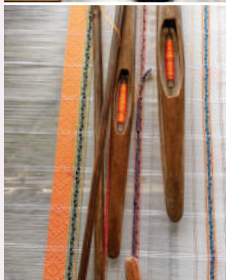


# Khadi & Handloom Woven in the Spirit of India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's  
Address to the Nation

# Prime Minister's Address



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## MEDIA SCAN

# My dear Countrymen

# Namaskar

There are certain days in our lives that do not require a calendar to be remembered. **Today, the 26th of July, is one such date. Today is 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'.** This day fills us with pride. This day reminds us of the extraordinary courage of our brave soldiers. Towering peaks of Kargil, harsh weather, the challenge posed by the enemy—our soldiers faced every such circumstance, yet their spirit was greater than every challenge. They sacrificed their all for the defence of Maa Bharati. Today, on 'Kargil Vijay

Diwas', I respectfully bow to all the brave martyrs and soldiers.

Friends, The India of today not only remembers her heroes but also conveys their saga to the new generation. **With this very sentiment, a special 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' has been organised this year. Having started on the 14th of July from the National War Memorial in Delhi, this motorcycle rally will reach the Kargil War Memorial in Dras.**

Its message is - "One Ride, One Nation, One Salute." This journey reminds us that the



*Shaurya Vijay Yatra, July 2026*



sacrifice made for the nation can never be forgotten.

Friends, Today, alongside the courage of her soldiers, India is also continuously strengthening her technological capabilities. **A few days ago, INS Mahendragiri was inducted into the Indian Navy.** This modern warship has been designed and built in India itself. More than 75 percent of the materials used in it are indigenous. It is a symbol of the growing strength of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. **This very month, the DRDO also successfully tested the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket.** Behind this success lies the

collective perseverance of our scientists and engineers. **Only two-three days ago, the DRDO also successfully tested the Kusha missile.**

Friends, Whether it is defence production, defence exports, or political cooperation with friendly nations—India is continuously scaling new heights. **Earlier this month, I was in Indonesia, where a major agreement regarding BrahMos and Astra missiles was concluded.** Global confidence in India's defence equipment and technology is growing.

This 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', let us pay tribute to our immortal martyrs and further strengthen our resolve to build a secure, capable, and self-reliant India.

My dear countrymen, In the previous episode of 'Mann ki Baat', I spoke to you about the 'Catch The Rain' campaign. I had appealed that this campaign to conserve every drop of rain be turned into a mass movement. **The message of 'Catch The Rain' is very simple: conserve the water right where and when the rain falls. That is why a special nationwide campaign has been underway since the 4th of July.** Under this initiative,

fresh momentum is being given to rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, the rejuvenation of old water bodies, and tree plantation. I am delighted to see overwhelming participation from people everywhere - be it villages or cities, panchayats or social organisations.

At some places, silt is being removed from old ponds, while at others, wells and stepwells are being revived. Borewells no longer in use are now serving as channels for groundwater recharge.

Friends, Around 1,500 ponds have been constructed in the Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh. 'Amrit Sarovars' have been restored in Narsinghpur. Significant water storage capacity has been developed in Nashik, Maharashtra. In Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, all gram panchayats have joined this campaign, and old ponds have

been made functional again. Our cities as well are not lagging behind either; encouraging results from this campaign are visible in Korba (Chhattisgarh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh). Come, let us also take responsibility for a pond, well, or stepwell in our vicinity - save every drop of water. Every drop saved today serves as the greatest asset for the future of coming generations.



**This Monsoon,  
Let's come together for**

**Catch the Rain  
campaign**  
take pledge for water  
conservation ....  
As we cannot live without water.

**Tasks, we have to perform**

- Adopt Rain Water Harvesting system in every home, society and workplace.
- Install Recharge Pit and Shaft at appropriate places and repair the unused borewells for enabling ground water recharge.
- Restore Baolis, Wells and traditional Water Bodies and make them usable.
- Enhance water retention capacity by removing silt from ponds and water reservoirs in your vicinity for maximum Monsoon water conservation.
- Please ensure maximum tree plantation to enhance green coverage in water retention areas.

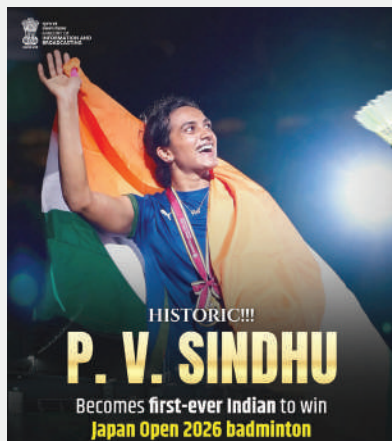
" Catch the Rain-Through this mission, we have to collectively save every drop of rainwater. My special appeal to save every single drop of rainwater collectively."

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Government of India

My dear fellow citizens, the Commonwealth Games began in Glasgow, just a few days ago. Every Indian is constantly extending one's best wishes to the Indian contingent. It is their wish that all players and athletes perform exceptionally well and win the hearts of the people.

Friends, Our youth have achieved remarkable feats in sports recently. **PV Sindhu has become the first Indian to win the Japan Open title in badminton;** the entire nation is proud of this achievement of hers. **The Indian women's cricket team also won its first-ever Test match at the Lords Stadium in London.** This is a historic victory;



our team won the match by a massive margin of 270 runs. But that is not all – in the long history of Lord's, this was the first Test match played by a women's team. It was on this very ground that India won her first Cricket World Cup in 1983. Now, our 'Nari





Shakti' has brought glory to the nation there.

Friends, There are also small initiatives that hold great significance. **I learned about one such sports-related initiative in South Chittoor, Ernakulam, Keralam.** A school there has a Sanskrit club where a teacher, Abhilash ji, is popularising Sanskrit in a unique way. **This project has been named 'Aksharakanduk'; it explains Sanskrit letters in a simple manner by linking them to terms used in football.** This makes learning enjoyable while also fostering a deeper connection between people and sports.

**My dear countrymen, Every Indian is filled with pride following the**

**successful launch of 'Vikram-I' last Sunday.** All of us Indians were witness to this historic moment for India's Space sector. It is India's first rocket developed by the private sector. Our young innovators achieved something that was once difficult to even imagine... they displayed remarkable skill, passion, and patience. For a long time, our Space sector remained closed to the private sector, denying many interested young people the opportunity to showcase



their talent. Keeping the interests of the youth in mind, we opened up the space sector to private enterprise, and today, the world is witnessing the results.

**Friends, Our young friends are also bringing glory to India in the field of science. Science Olympiads are among the most important competitions in the world.** A large number of students participate in these events. Olympiads in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics were held just this month. The Indian contingent delivered a spectacular performance in these competitions. In the Physics Olympiad, all five of our students won gold medals, and India secured the top rank.

Over the past decade, students from our country

have won either a gold or a silver medal in every Physics Olympiad. In the Chemistry Olympiad, too, all our students won gold medals. This has been our best performance so far. All our students also won medals in the Biology Olympiad, including a gold medal. On the other hand, in the Mathematics Olympiad, our students secured two gold and four silver medals. I am immensely proud of the nation's youth power. It is heartening to see the culture of Olympiads and Hackathons steadily growing in India. I am confident that more and more young people across the country will show interest at such forums and keep the flag of India flying high.

**My dear countrymen, When one possesses both**





*Kashmir Wagu craft*

**talent and the passion to achieve something, every path becomes easy. A glimpse of that is evident in the efforts currently being made regarding Kashmir's traditional 'Wagu' mat.** It is crafted out of reeds and paddy straw. The tradition of making this mat dates back many years. The process begins with harvesting grass and reeds from the marshy regions of

Kashmir. After drying them in the sun and sorting the materials, the hand-weaving process begins.

It takes approximately four days for two artisans to complete a single mat. This mat is both unique and eco-friendly. A major feature is that it provides coolness in the summer and warmth in the winter. While it used to be found



*Kashmir Wagu craft*

in every Kashmiri household, its usage had declined over the last few years. Amidst that, Ghulam Hussain ji from Srinagar and his daughter, Tanzila ji, took a pledge. Both dedicated themselves to reviving the tradition of the 'Wagu' craft. Ghulam Hussain ji comes from a very humble background. He faced numerous challenges in this endeavour. However, his resolve to preserve 'Wagu' remained unflinched. And within no time, many people began joining this initiative. Ghulam Hussain ji significantly advanced this craft. He also received local government support for his mission.

Today, 'Wagu' is rapidly gaining popularity and reaching other parts of the country. I am immensely proud of everyone

associated with this effort. Today, we are all emphasising local products; we are moving forward with the mantra of 'Vocal for Local.' In this context, do consider making Kashmir's 'Wagu' a part of your home as well.

**Friends, In our country, tea is not merely a beverage—it embodies a sense of togetherness.** Whether it is the start of the day, a meeting with friends, or spending quality time with family, tea becomes an integral part of every occasion. In fact you are, well aware of my own bond with tea.

However, the tea I am bringing into discussion today has not only offered taste but has also infused the lives of many women with the fresh aroma of self-reliance. Women



associated with a Self-Help Group in Lakhiwala village, Bijnor district, Uttar Pradesh, have created 'Vidur Purna Swadeshi Herbal Tea.' It contains natural ingredients such as lemongrass, Giloy, Mulethi (licorice), Tulsi, raw turmeric, cinnamon, cardamom, and fennel seeds. Due to its unique taste and qualities, this tea has quickly carved a niche for itself among the people. This herbal tea has garnered immense appreciation at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj and the International Food Festival in Delhi; even visitors from abroad have shown interest in it.

Friends, The most inspiring aspect is how it all began. This entire venture started with an investment of just one lakh rupees. Today, the brand has reached major institutions

across the country. This initiative demonstrates that when local knowledge, nature, and the self-confidence of women come together, even a small effort can initiate significant change.

**My dear countrymen, People across the country are fulfilling their responsibility towards nature through the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.** When society connects with this sentiment, beautiful and inspiring examples emerge. Friends, the incredible power of public participation was witnessed in Ahmedabad. In the Bhadaj area, over 3.5 lakh saplings were planted within a single hour, with more than 25,000 people joining the effort. School children, NCC cadets, volunteers, and ordinary citizens—everyone participated in this campaign. In the coming



years, these saplings will grow into a dense urban forest. This achievement has been recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Friends, The remarkable resolve of the people was also evident in Uttar Pradesh under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, where over 35 crore saplings were planted in a single day - on the 12th of July. As a Member of Parliament representing a constituency in UP, this is a matter of special pride for me.

**My dear countrymen, Trees are not just for humans; they are also home to countless living creatures. After nearly 60 years, the Indian Grey Hornbill is once again making its abode in the Gir forests of Gujarat. This is the result**

**of years of conservation and restoration efforts in Gir.** The Hornbill is often referred to as the 'farmer of the forest.' They eat these fruits and disperse the seeds far and wide; from these very seeds, new trees grow in the forest. In this way, a single bird helps make the forest lush and green again. I would urge all of you to connect a special occasion in your lives with nature—plant a tree in your mother's name. A small sapling planted today can become a legacy of greenery, clean air, and a beautiful future for generations to come.

**My dear countrymen, We all know that plastic pollution poses a major challenge to the global environment today. Waste from single-use plastic continues to harm nature for**





years; therefore, proper disposal of plastic is crucial. Friends, a magnificent example of 'Waste to Wealth' has emerged from Sitamarhi in Bihar. Here, waste is being recycled to create attractive benches. About 40 kilograms of single-use plastic are consumed to make one bench. These benches are not only strong, durable, and comfortable but also eco-friendly. They are installed in government schools, parks, and public spaces.

This initiative is also raising awareness among people about environmental conservation. Both local bodies and the district administration play a vital role in this effort. That's also generating local employment opportunities. This initiative in Sitamarhi shows us that 'Reduce, Reuse,

and Recycle' is no longer just a slogan but is becoming a part of our lives.

**Friends, You might recall that in the last episode of 'Mann ki Baat', I had spoken of 'Ganesh Utsav'.** I had urged everyone to worship idols of Ganesha ji made from our country's own clay.

Instead of Ganesh ji made of POP or those imported from abroad, we should install Ganesh ji made from indigenous soil in our homes. Many people have sent me messages and shared their thoughts on this subject. People have told me that they have heeded my request. They have resolved to install idols of Ganesha ji made from local clay. People have written in to say that this topic was previously discussed in 'Mann ki Baat,' and that it helped them take the right



*Dr. Ronaldo Laishram, Astrophysicist*

steps at the right time. I reiterate my appeal: this time, for Ganpati Puja, install an idol of Ganesha ji made from the soil of our own land in your home and worship it. This effort of yours will, in a way, be a form of worshipping nature itself.

**My dear countrymen, I will now tell you about a person who**

**will make you feel very proud.**

He is someone actively working in the fields of science and innovation and gaining global recognition; yet, despite that, he remains deeply connected to his roots and never forgets to honour his homeland whenever the opportunity arises. **That person is Dr. Ronaldo Laishram from Manipur. His name is Dr. Ronaldo, but professionally, he is an astrophysicist.** He works in Japan and has been part of the team that discovered a massive cluster of young galaxies.

**You might be wondering what exactly he has done. Well, he named this entire cluster the 'Loktak Proto-cluster,' linking it**



*Loktak Lake, Manipur*

**to a beautiful lake in Manipur.** Loktak is a vast freshwater lake. 'Phumdis', the floating islands of vegetation in Loktak Lake create a unique landscape; it appears as if small islands are floating in a vast ocean. Similarly, these young galaxies in the universe form a massive structure. Today, Manipur's Loktak is shining not only on the country's map but also across the vast cosmos. This achievement is a source of pride for every Indian. It teaches our young friends that they can scale new heights while remaining connected to their traditions. These are roots that can also light up the world of stars.

**My dear countrymen, In**

**just a few days - on the 7th of August - our country will celebrate 'National Handloom Day'.** On this occasion, we celebrate the skills and creativity of our weaver brothers and sisters. These friends of ours are carrying forward traditions that have been passed down through generations.

Friends, Every handloom garment tells the story of a specific region, a community, and the countless people associated with it. These are the people who are proudly dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage.

Today, I urge you to honour our weaver friends by encouraging handloom crafts.



*7th August 2026, National Handloom Day*



*Pochampally Ikat*

Come, let us further strengthen the spirit of being 'Vocal for Local'.

Friends, The way handloom is being promoted in the country today is improving the lives of a large number of people. We see many examples of this, from Pochampally to Patna and from Kuthampally to Kutch. Today, there are many individuals and groups infusing new energy and identity into our glorious handloom tradition. Some are carrying forward the beautiful tradition of 'Pochampally Ikat', while others are engaging women weavers to create wool products. Some are preserving Keralam's traditional 'Kasavu Kala'. This is also providing

employment to our mothers and sisters.

Friends, Another subject I would particularly like to mention is 'Khadi'. We all know that 'Khadi' was very dear to Mahatma Gandhi. During recent years, 'Khadi' has become quite popular. Its sales have increased six-fold over the last 12 years. This sales figure has now reached nearly ₹8,000 crore. I urge all of you to definitely buy at least one product or the other made of Khadi, handloom, or handicraft during the upcoming festive season.

**My dear countrymen, If you were asked how many types of musical instruments exist in India, you would likely be left**

**wondering!** That is because we possess a vast array of musical instruments and the traditions associated with them. One such instrument is the 'Chongpreng' from Tripura; it is quite popular among the tribal communities there. Made of bamboo, this instrument features three strings. It produces a melodious tune that bears resemblance to the \*Sarod\*. For some reasons, its popularity among the youth had begun to wane. Amid that, Suraj Kumar Debbarma ji resolved to revive its popularity. Today, his efforts are bearing fruit; he performs using the Chongpreng as well as other traditional instruments from the region. He has a deep fondness for Kokborok folk songs, Baul songs & Bengali folk music. Now, I would like to play a short clip for

you; it is a piece of music that you will never forget.



**Friends, I am sure listening to that must have made you feel good. I am very proud of Debbarma ji; his efforts to popularise traditional music is truly commendable.** I urge all of you to share information about traditional musical instruments found in your own vicinity on social media. Such efforts on your part will certainly connect others with traditional Indian music.

**My dear countrymen, Tomorrow, the 27th of July, marks the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam ji. Dr. Kalam's personality embodied many inspiring**





## Remembering Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: The People's President

1. 11th President of India (2002–2007)
2. Missile and space scientist
3. Awarded Bharat Ratna in 1997
4. Remained a teacher until his last breath

**facets, yet the role of a teacher was closest to his heart.** He inspired children and the youth to dream big. Coincidentally, this week we will also celebrate the pious festival of 'Guru Purnima'. Our parents are our first teachers, while school teachers impart the knowledge of letters and learning. Guru Purnima is an occasion to express gratitude towards all such mentors. I offer

my respectful Pranaam to all the teachers and mentors across the country. **Friends, in just a few weeks, we will celebrate the grand festival of our Independence. 15th August is a day of pride for every Indian.** It is a day to remember the countless heroes who dedicated their all for the freedom of 'Bharat Mata'.

It is because of their sacrifice and devotion that we hold the



Tricolour in our hands today; this Tricolour embodies the ideals of our Constitution.

**Friends, Over the past few years, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign has united the entire nation with a remarkable spirit.**

The celebration of the Tricolour is visible in every home and every street. This year too, we must carry forward the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign with great enthusiasm. We must display the Tricolour at our homes with the utmost respect.

Friends, Every year before 15th of August, you send me myriad ideas and suggestions. This year as well, please do share your thoughts on MyGov. I look forward to your suggestions.

Friends, That's all for today's 'Mann ki Baat'. We will meet again next month with stories of many new achievements and inspiring efforts by our countrymen; until then, I take leave of you.

Thank you very much;  
Namaskar.

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



# MANNI KI BAAT

*Special Mentions by Prime Minister*





# Kargil Vijay Diwas

Remembering the Heroes



Every year on 26 July, the nation observes 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's historic victory in the Kargil War of 1999 and to honour the soldiers who displayed extraordinary courage, determination and sacrifice in defending the motherland. The day serves as a solemn reminder of the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces and of the supreme sacrifice made by the soldiers of Operation Vijay. This year, the nation marked the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas with gratitude and reverence for the heroes of the conflict.

In early May 1999, soon after the Lahore Declaration, the intrusion by Pakistani forces in Kargil district was first reported. The infiltration was part of Pakistan's Operation Badr in the Kargil sector of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, now in the union territory of Ladakh. The intruders occupied vacant winter posts on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) at high, icy and rugged altitudes. In order to evict the intruders, the Government of India responded with Operation Vijay, a large-scale military mobilisation to reclaim the occupied positions.

The fighting in Kargil was unlike any other. The war was fought on

what is often described as one of the highest battlefields in the world. Indian soldiers, with many kilograms of heavy gear, had to climb near-vertical cliffs at altitudes ranging from 13,000 to 18,000 feet (around 5000 meters) while under heavy artillery and sniper fire. Oxygen was scarce, and weather conditions were extreme, with sub-zero temperatures. And the enemy had the advantage of height. Despite this, the Indian Army, supported by the Air Force in Operation Safed Sagar and the Navy deployed in full strength, pushed forward.

The Kargil campaign witnessed several decisive battles that turned the tide in India's favour. The Battle of Tololing was one of the first breakthroughs of

the Kargil War, with Indian troops launching the assault in the last week of May 1999, and recapturing Point 4590 and Tololing on 13 June 1999. The recapture of Tiger Hill on 4 July 1999 was another key turning point. As one of the highest and most strategic peaks in the Dras sector, its capture after a daring assault gave India a major advantage and shifted the momentum of the war. Indian forces fought fierce battles across Point 4875, Batalik, Mushkoh Valley and Kaksar also, reclaiming every occupied position peak by peak and securing victory without crossing the Line of Control, demonstrating remarkable discipline, restraint and resolve. After nearly three months of relentless operations,





every occupied Indian post was reclaimed. On 14 July 1999, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed the nation and declared Operation Vijay a success. He paid tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve of the Armed Forces. On 26 July, the Tricolour once again flew proudly over the rugged mountains of

Ladakh. With the historic victory, the cost was steep with 545 soldiers martyred and more than a thousand wounded. But the nation's territorial integrity remained intact.

Every peak reclaimed was the result of extraordinary acts of bravery. The nation honoured these warriors with its highest military awards. Four soldiers were awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC), India's highest gallantry award. Nine soldiers received the Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) while 55 were honoured with the Vir Chakra (VC). One soldier was awarded the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM), six received the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM) and eight were honoured with the Yudh Seva Medal (YSM). The Sena Medal (SM) was awarded to 83 personnel, while 24 received the Vayu Sena Medal (VSM).



These honours reflect the scale of bravery and exceptional service displayed during the conflict.

In memory of the Kargil War victory, the Kargil War Memorial, built by the Indian Army, is located in Dras, at the foothills of the Tololing Hills. It is dedicated to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the war. The memorial features a huge wall inscribed with the names of all the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice during the war. A museum adjacent to the memorial showcases pictures, documents and other memorabilia from the war. It stands as a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

Twenty-seven years after the war, the mountains of Kargil continue to echo with the stories of extraordinary courage. Every peak reclaimed during Operation Vijay stands as a reminder



that India's sovereignty is non-negotiable. The Tricolour that rose again over those rugged heights symbolised not only victory, but the indomitable spirit of a nation united behind its Armed Forces. As India remembers its Kargil heroes, the tribute is more than words. It is a renewed pledge to uphold the values of courage, duty, sacrifice and unwavering service to the Nation for which they fought. Their legacy lives on, inspiring every generation to remember that the freedom and security of the country are protected by those who place the Nation above themselves.



# SHAURYA VIJAY YATRA

As part of the nationwide observance of Kargil Vijay Diwas 2026, 'Shaurya Vijay Yatra' was organised to honour the courage and supreme sacrifice of Indian bravehearts who ensured victory in the 1999 Kargil War.

## Flag-off



On 14 July 2026, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-off the 13-day commemorative motorcycle expedition from the National War Memorial, New Delhi to the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Ladakh. The Yatra was conducted as part of the 27th anniversary of Operation Vijay.

## The Expedition

The motto of the expedition was 'One Ride, One Nation, One Salute'. A team of 28 riders, including serving and retired defence forces personnel and their family members, covered 1,900 kilometers over 13 days. During the journey, the riders carried an urn containing the National War Memorial's sacred soil. This soil was offered at the Kargil War Memorial to symbolise "the confluence of the reverence of the nation's current generation and the valour of the nation's heroes".

# ONE RIDE, ONE NATION, ONE SALUTE

## Culmination

The Yatra culminated on 26 July 2026, the day of Kargil Vijay Diwas, at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in the team as riders rode past the entrance of the memorial. En route, the team paid homage at prominent military memorials including Chandimandir War Memorial, Rezang La War Memorial and Leh War Memorial.

## Significance

Addressing the event, Raksha Mantri said the Kargil war victory represents "India's enduring resolve to respond with full might to any hostile gaze upon our land, identity and honour". He paid tributes to soldiers who fought at altitudes of nearly 20,000 feet and minus 40°C, and reclaimed every peak, hill and bunker.

The Shaurya Vijay Yatra 2026 served to connect the nation with its Armed Forces and to keep alive the spirit of sacrifice of the 1999 Kargil heroes.



*"India has a rich history related to long sea voyages, commerce, naval defence, and the ship industry. Taking a cue from this rich history, today's India is emerging as a major maritime power in the world."*

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tri-Commissioning of IN Ships, 2025



**Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM  
Chief of the Naval Staff

# INS MAHENDRAGIRI

## ANCHORING ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT AT SEA

The maritime domain has always been central to India's national security and economic progress. With almost 95 per cent of our national trade by volume and about 70 per cent by value moving by sea, a capable Navy is an essential instrument of both national growth and national defence.

A capable Navy, in turn, draws its strength from a strong indigenous shipbuilding base. The advanced warships and maritime capabilities we see today are the fruits of an endeavour whose seeds were sown over six decades ago. India built its first indigenous warship, INS Ajay, around the exact same time the first Indian car was rolling off the assembly lines. Warship building is a highly complex and specialised domain, and the journey has not been without challenges. Yet, our strong national resolve has enabled us to overcome these hurdles.

Building on this legacy, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's powerful impetus to the pursuit of self-reliance in defence has accelerated our efforts, ensuring that our national defence capabilities are anchored firmly within the country. As a result, India today is deeply proud of its local industries and MSMEs that form the backbone of this journey.

In a notable demonstration of

this growing capability, three frontline warships were recently commissioned together in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. It was the second such milestone achieved in just 18 months, a testament to the remarkable strides India has made in indigenous shipbuilding.

Today, India stands tall as one of only six countries in the world with the ability to indigenously design and build aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines. This steady progress, from our early nascent efforts to mastering advanced maritime technologies, reflects a long and enduring commitment to championing Atmanirbharta.

**INS Mahendragiri - A Collective National Effort**

Commissioned into the

Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026, INS Mahendragiri is a powerful reflection of India's growing maritime capabilities. The journey of this warship, from the drawing boards of the **Navy's Warship Design Bureau** to its construction by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** in Mumbai, demonstrates what our domestic industries can achieve together.

Boasting over **75 per cent indigenous** content, the frigate showcases the depth and breadth of India's industrial capacity. The ship required approximately **4,000 tonnes** of special-grade steel, which was successfully developed by our domestic research laboratories, and supplied by the **Steel Authority of India** from its plants in Bokaro, Bhilai, and Rourkela.



Displacing 6,670 tonnes and capable of speeds up to 28 knots, the stealth frigate, built under Project 17A, is designed to operate across the full spectrum of maritime threats: air, surface and sub-surface. The ship is equipped with supersonic BrahMos cruise missiles, advanced air defence systems, and powerful sonars to detect and defeat underwater threats. This demonstrates the growing capability of Indian industries to develop and supply sophisticated combat systems for frontline platforms.

### **The Economic Engine of Shipbuilding**

The commercial and business significance of indigenous warship construction extends well beyond the naval dockyards, reaching deep into the wider national economy. Project 17A has involved **more than 200 Indian industries**, including MSMEs,

contributing to the construction of these advanced frigates. This project alone has generated approximately **4,000 direct and more than 10,000 indirect employment** opportunities.

The economic impact goes further still. *Every rupee invested in shipbuilding generates nearly two rupees across the economy.* Similarly, a single job created in a shipyard supports roughly **six additional jobs** in ancillary industries. At the tri-commissioning ceremony in January 2025, the *Hon'ble Prime Minister* noted that an investment of about **₹1.5 lakh crore** in this sector generates nearly **₹3 lakh crore** of economic activity.

### **Accelerating Naval Self-Reliance**

Beyond its impact as an economic multiplier, INS Mahendragiri marks a significant advance in our shipbuilding efficiency. Advanced modular





construction techniques and seamless coordination between the Indian Navy and the shipyards have reduced the construction period for this class of frigates by 20 per cent, from about **95 months to 75 months**. The launch-to-delivery timeline has almost halved, from **63 months to 31 months**. Where earlier ships required multiple sea sorties to complete their technical evaluations, *Mahendragiri* achieved this in a **single comprehensive trial**.

The ability to build and sustain advanced warships at home also strengthens India's maritime resilience. As global supply chains become more vulnerable to disruption, domestic production of combat platforms, equipment, and spares reduces dependence on external sources and ensures sustained high operational readiness.

The growing depth of India's defence industry is also reflected in its emergence as an exporter. Defence production reached a record **₹1.78 lakh crore** in the Financial Year 2025-26, while

defence exports rose to **₹38,424 crore**, reaching more than **eighty countries**. This is well poised to increase exponentially in the coming years.

The next frontier lies in the technologies that will shape future maritime operations. Continued advances in AI, autonomous systems, advanced sensors and digital networks are being pursued to further enhance the Navy's ability to operate effectively at sea.

Named after the steadfast peaks of the **Eastern Ghats in Odisha**, INS Mahendragiri stands as a resolute guardian of our waters and symbolises India's growing naval prowess. From design to construction, her journey reflects how *Atmanirbharta* has transformed from an **aspiration** into the **anchor** of our maritime strength. As the nation progresses towards the vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**, the Indian Navy will continue to safeguard India's maritime interests, symbolising to a nation that can design, build, and sustain its own destiny, all at home.



**Dr Jaiteerth R. Joshi**  
DG, BrahMos,  
DRDO & CEO & MD,  
BrahMos Aerospace

## **SUPERSONIC** **BrahMos**

**ANCHORING INDIA'S  
DEFENCE EXPORT  
ASPIRATIONS**

Hon'ble Prime Minister, during the latest episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann ki Baat', made a special mention on the recent export success of two of India's indigenous weapon systems, with supersonic cruise missile BRAHMOS being one of them.

It makes me immensely proud and happy to write about the ever-expanding global foothold of this formidable, indigenously-developed tactical weapon which has proved to the world India's growing technical maturity, technological sovereignty, strategic autonomy and military stature.

Anchored in cutting-edge technologies and manufacturing excellence, BRAHMOS today stands as a powerful symbol of India's robust defence-technological and defence-industrial transformations. The growing global trust and confidence in this "well-crafted", "combat-proven" precision strike weapon is a vindication of the fact that the ambitious 'Make-In-India' journey has taken deep roots. And the journey has further leapt forward into the 'Make-for-the-World' realm with BRAHMOS heralding a glorious chapter in India's defence exports frontier in the year 2022 by becoming the first, full-scale system in its class and calibre to enter the international missiles market after getting a historic export order from the Republic of the Philippines.

Since then, there has been no looking back for us, and our newest export customer is the Republic of Indonesia. This landmark deal with Indonesia has found a special mention in Prime

Minister's 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme.

Through the BRAHMOS programme, today we have established a huge and vibrant defence ecosystem in India. Under the BrahMos missile industry consortium framework, we have been closely working with a large number of public and private sector defence & aerospace industries, including MSMEs, which collectively form the backbone of this entire value-chain for BRAHMOS.

Here, I would like to highlight some key data and figures which validate the fact that BrahMos Aerospace has always remained at the forefront of our national growth and development.

As a defence joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPOM, BrahMos Aerospace started off with an initial investment capital of US\$ 300 million in 1998. And as of today, we have successfully executed orders worth around



US\$ 3.4 billion (~₹35,400 crore appx.) while holding a total order book of worth US\$ 3.6 billion (~₹37,500 crore appx). In 2026 alone, we crossed ₹5,200-crore (US\$ 500 million appx.) in revenue which has been possible due to continuous order flows for the missile system, both from national and international quarters. And in alignment with Government of India's goal of achieving ₹50,000 crore in Annual Defence Exports by 2029



- 2030, BRAHMOS has already taken a clear and decisive lead in this direction.

When it comes to creating opportunities, the JV enterprise has directly employed over 1,000 highly-skilled workforce, including engineers, scientists, researchers and technomanagers. The BrahMos missile-industry consortium has paved the way for another 20,000 + workers who have been indirectly associated with us through the large-scale supply chains, support industries and other allied services. Our longstanding partnership with over 200 + public and private-sector entities, including MSMEs and start-ups, has ensured a robust, uninterrupted supply base consisting of many critical components, systems and sub-systems for the BRAHMOS weapon complex. In addition to this, our collaboration with a number of laboratories,

and leading academic institutions has strengthened our indigenisation efforts, thus championing the cause of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision.

The establishment and successful operationalisation of our largest, state-of-the-art BrahMos Integration and Testing facility in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 2025 has given a fresh momentum to our capacity building and capacity expansion programme in the country. This new facility promises to catalyse the transformation of Uttar Pradesh, and position it prominently as the next defence & aerospace hub of India over the next few years.

The world has already witnessed the superlative performance matrix of BRAHMOS - a "smart", "stealthy" modern kinetic weapon which has proven its invincibility during a recent conflict situation. As an unparalleled deterrent system





universally integrated across land, sea and air platforms, BRAHMOS remains the mainstay of India's Tri-Services synergy, integration and cohesiveness. The incredibly versatile missile has evolved continuously by upgrading and expanding its technological, operational and functional dynamics in alignment with our Armed Forces' requirements to remain combat-ready at all times in today's highly volatile and fragile security environment.

As a high-end, state-of-the-art military product, BRAHMOS has retained its competitive edge through our sustained R&D and innovation endeavours in several critical domains, including in precision engineering, metallurgy, propulsion science, guidance systems, embedded software among others. And to retain this edge as "world's best supersonic cruise missile", we have moved ahead in our plans to design and field the next-generation BRAHMOS which has been envisioned as a more compact, lethal successor to

existing BRAHMOS.

BRAHMOS-NG promises to revolutionise the battlefields of tomorrow. Featuring higher indigenous technologies and content, it is being designed for integration and deployment onboard a wider range of modern military platforms on land, sea and air in higher numbers. In the first phase of development, we plan to design and integrate the missile on India's aerial platforms – initially on Su-30MKI, and thereafter on LCA Tejas. Subsequently, the weapon could be developed and adapted for deployment on warships, submarines and ground platforms.

At the same time, owing to its incredibly novel features and cutting-edge attributes, BRAHMOS-NG holds promising potential to open up a plethora of lucrative export opportunities, thus fortifying and consolidating India's position as a top-notch manufacturer and exporter of high-end military equipment in the world market in the foreseeable future.



**Archana Varma**  
Secretary, Department of  
Water Resources, Ministry  
of Jal Shakti

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A RAINDROP FINDS A HOME?

Imagine a single drop of rain falling from a monsoon cloud! It lands on a rooftop in Odisha. Another falls into a revived pond in Chhattisgarh. One trickles into a recharge shaft in Andhra Pradesh. Yet another seeps through the soil of a farm pond in Madhya Pradesh. For a moment, they seem insignificant. But together, these drops tell one of the most important stories unfolding in India today – a story about water security, community action, and a nation learning to value every drop of rain.

### **This is the story of Catch the Rain.**

In his 135th episode of Mann Ki Baat on 28 June 2026, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called upon citizens to “save every drop of rain” and urged the nation to transform water conservation into a true people's movement. His message was simple yet powerful: ***“Catch the Rain” – conserve the water right where and when the rain falls.***

*Responding to this call, a special nationwide campaign has been underway since 4 July 2026, bringing renewed momentum to rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, restoration of traditional water bodies, plantation drives, and community participation. More than a campaign, it represents a collective national effort to ensure that every drop of rain contributes to India's water security.*

The central question is simple – What happens when a raindrop finds a home?

Across the country, traditional water bodies are being desilted, restored, and scientifically integrated into modern water management systems. Hydrogeological assessments, groundwater mapping, recharge planning, digital monitoring, and scientific site selection are helping



maximise the effectiveness of conservation interventions. As a result, ancient wisdom and modern science are working together to strengthen water security and climate resilience.

### Measuring Impact Across the Country

#### Odisha: Every Rooftop Matters

In Odisha, citizens embraced rainwater harvesting as a practical solution for local water security.

The state created **905 rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures**, including **849 rooftop rainwater harvesting systems** and **56 recharge shafts**. These interventions demonstrate how urban and rural communities can convert rooftops into valuable water assets while reducing dependence on groundwater extraction.

#### Andhra Pradesh: Reviving

### Water Networks at Scale

In Vizianagaram district, one of the most ambitious water conservation efforts in the country is underway. The district completed **8,973 water conservation works**, rejuvenated **6,424 Minor Irrigation Tanks**, restored **2,549 feeder channels**, generated **1.28 crore person-days of employment**, removed **109.9 lakh cubic metres of silt**, and cleared **82.48 lakh square metres of vegetation**. More than **2,090 kilometres of feeder channels** have been restored. These interventions are expected to create **0.70 TMC of additional water storage** and approximately **0.60 TMC of groundwater recharge**, benefiting **193 groundwater-deficit villages**.

Similarly, in Nandyal district, **2,103 water conservation works**, the restoration of **251 irrigation tanks**, and the rejuvenation



of 2,691 kilometres of feeder channels are expected to generate an additional **3.27 TMC of water storage capacity**, strengthening water availability for agriculture and communities alike.

### **Chhattisgarh: Community Participation Driving Results**

In Balod district, communities created nearly **2.85 lakh water conservation structures**. Along the **14.3-kilometre Tawera Nala**, more than **6,250 interventions** were undertaken, helping conserve an additional **6.5 crore litres of rainwater**. In

neighbouring **Rajnandgaon district**, more than **60,000 recharge structures** have been developed across villages. Additionally, **500 defunct borewells** were converted into recharge shafts, helping improve groundwater recharge. These efforts have contributed to an estimated **2.04-metre rise in groundwater levels** while generating more than **51 lakh person-days of employment**.

### **Maharashtra: Water Efficiency and Agricultural Resilience**

Nashik district completed 2,199 water conservation works, creating or restoring 12,243 TCM of water storage capacity. These efforts helped restore irrigation potential across 2,931 hectares, while micro-irrigation coverage expanded to 1.75 lakh hectares, improving water-use efficiency and supporting sustainable agriculture.

### **Supporting India's Flagship Water Programmes**

The impact of 'Catch the Rain' extends beyond individual projects.



Widening and deepening village nalas so they hold and recharge more monsoon flow — implemented entirely by the Soil & Water Conservation Department.



The campaign complements the objectives of Jal Jeevan Mission by strengthening source sustainability for drinking water supply. It supports Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari by promoting community-led groundwater recharge and management. It advances the vision of the National Water Mission by encouraging water conservation, water-use efficiency, and participatory water governance. Together, these initiatives create a comprehensive framework for sustainable water management.

### **Beyond the Statistics: A Story of You and Me**

At its core, Catch the Rain is not about concrete, engineering, or storage capacities.

It is about human hearts. It is about the mothers in water-stressed regions who no longer have to trek miles under a punishing sun, because they took charge and built the conservation structures themselves. It is about a digital generation that refused to stay indifferent, rallying on July 5, 2026, to make #CatchTheRain the number one trending topic on X in India proving that our modern world can still beat with a heart for sustainability.

### **The Most Important Water Structure is You**

When we think of water conservation, we often picture dams, reservoirs, and canals. But the most important water structure is not made of concrete, it is people. A student spreading awareness, a teacher educating young minds, a farmer adopting water-efficient practices, a community restoring a pond, or a citizen choosing to value every drop; each action contributes to water security. This is the spirit of Catch the Rain. India's water future will be shaped not only by government programmes, but by millions of individual actions.

# Every Drop Counts

## Stories of Water Conservation

The Catch the Rain campaign ran nationwide from 4 July to 4 August 2026, launched after PM Modi's appeal in the 135th 'Mann ki Baat' episode on 28 June 2026. It builds on Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR), launched on 1 June 2026, merging JSJB with the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign, focusing on rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and restoring traditional water bodies.



At its core, the campaign is driven by Jan Bhagidari, mobilising Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, women's groups, youth, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and local communities to actively participate in water conservation efforts.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) was first launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on World Water Day (22 March 2021) with the theme "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls." The campaign builds on the success of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2019.

Following the launch, a quiet revolution unfolded across India, as communities in villages and cities alike came together to harness every drop of rain where it falls. From desilted ponds in Sidhi (Madhya Pradesh) to Nashik's (Maharashtra) growing storage capacity, and revived water bodies in Nandyal (Andhra Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), and Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh) — their efforts reflect a shared commitment to conservation.

### Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh



## Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh



## Nashik, Maharashtra



## Bhubaneswar, Odisha



## Korba, Chhattisgarh



## Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh



# Nari Shakti

## India's Historic Win in Sports



Over the course of a single year, India's women have rewritten record books across two very different sports Badminton and Cricket. From a lone shuttler ending a title drought in Tokyo to a team conquering both a maiden World Cup and the "Home of Cricket" itself, these victories together capture the spirit of Nari Shakti, the rising power of India's women on the world stage.

### **PV Sindhu Scripts History in Japan**

Japan Open is one of badminton's most prestigious tournaments, categorised by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) as a Super 750 event which is one of the five highest tiers on the world tour. Despite India's long tradition in the sport, no Indian player man or woman had

ever won the title before 2026.

That changed on 19th July 2026, when PV Sindhu became the first Indian to win the Japan Open, defeating world No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the women's singles final at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. The win was Sindhu's first BWF Super 750 title, ending a title drought of more than two years and marking her biggest triumph since the 2019 BWF World Championships.

**Indian Women's Cricket**



**team conquer Lord's Cricket Ground**

India's women had already scripted one of the biggest triumphs in the country's cricketing history the previous year. On 2nd November 2025, Harmanpreet Kaur's side beat





South Africa by 52 runs in the final of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, winning the trophy for the first time after finishing runners-up

in 2005 and 2017.

Less than a year after that World Cup triumph, and just days before Sindhu's win in Tokyo, the same Indian team delivered a triumph of even greater historical weight. On 13th July 2026, India defeated England by a massive 270 runs in the first-ever women's Test match staged at Lord's - a ground that had waited 142 years to host one.





What made the Lord's win still more poignant was the ground's own place in India's cricketing memory. It was here that India had lifted its first Cricket World Cup, in 1983 a triumph that transformed the sport's standing in the country. Reflecting on this connection in 'Mann ki Baat', the Prime Minister said that in the long history of Lord's, this was the first Test match played by a women's team, and that the very ground which had witnessed India's 1983 World Cup glory had now seen the nation's Nari Shakti bring it glory once again.

### **A Season to Remember**

Taken together, a maiden World Cup, a historic Test win at cricket's most storied ground, and a lone shuttler's breakthrough in Tokyo reflect a larger story of Indian women steadily redefining what is possible in sport. These victories are a reminder that when opportunity is coupled with preparation, records that stood for over a century can fall. As the Prime Minister said, it is this Nari Shakti that continues to bring glory to the nation.



# 'AKSHARAKANDUKAM'

## Learning Sanskrit in a Playful Manner

Combining sports and education makes learning very interesting.

A unique effort like this can be seen in South Chittoor, Ernakulam, Keralam, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi specially praised in his 'Mann ki Baat' program. To make the language easy to learn, Abhilash T. Prathap, a teacher at a local school's 'Sanskrit Club', has started an innovative project called 'Aksharakandukam'. Through this project, Sanskrit letters are being taught easily by linking them to terms used in football, a sport that children love. This interesting initiative has transformed Sanskrit from a traditional subject into a fun and enjoyable experience.



"The idea of Aksharakandukam was born from a simple thought – learning becomes more meaningful when it connects with the interests and experiences of children. I wanted to bring that excitement (Football) into the Sanskrit classroom and show students that Sanskrit is not merely a classical language confined to textbooks,

but a living language."

"Most importantly, the classroom atmosphere changes. Instead of seeing Sanskrit as a subject that they simply have to study, students begin to experience it as something they can play with, explore and enjoy. The appreciation of Aksharakandukam in 'Mann

ki Baat' has strengthened my belief."

"I strongly believe that the future of Sanskrit depends not only on preserving its glorious past but also on presenting it meaningfully to the younger generation. Children today are surrounded by technology, sports, visual media and interactive experiences.

If Sanskrit education continues to be presented only through conventional methods, we may fail to reach many young minds."

—Abhilash T. Prathap, Sanskrit Teacher, Keralam





**Pawan Kumar Chandana**  
CEO & Co-founder,  
Skyroot Aerospace

# FROM PRARAMBH TO AAGAMAN INDIA'S NEW SPACE AGE

## **A Call We Will Always Remember**

The first phone call we received after Vikram-1 successfully reached orbit, came from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. For our entire team, it was a deeply emotional moment. After years of dreaming, designing, testing and overcoming countless engineering challenges, hearing the Prime Minister congratulate our young team made us feel that this achievement belonged not just to Skyroot, but to India. Soon afterwards, we had the privilege of meeting him in person. He spent time understanding our journey, our technology and our vision for the future. That encouragement reaffirmed the belief that India today celebrates those who dare to build.

## **Prarambh: Where the Journey Began**

Our journey, however, began much earlier. On 18 November 2022, Vikram-S lifted off on Mission Prarambh and became India's first privately developed rocket to reach space on its maiden suborbital flight. For a young startup, that mission was a defining milestone. It validated technologies, manufacturing methods and engineering practices that later powered the Vikram series of launch vehicles. More importantly, it gave an entire generation of entrepreneurs confidence that India's private space sector had truly arrived.

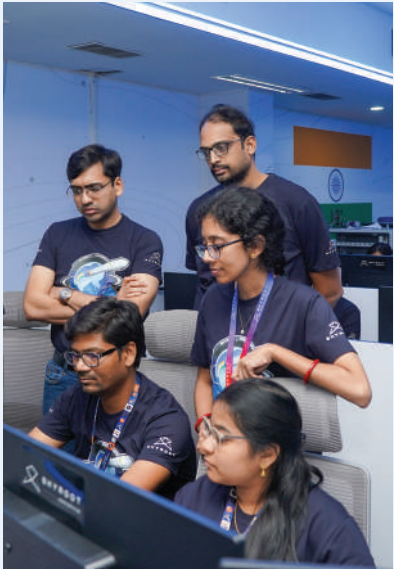
## **Reforms that opened the Space Frontier**

That confidence was made possible because India created an enabling ecosystem. The space-sector reforms

announced by the Government of India, the establishment of IN-SPACE and the continued support and mentorship of ISRO fundamentally changed what startups could aspire to achieve. They transformed private companies from spectators into active partners in India's national space programme. This partnership between visionary policy, scientific excellence and entrepreneurial energy has unlocked extraordinary possibilities.

**Infinity: Building Rockets at Scale**

Another milestone in our journey came on 27 November 2025, when Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Infinity, Skyroot's integrated rocket manufacturing and engineering campus. Conceived as India's largest



private rocket manufacturing facility, Infinity represents much more than infrastructure. It reflects our ambition to build rockets at scale and make access to space frequent, reliable and affordable. It was a powerful endorsement of the





vision that India can become a global hub for space technology.

### **Aagaman: Vikram-1 Reaches Orbit**

Those investments culminated in Vikram-1. Building an orbital launch vehicle is among the most demanding engineering challenges in the world. Every stage, every engine, every software command and every structural component has to perform with extraordinary

precision. When Vikram-1 reached orbit on its very first flight, it demonstrated not only the capability of one company, but the strength of India's growing innovation ecosystem.

### **1,000+ People. An Average Age of 28.**

Behind every launch is an incredible team. Today, Skyroot is powered by more than 1,000 employees with an average age of just 28 years. Whenever I walk through our laboratories, manufacturing floors and mission control rooms, I see the confidence, curiosity and determination of a new generation of Indian engineers. They are solving problems once thought beyond our reach, not because they have decades of experience, but because they have the courage to question convention and the opportunity to innovate. To me, they represent the true face of New India—young, ambitious, globally competitive and deeply committed to nation-building.





Watching these engineers work together reminds me that India's greatest strength is not only its technology but its people. They come from different states, languages and backgrounds, yet are united by one purpose: to build world-class space technology from India. Their success belongs equally to their families, teachers, mentors, suppliers, investors, ISRO, IN-SPACe and every institution that believed in them.

### **Making Access to Space Routine**

The story of Vikram-1 is therefore much bigger than a rocket. Space technology touches communication, navigation, weather forecasting, disaster management, scientific research and national security. By making launches more accessible, we hope to enable

hundreds of missions that improve life on Earth.

Our journey has moved from Prarambh the beginning to Aagaman, the arrival. The next chapter is about making access to space routine. Our long-term goal is to build the capability to launch one mission every month, serving customers from India and around the world.

### **From India, for the World**

India's space story is entering a defining era. With visionary leadership, strong institutions and the energy of young innovators, I believe the coming decades will belong to a nation that is confident enough to dream and capable enough to deliver. At Skyroot, we are honoured to contribute to that journey, building from India, for the world.

## Science and Mathematics

# OLYMPIADS-2026

## Historic Performance by Indian Youth



India's youth are making their mark in every field today, showcasing their talent and potential. The field of science is no exception. In his recent episode of 'Mann ki Baat', Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi highly praised the intellectual capabilities and scientific temperament of the country's young people. At the prestigious international Science and Mathematics Olympiads held this month, the Indian contingent delivered a historic performance, achieving its best-ever results.

Amidst brilliant students from across the world Indian youth demonstrated their scientific prowess and innovative spirit, making the nation proud and raising its stature on the global stage. The rapidly growing culture of Olympiads and hackathons in the country is laying a strong scientific foundation for a New India.



# Key Facts About India's Recent Achievements:

## Historic Medal Tally

In the 2026 International Olympiad season, the Indian contingent delivered its best-ever performance, creating history by winning a total of 12 gold and 7 silver medals.

## World Champions in Physics

At the International Physics Olympiad, all five Indian students won gold medals, helping India jointly secure the title of World Champion (First Rank).



## Best-Ever Performance in Chemistry

India also delivered its best-ever performance at the International Chemistry Olympiad with all four students of the team winning gold medals and jointly securing the title of World Champion.

## Outstanding Success in Mathematics

At the International Mathematics Olympiad, Indian students demonstrated exceptional logical and problem-solving abilities, winning 2 gold and 4 silver medals.

## Excellence in Biology as Well

At the International Biology Olympiad, all the students representing India won medals, including 1 gold and 3 silver medals.

## A Decade of Dominance in Physics

Over the past decade, Indian students have won at least one gold or silver medal at every International Physics Olympiad.

## Role of the National Nodal Centre

India's National Olympiad Programme is being led by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), the national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).

## Strong Support from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)

Behind this success lies nearly four decades of institutional support from the Department of Atomic Energy, which has been instrumental in identifying, training, and preparing India's talented youth for the global stage.

# Revival of Kashmir's 'Wagu' Craft

When skill and determination come together in a unique way, even dying traditions can breathe again. The story of Kashmir's traditional mat, 'Wagu', is one such example. Made from reeds and straw, this mat was once a source of pride in every Kashmiri household. Its biggest Speciality is that it is completely eco-friendly, providing warmth during winters and a cooling effect during summers. Crafted by hand from dried grass collected from Kashmir's marshy areas, a single Wagu mat takes about four days to complete with two artisans working on it.

Over time, this traditional craft was gradually fading away in the race toward modernity. However, Ghulam Hussain Ji, who comes from an ordinary family in Kashmir and his daughter Tanzila resolved to breathe new life into this dying art. Tanzila, who is pursuing a Master's degree in Persian from the University of Kashmir, is working alongside her studies to give this ancestral craft a new identity.

Speaking about her journey and struggles, Tanzila says:

“Earlier, I did not know this craft. My father and mother used to make Wagu. I learned this craft from my parents during the free time I had after my studies. 'Wagu' was very popular in ancient times but gradually it faded away. Now we have taken the initiative to revive it. Apart from using it for sitting, Wagu can also be used for decorative purposes.”



Speaking about the use of local resources and the challenges involved in marketing the product, she says:

“The most special thing about Wagu is that all the materials required to make it are locally available in Kashmir and it is completely natural. Several other workers are also associated with us, which helps support their families and livelihoods. Initially, we knew nothing about marketing so, we did not receive any orders. Now my father looks after the marketing while I manage the production work. When we started participating in exhibitions, people began approaching us, and now we are also receiving orders online.”



For today's younger generation, Tanzila has a very clear and inspiring message:

*“I want to tell each and every student, especially girls, that education is very important, and you should strive to move ahead in life. But along with education, you should also make sure that you develop a skill of your own.”*



# From a Village to the National Recognition

The Inspiring Story of 'Vidur Prerna Herbal Tea'



In India, tea is not merely a beverage; it is an integral part of our lives and a cherished element of togetherness woven into both the small and significant moments of our daily lives. Whether it is the start of the morning, meeting friends or spending a few leisurely moments with family, tea naturally finds its place in every gathering.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi too spoke about his special connection with tea during his recent 'Mann ki Baat' programme, where he mentioned a unique tea that offers not only an exceptional taste but has also infused a new sense of self-reliance into the lives of rural women. This is the inspiring story of 'Vidur Prerna Swadeshi Herbal Tea', prepared by women from Lakhiwala and surrounding villages in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh. What makes this story even more inspiring is that this brand, which has earned a distinct identity at both the national and international levels was started with a modest initial investment of just Rs.1 lakh.

## A Blend of Local Knowledge and Natural Goodness

Women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Bijnor have combined their traditional local knowledge with nature's bounty to create this herbal tea. It contains purely natural ingredients such as lemongrass, giloy, mulethi (liquorice), tulsi, raw turmeric, cinnamon, cardamom, jamun, and fennel. Babeeta Rani, President of the 'Vidur Herbal Tea Self-Help Group,' explains in detail how the initiative began, the ingredients used in the tea, and its health benefits:

*"Ten of us women came together in 2021 and started the Vidur Herbal Tea initiative with tremendous support from our block and district administration. Today, we see the excessive use of chemicals*



*Babeeta Rani*

*in food and beverages, which is why our herbal tea is highly beneficial for health. We have two variants of our tea - 'Arjun Hriday Shakti' (Arjun Heart Power) and 'Vidur Herbal Tea.' Our Vidur Herbal Tea contains a blend of lemongrass, giloy, jamun, mulethi, raw turmeric, and other natural ingredients, which help in addressing various health concerns."*





*Ranvijay Singh, CDO, Bisnor*

### **From the Village to Delhi and the Maha Kumbh**

Due to its unique taste and medicinal properties, this herbal tea has carved out a special place among consumers in a very short span of time. The tea received widespread appreciation at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and the 'International Food Festival' in Delhi, where even international

visitors showed keen interest in it. Speaking about the systematic and successful approach adopted to take the tea to the market, Babita says:

*"All the products made by the women associated with Self-Help Groups in our district are being sold under the 'Vidur' brand. We market these products through outlets operated under various Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) across the district. In addition, we have four cafés in Bijnor district and two cafés in the Moradabad division, where our herbal tea is being sold."*

### **Renewed Enthusiasm and Major Plans to Expand Production**

Following the Prime Minister's mention of Bijnor's herbal tea in 'Mann ki Baat', there is immense enthusiasm among the entire administration and the women's groups. Bijnor's Chief Development Officer Shri Ranvijay Singh considers this





a major achievement for the district. Speaking about plans for future expansion and quality control, he says:

*"This is a matter of great pride for the district and a tremendous source of encouragement for the women from Self-Help Groups who are producing this herbal tea. As demand for the product is now expected to increase at the national level, we are considering expanding its production unit accordingly. We will form a 'Producer Group' in which at least 100 women will work together. We are also closely monitoring the testing and quality control of the product."*

Further outlining the strategy to meet the growing demand and empower more women, Shri Ranvijay Singh adds:

*"We will promote more production units under the CLFs across the district so that production can be scaled up in*

*line with demand. In addition, we are exploring ways to provide financial assistance to Self-Help Groups through various government schemes and bank loans, with the aim of ensuring that every block has a well-equipped and efficient production unit."*

The success story of 'Vidur Prerna Herbal Tea' is a living testament to the fact that when women's determination, traditional local knowledge, and the bounty of nature come together on a common platform, even a small initiative can lay the foundation for transformative change. What began as a modest enterprise with just Rs.1 lakh has now reached major institutions and prestigious events across the country. Its journey stands as a powerful and fragrant example of the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' and Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India).

# Green Records, Greener Future



## Ahmedabad Sets Guinness World Record with 3.61 Lakh Saplings in an Hour

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has achieved a significant milestone under the guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister and Gandhinagar Lok Sabha MP Amit Shah. AMC created **a Guinness World Record by planting 3.61 lakh saplings of around 35 different indigenous varieties in a single hour using the Miyawaki method at Bhadaj.** The campaign was held across an area of approximately 76,000 square meters.



Officials and employees from all departments of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the School Board, BAPS organisation, CREDAI, police staff, NCC students, various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), educational institutions, social organisations, and the citizens of the city participated with immense enthusiasm. This mega-campaign became a resounding success, thanks to the **active public participation of more than 25,000 volunteers.**



**RECORD  
CREATED  
AT BHADAJ,  
AHMEDABAD**



This achievement stands as an important step towards environmental conservation and the green and sustainable development of Ahmedabad city.

# UNDERSTANDING MIYAWAKI TECHNIQUE



The Miyawaki technique, developed by **Japanese Botanist Akira Miyawaki** in the 1970s,



It **creates dense forests** in small spaces by planting trees and shrubs close together.



It is Also called the '**Pot Plantation method**,'



it **accelerates growth up to tenfold**, making it ideal for urban areas.



Compared to traditional forests, Miyawaki forests absorb **more** carbon, grow faster, and support richer biodiversity.



## Mega Tree Plantation Drive in UP's Gorakhpur Under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday, July 12, 2026 launched "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" tree plantation Mega-campaign 2026 in Gorakhpur district. Under the Prime Minister's guidance, **35 crore saplings** were planted across the entire state. These included plants that provide shade, medicinal value, fruit, and timber.

Over the past 9 years, 242 crore saplings have been planted across the state.



# The Hornbill Returns



For nearly seven decades, the call of the Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrocus birostris*) fell silent over the forests of Gir. The bird, once common enough to be "specifically plentiful during the months of winter," had vanished from the landscape by the 1950s, its last confirmed sighting dating back to 1936 (Ram et al., 2025). Today, that silence has been broken. In a reintroduction effort now in its fourth breeding year, the hornbill has returned to Gir and with it, a small but meaningful piece of the forest's ecological memory.

Dr. Mohan Ram, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir, who conceived and led the project, recalls that the idea grew out of a simple but nagging question. While reviewing Gir's conservation history with staff and old records, the team noticed a gap: a species that once thrived in the forest had disappeared, and no one could say with certainty why. Historical accounts offered only partial explanations. Some records pointed to hunting, others to local

beliefs, but no single, conclusive cause emerged. What was clear, Dr. Ram notes, was the timeline: scattered sightings through the 1950s and 1960s, and then nothing. The question that followed was equally simple: since the species had gone locally extinct, why not bring it back?

The reasoning went beyond restoring a missing name to Gir's bird list. As the only hornbill species found in Gujarat, the Indian Grey Hornbill plays a distinct ecological role as a seed disperser, helping sustain the forest's tree diversity. Dr. Ram describes the ecosystem as a chain of interdependent parts; the absence of the hornbill represented a broken link in that



*Dr. Mohan Ram, Conservator of Forest (CF), Junagadh Circle*

chain, one the reintroduction sought to restore.

The project was carried out in two phases. Following IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) reintroduction guidelines, the team surveyed historical hornbill habitats within Gir and identified the Aravalli forests near Modasa,



in northern Gujarat, as a source population with similar habitat characteristics. Birds were trapped by specialised trappers experienced in handling hornbills safely, transported over roughly 380 kilometres, and released directly into the wild, a "wild-to-wild" release rather than captive rearing, in keeping with the objective of preserving natural behaviour. Twenty-eight birds were released in the first phase between October 2021 and March 2022, followed by twelve more in December 2023, bringing the total to forty birds (Ram et al., 2025). Every released bird was ringed, and selected males were fitted with solar-powered satellite transmitters, a

deliberate choice, since female hornbills seal themselves inside nest cavities during breeding, where a transmitter would be both useless and a hindrance.

Dr. Ram is emphatic that the achievement extended well beyond the release itself: not a single bird was lost during capture, transport, or release. Locating the first nest took the field team fifty-five days of patient, careful observation by tracking a male hornbill without alerting it to their presence, since any sign of being followed would send the bird elsewhere. Around-the-clock monitoring followed, recording nesting behaviour, feeding frequency, chick development, and the





following year's survival that are the true markers of success for any reintroduction.

The results validated the effort. One breeding pair successfully fledged a chick in the very first year, and by the second breeding season, three pairs were nesting, with home ranges contracting sharply as the birds moved from an exploratory phase into settled residency. The birds have shown a marked preference for dry deciduous and teak forest within the protected area, while those dispersing outside it have adapted well to horticultural land and human settlements.

Dr. Ram is careful to credit

the effort as a collective one that of forest staff, veterinarians, trappers, the Gir Hi-Tech Monitoring Unit, and technical partners including 'The Corbett Foundation' all played essential roles. As he puts it, no single individual, or even a handful of people, could have delivered this outcome alone.

The hornbill's return has since found recognition in international scientific literature, but for the team on the ground, its significance is simpler: a species once lost to Gir's forests now breeds there again, offering both a source of pride and a working example for conservation elsewhere.

# Sitamarhi's Waste to Wealth Model

## Community, Collaboration and Recycling

In Bihar's Sitamarhi, single-use plastic is no longer just waste rather it's becoming furniture. Under the initiative of district administration, waste plastic collected from villages is processed into sturdy benches and desks, turning an environmental problem into a community solution.

The project shows how a circular economy can work at the grassroots, with the district administration, public representatives and a private partner coming together to give plastic a second life.

**Impact:** 85 bench-desks created. Approximately 4000 kg of waste plastic collected from 19 Gram-Panchayats of Bajpatti block utilised.



**Scale-up:** Plastic waste management units now created in Riga, Runni Saidpur and Dumra blocks.



**Process:** Collection → Cleaning → Shredding → Baling → Manufacturing → Benches/ Desks. Each bench uses approximately 40 kg plastic.



Collaboration: DRDA (District Rural Development Agency), DDC (Deputy Development Commissioner), BDOs (Block Development Officers), village mukhiyas, ward members, sanitation workers and PPP partner.



Future plan: 504 acres being acquired for an industrial area in Sitamarhi to set up a local manufacturing unit. A plan to collect plastic waste from neighbouring districts also.



“Although we were able to process a lot of plastic, that plastic was not getting any kind of forward linkage. So when I came to Sitamarhi, my primary objective was to ensure that we make some useful products from that waste plastic and in a sense, to ensure the kind of circular economy that Hon'ble PM Sir keeps referring to. So it was very important for us to have this kind of forward linkage to create wealth from waste, as is commonly referred to.”

– Richie Pandey, IAS, District Magistrate,  
Sitamarhi, Bihar



**Dr. Ronaldo Laishram**  
Astrophysicist and  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
National Astronomical  
Observatory of Japan

## MANIPUR'S LOKTAK LIGHTS UP THE COSMOS

A scientific discovery is important because it adds something new to human knowledge. It helps us understand nature more clearly and opens new questions. But sometimes, a discovery also carries a name, a memory, and a place that gives it a deeper human connection. For me, the Loktak Protocluster is one such discovery.

The Loktak Protocluster is a large structure of young galaxies seen in the early Universe. We are observing it as it existed about 12.6 billion years ago, when the Universe was only around 1.2 billion years old. In astronomy, looking far away also means looking back in time. So when we study the Loktak Protocluster, we are looking at one of the early chapters of cosmic history.

A protocluster can be understood as an early “city of galaxies” still under construction. In the present-day Universe, galaxies gather into groups, clusters, and even larger structures. Protoclusters are the ancestors of present-day galaxy clusters.

Our team discovered the Loktak Protocluster using observations from the Subaru Telescope and studied it further with the James Webb Space Telescope. The discovery is significant because it provides evidence that dense environments were already affecting how galaxies grew when the Universe was still very young. Galaxies inside the dense region were growing differently

from galaxies in less crowded regions. This tells us that where a galaxy lives can shape how it grows, even in the early Universe.

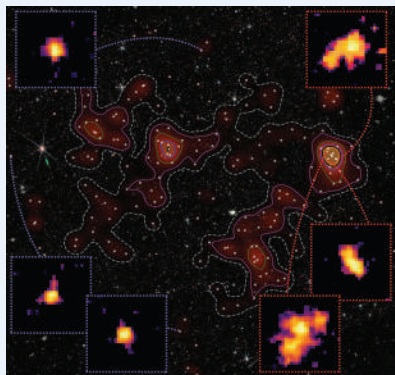
The name “Loktak Protocluster” came from a deeply personal and cultural place. Loktak Lake is a meaningful symbol of Manipur. It is often described as the lifeline of the state because of its connection with ecology, livelihood, culture, identity, and memory. For many of us from Manipur, Loktak is not only a lake. It represents home and carries the memory of our land and our people. Naming this distant structure after Loktak Lake was my way of paying tribute to Manipur and placing a part of home into the permanent record of astronomy. The structure has several connected galaxy concentrations, but the

deeper reason for the name was what Loktak represents for Manipur.

I felt deeply honoured that the Hon’ble Prime Minister mentioned the Loktak Protocluster in ‘Mann ki Baat’. His words carried an important message, especially for young people. One can work in science, contribute to global research, and still remain connected to one’s roots. I come from Khangabok in Thoubal district of Manipur and grew up in a simple family, with my late father running a small cycle repair workshop and my mother as a homemaker. Since childhood, I was always curious about nature and science, often asking questions about how things worked. As a child, I often looked at the night sky and wondered



*Loktak Lake, Manipur*



*The Loktak Protocluster region, studied using Subaru Telescope and James Webb Space Telescope observations. Credit: Laishram et al./NAOJ/NASA/ESA/CSA*

what existed beyond what we could see. I did not grow up with large observatories or easy access to astronomy research, but that curiosity stayed with me and slowly shaped my path.

One important moment in my life was meeting the late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam after I took part in the All India Asteroid Search Campaign at the age of eighteen

and discovered a preliminary Main Belt Asteroid. His words stayed with me: Dream big, Work hard, Do not give up, and Give back to society. Those words still guide me. Later, after completing my B.E. in Computer Science from JSS Science and Technology University, my journey took me to Japan, where I completed my Master's and PhD in Astronomy at Tohoku University and continued my research at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

This discovery was possible because of international scientific collaboration. Modern astronomy depends on teamwork across countries, institutions, telescopes, and ideas. The Subaru Telescope gave us the wide view needed to identify the structure, while the





James Webb Space Telescope allowed us to study the galaxies in greater detail. It also shows that Indian scientists, including those from smaller places, can contribute meaningfully to global research.

The discovery opens important questions for future research. How did these galaxies interact with one another in such a dense early environment? When exactly did their star formation slow down? How will this protocluster eventually evolve into a massive galaxy cluster over billions of years? Future observations with next-generation telescopes will help us answer these questions.

For me, staying connected to my roots also means giving back. Through the Manipur Astronomical Society, I hope to bring astronomy closer to

students and communities in Manipur. I also hope this moment will encourage wider institutional and public support for stronger science spaces in the state, such as a planetarium, observatory, or science centre, where young people can explore and ask questions freely. Such spaces can transform how students in Manipur see science and its possibilities. Through MitSna Foundation and other efforts, I wish to support the younger generation in learning, dreaming, and believing in themselves.

The Loktak Protocluster lies billions of light-years away in the distant Universe, but its name begins here, in Manipur, India. Through it, Loktak Lake becomes part of a cosmic story, and Manipur finds a place in the permanent record of astronomy.



**Dr. M. Beena**  
Development Commissioner  
(Handlooms),  
Ministry of Textiles

# WEAVING INDIA'S STORY

**NATIONAL HANDLOOM  
DAY 2026**

Every handloom fabric carries a quiet story. In its warp and weft are embedded the memory of a village, the rhythm of a loom, and the patience of hands that have repeated the same movements for generations. National Handloom Day 2026 is therefore not merely a commemorative date; rather it is a national acknowledgement of the skill, resilience, and cultural stewardship of India's weaving communities. As India moves confidently into a digital and global age, the handloom sector stands as a remarkable example of how tradition can evolve without abandoning its soul.

The history of Indian handlooms stretches back hundreds of years, yet its contemporary story is one of adaptation. Handloom weaving was once sustained primarily through local patronage and hereditary knowledge. Today, it is increasingly connected to designers, urban consumers, online marketplaces, export networks, and cultural tourism. New colour palettes, modern silhouettes, improved dyeing techniques, and collaborative design initiatives have expanded the appeal of handloom products among younger consumers. Yet the essence of the craft remains unchanged: the loom is still operated by human skill, and every fabric retains a degree of individuality impossible to replicate through mass production. The sector's evolution demonstrates that modernity need not erase tradition.

This renewal has been supported by the growing public embrace of the spirit of "Vocal for Local." The Hon'ble Prime

Minister's call to support locally made products has encouraged citizens to look beyond price and consider the social and cultural value of what they purchase. When a family chooses a handwoven sari, stole, or home textile, the purchase supports not only an individual weaver, but also a network of dyers, spinners, designers, traders, and rural households. The benefits are therefore distributed across entire weaver communities, helping preserve skills that might otherwise disappear.

A significant force behind this transformation has been the relentless support of the Ministry of Textiles and the

Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. Through the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), assistance is extended to weavers, self-help groups, and handloom organisations for design development, technology upgradation, upgraded looms and accessories, workshops, common infrastructure, and marketing support. The Raw Material Supply Scheme helps ensure the availability of quality yarn at subsidised rates, while Handloom Marketing Assistance and cluster-based initiatives connect weavers to domestic and international markets. Timely and affordable credit assistance



through the Weaver MUDRA Scheme, along with interest subsidy, margin money, and credit guarantee has improved access to working capital. Under SAMARTH Scheme, 30,059 women workers have been trained as of July 2026. Further, under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP), 100% financial assistance of ₹1.20 lakh is provided to eligible women handloom weavers for the construction of individual worksheds, enabling them to work in a safe, secure and productive environment. The Development Commissioner for Handlooms also promotes contemporary design intervention, entrepreneurship, capacity building, branding through Handloom Mark, GI promotion, and e-commerce

facilitation, enabling weavers to compete more effectively in modern markets.

India's handloom landscape is also a living atlas of cultural diversity. The amazing brilliance of Pochampally Ikat from Telangana, the luminous simplicity of Kerala's Kasavu, the vibrant embroideries and woven traditions of Kutch in Gujarat, and the textile heritage associated with Patna, each represent distinct histories, climates, and social practices. Recognising their significance, Central Government & State Governments, and various institutions have undertaken initiatives such as weaving clusters, training centres, design development programmes, and promotional exhibitions.



Geographical Indication (GI) recognition has further strengthened the identity of 106 handloom traditions by linking the product to its place of origin and protecting its reputation from imitation.

At the heart of this sector are women. Women weavers constitute about 72 per cent of the workforce. Across many weaving households, women spin yarn, prepare dyes, set the loom, weave, finish fabrics, manage accounts, and participate in marketing activities. Handloom work often allows women to combine income generation with household responsibilities, particularly in rural areas where employment opportunities may be limited. More importantly, earnings from weaving contribute to financial independence, improved livelihood, children's education, healthcare access, and greater participation in household decision-making. Self-help groups, cooperative societies, skill development programmes, and women-led producer enterprises are increasingly enabling women weavers to become entrepreneurs rather than invisible contributors to family labour.

The contemporary reach of Indian handlooms has been

transformed by technology. Digital platforms and e-commerce marketplaces have reduced the distance between weaver and consumer, allowing weavers from remote clusters to access customers across India and abroad. Social media storytelling, QR-code based product information, and direct-to-consumer sales models have increased their visibility and transparency. Strategic branding and GI-based authentication have enhanced consumer confidence and created stronger market identities for regional handloom products in international markets.

National Handloom Day 2026 invites us to recognise that India's handloom sector is not a relic preserved behind glass. It is a dynamic cultural economy that connects heritage with innovation, rural livelihoods with global markets, and artistic identity with sustainable development. To support handlooms is to support a vision of progress that values human skill, diversity, heritage and ecological responsibility. As long as looms continue to echo in the homes and workshops of India's weavers, the nation will continue weaving its story-thread by thread, generation by generation, into the fabric of the future.



The Fabric of

# KHADI

woven with Self-Reliance

On August 7, our country celebrates National Handloom Day. This special day celebrates the skill, creativity, and glorious traditions passed down through generations by our weaver brothers and sisters. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme said that from Pochampally to Patna and from Kuthampully to Kutchh, every garment made on a handloom weaves a unique story of our cultural heritage.

Today, in keeping with the spirit of 'Vocal for Local,' the promotion of handloom and especially Khadi— the pinnacle of indigenous craftsmanship is improving the lives of millions of people across the country. Once cherished by Mahatma Gandhi, Khadi has now become a living symbol of self-reliance and indigenous pride of 'New India,' setting new and historic benchmarks of success.



**Vocal**  
for  
**Local**





## Key Facts Related to the Unprecedented Growth of the Khadi and Village Industries Sector



### Total sales of Khadi and Village Industries products

financial year  
2013-14

**₹31,154**  
**Crore**



financial year  
2025-26

**₹1,87,105**  
**Crore**

**Phenomenal growth  
of 501%**



#### Sixfold Growth in Khadi Textiles:

Over the past 12 years, sales of Khadi textiles alone have increased from Rs.1,081 crore to Rs.7,869 crore (approximately ₹8,000 crore), representing a remarkable 628% increase.



#### Increase in Production:

The sector's total production increased by 380%, rising from Rs.26,109 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.1,25,296 crore in 2025-26.



#### New Employment Opportunities:

Over the past 12 years, employment generation in this sector has increased by 56%.



#### A Hub of Women's Empowerment: More

than 80% of artisans working in the Khadi sector are women.



#### Entrepreneurship through PMEGP:

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), more than 10.84 lacs new units have been established over the past 12 years.

**Subsidy Support:** The Government of India provided Rs.29,623 crore in margin money subsidies for these units, creating new employment opportunities for approximately 97.95 lacs people in rural areas.



# 'Chongpreng'

Tripura's Tribal Heritage Gets New Lease of Life



India's cultural diversity is reflected not only in its languages and traditional attire, but also in the melodies of its traditional musical instruments. Every region of the country has its own distinct sound and unique instruments. One such instrument is Tripura's 'Chongpreng'. Made of bamboo and featuring three strings, this instrument has long been immensely popular among Tripura's tribal communities. The plucking of its strings produces a melodious sound that's reminiscent of the Sarod. However, amid the noise of modernity, this soulful instrument had begun to lose its identity among the younger generation. But Suraj Kumar Debbarma of Tripura resolved to revive this fading heritage, and today, the enchanting sound of the Chongpreng can once again be heard.

## **Childhood Memories and the First Encounter with the 'Chongpreng'**

Suraj Kumar Debbarma's connection with music did not need any

formal training as it grew naturally from his family roots. Brought up amidst Bengali folk songs and 'Baul' music, his musical journey began from own home. Recalling his early inspirations and his first encounter with the Chongpreng, he says:

*"I have been passionate about music since childhood. My parents used to sing Bengali songs and perform devotional hymns during the evening prayers. In our home we would also sing songs while eating the new harvest brought in from Jhum cultivation. I was the youngest in the family, so I grew up watching and listening to all of this. Living with my parents, I learned to play instruments such*



*as the Chongpreng, Ramkartaral, and Khanjani. I was especially drawn to the sweet melodies of stringed instruments. Once, I found an old and slightly damaged Chongpreng at my elder sister's house. I happily brought it home, and my father immediately repaired it so that I could play it."*





## **A Musical Journey from Bengali Folk Songs to 'Kokborok'**

Suraj ji initially made a name for himself through Bengali songs and keertan. During the Dol festival, he would travel from village to village singing devotional songs. He did not have a musical group of his own but wherever a keertan was being held, he would always find a place to perform. His art took a new direction when he decided to return to his roots. Recalling this fascinating turning point and his renewed connection with his mother tongue, he says:

*"I mostly used to sing Bengali songs. But one day the headman of our village advised me to write and sing songs in my mother tongue, Kokborok (the language of Tripura). From then onward I began writing and singing in Kokborok."*

### **An Important Message for Music and the Youth**

Suraj Kumar  
Debbarma's music is no



longer confined to the villages of Tripura. Through his Chongpreng and Kokborok songs, he has travelled across India and abroad, spreading a message of harmony and unity. Reflecting on his journey and sharing his thoughts for the future generation, he says:

*"I have travelled to Arunachal Pradesh, Hailakandi in Assam, Delhi, Kolkata, and Bangladesh. Outside the state, I have always sung songs of harmony and unity. In Arunachal Pradesh I performed a Kokborok song whose meaning is: 'The faith of India is truth, the God of India is truth, and it is true that India is our beautiful and sacred land.' My message to today's youth is that along with their studies, they should also learn to play these traditional*

*musical instruments. Music can play a major role in keeping young people away from harmful habits such as substance abuse."*

Suraj Kumar Debbarma's journey proves that when a person has a genuine passion for preserving his talent and cultural heritage, no tradition can ever truly disappear. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal to share the traditional musical instruments found around us on social media is highly significant. It can inspire the younger generation to embrace the 'Vocal for Local' mantra in the field of music as well. The melody of the Chongpreng's strings is not merely the sound of a musical instrument; it is the heartbeat of Tripura's rich tribal heritage that is now resonating once again.

# Guru Purnima and Dr. Kalam

Celebrating India's Teachers



On the full moon of the Hindu month of 'Ashadha', India observes Guru Purnima, an Indian ancient festival dedicated to celebrating the guiding lights of our lives – Guru. The part 'Gu' represents the deep darkness of ignorance, while 'Ru' signifies the power that dispels it. This year, coincidentally, this holy period also marked the death anniversary of one of India's most beloved leaders and visionaries, Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

## **A Scientist Who Remained a Teacher at Heart**

A man of many incredible facets, Dr. Kalam was a brilliant Aerospace Scientist who propelled India into space and established its strategic defense frameworks. He was the 'Missile Man' of India who orchestrated the Pokhran-II nuclear tests, and he served with unparalleled grace as the 11th President of India, earning the title of the 'People's President'. Yet, out of all these monumental accolades, the title closest to his heart was simply that of a 'Teacher'. Dr. Kalam never allowed success to distance him from students. He frequently interacted with children and young people, encouraging them to ask questions, develop scientific temper

and, above all, dream. He believed that an educator's purpose was not merely to transfer information from textbooks to notebooks, but to ignite the imagination. He famously stated, "Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action." To him, the youth were the engine of national transformation, and teachers were the spark plugs. His interactions with students reflected his deep conviction that the youth of India possessed the energy and imagination necessary to build a stronger, more developed and self-reliant India.

#### **Guru Purnima: An Occasion for Gratitude**

Guru Purnima provides an opportunity to celebrate the enduring relationship between teachers and learners. The



occasion is associated with the worship and remembrance of teachers and spiritual guides. The idea of the guru begins at home. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister marks it, "Parents are our first teachers". They teach us values, discipline, compassion and the



difference between right and wrong. As children enter school, teachers broaden this foundation by introducing them to the world of knowledge, learning and discovery. A teacher does much more than explain lessons from a textbook. Teachers recognise potential, encourage curiosity, build confidence and often inspire students to pursue paths they had never imagined for themselves. Their influence can remain with a person throughout life.

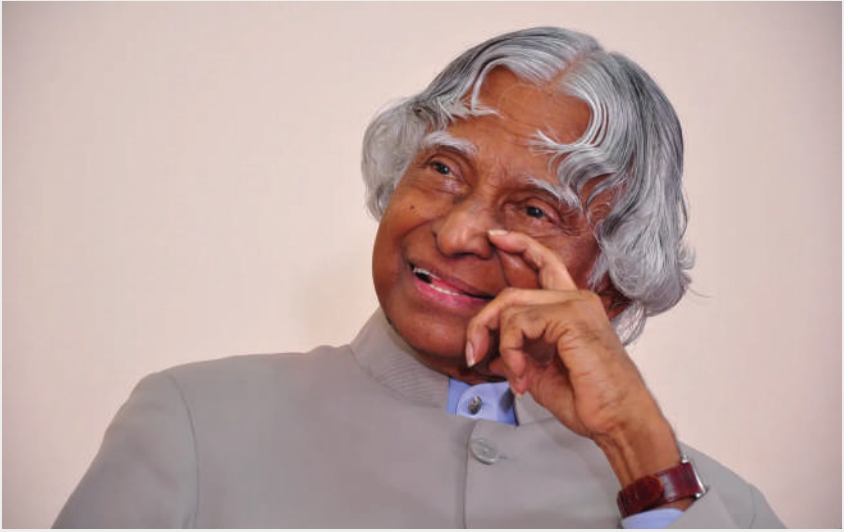
### **The Kalam Way of Teaching**

Dr. Kalam's approach to education was rooted in curiosity, creativity, and scientific attitude. He wanted students to look beyond memorising information and develop the confidence to think, question and innovate. His own journey demonstrated this. At home, his father's spiritual discipline;

in Rameswaram Elementary School, Rameswaram; Schwartz High School at Ramanathapuram and higher studies in Madras Institute of Technology, his teachers and professors shaped his scientific outlook, while the mentors he encountered during his professional life helped him develop the discipline and vision required to contribute to some of India's most important scientific programmes. While answering to a question about the source of his inspiration, he once wrote,

*"I had three people who inspired me in my life and who gave me a mission. The first was my school teacher in 5th class in Rameshwaram. His name was Sivasubramania Iyer. He gave me a mission in life to fly. The other person who inspired me in life was Satish Dhawan. He taught me how not to make*





*problems your master and to work hard to achieve your goals. The other great person I worked with was Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. He taught me the importance of having a vision."*

Even after becoming President, Dr. Kalam continued to devote considerable attention and time to students. He travelled across the country, visited schools and universities and engaged directly with young minds. His message remained consistent – education should empower young people to become creators, problem-solvers and responsible citizens.

### **Remembering Dr. Kalam Through His Message**

The death anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is a day not only to remember his extraordinary achievements, but also to reflect on the values

he embodied. His life reminds us that knowledge becomes truly meaningful when it is shared and used for the betterment of society. It is profoundly a coincidence that on July 27, 2015, Dr. Kalam breathed his last at IIM Shillong while standing at a podium, actively teaching and delivering a lecture. He lived as a teacher, and he died as a teacher, embodying the absolute dedication demanded by India's ancient teaching traditions. On Guru Purnima, let us offer our heartfelt gratitude to every parent, teacher, mentor and guide who has shaped our journey. And as we remember Dr. Kalam, let us celebrate the teacher within him, the teacher who believed in India's youth, encouraged them to dream big and inspired them to turn those dreams into action.



# HAR GHAR TIRANGA BHARAT DRAPED IN PRIDE



'Har Ghar Tiranga', meaning, 'The Tricolour in Every Home' is a nationwide campaign launched by the Government of India in 2022 under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

The campaign is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture, the nodal ministry, with the motive "to encourage citizens to hoist the National Flag and strengthen awareness of the Tricolour." It aims to transform the relationship with the National Flag from formal and institutional to a deeply personal bond.

Observed from 9 to 17 August, 'Har Ghar Tiranga 2026' was dedicated to commemorating 150 years of India's National Song, Vande Mataram.



<https://harghartiranga.com/> is the dedicated website for the campaign which also guides the citizens with :

- Steps to hoisting the National Flag, uploading selfie and downloading a certificate or video
- Learning to sing Vande Mataram
- Following flag hoisting guidelines

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the campaign with pride by taking a selfie with the Tricolour and uploading it to the website. On doing so, they get a certificate. Since the inception of the campaign, citizens have shown immense enthusiasm and patriotism towards the campaign every year.

The website also features stories under the following sections:

- Unsung Flag Martyrs
- Spirit of Tiranga Videos
- Series on Tiranga
- Moments with Tiranga

Scan this QR to visit the website:







# MAANN KI BAAAT

Media Scan



# **CALL FOR ACTION!**

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**136<sup>th</sup> Edition**

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This 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', let us pay tribute to our immortal martyrs and further strengthen our resolve to build a secure, capable, and self-reliant India.

Come, let us also take responsibility for a pond, well, or stepwell in our vicinity - save every drop of water.

I would urge all of you to connect a special occasion in your lives with nature—plant a tree in your mother's name.

I urge you to honour our weaver friends by encouraging handloom crafts. Come, let us further strengthen the spirit of being 'Vocal for Local'.

I urge all of you to definitely buy at least one product or the other made of Khadi, handloom, or handicraft during the upcoming festive season.

I urge all of you to share information about traditional musical instruments found in your own vicinity on social media.



Amit Shah  
@AmitShah

Show translation

मोदी जी ने मन की बात में बताया कि विक्रम-1 की सफल लॉन्चिंग से हमारे युवा हुनोवैयों में वह कर दिखाया, जिसकी करतना तक मुश्किल थी। इस उपलब्धि से हर देशवासी गौरवान्वित है।



Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad (मोदी का परिवार)  
@DrBhagwatKarad

Show translation

Tributes were paid to the brave heroes of Kargil in 'Mann Ki Baat'. At the same time, an appeal was made to adopt indigenous goods and handloom products for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

#MannKiBaat  
@narendramodi  
@BJP4India



C R Paatil  
@CRPaatil

Show translation

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi साहब ने आज 'मन की बात' कार्यक्रम में 'Catch the Rain' और Rain Water Harvesting को लेकर पूरे देश को अवगत महत्वपूर्ण संदेश दिया है।

हम घर पर की ऊत से बहने वाले बारिश के पानी को वर्षा बहने देने के बजाय जमीन में उतारने का प्रयास करें। अलग-अलग डिजाइनों के माध्यम से बहुत कम खर्च में लाखों-करोड़ों लीटर पानी जमीन में उतारा जा सकता है।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी साहब का 'Catch the Rain' मत आने वाले वर्षा के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। प्रयास यही हो कि पानी की एक बुद्ध भी वर्षा बढ़कर न जाए।

#MannKiBaat #CatchTheRain #RainWaterHarvesting #JaiSankarohan



Giriraj Singh  
@GirirajSinghBJP

Show translation

सीतामढ़ी के रीसाइलिंग मॉडल की पीएम मोदी ने मन की बात में की सराहना  
[timesofindia.indiatimes.com/giriraj/patna/sit...](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/giriraj/patna/sit...)

via NaMo App

सीतामढ़ी के रीसाइलिंग मॉडल की पीएम मोदी ने मन की बात में की सराहना

THE TIMES OF INDIA JULY 27, 2024



सीतामढ़ी के प्रथम अपशिष्ट रीसाइलिंग मॉडल का अल्लेख पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी ने अपने 'मन की बात' कार्यक्रम में किया। इस मॉडल के तहत कचरा प्लास्टिक को प्रचलित अवस्था में परिवर्तित किया जा रहा है। यह मॉडल दर्शाता है कि मिनट प्रकाश सांख्यिकीय नेटवर्क बनाम रीसाइलिंग मॉडल अपशिष्ट को कम करने, आजीवनिक के अवसर पैदा करने और स्वस्थ वातावरण को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकता है। साथ ही, यह अन्य क्षेत्रों को भी सतत और प्रभावी अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन की दिशा में कदम उठाने के लिए प्रेरित करता है।



Mohan Charan Majhi  
@MohanModisa

Show translation

ନବମ୍ବର ପ୍ରକାଶଣ ଶ୍ରୀ @narendramodi ଠାରୁ ମୋହର ଚରଣ ମଜିଙ୍କ ସଂଗ୍ରହ ପ୍ରକାଶନ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ଜଣାଉଛି।

ଏକ ସଂଗ୍ରହ ବେଳେ ଏକ ଅଭିଜ୍ଞ ହୁଏ, ଏହା ଆଗାମୀ ପିଢ଼ି ପାଇଁ ଆଶର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ। ଆପଣ ଆଜିର ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ଚିନ୍ତାରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଏକତ୍ର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଚାହୁଁଛନ୍ତି।



Nayab Saini  
@NayabSainiBJP

Show translation

आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी द्वारा मन की बात कार्यक्रम में 'हर घर तिरंगा' अभियान को जन-जन को संकल्प बनाने का किया गया आह्वान राष्ट्र के गौरव, अमर वीरों के बलिदान के सम्मान और राष्ट्र प्रथम की भावना को जन-जन तक पहुंचाने का एक सफल माध्यम है।

वीरों की धरती हरियाणा में सदैव राष्ट्रसेवा और तिरंगे के सम्मान को सर्वोच्च स्थान दिया है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि इस वर्ष भी हरियाणा का प्रत्येक परिवार पूरे उत्साह, सम्मान और गर्व के साथ हर घर तिरंगा अभियान में सहभागी बनकर अपने घर पर तिरंगा फहराएगा और अमर यही हो के साथ एवं बलिदान को नमन करेगा।

आइए, हम सब मिलकर तिरंगे के सम्मान को जन-जन का सम्मान बनाए और विकसित भारत के संकल्प को नई ऊर्जा दें।

जय हिंद 🇮🇳



Nitin Nabin  
@NitinNabin

Show translation

आज बांकीपुर विधानसभा के कदमकुआं मंडल स्थित बनवावल भवन में कार्यकर्ताओं एवं आमजनों के साथ आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के लोकप्रिय कार्यक्रम 'मन की बात' के 136वें संस्करण का समूहिक रूप से शुभ।

प्रधानमंत्री जी ने अपने प्रेरक विचारों के माध्यम से कारगर विषय दिवस पर वीर जवानों के अद्वितीय वाहस और बलिदान को नमन करते हुए आजन्मभर भारत की बढ़ती रक्षा शक्ति, जत एवं पर्यवेक्षण संरक्षण, खेत और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में युवाओं की उत्कृष्टतम उपलब्धियाँ, विज्ञान एवं अंतरिक्ष के क्षेत्र में भारत की प्रगति, 'लोकत' फॉर लोकत' तथा पारंपरिक हस्तशिल्प के संरक्षण, महिला सशक्तिकरण एवं जनजातिदारी के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर देशवासियों से संवाद किया।

'मन की बात' देश के करोड़ों नागरिकों को एक साझा उद्देश्य से जोड़ने का सफल माध्यम बन चुका है तथा राष्ट्र प्रथम की भावना के साथ विकसित भारत के निर्माण में प्रत्येक नागरिक की सक्रिय भागीदारी के लिए निरंतर प्रेरित करता है।

#MannKiBaat













**Mann Ki Baat:** कारगिल विजय दिवस का जिक्र, पीएम मोदी ने वीर जवानों को किया नमन

## अमर उजाला

जम्मू कश्मीर की 'वागू' चटाई का देशभर में डंका, 'मन की बात' में PM मोदी ने की तारीफ



PM Modi urges people to turn 'Catch the Rain' into mass movement, highlights 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'



## दैनिक भास्कर

पीएम बोले- युवाओं ने देश का मान बढ़ाया: यंग इनोवेटर्स ने वो किया जो असंभव लगता था; मन की बात में कारगिल शहीदों को श्रद्धांजलि दी



PM Lauds AP's Water Conservation Efforts in Mann Ki Baat

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

PM Modi highlights Manipur astrophysicist, Bihar waste-to-wealth, Gujarat hornbill return, UP women's herbal tea in Mann Ki Baat



معاشی اور ثقافتی اہمیت کی حامل واگوو چٹائی، من کی بات میں پی ایم مودی نے کشمیر کی روایتی 'واگوو' کو کیا اجاگر

**Nashik: PM Modi Praises District's Water Conservation Efforts,  
Highlights 'Catch The Rain' Initiative In Mann Ki Baat**



**'INS महेंद्रगिरि आत्मनिर्मभर भारत की बढ़ती ताकत का प्रतीक',  
मन की बात में बोले PM मोदी**



**'एक पेड़ मां के नाम' अभियान से यूपी ने दिखाया  
जनशक्ति का अद्भुत संकल्प, मन की बात में  
पीएम मोदी**



**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**'Digital India working even at 15,000 ft': Jaunpur  
youth to PM at MKB interaction**



**Modi Mann Ki Baat: 'मन' की भातः कागील वीररिगे प्रधासि मीदी नमन, कृष्ण  
द रीन अंद्रीलनकै करे**



**PM Modi says India emerging as trusted  
global defence partner in Mann Ki Baat**



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Every handloom garment tells the story of a specific region, a community, and the countless people associated with it. These are the people who are proudly dedicated to preserving India's cultural heritage. Today, I urge you to honour our weaver friends by encouraging handloom crafts. Come, let us further strengthen the spirit of being 'Vocal for Local'.

– Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

”



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