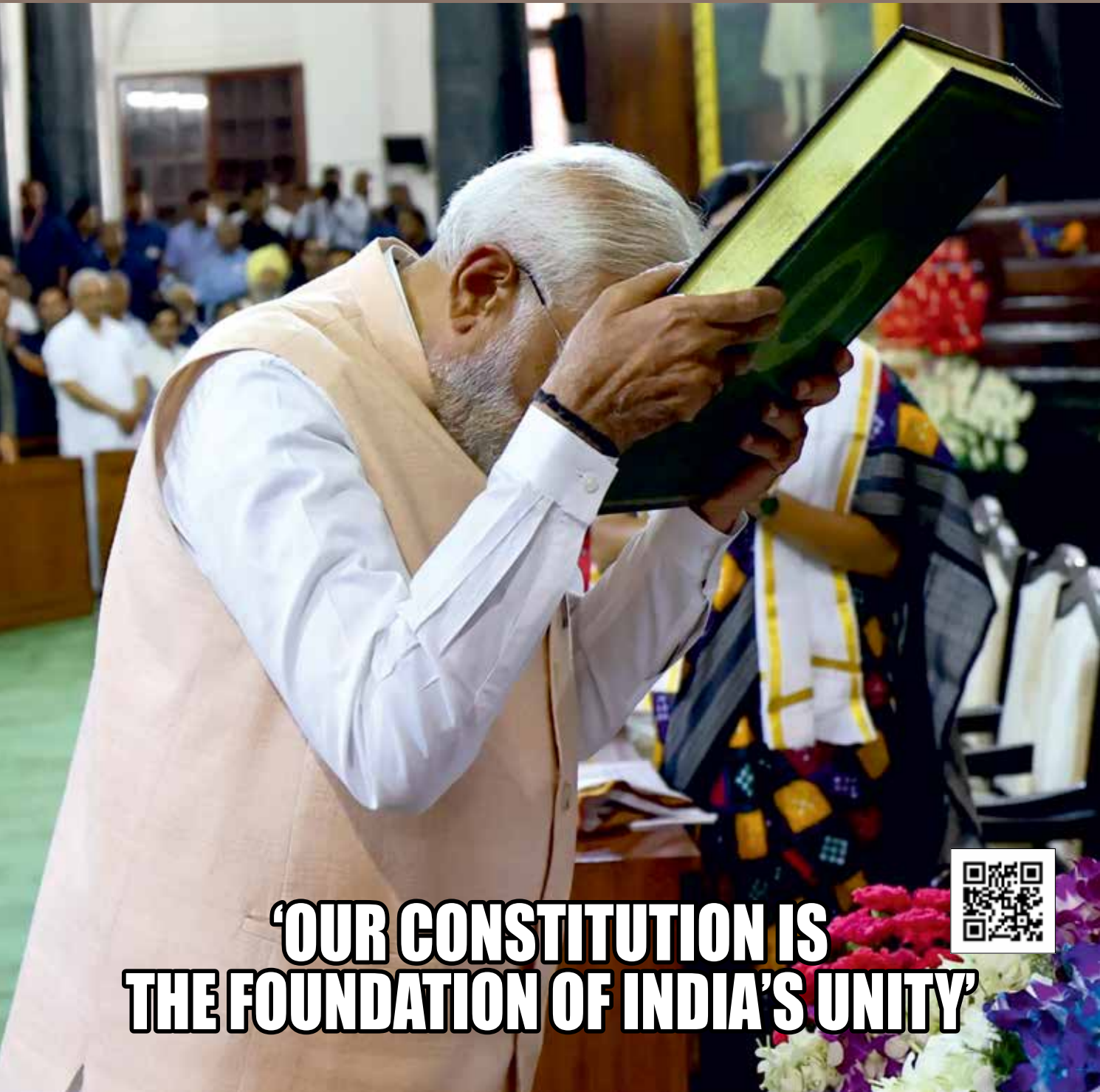


# KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 20, No. 01

01-15 January, 2025 (Fortnightly)

₹20



**'OUR CONSTITUTION IS  
THE FOUNDATION OF INDIA'S UNITY'**







Chhattisgarh BJP, welcoming BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda at the "Janadesh Parv" public meeting in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 13 December 2024



BJP National President & Union Minister Shri JP Nadda inaugurating the newly constructed State BJP office, 'Smriti Mandir' in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 13 December 2024



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda welcoming the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake as part of the 'Know BJP' initiative in New Delhi on 16 December 2024



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah interacting with the children at a school in Gundam village in Bijapur, which was once known as a stronghold of Naxals in Chhattisgarh on 16 December 2024



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah chairing a security review meeting for Jammu and Kashmir along with the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and senior officials in New Delhi on 16 December 2024



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paying tributes to India's bravehearts on 'Vijay Diwas' at the War Memorial in New Delhi on 16 December 2024

## EDITOR

DR. SHIV SHAKTI NATH BAKSHI

## ASSOCIATE EDITORS

RAM PRASAD TRIPATHY  
VIKASH ANAND

## CREATIVE EDITORS

VIKAS SAINI  
BHOLA ROY

## DIGITAL MEDIA

RAJEEV KUMAR  
VIPUL SHARMA

## SUBSCRIPTION & CIRCULATION

SATISH KUMAR

## E-MAIL

MAIL.KAMALSANDESH@GMAIL.COM

MAIL@KAMALSANDESH.ORG

PHONE: 011-23381428, FAX: 011-23387887

WEBSITE: WWW.KAMALSANDESH.ORG



## OUR CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF INDIA'S UNITY: PM MODI

Addressing the House, Shri Modi remarked that it was a matter of pride and honour for all the citizens of India and all the people across the globe who respect democracy that we are celebrating...



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## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

### @Narendramodi

The list of the Congress' sins towards Dr. Ambedkar includes: Getting him defeated in elections not once but twice. Pandit Nehru campaigning against him and making his loss a prestige issue. Denying him a Bharat Ratna. Denying his portrait a place of pride in Parliament's Central Hall.

(18 December, 2024)



### @JPNadda

I want to tell the Congress and their ROTTEN ECO-SYSTEM: In June, you LOST the Lok Sabha polls for the third consecutive time. In June, you performed DISMALLY in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim. In October, you LOST in Haryana. In November, you LOST BADLY in Maharashtra. Atleast now stop lying...because your lies will not go unchecked. The truth will always win... Jai Bhim!

(19 December, 2024)



### @AmitShah

Under the leadership of Modi Ji, the Northeast has charted a journey of transformation in the last ten years. From being a region infamous for insurgency and blockades during the Congress regime to a beacon of tourism and development, the region has carved its own space on the world stage. In this process, more than 10,000 youths have bid farewell to arms and joined the journey of democracy. By reversing its role from an advisory body to an acting one, the NEC has given a new impetus to Modi Ji's vision for a peaceful and developed Northeast.

(21 December, 2024)



### @Rajnathsingh

In the last 75 years, there have been many occasions when the Supreme Court of India has protected the fundamental rights of the people and strengthened democracy through its decisions. And the ideals, thoughts and standards behind all these historic decisions are enshrined in our Constitution.

(13 December, 2024)



### @B.L Santhosh

Today (18 December) @BJP4India Sadasyata Abhiyan crosses another mile stone of 12Cr membership . With Haryana still going strong, West Bengal - J&K adding their bit & Maharashtra -Jharkhand beginning abhiyan , we hope to cross 13 Cr in coming two weeks . Good going.

(18 December, 2024)



### @Dharmendra Pradhan

Pandit Nehru had written a letter to the chief ministers saying that if the Constitution comes in our way, then it must be changed at all costs. Such is the history of Congress's respect for the Constitution.

(14 December, 2024)



## WHERE OTHERS SAW BORDERS, PM MODI SAW BRIDGES

2014	Australia in 28 Years	2018	Jordan in 30 Years
2015	Ireland in 60 Years	2022	Sweden in 30 Years
2016	Seychelles in 33 Years	2023	Denmark in 20 Years
2017	Canada in 42 Years	2023	Greece in 40 Years
2018	UAE in 34 Years	2024	Egypt in 26 Years
2019	Mozambique in 34 Years	2024	First PM to visit PNG
2020	Kenya in 35 Years	2024	Kuwait in 43 Years
2021	First PM to visit Israel	2024	Guyana in 56 Years
2022	Philippines in 36 Years	2024	Nigeria in 17 Years
2023	Uganda in 21 Years	2024	Poland in 45 Years
2024	Oman in 33 Years	2024	Austria in 41 Years
		2024	Papua New Guinea



**KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR**  
wishes a very happy  
**PONGAL, BIHU &  
MAKAR SANKRANTI (15 JANUARY)**  
to all of its readers



# Nation renews its faith in the principles, values, and spirit of the Constitution

While the inspiring address by the President of India to a special joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 26th November, 2024, further strengthened the resolve of the nation to march confidently towards 'Viksit Bharat,' the debates in both houses of Parliament to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution have shown the unflinching faith of the nation towards the Constitution, its values, and its spirit. The debates featured discussions on the Constitution, its role in shaping Indian democracy, and participation from leaders of various political parties reflecting on the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It is to be noted that 'Constitution Day,' also known as the 'Samvidhan Divas,' is celebrated on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January, 1950. This year, 26th November 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

It was highly unfortunate to note that while the debates in parliament to mark this occasion were to set an example for the nation, inculcating in them constitutional values and inspiring them towards their constitutional duty, the Congress-led opposition sought to politicise the debate for petty political gains. As any discussion on the Constitution is set to expose Congress's dark history of undermining the Constitution and killing its spirit, it sought to create issues out of nothing as diversionary tactics. The nation has not forgotten the naked misuse of power by Congress when 'EMERGENCY' was imposed on the nation, fundamental rights were suspended, opposition was incarcerated, the press was censored, the judiciary was hounded, and the constitution was sabotaged. The manner in which the non-Congress governments in the states were dismissed and destabilised, even in the centre, is still fresh in the memory of the people. The Congress not only misused the constitutional provisions but also, many a time, openly acted against the Constitution and used brute power to silence any voice that was raised against its authoritarianism. In complete contravention to the spirit of democracy inscribed in the Constitution, it sought to establish a dictatorial rule in the country.

**The nation has not forgotten the naked misuse of power by Congress when 'EMERGENCY' was imposed on the nation, fundamental rights were suspended, opposition was incarcerated, the press was censored, the judiciary was hounded, and the constitution was sabotaged**

It may be noted that on 11th October 2015, while laying the foundation stone of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial in Mumbai, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced that 26th November would be celebrated as 'Samvidhan Diwas' in memory of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The decision was taken to promote constitutional values among citizens and honour the contributions of the founding fathers of the Constitution, and particularly Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, in framing the Indian Constitution. While the BJP and its governments are known to follow the path shown by Babasaheb, upholding the principles, values, and spirit of the Constitution and working for the welfare of oppressed, exploited, and deprived sections of society while revolutionising the lives of Dalits, tribals, OBCs, women, and youth, it has also worked to preserve and promote the rich legacy of Babasaheb by building 'Panchtirth' and propagating his ideas in the society. On the contrary, the Congress has humiliated Babasaheb, made him lose elections, forced him to resign from the cabinet, denied him the Bharat Ratna, not even allowed his portrait in the central hall of parliament, and despised his legacy. The Congress has no moral right to speak anything on the Constitution and on the glorious legacy of Babasaheb; it can only find solace in repenting on its past misdeeds. As the nation renews its faith in the principles, values, and spirit of the Constitution, the legacy of Babasaheb continues to inspire the nation. ■

 [shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org](mailto:shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org)





# OUR CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF INDIA'S UNITY: PM MODI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressing during the special discussion of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution in Lok Sabha on 14 December 2024 said, "India is the mother of Democracy and our Constitution is the Foundation of India's unity. When NDA got the opportunity to form the government in 2014, democracy and constitution got strengthened. Shri Modi said we are working to free the poor from their difficulties and it is our biggest mission and resolution. He said if we follow our fundamental duties, no one can stop us from making the 'Viksit Bharat' a reality. Excerpts of PM's address:



Addressing the House, PM Shri Narendra Modi remarked that it was a matter of pride and honour for all the citizens of India and all the people across the globe who respect democracy that we are celebrating this festival of Democracy. Thanking the foresight, vision and efforts of the framers of our constitution in this remarkable and momentous journey of 75 years of our Constitution, he said that it was time to celebrate the festival of Democracy after successful completion of 75 years. Shri Modi was pleased that even the members of parliament were involving themselves in this celebration and expressing their views, he thanked and congratulated them for the same.

Terming the achievement of 75 years as an extraordinary feat, the Prime Minister expressed pride that the Constitution had overcome all the predicted possibilities for India, soon after its independence and the subsequent challenges to bring us all to this far. He expressed deep gratitude towards the constitution makers and the crores of citizens for this great achievement. Shri Modi remarked that the citizens of India had passed every test in successfully adopting and living the values of the Constitution as envisioned by its makers. He said therefore it was the citizens who truly deserved all the accolades.

Shri Modi remarked that the constitution makers never supported the view that India was born in 1947 or that the constitution would come to effect from 1950, rather believed and were proud of the great tradition and heritage of India and its democracy. He added that India's democracy and republic past has always been remarkable and has been an inspiration for the world and therefore, he added that "India is known as the mother of democracy". Shri Modi underlined that we are not just a great democratic country but also the creators of democracy.

### **Role of the women during the process of making of the constitution**

The Prime Minister lauded the role of the women during the process of making of

the constitution and also empowering it further. He added that there were fifteen respected and active members in the Constituent Assembly and they had further strengthened the process of drafting the constitution by giving their original thoughts, views and ideas. Recalling that each one of them were from diverse backgrounds, Shri Modi emphasized that the thoughtful suggestions given by the women members had a profound impact on the constitution. The Prime Minister also expressed pride that suffrage rights were given to women right from the time of independence as compared to many other countries of the world which took decades for the same. He added that with the same spirit, India during its presidency of the G-20 summit put forward the vision of Women-led development in front of the world. Shri Modi also noted the successful enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam by all the parliamentarians and added that the Government had taken steps to ensure increased political participation of the women.

### **True tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed dissatisfaction, stating that post-independence, the framers of the Constitution had unity in their hearts and minds. However, after independence, due to distorted mentalities or selfishness, the greatest blow was dealt to the core spirit of the nation's unity. The Prime Minister highlighted that unity in diversity has been India's hallmark and emphasized that we celebrate diversity, and the country's progress lies in celebrating this diversity.

However, those with a colonial mindset, who could not see the good in India, and those who believed India was born in 1947, sought contradictions in this diversity. The Prime Minister remarked that instead of celebrating this invaluable treasure of diversity, efforts were made to sow poisonous seeds within it, aiming to harm the nation's unity. Shri Modi urged everyone to make the celebration of diversity an integral part of our lives, and that will be the true tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

India during its presidency of the G-20 summit put forward the vision of Women-led development in front of the world. Shri Modi also noted the successful enactment of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam by all the parliamentarians and added that the Government had taken steps to ensure increased political participation of the women

## Government's policies In past 10 years

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that over the past 10 years, the government's policies have consistently aimed to strengthen the unity of India. He added that Article 370 was an obstacle to the nation's unity and acted as a barrier. Shri Modi emphasised that the unity of the country was a priority, in line with the spirit of the Constitution, and hence, Article 370 was abrogated.

The Prime Minister remarked that GST has played a significant role in economic unity and acknowledged the contributions of the previous government and noted that the current government had the opportunity to implement it, advancing the concept of "One Nation, One Tax."

Touching upon the importance of how ration cards have been a valuable document for the poor in our country and the difficulties encountered by a poor person when he/she moved from one state to another, Shri Modi said that they were not entitled to any benefits. He emphasized that every citizen should have equal rights, regardless of where they are in this vast country. And added that to strengthen this sense of unity, the government had reinforced the concept of "One Nation, One Ration Card."

## "One Nation, One Health Card"

The Prime Minister remarked that to uphold the principle of national unity, the government introduced the "One Nation, One Health Card" initiative through Ayushman Bharat. He noted that even a person from a remote area of Bihar working in Pune can receive necessary medical services with an Ayushman card.

## "One Nation, One Grid"

The Prime Minister emphasized that to uphold the spirit of the Constitution and the mantra of unity, the government implemented the "One Nation, One Grid" initiative. He noted



that today, electricity can be seamlessly supplied to every corner of India.

## Balanced development to strengthen national unity

Touching upon the infrastructure development in the country, the Prime Minister emphasized that the government is focusing on balanced development to strengthen national unity. He added that whether it is the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, the Himalayan regions, or the desert areas, the government had undertaken efforts to empower infrastructure comprehensively. He noted that this initiative aims to eliminate any sense of distance due to lack of development, thereby fostering unity.

Emphasising the digital divide between the "haves" and "have-nots", Shri Modi highlighted that India's success story in Digital India is a source of great pride globally. He added that the democratization of technology has been a key factor in this success.

The Prime Minister remarked that the Constitution expects unity, and in this spirit, the importance of mother tongue has been recognized. He noted that suppressing the mother tongue cannot culturally enrich the nation's populace. Shri Modi highlighted that several classical languages were given their rightful place and respect. He mentioned that the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" campaign is strengthening national unity and instilling cultural values in the new generation.

## Kashi Tamil Sangamam

Highlighting that the Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Telugu Kashi Sangamam have become significant institutionalized events, Shri Modi emphasized that these cultural initiatives strengthen societal bonds. He added that the importance of

**Reiterating that India was progressing rapidly, Shri Modi remarked that soon India will be the third largest economy in the world. He added that it was the combined resolve of 140 crore Indians to ensure that India is developed by 2047**



India's unity is recognized in the core principles of the Constitution, and this should be acknowledged.

### **Constitution is celebrating its 75th anniversary**

The Prime Minister remarked while the Constitution is celebrating its 75th anniversary, milestones like 25, 50, and 60 years also hold significance. Reflecting on history, he remarked that during the 25th anniversary of the Constitution, it was torn apart in the country. The Prime Minister highlighted that the Emergency was imposed, constitutional arrangements were dismantled, the country was turned into a prison, citizens' rights were snatched, and press freedom was locked down. The Prime Minister said that democracy was strangled, and the sacrifices of the Constitution's framers were attempted to be buried.

### **50th anniversary of the Constitution**

Shri Modi noted that under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Constitution on November 26, 2000. The Prime Minister remarked that Atal Vajpayee ji, as Prime Minister, delivered a special message to the nation, emphasizing the importance of unity, public participation, and partnership. He noted that Shri Vajpayee's efforts were aimed at living the spirit of the Constitution and awakening the public.

The PM expressed special respect for the Constitution, stating that it was the spirit of the Constitution that enabled many people like him to reach where they are today. He highlighted that without any background, it was the power of the Constitution and the blessings of the people that brought them here.

### **Before 1952, Rajya Sabha was not formed**

Shri Modi noted that from 1947 to 1952, India did not have an elected government but a temporary, selected one, with no elections held. He highlighted that before 1952, the Rajya Sabha was not formed, and there were no state elections, meaning there was no mandate from the people. He added that despite this, in 1951, without an elected government, an ordinance was

issued to amend the Constitution, attacking freedom of expression. The Prime Minister emphasized that this was an insult to the Constitution's framers, as such matters were not addressed in the Constituent Assembly. He remarked that when the opportunity arose, they hammered down on freedom of expression, which was a grave insult to the Constitution's creators. The Prime Minister said that what could not be achieved in the Constituent Assembly was done through the back door by a non-elected Prime Minister, which was a sin.

### **Clipping the wings of the judiciary**

PM highlighted that in 1971, a Supreme Court decision was overturned by amending the Constitution, clipping the wings of the judiciary. Shri Modi noted that the amendment stated that Parliament could alter any article of the Constitution without judicial review, stripping the courts of their powers. He added that this enabled the then government to curtail fundamental rights and control the judiciary.

### **Constitution was misused and democracy was strangled**

The Prime Minister noted that during the Emergency, the Constitution was misused, and democracy was strangled. He emphasized that in 1975, the 39th Amendment was passed, preventing any court from challenging the elections of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Speaker, and this was applied retrospectively to cover past actions.

Further deliberating that during the Emergency, Shri Modi noted that people's rights were taken away, thousands were imprisoned, the judiciary was strangled, and press freedom was locked down.

### **Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case**

Recalling the Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case provided justice to an Indian woman based on the Constitution's dignity and spirit, Shri Modi noted that the Supreme Court granted an elderly woman her rightful due, but then-Prime Minister negated this spirit, sacrificing the Constitution's essence.

**The Prime Minister emphasized that the government is focusing on balanced development to strengthen national unity. He added that whether it is the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, the Himalayan regions, or the desert areas, the government had undertaken efforts to empower infrastructure comprehensively**

The Prime Minister remarked that Parliament passed a law to overturn the Supreme Court's decision once again.

The Prime Minister remarked that for the first time in history, the Constitution was deeply wounded. He added that the framers of the Constitution envisioned an elected government and Prime Minister. However, a non-constitutional entity, the National Advisory Council, which did not take any oath, was placed above the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The Prime Minister noted that this entity was given an unofficial status above the PMO.

### **Dr. Ambedkar Memorial on Alipur Road**

Shri Modi noted that during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, it was decided to build a memorial in Dr. Ambedkar's memory but this work was neither initiated nor allowed for the next 10 years. The Prime Minister emphasized that when his government came to power, out of respect for Dr. Ambedkar, they constructed the Dr. Ambedkar Memorial on Alipur Road and completed the work.

He highlighted that it was only in 2015, when BJP government came to power, the work was completed. The Prime Minister noted that even the awarding of the Bharat Ratna to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was done a long time later after independence.

Shri Modi underlined that the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated globally in 120 countries and during Dr. Ambedkar's birth centenary, a memorial was reconstructed in Mhow, Dr. Ambedkar's birthplace.

### **No part of the country should remain weak**

Lauding Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a visionary committed to bring the marginalized sections of society into the mainstream, Shri Modi remarked that Dr. Ambedkar believed that for India to develop, no part of the country should remain weak.

He added that this concern led to the establishment of the reservation system. The Prime Minister noted that those engaged in vote bank politics attempted to introduce various measures under the guise of religious appeasement within

the reservation system, causing significant harm to the SC, ST, and OBC communities.

### **The Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**

Discussing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as a burning issue which was not overlooked by the Constituent Assembly, the PM said that the Constituent Assembly engaged in extensive discussions on the UCC and decided that it would be best for the elected government to implement it. He added that this was the directive of the Constituent Assembly. The Prime Minister remarked that Dr. Ambedkar advocated for the UCC, and his words should not be misrepresented.

### **Vajpayee's government dedicated to the spirit of the Constitution**

Shri Modi noted that in 1996, the BJP emerged as the largest party, and the President, respecting the Constitution, invited them to form the government. However, the government lasted only 13 days because they chose to honor the Constitution. He emphasized that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not opt for bargaining but respected the Constitution and resigned after 13 days. He added that in 1998, the NDA government faced instability, but Vajpayee's government, dedicated to the spirit of the Constitution, preferred to lose by one vote and resign rather than accept unconstitutional positions. He emphasized that this is their history, values, and tradition. On the other hand, he noted that during the cash-for-votes scandal, money was used to save a minority government, turning the spirit of Indian democracy into a marketplace where votes were bought.

Shri Modi remarked that after 2014, the NDA was given the opportunity to serve, strengthening the Constitution and democracy. He highlighted that they launched a campaign to rid the country of old ailments.

The Prime Minister noted that over the past 10 years, they had also made constitutional amendments, for the unity and integrity of the country, for its bright future, and with full dedication to the spirit of the Constitution.

**Shri Modi underlined that the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated globally in 120 countries and during Dr. Ambedkar's birth centenary, a memorial was reconstructed in Mhow, Dr. Ambedkar's birthplace**



## OBC Commission

The PM remarked that the OBC community had been demanding constitutional status for the OBC Commission for three decades. He highlighted that they amended the Constitution to grant this status, taking pride in doing so. The Prime Minister emphasized that standing with the marginalized sections of society is their duty, which is why the constitutional amendment was made.

## Article 370

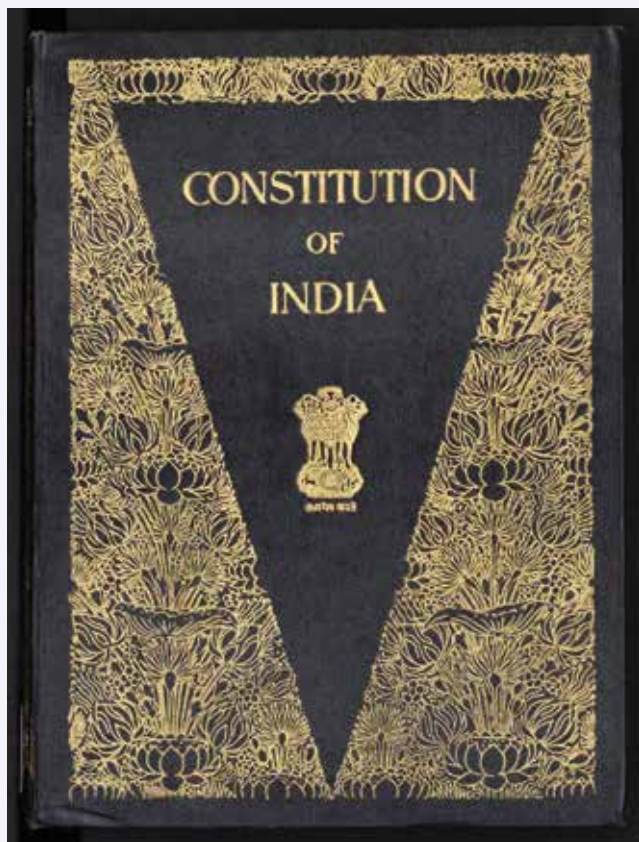
Shri Modi highlighted that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution could not fully apply to Jammu and Kashmir due to Article 370, while the Government wanted Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution to be implemented in every part of India. He added that the BJP government amended the Constitution to strengthen national unity and to pay tribute to Dr. Ambedkar. The Prime Minister remarked that the central government removed Article 370, and now the Supreme Court of India has also upheld this decision.

## The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

Touching upon the amendment of the Constitution to remove Article 370, Shri Modi highlighted that they also enacted laws to fulfil the promise made by Mahatma Gandhi and other senior leaders at the time of partition, to care for minorities in neighbouring countries during times of crisis. He emphasized that they introduced the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to honour this commitment and said that they proudly stand by this law, as it aligns with the spirit of the Constitution and strengthens the nation.

Shri Modi remarked that the constitutional amendments made by his government were aimed at correcting past mistakes and paving the way for a brighter future. He highlighted that time will tell if they stand the test of time. The Prime Minister emphasized that these amendments were not driven by selfish power interests but were acts of virtue for the nation's benefit. He noted that this is why they confidently address any questions raised.

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution could not fully apply to Jammu and Kashmir due to Article 370, while the Government wanted Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution to be implemented in every part of India. The BJP government amended the Constitution to strengthen national unity and to pay tribute to Dr. Ambedkar**



Highlighting that after so many years of independence, many families did not have access to a toilet to live with dignity, Shri Modi said that the campaign to build toilets was a dream for the poor, and they took it up with full dedication. He added that despite being mocked, they remained steadfast because the dignity of ordinary citizens was their priority. The PM emphasized that women had to go for open defecation either before sunrise or after sunset, and this did not bother those who only saw the poor on TV or in newspaper headlines. The Prime Minister remarked that those who do not understand the life of the poor would not commit such injustices.

## Ayushman Bharat scheme

Discussing the healthcare sector, Shri Modi remarked that a single illness can ruin a poor family who works hard day and night to escape poverty and educate their children, their plans and efforts. He highlighted that they implemented the Ayushman Bharat scheme to provide free treatment to 50-60 crore citizens, respecting the

spirit of the Constitution. The Prime Minister noted that this scheme ensures healthcare for all, including those above 70 years of age, from any section of society.

Touching upon the free ration provided to the poor, Shri Modi highlighted that 25 crore people have successfully overcome poverty. He added that only those who have emerged from poverty understand the importance of support. He highlighted that just as a patient is advised to take care after being discharged from the hospital to avoid relapse, it is essential to support the poor to prevent them from falling back into poverty. The Prime Minister noted that this is why they provide free ration, to ensure that those who have been lifted out of poverty do not return to it, and to help those still in poverty to rise above it. He emphasized that mocking this effort is unjust, as it is crucial for maintaining the dignity and well-being of the citizens.

### **PM SVANidhi**

The Prime Minister noted that street vendors, who work tirelessly from morning to night, often face hardships, including renting their carts and borrowing money at high interest rates. He emphasized that the government introduced the PM SVANidhi scheme to provide collateral-free loans to street vendors. The Prime Minister remarked that due to this scheme, street vendors have reached the third round of loans, gaining respect and expanding their businesses.

### **Welfare of Vishwakarma artisans**

Noting that there is no one in this country who does not need the services of Vishwakarma artisans, Shri Modi highlighted that a significant system had been in place for centuries, but the welfare of Vishwakarma artisans was never addressed. The Prime Minister noted that they have created a plan for the welfare of Vishwakarma artisans, including provisions for bank loans, new training, modern tools, and innovative designs. He emphasized that they have strengthened this initiative to support the Vishwakarma community.

Shri Modi highlighted that the government had ensured rights for transgender individuals under

the Indian Constitution and has enacted laws to protect their rights and provide them with a dignified life.

### **PM Jan Man Yojana**

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the President for guidance in creating the PM Jan Man Yojana, which focuses on the development of the most backward tribal communities. He highlighted that these small groups, often overlooked in vote politics, have now received attention and support through this scheme. The Prime Minister remarked that he is committed to finding and supporting even the most marginalized individuals.

### **Aspirational Districts**

Shri Modi noted that over 60 years, 100 districts were identified as backward, and this label became a punishment posting for responsible officers. He emphasized that they changed this situation by introducing the concept of Aspirational Districts, regularly monitoring 40 parameters online. The Prime Minister remarked that today, Aspirational Districts are matching the best districts in their states and some are even reaching the national average. He highlighted that no region should be left behind, and they are now focusing on developing 500 blocks as Aspirational Blocks.

### **Atalji first established a separate ministry for tribal affairs**

Highlighting that the tribal community existed during the times of Ram and Krishna, yet no separate ministry was created for them even after decades of independence, the Prime Minister noted that it was the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee that first established a separate ministry for tribal affairs and allocated a budget for their development and expansion. Speaking on the welfare of the fishermen, Shri Modi said that for the first time their government created a separate ministry of fisheries and a separate budget was given for their welfare. He said care was taken of this section of the society.

**The tribal community existed during the times of Ram and Krishna, yet no separate ministry was created for them even after decades of independence...it was the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee that first established a separate ministry for tribal affairs and allocated a budget for their development and expansion**



## 11 RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE

The Prime Minister said inspired by the spirit of the Constitution for the future of India he wanted to place 11 resolutions before the House.

- The first resolution is that whether it is a citizen or the government, everyone should perform their duties.
- The second resolution is that every sector, every society should get the benefit of development, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.
- The third resolution is that there should be zero tolerance towards corruption, there should be no social acceptance of the corrupt.
- The fourth resolution is that the citizens of the country should take pride in following the laws of the country, the rules of the country, and the traditions of the country.
- The fifth resolution is to get rid of the mentality of slavery, there should be pride in the heritage of the country.
- The sixth resolution is that the politics of the country should be freed from nepotism.
- The Seventh resolution, the constitution should be respected, the constitution should not be used as a weapon for political gain.
- The Eighth resolution, in keeping the spirit of the constitution, reservation should not be snatched from those who are getting it and every attempt to give reservation on the basis of religion should be stopped.
- The Ninth resolution, India should become an example for the world in women led development.
- The Tenth resolution, development of the nation through the development of the state, this should be our mantra of development.
- The Eleventh resolution, the aim of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' should be paramount.

Talking about the North-East, the Prime Minister said our North-East was neglected due to less votes or seats there. He said it was Atal Ji's government which for the first time made DONER Ministry for the welfare of the North-East and today because of it one can see the development of the North-East in building of railways, roads, ports, airports.

### 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

The Prime Minister said 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', is not a mere slogan, It is our article of faith and hence we have implemented government schemes without discrimination. He said the Government is striving for saturation of schemes so that 100% of the beneficiaries get the benefit. He added that if there is any true secularism then it is in saturation and if there is any true social justice then this saturation, that is the 100% benefit should be given to the person who is entitled to it, without any discrimination. He said this is true secularism and true social justice.

### Bringing youth in politics

The Prime Minister emphasized that all political parties should make efforts to attract the youth of the country, to strengthen the democracy and to bring the youth of the country forward. He said bringing youth in politics is the need of the country's democracy and reiterated that 1 lakh such youth should be brought into the country's politics, who do not have any political family background. He said the country needs new energy and young people who come with new resolutions and dreams and when we are celebrating 75 years of the Constitution of India we should move ahead in that direction.

The Prime Minister said If we all move forward together with this resolution then with everyone's efforts, we the people, can fulfil the dream of a developed India. He said when the dream of 140 crore countrymen is fulfilled and the country starts moving with the resolution, then it brings the desired results. Shri Modi said he had immense respect for 140 crore countrymen and faith in their strength, he had immense faith in the youth power of the country, in the women power of the country.

Concluding his remarks the Prime Minister said that we should move forward with the resolve that when the country celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047, it will be celebrated as Viksit Bharat. ■

# WE WILL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN STRENGTHENING THE DEMOCRACY: JP NADDA

BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda participated in the discussion on the glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India on 17 December in Rajya Sabha and termed the celebration of the completion of the 75 years of the Constitution as a way to strengthen our dedication and commitment to the Constitution. While speaking, he thanked the Parliament for repealing Article 370 on 5th August 2019 and making Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India. We are publishing the synopsis of the discussion:

In a few days we will see the completion of 75 years of our Republic. This celebration in a way strengthens our dedication to the Constitution, our commitment to the Constitution. We all know that India is the largest democracy, but it is also the mother of all democracies. Democracy includes freedom, acceptance, equality and inclusiveness in the society. This enables the common citizens to live a respectable life.

In protest against Article 370, the then founder of Jansangh raised his voice and said that two flags, two constitutions and two heads will not work in one country. He sacrificed his life for this.

## Parliament repealed Article 370

- I thank this Parliament that it repealed Article 370 on 5th August 2019 and today Jammu and Kashmir has become an integral part of India.
- Congress members say that they have apologized for the Emergency, now it should not be discussed.
- Next year on 25th June, it will be 50 years since the Emergency; we will celebrate 'Anti-Democracy Day'.
- We call upon the Congress to also join it.
- Emergency was not imposed because there was any threat to the country but because there was a threat to the power of the ruling party and for this reason, on 25th June 1975, through Presidential

Assent, the Fundamental Rights, Article 19 and Article 21 were suspended citing internal disturbance under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution, as the reason.

- During the Emergency, more than 1 lakh people were imprisoned under MISA and DIR for 22 months.
- During that crisis, the media stood firmly against the Emergency.

## Constitutional Amendments

Through the 39th Constitutional Amendment, the then Government provided that the election of the President, Vice President, Speaker and Prime Minister would not be challenged. In this way, the ruling party was taking itself out of judicial review and this amendment was to be implemented with retrospective effect.

Then came the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976. This amendment had such far-reaching effects that it was like rewriting the Constitution. It was like a mini Constitution and it completely changed our Constitution. Today, while discussing the Constitution makers, we should keep in mind that the Congress Government had made a malicious attempt to change the soul of the Constitution in 1976. By this amendment, the judiciary could not review any Constitutional Amendment on any basis. The Preamble was also amended. The words 'socialist' and 'secular' were added to it. But if the then Government had read the





Constitution and understood the aspirations of the Constitution makers, they would not have added these.

### **No need to include the term 'secular'**

- Dr. Ambedkar had written that there was no need to include the term 'secular' as the entire Constitution embodied the concept of a 'Secular State', which meant no discrimination on the grounds of religion and equal rights and status for all citizens.
- But Congress added this word in the Preamble to appease the minorities.
- Similarly, Dr. Ambedkar had written about the inclusion of the word 'socialist' that it was against the very grain of the democracy to decide in the Constitution what kind of society the people of India should live in.
- But Congress added this term in the Preamble to show itself as progressive.

### **44th Constitutional Amendment**

Now I will talk about the 44th Constitutional Amendment. In it, the reasons for emergency were redefined and the words 'armed rebellion' were included in place of 'internal disturbance'. In the same way, we also said that for imposing emergency, there should be consent of the cabinet as well as the Parliament and this consent should be obtained within a month. Now you can understand the difference between good and bad laws.

Today, a bill has to be brought in the country regarding one nation, one election because the Congress Governments misused Article 356 and dismissed the elected Governments of many states many times, due to which the tenure of the assemblies in all the states became different. Otherwise, till 1967, all the elections were held simultaneously.

I also want to talk about minority appeasement. Rajiv Gandhi ji was called progressive. But for minority appeasement, he brought an Amendment in the Parliament to overturn the decision given by the Supreme Court in the Shah Bano case. The Supreme Court had said many times that triple talaq should be abolished. But the Congress Governments did not do anything in this direction, whereas even in many Islamic countries there is no triple talaq. Due to the farsightedness and firm resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, triple talaq was abolished and Muslim

sisters were brought into the folds of mainstream.

### **Jawaharlal Nehru neglected defence preparations**

I would also like to discuss some of the 'boundary' issues from the point of view of the Constitution. In reference to ceding of territories, the Congress Party has neither been protecting India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, nor combating efforts to reduce India's influence in our neighborhood. In 1949, although our valiant military had achieved success on the battlefield, a ceasefire was accepted by Pandit Nehru. That is why even today, we have Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

The House is also aware that China had occupied 38,000 square kilometres of Indian territory and received through an illegal transfer of another 5,180 square kilometres from Pakistan. China could do this because Jawaharlal Nehru neglected defence preparations, including the border infrastructure and was diplomatically naive.

### **Reservation for backward classes**

Reservation for backward classes is one thing and reservation for religious minorities is another thing. Along with this, there is also reservation for Scheduled Castes. We all know how you treated Baba Saheb Ambedkar. You repeatedly tried to defeat him in elections. Ambedkar ji said that both merit and deprived communities should be kept in mind.

There should be a balance between the two and reservation should be implemented. You people should know what were the feelings of those who were in the Constituent Assembly and those who later ruled the country towards reservation.

### **Passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act**

Reservation to women was provided only by our Government by passing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. We also made an attempt to deliver justice to Muslim women by abolishing triple talaq. Coming to economic justice, economic justice was delivered through Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan accounts, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana etc. It is a great achievement by Prime Minister Modi to provide health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to 61 crore people under Ayushman Bharat. ■

# BJP HOLDS THE CONSTITUTION IN HIGH ESTEEM: RAJNATH SINGH

The Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh, initiating the discussion on the glorious journey of 75 years of the constitution on 13 December in Lok Sabha said, "We all are fortunate that we are witnessing the Amrit Mahotsav of the Constitution of India". He also expressed his gratitude to all the great personalities associated with India's independence and the making of the Constitution of India. We are publishing the synopsis of the speech for our esteemed readers:

We all are fortunate that we are witnessing the Amrit Mahotsav of the Constitution of India. Seventy-five years ago, the mammoth task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India was accomplished by the Constituent Assembly. It was in the aftermath of nearly 3 years of brainstorming debate and deliberations that we got our Constitution.

## Constitution is fully committed to welfare of citizens

Our Constitution is fully committed to the welfare of the citizens through the constitutional machinery. Under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, the power that be is functioning with the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'. The present Government is working in accordance with both duty and spirit enshrined in the Constitution of India. Our Constitution is progressive, inclusive and transformative. The present government is marching ahead at an accelerated pace evincing its due intervention in the larger public interest placing the basic spirit of the Constitution at the centre.

Taking a firm departure from the enslaved mental construct we have passed new laws like 'The Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita', 'The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita' and 'The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam'. The Government has aimed at ensuring proper development of all sections of the society, particularly the weaker sections.

## Reform, Perform and Transform

Our resolve to reform, perform and transform



has placed India in the league of the world's largest economies today. We have passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' to ensure women's development and women led development in line with the constitutional ideals of social justice. This will mop up the representation of women in the political arena and will also ensure their empowerment. In the year 2018, the National Backward Commission has been accorded constitutional status. This has happened for the first time never in the history of independent India. Economically weaker Sections have been accorded ten per cent reservation.

## Our commitment towards the Constitution is crystal clear

The Government has enforced the Constitution in letter and spirit. both. Our Constitution has once again exposed us to Indian core values. Our Constitution and the images engraved therein are the vehicles to carry forward our supreme heritage, rich history and great tradition. We are adding momentum to this very tradition marching ahead with the spirit of the perfect blend of the twin elements of development and heritage. The Bharatiya Janata Party holds the Constitution in high esteem. Our commitment towards the Constitution is crystal clear

When the Constitution of India was signed by the public representatives on January 24, 1950, these 11 women also were also among the signatories of that document. The Constitution of India is the byproduct of the basic idea of India and Indianness. The Indian Constitution continues to play a vital role in

Continued on Page...18



# Nari Shakti Vandan: Significant step toward fulfilling the vision of Constitution: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in the discussion in the Rajya Sabha during the discussion commemorating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India on 17 December 2024. Shri Amit Shah outlined several key constitutional amendments introduced by the Modi government to strengthen social justice and empower marginalized communities. We are publishing the synopsis of the speech:

Responding to the discussion in the Upper House, Shri Amit Shah emphasized that this deliberation serves two significant purposes. First, it highlights the immense progress our country has achieved under the framework of the Constitution. Second, it underscores how the democratic roots of our nation have deepened over the past 75 years, thanks to the Constitution's foundational spirit. Shri Shah further remarked that this discussion sheds light on the consequences of attempts to undermine the essence of the Constitution.



behind constitutional amendments.

- Shri Amit Shah contrasted the leadership styles of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and previous leaders, highlighting PM Modi's humility in referring to himself as the "Pradhan Sewak" of the people, as opposed to others who claimed immunity from legal accountability, asserting that no one could challenge their authority.
- He pointed out that while the Constitution granted rights, some leaders undermined those very rights.
- Shri Shah recalled that it was Indira Gandhi who, through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, extended the term of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies from five to six years.
- He argued that this was done out of fear that early elections would result in a loss, thus prolonging her party's hold on power.
- He criticized this amendment as one of the most shameless acts of constitutional manipulation in history.

## Article 368 allows for amendments

Shri Amit Shah asserted that India's Constitution has never been viewed as immutable, and emphasized that the country, its laws, and society must evolve with time.

- Article 368 of the Constitution itself allows for amendments to accommodate these changes. Shri Shah highlighted that under his party's leadership, spanning 16 years, with 6 years under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and 10 years and counting under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 22 amendments have been made to the Constitution.
- In contrast, he noted that the opposition party implemented 77 constitutional amendments during its 55 years in power.
- Shri Shah questioned the intent behind these amendments, asking whether they were aimed at strengthening democracy, ensuring equal rights for all citizens, or preserving political power. He stressed that the character of a party, its approach to governance, and its commitment to the Constitution are revealed through the purpose and motivations

## Constitutional Amendments under PM Modi

- Shri Amit Shah outlined several key constitutional amendments introduced by the Modi government to strengthen social justice and empower marginalized communities.
- He highlighted the 102nd Constitutional Amendment, which granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, a move that was not pursued by the opposition.
- He criticized the opposition for not prioritizing the welfare of backward castes, emphasizing that

PM Narendra Modi took the initiative to make this change.

- Shri Shah also spoke about the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, introduced on January 12, 2019, which provided 10 percent reservation to the children of economically disadvantaged castes who had not benefited from any other form of reservation.
- He pointed out that despite years of promises by the opposition to address poverty alleviation, it was only under PM Modi's leadership that this crucial measure was implemented, ensuring better opportunities for the poor.
- Turning to the 105th Constitutional Amendment, Shri Shah explained that it transferred the authority to determine backwardness to state governments, ensuring greater local empowerment and representation for backward classes.
- He also mentioned the 106th Constitutional Amendment, enacted on December 28, 2023, which introduced the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, providing 33 percent reservation for women in both Houses of Parliament.

### **Dark days of the Emergency**

Union Home Minister also reflected on the dark days of the Emergency, when millions were unjustly imprisoned without cause.

- He described the atmosphere of fear that prevailed in the country, with censorship imposed on the media, citing the example of Indian Express publishing a blank editorial page.
- Recalled how, during this time, the government claimed that whatever it decided would become law.
- The Emergency was imposed solely to protect Indira Gandhi's political position after the Allahabad High Court disqualified her as an MP.
- There was no external threat or internal security crisis, and the Emergency was a mere power grab.

### **India's history and culture**

Union Home Minister highlighted several significant initiatives taken by the Modi government to honour India's history and culture.

He highlighted the National Education Policy 2020, which made primary education in the mother tongue compulsory. ■

maintaining the world's largest democracy without compromising its basic spirit despite all sorts of onslaughts and challenges confronting before it.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar and other framers of the Constitution also believed that the Constitution cannot envisage all the possibilities of the future. Therefore, he had given the right to amend it to the posterity. As regards the constitutional amendments done by the present Government over the last ten years, I can say with certainty that of all of them were aimed at strengthening the constitutional values, social welfare and the empowerment of the people. Whether it be the abrogation of Article 370 or the Nari Vandan Adhinyam for the social and economic empowerment of women or reservation for Economically Weaker Sections for social justice or implementation of GST legislation, this work is indicative of our efforts to take everyone along while maintaining the constitutional principle of federalism.

### **Fundamental rights of the people**

The Supreme Court has protected the fundamental rights of the people through its judgments and strengthened democracy. In the last 75 years, taking inspiration from the basic spirit of the Constitution, our Supreme Court has promoted gender equality and ensured environmental protection. The federal structure has been strengthened and the fundamental rights of the people have been protected. The Constitution of India has not only been working brilliantly for more than 7 decades but our Constitution is getting stronger year after year. We should be grateful to Babasaheb

### **Constitution is result of a lot of hard work**

Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and every member of the Constituent Assembly. Dr Ambedkar had maintained that those who have the responsibility of running the country should play a positive role. We must always remember that our Constitution is the result of a lot of hard work and the vision of the most outstanding minds. Our Constitution is a great document by all accounts. Under no circumstances will the Government let the sacrosanct form and structure of the Constitution stand compromised. ■

# Contribution of women in the Constitution making is immense: Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, on 16 December initiated the discussion on the remarkable 75-year glorious journey of the Indian Constitution in Rajya Sabha by stating that India's experience has demonstrated that the Constitution is still strong, despite a number of amendments that were necessary at the time. Excerpts of the speech:

The 389 Members of the Constituent Assembly, in particular the 15 women Members in less than three years, together took up the arduous challenge and prepared, in a very challenging environment, the Constitution for India, which has stood the test of time.

- As we mark the 75th year of our Constitution, it is time to reaffirm our commitment to build India, that is Bharat, that shall uphold the spirit enshrined in this sacred document.
- Now India's experience has shown that our Constitution remains robust, yielding to several amendments which were the need of the hour. In the last seven decades our Constitution has faced many amendments.

## Atalji first to suggest to get going with GST

- The GST related constitutional provisions, which were never encouraged prior to its bringing forward by Prime Minister Modi in 2017.
- During the NDA rule in 2000, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first to suggest, to get going with the GST. However, the sincere efforts that he made could not realize at that time and the ten years after his tenure, led by the UPA, did not do much to get it on board.
- Within two years, after the introduction of the GST in the Parliament, the GST-related 101st Constitutional Amendment Act was passed and ratified by more than 15 States.
- When the GST was brought in, all MPs present had voted for the GST. But, Despite the support given by the Congress in passing the GST Constitutional Amendment, Prominent Congress leader continues to criticize GST.

## Immense contribution of women



- The contribution of these women in the Constitution making is immense.
- It is very interesting that in this new Parliament House the first Act that we passed is the Women Reservation Act.
  - I would like to reiterate that my party has always been committed for women and women's participation in politics.
  - In 1998, BJP reiterated its commitment for women reservation by introducing a Bill in the Lok Sabha. In 2008, BJP amended its Constitution, so that its own office bearers will have 33 per cent reservation for women.
- I am glad to say that I am one of the beneficiaries of that reservation.
- BJP's Sankalp Patras of 2014 and 2019 election also very clearly supported it.
- But I want to highlight the fact that in 1984-89, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had 426 Members in the Lok Sabha and 159 Members in the Rajya Sabha. But they did not have the conviction to pass the Women's Reservation Bill at that time.
- Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji in 1998, in 1999, in 2002 and in 2003 brought this Bill. The Congress didn't support any of the Bills.
- Then in 2008, even Dr. Manmohan Singh faltered. They managed to pass it in Rajya Sabha but did not go to the Lok Sabha for fear of their alliance partners.
- Whereas, PM Modi and BJP, from the beginning, stood by women.
- Therefore, if anybody is committed to the Constitution, it is the BJP, PM Modi and this Government. ■



# **BJP GOVERNMENT IS PRO-ACTIVE, PRO-RESPONSIVE AND FOCUSED ON PRO-DEVELOPMENT IN CHHATTISGARH: JP NADDA**



**BJP National President and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, addressed a public meeting “Janadesh Parv” in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on 13 December 2024. Following this, Shri Nadda inaugurated the newly constructed state BJP office, “Smriti Bhavan.” Commending the Vishnu Deo Sai government for successfully completing one year of BJP governance in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Nadda highlighted various developmental initiatives. He assured that the government is actively addressing public concerns and is committed to propelling the state towards greater progress in the coming years. During the event, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy CMs Shri Arun Sao, Shri Vijay Sharma, BJP National Vice President Smt. Saroj Pandey, Sushri Lata Usendi, among other prominent leaders were present.**

Subsequently, while inaugurating the state BJP office, Smriti Bhavan, Shri Nadda extended his congratulations to the Chhattisgarh BJP unit. Shri Nadda paid homage to the visionary leaders and founders of the Jan Sangh, including Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya, reverend Kushabhau Thakre, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia, and Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, along with other distinguished party leaders.

Shri JP Nadda said one year ago, under the leadership of Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, the BJP government was formed in Chhattisgarh. This moment of celebration brings everyone together to highlight the progress made under the BJP-led government. The Bharatiya Janata Party has fulfilled its promises, and the public should evaluate the leaders they elected, reflecting on the benefits of their leadership and considering what might have happened if different leaders had been chosen.

## **Implemented PM Gramin Awas Yojana**

BJP National President pointed out that the true joy

of light is experienced only when one has known the tragedy of darkness. Five years ago, in Chhattisgarh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi promised that after Congress’s victory, women would immediately receive 72,000. However, this promise was never fulfilled, and the state remained in darkness for five years.

In contrast, after becoming Chief Minister, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai implemented the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana in the first cabinet meeting and prepared to disburse the first installment of the Mahatari Vandana Yojana. This is the difference, the contrast between darkness and light. This is not merely about schemes; it’s about intentions. The Bharatiya Janata Party’s intentions, policies, and programs are wholeheartedly dedicated to serving the people of Chhattisgarh.

He said the BJP comes to power to use it for public service, whereas the Congress seeks power for personal gain. The key difference between the BJP and Congress is that the BJP uses power to benefit the people, while Congress exploits it for their own interests. The BJP is willing to sacrifice for the

people, while Congress deceives the public to fill their own pockets. This difference must be understood.

## **BJP is committed to serving the people**

BJP National President stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party government is pro-active, pro-responsive, pro-responsible, and focused on pro-development. The BJP practices accountable politics, using its power to serve the public. The BJP is committed to serving the people, while the Congress party seeks to take away people's rights for its own benefit. We are here to serve, while they exploit. The people of Chhattisgarh must make sure to "give rest to the Congress party and empower

the BJP to work." The BJP is committed to the development of villages, the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed, Dalits, youth, and farmers. This is why, under the Krishi Unnati Yojana, nearly 24.75 lakh people are being given Rs. 3,100 for paddy procurement. Similarly, the farmers' rightful dues of Rs. 3,716 crore, which were misappropriated by Bhupesh Baghel, are now being given to the farmers. Free electricity for irrigation is being provided to the Dalit and Adivasi brothers.

Shri Nadda pointed out that the payment for Tendu Patta, received by 14 lakh tribal individuals, has been increased by Rs 5,500 per sack. Congress party members are misleading the public by claiming that the Mahatari Vandan Yojana will be discontinued, but the BJP assures that the Yojana will continue. While the Mahatari Vandan Yojana will remain, Congress's future will be uncertain. The Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission has introduced a transparent exam system for youth seeking jobs. The BJP government is taking action against those involved in corruption under Bhupesh Baghel's leadership. Additionally, applications are being invited for 7,000 new jobs with a 5-year age relaxation. A sum of Rs. 2044 crore has been allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for the poor, with approval granted for rural housing for 18 lakh individuals.

## **Earlier, travelling after 4 PM in Chhattisgarh was considered dangerous**

BJP National President said earlier, travelling after 4 PM in Chhattisgarh was considered dangerous due to Naxalism in the state, but now, within 1 year after the formation of the BJP government in the state, Naxalism has been given a befitting reply under the leadership of Shri Vishnu Deo Sai. More than 1500 Naxals have been either arrested or have surrendered. 222 Naxals have been killed, thanks to our security forces, CRPF, and Chhattisgarh police for eliminating Naxalism in the state.

Shri Nadda praised the people of Chhattisgarh for the decision they made a year ago when they removed the corrupt Congress government and brought the BJP to power with the slogan "Ab Na Sahibo, Badal Ke Rahibo." Now, the BJP is rapidly taking Chhattisgarh forward on the path of development. ■

### **Highlights**

- The Congress government under Bhupesh Baghel was characterized by corruption, commission-based practices, criminalization, appeasement, vote-bank politics and the 'divide and rule' strategy.
- Congress is a parasitic Family-driven party, which can no longer survive in India.
- The people have rejected the politics of casteism, dynastic rule and appeasement. We witnessed a stark example of this in Maharashtra
- Congress presents itself as a national party, yet it is compromising national interests in its pursuit of power
- Organizations such as OCCRP, FDL-AP and Open Society spread false narratives to destabilize the country.
- The anti-India George Soros and Sonia Gandhi, who funds these organizations, are linked
- George Soros openly funds initiatives aimed at creating instability in India.
- Before every parliamentary session, anti-national forces spread false narratives to tarnish the country's image and damage its economy, and Rahul Gandhi uses this as a pretext to disrupt Parliament
- Entire country wants to understand the connection between George Soros, Rahul Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi



# ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION

India's democratic framework thrives on the vibrancy of its electoral process, enabling citizens to actively shape governance at every level. Since independence, over 400 elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies have showcased the Election Commission of India's commitment to fairness and transparency. However, the fragmented and frequent nature of elections has sparked discussions on the need for a more efficient system. This has led to the resurgence of interest in the concept of "One Nation, One Election."

The High-Level Committee Report on Simultaneous Elections in India, released in 2024, provided a comprehensive roadmap for implementing this vision. Its recommendations were accepted by the Union Cabinet on 18th September 2024, marking a significant step towards electoral reform. Proponents argue that such a system could enhance administrative efficiency, reduce election-related expenditures, and promote policy continuity. As India aspires to streamline governance and optimise its democratic processes, the concept of "One Nation, One Election" has emerged as a key reform requiring thoughtful deliberation and consensus.

## Historical Background

The concept of simultaneous elections is not a new idea in India. Following the adoption of the Constitution, elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies were conducted simultaneously from 1951 to 1967. The first general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held together in 1951-52, a practice that continued for three subsequent general elections in 1957, 1962, and 1967.

However, this cycle of synchronised elections was

disrupted in 1968 and 1969 due to the premature dissolution of some State Legislative Assemblies. The Fourth Lok Sabha was also dissolved prematurely in 1970, with fresh elections held in 1971. Unlike the First, Second, and Third Lok Sabha, which completed their full five-year terms, the Fifth Lok Sabha's term was extended until 1977 under Article 352 because of the declaration of Emergency. Since then, only a few Lok Sabha terms have lasted the full five years, such as the Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth. Others, including the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth, were dissolved early.

State Assemblies have faced similar disruptions over the years. Premature dissolutions and term extensions have become a recurring challenge. These developments have firmly disrupted the cycle of simultaneous elections, leading to the current pattern of staggered electoral schedules across the country.

## High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections

The High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was constituted by the Government of India

on 2nd September 2023. Its primary objective was to explore the feasibility of conducting simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. The committee solicited extensive public and political feedback, and consulted with experts to analyse the potential benefits and challenges associated with this proposed electoral reform. This report presents a detailed overview of the committee's findings, its recommendations for constitutional amendments, and the anticipated impact of simultaneous elections on governance, resources, and public sentiment.

## Key Takeaways:

- 1. Public Response:** The Committee received over 21,500 responses, with 80% in favour of simultaneous elections. The responses came from all corners of the country, including Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, Nagaland, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli. The highest responses were received from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh.
- 2. Responses from Political Parties:** 47 political parties



## Timelines of key milestones of various Lok Sabhas

Lok Sabha	Last date of poll	Date of constitution of Lok Sabha	Date of first sitting	Date of expiration of term (Article 83(2) of Constitution)	Date of dissolution of Lok Sabha	Overall Term (in days) (Col 6 - Col 4)	Overall Term (approx)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
First	21-Feb-52	2-Apr-52	13-May-52	12-May-57	4-Apr-57	1787	5 years
Second	15-Mar-57	5-Apr-57	10-May-57	9-May-62	31-Mar-62	1786	5 years
Third	25-Feb-62	2-Apr-62	16-Apr-62	15-Apr-67	3-Mar-67	1782	5 years
Fourth	21-Feb-67	4-Mar-67	16-Mar-67	15-Mar-72	27-Dec-70	1382*	3 years & 10 months
Fifth	10-Mar-71	15-Mar-71	19-Mar-71	18-Mar-77	18-Jan-77	2132**	5 years & 10 months
Sixth	20-Mar-77	23-Mar-77	25-Mar-77	24-Mar-82	22-Aug-79	880*	2 years & 5 months
Seventh	6-Jan-80	10-Jan-80	21-Jan-80	20-Jan-85	31-Dec-84	1806	5 years
Eighth	28-Dec-84	31-Dec-84	15-Jan-85	14-Jan-90	27-Nov-89	1777	5 years
Ninth	26-Nov-89	2-Dec-89	18-Dec-89	17-Dec-94	13-Mar-91	450*	1 year & 3 months
Tenth	15-Jun-91	20-Jun-91	9-Jul-91	8-Jul-96	10-May-96	1767	5 years
Eleventh	7-May-96	15-May-96	22-May-96	21-May-01	4-Dec-97	561*	1 year & 6 months
Twelfth	7-Mar-98	10-Mar-98	23-Mar-98	22-Mar-03	26-Apr-99	399*	1 year & 1 month
Thirteenth	4-Oct-99	10-Oct-99	20-Oct-99	19-Oct-04	6-Feb-04	1570*	4 years & 4 months

\*Mid-term polls were held. Dissolution took place before the elections.

\*\*Extension due to proclamation of Emergency.

submitted their views. Of these, 32 parties supported simultaneous elections, citing benefits like resource optimization and social harmony. 15 parties raised concerns about potential anti-democratic effects and marginalization of regional parties.

**3. Expert Consultations:** The Committee consulted Former Chief Justices of India, Former Election Commissioners, and legal experts. A majority supported the concept of simultaneous elections, emphasizing the waste of resources and socio-economic disruptions caused by frequent elections.

**4. Economic Impact:** Business organizations like CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM supported the proposal, highlighting the positive impact on economic stability by reducing disruptions and costs associated with

election cycles.

**5. Legal and Constitutional Analysis:** The Committee proposed amendments to Articles 82A and 324A of the Indian Constitution to enable simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies.

**6. Phased Approach to Implementation:** The Committee recommended implementing simultaneous elections in two phases:

- ♦ **Phase 1:** Synchronizing Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies elections.

- ♦ **Phase 2:** Synchronizing elections for Municipalities and Panchayats with Lok Sabha and State Legislative elections within 100 days.

**7. Electoral Roll and EPIC Harmonization:** The Committee highlighted inefficiencies in electoral roll preparation by State Election Commissions and recommended creating

a Single Electoral Roll and Single EPIC for all three tiers of government. This would reduce duplication and errors, safeguarding voter rights.

**8. Public Sentiment on Frequent Elections:** Public responses indicated significant concern about the negative impacts of frequent elections, such as voter fatigue and governance disruptions, which are expected to be mitigated by simultaneous elections.

## Rationale for Simultaneous Elections

The points below are based on the findings of the report issued by the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind:

- **Promotes Consistency in Governance:** Due to the ongoing cycle of elections in various parts of the country, political parties, their leaders, legislators, and both State and Central Governments often focus their efforts on preparing for upcoming elections rather than prioritizing governance. The adoption of simultaneous elections would refocus the government's attention towards developmental activities and the implementation of policies aimed at promoting the welfare of the masses.
- **Prevents Policy Paralysis:** The implementation of the Model Code of Conduct during elections disrupts routine administrative activities and developmental initiatives. This disruption not only hampers. ■

## **RBI INCREASES COLLATERAL-FREE AGRICULTURAL LOAN LIMIT FROM Rs. 1.6 TO Rs. 2 LAKH**

In a significant move to support the agricultural sector and address rising input costs, the Reserve Bank of India on 14 December announced an increase in the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities. The existing loan limit of Rs. 1.6 lakh per borrower has been raised to Rs. 2 lakh.

This decision acknowledges the impact of inflation and the increasing cost of agricultural inputs on farmers. It aims to provide enhanced financial access to farmers, ensuring they have sufficient resources to meet their operational and developmental needs without the burden of providing collateral. Effective January 1, 2025, banks across the country are instructed to:

Waive collateral security and margin requirements for agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities, up to Rs. 2 lakh per borrower. Expediently implement the revised guidelines to ensure timely financial assistance to the farming community. Banks are instructed to provide widespread publicity to these changes to ensure maximum outreach and awareness among farmers and stakeholders of their operational area.

This move enhances credit accessibility, particularly for small and marginal farmers (over 86% of the sector), who benefit from reduced borrowing costs and the removal of collateral requirements.

## **GNPA OF PSBS DECLINED FROM THE PEAK OF 14.58% IN MAR-18 TO 3.12% IN SEP-24**

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of public sector banks (PSBs) have declined to a decade low of 3.12 per cent at the end of September 2024 from a peak of 14.98 per cent in March 2018 on the back of measures like the 4Rs -- recognition, recapitalisation, resolution, and reform -- taken by the government, the finance ministry said on 12 December.

Since 2015, the government implemented a comprehensive 4Rs strategy of recognising NPAs transparently, resolution and recovery, recapitalising PSBs, and reforms in the financial system to address the challenges faced by PSBs, it said.

Capital adequacy ratio of PSBs improved 393

bps to reach 15.43 per cent in September 2024 from 11.45 per cent in March 2015, it said.

During 2023-24, PSBs recorded the highest-ever aggregate net profit of Rs 1.41 lakh crore against Rs 1.05 lakh crore in 2022-23, it said, adding that the figure was Rs 0.86 lakh crore in the first half of 2024-25. In the last three years, PSBs have paid total dividend of Rs 61,964 crore. ■

## **11.6 LAKH WOMEN DIRECTORS ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES**

Nearly 11.6 Lakh Women Directors are associated with Public and Private companies. This information given on 17 December by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs with a view to encourage women participation in decision making at various levels in companies, has included the following provisions in the Companies Act, 2013,

Second proviso to sub-section (1) of section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) provides that prescribed class of companies shall have at least one-woman director.

Further, as per Rule 3 of Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2024, every listed company and every other public company having paid up share capital of Rs. 100 crore or more or having turnover of Rs. 300 crore or more, is required to appoint at least one-woman director.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Harsh Malhotra stated this in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 17 December. ■

## **NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME TO WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS WITH AN OUTLAY OF RS. 1261 CRORES**

The Government has approved 'Namo Drone Didi' as Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. Out of the total 15,000 drones targeted to be supplied under the scheme, the Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have procured the first 500 drones in 2023-24, using their internal resources and distributed to the selected SHGs. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute

drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase.

The drones are supplied as a package, which also includes mandatory drone pilot training and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application for one of the members of these women SHGs. Provisions are also made to train other member/ family member of the SHGs as drone assistant. This information was given on 17 December by the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Ram Nath Thakur in a written reply in Lok Sabha. ■

### INDIA'S PHARMA INDUSTRY CONSIDERED TO BE THE **WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST BY VOLUME**

India's pharmaceutical sector, recognised as the third largest globally by volume, reached a valuation of US\$50 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Smt. Anupriya Patel said in a written reply to a question on 17 December.

Smt. Patel added that the domestic market accounted for US\$23.5 billion of the total valuation, while exports contributed US\$26.5 billion. She stated that this positions India as a global leader not only in production but also in its extensive export capabilities.

As per the National Accounts Statistics 2024, released by the Indian Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the pharmaceutical and botanical products industry generated an output valued at approximately US\$54.9 billion for 2022-23 at constant prices.

In a bid to further strengthen the sector, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has established seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs), designated as institutes of national importance. ■

### 18,714 KMS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE **BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA** IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS

Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on 18 December said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha that highway projects covering 26,425 km have been awarded. He added that as of October 31, 2024 that 18,714 km had been constructed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana scheme in the last seven years. The Government of India approved the

Bharatmala Pariyojana in 2017.

This project, covering 34,800 km, aims to improve road connectivity and lower logistics costs across the country. As of October 31, 2024, projects for 26,425 km had been awarded, and 18,714 km had been completed. ■

### 97.48% GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS HAVE FACILITIES OF **SEPARATE GIRLS' TOILETS**

Government taking several steps to ensure that access to safe water and sanitation does not become a barrier for women's mobility and development. The Government has taken cognizance of the fact that access to sanitation is a matter of fundamental dignity and safety for women and girls.

The flagship programme Swachh Bharat Mission has brought a paradigm shift in these gendered social norms through attitudinal change.

Through a saturation approach, access to safe sanitation through the construction of 11.64 crore household toilets, access to tap water connections for 15.13 crore rural households, and provision of clean cooking gas connections to over 10.3 crore women, the Government of India is ensuring that access to safe water and sanitation does not become a barrier for women's mobility and development.

Further, the construction of community and public toilets has also helped in addressing and mitigating the health impacts of marginalized groups, such as sanitation workers, ragpickers, informal sector workers, street vendors and others navigating urban areas.

Under the Swachh Vidyalaya Mission, it was ensured that all schools have at least one functional toilet for girls. As per UDISE+2021-22, 97.48% Government Schools have the facilities of separate Girls' toilets and 98.2% Government Schools have the facilities of drinking water.

Further, advisory has been issued to all States/UTs to utilize funds earmarked for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and management of menstrual waste under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II, 15th Finance Commission, at village level, for installation or maintenance of incinerators in schools having girls from classes VI to XII and for creating awareness on MHM among adolescent girls and in the society in general. ■





PM Modi Story



## Narendra Modi's Delta airlines trips in US, to save money

(Narrated by: Dr Vasudev Patel, NRI- USA)

Three decades ago, Shri Narendra Modi had visited the US as a BJP leader. During one of these trips, he visited different states of US, without spending a lot, due to his resourcefulness and smart thinking.

The US is a large country, and long-distance travel is common. For example, the distance from New York to Sacramento, California's capital, is nearly 4,500 km. Shri Modi needed to travel far and wide to meet people, but there was a problem – he didn't have enough money for such extensive travel.

To overcome this, Shri



He discovered a monthly pass scheme by Delta Airlines. The offer came with conditions: limited luggage and no seat selection. Shri Modi, with just one bag and two pairs of clothes, took advantage of this affordable scheme

Modi used his resourcefulness. He discovered a monthly pass scheme by Delta Airlines. The offer came with conditions: limited luggage and no seat selection. Shri Modi, with just one bag and two pairs of clothes, took advantage of this affordable scheme.

With the Delta pass, he travelled to several states in one month. His mission was to meet Indians in the US and encourage them to help India. To save on hotel costs, Shri Modi often took late-night flights. He would sleep on the plane and spend the day meeting people. He even chose flights with long layovers to spend nights in the air or airports. ■

**KAMAL  
PUSHP**

Sahyog, Samarpan  
Aur Sanskar

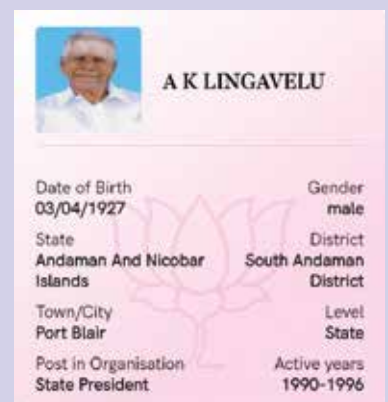
**A.K.LINGAVELU**



Shri A.K.Lingavelu came to Andaman & Nicobar islands at the age of 12 in 1939 in search of livelihood where he started working at the shop owned by his uncle in Port Blair. He was drawn to the Hindutva ideology and started associating himself with Viswa Hindu Parishad.

There was a time, when nobody was ready to lead BJP

in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, because of Congress's fear. Shri Lingavelu mustered the courage to assume charge as the Founder-President of the BJP in the year 1990. He faced many hurdles, intimidation and indirect threats from dominant Congress party. However, Shri Lingavelu continued working towards fortifying BJP in the Andaman islands. ■



# BJP Governments at the Centre and State are becoming a symbol of Good Governance: PM Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh': Completion of one year of State Government of Rajasthan' programme on 17 December 2024. Addressing the gathering, he congratulated the government of Rajasthan and the people of Rajasthan for successfully completing one year of state Government. Shri Modi lauded the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and his team for the efforts undertaken to give a new direction and pace to the developmental works of Rajasthan. He added that the first year has served as a strong foundation for the upcoming many years of development.

He further added that today's event not just marked the completion of one year of the government, but also symbolised the radiating brightness of Rajasthan and a festival of development of Rajasthan. Recalling his recent visit to the Rising Rajasthan Summit 2024, Shri Modi remarked that many investors spanning across the globe were present and today projects worth

during these 10 years, they have focused on providing facilities to the people and reducing their difficulties. The Prime Minister noted that they have accomplished more in 10 years than what previous governments had in 5-6 decades after independence.

Stressing that numerous new schemes are being created to empower women, the Prime Minister highlighted the "Namo Drone Didi" scheme, under which thousands of women are being trained as drone pilots. He noted that thousands of groups have already received drones, and women are using them for farming and earning income. He emphasized that the Rajasthan government is also making significant efforts to advance this scheme.



over Rs 45,000 crores were inaugurated. He added that these projects will provide a befitting solution to the obstacles being faced with respect to water in Rajasthan and also make Rajasthan one of the most well-connected states in India.

"The Governments at the Centre and State are becoming a symbol of Good Governance today", said Shri Modi. Thanking the previous governments of Rajasthan headed by Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, for laying a strong foundation for development and Smt Vasundhara Raje Scindia, for taking forward the heritage of good governance, Shri Modi said the current government of Shri Bhajanlal Sharma is now actively taking efforts to further strengthen the heritage of good governance. He added that the works undertaken in the last one year shows the impression of the same.

Shri Modi remarked that with the blessings of the people of Rajasthan, his government has been in power at the center for the past 10 years. He highlighted that

## Highlight

- PM inaugurates and lays the Foundation stone for 24 projects related to Energy, Road, Railways and Water worth over Rs 46,300 crores in Rajasthan.
- The Governments at the Center and State are becoming a symbol of Good Governance today.
- In these 10 years we have given lot of emphasis in providing facilities to the people of the country, on reducing difficulties from their life.
- We believe in cooperation, not opposition, in providing solutions.
- I am seeing the day when there will be no shortage of water in Rajasthan, there will be enough water for development in Rajasthan.
- Conserving water resources, utilizing every drop of water is not the responsibility of government alone, It is the responsibility of entire society.
- There is immense potential for solar energy in Rajasthan, it can become the leading state of the country in this sector. ■

# RANN UTSAV - A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

- **The White Rann beckons!**
- **An unforgettable experience awaits!**
- **Come, immerse yourself in a unique mix of culture, history and breathtaking natural beauty!**



NARENDRA MODI

On the westernmost edge of India lies Kutch, a mesmerising land with a vibrant heritage. Kutch is home to the iconic White Rann, a vast salt desert that gleams under the moonlight, offering an otherworldly experience. It is equally celebrated for its thriving arts and crafts.

And, most importantly, it is home to the most hospitable people, proud of their roots and eager to engage with the world.

Each year, the warm-hearted people of Kutch open their doors for the iconic Rann Utsav—a four-month-long vibrant celebration

of the region's uniqueness, breathtaking beauty and enduring spirit.

Through this post, I am extending my personal invitation to all of you, dynamic, hard-working professionals, and your families to visit Kutch and enjoy the Rann Utsav. This year's Rann Utsav, which commenced on 1st December 2024, will go on till 28th February 2025, wherein the tent city at Rann Utsav will be open till March 2025.

I assure you all that Rann Utsav will be a lifetime experience.

The Tent City ensures a comfortable stay in the stunning backdrop of the White Rann. For those who want to relax, this is just the place to be.

And, for those who want to discover new facets of history and culture, there

is much to do as well. In addition to the Rann Utsav activities, you can:

Connect with our ancient past with a visit to Dholavira, a UNESCO World Heritage site (linked to the Indus Valley Civilisation).

Connect with nature by visiting the Vijay Vilas Palace, Kala Dungar. The 'Road to Heaven', surrounded by white salt pans, is the most scenic road in India. It is about 30 kilometres long and connects Khavda to Dholavira.

Connect with our glorious culture by visiting Lakhpatri Fort.

Connect with our spiritual roots by praying at the Mata No Madh







Ashapura Temple.

Connect with our freedom struggle by paying tributes at the Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial,



Kranti Teerth.

And, most importantly, you can delve into the special world of Kutchi handicrafts, each product unique and indicative of the talents of the people of Kutch.

Some time ago, I had the opportunity to inaugurate Smriti Van, a memorial in remembrance of those whom we lost during the 26th of January 2001 earthquake. It is officially the world's most beautiful museum, winning the Prix Versailles 2024 World Title – Interiors at UNESCO! It is also India's only museum that has achieved this remarkable feat. It remains a reminder of how the human spirit can adapt, thrive, and rise even in the most



challenging environments.

Then and now, a picture in contrast:

About twenty years ago, if you were to be invited to Kutch, you would think someone was joking with you. After all, despite being among the largest districts of India, Kutch was largely ignored and left to its fate. Kutch borders Registan (desert) on one side and Pakistan on the other.

Kutch witnessed a super cyclone in 1999 and a massive earthquake in 2001. The recurring problem of drought remained.

Everybody had written Kutch's



obituary. But they underestimated the determination of the people of Kutch.

The people of Kutch showed what they were made of, and at the start of the 21st century, they began a turnaround that is unparalleled in history.

Together, we worked on the all-round development of Kutch. We focussed on creating infrastructure that was disaster resilient, and at the same time, we focussed on building livelihoods that ensured the youth of Kutch

did not have to leave their homes in search of work.

By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the land known for perpetual droughts became known for agriculture. Fruits from Kutch, including mangoes, made their way to foreign markets. The farmers of Kutch mastered drip irrigation and other techniques that conserved every drop of water yet ensured maximum productivity.

The Gujarat Government's thrust on industrial growth ensured investment in the district. We also leveraged Kutch's coast to reignite the region's importance as a maritime trade hub.

In 2005, Rann Utsav was born to tap into the previously unseen tourism potential of Kutch. It has grown into a vibrant tourism centre now. Rann Utsav has also received several domestic and international awards.

Dhordo, a village where every year Rann Utsav is celebrated, was named the 2023 Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The village was recognized for its cultural preservation, sustainable tourism, and rural development.

Therefore, I do hope to see you in Kutch very soon! Do share your experiences on social media as well, to inspire others to visit Kutch.

I also take this opportunity to wish you a happy 2025 and hope that the coming year brings with it success, prosperity and good health for you and your families! ■

**(The Writer is the Prime Minister of India)**

# INDIA AND SRI LANKA VOW TO BOLSTER TIES

**India and Sri Lanka vowed to bolster ties during a visit to New Delhi by Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on 16 December. It was first overseas visit of Sri Lankan president. The visit aims to expand very robust partnership and take its frontiers even further. The two leaders held talks and outlined several areas in which they plan to boost cooperation such as establishing a petroleum pipeline between the two countries and connecting their power grids.**



President Mr. Dissanayaka thanked India for its instrumental role in finalizing the debt restructuring and the provision of grant assistance to undertake development projects in Sri Lanka. In particular, he thanked India for its decision to extend USD 20.66 million as grant assistance to settle the payments related to seven completed line-of-credit projects in Sri Lanka.

Similarly, there is another grant assistance project that has been announced of USD 61.5 million towards the rehabilitation of Kankesanthurai Port in the northern province. This is also something that was to be executed through a line-of-credit, but will now be executed through a grant.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi affirmed to continue commitment to support Sri Lanka in its economic stabilization efforts for its economic recovery and economic growth. He further assured President Dissanayaka that India's approach would be investment-based and grant-oriented to reduce the debt burden on Sri Lanka and to assist them in generating economic opportunities that are long-term and sustainable and will eventually contribute to growing the absolute size of the Sri Lankan economy.

## India-Sri Lanka Joint Statement

Both leaders have also adopted an India-Sri Lanka joint statement fostering partnerships for a shared future, providing a framework to strengthen the comprehensive bilateral partnership across several sectors, and these sectors include Parliamentary Exchanges, Development Cooperation, Debt Restructuring, Energy Cooperation, Trade and Investment Cooperation, Strategic and Defense Engagement, issues related to fishermen, among others.

The major announcements and initiatives that have

been finalized during the visit have announced grant assistance of USD 14.9 million to undertake a Signaling System in the Maho Anuradhapura segment of Sri Lankan railways, thereby furthering, deepening our cooperation on the infrastructure-related front.

The two leaders also had a detailed conversation on promoting reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Prime Minister urged President Dissanayaka for a full and effective implementation of the Sri Lankan constitution for meaningful devolution and for holding provincial council elections at the earliest.

President Mr. Dissanayaka, while expressing his gratitude for the warm welcome and the hospitality that he had received here, extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister accepted the invitation.

## Outcomes of the Sri Lankan President's visit

- Financial assistance scheme to 100 new students each annually from University of Jaffna and Eastern University until the end of academic courses of the beneficiaries.
- Grant assistance of USD 14.9 million for the signaling project in Maho-Anuradhapura section.
- Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of India for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income
- MoU between National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Government of India and Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Civil Servants of Sri Lanka ■

# Session Provided 20 Sitzings of Lok Sabha and 19 of Rajya Sabha

The Winter Session, 2024 of Parliament which commenced on 25th November 2024 has been adjourned sine die on 20th December 2024. The Session provided 20 sittings of Lok Sabha and 19 sittings of Rajya Sabha spreading over 26 days.

During the Session, 05 Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha and 04 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 03 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. One Bill namely "The Bharatiya Vayuyaan Vidheyak, 2024" was passed by both the Houses during the Session. The Bill seeks to re-enact the Aircraft Act to address the ambiguity owing to insertions/omissions/deletions effected by amendments to the Aircraft Act, 1934 from time to time.

Our country commemorated a historic milestone on 26th November 2024, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution. Year-long celebrations were launched under four themes: the Preamble, Know Your Constitution, Making of the Constitution, and Celebrating its Glory on that day. A special function was held to commemorate this occasion at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan on 26th November, 2024, where besides the launch of a commemorative coin and stamp two books titled "Making of the Constitution of India and its Glorious Journey" and "Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse" were released by President of India in the august presence of Vice-President, Prime Minister, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Union Ministers, Leaders of Opposition, Members of Parliament from both Houses and other dignitaries. All Indians across the globe joined President of India in reading the Preamble.

As part of a yearlong celebration of 75th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, a special discussion on the "Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India" was organized in the Lok Sabha on 13 and 14 December and in the Rajya Sabha on 16 and 17 December 2024. The discussion engaged the Lok Sabha for 15 Hours 43 Minutes in which 62 Members took part and was replied to by the Prime Minister. In Rajya Sabha, the discussion engaged the House for a total time of 17 Hours 41 Minutes in which 80 Members took part and was replied to by the Home Minister.

First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for

2024-25 were discussed and voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was introduced, discussed and passed by Lok Sabha on 17.12.2024 after a debate of about 07 hours 21 mins.

Two landmark Bills namely, (i) The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth) Amendment Bill, 2024 and (ii) The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to give effect to the mechanism of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State/Union Territory Assemblies under the vision "One Nation, One Election." were introduced in Lok Sabha, on 17 December, 2024 and got referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 20 December, 2024.

The productivity of Lok Sabha has been approximately 54.5% and that of Rajya Sabha approximately 40 %.



## Bills introduced in Lok Sabha

- The Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024.
- The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024.
- The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024

## Bills referred to joint committee of Parliament

1. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024.
2. The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

## Bills passed by Lok Sabha

- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024.

## Bills passed by Rajya Sabha

- The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024.
- The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024.
- The Boilers Bill, 2024.

## Bill passed by both the houses of parliament

- The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024. ■



# E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is a flagship initiative aimed at leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for the modernization and development of the Indian Judiciary. Spearheaded by the Department of Justice, Government of India, this transformative project is being implemented in close collaboration with the e-Committee of the Supreme Court of India. The decentralized approach ensures that the project is executed effectively through the respective High Courts, enabling tailored solutions that address the unique needs and challenges of each judicial region. By integrating cutting-edge technology into the judicial framework, the project seeks to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in the justice delivery system across the nation

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the e-Courts Project Phase III as a Central Sector Scheme (2023 onwards) with a financial outlay of Rs. 7210 crore. The Phase II of the e-Courts Project has concluded in 2023. Phase III of the e-Courts Project in India is rooted in the philosophy of access and inclusion. It aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online, and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records, and by bringing in universalization of e-filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras.

## Achievements of E-Courts

### E-Courts Phase I: 2011-15

- **Outlay: Rs. 935 Cr. Expenditure:** 639.41Cr.
- 14,249 District & Subordinate Courts computerized
- **13,683 Courts:** LAN Installed
- **13,436 courts:** Hardware provided
- **13,672 Courts:** Software Enabled
- **14,309 JOs:** Laptop provided
- Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System.
- More than 3900 court staff were trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
- 347 Jails and 493 Court complexes: VC (Video



conferencing) Enabled

### E-Courts Phase II: 2015-2023

- Outlay: Rs. 1670 Cr. Expenditure: Rs. 1668.43 Cr.
- 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts computerized
- 99.5% of total Court complexes connected through WAN
- 1272 Jails and 3240 Court Complexes: VC enabled
- National Judicial Data Grid: Data Repository of orders, judgments, and case details of District & Subordinate Courts created as an online platform under the e-Courts Project.

### E-Courts Phase III (2023-2027)

The Union Cabinet approved e-Courts Phase III (2023-2027) in September 2023, with an allocated outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II.

#### Advanced digital measures, including:

- Establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts to digitize court proceedings.
- Comprehensive digitization of court records, including legacy records and pending cases.
- Expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails, and hospitals.
- Broadening the scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations.
- Saturation of court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras for citizen convenience.



## Initiatives Taken Under E-Courts Project

- Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 99.5% of the court complexes across India have been connected with bandwidth speeds ranging from 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps.
- The WAN Project, which is part of the e-Courts initiative, connects all District and Subordinate Court complexes across the country.
- Currently, 209 new court complexes are being connected by BSNL using Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) Technology.
- The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is an online database containing orders, judgments, and cases from all computerized district and subordinate courts in the country, offering litigants access to case information and over 27.64 crore orders and judgments.
- A customized Case Information Software (CIS) based on Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed.
- As part of the e-Courts initiative, seven platforms have been set up to provide real-time updates on case status, cause lists, judgments, and more.
- India has emerged as a leader in conducting court hearings via video conferencing.
- Video conferencing facilities have been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 jails across the country.
- Live streaming of court proceedings has been introduced in several High Courts.
- Virtual Courts have been launched in 21 States/UTs to handle traffic challan cases.
- The e-Filing system (Version 3.0) has been upgraded to allow lawyers to access and upload documents for cases from any location, 24/7.

## Conclusion

The e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project has been a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing the Indian judicial system through technology. From the computerization of courts to the implementation of advanced digital solutions, the project has significantly enhanced the efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of justice delivery. With the successful implementation of Phases I and II and the ambitious objectives set for Phase III, the project reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring justice for all. ■

## 'KNOW BJP' INITIATIVE

# BJP National President interacts with the President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi

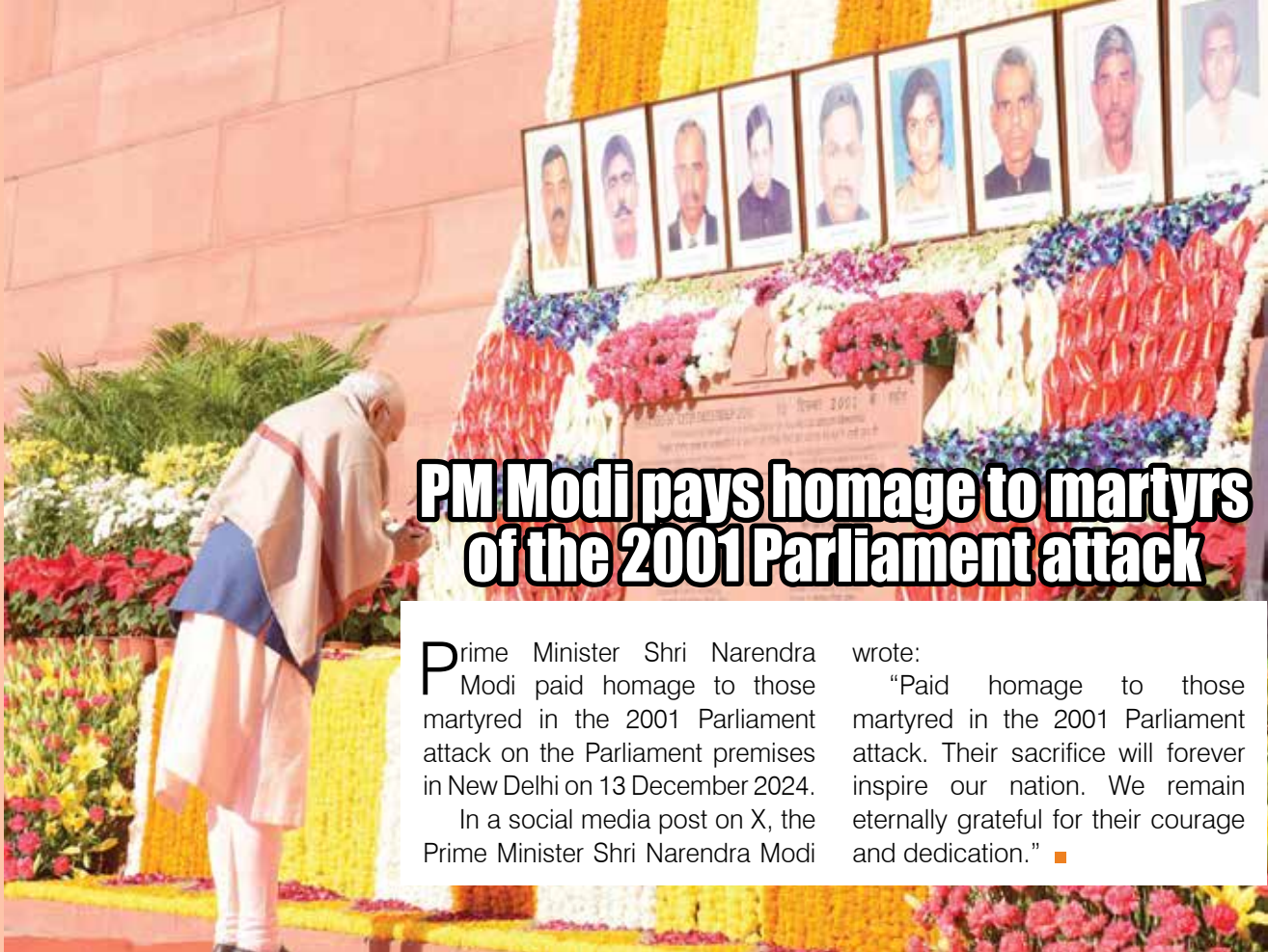


**B**JP National President and Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilisers Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda met the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake on 16th December 2024 at New Delhi as part of the 'KNOW BJP' initiative.

Shri Nadda extended a warm welcome to the President on his first state visit to India. During their meeting, the leaders reviewed the remarkable advancements in India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations over the last decade. They explored opportunities for further cooperation, particularly in health and pharmaceuticals.

Shri Nadda also provided an overview of the organisational structure and activities of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Both leaders agreed to enhance party-to-party ties by promoting exchanges between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the National People's Power, aiming to deepen their mutual understanding.

H.E. Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake is on his maiden state visit to India as President of Sri Lanka. It is his first bilateral visit after the recently concluded presidential and parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka. ■



# PM Modi pays homage to martyrs of the 2001 Parliament attack

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to those martyred in the 2001 Parliament attack on the Parliament premises in New Delhi on 13 December 2024. In a social media post on X, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

wrote: "Paid homage to those martyred in the 2001 Parliament attack. Their sacrifice will forever inspire our nation. We remain eternally grateful for their courage and dedication." ■



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PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates and launches multiple development projects at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh on December 13, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi performs pooja and darshan at Sangam Nose in Uttar Pradesh on December 13, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi attends the Christmas celebration in New Delhi on December 19, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in the 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkrash' programme to mark the Completion of 01 year of State Government of Rajasthan at Jaipur, Rajasthan on December 17, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi meets the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on December 16, 2024



PM Shri Narendra Modi attends the Fourth National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi on December 15, 2024



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Date of Posting : (i) 27-28 Adv. Month (ii) 12-13 Same Month  
 Office of Posting : Lodhi Road H.O. New Delhi "REGISTERED"  
 36 Pages with Cover  
 Published on: 24 December, 2024  
 RNI No. DELENG/2006/16838  
 DL(S)-17/3265/2025-27  
 Licence to Post without Prepayment  
 Licence No. U(S)-42/2021-23



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