

July 2025

Maratha FORTS

World's Heritage
India's Pride



MANN KI BAAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Address to the Nation



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Prime Minister's Address



My dear countrymen, Namaskar

In 'Mann ki Baat', once again, we shall touch upon the successes of the country; the achievements of the countrymen. During the last few weeks, be it sports, science or culture, a lot has happened that every Indian is proud of. Recently, there was a lot of talk in the country over Shubhanshu Shukla's return from Space. As soon as Shubhanshu landed safely on earth, people jumped

with joy; a wave of happiness rippling through every heart. The entire country was filled with pride. I remember, when Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed in August 2023, a new ambience was created in the country. A new curiosity also arose among children about science; about space. Little children now say, we will also go to Space; we will also land on the



India's Space Excellence

**Breaking Milestones,
Setting Benchmarks**



moon – we will become space scientists.

Friends, you must have heard the name of the **INSPIRE-MANAK Abhiyan**. This is a campaign to promote innovation among children. In this, five children are selected from each school. Each child brings up a new idea. So far, lakhs of children have joined this and after Chandrayaan-3, their number has doubled. Space start-ups are also growing rapidly in the country. Five years ago, there were less than 50 start-ups. Today, there are more than 200, just in the Space sector.

Friends, next month, on the 23rd of August, it is National Space Day. How will you celebrate it... do you have any new ideas? Do send me a message on the NaMo App.

Friends, in 21st century India, science is progressing with a renewed energy. A few days ago, our students won medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad. Devesh Pankaj, Sandeep Kuchi, Debdutt Priyadarshi and Ujjwal Kesari, all four of them brought glory to India. India has strengthened her image in the world of Mathematics as well. In the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Australia, our students won 3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal. Friends, next month the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad is going to be held in Mumbai. Students from more than 60 countries will participate in this. Scientists too will be there. This will be the biggest Olympiad till date. In a way, India is now moving ahead

for both Olympics and the Olympiads.

My dear countrymen, another news that will fill us all with pride has come in from UNESCO. UNESCO has recognised 12 Maratha forts as World Heritage Sites. Eleven forts in Maharashtra; one in Tamil Nadu. Each fort has a chapter of history attached to it. Every stone is a testimony to a historical event. Salher Fort, where the Mughals were defeated, Shivneri, where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born. A fort that is unbreachable for the enemy. Khanderi Fort, an amazing fort built in the middle of the sea.

The enemy wanted to stop him but Shivaji Maharaj made

the impossible possible. Pratapgarrh Fort, where Afzal Khan was defeated, the echo of that saga still remains entrenched in the walls of the fort. Vijaydurg, which had secret tunnels, is a proof of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's farsightedness. I visited Raigad a few years ago... bowed in front of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue. This experience will stay with me all my life.

Friends, there are such amazing forts in other parts of the country too, which have faced attacks, faced the vagaries of weather, but never let their self-respect bow down. Chittorgarh Fort, Kumbhalgarh Fort, Ranthambore Fort, Amer Fort, Jaisalmer Fort of Rajasthan are world famous. Gulbarga Fort in Karnataka is also very big. The

Visit. Explore and Take pride—India's forts are waiting to tell their stories



vastness of Chitradurga Fort will also fill you up with curiosity about how this fort would have been built in those times!

Friends, Kalinjar Fort is in Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Mahmud Ghaznavi attacked this fort many times and failed every time. There are many such forts in Bundelkhand – Gwalior, Jhansi, Datia, Ajaygarh, Garhkundar, Chanderi. **These forts are not just bricks and stones; they are symbols of our heritage. Sanskar and self-respect still peep from the high walls of these forts. I urge all the countrymen to visit these forts, know their history, feel proud.**

My dear countrymen, Imagine, early morning, Muzaffarpur city of Bihar, the



date – the 11th of August 1908... every street, every square, every movement seemed to have come to a halt at that time. There were tears in the eyes of the people, but there was fire in their hearts. People had surrounded the jail, where an 18-year-old youth was paying the price for expressing his patriotism against the British. Inside the jail, British officers were preparing to hang a young man. There was no fear on the face of that youth; rather it was full of pride. The very pride, that those who die for their country feel. That brave, courageous youth was Khudiram Bose. At the age of just 18, he showed such courage that shook the whole country. Even the newspapers reported then – “When Khudiram Bose walked towards the gallows, there was a smile on his face”. After such countless sacrifices, after centuries of penance, we got independence. The country's diehard patriots nurtured the freedom movement with their blood.

Friends, the month of August is therefore the month of revolution. The 1st of August is the death anniversary of



Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. During the same month, on the 8th of August, the 'Quit India Movement' began under the leadership of Gandhi ji. Then comes the 15th of August,

our Independence Day... we remember our freedom fighters, get inspired by them... but friends, the pain of Partition of the country is also associated with our independence. That is why we observe the 14th of August as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

My dear countrymen, another revolution started on the 7th of August 1905. The Swadeshi Movement lent a new energy to local products... especially handloom. To commemorate that, the country celebrates 'National Handloom Day' on the 7th of August every year. This year, 7th August marks the completion of 10 years of 'National Handloom Day'. Just like our Khadi gave new strength





From Loom to Legacy: India's Rich Weaving Traditions

to the freedom movement during the freedom struggle, today when the country is moving towards becoming a developed India, the textile sector is turning out to be the strength of the country. **In these 10 years, lakhs of people associated with this sector in different parts of the country have scripted many success stories.** Kavita Dhawale of Paithan village in Maharashtra used to work in a small room earlier – there was neither space nor facilities. She received help from the government; now her skill is soaring high. She is earning thrice more. She is selling her own self-made Paithani sarees. There is a similar success story in Mayurbhanj, Odisha. Here, more than 650 tribal women have revived the Santhali saree. Now these women are earning

thousands of rupees every month. They are not just making cloth, but also carving their own identity. The achievement of Naveen Kumar from Nalanda, Bihar is also inspiring. His family has been associated with this work for generations.

But the best thing is that his family has now incorporated modernity in this field. Now his children are studying handloom technology. They are working with big brands. This change is not of just one family; it is making many families in the vicinity move forward.

Friends, textile is not just a sector of India. It is an example of our cultural diversity. Today, the textile and apparel market is growing very fast, and the most beautiful thing about this development is that women

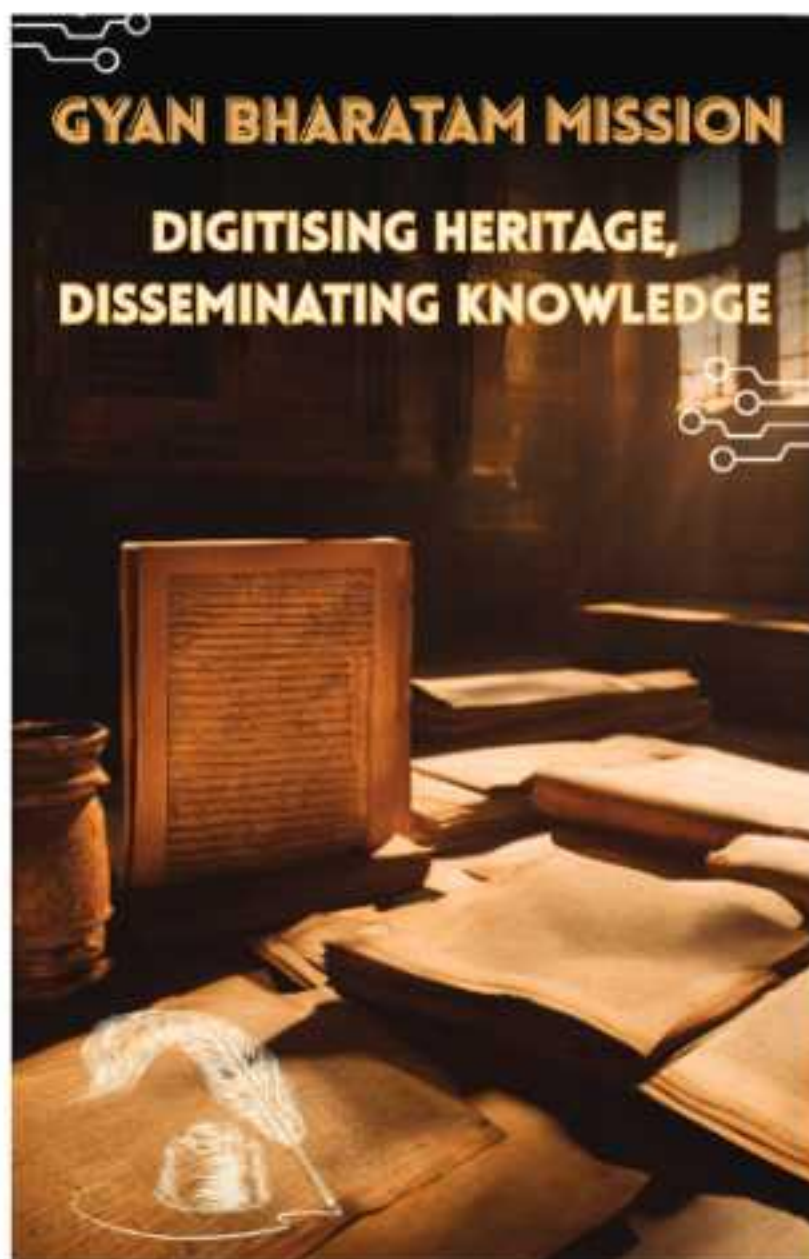
from villages, designers from cities, elderly weavers and our youth who have began start-ups are all taking it forward together. **Today, more than 3000 textile start-ups are active in India.** Many start-ups have lent global height to India's handloom identity. **Friends, the path to a developed India in 2047 passes through self-reliance and the biggest basis of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is – 'vocal for local'. Buy and sell only those things that are made in India, in which an Indian has shed sweat. This should be our resolve.**

My dear countrymen, the most beautiful glimpse of India's diversity is found in our folk songs and traditions and our *bhajans* and *kirtans* are a part of this. But have you ever

heard that people are made aware about forest fires through *kirtans*? You may not believe it, but amazing work is happening in Keonjhar district of Odisha. Here, there is a group named Radhakrishna Sankirtan Mandali.

Along with devotion, today, this group is also chanting the mantra of environmental protection. The inspiration behind this initiative is – Pramila Pradhan ji. To protect the forest and the environment, she has added new lyrics and new messages to traditional songs. Her troupe went across from village to village. Through songs, people were made to understand how much damage forest fires cause. This example reminds us that our folk traditions are not something of the past; they still





have the power to give direction to society.

My dear countrymen, our festivals and traditions are a major basis of Indian culture, but **there is another aspect of the liveliness of our culture - this aspect is to keep documenting our present and our past. Our real strength is the knowledge that has been preserved in the form of manuscripts for centuries.** These manuscripts contain science, medical procedures, music, philosophy, and most importantly, the thought that can make the future of humanity brighter.

Friends, it is the responsibility of all of us to preserve such extraordinary knowledge, this heritage. In every era in our country, there have been some people who have made it their *Sadhana*. One such inspiring personality is Mani Maran ji, who is from Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. He felt that if today's generation does not learn to read Tamil manuscripts, this precious heritage will be lost in the future. For that, he started evening classes, where students, working youth, researchers, everyone started coming over to learn.

Mani Maran ji taught people the method of reading and understanding "Tamil Suvadiyiyal" i.e. Palm Leaf Manuscripts. Today, through a number of efforts, many students have become proficient in this art. Some students have even started research on a Traditional Medicine System based on these



manuscripts. Friends, imagine... if such efforts are made across the country, our ancient knowledge will not remain confined within walls, it will become a part of the consciousness of the new generation. Inspired by this very thought, **the Government of India has announced a historic initiative in this year's budget - 'Gyan Bharatam Mission'.** Under this mission, **ancient manuscripts will be digitised. Then a National Digital Repository will be created,** where students and researchers from all over the world will be able to connect with India's knowledge tradition. **I too urge all of you**

that if you are associated with any such effort, or wish to be associated, do contact MyGov or the Ministry of Culture... since these are not just manuscripts, these are those chapters of the soul of India, which we have to impart to the coming generations.

My dear countrymen, if you are asked how many kinds of birds there are, around you - what will you say? Perhaps that I see 5-6 birds everyday - some are familiar, some are unfamiliar. But, it is very interesting to know what species of birds live around us. Recently, **one such grand**

effort has been made... the place is - Kaziranga National Park of Assam.

Though this area is famous for its Rhinos - this time the topic of discussion is its grasslands and the birds living in them. For the first time, a Grassland Bird Census has been conducted here. You will be happy to know that on account of this Census, more than 40 species of birds have been identified. These include many rare birds. You must be wondering how so many birds were identified! **Technology did wonders in this.** The team conducting the census installed sound recording devices. Then those sounds were analysed on the computer; AI was used. The birds were identified just by their sounds - that too without disturbing them. **Imagine! When technology and sensitivity come together, understanding**

nature becomes so easy and deep. We should promote such efforts so that we can recognize our biodiversity and connect the next generation to it.

My dear countrymen, sometimes the most radiant light emerges from where darkness dwells the most. One such example is Gumla district of Jharkhand. There was a time when this area was known for Maoist violence. The villages of Basia block were getting deserted. People lived in the shadow of fear. There was no possibility of employment, lands were lying vacant and the youth were migrating... but then, a change began quietly and with a lot of patience. A young man named Om Prakash Sahu ji left the path of violence. He started fish farming. Then he inspired many friends like himself to do the same.



His efforts also had an impact. Those who were earlier holding guns, have now taken up fishing nets.

Friends, Om Prakash Sahu ji's beginning was not easy. There were protests; threats were received, but the courage did not wane. When the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** was launched, he gained new strength. He received training from the government...and help in making ponds... within no time, the fisheries revolution started in Gumla. Today, more than 150 families of Basia block have joined fish farming. There are many people who were once in the Naxalite organisation; now they are living a life of respect

in the village itself and providing employment to others. This journey of Gumla teaches us - if the path is right and there is trust in the mind, the lamp of development can be lit even in the most difficult circumstances.

My dear countrymen, do you know which is the biggest sporting event other than the Olympics? The answer is - 'World Police and Fire Games'... a sports tournament between policemen, fire fighters, security personnel from all over the world. This time this tournament was held in America and India created history in it. India won close to 600 medals. We



reached the top-three out of 71 countries. The hard work of those uniformed personnel who stand for the country day and night, paid off. These friends of ours are now holding the flag high in the sports field as well. I congratulate all the players and the coaching team.

By the way, it will also be interesting for you to know that in 2029 these games will be held in India. Players from all over the world will come to our country. We will showcase to them India's hospitality and introduce them to our sports culture.

Friends, during the past few days, I have received messages from many young athletes and their parents. In these, the 'Khelo Bharat Niti 2025' has been highly appreciated. The goal of this policy is clear – to make India

a sporting superpower. Villages, the poor and daughters are the priority of this policy. Schools and colleges will now make sports a part of everyday life. Startups related to sports, whether they be sports managements or manufacturing – will be helped in every way. Imagine how much strength the mission of self-reliance would gain when the youth of the country would play with self-made racket, bat and ball. Friends, sports create team spirit. This is the path to fitness, self-confidence and building a strong India. So play a lot, blossom a lot.

My dear countrymen, sometimes a task comes across as impossible to some people. They wonder, would this even be possible? But, when the country

comes together on one thought, even the impossible becomes possible. 'Swachh Bharat Mission' is the biggest example of this. Soon this mission will complete 11 years. But, its strength and its need is still the same.

In these 11 years, 'Swachh Bharat Mission' has become a mass movement. People consider it their duty and this is real public participation.

Friends, the Swachh Survey conducted every year has lifted this feeling further. This year more than 4500 cities and towns of the country joined it. More than 15 crore people participated in it. This is not an ordinary number. This is the voice of Swachh Bharat.

Friends, when it comes to cleanliness, our cities and towns are working in different ways according to their needs and surroundings. And their impact is not just limited to these cities; the whole country is adopting these methods. The people of Kirtinagar in Uttarakhand are setting a new example of waste management in the hills. Similarly, organic waste management is being done

with the help of technology in Mangaluru. There is a small city called Roing in Arunachal. There was a time when waste management was a big challenge confronting the health of the people there. The people there took responsibility for it. 'Green Roing Initiative' was started and then an entire park was created from recycled waste. Similarly, many new examples of water management have been set in Karad; in Vijayawada. The cleanliness at the River Front in Ahmedabad has also caught everyone's attention.

Friends, a team in Bhopal is called 'Sakaratomak Soch'. It

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION





comprises 200 women. They don't just clean, they also change mindsets. Cleaning 17 parks in the city together, distributing cloth bags, every step of theirs is a message. Owing to such efforts, Bhopal has now come a long way in the Swachh Survey. It is also important to mention the Gomti River team of Lucknow.

Every Sunday for the last 10 years, tirelessly, without stopping, the members of this team are engaged in the cleanliness work. The example of Bilha in Chhattisgarh is also great. Here, women were imparted training in waste management, and together, they changed the face of the city. The example of Panaji city in Goa is also inspiring. There, waste is divided into 16 categories and that is also being led by women. Panaji has even received the President's award. Friends, cleanliness is not a one-time, one-day task. Only when we accord priority to cleanliness every day, every moment of the year, will the country remain clean.

Friends, amid the showers of *Sawan*, the country is once

again going to be adorned with the fervour of festivals. Today is Hariyali Teej, then comes Nag Panchami and Raksha Bandhan, then Janmashtami, the celebration of the birth of our naughty little Kanha. All these festivities are connected to our emotions here, they also give us the message of connection and balance with nature. Many best wishes to all of you for these holy festivals.

My dear friends, keep sharing your thoughts and experiences. We will meet again next month with some more new achievements and inspirations of countrymen. Take care of yourselves.

Thank you very much.

Scan the QR code to listen to 'Mann ki Baat'.



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MANN KI BAAT

Special Mentions by Prime Minister



India's Space Journey

Igniting Young Minds with Curiosity



Dr. V. Narayanan

Secretary, Department of Space
Chairman, Space Commission
Chairman, ISRO

From launching its first sounding rocket in 1963 to Moon landing in 2023, India's space journey embodies a story of ingenuity, vision and scientific excellence. Since its establishment; leveraging on its key resources, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made several strides in demonstrating indigenous capabilities in launch vehicles, satellites, lunar exploration and interplanetary missions.

The historic Chandrayaan-3 mission garnered India - the first country to reach the lunar south pole region. Building upon its legacy of pioneering achievements and as the nation looks ahead to its centennial celebrations in 2047, ISRO is embarking to herald a new era of human spaceflight under Gaganyaan mission, under the directives given by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The vision of human spaceflight for sustained presence in LEO has taken impetus at the national level and it has been highlighted in the Indian Space Policy 2023 as well.

While the country's own human spaceflight is progressing in full swing, a historic moment was recorded when Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 mission - a joint collaboration between ISRO, Axiom Space and NASA.

ISRO's participation in the

Axiom-04 Mission happened only due to the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. It was under his guidance that the foundation was laid for this joint collaboration between ISRO and the United States. The mission was envisaged during his historic visit to the US in 2023 and his meeting with the then-President of the United States to send an Indian astronaut to ISS as part of a broader partnership.

Today, ISRO is proud to announce the successful accomplishment of the Axiom 4 Mission (Ax-04). The Mission was launched on 25th June 2025 carrying four international crew members, including ISRO's Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.

ISRO is also proud that its high-level delegation led by Secretary, DoS/Chairman, ISRO was able to stop the launch attempt on 11th June as one



*National Flag Tiranga
flying high inside ISS*



Shukla doing science experiment at ISS

of the rocket engine lines had a leak. The persistence of the team ensured the rectification and testing before going ahead with launch. This underscores the technical prowess of our scientists and engineers in identifying critical issues and ensuring the safety of astronauts.

ISRO's Gaganyaytri Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected from the pool of Gaganyaan astronauts as the Mission pilot and prime crew member for the Ax-04 mission, while the fellow Gaganyatri Prashanth B. Nair has been

nominated as the backup crew member for the mission. Crew selection was done through stringent clinical, psychological and aeromedical evaluation.

Both Shubhanshu Shukla and Prashanth B. Nair have undergone intensive training across multiple international facilities including Russia and the US, for familiarisation with various aspects of a typical human spaceflight mission. The training modules covered are advanced spacecraft systems, emergency protocols, scientific payload operations,

microgravity adaptation, space medicine, and survival training. The training reflects the highest standards of astronaut readiness, making them a proud representative of India's growing cadre of space explorers.

During his 14-day stay in ISS, Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla carried out a suite of seven scientific experiments, marking a significant contribution from India's research community to microgravity science. These experiments, designed by premier Indian research institutions and coordinated by ISRO, focused on Indian strain of Tardigrades, Myogenesis, Sprouting of *methi* and *moong* seeds, Cyanobacteria, Microalgae, crop seeds and cognitive testing with electronic display. All experiments were completed successfully and samples have been brought

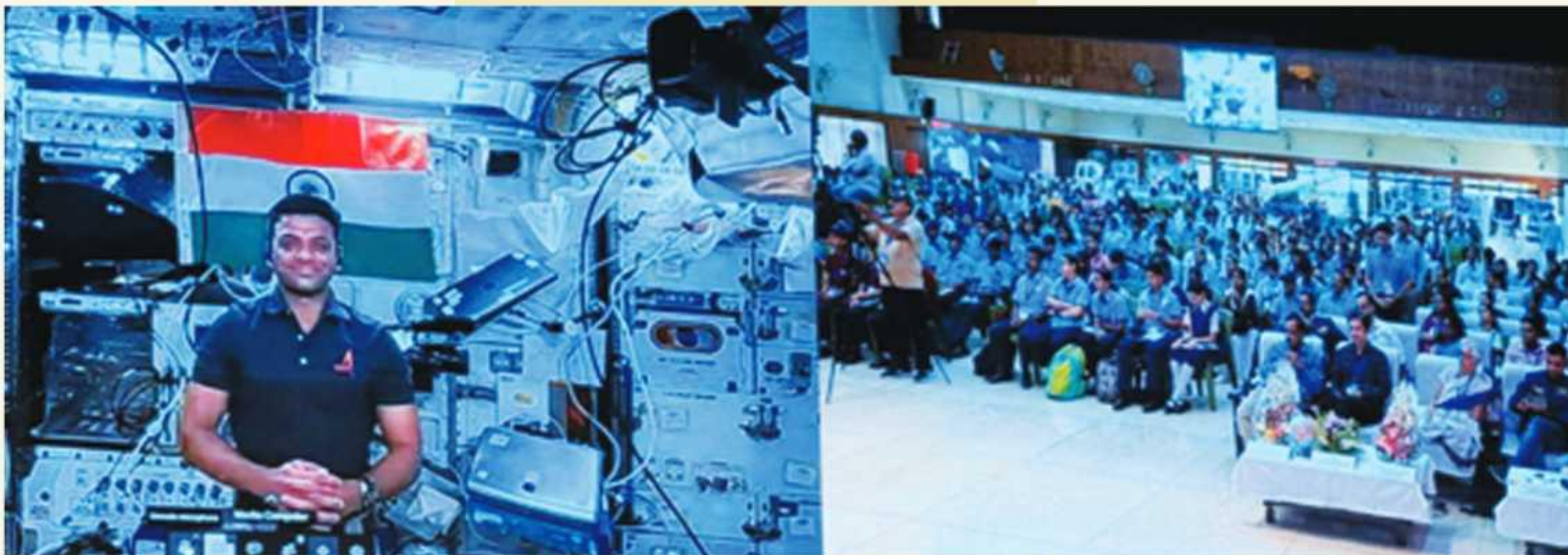
back for detailed post-flight analysis.

The public outreach component was an integral part of the Ax-04 mission, connecting India's space achievements with its citizens and students. These events underscored the importance of inspiring the next generation while celebrating national pride. From the International Space Station, Gaganyatri Shubhanshu Shukla had a historic live interaction with Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji (June 28, 2025) and he thanked Hon'ble PM for making the mission possible.

He also had interaction with school students from Trivandrum and Lucknow through video link (July 03, 2025), followed by two Amateur Radio sessions on the International Space Station (ARISS) that enabled real-time conversations with school



Interaction with Hon'ble Prime Minister



Interaction with the students

students from Bengaluru (July 4, 2025) and Northeast India (July 8, 2025).

During the interactive sessions, he answered many questions from students on how to become an astronaut and life in the ISS. On July 6, 2025, Shukla also held a teleconference with the Chairman, ISRO, sharing the status of the Indian science payloads and preliminary observations.

The broadcast of the interaction programme reached millions across India and marked a symbolic milestone in India's space diplomacy. These engagements not only enhanced visibility of the mission but also served to bridge the gap

between India's space program and its young aspirants, creating lasting inspiration across generations.

Completing the mission objectives, the Dragon spacecraft carrying the four astronauts, undocked from the ISS on 14 July 2025 and splash-downed in the Pacific Ocean on July 15, 2025, marking the successful accomplishment of ISRO-NASA joint Mission-Ax-04. As Hon'ble PM highlighted, Shukla's return ignited nationwide euphoria. Such triumphs unify the nation, project India as a technologically advanced democracy and amplify its voice in the global space sector. The mission

serves as a vital operational test bed for long-duration crewed missions, providing valuable insights into ongoing country's Gaganyaan programme regarding astronaut well-being, system behaviour and multi-agency coordination.

Looking ahead, the excitement of India's Space Program further continues with much bigger vision and rigor. We have 'Space Vision 2047' ahead which is charted under the guidance of visionary Hon'ble PM. These include the development of new generation Launch vehicles of higher capacity and modular configuration, series of Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan missions, building of Indian Space Station (Bharatiya

Antariksh Station) by 2035 and Indian Landing on the Moon by 2040.

While the Chandrayaan-4 mission aims to bring lunar samples to Earth, Chandrayaan-5 would demonstrate high-capacity lunar landers and 100 days of lunar exploration. Further, we have the Venus Orbiter Mission to study Venus and Mars Landing Mission to study Martian surface.

These missions represent crucial building blocks of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' to further strengthen India's position in the global space sector and establish the country as a major space power by its 100th year of independence.

In light of these inspiring developments in the Indian Space Sector, to the youth of India, I would like to say - the sky is no longer the limit. The journey of a small team launching sounding rockets has led to lunar landings and astronauts in orbit, bringing pride to the country. Dream boldly, work hard and believe in your potential. India's space journey is no longer limited to its scientists - it belongs to every young Indian who dares to imagine the impossible.

AXIOM SPACE MISSION



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In his 124th 'Mann ki Baat' address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised the safe return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from space, sharing how it brought joy to the entire nation and sparked fresh enthusiasm for science and space exploration. He emphasised that this achievement opens up exciting new possibilities for India's future space missions.

This enthusiasm is well deserved, as India reached a historic milestone with Shukla becoming the country's first astronaut to visit the International Space Station (ISS). He successfully completed an 18-day mission as part of the Axiom-4 commercial crew. This mission marked India's very first journey to the ISS and highlighted the nation's growing role on the global space stage.

Beyond its historic significance, the mission set the foundation for India's future ambitions, including the highly anticipated Gaganyaan programme and the development of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station, India's indigenous space station.

Shubhanshu Shukla's time in orbit was also scientifically significant, as he conducted innovative food and nutrition experiments developed by ISRO, the Department of Biotechnology, and NASA, aiming to improve astronaut health on long-duration missions.

INDIA'S LEAP INTO COSMOS



The mission also provided invaluable hands-on experience in microgravity adaptation, space operations, and emergency preparedness, equipping India with critical skills for its upcoming human spaceflight ventures.

More than just a technical success, Group Captain Shukla's journey is a beacon of inspiration for millions of young Indians. It sparks curiosity, fuels dreams, and shines a light on the limitless possibilities that science and technology hold for the nation's future. India's leap into the cosmos has truly begun.



29

A Glorious Chapter of History

Maratha Forts Receive UNESCO Honour

“Another news that will fill us all with pride has come in from UNESCO. UNESCO has recognised 12 Maratha forts as World Heritage Sites. Eleven forts in Maharashtra; one in Tamil Nadu. Each fort has a chapter of history attached to it. Every stone is a testimony to a historical event.”

–Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(in 'Mann ki Baat' address)

“The recognition is not only a celebration of the Maratha architectural and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's military genius, but also a symbol of national pride, echoing the call for Swarajya (self-rule) and the desired outcome of 'Mudra Bhadraya Rajate' (good governance) immortalised in his royal seal.”

–Vishal Vinod Sharma
Ambassador & Permanent
Delegate of India to UNESCO

The annals of history are often written in stone, and few structures embody the resilience, grandeur, and cultural legacy of a civilisation as powerfully as forts. In a momentous recognition, the Maratha Military Landscapes—a series of twelve majestic forts have been inscribed on UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. This honour not only celebrates the architectural brilliance of these structures but also revives the memory of an era when the Maratha Empire stood as a formidable force in Indian history. These forts, scattered across the Sahyadri ranges, the Konkan coast, and the Deccan plateau, are living testimonies to the strategic genius, cultural richness, and indomitable spirit of the Marathas.

The Historical Significance of Maratha Forts

Spanning from the 17th to 19th centuries CE, this extraordinary network of twelve forts demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.



Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the selected sites, include Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

The Maratha Empire, under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his successors, was a defining force in medieval India. At its zenith, the empire stretched across vast territories, challenging the might of the Mughals and other regional powers. Central to this expansion and defense were the forts—imposing structures built atop rugged hills, along treacherous cliffs, and amidst

dense forests. These forts served as military strongholds, administrative centers, and symbols of Maratha sovereignty. Each fort had a unique role: Raigad, the capital where Shivaji was crowned; Sinhagad, the site of legendary battles; Pratapgad, where the historic encounter between Shivaji and Afzal Khan took place; and Shivneri, the birthplace of the great king himself.

What set the Maratha forts apart was their ingenious military architecture. Unlike the grandiose palaces of other empires, these forts were designed for practicality and endurance. They featured multiple layers of fortifications, hidden escape routes, intricately

designed water storage systems, and vantage points that allowed defenders to repel invaders with minimal resources.

Cultural and Symbolic Legacy

Beyond their military utility, the forts were centers of culture, governance, and spirituality. Temples, granaries, and administrative offices within their walls reflected the holistic vision of the Maratha rulers. Festivals, coronations, and royal proclamations held in these forts wove them into the social and political fabric of the region. Even today, local folklore reverberates with tales of valour, sacrifice, and loyalty—stories of Tanaji Malusare scaling Sinhagad with the help of a monitor lizard, or Baji Prabhu Deshpande holding off an entire army at Pavan Khind to ensure Shivaji's escape.

UNESCO Recognition: A Step Towards Preservation

In a remarkable decision taken at the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee, India's official nomination for 2024-25 cycle, 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' got inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th property to receive this recognition.

This inclusion acknowledges their outstanding universal

value, not just as historical sites, but as masterpieces of human creativity and strategic thought. This recognition will pave the way for better conservation efforts, increased tourism, and global awareness about India's rich heritage. The Government of India, along with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has been actively working to restore and preserve these forts, ensuring that future generations can connect with this glorious past.

Conclusion: A Legacy Carved in Stone

The Maratha forts are more than just stone and mortar—they are the embodiment of a civilisation's pride, ingenuity, and enduring spirit. Their UNESCO recognition is a long-overdue acknowledgment of their place in world heritage. As efforts to preserve and promote these forts continue, they will remain not just relics of the past, but will be inspiration for generations to come. In the words of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, "A king's greatness lies in the welfare of his people and the strength of his forts". Today, these forts stand as eternal guardians of that legacy, inviting the world to witness a glorious chapter of history.

Maratha Military Landscapes: A Global Salute to India's Spirit of Swarajya



Devendra Fadnavis
Chief Minister, Maharashtra

At this proud moment for Maharashtra and for India, I join the people of our state in thanking Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for his gracious words on UNESCO's recognition of the Maratha Military Landscapes of India. His tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's enduring legacy, his good governance, military

strength, cultural pride, and emphasis on social welfare, reflects the very spirit that these 12 majestic forts continue to embody.

These forts, 11 in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu, were built, adapted, or expanded between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. Located at Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg, along with Gingee in Tamil Nadu, these forts were inscribed as India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage property at the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris. This recognition is not just a celebration of architectural brilliance, but also of a heritage of courage, strategy, and cultural pride rooted in Shivaji Maharaj's vision of Swarajya or self-rule.

Our honourable PM called this distinction a moment of

pride for every Indian, praising the forts as majestic and urging citizens to visit them to learn from the Maratha Empire's traditions of governance, military strength, and resolute defiance against injustice.

Guardians of Valour and Culture

Rooted in the rugged Sahyadris and along the Konkan coast, each fort is a living testament to Shivaji Maharaj's mastery of warfare, governance, and nation-building. Together, they embody the spirit of Swarajya and offer timeless lessons in leadership, resilience, and cultural pride.

Shivaji Maharaj revolutionised Indian warfare through terrain mastery and guerrilla tactics. Hill forts like Rajgad, Raigad, and Salher

were nearly impregnable, while coastal strongholds such as Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg, Suvarnadurg, and Khanderi turned the sea into a shield. Interlinked through defensive and communication networks, these forts allowed rapid troop movement and strategic coordination. With provisions for water, food, and shelter, these forts could withstand long sieges, reflecting Shivaji Maharaj's foresight in using the land itself as an ally.

Symbols of Swarajya, Governance and Victories

For the great Maratha warrior and visionary leader, forts were not only military outposts, but also seats of administration and symbols of sovereignty. Raigad, where Shivaji Maharaj was crowned Chhatrapati in 1674



CE, marked the formal assertion of indigenous rule. Shivneri, his birthplace in 1630 CE, shaped his values of courage and service. Rajgad served as the Maratha capital for over two decades, where key policies and military strategies were shaped, a testament to his commitment to decentralised, merit-based governance. Pratapgad Fort stands out for the encounter with Afzal Khan, while Panhala recalls his daring escape from Siddi Johar's siege. At Salher in 1672 CE, the Marathas claimed a historic victory over the Mughals

in one of the era's largest open-field battles. Lohagad, critical for controlling trade between the Deccan plateau and the Konkan coast, was swiftly recaptured in 1670 CE, proving the success of his mobile warfare.

A Vision Ahead of its Time

Shivaji Maharaj's naval vision was ahead of its time. Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg became fortresses of maritime defence, safeguarding trade routes and countering foreign powers. Sindhudurg, built under his direct supervision, became the heart of India's first organised navy.

Maratha forts were designed for resilience and efficiency, often blending seamlessly with their surroundings. Hill forts featured rainwater harvesting and rock-cut cisterns, while even sea forts like Khanderi had freshwater wells. Zigzagging pathways, hidden staircases, and multi-gated entrances slowed enemies and provided tactical advantage. Far from Maharashtra, Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu served as the Maratha capital during the Mughal invasion of the Deccan, symbolising the empire's resilience and reach.

Committed to their preservation and to boosting public engagement, the Government of Maharashtra has initiated phased site management plans for each fort, focusing on conservation, environmental care and sustainable tourism. These plans will enrich the visitor experience while safeguarding historical integrity, ensuring that these forts remain sources of education and pride for generations.

We look forward to hosting you at these historic heritage sites.

Inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes of India on UNESCO's World Heritage List

A Recognition of Maratha Military Genius



Vishal Vinod Sharma

Ambassador & Permanent
Delegate of India to UNESCO

The inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes of India – a serial nomination of 12 forts – on UNESCO's World Heritage List is a historic achievement for India's cultural diplomacy and heritage stewardship. The recognition is not only a celebration of the Maratha architectural and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's military genius, but also a symbol of national pride, echoing the call for Swarajya (self-rule) and the desired outcome of

'Mudra Bhadraya Rajate' (good governance) immortalised in his royal seal. Coming shortly after India's strategic success in Operation Sindoor, this international acknowledgment metaphorically aligns the centuries-old struggle for Swarajya with the vision of Viksit Bharat under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 12 Maratha forts—spread across hilltops, plateaus, coasts, and islands—represent a complete military network that shaped the Maratha Empire between the 17th and early 19th centuries. Raigad, Pratapgad, Sindhudurg, Vijaydurg, Shivneri, and Gingee showcase how the Marathas fused topographical advantage with engineering ingenuity to resist formidable empires. The forts form three strategic axes: Sahyadri hill forts, Konkan coastal forts, and Deccan plateau bastions. Each integrates natural landscapes with walls, reservoirs, granaries, and watchtowers, while housing temples and markets that reflect self-reliant, community-centered governance.

UNESCO recognised the forts under criteria (iv) as outstanding examples of military architecture and landscape adaptation, comparable to the Great Wall of China or France's Vauban fortifications, and under criteria (vi) for their enduring association with the Maratha struggle for self-rule and living traditions honouring Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Meeting the conditions of Integrity, Authenticity, and Effective Management ensures their preservation for future generations. These forts are not inert stones—they are the atma (soul) of the Maratha spirit.

Diplomatic Campaign Behind the Inscription: The journey to UNESCO recognition mirrored the strategic genius of the forts. The Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO (PDI), Ministries of Culture and External Affairs, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and the State of Maharashtra orchestrated a multi-layered heritage diplomacy campaign. Key actions included: responding to ICOMOS's queries with fresh archaeological evidence, mounting public campaigns such as a viral video of UNESCO's World Heritage Director speaking Marathi on Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, and lobbying globally through video conferences, and audio-visual presentations in

Paris. By securing at least 14 co-sponsors and overcoming early signs of deferral, India won the vote at the 47th World Heritage Committee session—19 of 21 members supported the bid, with Greece leading and Türkiye abstaining. The effort can be summed up in one word: 'Teamwork'. मेहनत का फल मीठा होता है।

A Global Statement on Heritage Leadership: This inscription places India alongside nations celebrated for complex fortification systems, following France's Fortifications of Vauban (2008), India's Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013), and the Venetian Works of Defence (2017). The 95,000-hectare buffer zone signals a shift from monument-centric to landscape-scale heritage management, prioritising ecosystem conservation, community engagement, and tourism development. Maharashtra anticipates a surge in domestic and international footfall, much like Rajasthan post-2013.

Symbols of Pride and Continuity: The forts symbolise resilience, self-respect, and civilisational continuity. Rugged cliffs and sea-facing bastions reflect the Marathas' defiance against larger empires. Coastal strongholds like Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg display naval

prowess, while hill forts such as Rajgad and Salher dominate the Deccan terrain. Annual commemorations at Raigad, local festivals, and heritage treks sustain the forts as living cultural memories, while their water systems and ecological adaptations remain models for sustainability today.

Protecting the Legacy: Eight forts are protected by the ASI, while four are under the Maharashtra Directorate of Archaeology. A state-level Apex Advisory Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary coordinates policy, research, and conservation, supported by district-level committees and heritage NGOs. UNESCO recommends digital documentation, GIS-based risk management, and potential inclusion of secondary forts within buffer zones to strengthen protection.

A Victory Beyond Heritage: The inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes signals more than heritage recognition—it reflects India's growing cultural confidence and diplomatic capability. From Raigad's lofty ramparts to Sindhudurg's sea-sprayed bastions, these forts now speak to the world of Maratha valour, Indian civilisational resilience, and the rise of Abhinav Bharat that honours its past while building its future.

Maratha Majesty

12 Forts Earn UNESCO Glory

India's Maratha military heritage has now become a part of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This heritage includes 12 grand forts, out of which 11 are located in Maharashtra and 1 in Tamil Nadu.

In his 124th address of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the whole country and said, "Another news that will fill us all with pride has come in from UNESCO. UNESCO has recognised 12 Maratha forts as World Heritage Sites. Eleven forts in Maharashtra; one in Tamil Nadu. Each fort has a chapter of history attached to it. Every stone is a testimony to a historical event."

Let us find out more about them:

SALHER FORT

- Salher Fort is the highest fort in Maharashtra at an elevation of 1,567 meters (5,141 feet) above sea level.
- It was the site of the Battle of Salher (1672), where the Marathas decisively defeated the Mughals.



SHIVNERI FORT

- Shivneri Fort is the birthplace of the legendary Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The fort has an elaborate seven stepped water storage system called Saptamatrika Tanks, designed to collect and preserve rainwater.



LOHGAD

- The fort features a unique 1.5 km-long fortified wall called Vinchu Kata (due to its scorpion-like shape), which served as a strategic defensive structure during battles.



KHANDERI FORT

- The Khanderi Fort was built by the King of Maratha Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1660.
- It served as a crucial naval base for the Maratha empire.



RAIGAD

- Raigad served as the first capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Hindavi Swarajya.
- It was here that Shivaji was crowned as Chhatrapati.



RAJGAD

- For over 26 years, this fort served as the capital of the Maratha Empire before shifting to Raigad Fort in 1674.
- Rajgad, meaning 'King of Forts', stands as a masterpiece of medieval architecture, spanning an impressive 40 kilometers in base diameter and rising 1,376 meters above sea level.



PRATAPGAD

- It was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1656.
- It witnessed the epic Battle of Pratapgad on November 10, 1659, when Shivaji Maharaj and his forces defeated the mighty Afzal Khan of the Bijapur Sultanate.



VIJAY DURG

- It is often hailed as the 'Gibraltar of the East'.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, seized control of the fort from Adilshahi rulers and turned it into one of the most impenetrable coastal fortresses in India.



- Suvarnadurg (meaning 'Golden Fort') was a crucial naval stronghold of the Maratha Empire.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured it from the Bijapur Sultanate in 1660 and later strengthened it to serve as a shipbuilding and repair dockyard.

SUARNADURG



- Built in the 17th century by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, it served as a crucial naval base for the Marathas, controlling maritime trade and safeguarding their dominion over the Konkan coast.

SINDHUDURG



PANHALA FORT

- It served as a vital military base and played a key role in one of the most heroic episodes in Maratha history—the Battle of Pavan Khind.
- One of the largest forts in the Deccan, it spans an impressive 14 kilometers in circumference.



GINGEE FORT

- Known as the 'Troy of the East'; it is located atop three hillocks — Rajagiri, Krishnagiri, and Chandragiri. When Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj saw Gingee Fort in 1677, he famously called it "the most impregnable fortress in India".



Young Revolutionary KHUDIRAM BOSE

Youngest Revolutionary

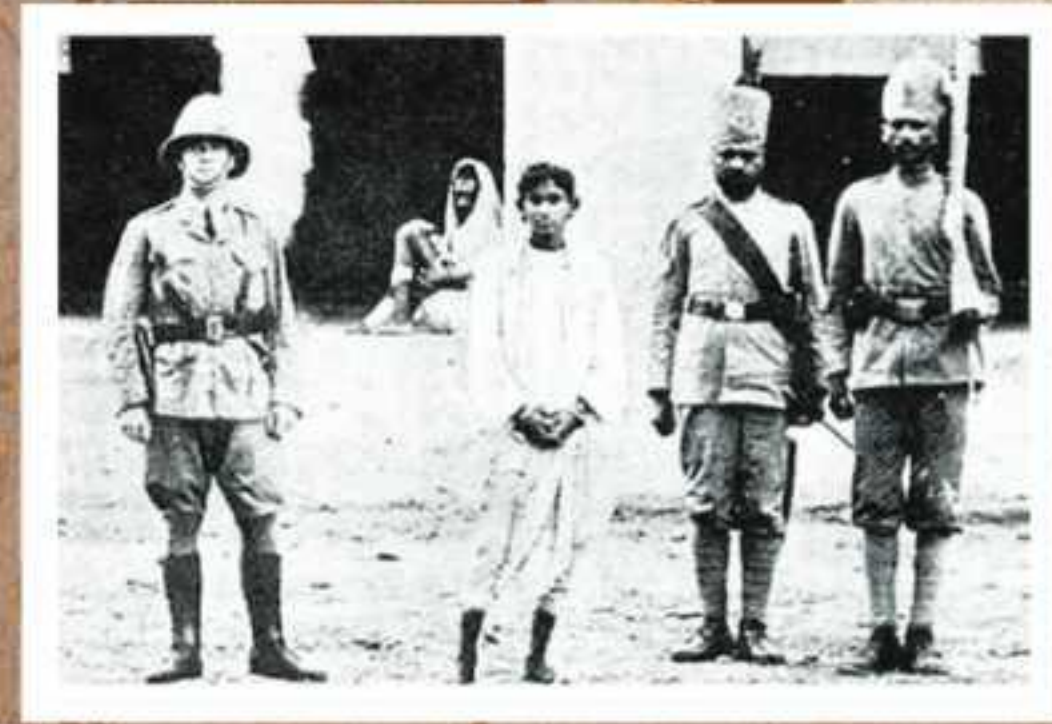
Born in the Midnapore district of West Bengal, and having lost both his parents by the age of 6, Khudiram Bose (1889-1908) emerged as one of India's youngest freedom fighters in the early 1900s, deeply inspired by the public speeches of Aurobindo Ghosh and Sister Nivedita; and by revolutionaries like Barindra Kumar Ghosh.

Sedition Case

At the age of 15, he was arrested for distributing a "seditious pamphlet" 'Bande Mataram' including an article titled 'Are These Our Kings?' at the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. Later He was acquitted due to lack of sufficient evidence against him. The case inspired youths to participate in the fight for freedom.

Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case (April 1908)

Alongside Prafulla Chaki, Khudiram Bose took part in an audacious plot to assassinate Magistrate Douglas Kingsford who was known for his harsh sentences against freedom fighters and nationalists. Bose bombed his carriage in Muzaffarpur. It was discovered that the magistrate was not in the carriage. Instead, the wife and daughter of a barrister died in the attempt.



Martyrdom at Eighteen

Due to this incident, at just 18 years old, he was tried, convicted, and executed by hanging on 11 August 1908 by British authorities.



Enduring Legacy

Khudiram's sacrifice resonated deeply across India. His life became a symbol of youthful resolve and national pride, immortalised in the song 'Ekbar Biday De Maa Ghure Ashi', composed in his honour.



“

People had surrounded the jail, where an 18-year-old youth was paying the price for expressing his patriotism against the British. Inside the jail, British officers were preparing to hang a young man. There was no fear on the face of that youth; rather it was full of pride. The very pride that those who die for their country feel. That brave, courageous youth was Khudiram Bose. At the age of just 18, he showed such courage that shook the whole country. Even the newspapers reported then – “When Khudiram Bose walked towards the gallows, there was a smile on his face.

”

—Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 'Mann ki Baat' address

Woven Wonders

A Thread of Empowerment

“another revolution started on the 7th of August 1905. The Swadeshi Movement lent a new energy to local products... especially handloom. To commemorate that, the country celebrates 'National Handloom Day' on the 7th of August every year.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(in 'Mann ki Baat' address)

“As India's second-largest employer after agriculture, handloom provides direct employment to over 35 lakh people and supports the livelihoods of many more individuals indirectly.”

-Commodore Rajiv Ashok (Retd)
Managing Director, National
Handloom Development
Corporation

Across the rural heartlands of India, the rhythmic click-clack of looms tells a quiet story of transformation. At its centre are thousands of men and women who are weaving more than fabric — they are weaving empowerment. Through handloom work, weavers are gaining financial independence, reclaiming traditional knowledge, and building sustainable livelihoods that uplift entire communities.

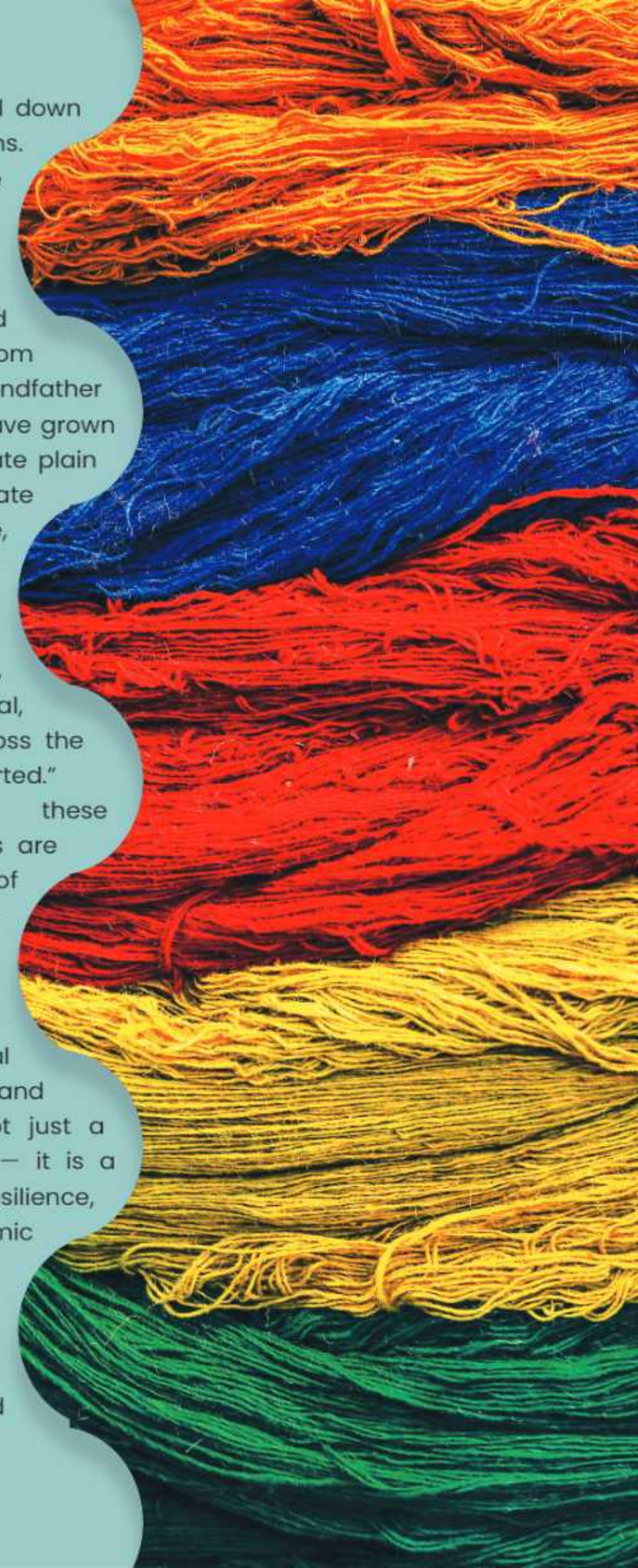
The act of weaving, once confined to household corners, is now a symbol of dignity and agency. Women artisans, specifically, are stepping out of the margins, running cooperatives, training others, and making decisions that shape their futures. The loom has become a bridge between heritage and hope.

Reviving Heritage, Rebuilding Lives: India's handloom sector is deeply rooted in the country's cultural legacy. Each region offers unique techniques, patterns, and motifs

that have been passed down through generations. These weaves are not merely textiles — they are carriers of memory, identity, and regional pride. As stated by Naveen Kumar from Nalanda, Bihar, “My grandfather and father weaved. I have grown up watching them create plain cloth. Now we also create patterns like cheque, booti and designs like Madhubani, Nalanda motifs, etc. We do silk, cotton, khadi saris, bedsheets, dress material, etc., which is sold across the nation and is even exported.”

By preserving these ancient crafts, weavers are becoming guardians of India's rich heritage. At the same time, they are transforming traditional skills into economic opportunity. The revival of forgotten weaves and indigenous dyes is not just a celebration of culture — it is a strategy for survival, resilience, and local economic development.

Vocal for Local - A Pathway to Progress: The call to be 'Vocal for Local' has found





Paithani weaver Kavita Dhawle

powerful expression in the hands of women artisans. Choosing locally made, handcrafted products is not just an act of patriotism — it is a commitment to equitable growth. Each handloom product bought locally fuels the dream of a more self-reliant, inclusive India. Paithani weaver Kavita Dhawle from Ch Sambhajinagar Maharashtra narrates, "I started weaving Paithani sarees 23 years ago from a small room, but now my children are settled in life through this income only — one got selected in Navy and the other is preparing for NEET exam. I would like to thank Marathi Paithani Sari Centre for

the training and Bunkar Sewa Kendra for giving us the loom, work shed and solar unit. I urge all the Paithani weavers to support each other and move forward for growth and success."

By embracing locally produced textiles, consumers support a vast network of rural entrepreneurs, weavers, spinners, and dyers — many of whom are women. The economic ripple effect strengthens communities, reduces migration, and nurtures grassroots enterprise. It is a circular model of growth where every purchase becomes a vote for self-reliance.

Blending Tradition with Innovation: Modern platforms are enabling artisans to reach new audiences while staying rooted in their craft. Weaver-led handloom collectives are increasingly using digital tools to market their work, access training, and connect directly with customers. With the rise of textile start-ups, traditional weaves are finding their place on global runways and e-commerce shelves.

This synergy between tradition and technology is creating new pathways for growth. As artisans learn to navigate design trends, branding, and digital sales,



they are turning ancestral knowledge into future-ready enterprises. As Naveen Kumar opines, "New technology, along with training, is a big boost to the handloom industry. More such initiatives can take the weaver community to new heights."

The Road Ahead: True self-reliance begins at the grassroots. When people at the village level gain control over production, profits, and processes, it sparks

a chain reaction of empowerment. Education improves, health outcomes rise, and communities thrive. Supporting artisans in the handloom sector is not just about preserving a craft — it's about investing in sustainable growth, cultural resilience, and national self-confidence. The fabric of India's future may well be handwoven — and weavers are the ones weaving it.



Naveen Kumar



Fabric of Freedom, Future of India

10 Years of Handloom Celebration



Commodore Rajiv Ashok (Retd)

Managing Director, National
Handloom Development
Corporation

National Handloom Day, celebrated on 7th August each year stands as a powerful testament to India's rich cultural heritage and unwavering commitment to preserving traditional crafts while embracing modern innovation. As India's second-largest employer after agriculture, handloom provides direct employment to over 35 lakh people and supports the livelihoods of many more individuals indirectly. As we

commemorate a decade of this significant observance, it becomes evident that the handloom sector has emerged not merely as a craft tradition but as a cornerstone of India's journey toward becoming 'Viksit Bharat'.

Historical Significance and the Swadeshi Movement Connection

The historical significance of National Handloom Day is deeply rooted in India's freedom struggle when a formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement was made on this day in 1905. The inaugural celebration of National Handloom Day in 2015 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai was a conscious effort to revive this very spirit of self-reliance and recognise the weaving community.

Geographical Indications: Weaving Identity and Economic Value

A significant driver of growth and protection in the handloom sector has been the Geographical Indication (GI) system. India boasts over 120 registered handloom GIs, including:

Kanchipuram Silk (Tamil Nadu), Pochampally Ikat (Telangana), Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh), Muga Silk (Assam), Moirang Phee (Manipur), Tangaliya (Gujarat), Saktapar (Odisha) etc.

GI recognition not only protects the weaver community from counterfeit production but also adds market value to the product, improving global visibility and brand identity. The government and implementing agencies like National Handloom Development Corporation are working actively to promote post-GI initiatives, enabling: Authorise User Certification, Digital traceability, Brand building, Design innovation, Market facilitation through top retail brands and global platforms

Preserving Traditional Crafts While Incorporating Modern Techniques

The integration of traditional crafts with modern technology has created a harmonious partnership that preserves heritage while fostering innovation. Handloom weavers are now leveraging digital platforms to reach global audiences, with e-commerce (India Handmade Portal and

others), serving as digital bridges connecting weavers directly with consumers worldwide. Blockchain technology ensures transparent certification, protecting both the craft's authenticity and the weaver's livelihood.

Traditional weaves are being infused with fresh motifs and contemporary artworks, helping them resonate with younger audiences without compromising their cultural essence. The adoption of improved looms, natural dyes and digital marketing techniques has enabled traditional crafts to withstand market pressures while meeting contemporary demands.

Empowering Rural Communities, Especially Women and Youth

The handloom sector serves as a powerful catalyst for women's economic empowerment, with approximately 70 per cent of handloom weavers and allied workers being women. This sector provides dignified opportunities for women, particularly in rural and marginalised communities, to improve their economic status while contributing to their overall empowerment and social standing.

Success stories abound across the country. In Maharashtra's Paithan village, Kavita Dhawale transformed her small room operation into a thriving business, earning three times more by selling self-made Paithani sarees. In Odisha's Mayurbhanj, over 650 tribal women have revived the Santhali saree, earning thousands of

rupees monthly while carving their own identity. In Himachal Pradesh's Thamlah village, women weavers like Heeramani have established themselves as master trainers, earning ₹15,000-₹20,000 monthly.

'Vocal for Local' in the Handloom Context

The 'Vocal for Local' initiative embodies a comprehensive philosophy of conscious consumption and cultural preservation. In the context of handlooms, it means recognising that every handmade product carries the legacy of generations, preserving cultural heritage while providing sustainable livelihoods.

Citizens can contribute by choosing handloom products that tell stories of creativity, dedication, and cultural pride. By purchasing handcrafted fabric, consumers directly support millions of livelihoods, preserve artistic legacy and reduce environmental footprints compared to mass-produced alternatives.

Every purchase becomes a vote for Atmanirbhar Bharat, echoing the Swadeshi principles that transformed history.

Government Initiatives Driving Growth

The government has implemented comprehensive schemes to support the handloom sector's development. The National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP) provides financial assistance for raw materials, upgraded looms and accessories, solar lighting units, work shed construction, product and design development, and marketing support.

The Raw Material Supply Scheme offers transport subsidies and 15 per cent price subsidies on various yarns. The Weavers' MUDRA Loan scheme provides margin money assistance, interest subvention, and credit guarantee fees. Welfare provisions include life and accidental insurance coverage, scholarships for weavers' children and financial support for award-winning weavers above 60 years.

Looking Toward 2047

As we celebrate a decade of National Handloom Day, the sector stands poised to play a crucial role in India's transformation into a developed



nation. The sector's evolution—from traditional looms to modern manufacturing hubs, from local markets to global platforms, from individual weavers to thriving cooperatives and start-ups – reflects India's broader transformation. The path to 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 indeed passes through self-reliance and handlooms remain central to this vision. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasised in his Mann ki Baat address, "Buy and sell only those things that are made in India, in which an Indian has shed sweat. This should be our resolve". Every thread woven, every pattern created and every garment crafted contributes to the grand tapestry of a self-reliant, developed India – where tradition and modernity coexist, where heritage drives innovation and where the hands that weave also shape the nation's destiny.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

Digitising India's Knowledge Systems

“Mani Maran ji taught people the method of reading and understanding ‘Tamil Suvadiyiyal’ i.e. Palm Leaf Manuscripts. Today, through a number of efforts, many students have become proficient in this art. Some students have even started research on a Traditional Medicine System based on these manuscripts. Friends, imagine... if such efforts are made across the country, our ancient knowledge will not remain confined within walls, it will become a part of the consciousness of the new generation. Inspired by this very thought, the Government of India has announced a historic initiative in this year's budget - ‘Gyan Bharatam Mission’.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(in ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)

India's cultural vitality stems not only from its festivals and traditions but also from the profound wisdom preserved in centuries-old manuscripts. In his recent ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister reminded us that these manuscripts - holding science, medical knowledge, music, and philosophy - are more than historical artifacts. They embody the soul of India and must be safeguarded for future generations.

In line with this vision, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission, reviving and expanding the earlier National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), under a Central Sector Scheme for 2024-31 with a budget of ₹482.85 crore. Its ambitious mandate is to preserve, document, digitise, and make accessible more than one crore manuscripts housed in academic institutions, museums,

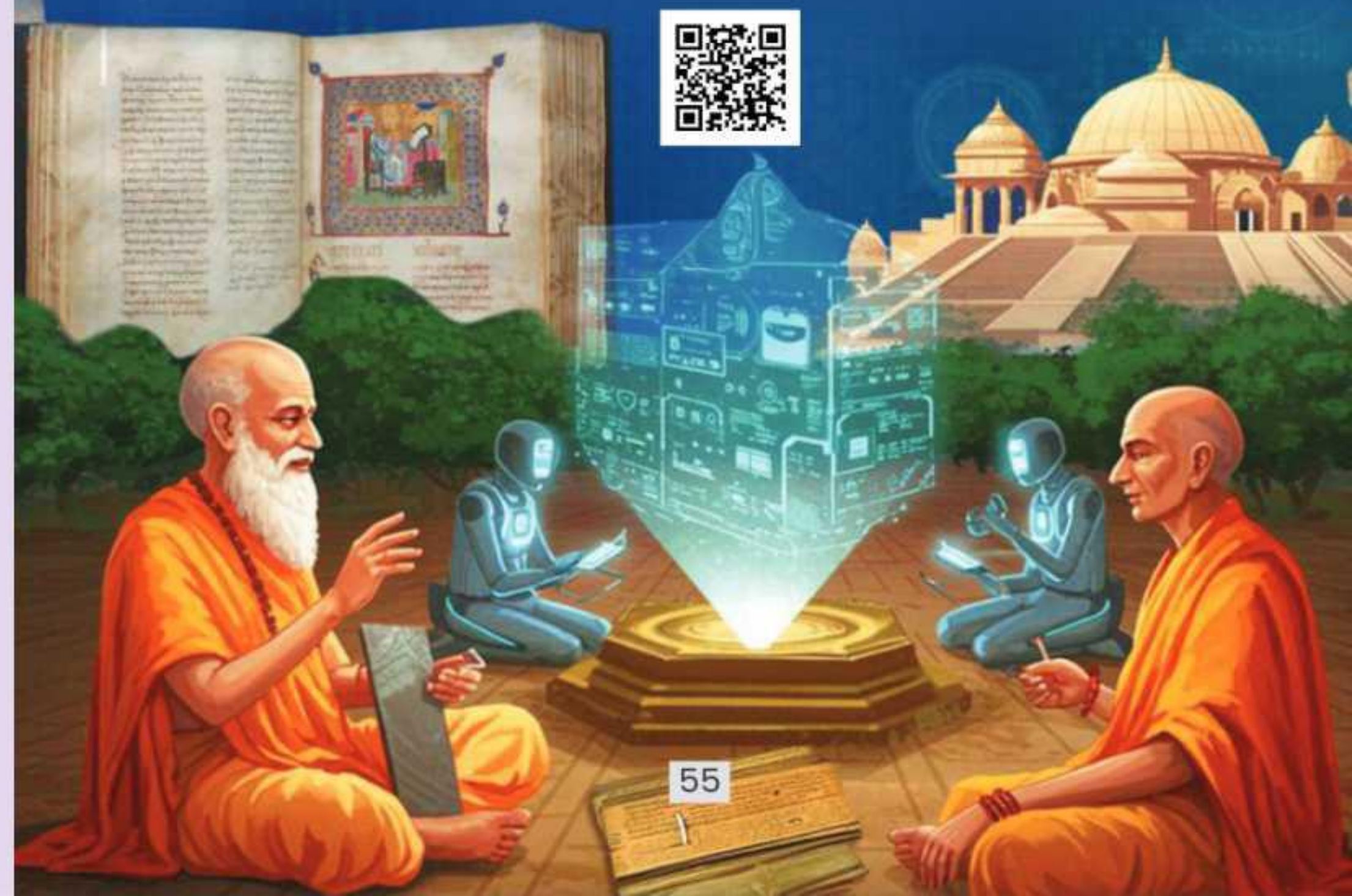
libraries, and private collections across the country. Digitisation remains the mission's core objective, that is, to build a National Digital Repository for global access within the next five years.

Approximately, 3.5 lakh manuscripts, covering more than 3.5 crore folios, have already been digitised. Among them, 1,35,000 manuscripts are accessible via the ‘Namami’ web portal, with 76,000 available free to the public. The mission also supports survey and documentation initiatives, scientific preservation, scholarly editing and translation, capacity building via training, and

outreach through exhibitions and manuscript festivals.

At the heart of this transformational effort are passionate guardians like Dr. Mani Maran, a Tamil scholar serving in the Tamil Manuscript Department of the Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur, one of Asia's oldest manuscript repositories with more than 49,000 manuscripts.

He shares, “Although digitisation of ancient palm leaf manuscripts using modern tools is underway to preserve them for future generations, the only challenge is, there is a shortage of people who can actually read and interpret these manuscripts.





Therefore, through my personal efforts, I have trained over 300 students in reading palm leaf manuscripts, and I continue to conduct evening classes for this purpose on my own initiative. Many of the students trained by me are now working on cataloging palm leaf manuscripts at institutions like the Siddha Medicine Research Institute, Tamil University, and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department."

In 'Mann ki Baat', the Hon'ble Prime Minister lauded Dr Maran as an inspirational figure,

underscoring how local efforts, when multiplied nationally, ensure that our ancient knowledge becomes "a part of the consciousness of the new generation"

Dr Mani Maran further pays his gratitude saying, "It is a matter of great pride that our Prime Minister, who is committed to preserving India's traditional arts and culture, has spoken about palm leaf manuscripts. As a Tamil scholar working at the Saraswathi Mahal Library, I feel deeply honored and grateful for the recognition and appreciation



of my work. On behalf of both the Saraswathi Mahal Library and personally, I express my heartfelt thanks to the Honorable Prime Minister."

The mission is set to be backed by cutting-edge technologies like AI-based archiving, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) transcription, blockchain tracing, cloud preservation, and APIs for broad integration. It is designed to elevate India's manuscript preservation to a new level. Pilot programs, repository setups,

tech platforms, and 'Pandulipi Mitras' - a network of trained grassroots volunteers are envisioned to bring this heritage into classrooms, institutions, and the virtual sphere.

The Gyan Bharatam Mission is thus more than a conservation effort. It is about keeping alive the voice of the past so it can guide the future. It is about ensuring that the wisdom contained in centuries-old fragile manuscripts does not fade into oblivion but finds new life in the digital age.



INSPIRE-MANAK

Inspiring Innovation in Classrooms and Beyond



Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe

Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum; & National Innovation Foundation

The INSPIRE-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) is the flagship scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India for nurturing the ideas and innovations of school students [classes 6 to 12 (class

11 and 12 only science stream)] and motivate them to pursue Science and a career in S&T Research. Jointly implemented by the DST and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India, the scheme is aligned with the action plan for the ‘Start-up India’ initiative launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

The INSPIRE-MANAK scheme aims to scout a million innovative ideas each year from school students. The scheme invites original and creative technological ideas that address everyday problems, offer useful improvisations to existing machines, or propose an entirely new machine. Students are encouraged to observe their surroundings, identify problems, and devise independent solutions. The five best ideas are nominated online by the school through the INSPIRE-MANAK

portal (www.inspireawards-dst.gov.in) or the INSPIRE MANAK app.

After the first review, the top 100,000 students receive ₹10,000 each (through Direct Benefit Transfer) to develop a prototype of their idea and participate in the District-Level Competition. Ten per cent of these students are then shortlisted to compete at the State and later at the National level. Students selected for the National competition have the opportunity to attend high-quality mentorship workshops offered in collaboration with top Indian technological institutions like IITs, NITs, and IISc. These workshops expose young innovators to academic excellence and guidance from

esteemed mentors. Up to one thousand students showcase their innovations at the national level. The top 60 ideas are then shortlisted, recognised, and incubated by NIF, which provides support for patent filing, technological value addition, and product development.

During 2016–2024, the INSPIRE-MANAK scheme has engaged approximately five million students from almost every district in Bharat. The participation has surged from 156,894 students in 2016 to over one million in 2024. The growth has successfully reached the country's most remote areas,



with significant representation from girls (51%), rural areas (70%), and state government schools. This progressive increase in the number of nominations received in the INSPIRE MANAK competitions over the years is an indicator of students' growing interest in STEM. This growing interest can be further attributed to INSPIRE MANAK's focus on problem-solving, hands-on learning and practical application of scientific principles. The INSPIRE MANAK also provides a platform for students to interact with experts,

mentors, and peers, fostering a collaborative and competitive environment that further motivates them to explore and excel in these fields. To date, mentoring workshops for over 2,600 students have been organised. This expert guidance has helped students refine their prototypes, leading to 271 being recognised in the national level competitions.

The scheme's success is also evident in its intellectual property contributions. NIF has filed 255 patent applications in the names of these young



innovators, with 33 patents already granted. Additionally, the national winners have gained international exposure through programs like the Sakura Science Exchange program and the ASEAN-India Grassroots Innovation Forum, where several students have won prestigious awards.

INSPIRE MANAK, coupled with Niti Ayog's Atal Tinkering Labs in 10,000 schools, AICTE's Smart India Hackathons and Innovation Councils, Innovation

Ambassadors in schools and colleges, has catapulted Bharat from 81st position to 39th position in the Global Innovation Index. INSPIRE projects focus on sustainability, green energy, environmental protection, waste management, water harvesting, recycling, net-zero campuses, and futuristic technologies, all of which will drive Bharat into the future with confidence, helping achieve the vision to be a developed nation by 2047.

Using Technology to Understand Nature: Kaziranga's Avian Survey



Sonali Ghosh

Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

In the July 2025 edition of Mann ki Baat, the Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted the successful Grassland Bird Census in Kaziranga National Park, where over 40 bird species, including rare ones, were identified using AI and sound technology. He emphasised how technology and sensitivity together can deepen our understanding of nature and biodiversity.

The survey, a first of its kind, highlights critical habitats and threatened species, marking a significant milestone in the documentation and protection of grassland-dependent bird species in the Brahmaputra floodplains.

The survey was conducted between March 18 and May 25, 2025, so as to time it with the breeding season of the grassland birds. During this time, the male birds are especially vocal to attract a mate or to defend their territories. It is also the time when nests can be detected as colony nesting birds such as the weaver birds congregate. The survey was planned and led by Chiranjeev Bora, a Ph.D. Research Scholar and DST-INSPIRE fellow from Gauhati University. Along with him, were expert bird watchers, scientists and forest frontline staff who also contributed to the visual count survey.

Methodology: Key highlight of the study was the deployment of passive acoustic recorders,



enabling non-invasive and continuous monitoring even in inaccessible or high-risk areas. This approach significantly improved species detection, especially of shy and cryptic birds, enhancing the overall

accuracy and depth of the findings. For this study, Automated Recording Units (ARUs) were deployed by IISER Tirupati and researchers under Department of Science and Technology – INSPIRE Fellowship were specially called in to carry out the survey.

As per sampling design, passive acoustic recorders were deployed at 29 key locations, each recording for approximately 13 hours per day. The devices were placed at least 500 meters apart and operated for three consecutive days per location. Soundscape recordings were analysed using machine learning algorithms and individual birds were





differentiated based on distinct song characteristics visible in the spectrogram. What a fascinating way to study nature indeed!

Result: A total of 43 grassland bird species were recorded, including one Critically Endangered, two Endangered, and six Vulnerable species, along with several species endemic to the region, as per the IUCN Red List. The survey placed special emphasis

on ten focal species that are either globally threatened or endemic to the Brahmaputra floodplains: Bengal Florican, Swamp Francolin, Finn's Weaver, Swamp Grass Babbler, Jerdon's Babbler, Slender-billed Babbler, Black-breasted Parrotbill, Marsh Babbler, Bristled Grassbird, and Indian Grassbird.

Another key find was the discovery of a breeding colony of over 85 nests of the Finn's Weaver, locally known as



Tukura chorai. This exquisite bird that turns a brilliant yellow during the breeding season, is a master builder that creates intricate nests perched high above the grasslands and wetlands and is a vital indicator of grassland health. It is a rare bird because it prefers certain types of grassland, swamps and reed beds (such as those with Phragmites, Typha, or Saccharum grasses) that are found only in protected areas of Terai in Indian and Nepal and its presence at Kaziranga was a very encouraging sign.

The grassland bird survey is an important first step in the long-term conservation

of grassland birds and emphasises the need for continued ecological monitoring and adaptive management to safeguard these fragile ecosystems. This pioneering work reaffirms Kaziranga's stature not only as a stronghold for charismatic megafauna but also as a critical refuge for avian biodiversity within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. It is hoped that the survey serves as a model for integrating rigorous science into protected area management, offering a replicable template for other landscapes across India and beyond.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

Empowering Change and Building Livelihoods



Dr. Bijay Kumar Behera, ARS,
Chief Executive, National
Fisheries Development Board

The fisheries sector, recognised as a 'Sunrise Sector', plays a vital role in sustaining the livelihoods of nearly three crore people in India, particularly among marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Sector of National Importance

Contributing 8.92% to global fish production, 1.34% to India's Gross Value Added

(GVA), and 7.09% to agricultural GVA, it plays a vital role in the national economy. India ranks second globally in total fish and aquaculture production. With marine capture fisheries plateauing due to ecological constraints, inland fisheries and aquaculture now contribute over 75% of total fish output, driving future growth.

PMMSY and NFDB: Catalysts of the Blue Revolution

Launched in 2020-21 with an investment of ₹ 20,050 crore, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to drive the Blue Revolution through sustainable fisheries development. The scheme targets the creation of 55 lakh jobs, provides annual support to six lakh fishers during the ban/lean period, seeks to generate an additional 70 lakh tonnes of fish production, and aspires to double the fishers' income.

The National Fisheries

Development Board (NFDB) leads its implementation by promoting alternative livelihoods, reducing pressure on capture fisheries, and fostering the integration of fisheries with agriculture and other rural activities.

Empowering Livelihoods

PMMSY has transformed rural economies by driving inclusive growth, livelihood diversification, and resilient rural economies. In Cachar, Assam, a finfish hatchery producing 19.2 million fry annually boosted household incomes by over 90%. In Palghar, Maharashtra, unused land was converted into a Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS), yielding ten tonnes of fish annually and providing sustainable income.

Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth

To ensure long-term sustainability, PMMSY promotes climate-resilient practices such as polyculture, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, sustainable feed technology etc. The Climate Resilient Coastal Fishing Villages (CRCFV) initiative targets 100 fisher villages, focusing on sustainable climate-resilient infrastructure, post-harvest facilities, diversified livelihoods, etc.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced India's first organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim's Soreng District. 34 specialised clusters are being developed under PMMSY across areas, viz., pearl farming, seaweed



cultivation, organic fisheries, reservoir fisheries, brackish water aquaculture, etc., backed by NABARD.

Mariculture is being promoted as a safer and reliable livelihood option, with plans to transition 25% of marine fishers to this practice over the next decade. A ₹ 1,276 crore investment plan has been launched, focusing on cage culture and seaweed farming, offering higher returns and year-round income.

Under the Integrated Model Coastal Fishing Village initiative, each such village is invested with ₹ 7.5 crore to promote sustainable fishing practices and improve the socio-economic conditions. 11 such villages have been developed.

Transformational Outcomes

Between 2013-14 and 2024-25, India's fish production increased by 103%, from 95.79 to 195 lakh tonnes, driven by a 142% rise in inland aquaculture, 22-fold expansion in production capacity, creating 54 lakh

employment opportunities. During the period, seafood export earnings doubled from ₹30,213 crore to ₹ 60,524 crore. The PMMSY has generated 58 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities for the fisheries stakeholders throughout India.

Towards Self-Reliance

PMMSY thrives on Jan Bhagidari, i.e., community participation supported by technology and sustainable practices. From Kerala's coasts to

Assam's wetlands, Jharkhand's ponds to Tamil Nadu's seaweed farms, it empowers the marginalised, securing food supplies, and generating livelihoods. The stories of successful stakeholders are being documented. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India interacted with a few of them during the 100th Episode of 'Mann ki Baat'.

This shift from Jal Shakti (water as a resource) to Jeevan Shakti (water as a livelihood) is reshaping rural prosperity and driving India's Blue Revolution - reflecting the spirit of 'Empowering Change, Building Livelihoods'.



Radhakrishna Sankirtan Mandali

In the 124th episode of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi rightly said, "The most beautiful glimpse of India's diversity is found in our folk songs and traditions and our bhajans and kirtans are a part of this." But what is novel is the idea of combining this tradition with contemporary issues. Read on to find out more...



Who?
Pramila Pradhan,
President,
Radhakrishna
Sankirtan Mandali

Where?

Badajamuposi, via:
Ghatgaon, District:
Kendujhar,
State: Odisha



Through Sankirtan (a folk form of art), we are committed to raise awareness on various social evils related to education, health, agriculture, and more. Forest is our life. Our future depends on forests. We aim to have a long-lasting impact among future generations about how forest protection can lead to prosperity leveraging this medium to its maximum capacity.

I was worried about the forest fire and the affected animals from my childhood. After my marriage, I got inspired from my father-in-law to form this Sankirtan group. Later on, he also inspired me to take up the challenge to create awareness on the issue. Subsequently, I got support from my family as well as the villagers.



Forest Department officials came up with this idea to use Sankirtan to create awareness among villagers about preventing forest fires. They discussed it with us and we happily accepted this.

I was overwhelmed with joy when the Prime Minister mentioned my name — an unknown individual from a remote tribal area in Keonjhar district — and praised our Sankirtan group. It was a proud moment for all of us in the village. I am deeply grateful to the Prime Minister, especially because he treats everyone equally and does not differentiate between the powerful and the ordinary.



World Police and Fire Games

India Creates History

“Do you know which is the biggest sporting event other than the Olympics? The answer is – ‘World Police and Fire Games’... a sports tournament between policemen, fire fighters, security personnel from all over the world. This time this tournament was held in America and India created history in it.”

–Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(in ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)



Which is the biggest event in the world of sports after the Olympics? Very few people know that the answer is the ‘World Police and Fire Games.’ This tournament is for police officers, firefighters, and security personnel from all over the world – brave individuals who risk their lives to protect others.

This year, the tournament was held in the USA, and what India achieved there is a matter of pride for every Indian. By winning around 600 medals, India created history. In this tournament 71 countries participated and India ranked among the top three nations.

The Brilliance of Uniformed Athletes

These Indian athletes are usually seen controlling traffic on the roads or saving lives during emergencies. But this time, they were on the sports field – and here too, they waved the nation’s flag high with full energy, passion, and determination.

These medals are not just victories – these are rewards for their hard work, discipline, and spirit. Many athletes trained extensively despite limited resources and proved that when the resolve is strong, no destination is too far.

A Special Achievement

India’s this success has



captured the world’s attention. For the first time, India participated in the World Police and Fire Games on such a large scale and delivered such outstanding results. These athletes, who work in the police and fire departments, have shown that they are not only experts in their field of duty but also excel on the sports field.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister also congratulated all the players and the coaching team for this historic performance. He said that this is not just a victory of medals, but a victory that boosts the morale of the nation’s uniformed forces.

India to Host the Next Edition

An even bigger good news is that in 2029, the hosting rights for the World Police and Fire Games have been awarded to India. This means police officers and firefighters from all over the world will come to India, and the competitions will take place on our soil. It will be a golden opportunity for us to present Indian hospitality, our culture, and our sporting spirit to our guests.

India’s sporting tradition is very old, but events like this present a new face of the nation – one that showcases the sporting talent of our security forces to the world.

A New Era of Hope

This momentous victory has inspired many soldiers and officers. It is now expected that in the coming years, even more uniformed personnel will participate in this tournament. Several states have announced plans to improve facilities for athletes in their respective departments. This is a new beginning – one where duty and sports go hand in hand, where those who protect the nation also win medals for it.

The message is clear – India is now proving itself not only in major events like cricket or the Olympics but also in such special sporting competitions. And it is being proved by those who are usually seen behind barricades, but are now standing on the podium with the tricolour in hand. These Indian heroes not only fulfill their duty but are now also bringing glory to the nation through sports.

HOPE IN THE HEART OF DARKNESS

Gumla's Journey to Peace

In his recent 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared the inspiring story of Om Prakash Sahu from Gumla, Jharkhand. Once a region marred by violence and migration, Gumla has today become a hub of fisheries, all because of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The scheme has not only created employment but also restored dignity and hope in rural communities.



What is PMMSY?

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched by the Government of India, is a landmark programme to bring about a "Blue Revolution" through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. The scheme addresses critical gaps across production, productivity, quality, post-harvest infrastructure, value-chain modernization, and fishers' welfare.

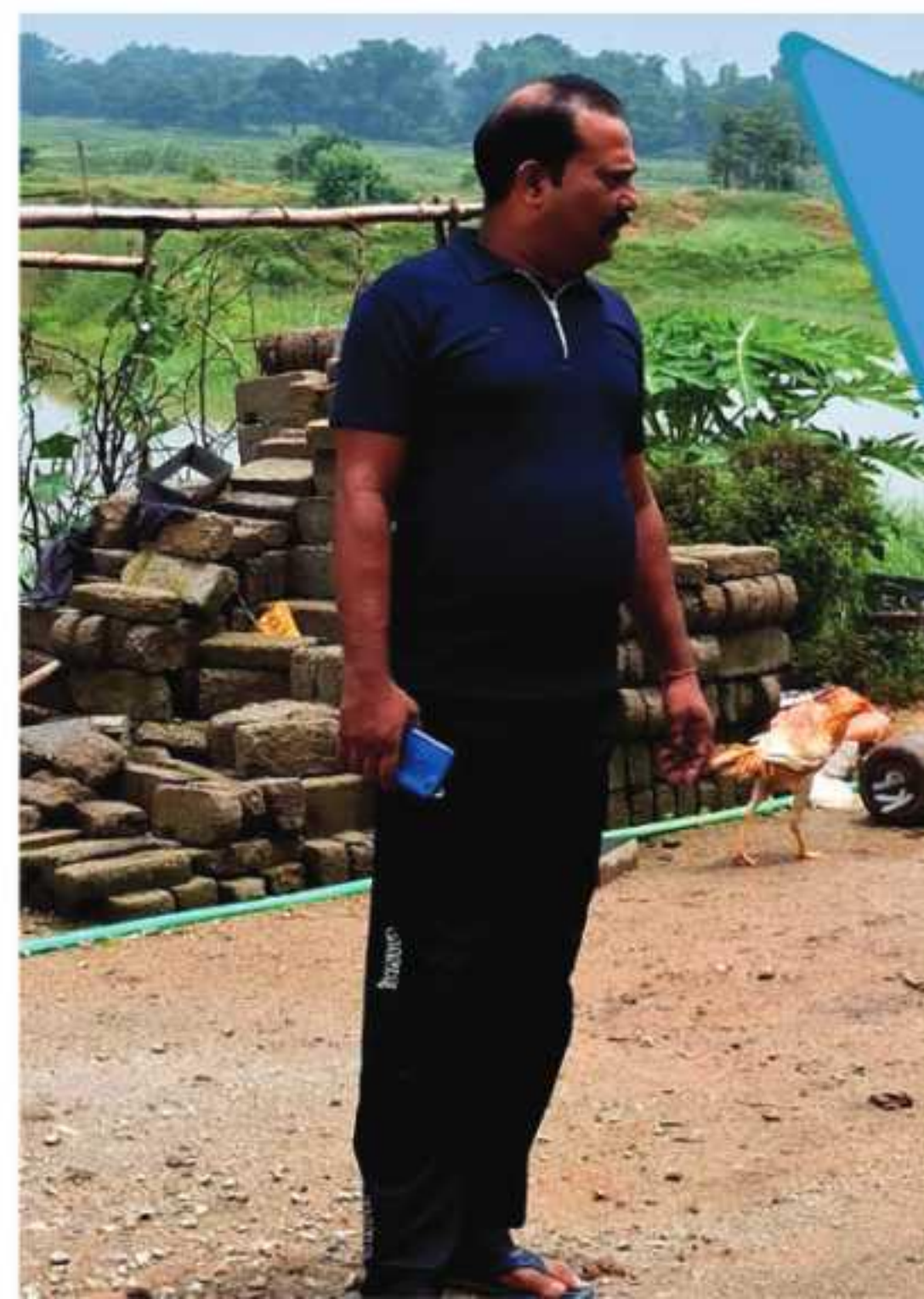
Key Objectives of PMMSY:

-  Harness fisheries potential in a sustainable and equitable manner
-  Enhance fish production
-  Double incomes of fishers and fish farmers
-  Reduce post-harvest losses
-  Promote exports
-  Generate direct jobs and indirect jobs
-  Strengthen insurance, welfare, and social security for fishers and their families



A Success Story: Gumla, Jharkhand

While sharing Om Prakash Sahu's story the Prime Minister also praised how he left behind extremism to embrace fish farming. Supported by PMMSY through training and pond development, he not only secured his family's livelihood but also inspired over 150 families to join fisheries.



We got peace. Our family is happy. We are earning well. What can be better than this? I feel every farmer should be given a lake so that they can live with dignity

-Om Prakash Sahu

His journey reflects the transformative potential of PMMSY: empowering communities, generating employment, and lighting the path of development even in the most challenging regions.

International Chemistry Olympiad 2025

India's Flag Waved Proudly on the World Stage

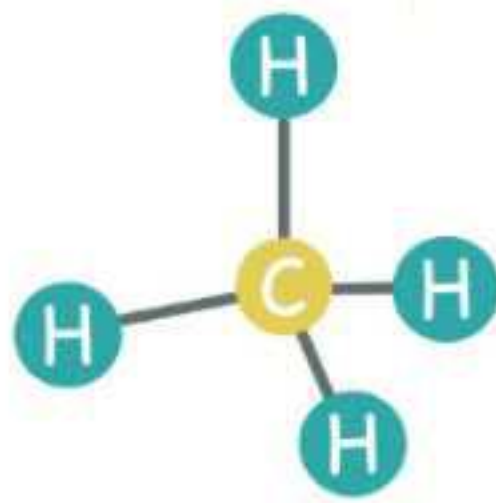
21st-century India is rapidly advancing in the field of science and technology. Today, our youth are proving their mettle on every stage across the world. A recent and excellent example of this was when four Indian students – Kuchi Sandeep, Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya, Ujjwal Kesari, and Debdutt Priyadarshi – brought glory to the nation by delivering an outstanding performance at the International Chemistry Olympiad 2025.

The medals they won were not just medals – they were the flight of those dreams that today's India is taking into the skies of science. Here, we try to take a closer look at the thoughts, hard work, and spirit of these students.



It was a major competition in which more than 350 students from about 90 countries around the world participated. My school mentors helped me a lot, and because of them, I was able to achieve my goal. I believe that recognising such programmes like Olympiad is a very good step of Government of India, as these help take the country forward in the field of science. I would sincerely urge everyone to participate in such Olympiads.

–Kuchi Sandeep, Hyderabad, Telangana – Gold Medalist



I began my preparation with NCERT books, some undergraduate textbooks, online reference materials, and past papers from the Indian and International Chemistry Olympiads. Olympiads are like the Olympics of academics, held in high regard and given great value. This is what inspires me to move forward and gives me the courage to keep working hard with the same passion.

–Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya, Jalgaon, Maharashtra – Gold Medalist



We took part in several talk shows, workshops, and other such programs that enhanced my interest in science. The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, which is the nodal center for organising Science Olympiads in India, provided us with a two-week training camp where both theory and practical were explained thoroughly. Such international competitions not only boost our confidence but also give us the opportunity to learn from talented students from all over the world.

–Ujjawal Kesari, Delhi – Silver Medalist

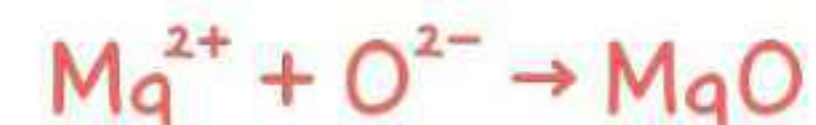


I have been interested in Chemistry since Class 7. When I was in Class 9, I learned about the IChO (International Chemistry Olympiad) and decided then and there that I had to crack it. It has been a truly amazing experience for me. I would just like to say that we should broaden our perspective about science. Once you realise that science is an interesting and enjoyable subject, you naturally start enjoying studying it.

–Debdutt Priyadarshi, Bhubneshwar, Odhisha – Silver Medalist



77



Swachh Bharat Mission

Epitomising Jan Bhagidari

“Sometimes a task comes across as impossible to some people. They wonder, would this even be possible? But, when the country comes together on one thought, even the impossible becomes possible. ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ is the biggest example of this. Soon this mission will complete 11 years. But, its strength and its need is still the same. In these 11 years, ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ has become a mass movement. People consider it their duty and this is real public participation.”

–Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(in ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)

In 2014, when the call for a Swachh Bharat echoed across the nation, it was not just the launch of a government programme, it was the awakening of a collective dream. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision transformed cleanliness from being merely a civic duty into a shared national mission. The true strength of the initiative lay in *Jan Bhagidari*, millions of citizens uniting to change habits, landscapes, and mindsets. From big cities to small villages, people came together. Citizens from every section of society picked up brooms, housing societies started waste separation. Villagers formed cleanliness groups, city dwellers painted walls with messages of hygiene, and religious leaders, film stars, and sportspersons spoke about cleanliness, making it a matter of pride.

Swachh Bharat Mission– Grameen: Phase I (2014–2019)

The first phase was a landmark initiative, mobilising

the nation in the largest behavioural change campaign in the world. Awareness drives, educational programmes, and infrastructure development transformed public attitudes towards sanitation. Villagers, local leaders, self-help groups, schools, and panchayats worked in close partnership with the government. The result was not just toilets constructed, but mindsets changed, leading to dramatic improvements in hygiene, dignity, and health, particularly for women and children.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen: Phase II (2019–2025)

Building on the success of Phase I, the second phase focuses on sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and

achieving Sampurn Swachhata (complete cleanliness) by 2025.

Key Achievements as of July 2025:

- 11.90 crore household toilets constructed
- 2.59 lakh Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) built





- 5.66 lakh villages achieved ODF Plus status.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban

Launched alongside SBM–Grameen in 2014, SBM–Urban aimed for 100% ODF status, scientific solid waste management, and lasting behavioural change through a Jan Andolan in cities and towns. By July 2025, the urban component had delivered

63.78 lakh household toilets and 6.36 lakh community and public toilets, backed by robust third-party verification and widespread citizen participation.

Change in Mindset

The Swachh Bharat Mission has reshaped the nation's approach to cleanliness. It is no longer viewed as someone else's responsibility—it is a shared duty and a matter of pride. Streets are cleaner, waste segregation

"The inspiration to launch the Gomti River Cleanliness Campaign came from the Namami Gange programme initiated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. For the last seven years, every Sunday without fail, we have performed shramdaan to clean the Gomti river. What started as a small effort has grown into a people's movement, with thousands of children, youth, and women actively participating, making it a symbol of unity and environmental responsibility."

—Ranjit Singh, 'Sanyojak' Swachh Paryavaran Aandolan Sena Lucknow



"Our journey of Sakaratmak Soch began with the goal of cleanliness, which we embraced as our duty. Each week, through shramdaan, we set specific targets and today we proudly run 25 Utensil Banks, Thela Bank, Medical Equipment Bank, and a Nursery. These collective efforts build enthusiasm and unity. Our biggest motivation came when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi acknowledged our work, inspiring us to continue with even greater commitment."



—Kiran Sharma, Founder, Sakaratmak Soch



is becoming a daily habit, and open defecation is increasingly seen as a thing of the past.

Testament of Jan Bhagidari

Today, Swachh Bharat Mission stands as a living embodiment of Jan Bhagidari, where policy meets people's participation, and governance is redefined from "for the people" to

"with the people, by the people." From the smallest village lane to the busiest urban street, the journey from ODF to Sampurn Swachhata is more than an administrative achievement. It is a testament to the power of united action in building a cleaner, healthier, and more dignified India.





MANN KI BAAT

Media Scan



Amit Shah @AmitShah

मोदी जी ने बताया कि गुगल (गूगल), जो कभी नक्सल हिंसा के लिए जाना जाता था, अब वहीं लोग हिंसा छोड़ मत्स्य पालन कर रहे हैं। जिन हाथों में पहले बंदूकें थीं, अब उन हाथों में मछली पकड़ने के जाल हैं।

#MannKiBaat

Translate post



BSF @BSFIndia

#MannKiBaat

आज #मन्न_की_बात में प्रधानमंत्री जी ने अमेरिका में आयोजित World Police and Fire Games में भारत के खिलाड़ियों की उपलब्धियों का जिक्र किया। महोदय, आपकी शाबाशी और शुभकामनाओं से सभी खिलाड़ियों और उनके प्रशिक्षकों का उत्साह बढ़ा है। सभी खिलाड़ी आगामी प्रतियोगिताओं में और भी अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने को आतुर हैं।

Translate post



Jual Oram @juakoram

Thiru Mani Maran has been at the forefront of a noteworthy initiative to preserve and popularise the great Tamil manuscripts and culture.

Digitising manuscripts is a key priority for our Government too and we have launched an important exercise in this regard. #MannKiBaat



DD URDU @UrduDoordarshan

आपने INSPIRE-MANAK अभियान का नाम सुना होगा। यह बच्चों के innovation को बढ़ावा देने का अभियान है। - PM

#narendramodi

@PMOIndia @MIBIndia

#MannKiBaat #MKB #MKBonDD #InspireManak

Translate post



Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri

खेलेंगे इंडिया, खेलेंगे इंडिया!

PM @narendramodi जी के मार्गदर्शन में भारत sporting super power बन रहा है।

'खेलों भारत नीति 2025' इस मिशन को मजबूती दे रही है। गाँव, गरीब और बेरिफा इस नीति की प्राथमिकता है।

आज खेलों से जुड़े startups, चाहे वो sports managements हों या manufacturing से जुड़े हों- उनकी हर तरह से मदद की जा रही है।

प्रधानमंत्री जी को young athletes और उनके parents के संदेश मिलना, नए भारत की खेल नीति की सफलता का प्रमाण है।

#MannKiBaat

Translate post



Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda

आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के 'मन्न की बात' के 124वें संस्करण को आज नई दिल्ली स्थित डिफेंस कॉलोनी में भारतीय सेना के भूतपूर्व सैनिकों और कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ सुना।

प्रधानमंत्री जी ने देश में बढ़ रहे स्पेस स्टार्टअप का जिक्र करते हुए अगामी 23 अगस्त को National Space Day को लेकर नागरिकों से सुझाव माँगे। साथ ही भारत के शौर्य और वीरगाथाओं से सराबोर ऐतिहासिक किलों की जानकारी साझा की। अमर याहीद खुदीराम बोस, बात गंगाधर तिलक, भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन की वर्गाठ व स्वतंत्र दिवस की चर्चा करने के साथ ही देशभर में किये जा रहे नवाचार को लेकर प्रेरणादायक विचार साझा किये।

देशभर में नागरिकों द्वारा किये जा रहे विभिन्न अनुकरणीय कार्यों के माध्यम से #MannKiBaat कार्यक्रम देश को एक सूत्र में पिरोकर राष्ट्र के उत्कर्ष की दिशा में उन्मुख करने का सशक्त माध्यम बना है। आईये, हम सभी मिलकर अपनी सामूहिक शक्ति को राष्ट्र व समाज के उत्कर्ष हेतु समर्पित करें।

Translate post



Dharmendra Pradhan @dpradhanbjo

#MannKiBaat has evolved as a platform to celebrate pioneering efforts, touch upon the collective successes of the country and inspiring achievements of our citizens.

PM @narendramodi ji spoke about the success stories being weaved by tribal women of Mayurbhanj Odisha in the just concluded episode of Mann Ki Baat. Praise from Hon'ble PM and acknowledgement on a national platform will inspire these women to script new chapters of economic empowerment.



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat @gsjodhpur

देश के और हिस्सों में भी ऐसे ही अद्भुत किले हैं, जिन्होंने आक्रमण झेले, खराब मौसम की मार झेली, लेकिन आत्मसम्मान को कभी भी हथकने नहीं दिया।

राजस्थान का चित्तौड़गढ़ का किला, कुमलगढ़ किला, रणथंभौर किला, अजमेर किला, जैसलमेर का किला तो विश्व प्रसिद्ध हैं।

कर्नाटका में गुलबर्गा का किला भी बहुत बड़ा है। चित्रदुर्ग के किले की विशालता भी आपको चौंकाएगी से भर देंगी कि उस जमाने में ये किला बना कैसे होगा

-पीएम @narendramodi

Rekha Gupta @gupta_rekha

आज समप्रपुर में माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के 'मन्न की बात' कार्यक्रम को भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं और स्थानीय नागरिकों के साथ सुना। यह कार्यक्रम केवल एक रेडियो कार्यक्रम नहीं, बल्कि जनसंवाद की यह धारा है, जो राष्ट्र निर्माण की बेतना को घर-घर तक पहुंचाती है।

आज के इस प्रेरक एपिसोड में प्रधानमंत्री जी ने जनभागीदारी, भारतीय संस्कृति, सेवा और आत्मनिर्भर भारत की भावना को नई दिशा व ऊर्जा दी। देश की मिट्टी से उषजी कहानियाँ, नवाचारों और सेवा भावना से ओतप्रोत विचारों ने प्रत्येक श्रोता के हृदय को स्पर्श किया। यह संवाद केवल विचारों का साझा मंच नहीं, बल्कि संकल्प से सिद्धि की दिशा में पूरे राष्ट्र को प्रेरित करने वाला एक जन-आंदोलन है।

इस अवसर पर सांसद श्री @yogenderchandra जी, विधायक श्री @deepak4b/pbadl जी एवं उत्तर-पश्चिम दिल्ली भाजपा के जिलाध्यक्ष श्री @vinodsehrawa01 जी उपस्थित रहे।

@PMOIndia
@AmitShah
@HMOIndia
@JPNadda
@BJP4India
@BJP4Delhi

#MannKiBaat

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Setish Mahana @Setishmahanaup

आज कानपुर में महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा क्षेत्र स्थित कैम्प कार्यालय पर देश के सर्वाधिक लोकप्रिय कार्यक्रम 'मन्न की बात' के माध्यम से आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के ओजस्वी एवं प्रेरणादायक विचारों को सुनते हुए।

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#मन्न_की_बात

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Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi Hails Space Innovation, Olympiad Success, and National Pride | ABP NEWS

अमर उजाला

Mann Ki Baat: छात्रों ने ओलंपियाड में बढ़ाया देश का मान, विज्ञान में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है भारत: पीएम मोदी



"Every stone has witnessed historical event": PM Modi hails 12 Maratha forts recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Sites



PM Modi lauds cleanliness initiatives: पीएम मोदी ने 'मन की बात' में 'मन' में स्वच्छता के अहम पहलुओं की सराहना की



PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat: Lauds Shubhanshu Shukla's return, highlights space startup boom

DECCAN Chronicle

Over 200 startups have come up in space sector alone: PM Modi says in 'Mann Ki Baat'



PM Modi Hails UP's Forts, River Clean-Up Efforts in 'Mann Ki Baat'; Highlights Kalinjar's Legacy And Gomti Volunteers



Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi praises Shubhanshu Shukla's success, highlights India's space, sports and achievements



'गिन बहारत मन' के तहत पुरानी मخطوطत को डिजिटल किये जायेंगे: وزیر اعظم मोदी



Mann Ki Baat: कोटा के छात्रों का इंटरनेशनल धमाका, 'मन की बात' में गुंजा एलन का नाम, पीएम मोदी ने की तारीफ



PM Modi lauds Odisha's tribal women, 'kirtan' group in 'Mann Ki Baat' programme



PM Modi In 'Mann Ki Baat': Indian Students Excel At Olympiads, Science And Innovation Thriving Rapidly In 21st Century India



Mann Ki Baat: "Textile sector's growth is driven by start-ups, women and youth", says PM Modi



PM Modi highlights Gumla youth's remarkable shift from extremism to fish farming in 'Mann Ki Baat'

The Statesman

'Embracing Scientific Spirit Key to India's Growth': PM Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat'



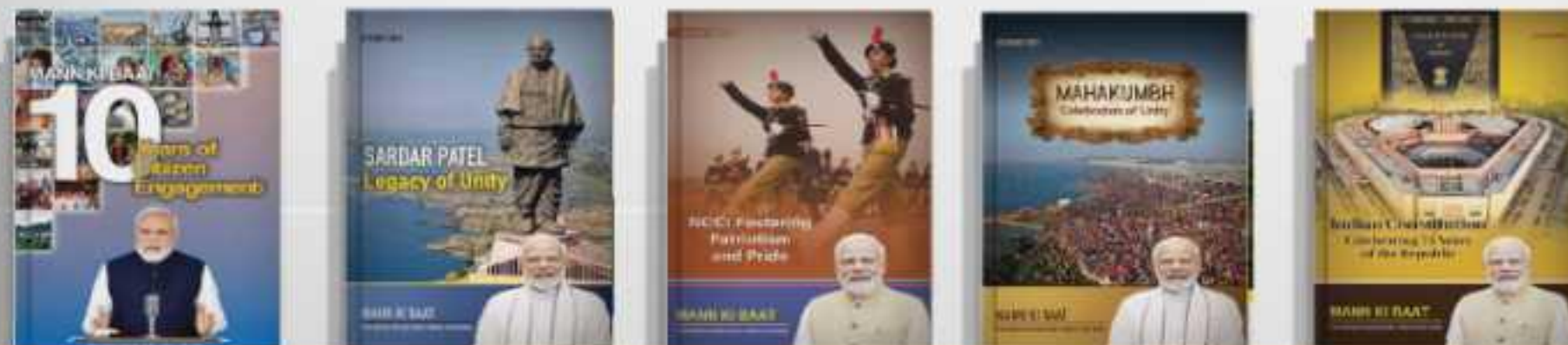
Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi on 'Khelo Bharat Niti 2025' - 'Villages, the poor and daughters are priority'



मन की बात: पीएम मोदी ने 'इंस्पायर मानक योजना' का किया जिक्र, बोले- 'लाखों बच्चे इससे जुड़े'



To read all the editions of
'Mann ki Baat',
scan the QR code





These forts are not mere bricks and stones, they are symbols of our culture. To this day, our culture and dignity shine through the towering walls of these forts.”

- Narendra Modi



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