest of the world.

This first summit conference with Central Asian countries, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, is a sign of increased engagement and contact amongst the countries in India's extended neighbourhood. Prime Minister Modi visited all these Central Asian countries in 2015. It is pertinent to note that India has already begun a process of dialogue with these Central Asian



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What is the significance of this conference for India?

- After establishing its military base in Farkhor, Tajikistan, India has become the fourth country (after the United States, Russia, and Germany) to establish a military base in Central Asia. Not only has that, but military cooperation between India and Tajikistan has been going on at the Ayni Air Base for a long time. In the face of a changing landscape and new challenges, the relationship between Asia and Europe is vital.
- The mutual coordination between India and Central Asian countries has further strengthened during the COVID era. Central Asian nations have a rich source of energy. The TAPI gas pipeline project from Turkmenistan to India is being financed by the Asian Development Bank. The construction work of this pipeline is very important for India. In between, it was stuck for a long time.
- The 816-kilometer section of this pipeline will also pass through Afghanistan. The TAPI pipeline is expected to transport 33 billion cubic metres (BCM) of natural gas per year along a 1,800 km (1,125 mile) route from Galkinest, the world's second largest gas field, to Fazilka, India, near the Pakistan border.
- India and Kazakhstan have reached an agreement to supply uranium. These countries also have mineral resources. In addition, India is establishing itself as a manufacturer. In these countries, Indian culture is extremely important. Tajikistan has erected a statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and the country has also supported India in acquiring international recognition for Yoga Day.



The leaders unanimously agreed to hold the summit every two years. They agreed to hold regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Commerce Ministers, Culture Ministers, and Security Council Secretaries to plan the summit meetings. To support the new system, an India-Central Asia Secretariat will be established in New Delhi. The summit deliberated on far-reaching proposals for future cooperation in trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security, and, in particular, cultural and people-to-people contacts. This includes the Round Table Meeting on Energy and Connectivity; the Senior Official Level Joint Working Group on Afghanistan and the Use of Chabahar Port; Buddhist exhibitions in Central Asian countries and the India-Central Asia Dictionary of Common Terms; joint counter-terrorism exercises; an annual visit by a 100-member youth delegation from Central Asian countries to India; and special courses for Central Asian diplomats.

countries at the foreign ministerial level.

At a meeting on January 27 in the presence of Kazakhstan President Kasim Jomart Tokayev, Kyrgyzstan Chief Sedir Zapparov, Tajikistan's Imamoli Rahman, Turkmenistan's Gurbanguly Berdymohamadov, and Uzbekistan's premier Shavkat Mirizhi Yoye, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that "Our collaboration has had a lot of success over the last three decades." Let us also define an ambitious vision for the years ahead at this critical moment, a vision that may fulfill the expectations of our people, particularly the younger generation in a changing world.

In describing the summit's three key objectives,

Prime Minister Modi said, "First, to make it clear that mutual cooperation between India and Central Asia is essential for regional security and prosperity; second, to provide an effective framework for both countries' cooperation." This will create a framework for regular dialogue at multiple levels and between multiple parties. Third, develop an ambitious cooperation roadmap.

The mutual relations between India and Central Asia are at an excellent stage. This conference now has more significant dimensions. If these ties strengthen in the coming years, India's global standing will improve significantly. ■

FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR EVERYTHING FOR THE NATION



India suffered from a long period of subjugation. In its quest for independence, many freedom fighters sacrificed a lot and endured many difficulties. Many of our freedom fighters despite their immense contribution remained anonymous. Several of them went to the gallows happily for freedom while others were either shot or executed using canons. In many cases, the heroic saga of these freedom fighters was reduced to only a particular area. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an occasion to pay homage to such heroes.

Shyamji Krishna Varma is one such freedom fighter who holds a prominent place in Indian history because of his open defiance against the British empire. Praising Varma, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak has

written- "Shyamji Krishna Varma defied the British rule at a time when people were afraid of even taking the name of the British." After founding the Indian Home Rule Society on February 18, 1905, he had said- "this society will help in the attainment of home rule status for India and will promote for the unity of the country among the Indians. India House established by him provided refuge to Indian revolutionaries in London. The ashes of such a great revolutionary kept waiting abroad for 55 years. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat he brought the ashes of Shyamji Krishna Varma and his wife from Geneva to India on May 22, 2003. Read the story about some of the great revolutionaries in the series of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.....

REVOLUTIONARY BUDHU BHAGAT, THE ARCHITECT OF 'KOL REBELLION'

Born: 17 February 1792, Death: 13 February 1832

Budhu Bhagat was born in an Oraon family of Silagai village in the Ranchi district of Jharkhand. He fought against the cannons and guns of the British with unconventional weapons like axe. He displayed immense courage and stewardship in initiating the Kol rebellion in 1832 against the brutality of British rule in the tribal areas. He used to practice swordsmanship and archery since childhood. He waged war against the British sycophantic landlords and brokers. He always carried an axe with him. Seeing the organizational ability of Budhu Bhagat, people used to consider him as an incarnation of the deity.



He even organized the masses at Silli, Choreya, Pithoriya, Lohardaga, and Palamu. It is said that Budhu Bhagat had a great influence on the people of Ranchi and the surrounding areas of Chotanagpur

Seeing the organizational ability of Budhu Bhagat, people used to consider him as an incarnation of a deity.

who were ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause on his appeal. He taught the tribals to fight for their rights against any injustice. He trained the tribals in guerrilla warfare and defeated the English army several times taking advantage of the dense forests and inaccessible hills. His family members including his sons, sisters supported him fiercely in the fight against the British. Budhu Bhagat's military base was amidst dense forests on the top of the Chogari mountain where strategies against the British were made. He became a big threat to the British who announced a reward of one thousand rupees on his head, which was considered a huge amount in those days. To capture Budhu Bhagat and his companions, the British surrounded Silagai village on 13 February 1832 and opened fire. In this firing, Budhu Bhagat was martyred while fighting for the country.

A LEADING FREEDOM FIGHTER WHO WAS ALSO THE ARCHITECT OF 'PANCHYATI RAJ'

Born: 19 February 1900, Death: 19 September 1965

Balwantrai Mehta, who was the second Chief Minister of Gujarat, was born in a middle-class family in Bhavnagar. At the age of just 20, he started participating in the Indian freedom struggle.



He resented the colonial repression and fought tooth and nail against it. Balwantrai Mehta completed his studies in Bachelor of Arts but refused to take a degree from the colonial government. He founded the Bhavnagar Praja Mandal in Gujarat in 1921 to give further impetus to the freedom struggle. He participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement from 1930 to 1932. Along with this, he also took an active part in the famous Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928 against the imposition of unjust taxes after which he emerged as an important leader of this movement. He was sentenced to

Balwant Rai Mehta lost his life in the Pakistani Air Force strike while going from Mithapur to Kutch.

3 years in prison for participating in the Quit India Movement and during British rule, he remained in jail for about 7 years. In 1957, the committee formed under his chairmanship submitted its report on the democratic decentralization of the country which we know today as Panchayati Raj. The three-tier Panchayati Raj system was implemented in India on the basis of the report of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee. The same committee had recommended giving full control over planning and administration to the local bodies. It is because of his far-sighted thinking that today the deprived sections of society are getting their dues. Due to his efforts to make the Panchayati Raj system powerful, Balwantrai Mehta is known as the 'Architect of the Panchayati Raj System'.

JATINDRA MOHAN SENGUPTA DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT, BREATHED HIS LAST IN JAIL

Born: 22 February 1885, Death: 23 July 1933

Jatindra Mohan Sengupta was born in a landlord family of Chittagong (present-day Bangladesh), India. His father Jatra Mohan Sengupta was a lawyer and a member of the Bengal Legislative Council. After passing from Presidency College in Kolkata, he went to England in 1904 for further studies. However, there was a burning desire in his heart to serve the nation. When Mahatma Gandhi started the non-cooperation movement, Jatindra Mohan left his legal practice to participate in the movement. Known as 'Deshpriya', Sengupta soon emerged as the pro-labor voice in the country.



Sengupta was one of Bapu's close associates

He also participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Jatindra was always there to defend nationalist revolutionaries from the gallows or jails. He also went to England to attend the Round Table Conference in 1931. Jatindra Mohan married an English woman. His wife's real name was Edith Ellen Gray who changed her name to Nelly Sengupta after marriage.

Nelly Sengupta despite being a foreigner, devoted her life to free India from the British. It is said that during the freedom struggle, Nelly sold Khadi from door to door. Nelly was also appointed president of Congress. Jatindra died in Ranchi Jail at the age of 48.

MANIRAM DEWAN: LEFT HIS JOB FROM ASSAM TEA COMPANY, TO JOIN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Born: 17 April 1806, Martyr's Day: 26 February 1858

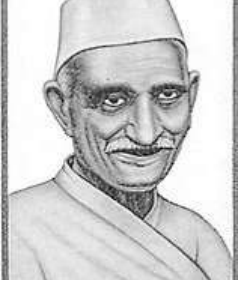
Maniram Dewan was one of the great freedom fighters from Assam, who laid down his life for the independence of the country. He emerged as an inspiration for many people in the freedom struggle. Born on 17 April 1806, Maniram Dutta, popularly known as Maniram Dewan, was a freedom fighter as well as a big businessman. He was the first to set up tea gardens in Assam and in 1839 the British appointed him as the Dewan of the Assam Tea Company. However, he left this job in 1840 due to differences with the British authorities. Later he opened his own tea garden. During this period resentment was growing against the British. Meanwhile, in the 1850s, Maniram turned against the British, and on May 10, 1857, when Indian soldiers rebelled against the British, he considered it a golden opportunity

Dewan, who fought the British along with the King of Assam, was hanged in Jorhat Jail.

to re-establish the old dynasty of Assam, the Ahom. He immediately urged the king to revolt against the British with the help of the soldiers of Dibrugarh and Golaghat. King Kandarpeswar Singha hatched a plot with his loyal people and also collected a stockpile of weapons, but the British came to know about it. The king, Maniram, and other leaders were taken into custody and kept in Jorhat jail. In this case, the British found Maniram guilty of conspiracy and hanged him along with another freedom fighter, Pyali Barua, in Jorhat jail on 26 February 1858. In a 1963 movie based on the life of Maniram, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika sang the song 'Buku Hoom-Hoom Kare' for it.

RAVISHANKAR MAHARAJ: A FREEDOM FIGHTER AND SOCIAL WORKER

Born: 25 February 1884, Death: 1 July 1984



Ravishankar Maharaj, not only participated in the freedom struggle of India but also took up the cause of social reform throughout his life. Ravi Shankar Maharaj, also known as Ravi Shankar Vyas, worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel to liberate India and dedicated his life to the service of the country. He was born on 25 February 1884 in a village in the Kheda district of Gujarat. He dropped out of school after sixth class to help his father in agricultural work. He met Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 and became attracted to the cause of national independence. He also had to go to jail while participating in the freedom struggle. He also participated in the Bardoli Satyagraha and was also active during the Quit India Movement, due to which the British government again imprisoned him. When India became independent on 15 August 1947,

Ravishankar Maharaj used to take only one meal a day.

following in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, Ravi Shankar Maharaj turned towards social work. He devoted himself to the cause of the welfare of the people of Gujarat and worked tirelessly to uplift the backward class people and Dalits. He was also associated with the Bhoodan movement led by Vinoba Bhave. He also brought the bandits into the mainstream. He opposed the Emergency imposed in the country in 1975. He was a man who used to take only one meal a day. He received crores of rupees and plots of land in donation but he did not keep anything for himself, hence he is also called 'crorepati beggar'. He died on 1 July 1984 in Gujarat at the age of 100. The Government of India issued a postage stamp in 1984 in honor of Ravi Shankar Maharaj, who spent his entire life in the service of the country. ■



Amrit Mahotsav, along with learning, inspires us to do something for the country. Now whether it is common people or governments across the country, from Panchayat to Parliament, there is an echo of Amrit Mahotsav and programs related to this festival are going on continuously.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Unique Initiative of NCC

Brave jawans are a source of inspiration for our country and future generations to come. With an aim to express their gratitude to them the National Cadet Corps (NCC) has taken a unique initiative as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The NCC will honor the kins of the Bravehearts in every part of the country with the 'Shaurya Smriti' plaque. The NCC will felicitate the kins of all 26,466 fallen heroes whose names were etched at the National War Memorial. The programme which was launched on January 26 will continue till August 15.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WHO REMAINED 'AZAD' TILL LAST BREATH

Chandra Shekhar Azad is one of the most inspiring personalities of the Indian independence movement. The British empire for which it was famous that the sun never set on it, was also not able to capture him alive. The police could not even touch Azad until he was martyred at Alfred Park in Prayagraj on February 27, 1931.

Chandra Shekhar Azad remained free till his last breath. Chandra Shekhar Azad was born on 23 July 1906 in Bhabra village of Madhya Pradesh to Sitaram Tiwari. It is said that his family was from Badarka village in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh, but father Sitaram Tiwari had to leave his native village due to famine and move to Bhabra in Madhya Pradesh. He was of rebellious nature since childhood and was more interested in sports activities than studies. There is an interesting story behind how 'Azad' was added to his name.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre shook the mind of young Chandra Shekhar. His mother wanted him to become a scholar of Sanskrit but he adopted the path to liberate the country. In 1921 the non-cooperation movement was going on. It is said that 15-year-old Chandra Shekhar while sitting on dharna was arrested by the police. He was produced before a magistrate in the court. When the magistrate asked his name, address, and father's name he replied- 'My name is Azad, father's name is Swatantra and address is Jail.' On this reply, he was expected to get the punishment which he received but the name Azad got associated with him forever. At the height of the non-cooperation movement when it was called off after the Chauri-Chaura incident, Azad felt that only peaceful means would not get freedom, so he turned to Banaras. Banaras used to be the center of revolutionary activities



BORN: JULY 23, 1906, DEATH: FEBRUARY 27, 1931

in those days in India. The Hindustan Republican Association was established in Kanpur in October 1924, which later became the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Great revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chatterjee, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Yogendra Shukla, Shachindranath Sanyal, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh, Rajendra Lahiri, Bhagat Singh, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, and Sukhdev were its key members.

For the next decade, these names attracted the attention of the nation and dreaded the British. After the Kakori train incident in 1925, many members of the organization were arrested but Azad and Kundan Lal eluded the police. It is said that on December 17, 1927, when Bhagat Singh and Rajguru were running towards the DAV College hostel after killing DSP John Saunders, a police constable, Chanan Singh, was running after them. When Chanan Singh was very close to catching Bhagat Singh a bullet pierced through his legs which was fired by Chandra Shekhar Azad. Bhagat Singh, Batukeshwar Dutt, and most of the members of the organization were arrested after the bombing of the Central Assembly in 1929, but Chandra Shekhar Azad, who was considered a master of disguise, remained elusive.

Narendra Modi is the first Prime Minister of the country to visit Bhabra, the birthplace of Azad. In 2016, the program 'Zara Yaad Karo Qurbani' was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from here. ■



Narendra Modi @narendra... People from all walks of life have welcomed the #AatmanirbharBharatKaBudget. The youth of India see this Budget as one that will give wings to their ambitions. The emphasis on futuristic technologies in all spheres is noteworthy and will benefit a cross section of our citizens.



Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh The 68 percent of defence capital procurement budget has been allocated towards local procurement. It is in line with the 'Vocal for Local' push and it will certainly boost the domestic defence industries.



Amit Shah @AmitShah The development of the North-eastern region has always been the top priority of the Modi govt. The announcement of the 'PM Development Initiative' for the Northeast will go a long way in realising PM Modi's vision of a prosperous northeast. #AatmanirbharBharatKaBudget



Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari आदारणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के नेतृत्व में वित्त श्रीमंत्री श्री @nsitharaman जी द्वारा पेश किया गया बजट देश में आधुनिक इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को बढ़ावा देने वाला बजट है, जो नए भारत की नींव रखेगा और 130 करोड़ भारतवासियों की जिंदगी बेहतर करेगा। किसान, महिला और युवक पर फोकस रहे इस वर्ष के बजट में पीएम नरेंद्र शक्ति के जरिए विकास पर जोर दिया गया है। #AtmaNirbharBharatKaBudget #UnionBudget2022



NSitharamanOffice @nsitha... Through a combination of Government expenditure and attracting private investment, #Budget2022 provides a significant boost to the youth of the nation. #AtmaNirbharBharatKaBudget



Bhupender Yadav @byadavb... Scope of PARIVESH single window portal for Green clearances to be expanded. To provide info to applicants based on location of units, specific approvals will enable application for all approvals through single form and tracking via centralised system. #AatmanirbharBharatKaBudget

Progressive, people-friendly Budget: PM

PM Narendra Modi says the decisions will benefit the poor and marginalised sections of society

The Budget this year comes with a new confidence of development amid the onset in a century calamity. It will create new opportunities for the common people along with providing strength to the economy. Referring to the provisions that aim at creating more jobs, the Prime Minister said the budget will not only solve contemporary problems but also ensure a bright future for the youth and job opportunities for the green jobs sector. Welfare of the poor, he said, is the local point of the economic engine and it aims to ensure a people-centric, self-reliant, and inclusive growth and jobs. Since after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget, the Prime Minister underlined that it will benefit the poor, marginalised and women.



"Welfare of the poor is one of the most important aspects of this budget," he said. On the attention to sectors such as technology and infrastructure, Modi said the quest for modernity and technology in every sphere of life can be seen in steps being taken to provide robust infrastructure in border vil-

lages. The PM, who has in the past pushed for organic farming, said along with cleaning the river Ganga, the government will encourage natural farming on the banks of the river in its states: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. He said natural farming will serve the purpose of ensuring welfare of farmers as well as help in making the Ganga-chemical-free. "India's MSME sector will be greatly benefited by the revocation of 68 per cent of the Defence Capital Budget for the domestic industry. 47.5 lakh crore worth of public investment will give a push in the economy and create new opportunities for small and other industries," he said. More than 22.25 crore have been transferred to the accounts

of farmers through MSP purchase, he said. The government has been working on doubling farm incomes and had set 2022 as the deadline for doing so. Modi said India's MSME sector will benefit from the revocation of 68% of the defence capital budget for the domestic industry and 47.5 lakh crore worth of public investment will give a push in the economy and create new opportunities for small and other industries," he said. More than 22.25 crore have been transferred to the accounts

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Rahul Singh

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New platform for compliance relief

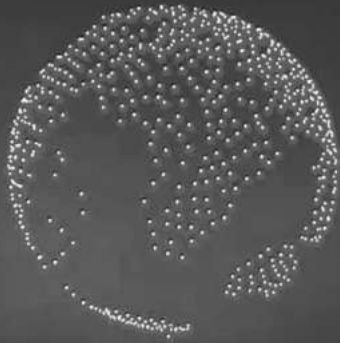
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India fighting Covid-19 third wave with great success: PM

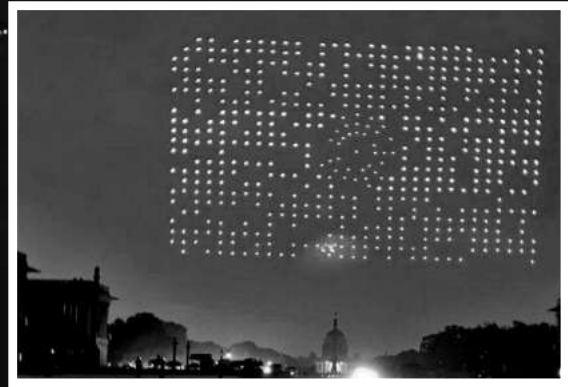
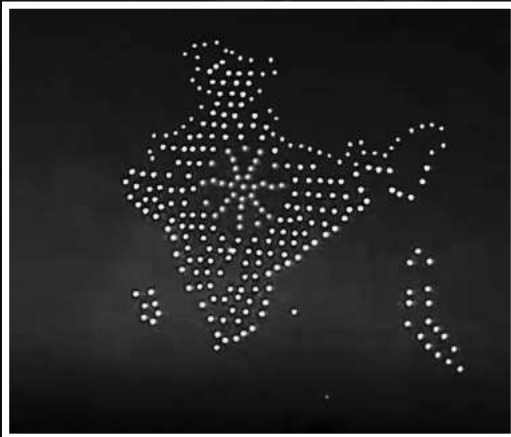
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'Corruption like termite, hollows country'

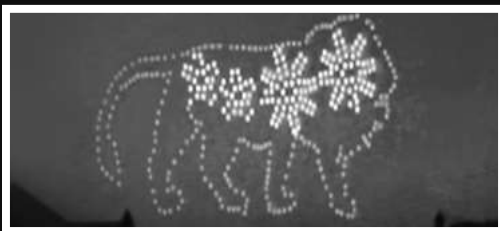
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‘BEATING RETREAT CEREMONY’, CAPTIVATING VIEWS OF 2022



Showcasing the strength of a self-reliant India, the Indian skies at Vijay Chowk lit up with the lights of 1,000 indigenous drones during the 'Beating Retreat' ceremony this year. The performance was celebrated as part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of independence. The various symbols of freedom through drones not only captivated the audience, but it was a moment to renew India's new flight in the Amrit Kaal.



It was conceptualized, designed, produced, and choreographed under the 'Make in India' initiative. The drone demonstration was organized by startup 'Botlab Dynamics' in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and the Department of Science and Technology.