SELF-RELIANT INDIA
The New Growth Mantra
In his address on the 74th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the nation to walk on the path of self-reliance.
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For POOR and NEEDY

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We would like to thank all our readers for an encouraging response to our last issue. The current issue gives an extensive coverage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 74th Independence Day of India.

Prime Minister elaborated upon his clarion call for an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat – a Self-Reliant India, and how a nation that was in the grip of a pandemic, is adapting the mantra of “Make for World” against all odds and challenges. Jan Dhan Yojana, is reported in detail in our section on Flagship Scheme of the Month. The number of beneficiaries has crossed over 40 crore under this ambitious and successful scheme launched by Prime Minister on August 28, 2014. The issue also attempts at providing a comprehensive coverage of the success of the India’s Textile Sector where it turned the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity by producing more than 2 crore masks during the pandemic.

The story of Kunzes Angmo from Ladakh features in our achievers section along with others. Hers is a story of inspiration when she tried to provide an international platform to local Ladakhi handicrafts such as pashmina and woolen products. There are other stories too on the agriculture sector’s growth, launching of an App for taxpayers and National Education Policy.

We hope our efforts continue to update our readers with information on various welfare schemes of the Government of India.

(K S DHATWALIA)
August 15 is celebrated as Independence Day of the country but it has many milestones to its credit including the launch of Internet in India 25 years ago.

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology & Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "On this 15th August, we marked 25 years of Internet in India. With 687.6 million Internet users, India offers Internet at the lowest tariffs in the world. Initiatives like Digital India, CSC & BharatNet have empowered the common citizens using the power of Internet."

Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL) has the credit of bringing Internet to India. Initially Internet services were costlier but in the last five years, rates have gone down around 96 per cent with the increasing number of Internet users in the bargain.

There were around 10 crore Internet users in 2010. Today there are over 50 crore users which is a five fold increase. Telecom Authority of India's (TRAI) report on the usage of Internet in India has an interesting insight. Quantity of total wireless data was only 82.8 crore GB in 2014. However, it got increased to 4640.4 crore GB in 2018. But it didn’t stop there and reached to 5491.7 crore GB at the end of 2019.

With the increasing use of smart phones and Internet rates going down, rural India has left urban India far behind in Internet data consumption. Villages have 10 per cent more users than cities. In cities around 21 crore people are using Internet whereas in villages, the figure has reached to around 23 crore. India has around 50.40 crore Internet users with around 380 crore people using Internet in the world.
SUBMARINE CABLE CONNECTIVITY FOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 10, 2020 launched submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland through video conferencing. With this launch, services had begun on a major chunk of the islands from Chennai to Port Blair, Port Blair to Little Andaman and Port Blair to Swaraj Island.

The foundation stone for this project was laid by the PM on December 30, 2018 at Port Blair with a project cost of Rs 1,224 crore. The Prime Minister said the Submarine Cable would help A&N in getting cheaper and better connectivity and all the benefits of Digital India, especially in improving online education, tele-medicine, banking system, online trading and in boosting tourism.

The Prime Minister said that the Government’s focus is also on promoting Ease of doing Business in the sea and simplifying Maritime Logistics. He referred to the speedy construction of the deep draft inner harbor and the proposal to construct Trans Shipment Port in Great Nicobar at an estimated cost of about Rs 10,000 crore.

APP INNOVATION CHALLENGE RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Results of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge was announced on August 7, 2020. Prime Minister had launched the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge on July 4, 2020. It received as many as 6,940 entries from tech entrepreneurs and start-ups across the country. While 24 Apps were rewarded, another 20 Apps were identified for Special Mention for having a great potential in being Apps for the future.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS SCHEME EXTENDED TO RURAL AREAS

In order to strengthen its network and postal operations in rural areas and provide facility of small savings scheme to the vast majority in villages, the Department of Posts has extended all small savings schemes upto the Branch Post Office level. The new order has allowed Branch Post Offices to offer facilities of Public Provident Fund, Monthly Income Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra and Senior Citizen Savings Schemes.
AYUSH FOR IMMUNITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED


Key objective of the campaign is to acquaint the people with valuable information about strengths of various Ayush-based solutions for enhancing immunity and preventing diseases. Experts doing the event highlighted how simple measures adopted in daily lives can go a long way in preventing diseases.

PLI SCHEME TO FETCH EXPORTS OF RS 7 LAKH CRORE

Union Minister for Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad said on August 1, 2020 that Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) scheme has been a huge success in terms of the applications received from Global as well as Domestic Mobile Phone manufacturing companies and electronic components manufacturers. He informed that the scheme was expected to promote exports significantly. Out of the total production of Rs 11.50 lakh crore in the next 5 years, more than 60% will be contributed by export order of Rs 7 lakh crore. The scheme will bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of Rs 11,000 crore.

MOBILE CONNECTIVITY FOR 354 BORDER VILLAGES

The Government has been taking measures on priority to provide connectivity in the far flung, difficult, border areas of strategic importance. Union Minister of Electronics & IT, Communications and Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad on August 10, 2020, informed that a tender for 354 uncovered villages in the strategic, remote and border areas of the country has been finalised and is under implementation in 144 villages of the the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and remaining villages in the States of Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other priority areas of Gujarat.

KVIC’S PROJECT ON AGARBATTI PRODUCTION

Union Minister for MSME Nitin Gadkari on August 2, 2020 approved a unique employment generation program proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to make India Aatma Nirbhar in Agarbatti production. The program named as “Khadi Agarbatti Aatma Nirbhar Mission” aims at creating employment for unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country while increasing domestic Agarbatti production substantially.

Under the scheme, KVIC will provide Automatic Agarbatti making machines and powder mixing machines to the artisans through the successful private Agarbatti manufacturers who will sign the agreement as business partners. KVIC will provide 25% subsidy on the cost of the machines and will recover the remaining 75% of the cost from the artisans in easy monthly instalments.
The 5575-meter-long Mahatma Gandhi Bridge in Patna connecting northern Bihar to southern Bihar has become India’s first state-of-the-art bridge, which was launched by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on July 31, 2020. The bridge being constructed at a cost of Rs 1,742 crore would boost socio-economic growth of the state.

The work on the upstream lane has been completed within a span of two and a half years after it was launched in June 2017 whereas the target year of the completion of the downstream lane has been fixed to 2021. Concrete is being replaced by steel for the first time in the country in the construction of this bridge. Its structure has been also given a facelift.

Mahatma Gandhi Setu, opened in 1982, was called as Bihar’s lifeline but it continued to remain in bad shape. So, the Central Government initiated work on it.

The bridge was renovated with about 6600 metric tonne of steel making it a steel super structure. It will benefit people of northern region of the state including Hazipur, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi and Siwan districts besides Patna, Aara, Arwal, Jehanabad, Nalanda, Gaya and Aurangabad districts of southern Bihar. The bridge will also be useful for some districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Inaugurating the bridge, Union Minister of Surface Transport and...
Highways Nitin Gadkari said, "The bridge is a marvel of civil engineering and would be a good example for students pursuing civil engineering." Apart from this, the Centre has expedited construction of highways costing about Rs 30,000 crore in Bihar.

**EXCERPTS FROM NITIN GADKARI’S SPEECH:**

- Renovation work of two lanes of the old bridge on Ganga River completed and other two lanes to be ready by December, 2021
- Rs 1,742 crore will be spent on the renovation of 5.5-km-long bridge
- Over 76,000 vehicles pass through the route daily. Opening of two lanes will ease traffic jam issue
- The bridge was designed by IIT, Roorkee
- Patna will also have a new four lane bridge costing about Rs 2,926 crore. Tender was opened in August and construction will commence from October. The target for its completion is March, 2024.
- Country will have the first bridge of its kind under which a ship can pass

**PM REVIEWS FLOOD SITUATION**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting through video conference on August 10, 2020 with Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala to take stock of the flood situation and review their preparedness to deal with it. Flood situation in some of the states of the country was devastating.

There was an emphasis on better coordination between central and state agencies to have a permanent system for forecasting of floods and extensive use of innovative technologies for improving forecast and warning system. Prime Minister said, “Our forecasting agencies like India Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission have been making concerted efforts to make better and more usable flood forecasts. They are trying to provide not only rainfall and river level forecast but also location specific forecast of inundation.”

There are pilot efforts underway to use innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence to improve location-specific forecast, for which States should provide necessary information to these agencies and timely disseminate the warnings to local communities.
Earthen pottery and terracotta always played a significant role in the Indian cultural fabric. Any festival or wedding is incomplete without them.

In order to increase the earnings of potters, the Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has sped up the scheme of distributing 17,000 electric potter wheel (Chalks) which will benefit over 75,000 members of the community. This move aims at making Prime Minister’s Self-Reliant India campaign even more powerful.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah distributed electric chalks to 100 trained potters on July 24, 2020 in his Lok Sabha constituency Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat. Shah said, “Our brothers and sisters from the community are carriers of Indian craft. Now, we can enhance their production capacity through the use of technology. This will make their life comfortable.”

“Under the Potters’ Empowerment Scheme, KVIC is doing tremendous work to revive the traditional art of pottery in order to strengthen the status of marginal potters’ community,” Shah said.

He further said that it is the dream of the Prime Minister to enrich the country’s traditional crafts and upgrade the skills of individual craftsman.

KVIC chairman V K Saxena informed that the country has approximately 4 Crore population of potters’ community. Electric potter wheel enhanced the income of a potter from Rs 3,000 to about Rs 12,000 per month.

EMPOWERING TRADITIONAL ARTISANS
- Electric potter wheels producing 2 Crore earthen cups (Kulhad) which are sold at 400 railway stations
- Income of potters has been enhanced from Rs 3,000 to Rs 12,000 per month under Potters’ Empowerment Scheme
- Electric potter wheel turns 800 kgs of soil into clay in eight hours while traditional methods take five days to turn similar amount of soil into clay
- The scheme is implemented in Rajasthan, MP, Himachal, UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, J&K, Ladakh, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana
DIRT FREE INDIA

PM lauds people for making Swachhata a Jan Andolan; inaugurates Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra at Rajghat

It was a Nation’s moment when Prime Minister gave a clarion call of *Gandagi Bharat Chhodo* while inaugurating the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) - an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission, at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at Rajghat in New Delhi on August 8, 2020. The occasion became momentous as it was on the same day in 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched the ‘Quit India’ Movement against the British Colonial Rule.

**TOUR OF RASHTRIYA SWACHHATA KENDRA**

The RSK has a balanced mix of digital and outdoor installations tracking India’s transformation from having over 50 crore people defecating in the open in 2014 to becoming open defecation free in 2019.

**INTERACTION WITH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

After taking a tour of the entire RSK, the Prime Minister briefly visited the RSK souvenir centre. He then interacted with 36 school students from Delhi, representing all States and Union Territories of India at the amphitheatre of the RSK, adhering to social distancing protocols.

**ADDRESS TO THE NATION**

Prime Minister reminisced the journey of the Swachh Bharat Mission and dedicated the RSK as a permanent tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. He lauded the people of India for making swachhata a jan andolan and urged them to continue to do so in the future.

**GANDAGI BHARAT CHHODO**

RSK was first announced by the Prime Minister on April 10, 2017, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Gandhiji’s Champaran Satyagraha.
The Government initiates major reforms in filing IT returns with a platform for the ‘upright’ taxpayers

Keeping in tune with the reforms at the infrastructural level, the Government has initiated reforms in the taxation system, especially in the sphere of filing Income Tax. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform for ‘Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest’ on August 13, 2020 through video conferencing. The platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister said that Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers Charter have come into force immediately while the facility of faceless appeal will be available for citizens across the country from September 25, the birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyay. Apart from being faceless, the new platform is aimed at boosting the confidence of the taxpayer and making him/her fearless.

Prime Minister said that the ongoing reforms aim at making the tax system Seamless, Painless, Faceless. The Seamless system works to resolve the problems of a taxpayer instead of entangling him further. Referring to the Faceless system, he said, there is no need for a direct contact between the Taxpayer and the Income Tax Officer in all matters of scrutiny, notice, survey or assessment.

Referring to the reduction of the scrutiny of the cases by at least four times in the last six years from 0.94% in 2012-13 to 0.26% in 2018-19, Prime Minister said this itself is a reflection of the trust that the Government is
laying on the returnees. In the last 6 years, India has seen a new model of governance evolving in tax administration. Amidst all these efforts, the number of people filing income tax return has increased by about 2.5 crores in the last 6-7 years.

Prime Minister said that the focus of the Government in the last six years has been “Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured and Funding the Unfunded” and that the platform of “Honouring the Honest” is in the similar direction.

The Prime Minister praised the role of honest taxpayers in nation building and said that making the lives of such taxpayers easy is the responsibility of the government. “When the life of an honest taxpayer of the country becomes easy, he moves forward and develops, then the country also develops and leaps forward,” the Prime Minister added.

He further said that the country’s tax structure needed fundamental reforms as the earlier tax structure was developed from the one created during pre-independent times. Even several changes made during the post-independent times did not alter its fundamental character.

The Prime Minister said that the latest laws reduced the legal burden in the tax system. The limit of filing cases in the High Court has been fixed at up to Rs 1 crore and up to Rs 2 crore for filing in the Supreme Court. Initiatives like the ‘Vivaad Se Vishwas’ scheme pave the way for most of the cases to be settled out of court.

The Prime Minister also referred to rationalisation of tax slab where there is zero tax up to an income of Rs 5 lakh, while the tax rate has been reduced in the remaining slabs too.

The Prime Minister, however, said that it cannot be denied that only 1.5 crore people pay the taxes in a country of 130 crores. He urged people to introspect themselves and come forward to pay the taxes due. This would help in the making of a Self - Reliant India, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.
A NEW DAWN FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Amid various measures taken by the Government with the objective of doubling the income of farmers by 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 9, 2020, launched a new scheme of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore. The scheme will support farmers, PACS, FPOs, agri-entrepreneurs etc in building community farming assets and post-harvest agriculture infrastructure.

These assets will enable farmers to get greater value for their produce as they will be able to store and sell at higher prices, reduce wastage, and increase processing and value addition. The first tranche of Rs 1000 crore was released to over 2280 FPOs within 30 days of the formal approval of the scheme.

The event was conducted through video conference and was attended by lakhs of farmers, FPOs, cooperatives, PACS, and citizens across the country. Prime Minister

BENEFIT UNDER PM-KISAN

PM-KISAN scheme launched in February 24, 2019 provides Rs 6000 per year to eligible beneficiary farmers in three equal instalments by cash benefit transfer (subject to certain exclusion criteria) to enable them to fulfil their agricultural requirements and support their families. The United Progressive Alliance government waived-off (Karj Mafi) Rs 72000 crore loans of farmers, the NDA government has the policy of freedom from debt Karj Mukti for farmers.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

- The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a medium and long-term debt financing facility for investment in projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and credit guarantee
- Duration of the scheme shall be from 2020 to 2029
- Rs 1 lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under CGTMSE scheme for loans up to Rs 2 crore.
also released the 6th instalment under the PM-KISAN scheme of Rs 17,000 crore to nearly 8.5 crore farmers. The cash benefit was transferred directly to their Aadhaar verified bank accounts. With this transfer, the scheme has provided over Rs 90,000 crore to more than 10 crore farmers since its launch on December 1, 2018.

**PM INTERACTS WITH PRIMARY AGRICULTURE CREDIT SOCIETIES**

Prime Minister also interacted with various Primary Agriculture Credit Societies from Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh through the video conferencing. The societies informed him about their plans to build godowns, setup grading and sorting units which would help member farmers to secure a higher price for their produce.

**FINANCIAL BOOST TO AGRICULTURE**

Following his interaction with the Primary Agriculture Credit Societies, Prime Minister expressed confidence that farmers and the agriculture sector would be benefited from the scheme. He said the scheme would provide a financial boost to farmers and agriculture sector and increase India’s ability to compete on the global stage.

India has a huge opportunity to invest in post-harvest management solutions like warehousing, cold storage, and food processing, and build a global presence in areas such as organic and fortified foods. This scheme provides a good opportunity for start-ups in agriculture to avail benefits and scale up their operations, thereby creating an ecosystem that reaches farmers in every corner of the country.

Prime Minister noted that the scale of the program was so large that funds released on the day reached more people than the entire population of several countries taken together.

**HORTICULTURE**: Rs 10,500 crore have been invested in horticulture sector in the last five years.

**TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT**: About 6 Lakh Hectares area has been covered under organic farming. Scheme is on for covering another 25 lakh hectares.

**MORE SOWING AREA**: An increase of 13.92% in sowing of Kharif crops with increase in area from 774.37 lakh hectares to 882.18 lakh hectares.
September 5, the birthday of former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, is celebrated as Teacher’s Day. Dr Radhakrishnan defined education as an instrument for social, economic and cultural change.

Taking this many notches further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “We have to ensure that our students become Global Citizens while remaining connected to their roots.” National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 broadly reflects his philosophy.

**FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Speaking at the Higher Education Conclave on August 7, 2020, Prime Minister said that there is a healthy debate on the NEP. The policy laid the foundation of a New India, the education and skills needed for the youth to strengthen country, to advance it to new heights of development and to further empower citizens to make them suitable for maximum opportunities.

Prime Minister said that Indian education system remained unchanged leading to lopsided priorities where people were focussing on either becoming a doctor or, an engineer or a lawyer. There was no mapping of interest, ability and demand. The NEP also reflects upon ideals of Rabindranath Tagore on education, which aimed at living with peace and in harmony with nature. A holistic approach was needed, which the NEP achieved successfully.

**TO BUILD AN EMPOWERED SOCIETY**

The policy has been formulated keeping in mind two biggest questions: Whether education system motivates youth for creativity, curiosity and commitment-driven life and whether it empowers youth, to help in building an empowered society in the country?

The NEP draws broadly from Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy that the function of education should be a free creative man, who can battle against historical circumstances and adversities of nature.

-The end-product of education should be a free creative man, who can battle against historical circumstances and adversities of nature.

-Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
Former President of India
‘Nai Talim’ was not merely to train oneself in an occupation, but to develop a more humane person. The true education should be easily accessible to all and should be of use for everyone in his day to day life.

**NEP TO PREPARE GLOBAL CITIZENS**

The NEP stresses on ‘How to think’. The emphasis is on inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based and analysis-based learning methods for children which would enhance their urge to learn and participate in the classes. It wants that a student should get the opportunity to follow his passion. It often happens that when a student looks for a job after doing a course, he finds that what he has studied does not meet the requirement of the job. Many students also leave the course, so in order to take care of the needs of all such students option of multiple entry-exit has been provided in the NEP.

It also provides for a ‘Credit Bank’ where students can have the freedom to leave a course in-between and resume when they want to do so. Prime Minister said, “We are moving towards an era where a person will have to constantly reskill and upskill himself.”

**DIGNITY OF LABOUR OUTLINED**

A lot of attention has been given to dignity of labour in the new policy. India has the ability to give solutions of talent and technology to the entire world and the NEP addresses this responsibility, which aims at developing many technology-based content and courses.

**AUTONOMY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

Higher education institutions need to be empowered through autonomy. There are two types of debates about autonomy. One says that everything should be done strictly under the Government control, while the other says that all institutions should get autonomy by default. The Prime Minister said, “The first opinion comes out of mistrust towards non-Government institutions while autonomy is treated as an entitlement in the second approach. The path to good quality education lies in the middle of these two opinions.”

**TO DEVELOP STRONG TEACHING SYSTEM**

The NEP focuses on developing a strong teaching system where teachers can produce good professionals and good citizens. There is a great emphasis on teacher training in the NEP. Prime Minister quoted former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, “The purpose of education is to make good human beings with skill and expertise. Enlightened human beings can be created by teachers.”

- NEP to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% by 2035. 3.5 crore new seats to be added
- UG education with multiple entry-exit options. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor’s Degree after 3 years and Bachelor’s with Research after 4 years.
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities at par with IITs, IIMs to be set up
- National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education, NCFTE 2021 to be formulated by the NCTE
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree
- A dedicated unit for digital infrastructure, digital content and capacity building to be created in the MHRD to look after e-education needs
My Dear Fellow Citizens,

Namaskaar!

August 15 fills us with the excitement of unfurling the tricolour, taking part in celebrations and listening to patriotic songs. We gratefully remember our freedom fighters and martyrs whose sacrifices have enabled us to live in an independent nation.

Our visionary leaders brought together a diversity of world views to forge a common national spirit. They were committed to the cause of liberating Bharat Mata from oppressive foreign rule and securing the future of her children.

We are fortunate that Mahatma Gandhi became the guiding light of our freedom movement. As much a saint as a political leader, he was a phenomenon that could have happened only in India. The world seeks relief in Gandhiji’s teachings.

The whole world confronts a deadly virus which has disrupted all activities and taken a huge toll. It has altered the world we lived in before the pandemic.

The Central Government, while anticipating the tremendous challenge, responded effectively and well in time. For a country so vast and diverse with high population density, meeting this challenge requires super-human efforts.

The nation is indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been continuously on the forefront of our fight against this virus. They are our national heroes. They risk their own lives to save our life and livelihood.

Cyclone Amphan hit us in West Bengal and Odisha. Concerted response of Disaster Management Teams, Central and State agencies and alert citizens helped minimize loss of life. Floods have been disrupting lives of our people in the North-East and eastern states. Amid such onslaughts of disasters, it is gratifying to see all sections of society coming together to help those in distress.

The poor and daily wage-earners are the worst hit by the pandemic. By introducing ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana’, the Government has enabled crores of people to earn their livelihood, and mitigate the

President’s Address

"CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF INDIA"

Hon’ble President Ram Nath Kovind’s address to the nation on Independence Day eve focuses on centuries old cultural values which are guiding us in the troubled times of pandemic Excerpts from his speech:

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The Central Government, while anticipating the tremendous challenge,
impact of job-loss.

- The needy are being given free food grains, so that no family goes hungry. The largest free food distribution programme in the world has been extended till the end of November 2020 to provide succour to about 80 crore people every month.

- The Government has brought back more than 10 lakh Indians under the 'Vande Bharat Mission'. Railways have been operating train services, in these challenging circumstances, to facilitate travel and transportation of people and goods.

- The overwhelming support India got at the elections for the non-permanent seat of the United Nations Security Council is a testimony to the goodwill, we enjoy internationally.

- India’s self-reliance means being self-sufficient without alienating or creating distance from the world.

- Some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley.

- Landmark reforms have been introduced in Agriculture sector. Now, farmers can have barrier-free trade and get the best price for their produce anywhere in the country. The Essential Commodities Act has been amended to remove certain regulatory restrictions on farmers.

- We have learnt some tough lessons in the year 2020. The pandemic, like climate change, has awakened the global community to our shared destiny. In my view, ‘human-centric collaboration’ is more important than ‘economy-centric inclusion’, in the present context.

- The second lesson is that we are all equal before Mother Nature and we primarily depend on our fellow residents for survival and growth. This reinforces the belief that we need to rise above all man-made differences, prejudices, and barriers.

- The third lesson is about augmenting health infrastructure. Public hospitals and laboratories have been leading the fight against COVID-19.

- The fourth lesson relates to science and technology. During the lockdown and subsequent unlocking, information and communication technology has emerged as an effective tool for governance, education, business, office work and social connect.

- The Government has decided to implement the National Education Policy. This will transform the future challenges into opportunities, paving the way for a New India.

- The ‘National Education Policy’ will strengthen the culture of ‘Inclusion’, ‘Innovation’ and ‘Institution’ in the sphere of education. Imparting education in the mother tongue has been given emphasis in order to help young minds grow spontaneously.

- The issue of Ram Janmabhoomi was resolved through judicial process. All concerned parties and the people respectfully accepted the verdict of the Supreme Court and displayed before the world, Indian ethos of peace, non-violence, love and harmony.

- The message of this prayer for universal well-being is India’s unique gift to humanity.

I once again congratulate you on the eve of 74th Independence Day. I wish you good health and a bright future.

Thank you,
Jai Hind!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK38nEOuTBM
As he arrived at the ramparts of the historic Red Fort to address the nation on the 74th Independence Day, Shri Narendra Modi who is at the helm of the country’s fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic was well aware of the challenges that gripped the nation and the prevailing somber mood. He had one strong mantra to energize the nation of 130 Crore people - the #AatmaNirbharBharat – a Self-Reliant India, the path which would let India shine in its full glory in the comity of the nations.

“Third decade of the 21st century should be the decade when we fulfil our dreams. Corona is a big hurdle, but not that huge that it can stop us from moving ahead on the victorious path of Self-Reliant India.”

In his 1 hour 27 minute long speech, the Prime Minister laid out his elaborate strategy to push the growth philosophy forward and reminded the nation its resolve to turn every crisis into an opportunity.

He urged the country to “Make in India” with a purpose of “Make for World”. He was conscious of the fact that Self-Reliance does not mean that we limit ourselves to only our country but that we expand our wings to reach the World.

Prime Minister dwelt on how the Corona Warriors are putting up a brave front in fighting the pandemic and also came down heavily on the Expansionist Tendencies and Policies of a few which are disturbing the international fabric.

Prime Minister congratulated the
country for redeeming its pledge to make India Open Defecation Free in the Year of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Focusing on developing an ultra-modern infrastructure in Rural India, the Prime Minister has set out the target to take optical fiber network to six lakh villages in 1000 days as connectivity is key to development.

Be it Citizenship Amendment Act, reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs, historic peace agreements in Assam and Tripura, appointment of Chief of Defence Staff or construction of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, India witnessed history being created and extraordinary feats being achieved. Jan Dhan accounts crossed the 40-crore mark, of Self-Reliant India.

Main highlights from the Prime Minister’s Speech:

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON 74TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS**

My dear countrymen, on this auspicious occasion, congratulations and best wishes to all of you

**SALUTE TO CORONA WARRIORS**

In this extraordinary time of Corona, Corona warriors have lived the mantra of ‘Seva Parmo Dharma.’ Doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, ambulance personnel, safai karmacharis, policemen, service personnel and many people are working round the clock continuously

**SOLIDARITY WITH FAMILY OF FLOOD VICTIMS**

Expressing grief over loss of lives in various parts of the country due to natural calamities, he reassured fellow citizens of full support in this hour of need.
INDIA’S FREEDOM STRUGGLE INSPIRES THE WORLD

India’s freedom struggle inspired the entire world. The idea of expansionism left some countries enslaved. Even in the midst of fierce wars, India did not allow its freedom movement to suffer.

RESOLVE FOR A SELF-RELIANT INDIA

Amid Covid pandemic, 130 crore Indians took the resolve to be self-reliant, and ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat’ is on the mind of India. This dream is turning into a pledge. Aatma Nirbhar Bharat has become a ‘mantra’ for the 130 crore Indians today. I am confident of the abilities, confidence and potential of my fellow Indians. Once we decide to do something, we do not rest till we achieve that goal.

CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN GLOBAL ECONOMY

Today, the whole world is inter-connected and inter-dependent. It’s time for India to play an important role in the global economy. For this, India has to become self-reliant. From Agriculture, Space to healthcare, India is taking several steps to build Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. I am confident that measures, like, opening up the Space sector will generate many new employment opportunities for our youth and provide further avenues to enhance their skills and potential.

INCREASE IN EXPORTS DURING CORONA

Only a few months ago, we used to import N-95 masks, PPE kits, and ventilators from abroad. We not only made N-95 masks, PPE kits and ventilators during the pandemic, but were able to export these to all over the world.

MAKE FOR WORLD

Apart from ‘Make in India’, we must also embrace the mantra of ‘Make for World’.

You must have noticed that a special stress has been laid in National Education Policy on National Research Foundation because in order to progress, the nation needs to innovate. Higher the stress that will be laid on innovation and research, greater would be the strength to take India forward in this competitive world.

PIPELINE PROJECT TO BOOST GROWTH

National Infrastructure pipeline project worth Rs 110 lakh crore will boost our overall infrastructure projects. We will now focus on multi-model connectivity infrastructure. We can’t work in silos anymore; we need to focus on comprehensive and integrated infrastructure. About 7,000 projects of different sectors have also been identified. It will bring a new revolution in infrastructure sector.

INDIA, A MAJOR FOOD PRODUCER

How long will the raw material from our country become a finished product and
return to India. There was a time when our Agricultural system was very backward. The biggest concern then was how to feed the countrymen. Today, we can feed not only India but many countries of the world. Self-reliant India not only means reduction of imports, but also to increase our skills and our creativity.

**INCREASE IN FDI FLOW DURING COVID**

The whole world has been noticing the reforms being pursued in India. As a result, the FDI inflow has broken all records. India witnessed 18% jump in FDI even during the COVID pandemic.

"In over six lakh villages, thousands and lakhs of kilometers of optical fiber would be laid down. We have decided that within 1000 days, we will complete the work of connecting over six lakhs villages with optical fiber.

**JAN DHAN ACCOUNTS’ SUCCESS STORY**

Who could have imagined that lakhs of crores of rupees would be directly transferred in the Jan Dhan accounts of the poor in the country? Who could have thought that such a big change would happen in the APMC Act for the benefit of farmers? One Nation-One Ration Card, One Nation - One Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Merger of Banks is the reality of the country today.

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

We have worked for women empowerment-Navy and Air Force are taking women in combat, women are now leaders, and we abolished triple talaq, got sanitary pads to women for just Re 1.

**SALUTE TO LABOUR POWER**

My dear countrymen, we have been told here – Samarthyamool Swatantryam, Shrammulam Vaibhavam. The strength of a society, the freedom of any nation is its power, and the source of its prosperity and progress is its labour force.

**GARIB KALYAN ROJGAR ABHIYAN**

7 crore poor families were given free gas cylinders, more than 80 crore people were provided free food with or without ration cards, about Rs 90 thousand crores were directly transferred to bank accounts. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan has also been started to provide employment to poor in their villages.

**VOCAL FOR THE LOCAL**

The campaign for Vocal for the Local, Re-Skill and Up-Skill will bring about a self-reliant economy in the lives of people living below the poverty line.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS**

Many regions of the country have also lagged behind in terms of development. By choosing more than 110 such aspirational districts, special efforts are being made there so that the people get better education, better health facilities, and better employment opportunities.
AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Self-reliant India has an important priority - self-sufficient agriculture and self-reliant farmers. To provide modern infrastructure to the farmers of the country, a few days ago 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' of Rs 1 lakh crore has been created.

JAL JEEVAN

From this same Red Fort, last year, I announced the mission of Jal Jeevan. Today, under this mission, every day more than one lakh houses are getting water connection.

POWER OF MIDDLE CLASS

Professionals emanating from the middle class make their mark not only in India but in the whole world. The middle class needs opportunity, the middle class needs freedom from government interference.

HOUSING FOR ALL

This is also the first time when the EMI of a home loan for your home is getting a rebate of up to Rs 6 lakh during the payment period. Just last year, a fund of Rs 25 thousand crore has been established to complete thousands of incomplete houses.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

Education of the country has great importance in building self-reliant India, in building modern India, in building New India, in building prosperous India. With this thinking, the country has got a new National Education Policy.

DIGITAL INDIA CAMPAIGN

In Corona’s time, we have seen what the role of Digital India campaign has been. Just last month, almost Rs 3 lakh crore have been transacted from BHIM UPI alone.

CONNECTIVITY TO ALL

Before 2014, only 5 dozen Panchayats in the country were connected with optical fiber. In the last five years, 1.5 lakh gram Panchayats in the country have been connected with optical fiber. All 6 lakh villages in the country will be connected with optical fiber within coming 1000 days.

SALUTE TO WOMEN POWER

My dear countrymen, our experience says that whenever there is an opportunity for women power in India, they have brought laurels to the country, strengthened the country. Today, women are not only working in underground coal mines, but also flying fighter planes, touching new heights in sky.

WOMEN ARE MAJOR JAN DHAN BENEFICIARIES

Of the 40 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened in the country, about 22 crore accounts are of women only. At the time of Corona, in April-May-June, about Rs 30,000 crore have been...
directly transferred to the accounts of women in these three months.

**TESTING LABS FOR CORONA**

When Corona started, there was only one Lab for Corona Testing in our country. Today there are more than 1,400 Labs in the country.

**NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION**

Another very big campaign is going to start in the country from today. This is the National Digital Health Mission. Every Indian will be given a health ID. National Digital Health Mission will bring a new revolution in India’s health sector. All your tests, every disease, which doctor gave you which medicine, when, what were your reports, all these information will be contained in this one health ID.

**CORONA VACCINE**

Today, not one, not two, three vaccines of Corana are currently under testing phase in India. As soon as the green signal is received from the scientists, the country’s preparation is also ready for mass production of those vaccines.

**ERA OF GROWTH IN J&K**

This year is the year of a new development journey of Jammu and Kashmir. This year is the year of rights for women and Dalits in Jammu and Kashmir! It is also a year of the dignified life of refugees in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a matter of pride for all of us that the representatives of the local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir are pushing forward a new era of development with activism and sensitivity.

**LADAKH, A CARBON NEUTRAL REGION**

By making Ladakh a Union Territory last year, the old demand of its people has been met. Ladakh, situated in the heights of the Himalayas, is moving forward today to touch new heights of development. Just as Sikkim has made its mark as an Organic State, in the coming days, Ladakh, will make its identity as
a carbon neutral region, work is also being done in this direction.

**CAMPAIGN FOR POLLUTION CONTROL**

A special campaign with a holistic approach to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities of the country is also being worked upon.

**PROJECT LION, PROJECT DOLPHIN**

India is fully sensitive to the preservation and promotion of its biodiversity. In the recent past, the tiger population has increased at a rapid pace in the country! Now a project lion for our Asiatic lions is also going to be started in the country. Similarly, Project Dolphin will also be launched.

**SALUTE TO OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS**

From the LOC to the LAC, whoever has raised eyes on the sovereignty of the country, the country, the Army of the country has responded in the same language. Respect for India's sovereignty is supreme for us. What our brave soldiers can do for this resolution, what the country can do, the world has seen this in Ladakh.

**SOUTH ASIA’S GROWTH**

A quarter of the world’s population lives in South Asia. We can create untold possibilities of development and prosperity of such a large population with cooperation and participation.

**BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE**

Our border and coastal infrastructure also have a huge role in the security of the country. Be it the Himalayan peaks or the islands of the Indian Ocean, today there is an unprecedented expansion of road and internet connectivity in the country.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ISLANDS**

There are more than 1300 islands in our country. In view of their geographical location, considering their importance in the development of the country, work is underway to start new development schemes in some of these selected islands. After Andaman and Nicobar islands, in the next 1000 days, Lakshadweep will also be connected to submarine optical fiber cable.

**EXPANSION OF NCC**

The expansion of NCC will be ensured to 173 border and coastal districts of the country. Under this campaign, special training will be given to about 1 lakh new NCC Cadets. In this also, about one-third of the daughters will be given this special training.

**EK BHARAT–SHRESHTH BHARAT**

I can see the dawn of a new era for India, rise of new self-confidence, a bugle of echo of Self-Reliant India.

Our Policies, Our Process, Our Products, Everything should be Best, Must be best. Only then will we be able to realize the vision of Ek Bharat-Shreshth Bharat.

**EASE OF LIVING**

The middle class will be the biggest beneficiaries of 'Ease of Living'; from cheap internet to economical air tickets, highways to i-ways, and from affordable housing to tax reduction - all these measures will empower the middle-class people of the country.
For Rama Devi, a resident of a small village in Haldwani district of Uttarakhand, having a bank account was a facility meant only for the privileged lot of the society. A mother of three, Rama Devi was assisting her husband in his general store. The family also owns a small piece of land on which she used to grow some cereals and vegetables. After the launch of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in 2014, she opened an account in a local branch of a nationalised bank on the advice of the bank officials. She did not have any idea of the benefits of having a bank account. Today, with regular credit and debit in her account and use of RuPay debit card, she is living a blissful life and has a plan to open a recurring account for her children. Now, she is educating others in her village about the benefits of having a Jan Dhan account. There are many similar stories of millions of people across length and breadth of the country that are getting benefitted by the PMJDY.

The Government has provided an assistance of Rs 1000 each through Jan Dhan accounts of the poor, elderly, mothers and sisters and Divyangjans.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana proves to be a game changer for the beneficiaries across the country crossing 40-crore mark.
There are millions of families who have mobile phones but no bank accounts. We have to change this scenario. Economic resources of the country should be utilized for the well-being of the poor. The change will commence from this point.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Financial Inclusion was launched initially for a period of 4 years (in two phases) on August 28, 2014. It envisages universal access to the banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension.

It has provided a platform for the three social security schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

Why this scheme is a game changer is evident from the fact that the Nationalisation of the Bank took place in 1969 but 40 crore people were not getting any benefits of the banking services. PMJDY has changed
SUCCESS STORIES

GETTING DOUBLE INCOME

For Nabisha Begam of Madurai, it was like life going haywire with no financial planning and money getting wasted in unnecessary expenses. For her, working as a maid servant and her husband, a contract labour managing family with two school going children was getting difficult financially. The PMJDY Account, which was her first bank account, gave a new lease of life. Now, she has improved her banking habits by making regular transactions and savings. She has seen her bank balance having five-digit figure. With that savings, she has started a part time flower selling business. This has increased her earnings in dual way - working as maid servant in forenoon and as a flower seller in evening. She has also planned to increase her business by availing OD facility through this account.

Pradhan Mantri Jan - Dhan Yojna

Beneficiaries as on 12/08/2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Bank Name / Type</th>
<th>Number of Beneficiaries at rural/semilurban centre bank branches</th>
<th>Number of Beneficiaries at urban metro centre bank branches</th>
<th>No Of Rural-Urban Female Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Number of Total Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Deposits in Accounts(In Crore)</th>
<th>Number of Rupay Debit Cards issued to beneficiaries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Sector Banks</td>
<td>18.77</td>
<td>13.19</td>
<td>17.48</td>
<td>31.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Rural Banks</td>
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<td>4.08</td>
<td>7.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Sector Banks</td>
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<td>0.68</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>4016.30</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>25.63</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>22.23</td>
<td>40.29</td>
<td>131129.02</td>
<td>29.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclaimer: Information is based upon the data as submitted by different banks

that enormously. They were bereft of all these benefits for all these years till the scheme was launched. Till date, there are 40.29 crore beneficiaries with ₹131,129.02 crore balance in their accounts.

It is evident from the fact that when the entire country is fighting the global pandemic of COVID-19, the Government has provided an assistance of Rs 1000 each through Jan Dhan Accounts of the poor, elderly, mothers and sisters and Divyangjans.

Prime Minister’s focus to link Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile (JAM) has produced the desired results.
One of the former Prime Ministers of the country had once said that only 15 paisa out of Re 1 reaches to the poor sent by the Government but now 100 per cent Government assistance is reaching to the poor without any cut. DBT has not only shown the door to middlemen and brokers but has also put a check on corruption. A total of Rs 8 lakh crore have been deposited in the bank accounts of the poor since 2014 and at present there are 386 schemes under 52 ministries using DBT facility.

The Government has been able to save Rs 1,77,377 crore till 2019 due to DBT. Three instalments of Rs 500 each have been transferred to women Jan Dhan account holders during the Corona period through DBT. JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile) has helped a lot to pay through DBT which has reached to Rs 61,942 crore in 2015-16 from Rs 45,294 crore in 2014-15. This has reached to Rs 1.90 lakh crore in 2017-18 and Rs 3.29 lakh crore in 2018-19.

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER: THE GAME CHANGER

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (FY 2020-21) ₹ 83,480 Cr
TOTAL NO. OF TRANSACTIONS (FY 2020-21) 89 Cr
NO. OF SCHEMES 387
ESTIMATED GAINS ₹1,70,377 Cr

*This years figures are incomplete as only few months have elapsed

*Sum total of beneficiaries across schemes
TEXTILE SECTOR: WEAVING DREAMS FOR MILLIONS

Textile sector’s growth story continues with Ministry of Textiles’ launching of App to protect the ownership rights of weavers and KVIC’s record production of masks giving employment to artisans during pandemic.

Now, a Handloom Mark will provide a collective identity to the authentic handloom products! The Ministry of Textiles has developed a Mobile App with a backend web portal to completely digitise the process of registration of a handloom product. The App in English and 10 Indian languages will enable weavers located in every nook and cranny of the country to apply for the Handloom Mark registration through the comfort of their homes by click of a button on their mobiles. This App helps ascertain the genuineness and originality of the product through unique and dynamic QR code affixed on each product.

Launching the Mobile App and Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme (HLM) on August 7, 2020, the National Handloom Day, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development Smriti Irani said that the Handloom Mark, prepared by Textiles Committee, Mumbai would be very helpful in maintaining the authenticity of handloom products made by weavers across the country.

She also launched the “My Handloom” portal for individual weavers as well as other organizations to apply for various benefits under the various handloom schemes like Block Level Clusters, Handloom Marketing Assistance and Awards. Inaugurating the portal, she thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the “India Handloom” brand in 2015 on the occasion of the First National Handloom Day. She said that till now,
India’s success story in the Textile sector continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic hitting the country hard. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken the lead as mask manufacturing has become a potential tool of empowerment for Khadi artisans.

Having distributed 9 lakh face masks across the country, KVIC also began selling masks through outlets online. According to KVIC, it has sold nearly 11 lakh face masks which includes online sale too. This figure is apart from the distribution of masks across the country. The KVIC gave stitching charges to its artisans, mostly women, at the rate of Rs 3 per mask and thus disburses over Rs 30 lakh as wages to mask making artisans.

KVIC has recently received an order of 1.61 lakh face masks from the Indian Red Cross Society. This will create nearly 20,000 meters of Khadi fabric and will create nearly 9000 mandays of work.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena welcomed the purchase order from the Indian Red Cross Society and said the massive demand of Khadi Face Masks is a major step in the direction of ‘Aatma Nirbhar Bharat’. “This order will help our Khadi artisans to produce more yarn and fabric and will further add to their income in these difficult times,” Saxena said.
India has been successful in containing COVID-19 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal to people that any let up will undo gains made so far. The new mantra to deal with COVID-19 is that an infected person should be traced and tested within 72 hours and to bring down fatality rate below 1 per cent which at the moment is 1.89 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 11, 2020 interacted with Chief Ministers and representatives of ten states to discuss the current situation and plan ahead for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. With an average 9 lakhs testing per day, the country wants to touch one million-mark a day. Recovery rate at 74% on August 13, 2020 and total recovered COVID-19 patients increasing to more than 20.96 lakhs exceeding the active cases (6,86,395) by nearly 14 lakhs tells that the country is treading on the right path. Some take away from the PM’s interactions with chief ministers:

**TEAMWORK BY TEAM INDIA**

Everyone has shown a great degree of cooperation and teamwork displayed by Team India. There are challenges and pressure faced by hospitals and health care workers. There are almost 80% of active cases from 10 states – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. If virus is defeated in these states, the entire country will emerge victorious in the battle against COVID-19.

**BRING TESTING NUMBER UP; FATALITY RATE DOWN**

The number of daily tests has reached 9 lakhs and is increasing continuously to help early identification and containment. The average fatality rate in the country is amongst the lowest in the world and is continuously
going down. Percentage of active cases is reducing while the recovery rate is increasing. Bringing down the fatality rate below 1% can be achieved soon.

**RAMPING UP OF TESTING NEEDED IN SOME STATES**

There is an urgent need to ramp up testing in Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana. Containment, contact tracing and surveillance are the most effective weapons in this battle. People have become aware and are ably assisting in these efforts, as a result of which, the country has been successful in using home quarantine effectively.

**AAROGYA SETU HANDY IN TRACING**

Usefulness of Aarogya Setu is such that if cases are identified in the initial 72 hours, then the spread of the virus can be slowed down. There is a need to trace and test all those who had come in contact with an infected person within 72 hours. This should be followed like a mantra, with the same earnestness as washing hands, maintaining *Do Gaz Ki Doori*, wearing masks etc.

**SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY OF HOME MINISTER**

Strategy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in preparing a road map for tackling the pandemic together with Delhi and nearby states has been successful. The main pillars of this strategy were segregation of containment zones and focus on screening, especially of those in high risk category. The results of these steps are there for all to see. Steps like better management in hospitals and increasing ICU beds also proved very helpful.
Taking cue from the clarion call made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a Self-Reliant India, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has prepared a list of 101 items for which there would be an embargo on import beyond the timeline indicated against them.

**EMPHASIS ON INDIGENISATION**
- Defence Acquisition Council has approved procurement proposals worth Rs 8,722.38 crore, including 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Air Force on August 11, 2020.
- Almost 260 schemes of such items were contracted by the Tri-Services at an approximate cost of Rs 3.5 lakh crore between April 2015 and August 2020.
- It is estimated that contracts worth almost Rs 4 lakh crore will be placed upon the domestic industry within the next five to seven years.
- Of these, items worth Rs 1.30 lakh crore each are anticipated for the Army and the Air Force while items worth Rs 1.40 lakh crore are anticipated by the Navy.

FROM EQUIPMENTS TO BIG GUNS...
- These items include high technology weapon systems like artillery guns, assault rifles, corvettes, sonar systems, transport aircrafts, light combat helicopters, radars and many other items.
- It also includes wheeled armoured fighting vehicles with indicative import embargo date of December 2021, of which the Army is expected to contract almost 200 at an approximate cost of over Rs 5,000 crore.
- Similarly, the Navy is likely to place demands for submarines with indicative import embargo date of December 2021, of which it expects to contract about six at an approximate cost of almost Rs 42,000 crore.
- For the Air Force, it is decided to enlist the light combat aircraft LCA MK 1A with an indicative embargo date of December 2020. Of these, 123 are anticipated at an approximate cost of over Rs 85,000 crore.

**GRADUAL SHIFT**
- The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024. The MoD has adopted many measures to encourage and facilitate ‘Ease of Doing Business’. ■
NRA TO HELP MILLIONS OF JOB SEEKERS

Employment, agriculture, power, travel and MSMEs have been some of the key areas in which the Government stepped in to facilitate people by taking some important decisions.

**DECISION:** Approval for creation of National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to conduct a common eligibility Test.

**BENEFITS:** A common eligibility Test would enable candidates to appear once and apply to any or all recruitment agencies for the higher level of examination.

**DECISION:** Approval for Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane has been increased to Rs 285 per quintal for basic recovery rate of 10%.

**BENEFITS:** This will benefit about 1 crore farmers and their families. The increased FRP is a morale booster for the hardworking farmers of the country.

**DECISION:** One-time relaxation to Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for extending loans to Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) above limits of working capital cap of 25% of last year’s revenues under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

**BENEFITS:** The relaxation would help in providing liquidity to the power sector and ensure payments by State Governments to DISCOMs.

**DECISION:** Approval for leasing out three airports namely Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for Operation, Management and Development through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

**BENEFITS:** PPP experiments have helped creating world class airports besides delivery of efficient and quality services to the airport passengers.

**DECISION:** To improve the cash flow of MSMEs, whose payments against supplies are stuck for more than 90 days, the Cabinet decided to allow all non-banking financial companies to participate in the trade receivables discounting system, instead of limiting it to only select NBFCs.

**BENEFITS:** The decision reflects upon Government’s commitment towards reforms and transparency. This decision will encourage competition in MSME sector and will ensure liquid flow.
TALES FROM SELF-RELIANT INDIA

A YOUTH ICON OF LADAKH
Kunzes Angmo, a 29-year-old woman entrepreneur working in the handloom sector, has become an epitome of Self-Reliant India programme by turning dreams of youth into reality. She stayed in Ladakh after completing her education so that a new identity could be brought in to the Ladakhi tradition. Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme has played a pivotal role in turning her dream into reality. Angmo says, “When I thought about doing any such thing three years ago. I got to know about PMEGP and got loan for this.”

INCENSE BRINGS FRAGRANCE IN WOMEN’S LIVES
Incense has an important role in the lives of every Indian but it has changed lives of women in Ranchi. A self-help group of 30-40 women have been making incense and have been selling to wholesale market. They occasionally put up stalls in the local fair. Women of this self-help group say that they are able to earn Rs 5,000 to 10,000 which has not only taken care of their financial crisis but also helped utilising their spare time in productive work.

SUCCESS THROUGH MAKING TOYS
The story of Pankaj Kumar from Gawardu Panchayat of Hamirpur district in Himachal Pradesh is inspiring and true to the dictum where there is a will there is a way. Pankaj was forced to return to his village due to Corona lockdown but he did not waste his 28-days in home quarantine. He started making toys of wood and paper under the Self-Reliant Programme of Prime Minister. He did the marketing of his products on social media and got encouraging response. It takes him two to three days to make a toy.

EARNING MILLION THROUGH FISH FARMING
A farmer Vedram has set an example for Self-Reliant India programme in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. Vedram got a pond dug on his agriculture land under MGNREGS and started fish farming. He earned a record Rs 10 lakh last year in fish production. He used to work in a private company but felt that there was no future in it. He returned to his village. He was assisted by the state government. Now, he has become a source of inspiration for the entire district.
New India Samachar

The #NationalRecruitmentAgency will prove to be a boon for crores of youngsters. Through the Common Eligibility Test, it will eliminate multiple tests and save precious time as well as resources. This will also be a big boost to transparency.

Indian Navy has effectively carried out Mission Based deployment to protect maritime interests by deploying naval ships and aircraft at major and sensitive locations. These deployments have also helped increase Maritime Domain Awareness, provided rapid humanitarian aid and relief.

This platform is another step towards PM @narendramodi ji’s resolve of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’. #HonoringTheHonest

Developing North Eastern Corridor has been the utmost priority of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji. This National Highway Projects, with a total cost of 3000 crores and 316 km, will improve connectivity of Manipur with other North Eastern states.

#PragatiKaHighway

#MGNREGA's of the 170 crores have been spent in various districts.

Ravi Shankar Prasad @rspa... PM @narendramodi ji is extremely grateful to today you have entrusted @DoT_India with the responsibility to connect all the villages of India by optical fibre internet in 1000 days. It’s a game changer for #DigitalIndia. With your inspiration we will do it.

#AatmaNirbharBharat

PM’s 1-Day mission in India for the World

Digital health IDs for all citizens by 2022

Land bank ready: 51 hectare up for grabs

PM announces a solar park to fulfil dream of green Ladakh

New Delhi: The Prime Minister announced the world’s largest solar power plant will be set up in Ladakh. PMO has set aside 511 hectares of land in Leh and Kargil for the solar park.

#GreenRevolution

Solar energy to power Srinagar base camp

New Delhi: The Prime Minister announced the world’s largest solar power plant will be set up in Ladakh. PMO has set aside 511 hectares of land in Leh and Kargil for the solar park.

#GreenRevolution

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#GreenRevolution
Women achievers

NUMERO UNO IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS

Ayesha Aziz
Pilot

- Youngest pilot in India and the first female pilot from Kashmir
- She has flown single engine aircraft for 200 hours during her training

Dr. Ruveda Salam
IPS Officer

- A doctor and Kashmir’s first woman IPS officer
- She has also served in Tamil Nadu as Assistant Commissioner of Police, Chennai & Coimbatore
- Conferred with ‘First Ladies’ award in 2018

Dipa Karmakar
Sportsperson

- First Indian-woman gymnast to qualify for the Rio Olympics in 52 years and first Indian to qualify for the finals of World Gymnastics Championships 2015.
- Conferred with Padma Shri and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

Radhika Menon
Navy Personnel

- India’s first female Merchant Navy Captain
- Conferred with top international bravery award by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for ‘Exceptional Bravery at sea 2016’

Surekha Yadav
Loco - Pilot

- First Indian Woman train driver of passenger train
- Conferred with Jijaw Puraskar (1998) Women achievers award, Sahyadrihirkani award, Prerna Puraskar, Sarathi Award and many more

Manju
Porter

- Rajasthan’s first woman porter in the entire North Western Railway region
- Launder for her grit and determination, she was applauded by the Ministry of WCD with ‘First Ladies’ award in 2018