

KAMAL SANDESH

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PM HAS CHANGED THE CULTURE OF POLITICS: JP NADDA



SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN MP, CHHATTISGARH & RAJASTHAN

DOUBLE ENGINE GOVERNMENT IN THESE STATES WILL WORK WITH DOUBLE ENTHUSIASM: PM



Himachal Pradesh BJP welcomes BJP National President Shri JP Nadra at the Abhinandan Samaroh in Bilaspur on 16 December, 2023



BJP National President Shri JP Nadra at a grand Road show in Sundar Nagar, Himachal Pradesh on 16 December, 2023



BJP National President Shri JP Nadra receiving the report by BJP Fact Finding Team, constituted to inquire about the heinous atrocity committed against a tribal woman in Belagavi, Karnataka on 18 December, 2023



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurating 69th National Adhiveshan of ABVP in New Delhi on 08 December, 2023



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah presiding the 26th meeting of the Eastern Regional Council in Patna, Bihar on 10 December, 2023



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh at the Thirumurai Festival in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 16 December, 2023

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@Narendramodi



India is supporting women entrepreneurs like never before. Under PM Mudra Yojana, more than 30 crore collateral-free loans have been given to women entrepreneurs. This is not only boosting their entrepreneurial ambitions but also ensuring better growth in the country. (19 December, 2023)

@JPNadda



IMF says India's economy has rebounded strongly from the pandemic, headline inflation has moderated, employment has surpassed pre-pandemic level and the informal sector continues to formalise. This is the result of Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's able leadership, which has steered our economy on track to be one of the largest growing major economies in the world. (19 December, 2023)

@AmitShah



Congress enjoyed the benefits of sedition law whenever it was in power. Modi Ji liberated the nation from the sedition law. (21 December, 2023)

@Rajnathsingh



On the special occasion of 'Vijay Diwas', the nation salutes the indomitable courage and valor displayed by India's armed forces during the 1971 war. We are proud of our Armed Forces who have fearlessly protected our country in every circumstance. Their sacrifice and service will forever be etched in our hearts. (16 December, 2023)

@Piyush Goyal



Under the able leadership of PM @NarendraModi ji, India has deftly managed global challenges & emerged as a bright star. (16 December, 2023)

@BLSanthosh



System will be reviewed, overhauled, responsibilities fixed, heads will roll for sure as far as security set up is concerned. But beyond that Parliament incident is again a #Toolkit gang activity to show nation in poor light, create unrest, demean leadership. (14 December, 2023)



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR

wishes a very happy

PONGAL, BIHU & MAKAR SANKRANTI (15 JANUARY)

to all of its readers



TRANSFORMATIVE LEGISLATIONS TO PAVE THE PATH OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT'

In unanimously upholding the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 (A) by the Modi government, the Supreme Court has delivered a historic judgement vindicating the stand of the Bharatiya Janta Party since Jansangh days. The stand that Article 370 was a temporary provision in the Constitution and a hindrance to the complete integration, progress, and development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir has found echo in the landmark judgement of the Supreme Court, which has upheld the exercise of presidential power to issue a constitutional order abrogating Article 370 of the onstitution. While saying that Article 370 was a temporary provision, the Supreme Court has also said that the Constituent Assembly of J&K was never intended to be a permanent body. The SC has also upheld the creation of the Union Territory of Ladakh. It is to be noted that the SC has also made it clear that the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state did not have any internal sovereignty different from other states of the country after it became part of India. While the Supreme Court has affirmed what was constitutionally obvious, the conspiracy by some forces to undermine the constitution at the behest of separatist elements now stands exposed even more than ever. It was under the bold and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that Articles 370 and 35(A) were abrogated and a new chapter of progress and development through grass-roots democratic exercise began in the state. The result is that while terrorism is getting wiped out in the state, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new dawn of peace, progress, and stability.

It was under the bold and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that Articles 370 and 35(A) were abrogated and a new chapter of progress and development through grass-roots democratic exercise began in the state. The result is that while terrorism is getting wiped out in the state, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new dawn of peace, progress, and stability

The Winter Session 2023 will be recorded in the annals of parliamentary history for successfully passing a number of transformative legislations that will pave the path for realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. While the Jammu Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, secures reservation in jobs and admission in professional institutions to members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other socially and educationally backward classes, the Jammu Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, increases the number of seats in assembly to 114 from 107, and three seats are reserved for nominations. The Bharatiya Nyaya Smahita, 2023; the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Samhita, passed by the parliament, not only decolonize the legal system but also reform the criminal justice system of the country. These laws are set to revolutionise the legal system of the country, rescue the entire criminal justice system from the mindset of the colonial era, and reform it in line with the democratic aspirations of the people. These bills not only secure the protection of women and children and introduce certain new offences to tackle contemporary social challenges while regulating the procedures of arrest,

investigation, inquiry, and trial of offences and establishing new rules for handling evidence for a fair and just criminal justice system rooted in Bharatiyata. Apart from these, the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Services, and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, and the National Capial Territory of Delhi Laws (Social Provison Amendment) Bill, 2023, are some of the landmark legislations of this session.

While the nation was witnessing the heralding of transformative reforms through legislation in the Parliament, the opposition led by Congress continued with its negative approach of running away from the debates and discussions by resorting to senseless disruption in the house. The defeat of the Congress and its allies in recently concluded elections has resulted in their undemocratic and intransigent conduct in the parliament, which is being condemned across the nation. As the nation marches towards its vision of realising the goals of Viksit Bharat, it moves forward with new resolve and dynamism. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org



SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN MADHYA PRADESH

MOHAN YADAV TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER IN MADHYA PRADESH

JAGDISH DEVDA AND RAJENDRA SHUKLA ALSO SWORN-IN AS DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS

Following the sweeping victory of BJP in the recently concluded Assembly Elections in five states, the BJP formed the governments in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. In the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the BJP legislature party leader and MLA from Ujjain South, Shri Mohan Yadav was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. In a grand and impressive ceremony he was administered the oath of office by Madhya Pradesh Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel at the Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal on 13 December, 2023. Shri Yadav, the three-time BJP MLA, is the 19th Chief Minister of the state.

MLA from Malhargarh, Shri Jagdish Devda and MLA from Rewa, Shri Rajendra Shukla were also sworn in as the Deputy Chief Ministers by the Governor.

A massive gathering of Karyakartas from across the state took place in this ceremony. The atmosphere was surcharged with the slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and

'Modi-Modi'. During the ceremony the BJP supporters and Karyakartas also celebrated across the state by exchanging sweets and dancing on the streets.

The oath-taking ceremony was also attended by BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri BL Santhosh and other senior leaders of the party.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Patel, Uttarakhand CM Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Maharashtra CM Shri Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Deputy CMs Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Ajit Pawar, former MP CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union ministers were also present on the occasion.

Before going for the swearing-in ceremony, Shri Mohan Yadav visited the state BJP office to pay tributes to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit



BJP FORMS GOVERNMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH, CHHATTISGARH & RAJASTHAN

PM congratulates Madhya Pradesh CM and Deputy CMs



Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Mohan Yadav and both the Deputy Chief Ministers.

The Prime Minister posted on X, "Hearty congratulations to Dr Mohan Yadav ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister and Jagdish Deora ji and Rajendra Shukla ji on taking oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, the heart of the country! I am confident that under your leadership the double engine government in the state will work with double the enthusiasm and create new patterns of development. On this occasion, I also assure all my family members that the BJP government will leave no stone unturned to make your lives easier.

Our resolution of 'Developed Madhya Pradesh' will come true: JP Nadda



Congratulating Dr Mohan Yadav and both the Deputy CMs after the swearing-in ceremony, the BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "I heartily congratulate and Shri @DrMohanYadav51 on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and congratulate Shri @rshuklabjp and Shri @JagdishDevdaBJP as Deputy Chief Ministers.

I have full confidence that the double engine government under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji will provide a fast pace to the continuous development of the state in accordance with the public sentiments.

Our resolution of 'Developed Madhya Pradesh' will come true under your leadership".

Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Mohan Yadav Elected as leader of BJP Legislative Party

Earlier, on 08 December the BJP National President Shri JP Nadda appointed Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manoharlal Khattar, BJP OBC Morcha National President Shri K Laxman and BJP National Secretary Smt. Asha Lakra as party's central observers for selecting the leader of the legislative party in Madhya Pradesh.

On 11 December, in the presence of the party's central observers, outgoing Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan proposed the name of Shri Mohan Yadav for the post of Chief Minister at the newly-elected legislators meeting held in Bhopal. Shri Manohar Lal

Khattar, who was one of the observers deputed by the party leadership, announced Shri Mohan Yadav's name as the next CM. Then Shri Mohan Yadav, a three-time MLA from Ujjain, was elected unanimously as the BJP legislative party leader. It was also decided that Shri Yadav will have two deputies— Shri Jagdish Devda and Shri Rajendra Shukla; former Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar will be the Speaker.

Subsequently formal announcement of the name, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented a bouquet and congratulated to Shri Mohan Yadav. Shri Chouhan expressed confidence that Shri Yadav will take Madhya Pradesh to new heights of progress and development.

CM-designate Shri Yadav said, "I am a small worker

Take Madhya Pradesh to new heights of development: Rajnath Singh



Wishing all the best to the newly sworn-in Ministry, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Hearty congratulations to Shri @DrMohanYadav51 on taking oath as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He has been a grassroots worker and also has administrative experience of working in the government. I have full confidence that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi he will take Madhya Pradesh to new heights of development and good governance through his able leadership.

Many congratulations and best wishes to Shri #JagdishDeora and Shri @rshuklabjp who took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers along with him today".

Work to fulfil the resolve of Prime Minister: Amit Shah



Congratulating Shri Mohan Yadav, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said, "I congratulate Shri @DrMohanYadav51 ji and Deputy Chief Ministers Shri @rshuklabjp and Shri @JagdishDevdaBJP ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

I am confident that under the leadership of all of you, the new BJP government of Madhya Pradesh will work to fulfil the resolve of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for poor welfare and development. Also, the dedication with which the BJP government has been serving the people of the state for the last two decades will give it more momentum and energy".



- Dr. Mohan Yadav is serving as the 19th and Current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh since 13 December, 2023.
- Born on 25 March, 1965 to Shri Poonamchand Yadav (father) and Smt. Lilabai Yadav (mother) in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Graduated from Ujjain University with a B.Sc degree and further pursued his academic and completed LLB, MA, MBA and Ph.D degrees from the same university.
- He began working with the ABVP and in 1984, he became the president of student's union of Madhav Science College.
- He represents Ujjain South constituency as Member of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh since 2013.
- Shri Yadav's active political journey began with his first election as an MLA in 2013, and he was re-elected in the subsequent 2018 and 2023



LIFE SKETCH

- Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly election.
- He took the oath as a Cabinet Minister on 02 July 2020, in the government led by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
 - In the recent 2023 Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, Mohan Yadav successfully defended his seat in the Ujjain South constituency, winning by a huge margin against the Congress candidate.
 - Ban on loudspeakers beyond permissible limits and time at all religious and public places as per the guidelines of the Supreme court and regulation of meat sale in open within the state as per the Food Safety Act and the guidelines of the Central government were the first Cabinet decisions of Shri Yadav's cabinet in Madhya Pradesh.
- He was awarded by the President of India in 2011–2012 and 2012–2013 for promoting tourism in Madhya Pradesh.

of the party. I thank all of you, the state leadership and the central leadership. "I thank Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, party President Shri JP Nadda and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah." With your love and support, I will try to fulfil my responsibilities," he said.

He said, "We will focus on progress in education, health, employment and development in all other areas in the state under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."

It was a big moment for the BJP in Madhya Pradesh as in the recently concluded assembly elections it scripted a new history by registering a landslide victory with two third majority for the fifth time in Madhya Pradesh, counting for which was held on December 03. The BJP got 163 seats in the 230-seat Assembly with 48.55 percent votes. The Congress got 66 seats while the Bharat Adivasi Party got only one seat in the state. ■





SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN CHHATTISGARH

VISHNU DEO SAI TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF CHHATTISGARH

ARUN SAO AND VIJAY SHARMA TOOK OATH AS DEPUTY CMS

In a majestic and glittering ceremony attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and other senior leaders of the party, BJP legislative party leader and MLA from Kunkuri Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh in Raipur on 13 December, 2023. While MLA from the Lormi constituency Shri Arun Sao and MLA from the Kawardha seat Shri Vijay Sharma took oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Chhattisgarh Governor Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Vishnu Deo Sai and the two Deputy Chief Ministers during a hugely attended grand ceremony held at the Science College ground in the state capital of Raipur.

Among others, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and other Union Ministers, BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri BL Santhosh, Uttar

Pradesh CM Shri Yogi Adityanath, Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Patel, Assam CM Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Uttarakhand CM Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Maharashtra CM Shri Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra Deputy CMs Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Ajit Pawar were also present on the occasion. Former Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel was also present during the swearing-in ceremony.

Shri Vishnu Deo Sai rose through sheer hard work and dedication in a political journey that began as a Sarpanch in Chhattisgarh in 1990 and went on to become multiple-times MP and a union minister. He is known for his humility and organisational skills. He rose through the ranks and became a member of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's first Council of Ministers after the BJP formed its full majority government in 2014. He is the fourth Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state, which was created in the year 2000.

Shri Sai, 59, who headed the BJP's Chhattisgarh

PM Modi congratulates CM Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy CMs



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Vishnu Dev Sai for being sworn-in as Chhattisgarh CM and Shri Arun Sao and Shri Vijay Sharma for taking the oath of Deputy CMs. In his message on X he said, "Many congratulations to Vishnu Dev Sai ji and Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao ji and Vijay Sharma ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh! I strongly believe that the BJP government of this state rich in cultural heritage will continuously strive to fulfil the aspirations of the people. The double engine government is fully committed to bringing prosperity and happiness in the lives of the people of the state".

Double engine government will write a golden chapter of service, good governance and development: JP Nadda



Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Shri @vishnudsai on taking oath as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state and Shri @ArunSao3 and Shri Vijay Sharma on taking oath as Deputy Chief Ministers. I have full confidence that under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the double engine government will write a golden chapter of service, good governance and development in Chhattisgarh.

Our resolution of 'Antyodaya' will materialize the all-round progress of the people of the entire state including the tribal society".

unit three times as its President is the first tribal Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Despite inheriting a family political legacy and holding key portfolios when he was a Union Minister, Shri Sai is known for his down-to-earth approach, dedication and determination to achieve goals.

VISHNU DEO SAI ELECTED AS LEADER OF BJP LEGISLATIVE PARTY

Earlier, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda appointed Union Ministers Shri Arjun Munda, Shri Sarbanand Sonowal and BJP National General Secretary Shri Dushyant Gautam as central observers for Chhattisgarh on 08 December.

The three central observers discussed with all newly elected 54 MLAs one to one in Raipur on 10 December and the legislature party unanimously elected Shri

Vishnu Deo Sai as its leader. After the legislature party meeting, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai's name was announced by senior BJP leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh. Later, the Chief Minister designate called on Chhattisgarh Governor Shri Biswa Bhushan Harichandan to stake his claim to form the government.

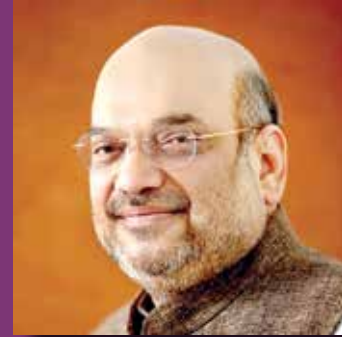
Talking to reporters after his selection as the BJP legislature party leader, Shri Sai said, "I have been unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP Legislature Party. I express my gratitude to the BJP, which has shown faith in me, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, party National President Shri JP Nadda, and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. I also express my gratitude to Chhattisgarh in-charge Shri Om Mathur, co-in-charge and Union Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and co-in-charge Shri Nitin

Team is fully capable of taking Chhattisgarh far ahead on the path of progress: Rajnath Singh



Congratulating and giving best wishes for a successful tenure Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in his message on X said, "Many congratulations to Shri Vishnudev Sai who took oath as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Arun Sao and Shri Vijay Sharma. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi, this team is fully capable of taking Chhattisgarh far ahead on the path of progress. Best wishes to all for a successful tenure."

Gratitude to the people of Chhattisgarh for electing a People friendly government: Amit Shah



Congratulating the new Chief Minister and his Deputies Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in his message on X said, "Many congratulations to Shri @vishnudsai ji on taking oath as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and Shri @ArunSao3 ji and Shri Vijay Sharma ji on taking oath as Deputy Chief Minister. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, it will be the priority of the BJP government to raise the standard of living of our tribals, farmers and poor sisters and brothers of Chhattisgarh and to provide corruption-free governance."

I express my gratitude to the people of Chhattisgarh for electing a people friendly and people dedicated government".



- Shri Vishnu Deo Sai is currently serving as the 4th Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. He is also the first Tribal Chief Minister of the state.
- He was born in a farmer's family in Bagia village of Jashpur district to Shri Ram Prasad Sai and Smt. Jashmani Devi on 21 February, 1964.
- He started his political journey in 1989, and was elected as a Panch of Bagia village panchayat and the next year he became the Sarpanch unopposed in the tribal-dominated Jashpur district.
- Commitment to serve the people runs in the blood of Shri Sai's from very childhood. His grandfather Budhnath Sai was a nominated MLA from 1947 to 1952. His elder uncle Narhari Prasad Sai was a member of the Jana Sangh and served as a two-term MLA (1962-67 and 1972-77) and was elected as an MP (1977-79) and served as a Minister of State in the Janata Party government.



LIFE SKETCH

His other uncle Kedarnath Sai was also a Jana Sangh member and served as MLA from Tapkara (1967-72).

- He was member of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly for two times from 1990-1998 from the Tapkara constituency.
 - After the formation of Chhattisgarh, he served as BJP President in 2006, 2014 and 2020.
 - Shri Sai was elected as MP from the Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency four times in a row - 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.
 - After the BJP formed its government at the Centre in 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he was inducted into his team and made Minister of State for Steel and Mines.
- He was fielded from Kunkuri in the elections which he won by defeating Congress' sitting MLA UD Minj by a margin of 25,541 votes.

Nabin”.

He said “My first priority is to fulfil PM Shri Narendra Modi's guarantee to the people of the state with utmost honesty, starting with providing houses to 18 lakh poor families and payment of pending bonus to the farmers who sold their paddy in 2015-16 and 2016-17 under the minimum support price scheme”.

Noteworthy, the BJP made a stunning comeback to government in the recently completed polls, winning 54 seats in the 90-member state assembly. The Congress, which won 68 seats in 2018, was reduced

to 35, while the Gondwana Gantantra Party emerged victorious in one assembly constituency. The BJP, put up a good show this time in tribal-dominated seats, winning 17 of the 29 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates. The BJP won all 14 assembly segments in the tribal-dominated Surguja region from where Shri Sai hails, and 8 out of the 12 seats in Bastar region. The BJP's comprehensive win in the tribal turfs contributed to its resounding victory in the assembly polls and return to power in the state after a gap of five years. ■





SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN RAJASTHAN

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA TAKES OATH AS RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

DIYA KUMARI AND PREM CHAND BAIRWA TOOK OATH AS DEPUTY CMS

Following the landslide victory in the recently completed assembly elections in Rajasthan, the BJP formed the government with the swearing in of Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma as the new Chief Minister of the state. In a grand and splendid ceremony held at the Ramnivas Bag in the state capital Jaipur and attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP's top leadership, Governor Shri Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma on 15 December 2023. Shri Sharma, a BJP State General Secretary, took charge of the state on the day he turned 57. Along with him, Smt. Diya Kumari and Shri Prem Chand Bairwa were also sworn in as the Deputy Chief Ministers. A large gathering of BJP MLAs and workers from across the state witnessed it and during the ceremony the BJP supporters and Karyakartas raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi-Modi' and celebrated the historic occasion.

The swearing-in ceremony was also attended

by BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, former CM And BJP National Vice President Smt. Vasundhara Raje and several other senior leaders of the party.

Among others, Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel, Uttarakhand CM Shri Pushkar Dhama, Tripura CM Shri Manik Saha, Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Mohan Yadav, Maharashtra CM Shri Eknath Shinde, Goa CM Shri Pramod Sawant, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, and other senior leaders were also present in the ceremony.

The outgoing Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot, Seers and Mahants from different places of the country also attended the ceremony held in front of the historic Albert Hall.

BJP government will work hard to live up to the trust and hope of people: PM Modi



Congratulating and expressing confidence that Rajasthan, known for its brave people, will set new standards in good governance, prosperity and development under the government PM Shri Narendra Modi in his message on X said, "Many congratulations to Bhajan Lal Sharma ji, who took oath as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, as well as Deputy Chief Ministers Diya Kumari ji and Premchand Bairwa ji who took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers. I am confident that this state of brave man and woman will set new standards of good governance, prosperity and development under your leadership. The BJP government will work hard to live up to the trust and hope with which my family members have blessed us".

The double engine government will provide new dimensions to Rajasthan: JP Nadda



Wishing hearty congratulations and best wishes to the new Chief Minister BJP National President Shri JP Nadda said, "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Shri @BhajanlalBjp on taking oath as Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Shri @DrPremBairwa and @KumariDiya ji on taking oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.

I have full confidence that under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the double engine government will provide new dimensions of development to Rajasthan, the land of bravery and culture. Under your leadership, our resolve for service, good governance and poor welfare will usher in a new era of peace and prosperity in the state".

Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma belongs to Rajasthan's eastern district, Bharatpur and contested the assembly elections for the first time. Prior to become the Chief Minister, he was the BJP state General Secretary for four times. Shri Sharma is also among the longest-serving General Secretaries of the BJP in the state. He won the Sanganer assembly seat by an impressive margin, securing 145,162 votes against his Indian National Congress opponent, Pushpendra Bhardwaj, who polled 97,081 votes.

Noteworthy, the BJP secured a significant victory in the November 25 assembly election, winning 115 seats out of the 199 contested seats (for the 200-member state assembly) with a vote share of 41.69 per cent. The Rajasthan Assembly has 200 seats, but the contest on one was postponed due to the death of a candidate.

In contrast, the ruling Congress party managed to secure only 69 seats. The Bharat Adivasi Party won three seats and the Bahujan Samaj Party got two. The Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal bagged one each, while the independents got eight.

Bhajan Lal Sharma elected as legislature party leader

Earlier, much before the oath taking ceremony, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda appointed Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP National Vice President Sushree Saroj Pandey and BJP National General Secretary Shri Vinod Tawde as observers for Rajasthan on 08 December, 2023.

In the presence of party's central observers and the Rajasthan BJP election in-charge Shri Pralhad Joshi,

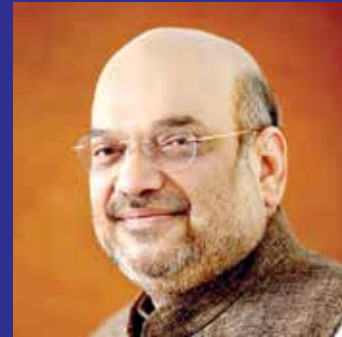
Government will set high standards of development and good governance: Rajnath Singh



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in his message on X said, "Hearty congratulations to Shri Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Premchandra Bairwa ji and Diya Kumari ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Ministers of Veerbhoomi Rajasthan!

I have full confidence that this new state government will definitely be successful in establishing the high standards of development and good governance in Rajasthan that Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi has also set in India. Best wishes to all for a successful tenure. @BhajanlalBjp @KumariDiya @DrPremBairwa

Take public welfare and good governance to every person: Amit Shah



Congratulating Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma and both Deputy Chief Ministers Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in his message on X said, "I congratulate Chief Minister of Veerbhoomi Rajasthan @BhajanlalBjp ji as and Deputy Chief Ministers @KumariDiya ji and Premchand Bairwa ji on taking oath. I am confident that this newly elected BJP government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, will preserve the cultural heritage of Rajasthan and take public welfare and good governance to every person.

I congratulate the people of Rajasthan for ending the reign of appeasement, fear and corruption from Rajasthan".

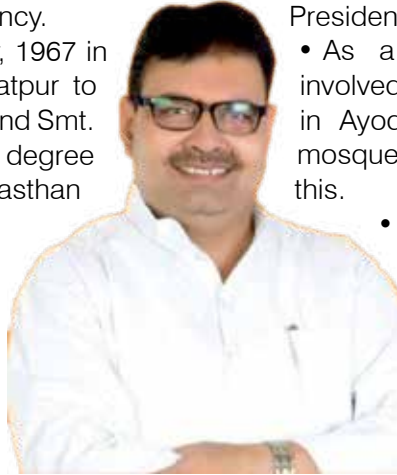
the BJP MLAs met in Jaipur and elected the 56-year-old MLA from Sanganer, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma as the leader of its legislature party on 12 December, 2023. At the meeting, the CM designate's name was proposed by BJP National Vice President and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje.

The MLA from Vidhyadhar Nagar, Smt. Diya Kumari

and the MLA from Dudu, Shri Prem Chand Bairwa were also chosen as Deputy Chief Ministers, while the MLA from Ajmer North, Shri Vasudev Devnani, was selected as the Speaker of the assembly. ■



- Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma is currently serving as the 14th Chief Minister of Rajasthan from 15 December, 2023. He is a member of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and represents Sanganer constituency.
- He was born on 15 December, 1967 in Attari village of Nadbai, Bharatpur to Shri Kishan Swaroop Sharma and Smt. Gomti Devi and has a Master degree in Political Science from Rajasthan University.
- During his college days he joined the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and also took up social causes in Nabadi and Bharatpur.
- He actively participated in the 1990 ABVP protest in which thousands of students from across the country gathered in Jammu to march towards Srinagar. The authorities stopped them, and Shri Sharma was among the several who courted arrest in Udhampur, protesting against attacks on



LIFE SKETCH

- Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.
- Then he moved on to the BJYM and was BJYM's District President thrice before becoming the BJP Bharatpur District Secretary and its District President.
 - As a Swayamsevak he was actively involved in the agitation for the Ram temple in Ayodhya at the site where the Babri mosque stood. In 1992, he was jailed for this.
- His active political life began when he was elected as a village Sarpanch twice, starting at the age of 27.
 - Over the past 30 years, Shri Sharma has held various posts in the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and in the party organisation.
 - He has also served as the Rajasthan BJP General Secretary for the fourth consecutive time and is regarded as a silent, disciplined worker of the BJP.
- He has also worked during the West Bengal assembly elections in 2021.



ORGANISATIONAL APPOINTMENT

Kiran Singh Deo appointed as Chhattisgarh BJP President

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda has appointed Shri Kiran Singh Deo as the new Chhattisgarh BJP President on



21 December, 2023. Shri Deo is the First-time MLA from Jagdalpur, the lone unreserved seat in Bastar region. Earlier, the 61-year-old was the mayor of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation for three years. Shri Deo was BJP State General Secretary from 2018 to 2022 and served as the Bilaspur division in-charge of BJP. ■

PM has changed the culture of politics: JP Nadda

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed the Abhinandan ceremony in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, on 16 December, 2023. After this, he inaugurated the District BJP office in Sundernagar, participated in a grand road show and addressed a huge meeting. Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur, former Chief Minister of the State Shri Jairam Thakur, Himachal Pradesh BJP President Shri Rajiv Bindal and other party leaders were present at the Abhinandan programme organised in Bilaspur.

On this occasion, BJP National President said that the BJP's spectacular victory in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh has shocked even the so-called political pundits. When the results came on December 3, the BJP formed the government in all three states, these political pundits were left baffled. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has changed the culture of politics. Now it is not the culture that leaders forget their promises made in elections, and after five years, they again make new promises to get votes.

PM has done what he said

He reminded the gathering that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has done what he said and has also done even what he did not say for public welfare. Today, the public believes in report card politics. That is why it has been established across the world that the guarantee of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the only true guarantee.

Criticising the Congress, Shri Nadda said due to development in the country and curbing corruption, people with black money will eventually face problems. While the counting of Lok Sabha votes is completed in one day, the cash that comes out of the cupboards of the opposition leaders takes 3–4 days for counting and even more time. This is the corrupt tendency of Congress. Targeting the Congress government of Himachal Pradesh, he said that the people of Himachal have had to face a lot of corruption during the one-year rule of the Congress. Thanking the people of Himachal Pradesh, he said



that you welcomed me, but this gesture belongs to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This welcome belongs to the people of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. He also expressed gratitude to the people for increasing the vote share of the BJP in Mizoram and Telangana. In Telangana, the BJP's vote percentage has increased from 7 to 14 percent, and the BJP's seat has increased by one seat to eight. The number of BJP MLAs in Mizoram has increased from 1 to 2. We are confident that the BJP will form a government in Telangana in the upcoming assembly elections.

Disaster does not differentiate between Congress and BJP

BJP National President said that relief work is also being hampered in Himachal Pradesh. The state government is differentiating between its own and others. But they (the Congress) should understand that if disaster comes, it comes for everyone; disaster does not differentiate between Congress and the BJP. Taking aim at the Himachal government, he said that they should not differentiate between people in the relief work. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji considers the people of all the states equal and moves forward, taking everyone along. He said that in 2024, with the blessings of the public, the Bharatiya Janata Party will form the government with an overwhelming majority under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. ■

India will be fully developed by 2047: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on 16 December, 2023 addressed Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Sanand, Gujarat. On this occasion, Shri Shah said the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a journey to take a pledge that India will be fully developed when the country will complete 100 years of independence in 2047. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, there have been significant changes in every sector in the country in the last 10 years.

He said the Modi government has ensured the security of the country. Home Minister said that the dream of abrogating Article 370 from Kashmir was unfulfilled since the time of Sardar Patel and Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Prime Minister has worked to complete it. He said a grand Ram temple is being built under the leadership of Modi ji. He added that during the leadership of Prime Minister our Chandrayaan reached the moon and our tricolor was hoisted.

Shri Shah said for the first time in 75 years after independence, the country's economy has become very strong and industrial development has been the highest.

Shri Shah said in the last 75 years, the country has made a lot of progress in many fields, but all those who sacrificed for independence had fought to make India the first in the world in every field. He said the time has now come to build the India of dreams of the martyrs who made their supreme sacrifice for the country. He said that when India completes 100 years of independence, there should not be a single person in the country who does not have a gas cylinder, toilet, food, electricity in house; no one should be illiterate, this program is to take a resolution to help create such a developed India.

Union Home Minister said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set the target of creating 2 crore 'Lakhpati Didi' in the country. He said that once this scheme successfully reaches every village of the country, then there will be true change in India. ■



'Efforts should be made to resolve matters in a liberal manner'

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah chaired the 26th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council in Patna, Bihar on 10 December, 2023. The Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar, and senior Ministers from Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand attended the meeting. Secretary of the Inter State Council Secretariat, Chief Secretaries of member states, senior officials of state governments and central ministries and departments were also present in the meeting.

In his address, the Union Home Minister said apart from being the cultural capital of the country, the eastern region has also been the center of many major educational institutions since ancient times. Shri Shah said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of strengthening the spirit of cooperative federalism has been realized in the last 9 years.

He said 1157 issues have been resolved in the meetings of the zonal councils and in the zonal council meetings, differences on political matters should be avoided and efforts should be made to resolve matters in a liberal manner.

Shri Amit Shah said that many issues of national importance have also been included in the agenda of the Zonal Council meetings. These include eliminating malnutrition among children through Poshan Abhiyan (nutrition campaign), reducing the dropout rate of school children, operationalisation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for speedy investigation and speedy disposal of rape cases against women and children. The facility of Banks/India Post Payment Bank branches within 5 km of each village, formation of two lakh new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSS) in the country and strengthening of all existing PACSS in the country have also been included. ■

India witnessed investment of over Rs.1,000 crore in Space Startups in last nine months

India has witnessed investment of over Rs.1,000 crore in Space Startups in last nine months of the current financial year from April to December 2023, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has said on 17 December.

Dr Singh said this has been possible because after a bold decision taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's Space sector has been opened up for private players, as a result of which there is an overwhelming response from Industry as well as investors from private sector.

From just one Startup in the Space sector four years back, we have almost 190 private Space Startups after opening up of the sector and the earlier ones of them have now turned entrepreneurs, he said.

said, overall from just about 350 Startups in the year 2014, today we have about 1,30,000 Startups, besides Unicorns.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, PM Shri Narendra Modi has scrapped obsolete rules and focused on citizen-centric Governance through optimum use of technology. In the same vein, the gates of Sriharikota have been thrown open to all stakeholders, he said.

"Not only this, Government has been very inclined to use technology to the maximum extent and seeks to do away with all those hindrances or obstructionist rules that were not very enabling," he said.

Citing the application of satellites and drones in mapping land ownership under the SVAMITVA scheme and Face Recognition Technology for DLC, Dr Jitendra Singh said, our Chandrayaan Mission was the first to discover evidence of water on the Moon.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the world will witness integrated technology driven growth in the future. India is now taking the lead in frontier areas of technology, including

Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technology, he said.

Citing the success of Aroma Mission, the Union Minister said India has a huge wealth of untapped bioresources, an unsaturated resource waiting to be harnessed, ranging from the Himalayas to the 7,500 kms long coastline.

Stating that the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) will be an important supplement to this entire ecosystem, Dr Jitendra Singh said it will be majorly funded from non-government sources.

Complementing the NRF, Dr Jitendra Singh said, NRF enriches the ecosystem along with the National Education Policy NEP-2020 which liberates students from being "prisoners of their aspiration", by allowing switch over or combinations from different streams of studies such as Humanities and Commerce to Sciences and Engineering. ■

314 Antiquities Repatriated During Last Five Years

As per information given by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism And Development of North Eastern Region Shri G.Kishan Reddy in Lok Sabha on 18 December, 314 antiquities have been repatriated during last five years.

whenever theft of an antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its illegal export. In case, antiquity is traced, case is pursued by concerned

Country-wise list is as below: -

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
USA	-	-	158	-	105	263
UK	1	5	1	1	7	15
Australia	1	3	-	29	2	35
Italy	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	02	08	159	30	115	314

law enforcement agency in coordination with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for recovery. ■

17.28 LAKH NEW WORKERS ENROLLED UNDER ESI SCHEME IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023

The provisional payroll data of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) reveals that 17.28 lakh new employees have been added in the month of October, 2023. Around 23,468 new establishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the month of October, 2023, thus ensuring more coverage.

Data evidently reveals that more jobs have been generated for the youth of the nation as out of the total 17.28 lakh employees added during the month of October 2023, 8.25 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute the majority of new registrations which is 47.76% of the total employees.

Gender-wise analysis of payroll data indicates that net enrollment of female members has been 3.31 lakh in October, 2023. The data shows that a total of 51 transgender employees have also got registered under ESI Scheme in the month of October, 2023. It shows that ESIC is committed to deliver its benefits to every section of the society. The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise. ■

69% OF THE LOANS SANCTIONED TO WOMEN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA

As on 24 November 2023, out of total 44.46 crore loans sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 30.64 crore (69%) have been sanctioned to women. Further under Stand-up India (SUPI), as on 24 November 2023, out of 2.09 lakh loans sanctioned, 1.77 lakh (84%) have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs.

Improved access to credit influences socio-economic growth of different sections of the society. PMMY was launched on 08 April 2015 to provide collateral free institutional credit to Small/ Micro enterprises for income generating activities. SUPI scheme was launched on 05.04.2016 to promote entrepreneurship among women and SC/ST by providing loans for setting up green field enterprises. Upliftment of women has been a major target of these schemes.

Micro-credit through PMMY encouraged female entrepreneurship, raised earnings and employability,

and thereby empowered them financially, socially and psychologically. By allocating target to provide at least one loan to women and one loan to SC/ST entrepreneurs, SUPI encouraged lenders to finance green-field projects to women entrepreneurs which goes a long way in promotion of entrepreneurship among women and women led enterprises.

The above information was provided by Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad, while giving a written reply to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha on 18 December. ■

CABINET APPROVES SURAT AIRPORT, AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 15 December approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport as an International Airport.

Surat Airport will not only become a gateway for international travelers but also facilitate seamless export-import operations for the thriving diamond and textile - industries. This strategic move promises to unlock unprecedented economic potential, making Surat a key player in the international aviation landscape and fostering a new era of prosperity for the region.

Surat, a rapidly growing city in India, has demonstrated remarkable economic prowess and industrial development. Elevating Surat Airport to international status is paramount for enhancing economic growth, attracting foreign investment, and bolstering diplomatic ties. With a surge in passenger traffic and cargo operations, the airport's international designation will provide a crucial impetus for regional development. ■

517 ROUTES UNDER UDAN HAVE SO FAR COMMENCED OPERATIONS

Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) was launched on 21 September 2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and make air travel affordable to the masses. The scheme seeks to bring air connectivity to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, by taking up existing airstrips identified through UDAN bidding rounds, for development and upgradation under the 'Revival of unserved and

underserved airports' scheme.

RCS-UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines, based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit proposals at the time of bidding under the Scheme. Revival / up-gradation of unserved and underserved airports is undertaken upon its identification through valid bid and award to the Selected Airline Operator (SAO).

517 routes connecting 76 airports, including 9 Heliports and 2 Water Aerodromes, have so far commenced operations.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on 18 December. ■

GROSS DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS FOR FY 2023-24 REGISTER A GROWTH OF 17.01%

The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2023-24 (as on 17.12.2023) show that net collections are at Rs. 13,70,388 crore, compared to Rs. 11,35,754 crores in the corresponding period of the FY 2022-23, representing an increase of 20.66%.

The Net Direct Tax collection of Rs. 13,70,388 crore (as on 17.12.2023) includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 6,94,798 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 6,72,962 crore (net of refund).

The provisional figures of Gross collection of Direct Taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for the FY 2023-24 stand at Rs. 15,95,639 crore, compared to Rs. 13,63,649 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, showing a growth of 17.01% over the collections of FY 2022-23. ■

INDIA'S MAIDEN WINTER SCIENTIFIC ARCTIC EXPEDITION LAUNCHED

The Honourable Union Minister, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Sh Kiren Rijiju, flagged off India's first winter scientific expedition to the Arctic from the MoES headquarters in New Delhi on December 18, 2023. Indian scientific expeditions to the Arctic during the winter (November to March) will allow researchers to conduct unique scientific observations during polar nights, where there is no sunlight for nearly 24 hours and sub-zero

temperatures (as low as -15 degrees Celsius). This will aid in expanding understanding of the Arctic, especially climate change, space weather, sea-ice and ocean circulation dynamics, ecosystem adaptations, etc., which affect weather and climate in the tropics, including monsoons. ■

INDIA ACHIEVES TWO TARGETS OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION WELL AHEAD OF THE TIME

As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, India submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the year 2015 comprising, inter-alia, of following two quantifiable targets:

- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level; and
- To achieve about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

These two targets have been achieved well ahead of the time. As on 31st October, 2023; the cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources is 186.46 MW, which is the 43.81% of the total cumulative electric power installed capacity. As per the third national communication submitted by India to the UNFCCC in December 2023, the emission intensity of its GDP has been reduced by 33 percent between 2005 and 2019.

In August 2022, India updated its NDC according to which target to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP has been enhanced to 45 percent by 2030 from 2005 level, and the target on cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources has been enhanced to 50% by 2030.

This information was given by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in the Lok Sabha 18 December. ■

INDIA IS THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN THE WORLD

As per the 2nd advance estimates for 2022-23, the total horticulture production is estimated to be 351.92 million Tonne, surpassing the total foodgrain production of 329.69 Million Tonne during

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

the year. At present, India is the second largest producer of vegetables and fruits in the world. Country ranks first in the production of number of crops like Banana, Lime & Lemon, Papaya, Okra. The Horticulture production in the country has been steadily increasing over the years due to the proactive policies and initiatives of the Government of India and the State Governments and the improved crop production technologies and management practices. This information was given by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Arjun Munda on 12 December in a written reply in Lok Sabha. ■

GOVERNMENT INITIATES SEVERAL STEPS TO FACILITATE CREDIT ACCESS TO FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY

The Government has taken several steps to facilitate credit access to farmers in the country.

RBI vide Circular dated February 7, 2019 raised the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.6 lakh. Further, RBI vide their circular dated June 27, 2014, has advised banks and financial institutions to include in their credit appraisal processes/loan policies, suitable provisions for obtaining Credit Information Reports (CIR) from one or more Credit Information Companies (CICs) so that the credit decisions are based on information available in the system.

Department of Financial Services vide its letter dated 04 February 2019 has issued advisory to all the banks to waive the processing, documentation, inspection, ledger folio charges and all other service charges for KCC/crop loans upto Rs. 3 lakh, keeping in view the hardship and financial distress of small and marginal farmers.

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme ensures easy credit access for various farmer categories, including owner cultivators, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, and more. The KCC scheme provides for issue of ATM enabled RuPay Debit Card, inter alia, with facilities of one-time documentation, built-in cost escalation in the limit, and any number of drawals within the limit, etc. The KCC facility itself is an overdraft facility from which withdrawals can be made through RuPay Debit Card upto the sanctioned limit.

As also informed by banks, crop loans are

assessed based on the land area, crops grown and scale of finance decided by the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC)/ State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC). No guideline for providing overdraft facility against Aadhaar card is available. However, after restructuring of existing KCC loans due to bad weather, etc., as decided by State Govt. / SLBC, farmers are further allowed to take need-based loans as per eligibility criteria of the Bank.

The above information was provided by Union Minister Of State For Finance, Dr. Bhagwat Karad, while giving a written reply to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha on 18 December. ■

MORE THAN 29.21 CRORE UNORGANIZED WORKERS REGISTERED ON E-SHRAM PORTAL

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has launched the e-SHRAM portal, a National Database of the Unorganised Workers on 26th August, 2021. It has been made available to the States/UTs for registration of unorganised workers including migrant workers on e-SHRAM portal. It also allows an unorganised worker to register himself or herself on the portal on self-declaration basis. The main objective of the e-SHRAM portal is to create a national database of unorganised workers seeded with Aadhaar. It is also to facilitate delivery of Social Security and welfare Schemes to such workers. As on 07.12.2023, more than 29.21 crore unorganized workers have been registered on this portal.

In order to safeguard the interest of the Migrant workers, the Parliament has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979 which, inter alia, provides for registration of certain establishments employing Inter State Migrant Workers, licensing of contractors etc. Workers employed with such establishment are to be provided payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. Therefore, adequate legal provisions are in place to protect the interest of the migrant workers.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri. Rameshwar Teli in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 14 December. ■



PM Modi story



Kashmiri farmer's special gift for PM Narendra Modi

Irshad Hussain Naikoo, a farm labourer from Anantnag, Kashmir had a desire to meet Shri Narendra Modi since 2013. His love for Shri Modi was such that even in his hardships he started collecting money to get a gift for Shri Modi.

After a few years, Irshad counted on his money and thought to get a 'Pheran' (A traditional outfit of Kashmir) stitched for PM Shri Modi. He went to the market and selected a cloth of his choice for the 'Pheran.'

Afterwards, he was wondering how to get measurements of PM Shri Modi to get the 'Pheran' stitched. One morning Irshad realized that his father is of the similar body structure as PM Shri Modi and therefore his measurement could be fit for PM



Shri Modi's measurement.

Irshad along with his father went to a tailor shop and got the 'Pheran' stitched for his favourite person. Upon receiving the 'Pheran' he started his journey for Delhi to meet PM Shri Modi in person and handover his gift to him. After reaching, Irshad tried hard but due to security reasons he could not meet PM Shri Modi in Delhi.

Irshad then came back to Kashmir and sent 'Pheran' by courier. He also sent a letter along with 'Pheran' with his name, address and telephone number.

PM Shri Narendra Modi not only accepted his gift but wore 'Pheran' while he was in Kashmir. He even got a call from the PMO informing that PM was in Kashmir and delivering a speech in Srinagar wearing his gifted 'Pheran.'

This gesture by PM Shri Modi was an emotional moment for Irshad. He was emotional even while narrating this incident and said that he wants progress for his Kashmir. He also requested PM Shri Modi that he should develop Kashmir the way he had developed Gujarat when he was the Chief Minister. ■

**KAMAL
PUSHP**

Sahyog, Samarpan
Aur Sanskar



MUVVALA SRIHARI RAO

Muvvala Srihari Rao from Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh joined RSS at the age of 21. He joined the Jana Sangh in 1953 and contributed a lot for the development of the party in his district. He held numerous positions at the district and state level while he was in the Jana Sangh and BJP. Srihari Rao ji also participated in the satyagraha held in Delhi in 1971 for the liberation of Bangladesh. He was an active party member who took part in all other movements organised by the party. ■



Sri MUVVALA
SRIHARI RAO

Date of Birth
09/11/1926

Gender
male

State
Andhra Pradesh

District
Prakasam

Town/City
Podili

Level
State

Post in Organisation
State Vice President

Active years
1953-1986

SC upholds validity of the Union Government's 2019 decision to repeal the special status of J&K

BJP WELCOMES THE DECISION

The Supreme Court on December 11, 2023 upheld the validity of the Union Government's 2019 decision to repeal the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The decision was taken unanimously by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. It reasoned that Article 370 was only a 'temporary provision' to ease the accession of the then princely State to the Union at a time of internal strife and war.

Supreme Court verdict on the abrogation of Article 370 is historic: PM Modi

Reacting on the decision of the Supreme Court Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wrote on X "Today's Supreme Court verdict on the abrogation of Article 370 is historic and constitutionally upholds the decision taken by the Parliament of India on 5th August 2019; it is a resounding declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The Court, in its profound wisdom, has fortified the very essence of unity that we, as Indians, hold dear and cherish above all else."

He said, "I want to assure the resilient people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh that our commitment to fulfilling your dreams remains unwavering. We are determined to ensure that the fruits of progress not only reach you but also extend their benefits to the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of our society who suffered due to Article 370. The verdict today is not just a legal judgment; it is a beacon of hope, a promise of a brighter future and a testament to our collective

resolve to build a stronger, more united India."

Bharatiya Janata Party welcomes the decision: JP Nadda

The BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "Bharatiya Janata Party welcomes the decision given by the Honourable Supreme Court regarding Article 370. The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court has upheld the decision to remove article 370 and 35A, its process and objective. Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji's government has done the historic work of including Jammu and Kashmir in the mainstream of the country, for this I and crores of our workers express our heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister."

PM Modi took a visionary decision to abrogate Article 370: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperative Minister Shri Amit Shah welcoming the Supreme Court's judgement said on X, "I welcome the Honorable Supreme Court of India's verdict upholding the decision to abolish #Article370. On the 5th of August 2019, PM @narendramodi Ji took a visionary decision to abrogate #Article370. Since then peace and normalcy have returned to J&K. Growth and development have brought new meaning to human life in the valley once torn by violence. Prosperity in the tourism and agriculture sectors has raised the income levels of the residents of both Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Today, the Supreme Court's verdict has proved that the decision to abrogate #Article370 was completely constitutional." ■

Supreme Court verdict on Revocation of Article 370

- The court held the Constitutional order that revoked Article 370 as valid.
- The abrogation Article 370 had ended the special status conferred to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Jammu and Kashmir did not Possess Sovereignty.
- Article 370 is a Temporary Provision.
- Constitutional Validity of Proclamations Under President's Rule.
- The Constitution of J&K Stands Inoperative.
- Set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Address Human Rights.



'SC verdict on Article 370 has strengthened the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat

Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment on the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A). Through its judgment, the Court has upheld the sovereignty and integrity of India, something that is cherished by every Indian. The Supreme Court rightly observed that the decision taken on 5th August 2019 was done with the purpose of enhancing constitutional integration and not disintegration



NARENDRA MODI

On 11th December, the Honourable Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment on the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A). Through its judgment, the Court has upheld the sovereignty and integrity of India, something that is cherished by every Indian. The Supreme Court rightly observed that the decision taken on 5th August 2019 was done with the purpose of enhancing constitutional integration and not disintegration. The Court has also recognised the fact that Article 370 was not permanent in nature.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh's breathtaking landscapes, serene valleys, and majestic mountains have captivated the hearts of poets, artists and adventurers for generations. It is a place where the sublime meets the extraordinary, where the Himalayas reach for the sky, and where the pristine waters of its lakes and rivers

mirror the heavens. But, for the last seven decades, these places have witnessed the worst form of violence and instability, something which the wonderful people never deserved.

Unfortunately, due to centuries of colonisation, most notably economic and mental subjugation, we became a confused society of

At the time of independence, we had a choice of making a fresh start for national integration. Instead, we decided to continue with the confused society approach even if it meant ignoring the long-term national interests

sorts. Rather than taking a clear position on very basic things, we allowed duality, leading to confusion. Sadly, Jammu and Kashmir became a big victim of such a mindset. At the time of independence, we had a choice of making a fresh start for national integration. Instead, we decided to continue with the confused society approach even if it meant ignoring the long-term national interests.

I have had the opportunity of being connected with the Jammu and Kashmir Andolan from a very

early part of my life. I belong to an ideological framework where Jammu and Kashmir was not merely a political issue. But, it was about addressing the aspirations of society. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee held an important portfolio in the Nehru Cabinet and could have remained in government for a long time. Yet, he quit the Cabinet over the Kashmir issue and preferred the tough road ahead, even if it meant paying with his life. His efforts and sacrifice led to crores of Indians becoming emotionally attached with the Kashmir issue. Years later, Atal Ji, at a public meeting in Srinagar gave the powerful message of 'Insaniyat', 'Jamhooriyat' and 'Kashmiriyat', which has also always been a source of great inspiration.

It was always my firm belief that what had happened in Jammu and Kashmir was a great betrayal- to our nation and to the people living there. It was also my strong desire to do whatever I can to remove this blot, this injustice done to the people. I have always wanted to work to alleviate the suffering of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In very basic words- Articles

370 and 35 (A) were like major obstacles. It seemed like an unbreakable wall and the sufferers were the poor and downtrodden. Articles 370 and 35(A) ensured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir never got the rights and development that the rest of their fellow Indians got. Due to these Articles, a distance was created between people belonging to the same nation. Due to this distance, many people from our nation who wanted to work to solve the problems of Jammu and Kashmir were unable to do so even if they clearly felt the pain of the people there.

As a Karyakarta who has seen the issue closely over the last several decades, I had a nuanced understanding of the specifics and the complexities of the issue. Yet, I was crystal clear about one thing- that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and they want to contribute to the development of India based on their strengths and skills. They also want a better quality of life for their children, a life free from violence and uncertainty.

Thus, while serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we gave primacy to three pillars- understanding of the citizens' concerns, building trust through supportive actions, and prioritising development, development and more development.

In 2014, just after we assumed office, deadly floods struck Jammu and Kashmir, with a lot of damage in the Kashmir valley. In September



In very basic words- Articles 370 and 35 (A) were like major obstacles. It seemed like an unbreakable wall and the sufferers were the poor and downtrodden. Articles 370 and 35(A) ensured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir never got the rights and development that the rest of their fellow Indians got

2014, I went to Srinagar to assess the situation and also announced Rs. 1000 crore as a special assistance for rehabilitation, signalling our government's commitment to supporting the people during crises. I had the opportunity to meet people from different walks of life and there was one common thread in these interactions- the people not only wanted development but they also wanted freedom from the rampant corruption prevailing for decades. The same year, I decided not to mark Diwali in remembrance of

those we lost in Jammu and Kashmir. I also decided to be in Jammu and Kashmir on Diwali day.

In order to further strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's development journey, we decided that our Government ministers would frequently go there and interact with people directly. These frequent visits also played a crucial role in building goodwill in Jammu and Kashmir. From May 2014 to March 2019, over 150 ministerial visits took place. This is a record in itself. The special package of 2015 was a significant step in addressing the developmental needs of Jammu and Kashmir. It contained initiatives for infrastructure development, job creation, tourism promotion and support to the handicraft industry.

We harnessed the power of sports in Jammu and Kashmir, recognising its potential to ignite the dreams of the youth. Through sporting initiatives, we witnessed the transformational impact of athletic pursuits on their aspirations and futures. Sporting venues were upgraded, training programmes were organised and coaches were made available. One of the most unique things was to encourage the setting of local football clubs. The results were outstanding. The name of the talented footballer Afshan Ashiq comes to my mind- in December 2014 she was a part of a stone pelting group in Srinagar but with the right encouragement she turned to football, she was sent

for training and excelled in the game. I recall interacting with her in one of the Fit India Dialogues where I said its time to move over 'Bend it like Beckham' because it is now 'Ace it like Afshan.' Other youngsters began to shine in kickboxing, Karate and more.

The Panchayat polls were also a watershed moment in the region's quest for all-round development. Once again, we were faced with a choice of either remaining in power or standing by our principles- the choice was never tough and we let go of a Government but preferred that those ideals that we stand for, the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are given top priority. The success of Panchayat polls indicated the democratic nature of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. My mind went back to an interaction I had with Pradhans from the villages. Among other issues, I made a request to them- that at no point must schools be burnt and that must be ensured.

I was delighted to see that this was adhered to. After all, if schools are burnt the biggest sufferers are the small children.

The historical day of 5th August is etched in the hearts and minds of every Indian. Our Parliament passed the historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then, much has changed in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The judicial court verdict came in December 2023 but seeing the wave of development across Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the people's court have given

a resounding thumbs up to the Parliament's decision of abolishing Articles 370 and 35(A) for four years now.

At a political level, the last 4 years have been marked with a renewed faith in grassroots democracy. The women, tribals, SC, ST and marginalised sections of society were not getting their due. At the same time, the aspirations of Ladakh were totally ignored. 5th August 2019 changed all that. All Central laws now apply without fear or favour. Representation has also got more widespread- a three tier Panchayati Raj System is in place, BDC elections have been held, and refugee communities

The historical day of 5th August is etched in the hearts and minds of every Indian. Our Parliament passed the historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then, much has changed in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. The judicial court verdict came in December 2023

who were all but forgotten have begun to enjoy the fruits of development.

Key Central Government schemes have attained saturation levels, thus covering all sections of society. These include Saubhagya, Ujjwala and Ujjwala schemes. Strides have been made in housing, tap water connection and financial inclusion. Healthcare, otherwise a major challenge for the people, has witnessed an upgradation of infrastructure. All

the villages achieved ODF Plus status. Government vacancies, which were otherwise a den of corruption and favouritism have been filled in a transparent and process driven manner. Other indicators like IMR have shown betterment. The boost to infrastructure and tourism has been for everyone to see. The credit for this naturally goes to the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have shown time and again that they want only development and are willing to be drivers of this positive change. Earlier, there was a question mark on the status of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Now, there are only exclamation marks about record growth, record development, record tourist inflow.

In its verdict on 11th December, the Supreme Court has strengthened the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' - it has reminded us that what defines us is the bonds of unity and a shared commitment to good governance. Today, every child born in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is born with a clean canvas, where he or she can paint a future full of vibrant aspirations. Today, the dreams of the people are no longer prisoners of the past but are possibilities of the future. After all, Development, democracy and dignity have replaced disillusionment, disappointment and despondency. ■

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India)

'Beneficiaries need not run around the government, the government must reach out to the beneficiaries instead'

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 17 December, 2023. Shri Modi took a walkthrough of the stalls and visited the Viksit Bharat Yatra Van and Quiz event. The Prime Minister also interacted with beneficiaries of various government schemes and also addressed them on the occasion. During the program, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Oath was also administered.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister acknowledged the participation of all Members of

Parliament in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in their respective constituencies across India and said that he is taking part in VBSY in Varanasi as a Parliamentarian and a 'Sevak' of the city. Prime Minister Shri Modi underlined the need to ensure the delivery of government schemes to the deserved beneficiaries in a time-bound manner and without hassle and said, "Beneficiaries need not run around the government. The government must reach out to the beneficiaries instead." Informing that 4 crore families have been handed pucca homes under PMAY, Shri Modi pointed out the need for



saturation of any schemes and emphasized the need to reach out to the people who have been left behind. The Prime Minister said that VBSY aims to record the experience of the beneficiaries while including those who have been left behind so far.

PM dedicates development projects worth 19,150 crores in Varanasi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 18 December laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,150 crores in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The projects include the inauguration of New Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar-New Bhaupur Dedicated Freight Corridor Project built at a cost of around Rs 10,900 crore among other railway projects. He flagged off Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express train, Dohrighat-Mau MEMU train and a pair of Long Haul goods trains at the newly inaugurated Dedicated Freight Corridor. He also flagged off the 10,000th locomotive made by Banaras Locomotive Works. He inaugurated green-field Shivpur-Phulwaria-Lahartara road along with two ROBs at a cost of more than Rs 370 crores. Other key projects being inaugurated by the Prime Minister include the strengthening and widening of 20 roads; Sangam Ghat road in Kaithi village and the construction of residential buildings in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital, two 200 and 150-bed multi-storey barrack buildings in Police line and PAC Bhullanpur, smart bus shelters built at 9 locations and 132 KW substation built at Alaipur. He also launched the Unified Tourist Pass System under the Smart City Mission.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of various projects worth more than Rs 6500 crores including an 800 MW solar park in Chitrakoot district at a cost of around Rs 4000 crores, new petroleum oil terminal at Mirzapur to be built at a cost of over Rs 1050 crores, widening of Varanasi-Bhadohi NH 731 B (Package-2) at a cost of over Rs 900 crores; 69 rural drinking water schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission at a cost of Rs 280 crores and various other health sector projects.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, and Ministers from the Government of Uttar Pradesh were present on the occasion.



PM inaugurates Swarved Mahamandir

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 18 December. The Prime Minister paid tributes to the statue of Maharishi Sadafal Dev Ji Maharaj and also took a round tour of the temple complex. Its a magnificent seven-floor temple located in Varanasi's Umaraha area which can seat 20,000 people at a time for meditation.

PM inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023

Shri Narendra Modi on 17 December inaugurated the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He flagged off the Kanyakumari – Varanasi Tamil Sangamam train and launched multi language and braille translations of Thirukkural, Manimekalai and other classic Tamil literature on the occasion. He also took a walkthrough of the exhibition and witnessed a cultural program. Kashi Tamil Sangamam aims to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi – two of the country's most important and ancient seats of learning. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Union Ministers of State, Dr L Murugan among others were present on the occasion. ■



WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

A Total of 19 Bills passed by Both the Houses

The Winter Session of Parliament which commenced on 4th December, 2023 has been adjourned sine die on 21st December, 2023. The Session provided 14 sittings spread over a period of 18 days.

During the Session 12 Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha and 18 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 17 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. 3 Bills were withdrawn with the leave of Lok Sabha while one Bill was withdrawn with the leave of Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Session is 19

During the Session, First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2023-24 and Demands for Excess Grant for 2020 -21 were discussed and voted in full and the related Appropriation Bills were introduced, discussed and passed by Lok Sabha on 12 December, 2023 after a debate of about 05 hours 40 mins. Rajya Sabha returned these Bills on 19 December, 2023 after a debate of about 22 minutes.

Three landmark Bills relating to the criminal justice system to ensure victim-centric justice namely the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 were passed by both the Houses of Parliament during the Session.

Major Bills passed by both Houses:

- **The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023** seeks to repeal the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879 and incorporate the provisions of Section 36 of the Legal Practitioners Act 1879 in the Advocates Act, 1961.
- **The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023** seeks to change in nomenclature of 'weak and under-privileged classes (social castes) to 'Other Backward Classes' in the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004.
- **The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023** seeks to provide nomination of not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman from the community of Kashmiri Migrants and one member from Displaced person from Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.
- **The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023** provides for establishment of a Central Tribal University in Telangana.
- **The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023** seeks to Repeal 76 redundant and obsolete laws.
- **The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023** seeks to extend the validity of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011 for a further period of three years from 01 January, 2024 to 31 December, 2026 thereby providing protection from punitive action to certain forms of unauthorised Developments in Delhi.
- **The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023** seeks to regulate the appointment, conditions of service and term of office of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, the procedure for transaction of business by the Election Commission and for matters connected therewith.
- **The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023** seeks to provide for press, registration of periodicals and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **The Telecommunications Bill, 2023** seeks to amend and consolidate the laws relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.



MAJOR BILLS PASSED OF SIGNIFICANCE

Replacing The Colonial Era Criminal Justice System

Three Bills namely Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023; and Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Sanhita, 2023, were passed by the Parliament to reform the criminal justice system in the country, replacing the colonial era laws. The Bills prioritise the protection of women and children and introduce certain new offences to tackle contemporary societal challenges. They also regulate the procedure for arrest, investigation, inquiry, and trial of offences and establish new rules for handling evidence for a fair and just criminal justice system rooted in Bharatiyata.

Implementing Modi Ki Guarantee of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam

Through the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2023, the Modi Government has taken the first step to reserve 33% of seats for women in the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry. This forward-looking initiative is designed to enhance gender representation, empower women, and contribute to a more diverse and equitable political landscape.

The Telecommunications Bill, 2023

The passage of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, was a watershed moment in Indian telecom reform history as it reaffirmed the Government's commitment to provide Indian telecom with a future fit framework that helps achieve the growth aspirations of New India. It creates a strong, future-ready legal framework for telecommunication technologies based on international standards and ensures legal certainty in spectrum management. It empowers the Central Government to govern Telecommunication Equipment and Infrastructure, Telecommunication Services and Networks, and Spectrum. It perfectly balances the interests of citizens and the national interest.

BILLS PASSED BY LOK SABHA

1. The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
3. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023
4. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023
5. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2023
6. The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2023
7. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023
8. The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023
9. The Post Office Bill, 2023
10. The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023
11. The Central Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023
12. The Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023
13. The Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
14. The Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023
15. The Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023
16. The Telecommunications Bill, 2023
17. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023
18. The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023

BILLS PASSED/RETURNED BY RAJYA SABHA

1. The Post Office Bill, 2023
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023
3. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023
4. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023
5. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023
6. The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023
7. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023
8. The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023
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10. The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2023
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14. The Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
15. The Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023
16. The Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023
17. The Telecommunications Bill, 2023

UNION HOME MINISTER'S RESPONSE ON CRIMINAL LAW BILLS

IPC, CrPC reflect a colonial mindset focused on punishment rather than justice: Amit Shah

In response to the discussions on the Criminal Law bills, Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah conveyed that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) provides a precise delineation of terrorism, eliminates sedition as an offence, and introduces a novel section on “offences against the state”

The Union Minister emphasised that the three bills underwent comprehensive consultations, and he scrutinised every detail, including commas and full stops, in the draft legislation before presenting them for approval in the House.

- He underscored the removal of sedition in the new law, articulating, “We have replaced an individual with the country. Rajdroha (sedition or offence against the Raj, i.e., British Raj) has been replaced with Deshdroha (offence against the nation or country).” He observed that notable figures like Gandhi, Tilak, and Patel faced imprisonment under this British law, yet it remained unrevoked by the Opposition during their tenure.
- In response to concerns raised by Shri Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM, Hyderabad, Telangana), the Union Home Minister clarified that citizens in this country would not be imprisoned for criticising the Government. However, he asserted that speaking against the nation’s interests, damaging the flag, or harming the country’s property could lead to imprisonment.
- He also highlighted that the existing criminal laws, i.e., the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Indian Evidence Act, and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), reflect a colonial mindset focused on punishment rather than justice. He pointed out that the laws from the colonial era prioritised offences such as “looting the treasury,” “uprooting rail tracks,”



He asserted that speaking against the nation’s interests, damaging the flag, or harming the country’s property could lead to imprisonment

and “insult to the Crown” over matters related to crimes against women and children, human rights, border security, and the army.

- The previous laws categorised rape under Section 375-376 and murder under Section 302, but the new bill redefines these offences, placing Rape under Section 63 and murder under Section 101. Similarly, kidnapping, formerly under Section 359, is now addressed under Section 136. By highlighting this, he stated that the Modi Government has consistently prioritised the well-being of women and citizens.
- The Union Minister informed the house that the three laws were framed on the principles of justice, transparency, and fairness. He highlighted the Government’s commitment to fulfilling manifesto promises, citing the revocation of Article 370, the reduction of AFSPA in 70 percent of northeastern areas, the prohibition of triple talaq, and the implementation of a 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament as noteworthy achievements. ■

PM inaugurates Diamond Bourse & new Airport terminal at Surat

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 17 December, 2023 inaugurated the Surat Diamond Bourse in Surat, Gujarat. Before the program, the Prime Minister also visited Panchtatva Garden, viewed the Green Building of Surat Diamond Bourse & SPINE-4, and signed the visitor booklet. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister had also inaugurated the new terminal building at Surat Airport.



Bourse is overshadowing the largest of edifices in the world.

He credited the humbleness of Shri Vallabhbai Lakhani and Shri Laljibhai Patel and the spirit of taking everyone along behind the success of such a huge mission as he congratulated

the entire team of Surat Diamond Bourse on the occasion.

Talking about the two other gifts for Surat, the Prime Minister mentioned the inauguration of a new airport terminal at Surat and the elevation of the status of Surat Airport as an International airport. The gathering gave a standing ovation for the fulfillment of this long pending demand. ■



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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi lays foundation stone and dedicates to nation multiple development projects worth over 19,150 crores in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on December 18, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on December 17, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi pays heartfelt tributes to brave security personnel martyred in the Parliament attack in 2001 on December 13, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meet Sultan of Oman Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in New Delhi on December 16, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing at the launch of Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Voice of Youth on December 11, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi addresses beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing on December 16, 2023



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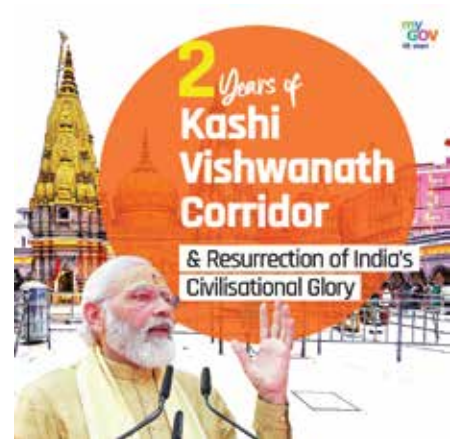
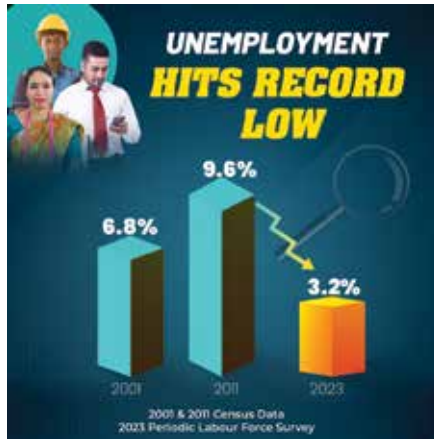
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