JUNE 2024

Loktantra ka Mahaparva

OSTAL BALLO

MANN KI BAAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Address to the Nation

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My dear countrymen, Namaskar

Prime Minister's Address

The day all of us had been waiting for since February has finally arrived. Today I have come amidst you, my family members, once again through 'Mann ki Baat'. There is a very lovely saying - 'Iti Vida Punarmilanaaya', its connotation too, is equally lovely, I take leave of you, to meet again. With this very feeling, I had told you in February that I would meet you again after the election results. And today, with 'Mann ki Baat', I am again present amongst you. I hope all of you are well, all is well at home... and now the monsoon has also arrived... When the monsoon arrives, the mind also gets delighted. From today, once again, in 'Mann ki Baat', we will talk about those people who are bringing change in the society, in the country, through their efforts. We will discuss our rich culture, our glorious history,

and our efforts towards making a developed India.

Friends, since February until now, whenever the last Sunday of the month would come, I would deeply miss this dialogue with you all. But I was also very glad to see that in all these months, you sent me lakhs of messages. The 'Mann ki Baat' radio program might have been paused for a few months, but the spirit of 'Mann ki Baat' in the country and society, touching upon the good work done every day, work done with selfless spirit, work having a positive impact on society - carried on relentlessly. Amidst the news of the elections, you certainly would have noticed such news that touched the heart.

Friends, today I also thank the countrymen for having reiterated their unwavering faith in our Constitution and the democratic systems of the

Record Voter Turnout, Mother of Democracy Rejoices #GeneralElections2024

country. The 2024 elections were the biggest elections in the world. An election as big as this, in which 65 crore people cast their votes, has never taken place in any other country in the world. For this, I congratulate the Election Commission and everyone involved in the voting process.

dear countrymen, My today, the 30th of June is a very important day. Our tribal brothers and sisters celebrate this day as 'Hul Diwas'. This day is associated with the indomitable courage of Veer Sidho-Kanho, who strongly opposed the atrocities of the foreign rulers. Veer Sidho-Kanho united thousands of Santhal compatriots and fought the British with all their might. And do you know when this took place? This happened in 1855, that is, it happened two years before India's first war of Independence in 1857. Then, in Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand, our tribal brothers and sisters took up arms against the foreign rulers. The British

committed many atrocities against our Santhal brothers and sisters, and also imposed several restrictions upon them. Veer Sidho and Kanho attained martyrdom while displaying amazing bravery in this struggle. The supreme sacrifice of these immortal sons of the land of Jharkhand inspires the countrymen even today. Let us listen to an excerpt from a song dedicated to them in Santhali language –



My dear friends, if I ask what is the most precious relationship in the world, you will definitely say - "Maa", Mother. In the lives of all of us, the Mother holds the highest stature. A mother nurtures her child even after undergoing all kinds of hardships. Every mother showers limitless affection upon her child. This love of the mother who has given birth is like a debt on all of us, which no one can repay. I was thinking... we can't give anything to our mother, but, can we do something else? With this thought, a special campaign has been launched on World Environment Day this year. The name of this campaign is - 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (One Tree dedicated to Mother). I have also planted a tree in the name of my mother. I have appealed to all the countrymen, people across the world to plant a tree along with their mothers, or in their memory. And I am immensely happy to see that this campaign to plant trees in memory of the mother or in her honour is progressing rapidly. On social media, people are sharing pictures of planting trees with their mothers or with their photographs. Everyone is planting trees for one's mother - whether one is rich or poor, whether one is a working woman or a homemaker. This campaign has provided all of us with an equal opportunity to express affection towards mothers. They are inspiring others by sharing their pictures with **#Plant4Mother and #Ek** Ped_Maa_Ke_Naam.



Friends, this campaign will also benefit us in another way. The Earth also takes care of us like a mother. Mother Earth is the very basis of all life... so it is our duty to take care of Mother Earth as well. The campaign to plant trees in the name of mother will not only honour our mother, but will also protect Mother Earth. During the last decade, through collective efforts, there has been an unprecedented expansion of forest cover in India. During the Amrit Mahotsav, more than 60.000 Amrit Sarovars have also been created across the country. Now we have to give momentum to the campaign of planting trees in the name of mother.

My dear countrymen, the monsoon is spreading its hues rapidly in different parts of the country. And during this rainy season, the thing that is being searched for in every home is the 'umbrella'. Today in 'Mann ki Baat', I want to tell you about a special kind of umbrella. These umbrellas are made in our Kerala. In a way, umbrellas have a special significance in the culture of Kerala. Umbrellas are an important part of many



An Ode to Mother Nature

traditions and rituals there. But the umbrella I am talking about is 'Karthumbi Umbrella' and it is crafted in Attappady, Kerala. These colourful umbrellas are strikingly splendid. And the uniqueness is that these umbrellas are made by our tribal sisters of Kerala. Today, the demand for these umbrellas is growing across the country. They are also being sold online. These umbrellas are made under the supervision of 'Vattalakki Cooperative Agriculture Society'. This society is led by our women power. Under the leadership of women, the tribal community of Attappady has displayed a wonderful example of entrepreneurship. society This also has established a bamboohandicraft unit. These people are now also preparing to open a retail outlet and a traditional cafe. Their aim is not only to sell their umbrellas and other products, but they are also introducing their tradition, their culture to the world. Today, Karthumbi umbrellas have completed their journey from a small village in Kerala to multinational companies. What could be a better example than this of being vocal for local?

My dear countrymen, by this time next month, the Paris Olympics will have begun. I am sure that all of you are also waiting to cheer for the Indian

sportspersons in these Olympic Games. I wish the Indian team the very best for the Olympic Games. The memories of the Tokyo Olympics are still afresh. The performance of our players in Tokyo had won the hearts of every Indian. Right after the Tokyo Olympics, our athletes have been wholeheartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics. If we take all the players together, then all of them have participated in nearly 900 international competitions. This is a very big number.

Friends, at the Paris Olympics, you will get to witness

certain things for the first time. In shooting, the talent of our players is coming to the fore. Both men's and women's teams have qualified in table tennis. Our daughters shooter are also part of the Indian shotgun team. This time, members of our team will compete

in wrestling and horse riding in those categories as well, in which they have never before participated. From this, you can make out that this time we will see a different level of excitement in sports. You might remember... a few months ago, we displayed our best performance in the World Para Athletics Championship. Our players have also won laurels in chess and badminton. Now the whole country is hoping that our players perform well in the Olympics as well... win medals

in these games and also win the hearts of the countrymen. In the coming days, I will also get an opportunity to meet the Indian team. I will encourage them on your behalf. And yes, this time our hashtag is #Cheer4Bharat. With this hashtag, we have to cheer our players... keep encouraging them. So keep up the momentum... this momentum of yours will help in showing the magic of India to the world.

My dear countrymen, I am playing a small audio clip for all of you.



You must have also been surprised to hear this radio program, right? So, let me tell you the story behind it. Actually, this is a clip of a broadcast from Kuwait Radio. Now you might wonder that since we are talking about Kuwait, how did Hindi get there? Actually, the Kuwait Government has started a special program on its National Radio. And that too in Hindi. It is broadcast every Sunday for half an hour on Kuwait Radio. It includes myriad shades of Indian culture. Our films and discussions related to the art world are very popular among the Indian community there. I have even been told that the local people of Kuwait are also taking a lot of interest in it. I thank the Government of Kuwait and the people there from the core of my heart for taking this wonderful initiative.

> Friends, which Indian will not be happy with the way our culture is earning glory all over the world today! For



example, in Turkmenistan, the 300th birth anniversary of its national poet was celebrated in May this year. On this occasion, the President of Turkmenistan unveiled the statues of 24 famous poets of the world. One of these statues is also that of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. This is an honour for Gurudev, an honour for India. Similarly, in the month of June, two Caribbean nations Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines celebrated their Indian heritage with full zeal and enthusiasm. The Indian community in Suriname celebrates 5 June every year as Indian Arrival Day and Pravasi Din. Bhojpuri is also widely spoken here, along with Hindi. The number of our brothers and sisters of Indian origin living in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is also around 6,000. All of them are very proud of their heritage. The way they celebrated Indian Heritage

Day on the 1st of June with great jubilation reflects this feeling. Every Indian feels proud when such a spread of Indian heritage and culture is seen all over the world.

Friends, this month the whole world celebrated the 10th Yoga Day with great enthusiasm and zeal. I also participated in the yoga program organised in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. In Kashmir, along with the youth, sisters and daughters also participated enthusiastically on Yoga Day. As the observance of Yoga Day is progressing, even new records are being made. Yoga Day has attained many areat achievements all over the world. For the first time in Saudi Arabia, a woman, Ms. Al Hanouf Saad ji, led the common yoga protocol. This is the first time a Saudi woman has instructed a main yoga session. This time in Egypt, a photo competition was organised on Yoga Day. The pictures of lakhs of people performing yoga on the banks of the Nile River, on the beaches of the Red Sea and in front of the pyramids became very popular. Myanmar's Maravijaya Pagoda Complex is world famous for its Marble Buddha Statue. Here too, a splendid Yoga Session was organised on the 21st of June. A special camp was organised for Divyang children in Bahrain. A memorable Yoga Session was also held at Galle Fort, the famous UNESCO heritage site in Sri Lanka. People also did Yoga at the Observation Deck in New York, **USA. The President of Marshall** Islands also participated in the Yoga Day program organised



there on a large scale for the first time. A grand Yoga Day program was also organised in Thimpu, Bhutan, in which my friend Prime Minister Tobgay also participated. Thus, we all saw panoramic views of people doing Yoga in every corner of the world. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the friends who participated on Yoga Day. And then there is this longstanding request of mine. We do not have to make Yoga just a one-day practice. You should do Yoga regularly. You will certainly feel positive changes in your life by doing this.

Friends, there are so many products of India which are in great demand all over the world and when we see a local product of India going global, it is natural to feel proud. One such product is Araku coffee. Araku coffee is produced in large quantities in Alluri Sitharama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh. It is known for its rich flavour and aroma. Around 1.5 lakh tribal families are associated with the cultivation of Araku coffee. Girijan cooperative has played a very important role in taking Araku coffee to new heights. It brought together the farmer brothers and sisters here and encouraged them to cultivate Araku coffee. This has also enhanced the income of these farmers a lot. The Konda Dora tribal community has also benefited a lot from this. Besides income, they are also getting a life of dignity. I remember once I got a chance to taste this coffee in Visakhapatnam with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu Garu. And its taste...! This coffee is amazing! Araku coffee has received many global awards. The coffee was also a hit at the G-20 summit held in Delhi. Whenever you get a chance, you must enjoy Araku coffee.



Friends, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are also not lagging behind in making local products global. What Jammu and Kashmir has achieved last month is an example for people across the country. The first consignment of snow peas was sent to London from Pulwama. Some people got the idea... why not bring the exotic vegetables grown in Kashmir onto the world map! And lo and behold... Abdul Rashid Mir of Chakura village was the first to come forward for this. He started growing snow peas by integrating the land of other farmers of the village and within no time, snow peas started reaching London from Kashmir. This success has opened new doors for the prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. There is no dearth of such unique products in our country. You must share such products with #myproductsmypride. I will also touch upon this topic in the upcoming 'Mann ki Baat'.

मम प्रियाः देशवासिनः अद्य अहं किश्चित् चर्चा संस्कृत भाषायां आरभे। You must be wondering why I am suddenly speaking in Sanskrit in 'Mann ki Baat'? The reason for this is a special occasion related to Sanskrit today! Today, on the **30**th of **June, the Sanskrit Bulletin of Akashvani is completing 50 years of its broadcast. For 50 years, this bulletin has kept so many people connected to Sanskrit.** I congratulate the All India Radio family.

Friends, Sanskrit has played a big role in the progress of ancient Indian knowledge and science. The demand of today's times is that we should give Sanskrit its due respect and also connect it with our daily lives. Nowadays, many people are making such an effort in Bengaluru. There is a park in Bengaluru - Cubbon Park! In this park, the people here have started a new tradition. Here, once a week, every Sunday, children, youth, and elders speak to each other in Sanskrit. Not only this, many debate sessions are also organised in Sanskrit. The name of this initiative is Sanskrit Weekend! It has been started by Ms.

Samashti Gubbi ji through a website. This initiative, which started a few days ago, has become very popular among the people of Bengaluru. If we all join such efforts, we will get to learn a lot from such an ancient and scientific language of the world.

My dear countrymen, it was great to connect with you in this episode of Mann ki Baat. Now this series will continue once again as earlier. The holy Rath Yatra is going to start after a week from now. It's my solemn wish that the blessings of Mahaprabhu Jagannath always remain on all the countrymen. The Amarnath Yatra has also commenced, and in the next few days, the Pandharpur Wari is also about to start. I wish all the devotees participating in these Yatras all the best. Just ahead is also the festival of the Kutchi New Year – Ashadhi Beej. Many best wishes to all of you for all these festivals too. I firmly believe that you will keep sharing with me such efforts of public participation related to positivity. I am waiting to connect with you again next month. Till then, please take care of yourself and your family as well. Thank you very much. Namaskar.

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



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18th Lok Sabha Election in India

A Grand Festival of Democracy

The 2024 elections were the biggest elections in the world. An election as big as this, in which 65 crore people cast their votes, has never taken place in any other country in the world. For this, I congratulate the Election Commission and everyone involved in the voting process.

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

India, the world's largest democracy, witnessed its 18th Lok Sabha election-the biggest democratic exercise globally. With an astounding 65 crore citizens casting their votes across 543 parliamentary constituencies, this election reaffirmed India's unwavering commitment to its constitutional values and democratic principles.

This massive undertaking was not just about numbers. It was a powerful demonstration of India's democratic spirit, showcasing the nation's ability to conduct free and fair elections on an unprecedented scale. From bustling cities to remote villages, polling stations became the epicentres of civic duty and national pride, with a record voter turnout of 65.79 per cent.

The election's success has once again reaffirmed India's position as the world's largest democracy, not just in population, but in practice. It has highlighted the country's robust electoral system, capable of managing the logistical challenges of such a vast and diverse electorate.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) stepped up its efforts and implemented several innovative initiatives to ensure that no voter is left behind, showcasing its commitment to efficiency, inclusivity, and transparency. The 2024 General Election marked a milestone in inclusivity with the introduction of pan-India home voting for citizens aged 85 and above or those with 40 percent benchmark disability. In Maharashtra, ECI polling teams travelled 107 kms to provide home voting facility to two elderly voters in Sironcha town of Gadchiroli district, an LWE affected area. This initiative

allowed eligible voters to cast their ballot from the comfort of their homes via postal ballot, ensuring their participation while maintaining transparency and security.

ECI's SAKSHAM app significantly enhanced accessibility for divyangjans by offering essential services such as wheelchair assistance, pickand-drop facility and volunteer support at polling stations. This initiative was pivotal in ensuring that voters with disabilities could fully participate in the electoral process.

The cVigil platform proved to be a game-changer in addressing electoral complaints. With an impressive 87 per cent of grievances resolved within 100 minutes, this digital initiative



minimised disruptions during campaigns and swiftly tackled citizen concerns, contributing significantly to the smooth conduct of elections.

A remarkable highlight of this election was the surge of women voters. In the fifth and sixth phases, women turnout not only matched but exceeded that of men, heralding a historic shift in the political landscape. The Election Commission of India's innovative approach included the establishment of special women-led Sakhi booths across states like Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Odisha, designed to empower and encourage female voters. Such initiative helped not only in increasing female participation but also paved the way for a more inclusive and representative democratic process.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded its highest voter turnout in 35 years during the recent Lok Sabha elections, with a combined turnout of 58.46 percent across the Union Territory. In her first address to the 18th Lok Sabha, President Droupadi Murmu commended this remarkable participation, describing it as a testament to the region's democratic spirit.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's call, 'Mera Pehla Vote – Desh Ke Liye,' in his 110th 'Mann ki Baat', resonated deeply with first-time voters. The awareness campaign from February 28, 2024 to March 14, 2024, saw massive participation, with youth not only pledging to vote but also motivating others to join in.

The seamless conduct of the election process across seven phases is not only a reflection of the administrative capability but also underscores the dedication and integrity of the Election Commission and stakeholders including polling personnel, law enforcement agencies, security and paramilitary forces, volunteers, Indian Railways, and Airforce, amongst many. Across seven phases, they ensured that every polling booth was ready, every ballot was secure and every citizen was empowered to vote.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections were a testament to India's vibrant democratic spirit. With record-breaking participation and significant efforts to include all eligible voters, this election reaffirmed the country's commitment to democracy and showcased the strength of its democratic institutions.



#MeraPehlaVoteDeshKeLiye

First Time Voters Make Impact

The process was exciting but I was a little anxious. The police were friendly and helped us when we arrived (at the polling booth) which made things easier.

> – E Vennela, Hyderabad, Telangana

On 26 April 2024, I participated in the festival of democracy for the first time by casting my vote. I would request every Indian to exercise their right for the prosperity of the country. My vote, my right

> — Sarthak Bhardwaj, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

I felt extremely happy after voting for the first time for my country. I thought it would be a tedious task, but once I reached the polling booth, it seemed like a cakewalk. I urge every citizen to vote as it is not only our right but our duty as well.

> – Ashutosh Kumar, Khunti, Jharkhand

I felt very excited , proud and responsible all at the same time, that I am finally eligible to cast my vote in the electoral process. I was very optimistic that although my single vote could look inconsequential in the big election scenario, I will at least get to participate in the nation building process. When I reached the polling station, the staff behaved very well and the voting process was very smooth. Within 15 minutes, I had cast my vote.

> — Sahil Rana, Doda, Jammu and Kashmir



Sidho-Kanho

A Testament to Love for the Land & Unyielding Courage



"My dear countrymen, our tribal brothers and sisters observe 30 June as 'Hul Diwas'. This day is associated with the indomitable courage <u>of Veer (brave)</u> Sidho-Kanho, who strongly resisted the atrocities of foreian rulers. Veer Sidho-Kanho united thousands of Santhal brethren and fought the British with all their might. Displaying amazing courage in this struggle, Veer Sidho and Kanho were martyred. The supreme sacrifice of these immortal sons of the land of Jharkhand still inspires the countrymen."

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Sidho Murmu and Kanho Murmu were the brave warriors of the country who sacrificed their lives for the honour of their soil. Hul Diwas is observed all over the country on 30 June in memory of the martyrdom of these brave warriors. On this day, the saga of their bravery and sacrifice is remembered. In the Santhali language, 'Hul' means 'revolution', and this day is also remembered as people's revolt against the British. This revolt took place in 1855, two years before the country's first war of Independence (1857). These two heroes of the Santhal rebellion of 1855-1856 waged war against the British colonial power and the corrupt zamindari system in present-day Jharkhand and Bengal (Purulia, Birbhum, and Bankura). On 30 June 1855, Sidho and Kanho, along with their brothers Chand and Bhairav, who stood firmly against the British, organised about 10,000 Santhals and got ready to fight British rule.

The British army had to toil hard to suppress this rebellion, which lasted till 1856. Treachery by some informers led to the arrest of Kanho, and a few days later, Sidho was also caught. Both these brothers were hanged in Bhognadih village. Thus, Sidho and Kanho became martyrs to liberate the country from slavery.

More than 50,000 tribals from 400 villages of Jharkhand fought bravely against the British rule. In this rebellion, which took place even before the First War of Independence, 20,000 people were martyred, but their martyrdom did not go in vain. Their courage rang the warning bell for the British that any armed force and weapons could fall short while facing the valour and zeal of the Indians. Even today, stories of their bravery are told in the villages of Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal. During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, several programmes were organised in honour of the unsung tribal warriors, which also included Sidho and Kanho. In the future whenever bravery, patriotism, and courage are talked about in the country, the names of these brave sons of Mother India will be taken with great pride and respect.



Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam

India has always been a nature-loving country. The environment has invariably been given due consideration in India. Whether it is about adopting a lifestyle according to Mission LiFE or laying a network of solar panels for solar energy production in the country, India is constantly striving to improve the quality of the environment and minimize carbon emissions. India has the lowest per capita carbon dioxide emissions among the countries with large economies in the world. India's "per capita emissions" are one-third of the global average, which puts India among the nations of the world with lowest per capita emissions.

> **The Central Government has** started seriously considering environmental and climate change issues and as a result, India today talks about solutions, not problems. In line with this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the countrymen about the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign during the 111th episode of 'Mann ki Baat'.

Vient?

The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day this year, i.e., on June 5, 2024. On this occasion, the Prime Minister planted a Peepal tree at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. This campaign aims to create a unique mass movement to plant crores of trees across the country. Under this mega campaign, 140 crore saplings are being planted across India. Madhya Pradesh State Government alone has pledged to plant 5.5 crore saplings. Through this campaign, every citizen of the country has got involved in the conservation of nature with utmost enthusiasm, be it officers or employees or the masses.

22

The source of energy for their enthusiasm lies in this appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the public :

in C) hit (

I call upon the countrymen and people around the world to plant a tree in the coming days as a tribute to their mother and share a photo of you using #Plant4Mother or #Ek_Ped_Maa_ Ke_Naam

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Sowing Seeds of Change



Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma National Organising Secretary, Vijnana Bharati

Today, the whole world is troubled with the problem of global warming. Glaciers are melting, and there has been an unprecedented rise in the global temperature. Foremost research papers point out that from the year 2050 to the year 2100, India may have to face the brunt of extreme temperature for 100 to 180 days. In this year, i.e. 2024, the temperature of many cities in India exceeded 51°C. Cape Town in South Africa has been declared the world's first waterless city. When asked, environmental scientists opine in one voice that planting as many trees as possible on the land is the solution to these problems.

Today, trees are being felled in large numbers to promote physical development and industrialisation. We are aware that trees are necessary for environmental protection. They act as natural air purifiers, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Forests,

which cover about 31% of the land area on earth, play a vital role in maintaining the earth's ecological balance. The roots of trees store water in the soil, maintain groundwater levels and prevent soil erosion. Trees trap dust particles present in the air and positively impact the human mind. Trees are also helpful in coping with climate change. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), forests absorb about 2.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide per year, which is one-third of the carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuels.

After taking oath as Prime Minister for the third time, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the country for the first time on June 30, 2024 through the radio program 'Mann ki Baat'. He said, "Every mother showers limitless affection upon her child. This love of the mother who has given birth is like a debt on all of us. which no one can repay. I was thinking, we can't give anything to our mother, but, can we do something else? Based on this thought, a special campaign has been launched on World Environment Day this year. The name of this campaign is - 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. I have also planted a tree in the name of my mother. I have appealed to all the countrymen, people of all the countries of the world, to plant a tree along with their mothers or in their name."

Trees are also deeply related to human culture and history. In ancient civilisations, trees were often considered a symbol of knowledge, strength and perseverance. For example, ancient Greeks believed the olive tree sacred as Athena, the adddess of wisdom. The olive tree symbolized peace and prosperity and played an essential role in ancient Greece's economic and cultural life. Even today, trees symbolize the continuity of cultural practices. Trees are also closely associated with human religious beliefs and faith. In Hinduism, the Peepal tree (Ficus religiosa) is considered sacred and is mentioned in the Gita. In Buddhism, the Bodhi Tree under which Siddhārtha Gautama attained enlightenment is one of the most revered symbols of Buddhism. The Bodhi Tree is a symbol of wisdom, compassion and enlightenment. Acknowledging the importance of these trees, it is written in Sanskrit shlokas that वायूनां शोधकाः वृक्षाः रोगाणामपहारकाः। तस्माद रोपणमेतेषां रक्षणं च हितावहम।।

meaning :

Trees purify the air and cure diseases

Therefore, planting and protecting the trees is beneficial It is also said that:

अश्वत्थमेकम् पिचुमन्दमेकम् न्यग्रोधमेकम् दश चिश्चिणीकान।

कपित्थबिल्वाऽऽमलकत्रयञ्च पश्चाऽऽम्रमुप्त्वा नरकन्न पश्येत।।

That is, one should plant at least one Peepal, one Neem, one Banyan, ten Tamarind, three Kaith, Amla, and Bilva each and five Mango trees in one's lifetime.

Realising the importance of tree plantation, many institutions in the country continuously work in this field. Vijnana Bharati is also prominent among them. It relentlessly works for various dimensions of science and the replenishment, upgradation, and dissemination of Indian science. Vijnana Bharati is also firmly engaged in the mission of environmental conservation.





Chami Murmu Environmentalist Padmashree

Importance of Tree Plantation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2024. This is an exemplary initiative. If all of us plant at least one tree in the name of our mother, then it will be a virtuous deed for our country, society and our lives as well. Planting trees by all citizens in this campaign following the spirit of participation will be commendable.

I have planted about 30 lakh saplings so far. It also started interestingly. There was an acute shortage of firewood around us and we burned coal and straw (stalks of crops like paddy, wheat, barley and rye). The state of the environment in our area was very pathetic. Wood is used profusely in our area for making cots, spades, etc., but there was a severe shortage of timber in our area. Since barren land was available, we thought of forming a group of women and start planting trees. In this way, we began planting trees to improve the environment in our area and since then we have been continuously working in our area.

It is observed that many times, people plant trees under some campaign or voluntarily, but they are not taken care of. The main reason for this is a lack of strong willpower. We have the will to work, that is why wherever we plant trees, we take care of them for three years. We have also formed a village forest committee, with whose help the plants are taken care of for three years. We have been saving 90 percent of the plants we have planted till now.

When I started planting trees, I had to work very hard to take care of the plants, but I kept learning continuously. Now that I have learned all these things, I have a lot of peace and it feels good. Plants are my family and I spend my life with them.

Many trees maintain the moisture in the soil and some trees absorb more water. In such a situation the selection of trees for plantation is essential from the environmental point of view. Some plants are perfect for our area; they keep the soil in good condition and do not absorb much water. Eucalyptus dries up the soil and wherever it is planted in our area, the water around it has dried up and the plants have also not been able to grow properly. Wherever there is fertile land, we have planted mango, guava and, along its edges, trees like Sangwan (teak), Gamhar (white teak), Neem (margosa), Karanja (Indian Beech), etc. have been planted.



The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign initiated by the Prime Minister will prove to be very beneficial for the environment. This campaign will definitely be successful in every respect.



Paris Olympics 2024

To newer records with renewed enthusiasm and vigour

" • The memories of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 are still fresh in our minds. The performance of our players in Tokyo won the hearts of every Indian. Right after the Tokyo Olympics, our athletes were whole-heartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics. If take all the players we together, then all of them have participated in nearly nine hundred international competitions. This is a very big number. **99**

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

PARIS 2024

Olympic Games are undoubtedly the biggest and most prestigious sporting event in the world. It is the biggest sports festival. More than 150 countries and their players eagerly wait for this grand sports event for four years. In our country, the enthusiasm for this mega event is also discernible. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also mentioned the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024 in the 111th edition of 'Mann ki Baat' and wished the players who are going to participate in it.

Three years ago, in 2021, the Prime Minister and the entire nation were overjoyed when the pride of the country, our players, brought glory to the nation in the Olympics 2020 held in Tokyo. The Tokyo Olympics might have been delayed due to the Covid pandemic, but the enthusiasm and zeal for it did not subside across the world. Indian players also did not disappoint the country and brought home one gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

Despite the adverse circumstances arising from the Covid pandemic, our youth created history in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and brought home seven medals, the country's highest tally in 120 years. Our performance in the Paralympics



2020 was also unprecedented and we broke all records by winning the highest number of 19 medals, including 5 gold medals.

India's challenge has appeared very strong in the last two Olympics, testimony to the fact that 'sports culture' has been promoted profoundly in India in the last two decades.

With this objective, the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in September 2014 to improve India's performance in the Olympics and Paralympics. It was revamped in April 2018 to set up a technical support team to manage TOPS. The scheme provides all the necessary support to potential athletes participating in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, including overseas

training, equipment

for international competitions and coaching camps, as well as a monthly stipend of Rs 50,000 for each athlete.

As an outcome of this scheme, athletes sponsored by TOPS performed well in the 2016 Rio Olympics, 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2020 Tokyo Olympics 2022 Commonwealth and Games. Many athletes, including P.V. Sindhu, Neeraj Chopra, and Suhas Yathiraj, brought glory to the country on the international stage with the help of this scheme. After they arrived in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met all the athletes and congratulated them, thus demonstrating that sports is one of the top priorities of the Central Government.

In the recent past, 47 of the 70 athletes who won medals in CWG 2022 were supported under this scheme. In addition, 15 of the 17 players who won 19 medals in Paralympics 2020 were part of this scheme and availed of the facilities provided by the Government. The team going to the Paris Olympics also includes many TOPS-supported athletes, including Deepika Kumari, Annu Rani and Kishore Jena.

The entire nation has high expectations from our players this time. They are confident that in this Olympics we will definitely break our previous record and once again the tricolour will flutter proudly on the international stage. The whole country, including the Prime Minister, is very excited about this Maha Kumbh of sports.

ANDHRA PRADESH' DAUGHTER CREATES HISTORY

Friends, in the Paris Olympics, you will get to witness certain things for the first time. In shooting, the talent of our players is coming to the fore. Both men's and women's teams have qualified in table tennis. Our shooter daughters are also part of the Indian shotgun team. From this, you can guess that we will see a different level of excitement in sports this time."

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

Like always, this time also, crores of countrymen pinned their hopes on the Indian team. This time, while 21 sportspersons have qualified in shooting, Indian sportspersons will also demonstrate their strength in horse riding and sailing. But among these, expectations are very high from Jyothi Yarraji. She is all set to become the first Indian athlete to participate in the 100-meter hurdles in modern Olympic history. Yarraji clocked 12.78 seconds in a competition in Finland in May this year, which was only 0.01 seconds less than the automatic qualification time of 12.77 seconds. However, she still got a ticket to the Paris Olympics on the basis of her ranking.

ouzbue

The journey to this point has not been easy for Jyothi, who hails from Andhra Pradesh. Her father, Suryanarayana, works as a private security guard and her mother, Kumari, is a domestic help. But Jyothi was determined and right from her school days she remained focussed on attaining her goal. Her Physical Education Teacher recognised her talent and guided her. After this, she has never looked back. The driving force behind her choice of this path was the immense support and care of her parents. Her father is also very pleased with her achievement.

It has not been long since 24-year-old Jyoti started her international career, but despite this, she currently holds the record of being the fastest Indian woman in the 100m hurdles. Jyoti surprised everyone when she won the gold medal in the National Games 2022, defeating India's two leading female runners Dutee Chand and Hima Das in the 100m race. She also set a new record with a time of 11.51 seconds.

Jyoti Yaraji's streak of breaking national records continued in 2022 and 2023 as well. She won the gold medal at the 2023 Asian Athletics Championships as well as the silver medal at the 2023 Asian Indoor Championships and the 2023 Asian Games. A similar performance is expected from her in this Olympics as well and the whole country will continue to cheer her.



Indian Culture Touching Hearts Abroad

India's cultural tapestry, woven over millennia, is unfurling across the globe, with its vibrant hues painting new landscapes of cultural exchange. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is experiencing a cultural renaissance that reverberates both within its borders and across the globe, captivating audiences with its rich traditions and vivid expressions. As highlighted by the Prime Minister in the 111th episode of 'Mann ki Baat', India's cultural footprint is expanding with unprecedented vigour. From the heart of West Asia to the shores of the Caribbean, the essence of India is being embraced and celebrated worldwide. Let's delve into each of these.



First Hindi Broadcast on Kuwait Radio

In a groundbreaking moment, the airwaves in Kuwait are resonating with the vibrancy of Hindi, marking a cultural milestone in the Arab nation. On April 21, 2024, the Kuwaiti Government launched its first Hindi radio broadcast for listeners on its National Radio, a unique initiative taken for the first time in the 62-year history of diplomatic relations with India. The radio programme in Hindi, called 'Namaste Kuwait' is being aired on Kuwait Radio every Sunday for 30 minutes, from 8:30 PM to 9 PM (as per Kuwait local time), on FM 93.3 and AM 96.3.



The idea of this program came from the fact that Indians today are the largest expatriate community in Kuwait, almost over a million. They are called the community of first preference. We made this proposal to the Ministry of Information of Kuwait and they were very receptive of this proposal. The radio show, hosted by two Indian nationals, focuses on the recent developments in India and Kuwait. Bollywood movies and music are very popular in Kuwait. The program also shares snippets about India-Kuwait historical relationship. The Hindi program has been widely received not only by Indians in Kuwait but back home in India and by the Kuwaitis as well. I am sure that it will go a long way in fostering greater cultural cooperation between the two nations.

- Adarsh Swaika, Ambassador of India to Kuwait



Tagore in Turkmenistan



A similar gesture of cultural reverence was seen in Turkmenistan. As part of celebrations marking the 300th birth anniversary of Turkmenistan's national poet Magtymguly Pyragy, President Serdar Berdimuhamedow unveiled statues of 24 renowned global poets, including the legendary Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. This honour bestowed upon Tagore is a profound recognition of the literary genius of the Nobel laureate who has transcended national boundaries with his timeless poems, novels, and songs. The inclusion of Tagore among the 24 global poets is also a nod to the rich heritage of Indian literature and India's significant contribution to the world's literary tapestry.



Caribbean Embracing their Indian Roots

Further west, in the Latin American nations of Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Indian heritage celebrations have been marked with exuberance and pride. In Suriname, June 5th is celebrated annually as Indian Arrival Day and Pravasi Din, commemorating the arrival of Indian ancestors and their invaluable contributions to the country's cultural mosaic. The widespread use of Bhojpuri and Hindi in Suriname underscores the enduring legacy of Indian culture in this geographically distant land. Similarly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, boasting a significant population of Indian descent, celebrated Indian Heritage Day on June 1, 2024. Such celebrations not only strengthen the cultural identity of the Indian community but also enrich the multicultural fabric of the host countries.

S. Ramji, Charge d' Affaires, Indian Embassy in Suriname

This year marked the 151st Anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname. The first ship, Lallarookh, docked off the coast of Paramaribo on this day in 1873. This year, the official event was held at the Baba en Mai monument in Paramaribo. The President of Suriname, Shri Chandrikapersad Santokhi, is also a Person of Indian Origin. He often speaks Bhojpuri with pride in public events. The Indian community in Suriname shares a deep admiration for the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His focus on development within India and his growing international influence resonate strongly with Indo-Surinamese community, fostering optimism for the future.



IYD 2024 How India and the World Celebrated Yoga Day

This year's International Yoga Day, celebrated on 21st June, saw remarkable participation in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Themed "Yoga for Self and Society," the event was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with enthusiastic involvement from the youth and women of the region. The celebration in Kashmir was part of a worldwide celebration that underscored the enduring significance and global embrace of yoga.

<image>

From the banks of the Nile River to the heritage sites of Sri Lanka, people from all over the world engaged in yoga in large numbers, marking the day with unity and vigour. Notably, Saudi Arabia saw its first female-led yoga session, while Egypt organised a photo competition featuring yoga by the Red Sea.

STREET, IN ALLOCIATION

ODI VOTA COMMATTE



The observance highlighted the universal appeal of yoga, promoting physical and mental well-being. The Government's initiative has successfully made yoga a global movement, fostering a sense of international camaraderie and health consciousness. This effort underlines Bharat's pivotal role in promoting wellness worldwide and reflects the Government's commitments to cultural diplomacy and holistic health practices.

Galle Fort, Sri Lanka







Thimpu, Bhutan





My Products, My Pride

A Journey of Grow<mark>th and Global Recognition</mark>

There are so many products of India which are in great demand all over the world and when we see a local product of India going global, it is natural to feel proud.

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

"When the Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned my name, I felt incredibly happy. By mentioning my name, the PM acknowledged all the small farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and across India. This speaks volumes about how concerned the Prime Minister is about small and marginal farmers in the country."

> -Abdul Rashid Mir Farmer, Chakura, Jammu & Kashmir

Celebrated for its unique products, skilled artisans, and the ethos of 'Aatmanirbharta', India is a land of opportunities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Vocal for Local' has played a pivotal role in fueling this spirit by nurturing an enabling environment for strengthening local businesses and driving them towards global recognition. This initiative, integral to the ambitious 'Make In India' programme, aims not only to promote self-reliance but also to foster sustainable growth across diverse sectors.

Highlighting India's wealth of unique offerings in the 111th address of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for the 'My Products, My Pride' campaign, emphasising India's unparalleled cultural and economic assets. From Kerala's iconic Karthumbi umbrellas to the exquisite Araku coffee from Andhra Pradesh and the flavourful Snow Peas of Jammu & Kashmir, India's cultural diversity and entrepreneurial prowess shines through its products. Time and again, the Prime Minister has reaffirmed

India's stature as a global manufacturing powerhouse. With India setting new laurels in promoting self-reliance and showcasing its diverse cultural heritage, the Government is making numerous efforts to encourage local businesses to maintain global standards.

The popularity of such indigenous products has not been an overnight journey but a cumulative effort over the years. Complementing 'Vocal for Local', initiatives such as 'One District - One Product' and 'My Handloom, My Pride' have significantly contributed to this gradual evolution.

Aimed at selecting, branding, and promoting at least one distinctive product from every district across India, 'One District - One Product' (ODOP) initiative is a well-defined and strategic approach to promote local products beyond regional borders. The initiative has identified an impressive array of 1,102 products from 761 districts nationwide. Through this initiative, the Government aligns support infrastructure with the specific requirements of each product. The ODOP initiative promotes indigenous and specialised products like turmeric, amla, millet-based products, Naga chilli products, jaggery, chikankari, zari-zardozi work, handloom silk sarees and horn-bone work, across food and handicraft processing sectors. Inspired and supported by such initiatives undertaken by the Government, local producers, manufacturers and service providers have been



successful in bringing unique, quality products to light.

Araku coffee, from Alluri Sitharama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh, was also recognised by the Prime Minister in 'Mann ki Baat' for its taste and for its role in enhancing the income of farmers. The "amazing" coffee has also won Gold at ODOP National Awards 2023.

From agricultural produce, cereal-based products to and traditional innovative products, ODOP has fostered fruitful collaborations among Ministries. embassies. local producers and skilled artisans alike. The Indian Embassy in Bahrain inaugurated a new Odisha State Tourism and One District One Product wall on July 2, 2024. Odisha proudly joined as the fifth state in showcasing distinctive ODOP products from various Indian states in Bahrain, following Rajasthan, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Similarly, under the slogan "My Handloom, My Pride", expos are regularly organised nationwide to encourage handloom and handicraft workers. These are just a few examples among the many efforts being made at multiple levels to celebrate and uplift the rich local heritage across the nation.

What Jammu and Kashmir achieved recently,

as highlighted by the Prime Minister in the latest 'Mann ki Baat', serves as an inspiring example for people across the country. Pulwama celebrated its first consignment of snow peas being sent to London, marking a significant milestone that has not only opened new doors for agricultural exports from the region but also ignited widespread inspiration.

In another significant development for farm exports, Uttar Pradesh is set to export a consignment of 20 tonnes of Buddha Rice, renowned as 'Kala Namak' Rice, one of India's finest aromatic rice varieties, to Singapore. To further promote the production, processing, packaging and branding of Kala Namak Rice, the Central Government has announced it as the ODOP of Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj and Sant Kabir Nagar, thus benefiting farmers of the state and strengthening their role in the state's agricultural landscape.

As India continues to celebrate its rich tapestry of local products and craftsmanship, let us all join hands in promoting the 'My Products, My Pride' campaign, fostering a stronger, more self-reliant India on the global stage. Share the legacy of the unique products near you, with #myproductsmypride.



ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT



















KARTHUMBI UMBRELLAS Celebrating Kerala's Local Craft

The Karthumbi Umbrellas are made by our tribal sisters of Attappady. I think all people should buy one umbrella to help our tribal sisters.

-George Kurian, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

"Umbrellas have a special significance in the culture of Kerala. Umbrellas are an important part of many traditions and rituals there. But the umbrella I am talking about is 'Karthumbi Umbrella' and it is crafted in Attappady, Kerala. These colourful umbrellas are strikingly splendid. And the special fact is that these umbrellas are made by our tribal sisters of Kerala."

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

Kerala's Karthumbi umbrellas, meticulously crafted by tribal artisans, are a vibrant example of

'My Product, My Pride'. The production of Karthumbi umbrellas began about ten years ago with a mission to empower the tribal women of Attappadi in Kerala's Palakkad District. Produced under the supervision of the Vattalakki Cooperative Farming Society, Karthumbi umbrellas have evolved from a small village craft in Kerala to being embraced by multinational companies. Initially crafted to fulfil orders from Government institutions and schools, these colourful umbrellas have since found their way into the open market and online platforms. I am sure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mention of Karthumbi umbrellas will help the society's products to reach more people. Started as an agricultural venture, Vattalakki Cooperative Farming Society has achieved this because of the diversification they have tried out. Vattalakki farming society is a group of 150 tribal individuals, primarily composed of women, who have come together to form a strong community. Enabling women to earn their own income has always played a crucial role in helping communities rise up the social ladder. This applies equally to the tribal community, and it's in this context that the Vattalakki Farming Society has achieved significant success.

+ Dr. S.Chithra, District Collector, Vattalakki

Vattalakki Cooperative Farming Society is a testament to the entrepreneurship of a tribal community and what they can achieve with the right support both from the Government as well as otherwise. Recent acknowledgement by the hon'ble Prime Minister has given us a new boost so that we can plan to diversify the functions of Vattalakki Cooperative Farming Society more, and come up with novel advertising or branding strategies.

-Dr. Midhum Premraj, Sub Collector

ARAKU COFFEE TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS

In the 111th edition of 'Mann ki Baat', Araku coffee was praised for its rich flavour and captivating aroma. Grown in the Araku Valley in Alluri Sita Ram Raju district of Andhra Pradesh, Araku coffee earned its Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2019. Cultivated through the collaborative efforts of tribal farmers and cooperatives, this state speciality beyond its exquisite taste, has been instrumental in substantially boosting the income of local farmers.

While highlighting its role in creating employment opportunities for 1.5 lakh tribal families, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Girijan cooperative has played an important role in taking Araku coffee to new heights. It brought together the farmer brothers and sisters here and encouraged them to cultivate Araku coffee. Elated by the recognition, *G. Suresh Kumar (Vice Chairman, Alluri Sitaram Girijan Cooperative)* spoke to our Doordarshan team.



"The Prime Minister himself mentioning the specialty of Araku coffee— its taste, richness, and uniqueness— is an achievement for the tribal coffee growers of Andhra Pradesh. Girijan Coffee Corporation (GCC) is encouraging them to grow coffee systematically and supporting them in every possible way.

The texture of the soil and the climate contribute to the uniqueness of the coffee. GCC is also helping tribals for organic cultivation of the coffee. Coffee cultivation in Alluri Sitharama Raju district goes back to the 1960s and 1970s. However, significant systematic improvements and renewed impetus for this coffee project have been observed in the last 10 years. This is because of increase in cultivation, increase in acreage and support. We are trying to give them maximum support by creating economic awareness among them, giving them coffee loans, preventing them from middlemen.

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SNOW PEAS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN J&K

New doors of prosperity and recognition have opened for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, with local edible snow peas being exported to London for the first time. Hailing the snow peas export from Pulwama in the 111th edition of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded *Abdul Rashid Mir's* effort in bringing the exotic vegetable on the global map. Abdul Rashid Mir of Chakura started growing snow peas by integrating the land of other farmers of the village.

When the Prime Minister mentioned my name, I felt incredibly happy. By mentioning my name, the PM acknowledged all the small farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and across India, which brought me great joy. This speaks volumes about how concerned the PM is about small and marginal farmers in the country. I receive calls every day from different people asking to provide them seeds in various quantities, and the way the PM mentioned our product, we are hopefully going to have a huge demand this season.

We entered into an agreement with a local entrepreneur, Kawsara Rashid, who exports vegetables through the "On Foods" company, to provide a new type of pea, which they said would benefit us significantly. After they explained everything, we decided to cultivate Snow Peas. I decided to move forward and gathered like-minded farmers from within a five to six-kilometre radius. I explained to them that we would cultivate a new variety of peas instead of the traditional ones. Everyone agreed and expressed their enthusiasm to participate.

Glory of Sanskrit on the Rise in India and Abroad

Sanskrit has played a big role in the progress of ancient Indian knowledge and science. The demand of today's times is that we should respect Sanskrit and also connect it with our daily life.

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

"The Prime Minister and other honourable members of the Government use Sanskrit practically whenever they get the opportunity. Such examples prove to be very inspiring for the general public."

> -Dr. Baldevanand Sagar Sanskrit News Broadcaster, Akashvani & Doordarshan

India is a country of many languages, including rich ancient languages like Sanskrit and Tamil. Sanskrit has been the mainstay of Indian civilisation and culture. It is known as the language of philosophy, literature and science. With the relevance of the eternal Indian knowledge tradition and Vedic literature on the rise, it would be absolutely appropriate to say that this is the proper time for revival of Sanskrit language. Equally conscious of this aspect, the Government is playing an active role in the preservation and promotion of this language by supporting universities and promoting the study of Sanskrit through training programs.

In 2015, the Ministry of Education (then Ministry of Human Resource Development) constituted a committee headed by Shri N. Gopalaswami, Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, to suggest a long-term vision and roadmap for the development of Sanskrit. The committee submitted its report in February 2016. Its main recommendations included teacher training, Sanskrit Shiksha Varsham (Sanskrit Teaching Year) and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Sanskrit schools and colleges. The report was circulated to all concerned institutions and orders were given for immediate implementation of the recommendations that could be implemented within the existing policy framework at that time.

On March 16, 2020, the Central Sanskrit Universities Act 2020 was passed in Parliament. This fulfilled the long-pending demand of countless Sanskrit lovers, scholars and Sanskritspeaking people in the country. It gave world-class recognition to Sanskrit language teaching institutions. With the implementation of the Central Sanskrit Universities Act, 2020, the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati became "Central Universities". This gave them freedom to choose curriculum and avail additional Government funds besides national and international recognition. Overall, this Act has strengthened Sanskrit education and research in India.

Besides the three premium Sanskrit universities mentioned above, Sanskrit is also taught in many other institutions and universities. On June 19, 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University at Rajgir, Bihar. At Nalanda University, too, Sanskrit is taught as a language as part of the MA in Hindu Studies (Sanātana Dharma) course.

Special emphasis has been placed on Sanskrit education

in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In this policy, special focus has been laid on retaining tongue/local mother the language/regional language as the medium of education at least till grade 5, preferably till grade 8 and beyond. There is also a provision to give students the opportunity to choose Sanskrit as an option at all levels of school and in higher education. Since the announcement of NEP 2020, people's interest in Sanskrit has been growing.

Sanskrit is a scientific language. Today, it is being made easy for people to use by combining it with technology. Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, have developed a digital framework to make the Sanskrit language accessible. They have effectively blended cutting-edge machine-learning techniques and traditional linguistic knowledge of Sanskrit to achieve this.

The Prime Minister, while referring to the existence of hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects in India, during the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit on December 12, 2023, suggested using AI to enhance digital inclusion and make digital services available in local languages. He also suggested using AI to take forward the rich knowledge base and literature of the Sanskrit language and reconstruct the missing volumes of Vedic mathematics.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spares no effort to spread the Sanskrit language. He also keeps talking about it in the 'Mann ki Baat' program. Apart from the June 2024 edition, he has touched upon Sanskrit in many episodes.

In August last year, in the 104th episode of 'Mann ki Baat', conveying his felicitations to mark World Sanskrit Day, the Prime Minister, referring to Sanskrit language, said, "We all know that Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages in the world. It is also called the mother of many modern languages. Sanskrit is known for its antiquity, scientific basis and grammar. For thousands of years, the Sanskrit language has preserved much ancient knowledge of India."

Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages, and it is also modern. Its scientific structure and the subtlety and clarity of its pronunciation make it relevant in any field, from computer programming to space science. Sanskrit is not only the language of ancient texts but also a strong modern language.

BENGALURU'S SANSKRIT WEEKEND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 111th 'Mann ki Baat' address, talked about 'Sanskrit Weekend', a unique initiative in the heart of Bengaluru. Under the canopy of century-old trees, children, youngsters, and elders gather in the city's Cubbon Park to converse in Sanskrit.



We are honored to be mentioned in the IIIth episode of prestigious 'Mann ki Baat' nationwide program hosted by the Prime Minister and have ever since been building more dreams towards the language Samskritam. It was a fine Sunday morning and during the Sanskrit Weekend session at Cubbon Park on the 30th of June, we were informed that the Prime Minister himself would be speaking about the Sanskrit weekends, and that day, every moment proved the idea we have been following- "Samskritam revives us".

The Prime Minister's leadership and encouragement have been instrumental in fostering a renewed interest in a lot more dreams towards this ancient language. We are committed to furthering the cause of Sanskrit and making it reach every corner of the world.



— Samashti Gubbi Founder, Sanskrit Weekend

आकाशवाण्या प्रसार्यमाणानां संस्कृतवार्तानां कृते दातुं शक्नुमः वा ?

नूतनराष्ट्रियशिक्षानीत्यादिना संस्कृतज्ञानस्य व्यापकप्रसाराय वर्तमानसर्वकारेण अनेके उपायाः कार्यान्विताः इत्यपि सुतरां हर्षस्य विषयः । आदरणीयः प्रधानमन्त्री अन्ये च सर्वकारस्य माननीयाः सदस्याः, यदा यदा अवसरं प्राप्नुवन्ति तदा तदा संस्कृतस्य व्यावहारिकं प्रयोगं कुर्वन्ति । एतादृशानि उदाहरणानि सामान्यजनस्य कृते अतीव प्रेरणाप्रदानि भवन्ति ।

किश्चित्कालपूर्वं यावत् इदम् आक्षिप्यते स्म यत् संस्कृताध्ययनेन आजीविकायाः अवसराः अत्यल्पाः वर्तन्ते इत। अद्य स्थितिः परिवर्तिता अस्ति। एकतः सम्पूर्णे विश्वे योग आयुर्वेद आदिनां, सश्चार-माध्यमेषुच संस्कृत-पत्रकारितायाः च प्रवृत्तिः वर्धमाना अस्ति, अपरतः तु अद्यतन-यूनां कृते आजीविकायाः अवसराः दिने दिने विवर्धन्ते। आगच्छन्तु, वयं सर्वे मिलित्वा संस्कृतविद्या याः दिव्यानां परम्पराणां निर्वहणं कुर्याम।

 अन्याः भारतीयाः भाषाः संस्कृतस्य शब्द-सम्पदा समृद्धाः सन्ति।
 संस्कृतं न केवलं वर्गविशेषस्य भाषा, अपित्र सर्वेषां भाषा एव।

10. अतः एव एषा देवभाषा अस्ति, सर्वासां भाषितभाषाणां जननी च।

दुर्दैवविपाकात् राजनैतिककारणात् वा संस्कृतशिक्षणस्य क्षयः जातः आसीत्, परन्तु अद्यतनं व्यापकं परिदृश्यं दृष्ट्वा संस्कृतभाषायाः भारतीयसांस्कृतिकपरम्पराणां च भावि उज्ज्वलम् इति भासते। हिन्दी-इत्यादिभाषाम् इव अधुना संस्कृतपत्रकारितायाः क्षेत्रमपि अतीव तीव्रगत्या विकसितं जायते। अधूना भारते, भारतात् बहिश्च संस्कृतभाषायां बहुविधानि चलच्चित्राणि विनिर्मीयन्ते, तथा च एतानि चलच्चित्राणि राष्ट्रिय-अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय-स्तरयोः पुरस्कारान् अपि प्राप्नुवन्ति। द्वाभ्याम् अधिकानि ऑनलाइन्-प्रसारण (रेडियो) तन्त्राणि प्रवर्तन्ते यानि अहर्निशं संस्कृतभाषायाः कार्यक्रमान् प्रसारयन्ति।

एतेषां स्मरणीयकार्याणां निरन्तरप्रगतेः श्रेयः किं वयम्

अद्यतनसन्दर्भे संस्कृतभाषायाः प्रासङ्गिकता



डॉ. बलदेवानन्द-सागर: संस्कृतवार्ताप्रसारकः, आकाशवाणी तथा दूरदर्शनम्

नातिचिरं (30 जून, 2024) आकाशवाण्याः संस्कृतवार्ताप्रसारणेन गौरवपूर्णानि ५०- वर्षाणि पूर्णतां नीतानि। अस्मिन् अवसरे संस्कृतवार्ताप्रशंसकाः संस्कृतसमाजस्य बहुसंख्यकसंस्थाः च हर्षं प्रकटितवन्तः, तथा च केचन श्रोतारः दर्शकाः च आकाशवाणी-दूरदर्शनयोः विभिन्नकेन्द्रेभ्यः संस्कृतवार्तानां प्रसारणस्य अवधिं आवृत्तिं च वर्धयितुम्, अन्येषां च संस्कृतकार्यक्रमाणां शुभारम्भार्थं साग्रहम् अनुरोधं कृतवन्तः। अस्मिन् अवसरे आदरणीयप्रधानमन्त्री स्वस्य 'मन की बात'- इत्यस्य १११-तमे प्रकरणे आकाशवाण्याः सम्पूर्णपरिवाराय संस्कृतवार्ताप्रसारणस्य ५०-वर्षाणां गौरवपूर्ण-सम्पूर्तेः कृते हार्दिकम् अभिवादनं कृतवान्।

सौभाग्येन अहम् आकाशवाण्याः सं रुकृत वा ता - प्र सा र ण से वा या म् आरम्भादेव अवसरं प्राप्तवान्, अतः मम कृते अस्य अवसरस्य विशेषं महत्त्वम् अस्ति। संस्कृतभाषायाः, भारतस्य ज्ञानविज्ञानपरम्पराणां च विषये अनेकेषु मश्चेषु अनेकप्रकारकाः प्रश्नाः सकौतुकम् उत्थाप्यन्ते। तेषु एकः बहुचर्चितः प्रश्नः अस्ति यत् संस्कृतभाषायाः अध्ययनं किमर्थम्? एतस्य उत्तररूपेण विद्वांसः महाचिन्तकाः च यत्किमपि उक्तवन्तः, तनु संक्षेपेण एवमस्ति -

 भारतस्य प्रतिष्ठे द्वे संस्कृतं संस्कृतिस्तथा।

 2. संस्कारयति यत् तत् संस्कृतम् ।
 3. 'संस्कृतम्' भारतस्य आत्मा अस्ति ।

4. भारतीय-ज्ञानविज्ञानयोः वाहिकास्ति - संस्कृतभाषा,

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चतुर्वेदाः पुराणानि सर्वोपनिषदस्तथा। रामायणं भारतं च गीता षड्दर्शनानि

5. संस्कृतवर्णमाला वैज्ञानिकी अस्ति।

संस्कृतभाषा वैज्ञानिकी,
 गणितात्मिका, संगीतमयी,
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7.अद्यतनाःवैज्ञानिकाः एतत् सप्रमाणं सिद्धं कृतवन्तः यत् संस्कृतोच्चारणद्वारा अन्यभाषाणाम् उच्चारणं सहजं सुलभं च भवति, मस्तिष्कस्य उभयभागयोः विकासः च जायते।

संस्कृत नाट्यप्रयोग समये राष्ट्रियनाट्यविद्यालयछात्रैः सह बलदेवानन्दसागरः

Relevance of Sanskrit Language in the Present Context

Recently, 30, on June 2024, Sanskrit news broadcast from Akashvani completed its distinguished journey of 50 years. On this occasion, the admirers of Sanskrit news and many Sanskrit institutions expressed their happiness. Some listeners have even requested various centers in Akashvani and Doordarshan to increase the duration and frequency of Sanskrit news broadcasts and commence broadcast of other programmes in Sanskrit. On this occasion, in the 111th episode of his 'Mann ki Baat,' the Honourable Prime Minister conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the entire Akashvani fraternity associated with it on completing glorious 50 years of Sanskrit news broadcast.

Since I have had the good fortune of being associated with Akashvani's Sanskrit news service from the beginning, this occasion is particularly important to me. Many questions are asked about the Sanskrit language and India's traditions of knowledge and science on many forums. One of the most discussed questions is why the Sanskrit language should be studied. In their reply, scholars and eminent thinkers have stated as follows:

1. Bharatasya pratishthe dve Sanskritam sanskritistha, i.e., Sanskrit and Indian culture are the pride of this great nation.

2. Sanskaryaati yat tat Sanskritam means, 'what imparts sanskar is called Sanskrit.'

3. 'Sanskritam' Bharatasya atma asti means 'Sanskrit language' is the soul of India.

4. Bharatiya gyanvigyanyo vahikasti-Sanskritbhasha, that is, the Sanskrit language is the medium of Indian knowledge and science, such as the four Vedas, Upvedas and six Vedangas, 18 Puranas and 18 Uppuranas, all Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, and six philosophies.

5. The Sanskrit alphabet is scientifically arranged.

6. Sanskrit language is Scientific, Phonetic, Mathematical, Musical and a perfect language.

7. Present-day scientists have proven with evidence that Sanskrit pronunciation helps the pronunciation of other languages easily and develops both parts of the brain.

8. Other Indian languages

are rich only due to Sanskrit vocabulary.

9. Sanskrit is not only the language of a particular class but is the language of all.

10. Hence, it is the divine language and the mother of all dialects.

Over time and due to other political reasons, Sanskrit learning was degraded, but after looking at today's broad scenario, it seems that the future of the Sanskrit language and Indian cultural traditions is vibrant.

Like Hindi and other Indian languages, Sanskrit journalism is also developing very fast. Films are now being made in Sanskrit, both in India and outside, and these films are being awarded at the national and international levels. There are more than two online radio stations broadcasting Sanskrit language programmes round the clock. Should we not credit the Sanskrit news broadcast on All India Radio for the continuous progress of these commendable initiatives?

It is also heartening to note that the present Government has implemented many measures to promote Sanskrit learning widely through the new National Education Policy and other means. The Honourable Prime Minister and other honourable members of the Government use Sanskrit practically whenever they get the opportunity. Such examples prove to be very inspiring for the general public.

Until some time ago, it was claimed that there are very few livelihood opportunities for those who study Sanskrit. Today, the situation has changed. On the one hand, the popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, etc., and Sanskrit journalism in the media is increasing all over the world, while on the other hand, livelihood opportunities for today's youth are growing day by day. Come, let us all work together to further the divine traditions of Sanskrit knowledge.

> Baldevanand Sagar with students of National School Drama during Sanskrit Theatre Experiment



MANN KI BAAT Media Scan



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रीक्षां प्रवाद संस्थान अगर्थन और प्राणिकेविकों सेन्द्र लाख कार्यर है।

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Today marks a special milestone as @/kasityani/VIR's Sanskift Bulletin completes 50 years of broadcastl

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Dr. Sukanta Malamdar 👸

In Mann Ki Bast today, Hen'ble PM Shri Narenche Vedi Ji Onsvendramodi highlighted Voga Day's global impact.

From record-breaking pelebrations in 1896 to sessions in Saudi Arabia and Egypt's photo competition by the Nile and pyramids, Yoga Day resonated worldwide.

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Mann ki Baat resumed, PM congratulates ECI and everyone associated with the 2024 election

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> Karthumbi umbrella, praised by PM, is a success story of tribal women

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🚾 Hindustan Times

Karthumbhi umbrellas, Araku coffee, snow peas find mention in Modi's Mann ki Baat

In Mann Ki Baat, PM Modi Talks Of New **Campaign To Honour Mothers**



Mann Ki Baat: मां के नाम एक पेड, योग, पर्यावरण..., 4 महीने बाद पीएम मोदी ने मन की बात में कहीं ये खास बातें



Modi highlights several firsts of athletes, hails preparations for Olympics in his 'Mann ki Baat'

प्रभात खबर

Mann ki Baat: स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों सिदो-कान्ह का बलिदान आज भी देशवासियों को करता है प्रेरित, पीएम मोदी ने कहा

Greater Kashmir

PM Modi thanks citizens in 'Mann ki Baat' programme for showing 'unwavering support' in Lok Sabha polls

DAILYEXCELSIOR COM

Mann Ki Baat | PM Hails Snow Peas Export To London From Jammu And Kashmir

§जनसता

PM Modi Mann Ki Baat: ओलंपिक से लेकर मां की याद तक, चुनाव जीतने के बाद पहली मन की बात में क्या-क्या बोले PM मोदी



Mann Ki Baat : मैं अपने परिवार के बीच आया हूं...'मन की बात' कार्यक्रम में बोले पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी



Mann Ki Baat: Here's why PM Modi mentioned 'Sanskrit' in his episode after 3 months

Business Standard

Indian culture earning glory around world: PM Modi during Mann Ki Baat



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





















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