GIVING WINGS TO A COMMONER

UDAN REALISES PRIME MINISTER’S DREAM OF ‘HAWAI JAHAZ’ FOR PEOPLE WITH ‘HAWAI CHAPPAL’
Our farmers and villages are the very basis of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat

The Prime Minister, in the latest edition of Mann Ki Baat, talks about story-telling, reforms in agriculture sector and also pays tribute to freedom fighters and reformers.

STORY TELLING: Corona crisis has served in fostering bonding among family members. There used to be an elderly member in every family who would tell stories, infusing inspirations and a new energy in the household. One such form is the art of story telling. The history of stories is as ancient as human civilisation itself. Where there is a soul, there is a story.

INDIA ABROAD: Seedu Dembele, a teacher in a school in Kita in Mali, has another identity. People call him Hindustani Babu. Every Sunday, he presents an hour-long radio programme entitled ‘Indian Frequency on Bollywood Songs’.

AGRICULTURE: In the difficult time of Corona, our agricultural sector and farmers have shown resilience. Agricultural sector, our farmers and our villages are the very basis of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

MAHARASHTRA: About three or four years ago, the Government excluded fruits and vegetables from the purview of APMC in Maharashtra, which has improved the condition of lots of fruit and vegetable growers. Sri Swami Samarth Farm Producer Company Ltd is a Farmer Producer’s Organization helping farmers manage weekly markets in Pune and Mumbai. In these markets, the produce of about 4,500 farmers from nearly 70 villages is sold without middlemen!

TAMIL NADU: Another example is from Tamil Nadu where farmers came together to form Banana Farmer Produce Company. It purchased hundreds of metric tons of vegetables and fruits from nearby villages during the lockdown, and supplied vegetable combo kits to Chennai.

UTTAR PRADESH: One such group of farmers from Lucknow called itself Iraada. During the lockdown, Iraada procured fruits and vegetables directly from the cultivators and sold them in the market.

GUJARAT: Ismail Bhai is a farmer in Rampura village of Banaskantha in Gujarat. Using new methods, techniques and drip irrigation, he cultivated potatoes which are now his hallmark.

REMEMBERING GANDHIJI & SHASTRIJI: October 2 is an auspicious day. We remember two great sons of Ma Bharati - Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on this day. Were we able to comprehend the spirit of economic principles of Mahatma Gandhi, grasp them and implement them, the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan would not be needed.

TRIBUTE TO LOK NAYAK & NANAJI: On October 11, we remember Bharat Ratna Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Ji and Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh on their birth anniversary.

BIRTH CENTENARY OF RAJMATA: Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia Ji dedicated her life to the service of people. This October 12 marks the conclusion of her birth centenary celebrations.

BHAGAT SINGH: On September 28, we celebrate birth anniversary of Shahid Veer Bhagat Singh. He was as much a freedom fighter as he was a scholar and a thinker.

SURGICAL STRIKE: Four years ago around this time, the world witnessed the courage, bravery and valour of our soldiers during the surgical strike. Soldiers had just one mission: To protect the glory and honour of Mother India.
# New India Samachar

**Volume 1, Issue 8**

**October 16-31, 2020**

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EDIT</td>
<td>Pg. 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TRIBUTE: Remembering Sardar Patel</td>
<td>Pg. 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NEWS BRIEFS</td>
<td>Pg. 04-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AMRUT SCHEME: Cities For Future</td>
<td>Pg. 06-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>INFRASTRUCTURE: Roads &amp; Bridges</td>
<td>Pg. 08-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FLAGSHIP SCHEME: Skill India</td>
<td>Pg. 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CONNECTIVITY: Rural Internet</td>
<td>Pg. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SPECIAL REPORT: Fit India</td>
<td>Pg. 14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>PARLIAMENT SESSION</td>
<td>Pg. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>COVER STORY: UDAN Scheme</td>
<td>Pg. 18-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>EMPOWERMENT: Pencil Village</td>
<td>Pg. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SCHEME: DD Free Dish</td>
<td>Pg. 24-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>WAR AGAINST CORONA</td>
<td>Pg. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>UNGA: Reforming the UN</td>
<td>Pg. 28-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>COLUMN: PV Sindhu</td>
<td>Pg. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENT: Self-Reliant Villages</td>
<td>Pg. 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>POSITIVE APPROACH: Changing India</td>
<td>Pg. 32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sadar Namaskar,

You must be awaiting the latest issue of the New India Samachar. On October 31, the nation salutes Sardar Patel on his 145th birth anniversary which is celebrated as the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. While Sardar Patel united the nation politically, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has united India in a true sense and is leading the country towards the goal of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The progress of the nation in the past six years has seen the unfolding of many new dimensions which can be seen in the forceful presence of India at various international fora.

While villages, rural poor and farmers have always been accorded the place of prime importance in the list of Government’s priorities, the urban poor have also been assured of basic amenities by the Government.

Air travel, for long, had remained an unfulfilled wish for the common man of India. The Government’s initiative UDAN has made it possible for the man in hawai chappal to fly by hawai jahaz. This edition recounts various such initiatives of the Government.

Speaking on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushed for urgent reforms in the UN asking for how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations? This edition covers his message to the UN.

This magazine is not a mouthpiece of the Government but a platform to provide right information.

The magazine will be available to gram panchayats, zila panchayats, panchayat samities, libraries, MLAs, MPs, officials and journalists.

The magazine’s e-book is now available to about 5 Crore people.

We are eagerly waiting for your feedback and suggestions.

Please send your response at:

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

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

With your blessings

(K S Dhatwalia)
LEADER OF MANY MISSIONS

By bringing about the merger of princely states with the country, Sardar Patel created a magnificent edifice of democracy.

The dream of the country's first Home Minister Sardar Patel was fulfilled at the midnight of October 31, 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir ceased to exist as a state with special powers after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A by Parliament. It was not merely a coincidence that the Government chose October 31, the birthday of Sardar Patel, to formally bring J&K into the mainstream. India celebrates Sardar Patel’s birth anniversary as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

There could not have been a more fitting tribute to the ‘Maker of United India’ than the integration of J&K. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31, 2019, said, "Sardar Patel had once said that if the issue of Kashmir had remained with him, it would not have taken so long to resolve it... This was Sardar Saheb’s unfulfilled dream."

His role in abolishing separate electorate in the Constituent Assembly and negotiating Government formation during the transfer of power can never be overstated. His mass mobilisation technique in Kheda and Bardoli, his art of governance in Ahmedabad Municipality and subsequently in the Central Government, and his role in making B R Ambedkar the Chairman of Drafting Committee of Constitution are some of his noteworthy contributions. Women of Bardoli gave him the title of ‘Sardar’ after the success of Satyagrah.

Sardar Patel played a key role as Chairman of the committees responsible for minorities, tribals and excluded areas, fundamental rights, and provincial constitutions. His intervention was key to the passage of two Articles of the Constitution which protected civil servants from political interference, and guaranteed their terms and privileges.

His leadership and political acumen were praised by Gandhiji who said: “A leader’s skill is judged by the competence in selecting his assistants for the execution of his plans. I must admit that when I met Vallabhbhai first, I could not help wondering who this stiff looking person was, and whether he would be able to do justice what I wanted. But the more I came to know him, the more I realised that I must secure his help... If it were not for his assistance, I must admit that this campaign [Kheda Satyagrah] would not have been carried through so successfully.”

BORN : October 31, 1875
DIED : December 15, 1950

New India Samachar | 3
EIGHT INDIAN BEACHES EARN ‘BLUE FLAG’ ECO-LABEL

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has changed the impression of India. Bearing an eloquent testimony to this new image is the ‘Blue Flag’ eco-label recommended for eight beaches of India on the eve of International Coastal Clean-Up Day which is celebrated across 100 countries since 1986. The label, a first for Indian beaches, has been recommended for Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghola in Daman & Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden Beach of Odisha and Radhanagar in Andaman and Nicobar. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said that the Government was committed to clean up beaches across the country. Clean beaches are a testimony to environment in the coastal areas.

CRACKDOWN ON SHELL COMPANIES

The Government in a special drive has identified and struck off 3,82,581 shell companies during the past three years. These companies were identified on the basis of report of non-filing of Financial Statements consecutively for two years or more. After following the due process of law under Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016, these companies were struck off. Shell company normally refers to a company which is without active business operation or significant assets. Such companies are often used for tax evasion, money laundering, obscuring ownership, benami properties etc.

GAS-BASED ECONOMY TO Usher A BLUE FLAME REVOLUTION

The Government is ushering a ‘blue flame revolution’ in the country by confiating its aim of making India a gas-based economy with its vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. Working in this direction, the Government has given LPG connections to over 28 Crore households while plans are afoot to provide PNG connections to 5 Crore households. The number of CNG stations has gone up from 947 to over 2,300 in the past 6 years. The City Gas Distribution (CGD) network covers more than 400 districts of the country. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is preparing to start 11th round of CGD bidding, after which another 50–100 districts would also start getting clean fuel. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said that the Government is laying 17,000 km of pipeline for this purpose.
PMO-LED PANEL INITIATES ACTION TO MANAGE AIR POLLUTION IN NCR

To pre-empt spike in air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) during winters and harvest season, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Dr P K Mishra chaired a meeting of the High-Level Taskforce constituted to improve air quality in the NCR. Besides taking stock of the preparations to deal with the annual menace, it also observed that after recent inclusion of residue-based power/fuel plants in priority sector lending by the Reserve Bank of India, both State and Central Governments should jointly work out action plans for rapid deployment of such units. The taskforce also reviewed the main sources of air pollution, measures taken and the progress made by the State Governments and various Ministries. It appreciated that incidents of stubble burning had come down by more than 50 per cent in the last two years. It also took note of the fact that the number of Good Air Quality Index (AQI) days had gone up. Efforts and plants made by Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to control crop residue burning were examined in detail, including ground-level deployment and availability of machinery for in-situ management of crop residue. ■

ODOP TO BOOST DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING

One District One Product (ODOP) is seen as a transformational move towards realising the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating employment, rural entrepreneurship and realising the goal of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. Department of Commerce through Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is engaging with State and Central government agencies to promote the initiative of ODOP. The objective is to convert every district into an export hub by identifying its products and export potential, addressing bottlenecks in exporting these products, supporting local exporters and manufacturers to scale up manufacturing, and find potential buyers outside India with the aim of promoting exports, manufacturing and services industry and generate employment. ■

A BIG PUSH TO ELECTRIC MOBILITY

To reduce country’s dependence on fossil fuels and cut down vehicular emissions, the Government has sanctioned 670 electric buses for Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Chandigarh, and 241 charging stations in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat and Port Blair under Phase-II of FAME India Scheme. In the First Phase, which concluded on March 31, 2019, the Government supported 2,80,987 hybrid and electric vehicles through demand incentive to the tune of Rs 359 Crore. Further, the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) sanctioned 425 electric and hybrid buses in various cities at a cost of Rs 280 Crore. The DHI had also sanctioned 520 charging stations for approximately Rs 43 Crore in cities like Bangalore, Chandigarh, Jaipur and NCR under Phase-I. ■
AMRUT: Infusing ‘LIFE’ in cities

The Mission covering over 500 cities across the country has achieved its objective of making lives of city dwellers comfortable.

For the Government, with every challenge comes an opportunity. Rapid urbanisation of India has thrown up the massive challenges of water supply, sewage management, drainage system, transportation and many other civic issues. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with his long-term planning for every issue, had launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on June 25, 2015, in 500 cities across the country, covering about 60 per cent of the total urban population.

Now in its fifth year, the Mission has been winning all round accolades for its accomplishments. Be it water supply projects in Sehore in Madhya Pradesh or in Vadodara, LED lights in Vijaywada or Kochi, the vision of the Government is being transformed into reality. So far, 67 Lakh LED street lights have been installed which will not only save 147 Crore units of electricity but also cut down the carbon emissions by 12 Lakh tonnes.

Over 2 Crore water connections have been given all over the country under the Jal Jeevan Mission which is a crucial component of AMRUT. More than 1 Lakh tap water connections are being given every day. Clean water not only improves the life of the poor, but also protects them from many serious diseases. The Prime Minister said that it is very important to prepare cities for demands of the future and not the present, so as to give impetus to mission Aatma Nirdhar Bharat. With this thinking, under the AMRUT Mission, emphasis is being laid on the development of basic facilities in cities.
MILESTONES ACHIEVED
The Mission celebrated its fifth anniversary on June 25, 2020. On the occasion, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, said that the Mission has achieved the desired results:

- 79 Lakh household water connections and 45 Lakh household sewer connections were given in the selected 500 cities across the country
- Connections are being provided in slums and low-income habitations. Out of the allocated Rs 1,00,000 Crore, State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs) worth Rs 77,640 Crore have been approved and projects worth Rs 75,829 Crore are on ground
- Projects worth Rs 10,654 Crore have been completed and projects worth Rs 65,175 Crore are in the advanced stages of implementation
- Mission’s priority areas viz drinking water supply projects have been given Rs 39,011 Crore while sewerage and septage projects have got Rs 32,546 Crore

VISIBLE OUTCOMES
- Ratna Soni from Rewa in Madhya Pradesh says that water supplied to homes in her colony was not fit for drinking and often caused kidney stones. But now, the problem in her locality is disappearing as the quality of water has improved.
- Sanjay Joshi of Navi Mumbai says that the civic body has developed a beautiful garden at the place which was earlier used to dump garbage.

Quoting Baba Saheb Dr B R Ambedkar, who was a great supporter of urbanisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Ambedkar did not consider urbanisation to be a problem; he imagined cities where even the poorest of the poor get opportunities, opening the way for the betterment of their lives. The Prime Minister added: “The cities should be such that everyone, especially our youth, gets new and limitless possibilities to move forward. There should be cities where every family can live life with prosperity and happiness. Cities should be where everyone, poor, dalit, backward and women get a respectable life.”

About AMRUT: The Mission aims at ensuring universal coverage of drinking water supply and substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage and septage, along with storm water drainage, non-motorized urban transport and green spaces and parks. The Mission covers across 500 cities that is more than 60 per cent of the urban population.

Components: Components of the AMRUT consist of capacity building, reform implementation, water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, urban transport and development of green spaces and parks. During the process of planning, the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) will strive to include some smart features in the physical infrastructure components.

- REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTS WITH LED LIGHTS
  Target: 97,93,386
  Replaced: 62,78,571

- CAPACITY BUILDING
  TARGET: 45,000
  TRAINING IMPARTED: 52,327

- ENERGY AUDIT OF WATER PUMPS
  MOU SIGNED:

- 446 cities
- AUDIT COMPLETED: 358 cities
- CREDIT RATING OF CITIES AWARDED: 485
  COMPLETED: 468
- Online Building Permission System (OBPS). Functional in Delhi and Mumbai
- Implemented in 439 AMRUT Cities

SCAN QR CODE FOR PM’S COMPLETE SPEECH ON AMRUT

New India Samachar
ROAD TO GROWTH IN NAXAL AREAS

With the inauguration of three important bridges and two road improvement projects in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, the Naxal-infested region is gearing up for a new era of growth.

With the objective of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas in mind, the Government has accelerated development works in backward and Naxal-infested areas. Besides various other projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Union Ministry for Road Transport and Highways has taken up measures to boost the road and bridge connectivity. As a result, the highways in the country are being built at an unprecedented speed, which is twice the speed than before 2014.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on August 30, 2020, inaugurated three important bridges and two road improvement projects in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra through video conferencing.

The projects inaugurated include an 855-metre-long bridge across Pranahita River on Nizamabad–Jagdalpur Road (NH 63) costing Rs 168 Crore; a 630-metre high-level bridge across the Indravati River near Patagudam village on Nizamabad–Jagdalpur Road (NH 63) built at a cost of Rs 248 Crore; and a 30-metre high-level bridge near Lankachen village on Bejurpalli–Aheri Road.

The other projects inaugurated were improvement of Bejurpalli–Aheri Road (SH 275) between Watra and Moyabinpeta, and improvement of Garanji–Pustola Road.

With the inauguration of these new projects, the total length of the National Highway in Gadchiroli district has gone up from 54
The scale at which work is now being done on infrastructure related projects, the speed at which work is being done is unprecedented. Today, highways are being built at twice the speed than before 2014. Compared to the period before 2014 there has been a 5 times increase in the expenditure of highway construction. The Government has announced to spend more than Rs 110 Lakh Crore on infrastructure in the coming 4-5 years.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

kilometres to 647 kilometres. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved 44 road projects of 541 kilometres length with an outlay of Rs 1,740 Crore for Gadchiroli district.

“The all-weather road network in the far-flung areas of Naxal-affected districts like Gadchiroli will improve the socio-economic development in the region and in the coming two years, the district will see an all-round transformation,” Nitin Gadkari said.

POLICE POST ESTABLISHED TO KEEP NAXAL FEAR AT BAY

Congratulating engineers and contractors for completing bridges in Gadchiroli district amidst the Naxal threat, Nitin Gadkari said that it was a war-like situation and a police post had to be set up there. He also laid foundation stones for four other major bridge projects across rivers Wainganga, Bandiya, Perikota and Perimili. These projects will improve connectivity and thus mobility in the region which are crucial for the socio-economic development of the Gadchiroli district.

400 KILOMETERS MORE ROADS THAN THE TARGET DURING COVID-19

Even in the time of Coronavirus pandemic, road construction attained a record. It has not just met its target but surpassed it by 400 kilometres. Between April and August, a huge migration of labourers was witnessed. It was also feared that the projects would be stopped or delayed. However, with proper management and preparations, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways not only realised its target of 2,700 kilometers but built 3,100 kilometres of roads – 400 kilometres above the target. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said at an event that despite coronavirus, the government continued the speedy construction of roads. It is giving contracts at a quick pace which is helping in the speedy construction of roads.

---

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION PER YEAR (IN KM)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Length (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>4,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>4,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>6,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>8,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>9,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>10,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>10,337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATES AFFECTED BY NAXALISM:** Naxalism afflicts Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh. The year 2019 saw 670 incidents of Naxal violence in which 150 civilians, 52 security personnel and 145 Naxals were killed, and 1,267 Naxals were arrested.

**ROADS BUILT SO FAR (IN KM)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Length (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Highways</td>
<td>1,32,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Highways</td>
<td>1,56,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Roads</td>
<td>56,08,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Length</td>
<td>58,97,671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

New India Samachar | 9
SKILLING to SCALE NEW HEIGHTS

Imparting new skill sets is essential for changing the youth population into a useful human resource. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Skill India Mission on July 15, 2015, the objective was to make youth skillful keeping in mind requirements of the industry, to enable them earn their livelihood and become confident. This has resulted in about 5.52 Crore youth getting skilled in the last 5 years.

Aizaz Ahmad Dar from a remote area of Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir and Ayan Ghosh from West Bengal are among crores of those youth whose dreams were realised through Skill India Mission. Aizaz was in a helpless situation even after completing his higher secondary education. On the advice of one of his friends, he joined Front Office Associate course under the hospitality sector at Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in Budgam. He was trained and was
MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN FIVE YEARS

- In the year 2014, there were 10,750 ITIs in the country. Close to 5,000 new ITIs have been opened in five years. Number of enrollment has increased to 27.56 Lakh in these ITIs over the last 5 years. The ITI capacity has been increased to 34.63 Lakhs, an increase of 85.5 per cent over 2015.
- In year 2014, there were about 70 Lakh trained and certified youth. Now, every year, about 1 Crore youth are joining the Skill India Mission. Over 5 Crore people have taken training in the last five years.

Also helped with for mock interviews. Soon after, he got placed with KFC at Srinagar Airport. He now earns a handsome salary to support his family. Ayan Ghosh was born with speaking disability and in his teenage years developed hearing problems as well. His parents met with an accident in his early childhood and died. His uncle brought him up. Ayan completed his school education but

While announcing the Skill Development Scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made it amply clear that the Scheme aimed to not only improve their skills but also enrich their repository. Over 5 Crore youth have been trained under this mission in the past five years. Loans have also been extended to 34 Lakh youths under this scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana was launched as a part of the Skill India Programme. This scheme is intended for those youth who cannot afford expenses of their training.

The Government established Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship which works in tandem with other ministries to ensure smooth implementation of the schemes.

Skill India: The programme is executed by National Skill Development Agency, National Skill Development Corporation and Director General of Training. The programme is implemented in the States on similar lines.

To take benefits under the Skill India programme, applicants have to register themselves at http://pmkvyofficial.org to provide their details.
Skill Award to 92 people in 5 categories

‘Youth should become power of Self-Reliant India by giving new dimension to their skills’

The importance of the role of Skill Development can be understood from the mantra given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Kaushalcharya Samadar, 2020 (Kaushalcharya Awards), when he said, “It is the Government’s skill agenda to create a workforce that matches the global demands and with this vision, several efforts have been undertaken to enable a strong skill development ecosystem.” He said, “The entire nation has come together under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat mission and it is also the need of the hour that every Indian be Self-Reliant, as we live in the changing times.”

Kaushalcharya Award: Skill Development Ministry gives away Kaushalcharya Samadar every year

This year, 92 skill trainers were honoured under five different categories

Three trainers were awarded under Entrepreneurship Training Category, and 15 under Jan Shikshan Sansthan. Further, 14 trainers were awarded under the Short-Term Training category and 44 were awarded under Long-Term Training along with 15 corporates.

FIVE YEARS OF SKILL INDIA

- In the past five years, around 5,000 new ITI’s have been established where more than 1 Crore youth are being trained
- Along with 723 Prime Minister Skill Centres, 33 National Skill Training Institutes have been opened Private entities such as Microsoft, IBM, Adobe and NASSCOM have been involved in the project
- India’s participation in international skilling competitions has been ensured. In addition to these steps, a portal Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) has been launched to help skilled job seekers in finding permanent employment
- India has jumped to 13th position in World Skills Competition in 2019 from the 29th in 2017

A BOON IN COVID CRISIS

- These training institutes and ITI’s made immense contribution to the national cause during the Corona crisis by designing/making automatic sanitizing machines, face masks, PPE kits and robots to assist doctors
- A database of 1.75 Lakh health professionals was created with the active cooperation of the health ministry

was unable to pursue higher education because of his different abilities. But his enrolment at PMKK as a Sewing Machine Operator helped him in enhancing his skill sets and confidence. Trainers helped him in overcoming his physical limitations. Today, he works with “Frontier Protectivewear Pvt Ltd” and is earning a good salary. Similarly, Ajesh from Kerala’s Kannur district and Delhi’s Priyanka have their own success stories in which Skill India Mission helped them in realising their dreams. The objective of the Mission is to train youth in such a way that it gives them confidence and make them economically independent. The programme has opened doors for millions to earn their livelihood too. The Mission will also help in giving pace to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
Optical fibre to reach every village

The Government starts works on providing Optical Fibre Internet to even the remotest village of the country

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Government’s resolve to connect all villages with Optical Fibre Internet within 1,000 days. True to his style of functioning, the announcement was followed by lightning fast implementation when barely 36 days after the announcement, work started on the Har Gaon Mein Optical Fibre Dwara Internet Suvidha project on September 21, 2020.

Prior to 2014, Optical Fibre Internet had reached merely 5 dozen panchayats. But in the past five years, it has reached 1.5 Lakh panchayats. Now, the Government aims to take OFC to all the six lakh villages in the next 1,000 days. The Prime Minister said, “Very soon, like cities, our villages will also be connected to online market. Every village and every home in the country will have access to high-speed Internet.”

The importance of the high-speed Internet connectivity can be gauged from the fact that India is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of digital transactions. In August 2020 alone transactions worth about Rs 3 Lakh Crore were made through UPI. But it is also necessary that villages of the country have good quality, high speed internet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE INITIAL PHASE</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▶ A Wi-Fi Hotspot to be installed in every village and a common service centre to provide Internet service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ One Wi-Fi and one FTTH connection each will be provided for free to selected Government institutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ To transform all villages into Digital Villages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ Digital empowerment of villagers, spreading digital empowerment, bridging the Digital Gulf and providing digital services to all villagers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ To encourage Inclusive Socio-Economic Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ After the Scheme has been implemented, its socio-economic impact will be evaluated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME**

▶ Scheme will lead implementation of e-Education, e-Farming, Tele-Medicine, Tele-Law and other social security schemes
▶ Citizens will have access to all digital facilities at one click of a mouse
▶ Farmers will have access to timely information on seeds and weather etc; a nationwide market will be thrown open to them
▶ It will allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the world
Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Fit India Campaign last year exhorting the countrymen to take up the challenge of improving their fitness. The Prime Minister, who has been working tirelessly ever since he took the office in 2014, realises how important the fitness of people is for transforming the dream of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* into reality.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has only underlined the importance of keeping fit because medical professionals all over the world have been reiterating the fact that physically fit people, with their strong immune system, are less prone to contacting the COVID-19 infection, and also that they recover faster.

To mark the first anniversary of the Fit India campaign, on September 24, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols’ with a message – “Fitness dose of 30-minute every day”. Speaking on the occasion, he said, “Staying fit is not as difficult a task as some people believe. By following some rules and a little hard work, we can remain healthy.”

The Prime Minister said that the Fit India Movement has proved its relevance and has shown its impact even in the times of Corona. He said that now Yoga, exercise, walking, running, swimming, healthy food habits, healthy lifestyle are becoming part of people's natural
PRIME MINISTER’S ROUTINE
The gruelling work-day of the Prime Minister, who turned 70 last month, stretches to 18 hours; he sleeps only 4-5 hours a day. Despite such a busy schedule, the Prime Minister is as active and energetic in the night as he is in morning, something which even his rivals admire. The Prime Minister wakes up around 5 AM and after freshening up, he does Yoga and pranayam for about 45 minutes.

SPECIAL DIET, REGULAR YOGA TO KEEP FIT
The question of the mantra of Prime Minister’s health is also very obvious. Nature and yoga in the morning is a part of his routine. He also follows a special diet for his fitness. He has also shared videos with the nation about fitness. The diet plan of the Prime Minister is not about selective eating but about eating only twice a day at fixed times of one’s choice e.g. 10 AM and 7 PM. At these two times, one can eat anything in a 55-minute window. The Prime Minister has been following this diet for a very long time. At least 100 MPs, officials and their family members are following this diet regimen. This has also helped several MPs in reducing weight. Even before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Prime Minister was following this plan. After seeing benefits of this diet regimen, the Prime Minister recommended it to other MPs. For this, a formal camp was organised before the Budget Session in February 2020. Nearly 100 MPs took part in this. Also, for the security personnel and their families a similar camp was organised wherein about 3,000 people took part.

WHAT PRIME MINISTER LIKES TO EAT
Along with the breakfast, he prefers tea with ginger and light sugar. Khichdi is among his favourite foods. Apart from that, he also likes Gujarati foods, including Bhakri, Khandvi, and Dhokla. He also likes Idli Sambhar, Dosa and Poha. For lunch, he goes for light Gujarati or south India dishes and for dinner it is daal roti or khichdi and daal saag.

consciousness. He urged people to take up yoga, or play badminton, tennis, or football, karate or kabaddi, or whatever they like to do for at least 30 minutes daily.

WHY FITNESS IS IMPORTANT
On August 29, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Fit India movement. Explaining the need of the movement, the Prime Minister said that many lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension are increasing in India. “Sometimes we hear that a child of 12-15 years in the family has become a diabetic
PRIME MINISTER INTERACTS WITH ATHLETES, FITNESS EXPERTS

On the first anniversary of the Fit India movement, Prime Minister Modi interacted with seven sports persons, fitness experts and others – Paralympic gold medallist in javelin throw Devendra Jhajharia; football goalkeeper from Jammu and Kashmir Afsan Ashiq; actor and model Milind Soman; nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar; Swami Shivadhyanam Saraswati; cricketer Virat Kohli; and educationist Mukul Kanitkar.

During this interaction, the Prime Minister said that the 'Fit India Movement' is also actually the 'Hit India Movement'.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda, the Prime Minister said: "Strength is Life, Weakness is Death. Expansion is Life, Contraction is Death."
Parliament passes record number of Bills in the Monsoon Session

In the Parliament session convened despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the productivity of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha exceeded 100 per cent. All 11 Ordinances promulgated were replaced by Acts of Parliament with a record number of Bills getting passed.

The Government in its efforts to put the development trajectory on the track convened the Monsoon session of Parliament that started from September 14 and ended on September 23, 2020, without any break. The session proved to be very fruitful despite the country facing COVID-19 pandemic. Parliament passed 27 Bills during the session which is a record average of 2.7 Bills per day. The Government has passed Bills concerning farmers, labourers, education, health, and economy which will strengthen the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi said that to meet the Constitutional requirements of the Article 85 and for transacting essential legislative and other Business, the Session was held during the coronavirus pandemic situation by making extraordinary arrangements including that of seating and logistical following all guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

An overview of the Monsoon session

- From September 14 to September 23, 2020, ten sittings were held
- The productivity of the Lok Sabha was 167 per cent and that of Rajya Sabha was 100.47 per cent
- During the Session, 22 Bills (16 in the Lok Sabha and 6 in the Rajya Sabha) were introduced
- Both the Houses of the Parliament passed 27 Bills, which is the best ever rate of passage of Bills per day – 2.7 Bills in a day
- 11 Ordinances were replaced by the Acts of Parliament during the Monsoon Session

New India Samachar | 17
UDAN gives fillip to aviation scene in small and medium sized cities as over 48 Lakh commoners fly with spread of regional air connectivity
It’s a dream come true for commoners on the street who invariably gaze at clear blue skies when an aircraft passes overhead. Or, the gazing would happen even in nights when the pilot puts the blinking lights on the rear ahead of landing the man-made bird machine.

Travel by air has perhaps been fantasized for too long by most Indians who could not afford stepping on to the aircraft till recently. With the onset of budget airlines, a big section of serving professionals even in mid-sized companies dared travel by air.

That in itself was a big makeover given that the elite traveling by air were received hitherto at airports with garlands depicting a sense of achievement only a few years ago.

Now, it’s the turn of ordinary, lower middle-class families that hop on to the aircraft for leisure, work, small business or even visiting relatives in far-flung areas that were hitherto cut off. Last three years have been a virtual roller coaster for these commoners that made merry after the Union government launched UDAN, a euphemism for Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (Let the common citizen fly).

UDAN took wings in 2017, to allow the ordinary Hawai chappal sporting commoners take the Hawai jahaz (aircraft) as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

SAVING TIME AND MONEY

By shelling out about Rs 2,500, the hoi polloi could fly 500 kilometres in an hour. Or, even a 30-minutes helicopter ride was possible at that cost.

Indian citizens seem to have taken the UDAN scheme a wee bit seriously and have been flying since the day this scheme was announced in October 2016. Over 48 Lakh people were airborne till now under UDAN. With demand for air travel rising after the launch of the game changing UDAN, the semi-urban and airports infrastructure in remote areas also got a big heft to make air connectivity happen for the people going rural.

Consider this: since Independence till 2016, India had about 70 airports with scheduled air passenger and cargo operations. But, within three years under UDAN, another 50 airports that include five heliports have been added to the list of operative airports covering 281 routes. At least 766 routes were awarded to airlines under UDAN. This will enable 10 Crore people to fly annually. More is yet to come. By 2026-27, another 100 airports – new or disbanded old ones – would be on India’s air map with serviced airlines.

Air travel affordability has obviously been the key to success of this very revolutionary scheme UDAN that compares very well even with ordinary taxi fares. As against an aggregate taxi fare of Rs 8 – 10, the air travellers pay Rs 5 per kilometre under the UDAN scheme.
UDAN has created ripples otherwise also. It has demolished the myth that air travel was the prerogative of a distinct minority of elite class passengers. It’s no secret that the Prime Minister always dreamt of taking air travel to the common man. Even as a party functionary, the Prime Minister had asked the then Civil Aviation Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy in the A B Vajpayee government, if the Air India logo could be changed to famed cartoonist R K Lakshman’s depiction of a common man from the Maharaja? What happened later is for anybody to guess with Air India rebranding itself and taking it closer to the common man in Lakshman’s cartoons.

A new civil aviation policy announced by the Central Government in 2016, two years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took reins at the Centre, first talked about regional air connectivity and taking air travel to ordinary citizens. Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN, the first flight Shimla and New Delhi was flagged off by the Prime Minister in April 2017.

**ABOUT THE SCHEME**
India being the third largest aviation market globally connected tier-2 & tier-

**MULTI-FOLD BENEFITS**
- **Not just the common Indian citizens are flying like never before, UDAN seems to have had a multiplier effect boosting tourism and creating new employment opportunities for youngsters brimming with energy and aspirations**

**EMPLOYMENT:** As a thumb rule, every aircraft that flies creates employment for at least 100 youngsters on the airline, on the airport, maintenance, air traffic management or services provided to passengers like handling of baggage or ground operations. With an eye on maximizing benefits under UDAN, 46 routes have been identified to boost tourism. Already, 23 routes covering iconic tourist places have become operational with point to point connectivity.

**TOURISM:** Tourist hotspots on the Buddhist circuit, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Varanasi, Rajahmundry, Goa, Vidyanagar, Guwahati, Dimapur - Imphal among others. Work is in full swing to develop airports at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Tehri Dam in Uttarakhand and Nagarjuna Sagar in Telangana among others. Visit to the famed Statue of Unity near the Sardar Sarovar Dam for tourists opting to fly in through sea planes by this month end.

**ECONOMY** : Expanded air connectivity would also make more and more places in India attractive for both foreign and domestic businesses apart from leveraging cost-effective human resources. A recent study by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) shows that air connectivity would have economic multipliers of 3.1 times and employment multipliers of six. For instance, Kishangarh airport’s connectivity with Delhi, Ahmedabad, Indore and Hyderabad has led to handsome dividends for the marble trading industry. As a result, marble traders in the region have reported three times growth in their business revenue over the last few years.
THE JOURNEY OF SUCCESS

BEGINNING OF THE DREAM

› Under the scheme, four rounds – UDAN 1, UDAN 2, UDAN 3 and UDAN 4 – have been approved. Seventy airports have been selected for the scheme. As of date, 50 airports including 5 heliports are operational on 281 routes

› In the first three phases, 688 routes were selected. Fifty six routes are functional under the first phase, 118 in second and 100 routes in the third phase. So far, 766 routes have been approved

› Amid pandemic, 78 new routes were approved under the fourth round of UDAN. The focus is on North East, hilly states and islands

› Twenty nine served, 08 unserved (including 02 heliports and 01 water aerodrome), and 02 underserved airports have been included in the list of approved routes. Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopters and seaplanes has also been incorporated

THE TASK AHEAD

› So far, 48 Lakh people have taken benefit of the scheme. Domestic passengers' share of non-metro airports has grown by 5% points

› The target is to award and operationalise 1,000 UDAN routes and revive 100 airports over the next 5 years. It includes 30 heliports and development of 10 Water Aerodromes for seaplanes.

› Aims at arranging subsidised travel annually for 10 Crore people

› Connecting all States and Union Territories under the scheme.

› To launch Krishi UDAN scheme for transport of agri-products

› More than 650 new city pairs are now scheduled to be connected under the scheme. Two-hundred are already connected

› Balanced connectivity for country’s five geographical regions – North, South, East, West and North East.
In the 67 years up to 2014 since Independence, India had only 65 airports, which translates roughly into one airport per year. This was their speed and their vision. In the past four years 36 airports were built i.e. every years nine airports are ready for flights which is nine times faster. To reach this target they would have taken 40 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi (On the Inauguration of Pakyong Airport in Sikkim)

3 cities with metropolis under UDAN. Airlines were encouraged to go beyond State capitals to important towns and cities through the regional air connectivity. Initially, fiscal and monetary incentives were offered to airlines for going mofussil.

SUPPORT TO AIRLINES

On any given route, airline operating aircraft was selected through competitive bidding. Only condition was that at least 50 per cent seats were set aside and made available at Rs 2,500 per hour’s flying. Such airlines were eligible for a subsidy on nine to 40 seats per flight.

Given that there is a cap on maximum airfare that an airline can charge to enhance affordability, Central and State governments have pitched in with Viable Gap Funding (VGF) to ensure that the airline operations on regional routes were commercially viable.

Separate concessions on fuel rates and infrastructure development at un-served airports have not only boosted operations of giant airline companies but have led to participation of regional start-up airlines.

Reduced excise on Aviation Turbine Fuel and service tax concessions have made the regional connectivity plans of airlines more viable.

State Governments, on their part, have signed up pacts to the lower value added tax on ATF to one per cent or lower, provide security and fire services free of cost and make available electricity, water and other utilities at substantially concessional rates. Airport operators also incentivized airlines by waiving off landing and parking charges, terminal navigation landing charges, and other parking charges. Regional aviation scene in India seems to be going through momentous changes given the huge untapped potential for the airline companies.

From the air travellers’ perspective, the icing on the cake is the big plans that the Central Government has for taking the regional connectivity two notches above. Above all, the optimism in the sub-urban and regional aviation sector is palpable.
Pulwama
the Pencil District of India

Riding on the Government initiatives, Oukhoo village in Pulwama district has emerged as the ‘Pencil Village’ of India supplying 90 per cent pencil slats in the country.

Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, since long the hotbed of militancy, had acquired further baggage of infamy after the terror attack of February 14, 2019. However, now the district is shedding its traditional image to take up its rightful place in the ‘New India’. With the help of Government initiatives, the Oukhoo village in the district has emerged as the ‘Pencil Village’ of India contributing nearly 90 per cent of slats produced in the country. Only 10 per cent wood for making slats come from Kerala. Slats are the wooden casings of pencils.

Dozens of units are engaged in preparing slats inside homes from a special Poplar tree that grows only in the wetlands of the district. Oukhoo is giving a new identity to the UT which is gradually becoming a pencil manufacturing hub. Chances are that every time you pick up a pencil you are holding the fruit of the labour of a Kashmiri.

After abrogating the Article 370, the Centre has taken many steps to bring the UT into the mainstream. Towards this aim, the Government has taken steps to rid Pulwama district of the scourge of terrorism and give it a new identity of the pencil district of the country.

Oukhoo supplies 90 per cent pencil slats in the country. Now efforts are on to produce complete pencils here for which it will now be developed into a special zone. There are over 400 people of the village associated with the business but now more employment will be generated. Last year, production of pencil slats generated a revenue of Rs 107 Crore.

Pencil slats are also manufactured in villages of Anantnag district. But tag of ‘Pencil Village’ to Oukhoo will make it eligible for subsidy and it will be able to contribute to the industry helping to expand business.

Cedar (Deodaar) woods were being used to manufacture pencil slats since 1960 which was actually depleting the Cedar forests. Use of Poplar is helping in preserving the natural resources of the UT. There is also a need to make market available for cricket bats of Kashmir. The Central government’s initiative will not only encourage handicraft but also Vocal for Local and Self-Reliant India campaign in the changed scenario in J&K. Now, every hand in the entire country will have pencil manufactured in Pulwama.
After basic necessities, information and entertainment are the most important needs of the people. But a large section of the people in India cannot afford the expensive private DTH connections or cables. To ensure dissemination of information and mass empowerment, DD Free Dish is being offered to consumers for a one-time payment of about Rs 1,200 and above.

And the bonus with the offer is credibility that Doordarshan and All India Radio enjoy, something which is often trampled over in the mad rush for breaking the news.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said that Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) have a credibility which gives these channels an edge over others that sometimes get carried away with rumours. Doordarshan is an institution of trust.

The DD Free Dish is free-to-air (FTA) and an alternative affordable platform for people who do not have the means to pay high subscription fee of private DTH and cable platforms. News and views of the outside world as well as quality entertainment, which is available to affluent class at a high subscription cost, is made available to people without any subscription fee.

The plan for setting up a free service was approved in the 10th Plan. It is being implemented through Prasar Bharati. Unlike other private DTH operators, Prasar Bharati does not charge any monthly or annual subscription fee from viewers for viewing DD Free Dish channels.

The scheme was approved initially by SFC and Cabinet approval was also obtained in 2003 during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Approval was given for setting up a 30 channel Ku-band distribution system consisting of Doordarshan’s bouquet of 20 channels and 10 channels of private broadcasters in free-to-air mode and Prasar Bharati was to make every effort to recover carriage fee from private
Free Dish is the gift of the Modi Government to the poor and middle class. There are over 104 channels in it. One can buy Free Dish by visiting any electronic shop. By spending just Rs 1,200, they can watch programmes free for the lifetime. The private DTH operators charge monthly subscription. Channels like Zee, Star, Soni, Colours and various other are in the Free Dish. It also has News, Sports and 34 channels of education. You can use them. Go get Free Dish installed today.

Prakash Javadekar, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister

broadcasters whose channels are to be carried in the DTH bouquet.

Subsequently, the Government approved an increase of capacity from 30 to 40 TV channels on DD DTH platform in 2004 with 17 channels of Doordarshan and 23 private FTA channels. The platform was further expanded under various schemes of the Government and presently has a capacity of 112 SDTV channels and 48 Radio channels. The channel bouquet of DD Free Dish is variegated and rich having most of the genres represented in it.

**DD FREE DISH SET TOP BOXES**

Doordarshan has introduced authorized STBs for DD Free Dish and has empanelled 10 manufacturers for producing authorized STBs. It provides enhanced viewing experience to the viewers. Presently, most of the STBs are imported. However, to encourage STB production in India, in line with the ‘Digital India’ and ‘Make in India’

**DIGITAL LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN**

- Apart from providing entertainment and information, the scheme also helped in ensuring uninterrupted learning for students even as schools and colleges were shut due to the pandemic. With SWAYAM PRABHA, a group of 34 DTH channels that provide educational content, DD Free Dish ensured that students in remote areas were not deprived of learning when those from urban areas switched to online classes.
- SWAYAM PRABHA channels telecast high-quality educational programmes 24X7 using the GSAT-15 satellite. Everyday, there will be new content for at least four hours which would be repeated five more times in a day allowing students to choose the time of their convenience.
- Contents are provided by NPTEL, IITs, UGC, CEC, IGNOU, NCERT and NIOS. The INFLIBNET Centre maintains the web portal.
- It offers curriculum-based course contents at post-graduate and undergraduate level covering diverse disciplines such as arts, science, commerce, performing arts, social sciences, humanities, engineering, technology, law, medicine, agriculture, etc. It also assists students of class XI and XII in preparing for competitive exams, apart from teaching school syllabus.
vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prasar Bharati has implemented Indian Conditional Access System (iCAS) which is an initiative of MeitY, Government of India for making an Indian CAS, in DD Free Dish Platform.

To make the scheme reach every part of the country, DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes have been distributed to the people in remote, hilly and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) areas under various schemes of the Government. Last year the Government distributed 30,000 DD Free Dish Set Top Boxes in J&K and Ladakh. This year also there is a plan to distribute 1,20,000 STBs in remote and LWE areas.

OFFERS WIDE RANGE OF CHANNELS

The present bouquet of DD Free Dish comprises 38 DD channels, 2 Parliamentary channels, 2 foreign public service broadcasting channels and 67 private TV channels in different genres like GEC, Movie, News, Sports, Devotional and Music Channels. In 2019, 11 State DD Channels were brought on the Satellite footprint of India through DD Free Dish. It is for the first time that the States like Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand have got their own DD Channel on a Satellite Network through DD Free Dish.

REQUIRES SMALL ONE-TIME INVESTMENT

DD Free Dish requires only a small one-time investment in purchasing of Dish Receive System containing Set Top Box and small Dish Antenna and viewing is free for the life time. The unique model of DD Free Dish has made it the largest DTH platform in the country – 3.8 Crore households have DD Free Dish across the Nation.

MAKING TV ACCESSIBLE TO REMOTE AREAS

DD Free Dish reaches to millions of poor people in remote, inaccessible and border areas becoming a tool for empowerment of marginalized and weaker sections of the society through a cost-effective medium for dissemination of quality information.
India has been fighting COVID-19 with an unwavering resolve. The timely action of the Government, and the ‘Testing, Tracing and Treatment’ mantra given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi have put India in the top 10 countries in the world in terms of recovery rate from COVID-19 infection with the maximum number of recovered cases in the world.

The entire world is fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. Reports on two counts are quite encouraging. First, the number of recoveries from Corona crossed 55 Lakhs on October 4, which is the highest in the world. Second, the number of daily recoveries between September 20 and October 4, 2020 exceeded the number of new cases reported. The World Health Organisation considers the COVID-19 pandemic to have peaked in a country if recoveries exceed the new cases for 14 consecutive days.

The recovery rate in India has reached 84.34 per cent which is the highest in the world. In simple words, for 100 patients reported, 84 have recovered. So far India has reported 66,23,515 cases of Covid-19 infection. Of these, 55,85,645 patients have recovered. The infection has claimed 1,02,723 lives so far in the country at a fatality rate of 1.55 per cent. States reporting a recovery rate of 70 per cent are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Odisha, Kerala, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra topping the list.

“My dear countrymen, in this Corona time-period, I would once again remind you - Always wear a mask and do not venture out without a face shield. ‘Do Gaz ki doori’, social distancing will protect you and your family. These few rules are the weapons in our fight against Corona, a powerful resource to save the life of every citizen. And let us not forget, till the time we have any vaccine, we will not let up in our efforts

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Active Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>10.10 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>10.04 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>9.75 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 September</td>
<td>9.68 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>9.66 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 September</td>
<td>9.69 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>9.61 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>9.56 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 September</td>
<td>9.63 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>9.47 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>9.48 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September</td>
<td>9.46 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>9.42 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>9.45 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 October</td>
<td>9.37 Lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 October</td>
<td>9.35 Lakh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

84.34 Per Cent Recovery Rate in India
1.55 Per Cent Death Rate in India

Source: covid19india.org/
'REFORMS IN THE UN ARE NEED OF THE HOUR'

The United Nations, which turned 75 in September, seems unwilling to reinvent itself for the needs of a new world order and unable to justify its very raison d’être.

India is vying for a reformed multilateral system in the United Nations (UN) as the mission has spectacularly failed to live up to the mandate given to it. Speaking on 75th anniversary of the UN, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posed some pertinent questions and suggested measures to address them.

Though the UN does have some accomplishments to its credit, on the whole, it has left much to be desired in dealing with the important issues and problems plaguing the global community today. This comity of the nations remained virtually a mute spectator as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, which has underscored the need for its urgent and complete overhaul.

In his address the Prime Minister said, “Reforms in the responses, in the processes, in the character of the UN are the need of the hour. People of India have been waiting for a long time for the completion of reforms. People are concerned whether this reform-process will ever reach to its logical conclusion?”

The Prime Minister asked, “How long would a country have to wait particularly when changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world? In the 21st century, requirements and challenges of our present as well as future are vastly different from those of the past. Whether the character of the institution, constituted in the prevailing circumstances of 1945, is relevant even today?”

The world in all these years has managed to avoid Third World War but wars, civil wars, terrorist attacks continue to ravage parts of the world turning lakhs into refugees. Efforts of the UN do not appear to match the crises. The world is fighting COVID-19 for the last 8–9
## India: A New Growth Model

- A Self-Reliant India will be a force multiplier for the global economy
- India has transformed lives of millions by connecting 40 Crore people to banking system
- Freedom from Open Defecation to over 60 Crore people in 4–5 years
- Free healthcare services access to over 50 Crore people
- India is one of the leaders in Digital Transactions ensuring empowerment and transparency
- India is implementing a huge campaign for tuberculosis-free India by 2025
- India is implementing a programme for providing piped drinking water to 15 Crore rural households
- India has initiated a huge project for connecting its 6 Lakh villages with broadband optical fibre
- India is one of those countries where women are provided Paid Maternity Leave of 26 weeks

## Commitment for Global Peace

- India will play an important role as non-permanent member of UNSC for global welfare from January, 2021 for two years
- India has sent its soldiers to about 50 peacekeeping missions
- Among soldiers killed in these missions, the largest number is from India
- International Day of Non-Violence on October 02; International Day of Yoga on June 21
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Solar Alliance are Indian initiatives
- India’s Neighbourhood First Policy to Act East Policy and approach towards Indo-Pacific region are for Security and Growth for All in the Region. India has always worked towards the betterment of humankind
- Pharmaceutical industry has sent essential medicines to more than 150 countries
- As the largest vaccine producing country of the world, India has offered its vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all humanity in fighting Corona pandemic
- When strong, India did not trouble the world; when weak, India did not become a burden on the world

### On June 17, 2020, India was elected for the eighth time as a non-permanent member of UNSC for a two-year term

The UNSC has 15 members. Five of them are permanent members — the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China — and 10 are non-permanent. Half the non-permanent members are elected every year, each for a two-year term.

months. Where is the UN in this fight against the pandemic? However, India with its eternal philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbam* was giving helping hand to the world community. The largest democracy of the world with its 130 Crore population which is more than 18 per cent of the world population has been kept out of the decision-making structures of the UN. “Today every Indian, while seeing the contribution of India in the United Nations, aspires for India’s expanded role in the UN,” said the Prime Minister. “I am confident that on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, the United Nations and its member countries will endeavour with a strong commitment to maintain the relevance of this great institution,” said the Prime Minister.
COVID-19 pandemic has brought everything to a standstill. Everyone was forced to stay home; tournaments were cancelled, and Olympics were postponed. But life comes first. So stay home to stay safe! Even I was doing my training sessions from home because Coronavirus can be anywhere and is spreading fast. It is unsafe to travel not only in India but in any part of the world. As a sportsperson, we need to stay positive, patient and hopeful that everything will be fine soon.

The Government has taken numerous measures to deal with COVID-19 and I am really thankful to the Government for being so supportive. Since the Olympics are scheduled for the next year, so only theprobables are allowed to practice. The Government has been telling us about the measures that need to be taken to remain safe. We started practicing which is now going on well. However, tournaments and sports activities are not happening. The government is always there with its advisory. A lot of sportspersons might be undergoing depression and a lot of others might be thinking about what is going to happen next. I just want to say that not just few individuals are facing this problem, rather it is a global crisis. COVID-19 might have affected income of sportspersons as well but I am sure things will return to normal soon.

As a sportsperson, we were really busy training and travelling before Corona struck the country. I, too, was keeping busy as I had to travel a lot to participate in tournaments. But now we all are staying in our homes for over four-five months. But it is important to keep busy so I just want to tell athletes and sportspersons to keep themself busy doing something or the other. We are not supposed to go out and play but training and exercise are very important.

We also need to remain cautious; even after things return to the normal, there is no need to go off the guard. We need to remain cautious, maintain social distance, and keep faces covered with masks, especially when going out to play tournaments and while travelling. One must keep on sanitizing hands whenever needed and also maintain social distancing. When we start playing tournaments especially in badminton, shaking hands needs to be avoided. Everyone needs to take precautionary measures. Use of masks must be strictly adhered to and taking bath after coming home from outside should also be made a habit. We will be back on the court hopefully very soon. We must also understand that there will not be any spectator, so we must get used to the situation to play without the crowd.
The cold desert of Ladakh is nestled on ‘the roof of the world’ at an average elevation of 3,000 metres. Villages in this region lie beside small oases in the barren desert, on the banks of a stream, or along springs utilising the summertime meltwater.

But over the past few years, availability of water has been severely impacted by the gradually diminishing precipitation, rising average temperatures, and receding glaciers. Scarcity of water forced villagers to abandon their traditional agrarian practices and migrate to other areas.

But now the innovation of Ice Stupas has successfully addressed the issue of water shortage and its entailing problems. Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs in November 2019, launched a project for Research, Documentation and Development of Tribal communities of Ladakh in association with Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) of which a key component was ‘Rehabilitation of Abandoned Villages through Ice Stupas’.

During 2019-20, the Ministry supported the creation of Ice Stupas at 26 locations across Ladakh and trained 250 village-level stakeholders in the programme. Additionally workshops were conducted, training sessions held and plantation drives organised across Ladakh to create awareness on the project which led to conservation of nearly 7.5 Crore litres of water during winters. Eco-tourism activities like “1st Ladakh Ice Climbing Festival” opened eco-entrepreneurial opportunity to the local youth. In the beginning of November 2019, the project was started in the village of Kulum which had been completely abandoned in 2012 as receding glaciers forced families to relocate.

By mid-February 2020, a 45-feet-tall Ice Stupa had come up at the upper hamlet of Kulum conserving 3,00,000 litres of water. This Stupa melted away in the April end, providing much needed water for the fields of Kulum.

In the coming winter, Ice Stupas are proposed to be set up at 50 locations across Ladakh.

In the coming years, the project will evolve from water management strategies to a holistic village rehabilitation model. The activities to be undertaken will include:

- Upper Valley Plantation to act as a carbon sink and a protection from flooding
- Modern plantation and irrigational practices which are not as water-intensive like drip irrigation and hydroponic systems
- Alternative technologies for daily use, such as wind, solar, biogas, etc.

To check youth migration, livelihood opportunities are being created within these villages with the ‘Himalayan Farmstays’ initiative in which tourists are hosted in the farm homes, where the elderly left in the village take care of them.
OPPORTUNITY IN THE TIMES OF CORONA

IIT Bombay has developed a medicated mask to fight Corona, and a green-thumb turns his rooftop in a terrace garden

MASK USABLE FOR SIX MONTHS

Masks have become a necessity these days. But, frequently replacing them is a waste of money as well as resources. In such a situation a mask that need not be changed frequently is a boon. To meet the challenge, IIT Bombay has developed a medicated mask in collaboration with Jeevika Didies, a group in rural India associated with the project of making women self-reliant. The mask can be used for six months without washing it. Experts from IIT Bombay have provided online training to Jeevika Didies of Vaishali and Patna districts. Over 5 Lakh masks have already been produced and supplied to the health department. Efforts are underway to make them available in the market as well. Election Commission is also going to use these masks during the Assembly polls. Jeevika Didies said that the anti-viral chemical solution provided by IIT Bombay is mixed with warm water to prepare a solution. Masks are dipped in this solution and then dried up before packaging. Using Durapot technology, the coating crosslinks the antibacterial and antiviral components onto the textile’s fibres through a simple dipping process. Jeevika Didies are producing 200-600 masks earning up to Rs 1,000 a day.

GREENERY AMID URBANISATION

In the concrete jungles that the modern cities are, it is well nigh impossible to pursue one’s passion for greenery. But as they say, where there is a will, there is a way. Padam Singh from Delhi, who is famous as Green Man turned his terrace into a rooftop garden during the Corona period growing 105 kinds of plants. He grew 35 kinds of fruits including mango, guava, lemon, grapefruit, orange, mausami, grapes, kino, and pomegranate. Besides fruits, he grew 15 kinds of vegetables like ridged gourd, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, brinjal, spinach, fenugreek, chilli and radish to set an example. Padam Singh says, “People were worried during lockdown but I utilised the opportunity. Not only I grew new plants but also encouraged others towards greenery.” He created a WhatsApp group to advise people, and distributed vegetables to the needy. After the unlock, people are flocking to him to learn gardening. Padam Singh is offering plants for free so people can develop greenery a hobby.
PM takes swipe at China, questions UN role in pandemic

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the UNGA. UN role in pandemic

APRIL 13, 2020

High priority for Lanka ties, says PM

Address at UNGA

PM Modi speaks to Japan counterpart, focus on open and inclusive Indo-Pacific

India inks 1st green pact with Denmark

Media Corner
EK BHARAT
SHRESTHA BHARAT

“Sardar Patel was a blend of Kautilya’s diplomacy and Shivaji Maharaj’s bravery. He had said on 5th July, 1947 addressing the princely states – “Our internal conflicts and enmity were the main reasons for our defeat against the foreign invaders. Now we must not repeat the same mistakes or to be someone’s slave again.” On hearing Sardar Saheb’s words and understanding the power of unity, the princely states merged their states. Soon India became one.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on unveiling of Statue of Unity

Published & Printed by: Satyendra Prakash, DG, BCC on behalf of Bureau of Outreach and Communication

Editor: Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, PDG, PIB, New Delhi

Published from Bureau of Outreach and Communication, 2nd Floor, Sreechaa Bhawan, New Delhi -110003

Printed at J.K offset Graphics Pvt Ltd, B-278, Okhla Ind Area Phase-I, New Delhi 20

RNI Registered No DELENG/2020/78811, Delhi Postal License No DL(S)-1/3545/2020-22, WPP NO U (S)-93, posting at BPC, Mehdoot Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001 on 13-17 advance Fortnightly (Publishing Date October 5, 2020, Pages - 36)