BJP National President Shri JP Nadda along with other NDA Leaders welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi to NDA meeting in New Delhi

NDA MEETING IN NEW DELHI

‘NDA HAS ALWAYS MANIFESTED NATION-FIRST’
BJP National President Shri JP Nadda along with Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel receiving the greetings at ‘Karyakarta Samwad’ programme in Vadodara, Gujarat on 10 July, 2023

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and other BJP leaders visiting the flood affected areas in Himachal Pradesh on 14 July, 2023

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda while launching ‘Nahi Sahega Rajasthan’ in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 16 July, 2023

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah distributing micro ATMs and ‘RuPay Kisan Credit Card’ at the 42nd Foundation Day of NABARD in New Delhi on 19 July, 2023

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda along with Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel receiving the greetings at ‘Karyakarta Samwad’ programme in Vadodara, Gujarat on 10 July, 2023

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah at the ‘G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI & Metaverse’ held in Gurugram on 13 July, 2023

Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Nitin Gadkari and UP CM Shri Yogi Adityanath inaugurating various development projects in Lucknow, UP on 17 July, 2023
NDA TODAY STANDS FOR N-NEW INDIA, D-DEVELOPED NATION AND A-ASPIRATION OF PEOPLE AND REGIONS: PM

PM Shri Narendra Modi during his address at the ‘NDA Leaders’ Meet’ recalled the role of Atal ji, Advani ji and the various other...

VAICHARIKI

THE LOTUS SHALL BLOOM / ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE 26

ARTICLE

PM MODI’S RECENT INTERNATIONAL VISITS: BEGINNING OF NEW ERA OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY / VIJAY CHAUTHAIWALE 30

OTHERS

‘PM MODI PROPPELLING INDIA ON THE PATH OF UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT... 09

NDA COMMITTED TO MOVE AHEAD UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PM MODI: JP NANDA 12

OPPOSITION ALLIANCE TO PROTECT THEIR DYNASTIES: JP NANDA 17

HIGH-LEVEL INQUIRY COMMITTEE SUBMITS ITS REPORT TO BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT ON BIHAR LATHICHA... 19

13.5 CRORE INDIANS ESCAPE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY IN 5 YEARS 20

CHANDRAYAAN-3 SCRIPTS A NEW CHAPTER IN INDIA’S SPACE ODYSSEY: PM 21

PM MODI STORY 28

KAMAL PUSHP 29

PM ADDRESSES G20 LABOUR MINISTERS’ MEET 33

PM’S REMARKS AT THE START OF MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT 34
@Narendramodi
President Wickremesinghe and I discussed how to boost the economic partnership between India and Sri Lanka. We also worked to deepen connectivity and cooperation in tourism, energy, trade, education, fintech and skill development.
(21 July, 2023)

@AmitShah
A meeting of the NDA leaders was held under the leadership of PM @narendramodi Ji. The NDA has etched its name in history as India’s united strength, shaping the nation’s destiny and achieving new milestones of development. We firmly believe that the people of India will grant NDA another victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha Election, upholding the momentum of development. (18 July, 2023)

@JPNadda
Heartiest congratulations to @isro for the successful launch of the historic #Chandrayaan3 mission that will showcase India’s technological capabilities to the world and expand our understanding of the lunar surface. This remarkable mission is a testament to the ingenuity and perseverance of our scientists, who have been continuously giving new heights to India’s space ambitions. (14 July, 2023)

@Rajnathsingh
PM Shri @narendramodi’s stature as a statesman has risen across the globe in the recent years. His statesmanship has been recognised globally and many countries have felicitated him. Now, France has bestowed the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor on him which is the highest French honour in military or civilian orders. It is a proud moment for every Indian. Congratulations to Pradhanmantri on receiving the honour. (14 July, 2023)

@Dr. S. Jaishankar
Our best technology education brand is now moving beyond our shores. @iitdelhi’s Abu Dhabi campus will take high value education and cutting-edge research to many more around the world. And further strengthen our ties with the Gulf.
(15 July, 2023)

@BLSanthosh
DEATH OF DEMOCRACY IN BIHAR. Jehanabad BJP GS Vijay Kumar Singh passed away after lathicharge by cops. BJP MLA Jeevesh Mishra was thrown out of Assembly & police lathi charged senior citizen BJP MP Janardan Singh Sigriwal too. Condemning the highhandedness in strongest words.
(13 July, 2023)

KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR wishes a very happy INDEPENDENCE DAY (15 AUGUST) to all of its readers
India has experienced an unparalleled transformation in the last nine years, registering immense progress in almost every sector. India is now seen as an achiever, and its potential is being applauded and acknowledged globally.

As the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) completes 25 years of its glorious journey, the imprint of its historic contribution to the nation’s life can be seen everywhere. It has not only been able to get the blessings of millions of people; it has also strengthened the faith of the poor in the political system of the country and raised the hopes of the people with newfound confidence. While opening the doors of new opportunities for the people, the NDA is today fulfilling their aspirations by creating the atmosphere of immense possibilities that India represents. In addition to providing political stability to the country, it has given a new direction to the nation with novel ideas and new initiatives. The mantra Nation First, which guides the policies of the NDA, has led to a long-term vision for the country with many measures that are propelling India to the forefront globally. From the day it was formed to today, it has been able to unleash the potential of this great nation while powering it with new energy and dynamism. Today, under the visionary and strong leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has experienced an unparalleled transformation in the last nine years, registering immense progress in almost every sector. India is now seen as an achiever, and its potential is being applauded and acknowledged globally, earning it a special place in the eyes of international agencies and experts.

While the launch of Chandrayan-3 represents the spirit of India, which believes in relentlessly pursuing its goals, Indian scientists have once again made the nation proud. The Chandrayan-3 not only represents the hopes and dreams of the nation; it also shows the commitment of the nation towards humanity at large and the urge of every Indian to embark on the journey of exploration, discovery, and invention. As the heart of every Indian is filled with pride with the launch of Chandrayan-3, the recent news of a record 13.5 crore people moving out of multidimensional poverty has further strengthened the faith of the people in the policies and programmes of the Modi government. As per the NITI Aayog report, between 2015-16 and 2019-21, India has registered a remarkable decline from 24.85% to 14.96%, and more important is that rural India has seen the fastest decline. The NITI Aayog report is in fact an approval of the huge success of the pro-poor, pro-farmer, and pro-labour policies of the Modi government, which are bringing huge transformation in the hitherto neglected villages and rural economies, thereby strengthening the base of the Indian economy. It indicates the fact that not only is the income of the poor increasing, but the rural and poor populace is now being empowered with electricity connections, access to bank accounts, potable water, and better education and health facilities. The commitment of the BJP to the principles of ‘Antyodaya’ is getting reflected in the indices showing a fast reduction of poverty in the country.

As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the NDA today stands for New India, Developed India, and Aspiration of people and regions, its last 25 years are inspiring the nation and coming 25 years will see the emergence of a ‘Viksit Bharat’. In the period of ‘Amritkaal’, the dream of achieving ‘Aatmnirbharata’ and becoming a developed nation may only be realised through the NDA. While the Congress led alliance is turning out to be an ‘alliance in compulsion’, the NDA represents an ‘alliance of contribution’ wherein every political party has come to contribute to the process of nation building. The NDA has the responsibility to take India forward in the ‘Amritkaal’ by defeating the divisive and regressing forces in the society and by channelizing the creative energy of the nation. Today, the NDA represents the aspirations of New India.
PM Shri Narendra Modi during his address at the ‘NDA Leaders’ Meet’ recalled the role of Atal ji, Advani ji and the various other prominent leaders in shaping the NDA and providing it the necessary direction and guidance. Shri Modi also acknowledged and congratulated all on the completion of 25 years since the establishment of NDA in 1998. This Silver Jubilee has played an important role in the nation-building of India, he remarked.

India journeys towards an ‘Aatmanirbhar’ nation

PM Shri Modi said, “The coming 25 years is going to be extremely crucial as India journeys towards an Aatmanirbhar and a developed nation. We as the Government have to cater to the various dreams and aspirations of the people of India with regard to the next 25 years.” Adding further, PM Shri Modi said, “For the same, NDA today, stands for N-New India, D-Developed Nation and A-Aspiration of people and regions. He added that all the sections of people across the country had faith in the NDA and looked at it as a positive force.

Government with majority promotes stability

Mentioning that a stable and development-oriented government was needed for India, the PM remarked, ‘A Government
with majority promotes stability and the NDA over these years has strived to provide the same.” The Congress Party, he said, has created coalitions that have only strived to promote negativity and unstable policies. “Congress used coalitions in the 1990s to destabilise the country by forming governments and then pulling them down. On the other hand, the NDA was formed to bring stability and not to topple any government. Even while being in the opposition, the NDA always indulged in positive politics prioritizing Nation First,” said PM Shri Modi.

**Strengthening India’s democratic fundamentals**

“We have always believed in strengthening India’s democratic fundamentals. We have neither let foreign interests dictate terms and nor have sought their help,” he added.

Stating that the opposition today, does not allow the central schemes to function effectively in various states, PM Modi said that they fear that these schemes will uplift all even at the very grassroots level.

Coming down heavily on corruption and scams of the Opposition, PM Shri Modi observed, “When Coalition-led Governments encourage and prioritize corruption, dynastic politics, casteism, politics of convenience it only harms the interests of India.”

**Empowerment of People First**

Regarding the contributions by the NDA, PM Shri Modi said that all the parties that have been a part of the alliance, have worked tirelessly to empower the poor and the downtrodden. He added that it had been the efforts of the various parties of the NDA, that today even the commonest of voices, demands and aspirations were reaching the Central Government in Delhi. “NDA has always manifested Nation-First and Nation’s Security First, Progress First and the Empowerment of People First,” said PM Shri Modi.

“It is the perseverance of the NDA that has seen the largest number of people exit poverty, empowering them,” he added citing reports by reputed

**Highlights**

- The coming 25 years is going to be extremely crucial as India journeys towards an Aatmanirbhar and a developed nation.
- When Coalition-led Governments encourage and prioritize corruption, dynastic politics, casteism, politics of convenience it only harms the interests of India.
- Coalition Governments formed in the past as a result of this have only led to policy paralysis, indecisiveness, creation of power-centers, mistrust and corruption.
- NDA has always believed in the ‘Coalition of Contributions’ unlike the Congress-led “Coalition of Compulsions”. This principle has remained true despite the BJP attaining a majority on its own in both the 2014 and 2019 elections.”
- Be it the Mudra loans or the Startups, women are now at the forefront of India’s economic progress.
- Women-led SHGs are the pioneers of rural development also promoting social inclusion.
- Every particle of my body, every moment of my time, is dedicated to serve the country.
institutions indicating decline in poverty rate. “This Government has always prioritized the development of the poor, be it the buildings of houses, providing free healthcare, or the providing of bank loans. This Government has sought the development of all avoiding appeasement and enabling social justice,” said PM Shri Modi.

**Politics of vote bank into the politics of development**

Elaborating how the NDA Government changed the politics of vote bank into the politics of development, the PM cited numerous measures undertaken in the last nine years towards women-led development in the country. He said, “We are all aware of restrictive and non-participative role of women in India in the recent past. Today, women are opening bank accounts, registering houses in their name and are also availing loans leading to their true empowerment. Be it the Mudra loans or the Startups, women are now at the forefront of India’s economic progress. Women-led SHGs are the pioneers of rural development also promoting social inclusion. The NDA through its various initiatives like constructing toilets under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or by providing free LPG cylinders has truly created a women-led development. From defence to mining, we have opened up these sectors for the women. NDA has had the honour of electing a tribal woman as the President of India,” said Shri Modi.

“We possess a clear conscience, a clear policy and a clear ability to deliver”, said PM Shri Modi adding, “Over the nine years, we have eliminated corruption and aided development through the use of technology. We have enabled the JAM Trinity in fraud prevention and accurate identification and targeting of beneficiaries through the DBT system. For us, India’s democracy is a means to enable good governance and efficient service delivery,” said Shri Modi.

Expounding that the NDA recognized the true efforts of the people who have contributed towards the growth and development of India, even cutting across party-lines, the PM said, “It is the NDA which has awarded numerous people belonging to different parties with Bharat Ratna for their meritorious service. NDA has always recognized and appreciated the efforts of the people for this country.”

Elect NDA for the third time

“The 2024 General Elections are not far away. The Indian people have decided to elect the NDA for the third time,” said PM Modi. Adding that various Foreign Governments like in the USA, France, the UAE and Egypt among others were inviting Indian representatives and signing major deals before the elections showcased a clear indication of the NDA’s ability to lead India. He also mentioned about the faith Indian Diaspora had on the NDA Government. “A testimony for this overwhelming support is the history and chemistry of the NDA and its sheer ability to deliver,” said PM Shri Modi.

Concluding his speech, Shri Modi said that India’s development should be our only agenda going into the elections. He said, “I assure you; I assure the countrymen that I will leave no stone unturned in my hard work and my efforts. I will stay away from bad intentions; I will not do any work with bad intentions. Every particle of my body, every moment of my time, is dedicated to serve the country.”
Over the last 9 years, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government has realised the vision of Sewa, Sushasan and Gareeb Kalyaan (Service, Good Governance and Welfare of Poor) in the true sense. The country has scaled newer heights of development under the NDA Government. This journey of good governance and development has seen the participation of all sections, regions and communities. NDA in its very form is a leading representative of ‘One India. United India’. All constituents of the NDA congratulate Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary and popular leadership that has taken India successfully ahead in Her developmental journey.

The NDA coalition has completed 25 years of existence. In these 25 years, the NDA has established inspiring records in good governance. Whenever the NDA has been in power, the coalition has worked with the spirit of ‘Nation First’ towards public welfare. Whether it was Atal ji’s government from 1998 to 2004, or it is the government under Honourable Shri Narendra Modi since 2014, the NDA Government has always worked for nation-building while respecting regional aspirations.

Strengthening national security, establishing good governance, development of basic infrastructure, improvement in the living standards of the poor and marginalised, and raising India’s stature on the global stage have been among the priority areas of the NDA Government. In the past nine years especially, the work done for the welfare of the poor and development of all has been unprecedented.

By forsaking personal interest and dedicating themselves to public welfare, the NDA constituents have presented an exemplary model of politics before the country. The ‘India First’ spirit has always been central to the thoughts, ideologies and foundational principles of NDA. The journey that started in 1998 for nation-building and public welfare is moving ahead in the same form and structure, invigorated by the same spirit.

All NDA constituents resolve their unshakable trust in the victory of the coalition in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. NDA appreciates the commitment displayed by the Modi Government towards Sewa, Sushasan and Gareeb Kalyaan and lauds the significant development made across all sectors of governance.

**‘PM Modi propelling India on the path of unprecedented development through his commitment and unrelenting hard work’**

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting was held in New Delhi on 18 July, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shiv Sena President & Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde proposed the resolution in the meeting. AIADMK’s Shri K. Palanisamy and Asom Gana Parishad leader Shri Atul Bora supported the resolution. In the meeting, all constituents of NDA resolved that NDA will unitedly contest the Lok Sabha elections under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and for the third consecutive time, Shri Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister of the country with a huge majority.
The commitment to Gareeb Kalyan

The NDA Government’s welfare schemes, which have realised Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Gareeb Kalyan’ outlined in 2014, have brought about a positive change in the lives of scores of country’s poor people. According to credible international reports also, there has been a sharp reduction in poverty in India. From bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana, to smokeless kitchen through PM Ujjwala Yojana; from toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission to potable water in taps under Har Ghar Jal Mission; from extending economic support to small farmers via PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, to providing houses with basic amenities to crores of Indian families under PM Awas Yojana, to ensuring jobs and self-employment opportunities for the youth by extending economic support to Small and Medium Enterprises, an array of pro-people schemes have been implemented with success under the NDA government. These schemes have helped transform the lives of the poor. All NDA constituents heartily congratulate Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for realising the vision of Gareeb Kalyan with success.

All-inclusive government

Over the last nine years, the NDA Government has worked with the spirit of inclusiveness under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. NDA’s Modi Government is forever committed to social and economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Communities, women and Economically Weaker Sections of the society. The task of developing five places associated with the life and work of Dr BR Ambedkar, the national hero who raised his voice for the marginalised sections of the society, as Panchteerth, has also been undertaken and completed under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. The Panchteerth stand to inspire the society to achieve equality and harmony.

The number of steps that have been undertaken for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes over the last nine years had never been undertaken in the past. There has been a consistent increase in the Union Budget year after year for the social, educational and economic empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Even in the welfare schemes of the Modi Government, Dalits and Adivasis have been given preference.

To ensure the economic empowerment of Dalit communities and their participation in self-employment, the Modi government is extending easy loans under schemes such as StandUp India and Mudra Yojana. As a result of these policies, people from SC-ST communities are taking the lead in areas of education, business, jobs, services and social sectors.

In 2017, the NDA made Honourable Shri Ramnath Kovind, who hails from the Dalit community, its Presidential candidate. He went on to grace the chair of the President of India. In 2022, when the Presidential elections were announced, the NDA forwarded the name of Honourable Smt. Droupadi Murmu and she became the President of India. These aspects make it amply clear that under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA is fully committed to the all-round development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

To empower the socially and educationally backward communities, the Modi government granted Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, a demand that had been pending for decades. Due to the policy decisions of the Modi government, opportunities for students hailing from backward communities in the field of medical science have risen. The efforts of the Modi Government towards ensuring the participation of the OBC community in education and employment are praise-worthy.

The NDA Government took many women-centric initiatives to empower India’s ‘Nari Shakti’. With several steps like registering homes under housing schemes in the name of women, distributing property cards to women, strengthening women Self-Help Groups, ensuring loans easily for women entrepreneurs, doors for the nation’s Nari Shakti in politics, employment and self-employment, services, and defence forces have opened up. As a result of these initiatives, the presence of women power is being increasingly seen in all fields.

The NDA Government led by Shri Narendra Modi has realised this vision of social justice through its policies and decisions. Today, all sections of the society are being represented in politics, government and other fields and for this the commitment shown by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is worthy of high praise. The NDA appreciates and lauds this aspect.
Rising economic prowess on the global stage

Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, India is fast moving towards being a US $5 trillion economy apart from emerging as a new power centre of the global economy. In the last nine years of the NDA Government, India has achieved the feat of highest ever Foreign Direct Investment. Indian states and Union Territories have emerged as active participants in this economic journey. As a result of this, in many sectors, including defence, the India of Amrit Kaal is emerging as a country with lower reliance on imports and fast strengthening exports sector.

The NDA lauds PM Shri Narendra Modi for shaping the Gati Shakti Yojana which is giving a new dimension to building basic infrastructure in the country. Along with moving ahead in preparing the basic infrastructure at an unprecedented speed, India is also making a mark as a global leader in preparing digital infrastructure. The Indian leadership in developing the UPI model for financial transaction has been appreciated by the global community.

Capable, strong, powerful and secure India

Led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, under the leadership of the NDA Government, India is fast achieving Atmanirbharta in the defence and national security sectors. The New India of Amrit Kaal has emerged as an indigenous manufacturer of defence equipment. In the last nine years, India has strengthened its border security infrastructure. India is emerging as a strong nation in manufacturing military equipment. With a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and Naxalism, India is also a beacon peace.

In the fight against Covid pandemic, India displayed its vast prowess and self-reliance capabilities. The world acknowledged and lauded India’s leadership in the fight against Covid.

Popular leadership – unshakable trust

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India’s stature on the global stage has strengthened. As the world’s most popular leader, Shri Narendra Modi enjoys the unswerving trust of millions of Indians. The trust of 140 crore Indians on Shri Modi’s visionary leadership is the reason for India’s growing stature on the global stage. It is a matter of pride for the entire country, including us, that 14 countries have conferred their highest honour upon Shri Narendra Modi ji. These 14 countries include France and several Gulf nations. These honours are a reflection of the world’s respect for India under the strong leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. They are a recognition of Shri Narendra Modi ji’s impactful leadership on the global stage.

It is because of a change in the world’s view of India that today in the face of the gravest global crises, the world looks to India with hope. It is a pleasant coincidence that India is presiding over G20 in this era of global influence.

Today India, powered by PM Shri Narendra Modi ji’s clarion call ‘Yehi Samay Hai, Sahi Samay Hai (It’s time. It’s the right time)’, is marching with the mantra of ‘Charaiveti’ towards realising Vision-2047 with Jan Bhagidari and Jan Vishwas.

The commitment to trust in victory

The blessings that NDA received from the people in the 2014 elections under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, grew manifold in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Rejecting and rubbishing the lies, rumours and baseless allegations of the opposition parties, the country is reposing faith in the leadership of the NDA coalition. The opposition is faced with a crisis of identity and relevance. Today, the opposition is confused and disoriented.

All parties part of the National Democratic Alliance repose full faith in the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to attain a bigger mandate in 2024 than that won in 2019.

The NDA constituents make a proclamation to emerge victorious in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi with a bigger mandate, powered by massive public support and blessings.

The NDA parties laud Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for propelling India on the path of unprecedented development through his commitment, devotion, unrelenting hard work and selfless dedication, and giving the citizens the opportunity to feel proud over the realisation of the power and prowess of their country. The NDA constituents unanimously commit that under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as participants of this development journey - we are one, we are united and we are unanimous.
NDA committed to move ahead under the leadership of PM Modi: JP Nadda

A day before the NDA meeting, the Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed an important press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi on 17 July, 2023 where he discussed in detail about the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting which was held in Delhi on July 18. Excerpts:

Addressing the press conference, Shri JP Nadda said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting will be held on 18th July, 2023 in New Delhi. The NDA meeting will be attended by 38 political parties which are partners in the alliance and come from almost all the states in the country. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the influence of the National Democratic Alliance has grown across the country in the past nine years.

Shri Nadda said, Under the leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister, the National Democratic Alliance government had followed the agenda of good governance and work in going on in this direction with full commitment and honesty. For example, so far over Rs. 28 lakh crores have been transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of various government schemes under the DBT scheme without any leakage or commission. This has helped in ending corruption worth crores of rupees and this money is being utilised by the government in various government and social welfare schemes and programmes.

Benefits of all schemes directly reaching the beneficiaries

Shri Nadda also said, the benefits of all the Government schemes and programmes are directly reaching the beneficiaries without any involvement of middlemen or commission agents, and this has brought in tangible changes in the living standards of poor people who are beneficiaries of various schemes. This is the shining example of good governance of the NDA government.

The BJP National President further said in the past nine years the Modi Government has kept its focus on the empowerment of common citizens. Extensive work is being done to uplift the lives of all sections of our society including villagers, farmers, poor, Dalits, oppressed classes, backward classes, tribals, youth and women. The Narendra Modi Government is ensuring that all sections of...
our country move forward and get benefitted from various government schemes and programmes. And for this reason, political parties are keen to join the National Democratic Alliance.

**NDA has followed the policy of zero tolerance towards corruption**

The BJP National President said that the NDA has followed the policy of zero tolerance towards corruption. The Narendra Modi Government has made all efforts to make governance transparent so that there is no scope of corruption and nepotism. This is the reason that there is not a single allegation of corruption against the Narendra Modi Government in the past nine years.

**India is continuously moving on fast track**

The BJP National President further said, the leadership of PM Shri Modi is being praised and appreciated across the world. Under his guidance India is continuously moving on fast growth track. India has not only increased its pace of growth and development; India’s image has seen unprecedented improvement as the global powers are keen to work with Shri Narendra Modi. The manner in which India dealt with the Corona pandemic under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi and the manner India undertook the world’s largest and fastest Covid vaccination drive, it has become a case study for the countries including top nations. Today, the world is looking towards India with hope and aspiration, and the main reason behind this is the decisive, dynamic and strong leadership of Prime Minister.

**India has scaled new heights in economic growth**

Shri Nadda said, India has scaled new heights in economic growth and set new benchmarks under the leadership of the Prime Minister. When the entire world is facing the effects of the Russia and Ukraine war and when the global economies are facing the crisis due to the Corona pandemic, top global organisations like the IMF and Morgan Stanley say that India’s economy is the most stable economy today and also the fastest growing economy in the World. All this has been made possible due to economic policies and programmes of the Shri Narendra Modi Government which also carried out extraordinary schemes to help the poor and needy people. As a result, India’s poverty rate has fallen to 10 percent from 22 per cent in the past nine years and extreme poverty rate has also been below 1 per cent. This is the extraordinary achievement of Shri Narendra Modi.

**NDA is an ideal political alliance**

The BJP National President said, NDA is an ideal political alliance. NDA is an alliance not to grab power but to serve the country and the people. The NDA is an alliance to strengthen and unite the country and to take the nation forward.

Attacking the opposition alliance, Shri Nadda said the Congress and the UPA are “Bhanumati ka Kunba” (unrealistic and opportunistic alliance). The opposition alliance has no leader, no policy, no agenda, no commitment, no vision and no intention. Their only aim is to grab power and serve their own interests. Opposition alliance is just meant for photo opportunities. All these parties of so called UPA have vested interests and to save their wrong doings. The so-called opposition alliance are joining hands to save them from massive corruption cases against them which are to the tune of Rs 20 lakh crores.

**India will move ahead under the leadership of PM Modi**

The BJP National President said, the nation has already made up its mind that in 2024, India will move ahead under the decisive leadership of the Prime Minister. The unity of NDA is unbreakable and it is meant for the welfare and development of our country. The National Democratic Alliance is also committed to move ahead under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
PM’S VISIT TO FRANCE AND UAE

‘WORKING TOGETHER ON SO MANY ISSUES AIMED AT MAKING OUR PLANET BETTER’

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an Official Visit to France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from July 13-15, 2023. The Prime Minister visited Paris from July 13-14, 2023, at the invitation of Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France. The PM Shri Modi was the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade on July 14, 2023, where a Tri-Services Indian armed forces contingent participated. Thereafter, the Prime Minister visited Abu Dhabi on July 15. He held talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and discussed cooperation on global issues, particularly in the context of the UAE’s Presidency of COP-28 of the UNFCCC and India’s G-20 Presidency, in which the UAE is a Special Invitee.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Paris in the afternoon of July 13, 2023, to attend the Bastille Day Parade as Guest of Honour on invitation by President of France Mr. Emmanuel Macron. In a special gesture, Prime Minister of France Ms. Elisabeth Borne received Prime Minister Modi at the airport. A ceremonial welcome and Guard of honour were accorded to Prime Minister Modi. This visit also marks the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President of the French Senate, Mr. Gerard Larcher, on the first day of the visit.

Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted the significance of both countries’ shared values of democracy, freedom, and equality’, which form the foundation ethos of the India-France partnership.

The discussions focused on a wide range of areas, including India’s G20 priorities, democratic values in technology usage, and cooperation between the two Upper Houses. Regional and global issues of mutual interest were also discussed. Prime Minister Shri Modi also met Prime Minister of France, Ms. Elisabeth Borne. The leaders discussed furthering cooperation in various areas such as economics and trade, energy, environment, education, mobility, railways, digital public infrastructure, museology, and people-to-people ties. Both sides reiterated their desire to further deepen the multifaceted cooperation between India and France. After the meeting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Indian community at La Seine Musicale.

Attends the Bastille Day Parade as Guest of Honour

On the second day of his visit, on July 14, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Bastille Day Parade as Guest of Honour at the invitation of Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France, on the Champs-Élysées.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, a 241-member tri-service Indian armed forces contingent led by a military band
also participated in the Parade. The Indian Army contingent was led by the Punjab Regiment, along with the Rajputana Rifles Regiment.

Rafale Jets of the Indian Air Force, from the 101 Squadron from Hashimara, formed a part of the flypast during the parade.

July 14 marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, during the French Revolution, which symbolises the democratic values of liberty, equality, and fraternity, the central themes of both the Indian and French constitutions.

Meeting with President of the French National Assembly & other eminent personalities

Later, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Ms. Yaël Braun-Pivet, President of the French National Assembly, and the senior leadership of the Assembly, over lunch at her official residence, the Hotel de Lassay in Paris. They discussed ways to further increase cooperation between the two Parliaments.

The French side expressed admiration for India’s vast electoral process. Discussions also covered various pillars of the strategic partnership, including trade and economy, environment, technology, and culture. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues. The Prime Minister also met Ms. Charlotte Chopin, a renowned French yoga teacher, in Paris during the second day of the visit.

The Prime Minister appreciated Ms. Chopin’s deep faith in yoga and her ground-breaking work in the promotion of Yoga in France. Ms. Chopin shared her views on how yoga can bring happiness and promote holistic wellbeing. They also exchanged views on the increased interest in Yoga owing to the International Day of Yoga celebrations.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi invited during his meeting with Ms. Leena Nair, Global CEO of Chanel, a French luxury fashion house, to explore investment opportunities and collaboration potential in India. And discussed ways to promote handicrafts, khadi, and the skill development of artisans in India. Also, he held a meeting with Thomas Pesquet, a French astronaut, pilot, and actor, and discussed India’s progress in the space sector, particularly in promoting startups and encouraging greater private sector participation.

Ambitious outcome documents adopted in the meeting with President Macron

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held tête-à-tête and delegation level talks with Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France, at the Elysee Palace in Paris. Both leaders held extensive discussions on a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation, including defence and security, civil nuclear, science and technology, energy, trade and investment, space, climate action, and people-to-people ties. Discussions also covered India’s...
G20 Presidency, the Indo-Pacific, and regional and global issues of mutual interest. Ambitious outcome documents, including “Horizon 2047: Charting the future of the India-France Strategic Partnership”, were adopted. The Prime Minister conveyed that he looks forward to welcoming President Macron in New Delhi for the G20 Leaders’ Summit in September 2023.

Later on, both leaders jointly addressed a group of leading Indian and French CEOs at the Quai d’Orsay in Paris. The Forum consisted of CEOs from diverse sectors, including aviation, manufacturing, defence, technology, and energy, among others. The Prime Minister acknowledged the role played by these industry leaders in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting economic cooperation between India and France. He highlighted India’s progress in renewables, startups, pharma, IT, digital payments, and infrastructure and the various initiatives undertaken to foster business.

**MoU to open IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi during PM’s UAE visit**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived in Abu Dhabi on July 15, 2023. The Prime Minister was warmly welcomed by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the airport. In a joint statement, both sides noted that this was the fifth visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the UAE in the last eight years. Prime Minister Modi last visited the UAE in June 2022, when he visited Abu Dhabi to meet HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to convey his greetings as His Highness assumed the presidency of the UAE. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi became the first Prime Minister of India to visit the UAE in 34 years. This visit was followed by the visit of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in 2016, and in 2017, when Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the Chief Guest at India’s Republic Day celebrations. Moreover, the India-UAE relationship was formally elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in 2017.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed between the Ministry of Education, the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish the first campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister, after concluding the visit, said, “Concluding a productive UAE visit. Our nations are working together on so many issues aimed at making our planet better. I thank HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the warm hospitality”.

The important highlights of the outcomes of the UAE’s visit are that the two leaders agreed to start trade settlements in local currencies, link the Fast payment systems of India and the UAE, and open an IIT-Delhi campus in the Gulf country. The Prime Minister departed for India after a banquet hosted in his honour by the UAE President.
Speaking at a gigantic BJP rally in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 16 July, 2023, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda criticised the opposition parties which are trying to form an alliance. He said they were forming an alliance in order to protect their dynasties. He also came down heavily on the Congress party and the UPA led by it. Shri Nadda said UPA stands for ‘Utpeedan, Pakshpat, Atyahar’.

On this occasion, Shri JP Nadda released a ‘Failed Report Card’ of the Ashok Gehlot led Congress government in Rajasthan and launched a campaign ‘NAHI SAHEGA RAJASTHAN’ (Rajasthan will not tolerate) campaign and a theme video which highlights crime against women, the murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, communal riots and other issues.

The BJP National President said the party has decided that under the ‘NAHI SAHEGA RAJASTHAN’ campaign, the Karyakartas will reach around two crore people in the state. After the elections, a corruption-free, development-oriented government will be formed in the state, he added.

He said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had promised that the Congress government in Rajasthan will waive off the loans of the farmers but the loans were not waived yet. Rather, the land of 19,500 farmers was attached by the Gehlot government, he said.

The BJP National President said in 2022 alone, more than 8,000 cases were registered against Dalits here. Talking about appeasement politics, he said the Rajasthan government has demolished the houses of refugees from Pakistan with bulldozers in furtherance of partisan and vote bank politics. On the other hand, he said, the Gehlot government is settling down illegal Rohingyas there.

He accused the state government of sending money to Delhi, pocketing the portion meant for the poor people of the state which openly encouraged corruption and created new records of corruption. This is the character of the Gehlot government’s functioning, he said.

He said the National Democratic Alliance government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working with the mantra of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas.

The BJP National President targeted the state government saying that it loots and tortures people and has broken all records of atrocities against Dalits, tribals, women, children and the poor. “It has no right to be in power even for a minute,” he said.
Bharatiya Janata Party National President, Shri JP Nadda and Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur visited the flood-affected areas of the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh on 14 July, 2023. Former Himachal CM and Leader of Opposition, Shri Jairam Thakur along with other senior leaders also accompanied them.

The BJP National President ensured the people that the central government would extend all the assistance needed for relief and rehabilitation. “13 teams of NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) and teams of SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) are also deployed in the area. The MI-17 helicopter has been deployed for the rescue work. The Central Government will do whatever is necessary for relief and rehabilitation,” Shri Nadda said. Shri Nadda also visited the Panchvaktatra temple which was submerged in the flooded Beas River.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has approved the advance release of the second instalment of the central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), amounting to Rs 180.40 crore for 2023-24, as an interim relief to Himachal Pradesh. Shri JP Nadda said, “Earlier, the central government had released the first instalment of Rs 180 crore and within days the second instalment of Rs 181 crore has been released. It shows the Centre is standing with Himachal Pradesh in this time of crisis.”

The incessant rain has led to flash floods and landslides, causing significant damage in Himachal Pradesh's Manali. Shri JP Nadda said Union minister Shri Anurag Thakur stayed in the state for a few days and took updates on the losses suffered by the state.
A high-level inquiry committee constituted on the lathicharge by the police on the party workers and leaders who were protesting peacefully in Bihar submitted its investigation report to BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on 19 July, 2023.

On this occasion, Shri Nadda said that a detailed report of the incident was received from the BJP’s inquiry committee constituted in connection with the lathicharge on BJP workers in Patna sponsored by the Nitish government. It exposes the brutality and insensitivity of the state government towards the jungle raj, anarchy and opposition parties prevailing in Bihar. BJP’s protest against the anti-people policies of the Nitish government will continue.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda strongly condemned the brutality of the police administration and the dictatorial attitude of the state government on party leaders and workers in Patna on July 13, 2023 and has expressed deep sorrow over the death of party worker Shri Vijay Singh who was killed in police lathicharge. Many senior leaders and workers were injured in this lathi charge by the police. Shri Nadda had constituted a high level inquiry committee in this regard.

**Members of inquiry committee:**
1. Shri Raghuvardas, Former Chief Minister, Convener
2. Shri Manoj Tiwari, MP
3. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, MP
4. Smt. Sunita Duggal, MP

Earlier, BJP general secretary and in-charge of Bihar state Shri Vinod Tawde in a press statement said that Bharatiya Janata Party, Bihar unit organized a march from Gandhi Maidan in Bihar’s capital Patna to Bihar assembly to protest against the dictatorship of Nitish Kumar’s government, non-fulfilment of promises and the decisions being taken against the interests of the general public. Thousands of people from all over Bihar reached in the foot march giving their support. During this, thousands of innocent people were mercilessly crushed with lathi charge, tear gas and water canon by Nitish Kumar showing police hooliganism.

The five-member fact-finding committee of the women MPs of BJP, which was constituted by BJP National President Shri JP Nadda to inquire about the violence and atrocities against women in the recently-concluded Panchayat Polls in West Bengal submitted its report to Shri JP Nadda on 20 July, 2023.

In a twitter message Shri Nadda said, “Received the report by the BJP Fact-Finding Team, constituted to inquire about the violence and atrocities inflicted upon women during the Panchayat Election in West Bengal”.

Shri JP Nadda posted the message along with an image wherein convener of the panel, Ms. Saroj Pandey along with the members can be seen handing over the report to him.

Slamming the Mamata Banerjee-led state government, the BJP National President said, "This report exposes the utter state of lawlessness in West Bengal and the state government's insensitivity towards political adversaries." The BJP will never tolerate this oppression of the people, Shri Nadda added.

Noteworthy, the Bharatiya Janata Party on 17 July, 2023 constituted a five-member committee of the party’s women MPs to visit violence-affected areas in West Bengal and submit a report on atrocities committed against women in the state during the violence that ensued during the Panchayat Election period. The parliamentarians in the committee include Convenor Ms. Saroj Pandey, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Ms. Kavita Patidar, and Smt. Sandhya Ray. The committee submitted its report after visiting the areas affected by the violence during Panchayat elections.

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Shri Suvendu Adhikari also visited houses of BJP workers in Howrah district's Baruipur and in South 24 Parganas district to meet BJP workers, who were the victims of violence.

Noteworthy, severe violence took place during the local body elections in several districts of West Bengal which killed around 15 people in the State.

Based on the latest National Family Heath Survey [NFHS-5 (2019-21)], this second edition of the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) represents India’s progress in reducing multidimensional poverty between the two surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21). It builds on the Baseline Report of India’s National MPI launched in November 2021. The broad methodology followed is in consonance with the global methodology.

The national MPI measures simultaneous deprivations across the three equally weighted dimensions of health, education, and standard of living that are represented by 12 SDG-aligned indicators. These include nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts. Marked improvement is witnessed across all the 12 indicators.

Between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the MPI value has nearly halved from 0.117 to 0.066 and the intensity of poverty has reduced from 47% to 44%, thereby setting India on the path of achieving the SDG Target 1.2 (of reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half) much ahead of the stipulated timeline of 2030. It demonstrates the Government’s strategic focus on ensuring sustainable and equitable development and eradicating poverty by 2030, thereby adhering to its commitment towards the SDGs.

The Government's dedicated focus on improving access to sanitation, nutrition, cooking fuel, financial inclusion, drinking water, and electricity has led to significant advancements in these areas. All 12 parameters of the MPI have shown marked improvements. Flagship programmes like the Poshan Abhiyan and Anaemia Mukt Bharat have contributed to reduced deprivations in health. Initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have improved sanitation across the country. The impact of these efforts is evident in the swift 21.8 percentage points improvement in sanitation deprivations. The provision of subsidized cooking fuel through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has positively transformed lives, with a 14.6 percentage points improvement in cooking fuel deprivations. Initiatives like Saubhagy, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), and Samagra Shiksha have also played a major role in significantly reducing multidimensional poverty in the country.

The remarkable progress achieved through extremely low deprivation rates especially for electricity, access to bank accounts and drinking water, reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to improving citizens' lives and creating a brighter future for all. The report may be accessed at www.niti.gov.in
Chandrayaan-3 scripts a new chapter in India’s space odyssey: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has hailed the relentless dedication of India’s scientists on the launch of Chandrayaan-3.

Sharing a tweet by Indian Space Research Organisations, the Prime Minister tweeted; “Chandrayaan-3 scripts a new chapter in India’s space odyssey. It soars high, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every Indian. This momentous achievement is a testament to our scientists’ relentless dedication. I salute their spirit and ingenuity!”

The launch of Chandrayaan-3 took place on 14 July 2023, at 2:35 pm IST and lunar injection of 100 km circular polar orbit was completed successfully as part of phase one. The lander and rover are expected to land near the lunar south pole region on 23 August 2023.

Shri Narendra Modi has underlined the significance of Chandrayaan-3, India’s third lunar mission. Earlier, ahead of the launch Shri Narendra Modi said via twitter in the morning, the Chandrayaan-3 mission will carry the hopes and dreams of our nation.

He said,”14th July 2023 will always be etched in golden letters as far as India’s space sector is concerned. Chandrayaan-3, our third lunar mission, will embark on its journey. This remarkable mission will carry the hopes and dreams of our nation. Chandrayaan-3 will be inserted into the Lunar Transfer Trajectory after the orbit raising maneuvers. Covering over 300,000 km, it will reach the Moon in the coming weeks. Scientific instruments onboard will study the Moon’s surface and enhance our knowledge.

Thanks to our scientists, India has a very rich history in the space sector. Chandrayaan-1 is considered to be a path breaker among global lunar missions as it confirmed the presence of water molecules on the moon. It featured in over 200 scientific publications around the world.

Till Chandrayaan-1, the moon was believed to be a bone-dry, geologically inactive and uninhabitable celestial body. Now, it is seen as a dynamic and geologically active body with the presence of water and sub-surface ice. Maybe in the future, it can be potentially inhabited!

Chandrayaan-2 was equally pathbreaking because data from the Orbiter associated with it detected the presence of chromium, manganese and sodium for the first time through remote sensing. This will also provide more insights into the moon’s magmatic evolution.

The key scientific outcomes from Chandrayaan 2 include the first ever global map for lunar sodium, enhancing knowledge on crater size distribution, unambiguous detection of lunar surface water ice with IIRS instrument and more. This Mission has featured in almost 50 publications.

Best wishes for Chandrayaan-3 mission! I urge you all to know more about this Mission and the strides we have made in space, science and innovation. It will make you all very proud.”
20.23 Lakh New Workers Enrolled Under ESI Scheme in the Month of May, 2023

The provisional payroll data of Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) reveals that 20.23 lakh new employees have been added in the month of May, 2023.

Around 24,886 new establishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation in the month of May, 2023, thus ensuring more coverage.

Data evidently reveals that more jobs have been generated for the youth of the nation as out of the total 20.23 lakh employees added during the month of May, 2023, 9.40 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute the majority of new registrations which is 47% of the total employees.

The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise.

Centre Releases Rs.7,532 Crore to the States for Disaster Response

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on 12 July released an amount of Rs. 7,532 crore to 22 State Governments for the respective State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF). The amount has been released as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the wake of heavy rains across the country, the guidelines have been relaxed and the amount has been released as immediate assistance to States without waiting for the utilisation certificate of the amount provided to the States in the last financial year.

DAC Approves Proposals for Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft from France

A meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), held under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, approved three proposals on July 13, 2023. The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French Government based on Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). The price and other terms of purchase will be negotiated with the French Government after taking into account all relevant aspects, including comparative procurement price of similar aircraft by other countries. Further, integration of Indian designed equipment and establishment of Maintenance, Repair & Operations (MRO) Hub for various systems will be incorporated into the contract documents after due negotiations.

The DAC also granted the AoN for procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under Buy (Indian) category which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

In addition, the DAC approved the proposal to lay down guidelines for achieving the desired indigenous content in all categories of capital acquisition cases. It will help in achieving ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in critical manufacturing technologies and life-cycle sustenance of defence platforms/equipment through indigenous manufacturing.

PM Congratulates Archers on Winning 11 Medals at 2023 World Archery Youth Championships

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated India’s junior and cadet archers on winning 11 medals at the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships.

Retweeting a tweet by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, the Prime Minister tweeted: “Proud of our archers for excelling in the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships. Their accomplishments augur well for the future of archery in India and will motivate many upcoming archers.”

PM Hails Historic Milestone of Destruction of 1,44,000 Kgs of Seized Drugs

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has commended the historic milestone achieved by...
India in eliminating drugs as 1,44,000 kgs of seized drugs were destroyed on 17 July.

In a tweet the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah said that with this accomplishment, India attains an astounding record of destroying 1 million kgs of drugs worth Rs. 12,000 crore in just one year.

The remarkable feat was achieved at the Regional Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security. This exemplifies the MHA’s staunch and relentless pursuit of PM’S vision of a drug-free India.

In reply, the Prime Minister tweeted: “Great! Adds strength to our efforts to make India free from the drugs menace.”

In the virtual presence of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 17 July more than 1.40 Lakh kg of narcotics destroyed in different parts of the country, which is a record. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 10 lakh kilograms of narcotics worth around Rs 12,000 crore have been destroyed in the last one year.

**PM LAUDS EXPANSION OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME TO MORE THAN 1.60 LAKH HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRES**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 10 July lauded the expansion of Ayushman Bharat scheme to more than 1.60 lakh health and wellness centres.

Sharing a tweet by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Prime Minister tweeted: "Our efforts to ensure top quality and affordable healthcare for the poor continue to gain momentum."

Under its current expansion plan, the Union government is reportedly adding more services to Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres.

As of June end, the Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) registered a footfall of over 178.87 crore.

**105 TRAFFICKED ANTIQUITIES RETURN INDIA FROM USA**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi thanked USA as 105 trafficked antiquities, representing diverse regions and traditions of India, returning home from USA.

Responding to the tweet by Embassy of India in Washington DC, the Prime Minister said; “This will make every Indian happy. Grateful to USA for this. These precious artefacts hold immense cultural and religious significance. Their homecoming is a testament to our commitment to preserving our heritage and rich history.”

**PM MITRA PARK LAUNCHED AT AMRAVATI IN MAHARASHTRA**

Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal congratulated the state of Maharashtra for being awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Amravati. While addressing the launch ceremony of PM MITRA Textile Park, Amravati on 16 July, the Minister emphasized that the addition of PM MITRA Park would further strengthen the rapid progress of Maharashtra.

Shri Piyush Goyal said that given Maharashtra’s significant contributions across the entire textile value chain, from Farm to Fiber to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, it is a natural choice for a textile park. Shri Goyal further highlighted that the well-connected infrastructure of Amravati, including its road, rail, port, and airport networks, will significantly boost the textile industry in Maharashtra.

The PM MITRA Textile Park in Amravati is expected to attract an investment of Rs. 10,000 crore and create both direct and indirect employment for approximately 300,000 individuals. Spanning across a contiguous 1020 acres of land at Nandgaon Peth, adjacent to the Additional Amravati Industrial Area (MIDC), the Park is situated just 30 kilometers away from the Mumbai Nagpur Samruddhi Highway and 147 kilometers from the nearest port, the Wardha Dry Port. As a brownfield park, it already possesses essential infrastructure such as roads, water, and electricity.

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The United States on 17 July handed over 105 trafficked antiquities to India.

The repatriation ceremony was held at the Indian Consulate in New York. The restitution of the artefacts is a follow up of an agreement to the effect during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to the U.S. last month.

India and the U.S. have also agreed to work for a Cultural Property Agreement that would help prevent illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts in future during the visit, a statement from the Indian Consulate said.

105 trafficked antiquities, representing diverse regions and traditions of India are returning home from USA. ■

**PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS FOR FY 2023-24 REGISTER STEADY GROWTH**

The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to 9th July, 2023 continue to register steady growth. Direct Tax collections up to 9th July, 2023 show that gross collections are at Rs. 5.17 lakh crore which is 14.65% higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year.

Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs. 4.75 lakh crore which is 15.87% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year. This collection is 26.05% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for F.Y. 2023-24.

Refunds amounting to Rs. 42,000 crore have been issued during 1st April, 2023 to 9th July 2023, which are 2.55% higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year. ■

**4TH RUNWAY AND ELEVATED TAXIWAY AT DELHI AIRPORT INAUGURATED**

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel inaugurated a new runway and a dual-way elevated taxiway at New Delhi International Airport on 14 July. With this, the IGI Airport, New Delhi has become the first airport in the country to have four runways and becomes the first airport in the country to have an elevated taxiway. During the event, General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, and Road Transport and Highways, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Airport Authority of India, Shri G. M. Rao, Group Chairman, GMR were also present.

Eastern Cross Taxiway (ECT) will help in enhancing the passenger experience by reducing time spent on the tarmac by flyers after landings and before take-offs. Furthermore, four runway operations and the ECT will significantly increase capacity at IGIA – making it capable of handling 1700+ movements. ■

**NH PROJECTS WITH AN INVESTMENT OF MORE THAN RS 3,300 CRORE IN LUCKNOW INAUGURATED**

Increasing the pace of development of Uttar Pradesh, the Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari along with Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath inaugurated two National Highway projects with an investment of more than Rs 3,300 crore in Lucknow on 17 July. The inaugurated project includes, Madiyav-I.I.M. of Lucknow-Sitapur section on National Highway 24. The newly constructed 4-lane elevated corridor at the crossing has been completed 6 months ahead of time. This will provide better connectivity from Lucknow to Sitapur, avoid heavy traffic jams at Bhitauli Tiraha and Jankipuram Extention and will save more than 30 minutes of time and fuel. Pilgrims will be facilitated to visit Chandrika Devi and Naimisharanya. ■

**‘SAGAR SAMPARK’ DIFFERENTIAL GLOBAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM LAUNCHED**

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed towards innovation, building best infrastructure, and strengthening the Indian Maritime sector. On 12 July to further the digital initiative in maritime sector the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) ‘SAGAR SAMPARK’ in the presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, the Minister of State of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; DGNSS is a terrestrial based enhancement system.
which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) allowing for more accurate positioning information.

The DGNSS service will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas. This will lead to safe & efficient movement of vessels.

The latest DGNSS system is now able to transmit corrections of GPS and GLONASS. The DGNSS significantly improves the accuracy of GPS positioning, reducing errors caused by the atmospheric inferences, satellite clock drift and other factors. This is achieved with the help of modern state of art technology receivers and latest software. The error correction accuracy has been improved from 5 to 10 meters to less than 5 meters for 100 Nautical Miles from Indian coastlines. ■

**SPECIAL MARKETING ASSISTANCE SCHEME OF NATIONAL SC-ST HUB PROVIDES PLATFORM FOR ENHANCING BUSINESS REVENUE**

S iam Laingek, a resident of Churachandpur, Manipur runs his enterprise by the name of Thangching Herbal. He has been manufacturing essential oils for the past few years. He has benefitted from the Special Marketing Assistance Scheme of the National SC-ST Hub by participating in more than 20 domestic exhibitions. This has helped in growing his business revenue by increasing the product reach to his customers in various states. He is a proud member of the NSSH entrepreneur community and thanks the Hon’ble Prime Minister for starting the Hub and assisting many more entrepreneurs like him. ■

**MOBILE APP DEVELOPED FOR QUICK REPORTING OF FISH DISEASES**

U nion Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar on 14 July flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export to the United Kingdom (UK).

The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India’s Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), with nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form.

The project sets a great example of the public-private partnership (PPP) model in the field of skill development, as it is being implemented in collaboration with local industry partners.

Under this initiative, nearly 2,200 candidates have been trained in the art of Namda craft, representing a significant milestone in preserving this traditional craft and empowering the local weavers and artisans. The project has successfully trained individuals across six districts of Kashmir, namely Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, and Anantnag. ■

**SKILL INDIA PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY REVIVES THE DYING NAMDA ART OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

The Namda craft of Kashmir is being successfully revived under a Skill India’s Pilot Project as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), with nearly 2,200 candidates from across six districts of the state, receiving training in the dying art form.

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**MOBILE APP DEVELOPED FOR QUICK REPORTING OF FISH DISEASES**

Fish is considered as one of the healthiest a source of animal protein and omega 3-fatty acids, and offers immense potential to mitigate malnutrition. Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing food producing sectors, and has immense role to play in meeting the rising demand for protein. Further, the sector provides livelihood and employment to about 3 crore fishers and fish farmers in the country. Foreseeing the immense potential for development in the sector and to bring Blue Revolution, the Government of India has implemented a flagship scheme "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with investment of Rs. 20,050 crores, the highest ever investment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in the country. Under the programme to further strengthen the farmer based reporting a "Report Fish Disease" App has been developed. ■
As a result of several rounds of talks between the Central Government and leaders of the movement, differences have already narrowed and now the deadlock centres round the future of foreigners coming between 1961 and 1971. The Government is not ready to settle them outside the State, whereas the agitation leaders do not consider it feasible and desirable to put the entire burden on their State.

Both sides should soften their stiff stand and adopt a via media in relation to the identification and deletion of the names of those who entered the state between 1961 and 1971. The question whether such people should be allowed to live in Assam or settled in other States should be left to the new Government elected on the basis of a new voters’ list.

Discuss Present Government

The present government in Assam has been formed to fulfil a constitutional obligation. But there is no constitutional and moral propriety of expediency in continuing it. Hence, it should be dismissed immediately.

Repression won’t do

The mass movement of Assam cannot be suppressed with bullets or arrests. It is suicidal to deal with a movement, with which almost every Assamese man, woman and child is emotionally linked, as a purely law and order issue. The path of repression is not the path of peace.

Politicians Encouraging Infiltration

The responsibility for the present situation in Assam rests on those political leaders who, out of selfish motive, not only turned a blind eye to foreign infiltration, but were also guilty of encouraging it. The soul of Assam is already beset with many wounds. The rest of India, by its indifference and the central leadership, by its shortsightedness, should not commit the sin of its complete destruction.

Economic Situation-1977 and 1980

The responsibility for the present economic crisis in the country lies squarely on the policies, or absence of policies, of the present Government. In China, they have a habit of naming their years. One is called the Year of the Moon, another the Year of the Lion, and so on. If we were to emulate their practice, Smt. Gandhi’s first year in office would be remembered as the Year of the Snail. Nothing moved during the year. It was as if time had stood still. In contrast, the Janata Government’s two years were really years of the Galloping Horse!

Slow pace of Development

The worst aspect of this economic stagnancy is that the Government did not even know that things had stopped moving. Finance Minister Venkataraman kept on changing his figures. He began by saying while presenting his disastrous budget—that industrial production would go up by 8 to 10 per cent. He has now admitted that it may be no more than 4 per cent. As usual, he is wrong. In fact, industrial production may be just 2 per cent more than last year.

Soaring Inflation

One of the major election planks of this Government was: Curbing inflation. But the only two things that have gone up during the Congress regime are prices, and the share market. Everything else has been going down and down. During the Janata regime, national income went up by 6.2 per cent. This year the increase may not be more than 3 per cent. Industrial production during the Janata regime was 5.5 per cent a year. This year, it will be less than two per cent. Again during the Janata
regime, prices were stabilised; the increase was only nominal. This year, they have gone up by 20 per cent, and are still going up.

The Prime Minister says she had handed to the Janata Government a sound economy but that the Janata made a mess of it. She forgets that there was a drought in 1976-77, a year before Janata came to power. Then, there was a drought last year. Even then we did very well and the economy expanded. Now it is the other way round.

Falling Foreign Exchange Reserves

A good economy almost always results in good foreign exchange reserves. During the Janata years, the reserves went up by Rs. 2350 crore and when we left the Government, the reserves stood at Rs. 5200 crore. Since then they have been coming down by as much as Rs. 600 crore per year. The nation’s wealth is being squandered.

We hear a great deal these days about the Sixth Plan. The Planning Commission boasts of having drawn up the Plan in a jiffy. Actually, all they have done is to chop and change the old Plan prepared by the Janata and present it as a new Plan. That is of course excusable. But what is going to happen now, and which can never be condoned, is that the Plan itself will be scrapped, because the way the prices are going up the Plan will be no more than a paper doll.

Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that India is among the top ten industrial countries of the world. Why should a big country like India be among the top ten, and not among the top five? The world is moving ahead much faster than we are. Even small countries like South Korea have left us far behind. A nation’s economy is like a man on a bicycle: if you stop pedalling, you fall down. This Government stopped pedalling long ago, and is about to fall.

At the Crossroads

However, one need not be much concerned about the question whether this Government will fall or survive. In a democracy, Governments will come and Governments will go. The pertinent question really is: Will India be able to face the present challenges successfully on the basis of its value-system and be able to build a new future for itself?

_friends_, the situation is grave. The country is once again standing at the cross-roads of destiny. On one side, we can see clearly the threat of authoritarianism; on the other, we can also perceive the dangers of anarchy. We have to prepare the people to face these twin dangers. The BJP does not favour the politics of confrontation, but at the same time we would never shy away from confrontation, if the situation so demands.

Democracy Must be Defended

The soul of Indian democracy dwells in the intense desire of our 650 million people for equality and for freedom from exploitation. Those who keep thinking of devising ways to destroy or debilitate democracy can do so only at the risk of being swept away by the fury of the people.

Change the Status Quo

In our struggle for the restoration of moral values and in defence of democracy, let us involve the farmers, the workers, the rural poor, the artisans, the youth, the students and the women and create in them the realisation that their conditions would improve only if they exert in a corporate manner to change the status quo.

A Call for Relentless Struggle for Democracy and Social Justice

The BJP is resolved to devote itself to politics rooted in the soil. Only by that course can we restore the confidence of the people in politics, political parties and political leaders. The days of summit politics are over. Manipulative politics also has no future. There is no place in BJP for people madly in pursuit of post, position and pelf. Those who lack courage or self-respect may go and prostrate themselves at the Delhi Durbar. So far as we are concerned, we are determined to wage a relentless struggle against the dangers I have indicated. With the Constitution of India in one hand and the banner of equality in the other, let us get set for the struggle. Let us take inspiration from the life and struggle of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Let Mahatma Phule be our guide in our crusade for social justice.

The Lotus shall Bloom

Standing on the shores of this ocean beneath the Western ghats, I can say this with confidence about the future: Darkness will be dispelled, the Sun will rise and the Lotus shall bloom!

_Vande Mataram_!

(Concluded)

(Presidential address of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpeyee at BJP National Council, Bombay, 28-December, 1980)
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s time management allows him to utilize every available minute to its optimum. Every now and then we see examples of PM Shri Modi utilizing his time in service of the nation. Be it his foreign visits where he sleeps in his plane during the flight and spends rest of the time for his meetings or his working hours at the PMO where he works for 18 hours a day.

But these examples do not mean he has developed this habit recently. Shri Narendra Modi had always valued time since his early days. He has believed that every minute wasted is a disservice to the nation.

This #ModiStory is an example of his optimum utilization of time. This incident dates back to the year 1996 when he visited Himachal Pradesh as state incharge of the BJP.

Shri Randhir Sharma, MLA from Himachal Pradesh recalls the visit. He was assigned the duty of receiving Shri Narendra Modi at Kalka station. He received Shri Modi from Kalka and took him to PWD guest house in Parwanoo.

Shri Narendra Modi came back from toilet and asked him that the geyser is not switched on. Shri Sharma replied that he will switch it on right now. But, Shri Modi said that he had already switched it on.

Continuing the discussion, Shri Modi said that Shri Sharma should have switched on the geyser as he was leaving for the station to receive him. Shri Sharma replied that within 15-20 minutes hot water will be available.

To Shri Sharma’s surprise, Shri Narendra Modi asked him, what would he do for those 15-20 minutes?

When you started for station, you should have switched the geyser on, by now hot water would have been available and we could have proceeded for Shimla without wasting time, said Shri Modi.

While they were reaching Shimla, Shri Modi asked Sharma to call a worker and tell him to make the newspapers available till we reach there.

He also suggested him to ask anyone to get the tea prepared in advance so that no time is wasted.

Shri Modi used to have beard at that time as well. Shri Sharma once asked him the reason for having the beard. Shri Narendra Modi replied that it takes atleast 15 minutes daily to shave. This way you can trim your beard once in a month in 5 minutes.

He then said that can you imagine if you waste 15 minutes every day in shaving, how much time is wasted in a month.

The ability to make best use of the time is a special quality of Shri Narendra Modi, says Sharma recalling these incidents.
The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the National Rozgar Mela on July 22, 2023 and distributed more than 70,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various Government departments and organizations. The new recruits, selected from across the country will be joining the Government in various Ministries and Departments including the Department of Revenue, Financial Services, Posts, School Education, Higher Education, Defence, Health and Family Welfare, Central Public Sector Undertakings, Water Resources, Personnel & Training and Ministry of Home Affairs among others. 44 places across the country were connected with the Mela during the Prime Minister’s address.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that it is a matter of great inspiration that the new recruits are receiving their appointment letter for government services on this significant day as he encouraged them to take the country’s name forward. He underlined that it is a result of the hard work and determination of the new recruits that they are getting the opportunity to contribute towards the goal of ‘Viksit Bharat’ at a time when India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

**Highlights**

- In the Azadi ka Amrit Kaal, the Prime Minister said that every citizen has taken the resolve to make India a ‘Viksit Bharat’.
- He emphasized that the next 25 years are extremely crucial for the new recruits and the nation as he stressed making the most out of the trust, significance and attraction towards India from the world in recent years.
- The PM reiterated that India is going to become one of the top 3 economies in the world as stated by most economic experts.
- “Today, India is among the countries whose banking sector is considered to be the strongest”, said Shri Modi recalling the journey of the last nine years.
- “People of the banking sector never disappointed me or my vision”, he said.
- The Prime Minister hailed the efforts of the banking sector in making the Jan Dhan Account scheme a huge success by opening 50 crore Jan Dhan Accounts.
- This was a great help in transferring money into the accounts of crores of women during the pandemic.
PM Modi’s Recent International Visits: BEGINNING OF NEW ERA OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY

PM Narendra Modi’s visit to the US was historic which re-affirmed his stature as a global leader. From leading an impressive yoga event at the United Nations to forging important defence and semiconductor production deals, PM Modi’s trip successfully showcased India’s cultural heritage, diplomatic prowess, and its growing influence on the world stage.

An agreement was reached for the purchase of MQ-9 “Reaper” armed drones by India. There were announcements on co-producing GE’s 414 engines for indigenously produced Tejas Mk-2 aircraft, by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Micron Technology, with support from the India Semiconductor Mission, will invest more than $800 million in a new $2.75 billion semiconductor assembly and test facility in India. A joint mission by the NASA and ISRO will also be sent to the International Space Station, next year.

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India’s relations has entered a new chapter under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India has put behind the dogmas of the past and moved towards a period of trusted partnership with new confidence. PM Narendra Modi’s visit to the US was historic which re-affirmed his stature as a global leader. From leading an impressive yoga event at the United Nations to forging important defence and semiconductor production deals, PM Modi’s trip successfully showcased India’s cultural heritage, diplomatic prowess, and its growing influence on the world stage.

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After concluding his high-profile state visit to the US Prime Minister Modi reached Egypt. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the ‘Order of the Nile’, Egypt’s highest honour, by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at the Presidential palace in Cairo. In the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Egypt in 26 years, India and Egypt elevated their relationship to a ‘Strategic Partnership’. Modi and El-Sisi focused on enhancing political and security cooperation. Both leaders signed the strategic partnership document after their wide-ranging talks encompassing political and security cooperation, defence collaboration, trade and investment ties, scientific and academic exchanges and strengthening people-to-people contacts. The two countries also signed three more pacts on — agriculture and allied sectors; protection and preservation of monuments and archaeological sites; and competition law.

PM Modi and President El-Sisi also discussed further cooperation in G-20, highlighting the issues of food and energy insecurity, climate change and the need for the Global South to have a concerted voice. The Prime Minister also extended an invitation to El-Sisi to attend the G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September. Before departing for India, PM Modi visited Egypt’s historic 11th century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, restored with the help of India’s Dawoodi Bohra community. Modi discussed Egypt-
India ties as well as issues related to promoting social harmony and countering extremism and radicalisation with the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Dr Shawky Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam. He apprised the Grand Mufti that India would set up a Centre of Excellence in IT at the Dar-al-Ifta – an Egyptian advisory body for Islamic legal research – under the Ministry of Social Justice of Egypt.

PM Modi’s recent visit to France has set new benchmarks for strategic partnership between two nations. PM Modi was accorded a red-carpet welcome on his arrival in Paris on a two-day visit to attend Bastille Day Parade as a Guest of Honour. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest honour of France, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron. As the India and France also celebrate 25 years of establishment of their strategic partnership, the visit has provided an opportunity to chart the course of the partnership for the future across diverse sectors. Both the countries have also agreed to use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment mechanism.

France is India’s oldest strategic partner. It was then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his counterpart Jacques Chirac in 1988 elevated the India France relationship to a strategic partnership. Both nations value their strategic autonomy, independent foreign policies, and seek a multipolar world. There is a convergence of interest in the Indo-Pacific region and both the countries seek to build balanced and stable order in Indo-Pacific. The two countries have released India-France Indo-Pacific Roadmap.

The defence relationship is robust, and is set to get stronger. Franco-Indian defence ties is no longer a buyer-seller model, it believes in jointly designing, developing and co-producing. This is a paradigmatic shift from the French side in terms of willingness to share the state-of-the-art technology. Some agreements highlight the transition in defence ties. Safran, the French company and the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) have agreed to jointly develop jet engines for the advanced medium combat aircraft. Submarines are proposed to be jointly built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and the Naval Group of France. Following the war in Ukraine, diversification in defence imports is inevitable. It is becoming increasingly clear that France will play a huge role in this sector. France has emerged as the second largest exporter of defence equipment to India in the last ten years. 36 Rafale fighter jets have already been delivered. India’s procurement of 26 additional Rafale M fighters and Scorpene submarines, and a deal to jointly develop an aircraft engine in India are the major landmark deals signed during the visit.

After concluding two-days visit to France Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in UAE to hold talks with Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. PM Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome in Abu Dhabi at the Qasr-Al-Watan — the presidential palace — where he was greeted by the UAE President with a warm embrace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured India’s full support for UAE’s COP-28 presidency as he also held productive talks with the U.N. climate conference’s President-designate Sultan Al Jaber in Abu Dhabi.

India and the UAE agreed to start trade settlement in their currencies and link the Indian Unified Payments Interface with the Gulf country’s Instant Payment Platform. In his remarks after meeting the UAE President, Mr. Modi said India-UAE trade witnessed a 20% increase since the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement last year. He said the agreement signed for trade settlement in the currencies of the two countries has shown the strong economic cooperation and mutual trust between the two nations.

In summary, during the visit to four countries, PM Modi has strengthened relations with our traditional partners, added new dimensions to their relations with India, strengthened India’s defence preparedness and revitalized India’s civilizational connect and continued his endeavour to globalise innovative Indian fintech solutions such as UPI.

**PM Modi has strengthened relations with our traditional partners, added new dimensions to their relations with India, strengthened India’s defence preparedness**

(The writer is In-Charge, BJP Foreign Affairs Department)
The President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe, was on an official visit to India on July 21 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. During the visit, both leaders also outlined a common vision of theirs to further develop the bilateral relationship in the coming years, centred around enhanced, extended, and deepened connectivity and a deeper economic partnership. Both have agreed upon it, and it covers various dimensions of connectivity: maritime, air connectivity, energy connectivity, power trade and economic connectivity, financial connectivity, digital connectivity, and also resulting people-to-people engagement.

Under the Neighbourhood First policy, which was enunciated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, both sides also finalised a series of important documents covering crucial areas of economic cooperation. The first was the MoU on renewable energy. The second one relates to Trincomalee, where both Leaders underscored the need to build upon the advantages that have already accrued from the agreement on the Trinco tank farms, the agreement of 2021, and through the MoU exchange, both sides agreed to develop Trincomalee as a regional hub for industry energy, including renewable energy and economic cooperation. A crucial element of connectivity, particularly maritime connectivity, was discussed, focusing on the resumption of passenger ferry services between India and Sri Lanka. In this connection, both sides are looking at connecting Nagapattinam in India with Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka.

India is currently the largest source of inbound tourism to Sri Lanka. In this context, the Sri Lankan President articulated his future plans for attracting a larger number of Indian tourists, including through the promotion of the Ramayana Trail, Buddhist, Hindu circuits, and other places of religious worship in Sri Lanka. Key outcome that was related to the digital connectivity and, through the digital, the fintech connectivity was an agreement reached between NPCI International and Lanka Pay on UPI-based digital payments.

Digitalization and digital public infrastructure, and the role these two things can play in the development partnership between the two countries, were also important elements of discussion between the two Leaders. Both the Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President noted the successful implementation of the ongoing Sri Lanka unique digital identity project, which is being implemented through Indian grant assistance and would assist and enable the Sri Lankan Government to deliver and host a lot of citizen centric services for its people. This year, marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Indian-Origin Tamil community in Sri Lanka, and to commemorate this significant moment of history, the Prime Minister announced that the Government of India will be implementing a development package exclusively catering to the Indian-Origin Tamil community. The Prime Minister also announced a multi-sectoral package to support the economic development of the eastern province of Sri Lanka.

Both sides also exchanged views on the challenges being faced in dealing with the issues relating to fishermen and fishing boats and agreed on the need to approach this from a humanitarian perspective.
‘World is at threshold of some of the greatest changes in employment sector’

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Meet in Indore, Madhya Pradesh via video message on 21 July, 2023.

Underlining that employment is one of the most important economic and social factors, the Prime Minister said that the world is at the threshold of some of the greatest changes in the employment sector and stressed the need to prepare responsive and effective strategies to address these rapid transitions.

Highlights
- In this era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, technology has become and will remain the core driver for employment.
- India is the gainer in creating countless technology jobs during the last such technology-led transformation.
- The Prime Minister emphasized skilling the workforce with the use of advanced technologies and processes and said that skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling are the mantras for the future workforce.
- India has the potential to become one of the largest providers of skilled workforce in the world and a globally mobile workforce is going to be a reality in the future.
- He said that it requires new models of international cooperation and coordination, and migration and mobility partnerships.
- He suggested finding sustainable solutions to create opportunities for regular work and coming up with new models to ensure social security, health and safety.
- The Prime Minister expressed confidence that this meeting will send out a strong message for the welfare of all workers worldwide.

‘India is among the global leaders in solar and wind power’

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the G20 Energy Ministers Meet in Goa via video message on July 22, 2023.

Throwing light on India’s efforts in green growth and energy transition, the Prime Minister pointed out that India is the most populated nation and the fastest-growing large economy in the world and yet is strongly moving towards its climate commitments.

The Prime Minister informed that India has achieved its non-fossil installed electric capacity target nine years in advance and set a higher target for itself. He mentioned that the nation plans to achieve 50 percent non-fossil installed capacity by 2030. “India is also among the global leaders in solar and wind power”, the Prime Minister said.

Highlights
- In the last 9 years, India connected more than 190 million families with LPG.
- India’s domestic electric vehicle market projection of 10 million annual sales by 2030.
- For decarbonizing India, the Prime Minister said the country is working on Mission mode on Green Hydrogen as an alternative and aims to transform India into a Global Hub for the production, use and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- The world looks up to the G20 group to advance sustainable, just, affordable, inclusive and clean energy transition, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of taking the Global South along and ensuring low-cost finance for developing countries.
- He emphasized finding ways to bridge technology gaps, promote energy security and work on diversifying supply chains.
- The Prime Minister extended an invitation to all participating nations to join the Green Grids Initiative - ‘One Sun, One World, One Grid’ of the International Solar Alliance.
Addressing the media at the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament 2023, PM Shri Narendra Modi said, “I believe that all respected Members of Parliament will come together and make the most beneficial use of this session for the welfare of the people”. It is essential to discuss in detail the responsibilities of Parliament and every Member of Parliament in enacting various laws, Shri Modi said.

The Prime Minister said:
- This session holds immense importance in various ways because the bills being introduced in this session directly relate to the welfare of the people.
- Today, as I stand among you in the temple of democracy, my heart is filled with sorrow and anger over the incident in Manipur. This incident is a shameful act for any civilized society.
- The perpetrators of this sin, the wrongdoers, whoever they are, the entire nation is feeling ashamed. 140 crore citizens are feeling embarrassed.
- I appeal to all Chief Ministers to strengthen law and order in their states, especially taking stringent steps to ensure the safety and protection of our mothers and sisters.
- Whether the incident happens in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, or Manipur, in any corner of India, in any state government, rising above political disputes and maintaining the significance of the rule of law and the respect for women is crucial.
- I want to assure the citizens of this country that no wrongdoer will be spared. Every step will be taken to ensure law forcefully with all its might.
- What has happened to the daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven.
PM Shri Narendra Modi briefing the media ahead of the start of Monsoon Session 2023 of Parliament in New Delhi on July 20, 2023

PM Shri Narendra Modi being welcomed by the President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron and the Indian community at Paris, France on July 13, 2023

PM Shri Narendra Modi meets with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Qasr Al-Watan (Presidential Palace) in Abu Dhabi, UAE on July 15, 2023

PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting with the President of Sri Lanka, Shri Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on July 21, 2023

PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing the inauguration of new Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair on July 18, 2023.