

MANNN KI BAAT

Khelo India Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat



125th
SPECIAL EDITION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's
Address to the Nation



Prime Minister's Address



CONTENTS

FEATURED STORIES



26

Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat :
Celebrating Sports and Unity in
Jammu & Kashmir



40

Guarding the Glory of Martyrs : The
Story of Jitendra Singh



46

The Radiant Revolution of Solar Didi :
Devki Devi's Journey



54

Vishwakarma Jayanti : Salute to the
hands that laid the foundation of the
country



58

Indian Culture Abroad : Statues,
Stories and a Shared Heritage



34

Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025
A New Dawn on Dal Lake



44

From Podcast to World Stage : India's Story Inspires German Coach



50

Engineers' Day : Remembering Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya

ARTICLES



22

In the Hour of Crisis : Every Hand Matters -Piyush Anand



30

The Dawn of a New Age of Athletic Supremacy in J&K UT -Manoj Sinha



36

Pratibha Setu : Valuing the Journey of Every Aspirant -Dr. Ajay Kumar

63

MEDIA SCAN

My dear countrymen, Namaskar

My dear countrymen, Namaskar. In this monsoon season, natural disasters are testing the country. During the last few weeks, we have witnessed grave devastation caused by floods and landslides. At places, homes were destroyed; at others, fields were submerged; families were ruined en masse, elsewhere, bridges were swept away amid the strong flow of water; roads were washed away; people's lives were enmeshed in danger.

These incidents have saddened every Indian. The pain of the families who lost their loved ones is our shared pain. Wherever the crisis struck, our NDRF-SDRF personnel, other security forces, everyone toiled day and night to save the people there. The soldiers have also availed of the aid of technology. With the help of myriad modern resources such as thermal cameras, life detectors, sniffer dogs and drone surveillance, a lot of efforts were undertaken





to lend speed to the relief work. During this time, relief material was delivered by helicopters; the injured were airlifted. **In the moment of disaster, the army came forward to help. Local people, social workers, doctors, the administration... everyone made every possible effort in this hour of crisis. I express heartfelt gratitude to every citizen who has kept humanity above everything else during this testing time.**

My dear countrymen, amidst this devastation of floods and rains, Jammu and Kashmir has also attained two very special achievements. Not many people noticed them, but when you will come to know about those achievements, you will be extremely delighted. **A record number of people gathered in a**

stadium in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir. Pulwama's first ever day-night cricket match was played here.

Earlier this was impossible, but now my country is transforming. **This match is a part of the 'Royal Premier League', in which different teams of Jammu and Kashmir are playing.** Thousands of enthusiasts, especially youth, enjoying cricket at night in Pulwama... it was truly a sight to behold. **Friends, the second event that caught attention was the first Khelo India Water Sports Festival in the country and that too was held at Dal Lake in Srinagar.** Truly, what a special place that is to organise such a festival. Its objective is to make water sports more popular in Jammu and Kashmir.

More than 800 athletes from all over India participated in it. Women athletes were also not far behind... their participation was also almost at par with men. I would like to congratulate all the players who participated in it. Special congratulations to Madhya Pradesh, which won the maximum number of medals, followed by Haryana and Odisha. I deeply appreciate the warmth and hospitality of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the people there.

Friends, to bring to you the experience of this event, **I have thought of talking to two players who participated in it... one of them is Rashmita Sahu from Odisha and the other is Mohsin Ali from Srinagar. Let us listen to what they have to say.**

Prime Minister : Rashmita ji, Namaste!

Rashmita : Namaste Sir.

Prime Minister : Jai Jagannath.

Rashmita : Jai Jagannath Sir.

Prime Minister : Rashmita ji, first of all congratulations to you for your success in the world of sports.

Rashmita : Thank you Sir.

Prime Minister : Rashmita, our listeners are very keen to know about you and your sports journey... I am also very eager... tell me!

Rashmita : Sir, I am Rashmita Sahu... from Odisha. And I am a canoeing player. I joined sports in 2017. I started canoeing and I have participated at the National level, National Championship and National Games. I have 41 medals. 13 Gold, 14 Silver and 14 Bronze Medals, Sir.

Prime Minister : How did you develop interest in this sport? Who first inspired you towards this? Is there a sports environment in your family?

Rashmita : No sir. The village I come from had no sports. Boating was going on in the river, so I went for swimming. I



Khelo India
Celebrating Unity through Sports

and my friends were swimming and there was a boat for canoeing-kayaking, I did not know anything about it. So I asked my friend “what is this?” So my friend told me that there is SAI Sports Centre in Jagatpur; sports are organised there, I am also going to go there. I found it very interesting. So what is this, I did not even know, how do kids do this in water? Do boating? I told him that I also wanted to go. How do I go? Tell me also? She told me to go there and talk. Then I immediately went home and said Papa, I want to go, Papa, I have to go. Then Papa said okay; he took me there. There was no trial at that time. Then the coaches said that the trial is held in February, so you should come during the trial in February or March. Then I came during the trial.

Prime Minister : Ok Rashmita, how was your own experience at the Khelo India Water Sports Festival held in Kashmir? You went to Kashmir for the first time?

Rashmita : Yes Sir, I went to Kashmir for the first time. Khelo India, First ‘Khelo India Water Sports Festival’ was organised there. I had two events in it. Singles 200 meter and 500 meter doubles. And I have won gold medals in both Sir.



Prime Minister : Oh wow! You won both!

Rashmita : Yes Sir.

Prime Minister : Many congratulations.

Rashmita : Thank you Sir.

Prime Minister : Well Rashmita, apart from water sports, what are your hobbies?

Rashmita : Sir, apart from water sports, I like running the most. Whenever I go on vacation, I go for running. I had learnt to play football at my old field, so whenever I go there, I run a lot and I also play football, a little bit Sir.

Prime Minister : So sports runs in your veins!

Rashmita : Yes Sir, when I was in school from 1st class to 10th class, I used to be 1st in every event I participated in, I used to be a champion Sir.

Prime Minister : Rashmita, if you have to give a message to those who want to progress in sports like you, what would that be?

Rashmita : Sir, many children are not even allowed to step out of their homes, and being a girl, “how will you go out”... and some are leaving sports because of exam issues... and in this Khelo India scheme, many children are getting financial help and many children are getting a lot of help, due to which many children are able to move ahead. And I would tell everyone not to leave sports, you can go a long way with sports. Sports is sports but it also keeps every part of the body healthy and it is our duty to take sports forward and get medals for India, Sir.

Prime Minister : Well, Rashmita Ji, I felt very good. Once again, many many congratulations to you and please convey my regards to your father also because he gave so much encouragement to a daughter to move forward in the midst of so many difficulties. My best wishes are with you. Thank you.

Rashmita : Thank you Sir.

Prime Minister : Jai Jagannath.

Rashmita : Jai Jagannath Sir.

Prime Minister : Mohsin Ali Namaste!

Mohsin Ali : Namaste Sir.

Prime Minister : Mohsin Ji, many congratulations to you and best wishes for your bright future.

Mohsin Ali : Thank you Sir.

Prime Minister : Mohsin, the first ever Khelo India Water Sports, its festival... and the first ever Gold Medal in that! And you won that. How did you feel?

Mohsin Ali : Sir, I am very happy. I won a Gold Medal in Khelo India, which has happened for the first time here, in Kashmir.

Prime Minister : What is the discussion among the people?

Mohsin Ali : There is a lot of talk Sir, the whole family is happy.

Prime Minister : Your schoolmates?

Mohsin Ali : Everyone in school is also happy... in Kashmir, everyone says that you are a Gold Medalist.

Prime Minister : So you have become a big celebrity now.

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir!

Prime Minister : Well, how did you develop an interest in water sports and what benefits do you see in it?

Mohsin Ali : In my childhood, I saw a boat sailing in Dal lake; my father asked me if I would do it, yes, I am also interested in it, then I went to the centre to meet

madam, then madam taught me... Bilquis mam.

Prime Minister : Well, Mohsin, people from all over the country had come, for the first time a water sports program was organised and that too took place in Srinagar, that too in Dal lake, so many people came from all over the country. How did the people there feel?

Mohsin Ali : I am very happy Sir, everyone is saying that it is a good place, everything is good here, the facilities are good. Everything was good here in Khelo India.

Prime Minister : So have you ever gone outside Kashmir for sports?

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir, I have been to Bhopal, Goa, Kerala, Himachal.

Prime Minister : Well then you have seen the whole of India.

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir

Prime Minister : So...so many players had come there!

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir

Prime Minister : So did you make new friends or not?

Mohsin Ali : Sir, I made a lot of friends, we also roamed around together here in Dal Lake, Lal Chowk, we roamed around the whole place, we went to Pahalgam also; yes sir we also went around the entire place.



Prime Minister : Look, I have seen that the sports talent in Jammu and Kashmir is amazing.

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir

Prime Minister : Our youth of Jammu and Kashmir should bring glory to the country, they have so much potential and you have proved it.

Mohsin Ali : Sir, my dream is to win a medal in Olympics, that is my dream.

Prime Minister : Wow, well done!

Mohsin Ali : That exactly is my dream Sir

Prime Minister : Look, I got goosebumps just by hearing that from you.

Mohsin Ali : Sir, that is my dream, to win a medal in Olympics. To get the national

anthem played for the country, that is my only dream.

Prime Minister : The son of a labourer family of my country dreams so big, it means this country is going to progress a lot.

Mohsin Ali : Sir, it is going to progress a lot. We are thankful to the Government of India who has organised Khelo India here... it has happened here for the first time sir.

Prime Minister : That is why they must be cheering you in your school.

Mohsin Ali : Yes Sir.

Prime Minister : Ok Mohsin, I really enjoyed talking to you and please convey my special thanks to your father. Because he made your life by living the life of a labourer and on your father's words, you have worked hard for 10 years without resting. This is a great inspiration for a player and I also congratulate your coach who worked so hard to train you. My best wishes, many congratulations Bhaiya.

Mohsin Ali : Thank you sir, Namaskar Sir, Jai Hind!

Friends, the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat'; the unity of the country, is very important for the development of the country and certainly, sports play a big role in it. And that is why I say that the one

who plays, blooms. The more tournaments our country plays, the more it will flourish. My best wishes to both you players and your colleagues.

My dear countrymen, you must have heard the name of UPSC. This institution conducts the Civil Services exam, one of the toughest exams in the country. **All of us have heard many inspiring stories from the toppers of the Civil Services.** These youngsters study under difficult circumstances and through their hard work get a place in this service - **but friends, there is another truth about the UPSC exam. There are thousands of such candidates who are very capable; their hard work is no less than anyone else's, but they are unable to reach the final list**



सत्यमेव जयते
UPSC



by a small margin. These candidates have to prepare afresh for other exams. That cost both their time and money. That is why, **now a digital platform has been created for such sincere students and its name is 'Pratibha Setu'.**

'Pratibha Setu' stores the data of those candidates who cleared all the stages of various exams of UPSC, but their name did not appear in the final merit list. There is a databank of over ten thousand such bright youngsters on this portal. Some were preparing for civil services, some wanted to join the engineering services, others had cleared every stage of the medical services but were not finally selected – information of all such candidates is now being made available on the 'Pratibha Setu' portal. **Through this portal,**

private companies can obtain information on these promising students and employ them. Friends, the results of this effort have also started coming in. Hundreds of candidates have got jobs immediately with the help of this portal and those youth who had got stuck by a small margin are now moving ahead with new confidence.

My dear countrymen, today the attention of the whole world is towards India. The whole world is eyeing latent possibilities in India. I want to share a pleasant experience related to this with you. **You know that podcasts are in fashion these days.** Different people watch and listen to podcasts related to various subjects. **Recently, I too had participated in some podcasts. One such podcast was with the world's very famous podcaster**

Lex Fridman.

A lot of things were discussed in that podcast and people from all over the world listened to it. **And while the podcast was being discussed,** I had raised a topic in the conversation. A German sportsperson listened to that podcast and his attention was focused on what I had mentioned in it. He connected so much with that topic that he first did research on it and then contacted the Indian Embassy in Germany **and wrote a letter saying that he wanted to connect with India on that topic.** You must be thinking what kind of topic did Modi ji talk about in the podcast – which inspired a German player... what was this topic – let me remind you, **in the**



podcast, I had by the way described a village related to the football craze of Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh. Actually, two years ago I had gone to Shahdol and met the football players there. **During the podcast, in response to a question, I had also mentioned the football players of Shahdol.** The same thing was heard by German football player and coach Dietmar Beiersdorfer. **The life journey of young football players of Shahdol impressed and inspired him a lot.** Truly, no one had imagined that talented football players from there would attract the attention of other countries. **Now this German coach has offered to train some players of Shahdol in an academy in Germany. After**



this, the government of Madhya Pradesh has also contacted them. Very soon some of our young friends from Shahdol will go to Germany for a training course. I am also very happy to see that the popularity of football is constantly on the rise in India. I urge football lovers to visit Shahdol whenever they get time and witness the sporting revolution happening there closely.

My dear countrymen, you will feel very happy to know about Jitendra Singh Rathore who lives in Surat. Your heart will swell with pride. Jitendra Singh Rathore is a security guard and he has undertaken a wonderful initiative which is a great inspiration for every patriot. For the last few years, he has been collecting information about all those soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in defending Mother India.

Today, he has information

about thousands of brave soldiers who have been martyred since the First World War. He also has thousands of photographs of the martyrs. Once, the words of a martyr's father touched his heart. The martyr's father had said, "So what if my son is gone, the country is safe, isn't it?" This one statement filled Jitendra Singh's heart with such a wonderful passion for patriotism. Today, he is in touch with the families of many martyrs. He has also collected soil from beneath the feet of the parents of about two and a half thousand martyrs. This is a living example of his deep love and attachment towards the armed forces. Jitendra Ji's life teaches us the true lesson of patriotism.

My dear countrymen, these days you must have often seen, solar panels shining atop the roofs of houses, on big buildings, in government offices. People now understand its importance



and are adopting it with an open mind. Our country is so blessed by the Sun God... so why not make full use of the energy radiated by him.

Friends, solar power is also transforming the lives of farmers. The same farm, the same hard work, the same farmer... but now the result of such hard work is much more substantial. This change is coming through solar pumps and solar rice mills. Today hundreds of solar rice mills have been set up in many states of the country. These solar

rice mills have increased the income of the farmers as well as the glow on their faces.

Friends, Devki ji of Bihar has changed the fate of her village with a solar pump. Devki ji, who lives in Ratanpura village of Muzaffarpur, is now lovingly called "Solar Didi" by people. Devki ji... her life was not easy. She got married at a young age... a small farm... responsibility of four children and no clear picture of the future. But her spirit never dampened. She joined a self help group and there she



**Remembering
our
Soldiers
Sacrifices**

14



15

got information about the solar pump. She started efforts for a solar pump and was successful in it too. After that, Solar Didi's solar pump changed the picture of the village.

Whereas earlier, only a few acres of land could be irrigated; now water is reaching more than 40 acres of land through Solar Didi's solar pump. Other farmers of this village have also joined this campaign of Solar Didi. Their crops have started turning green and incomes have started rising.

Friends, earlier Devki ji's life



**Tribute to Bharat
Ratna Sir
Mokshagundam
Visvesvaraya**

was confined within the four walls. But today she is doing her work with full self confidence, earning money as a Solar Didi and the most interesting thing is, that she receives payment from the farmers of the area through UPI. She is now accorded great respect in the entire village. Her hard work and foresight have shown that solar energy is not just a means of electricity, but it is also a new power that brings new light to every village.

My dear countrymen, the 15th of September is the birthday of India's great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya ji. We celebrate that day as Engineers' Day. Engineers do not just create machines; they are karmayogis who turn dreams into reality. I appreciate every engineer of India. I wish them all the best.

Friends, the holy occasion of the puja of Bhagwan Vishwakarma is also on its way in September. Vishwakarma Jayanti is on the 17th of September. This day is also dedicated to the Vishwakarma brethren of ours, who are continuously passing on the traditional crafts, skills and knowledge-science from one generation to the other. Our carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, sculptors,

have always been the foundation of India's prosperity. **To help these Vishwakarma brothers of ours, the government has also launched the Vishwakarma Yojana.**

Friends, I now want to play an audio recording for you.



(So what you have written in the certificate that whatever I did for the states or whatever our government did for Hyderabad, it was fine but you know how we handled the Hyderabad case, how difficult it was! We promised all the states, all the princes that we will not take any wrong decision for any prince or king. Everyone will be treated equally, whatever happens to everyone, they will also be treated the same. But to that extent, for them, we made a separate agreement.)

Friends, this is the voice of Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. You can feel the pain in his voice on the events of Hyderabad. **Next month in September, we will also celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day. This is the same month when we will remember the courage of all those heroes who took part in 'Operation Polo'.**

You all know that when India got independence in August 1947, Hyderabad was in a different situation. The atrocities of Nizam and Razakars were increasing day by day. People were slaughtered even for hoisting the tricolor or chanting 'Vande Mataram'. Atrocities were committed on women and the poor. At that time Baba Saheb Ambedkar had also warned that this problem was becoming too big. Finally, Sardar Patel took the matter in his own hands. He convinced the government to launch 'Operation Polo'. In record time, our forces liberated Hyderabad from the dictatorship of Nizam and made it a part of India. The whole country celebrated that success.

My dear countrymen, wherever you go in the world, you will definitely find the influence of Indian culture there and this influence is not limited just to the big cities of the world but it can also be seen in small cities. Something similar was witnessed in a small town of Italy, Camp-Rotondo. There, a statue of Maharishi Valmiki was unveiled. Many important personalities of the area including the local mayor also attended this program.

People of Indian origin living



Indian Culture

**A Timeless
Heritage
Connecting the
World**

in Camp-Rotondo are very happy with the installation of the statue of Maharishi Valmiki. The messages of Maharishi Valmiki inspire all of us.

Friends, earlier this month, a 51 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram was also unveiled in Mississauga, Canada. People were very excited about this event. Videos of the grand statue of Lord Shri Ram were shared a lot on social media.

Friends, this love for Ramayana and Indian culture is now reaching every corner of the world. There is a famous place in Russia – Vladivostok. Many people know it as a place where the temperature falls to -20 to -30 degrees Celsius in winters. **This month, a unique exhibition was held in Vladivostok. Paintings made by Russian children on different themes of Ramayana were showcased there.** A competition was also organised there. It is

indeed heartening to see the growing awareness of Indian culture in different parts of the world.

My dear countrymen, that's all for this time in 'Mann ki Baat'. At this time, the whole country is celebrating the pomp and fervour of 'Ganesh Utsav'. The



radiance of many festivals will spread in the coming days. You should never forget about Swadeshi during these festivals. Gifts should be those made in India, Attire should be that woven in India, decor should be that made from materials made in India, Luminary items from India-made frills – and many more; everything in every need of life should be Swadeshi. Say with pride 'this is Swadeshi', say with pride 'this is Swadeshi', say with pride 'this is Swadeshi'. We have to move forward with this feeling. One mantra – 'Vocal for Local'; One path – 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'; One goal – 'Developed India'.

Friends, amidst all this joy, keep emphasising on cleanliness, because where there is cleanliness, the joy of festivals rises even more. Friends, keep sending me your messages in large numbers like this for 'Mann ki Baat'. Every suggestion of yours is very important for this program. Keep sending me your feedback. Next time when we meet, we will discuss more new topics.

Thank you very much, Namaskar.

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



MANNNKI BAAT

Special Mentions by Prime Minister





Piyush Anand, IPS
Director General,
National Disaster
Response Force (NDRF)

IN THE HOUR OF CRISIS Every Hand Matters

NDRF was raised on Jan 19, 2006 as a multi-skilled and specialised disaster response force under the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 and mandated to respond to all natural and man-made disasters in the country and even outside. Presently, the Force has 16 Battalions. Each battalion has 18 specialised Search and Rescue teams which are self-contained and have specialists such as engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedical personnel.

As per the SOP of NDRF issued by MHA, it can be requisitioned for deployment by the Principal Secretaries of the States dealing with DM, Relief Commissioners of the States and DCs/DMs of the districts. The authorities authorised to accept the requisitions are MHA, DG NDRF and NDRF Unit Commandants. Many a time, NDRF, on the basis of inputs from media channels, dispatches teams to the incident site even before receipt of a formal requisition. The aim is to expedite response action in keeping with the motto of the force *"Saving Lives and Beyond... Always & Everywhere."* No wonder, NDRF rescuers are often referred to as *"Angels in Orange."*

In order to ensure a timely response to critical disaster situations during the golden hour to save maximum lives, NDRF has adopted the concept of Alert Teams on Wheels wherein, one team with rescuers and equipment loaded in earmarked vehicles is ready to respond within 20 minutes of the receiving of information regarding the occurrence of a disaster event. Regular mobilisation drills are conducted at short notice to identify gaps on the ground and take corrective action. NDRF has a permanent presence at 69 locations across the country.

Recently disasters in the form of cloudbursts, floods, flash floods and landslides have struck Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Telangana and some parts of North-East India, causing large-scale devastation and a significant loss of human and animal lives. The timely mobilisation of manpower and resources in such situations is a critical aspect of response. In order to respond to both known and unknown

situations, every year NDRF, in coordination with MHA conducts an Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and SDRF Chiefs to discuss various issues related to disaster scenarios and chalk out a strategy to deal with such events in a coordinated manner. The Conference is addressed

by Hon'ble Union Home Minister himself in the presence of all senior functionaries and important agencies dealing with disasters like NDMA, MHA, IMD, CWC, GIS, NRSC, etc.

Further, before the onset of monsoon every year, NDRF Commandants hold discussions with Relief Commissioners of the States/UTs in their area of responsibility and based on the past history of disasters and the weather prediction by IMD, NDRF-SDRF Teams are pre-positioned in most vulnerable locations so as to be near to the impacted areas for rapid mobilisation in the event of a contingency. During 2025, a record 107 NDRF Teams have been pre-positioned in various parts of the country on requisition from the States/UTs. Despite this meticulous planning, various unknown situations develop necessitating airlift of NDRF Teams which is undertaken in close coordination with Integrated Defence Staff



(IDS), Indian Air Force (IAF) and even Civil Aircrafts placed at the disposal of States. During Dharali flash flood and Avalanche in Mana in Uttarakhand when the movement of NDRF Teams was impacted due to roadblocks on account of landslide, they were airlifted to the incident site. At times even airlift is not feasible due to inclement weather conditions in which eventuality the rescuers have to move through the terrain with equipment on their shoulders. Such movements have been undertaken many times in Mandi and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh (HP), Chamoli and Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand and during the Sikkim Glacial Outburst in 2023 and recent landslides in Chateen (Sikkim). This requires top physical and mental fitness on the part of the NDRF rescuer and



to maintain this, regular focus is assigned to Physical Proficiency Test (PPT) and Annual Validation Test of the rescuers.

The use of the latest technology is indispensable for NDRF to attend both known and unknown situations. In order to give a fillip to this aspect, NDRF has entered into collaboration with DRDO, INMAS and other agencies by presenting its problem statements for solutions. A crucial aspect of the operation is to detect live victims from under the rubble for which NDRF has got victim location cameras and life detectors. NDRF has taken the initiative to train canines in cadaver search which will prove immensely useful. Similarly, drones have been procured for ground appreciation in large scale events where prioritising of rescue is essential.

NDRF faces numerous challenges during monsoon operations including conduct of night operations in unknown and remote areas, movement in swift water, which entails high risk to the rescuers and reluctance of people to come out of their houses due to various reasons. Animal rescue is also a challenge which is handled by NDRF with compassion and accorded due priority. These challenges are overcome by continuous training, conduct of brainstorming sessions on problems faced after every operation and regular upgradation of equipment profile by R&D.

The collaboration between NDRF, SDRF, Armed Forces, administration and volunteers

is extremely important for an effective response. While NDRF and SDRF work in cohesion at incident sites to provide succour to the affected, the Armed Forces by virtue of their widespread presence, also provide additional support in overwhelming situations. The local administration under the DC/DM, supports the Incident Response System (IRS) and provides heavy machinery and other backup for contingencies. The local police maintain law and order and the volunteers assist in relief distribution and support actions to prepare the ground for intervention of the specialised forces. Thus, the combined efforts of all agencies together help to build up effective and sustained response in disasters. NDRF also maintains close coordination with IMD, CWC & GSI for various updates on weather, status of rivers and dams/reservoirs, and landslides to appreciate the developing situation and take pre-emptive actions.

In response to disasters, the community always remains the first responder. Therefore, in order to enable them to prepare and respond well in such situations, NDRF regularly conducts Community Awareness Programmes (CAPs) and School Safety Programmes (SSPs) in order to apprise them on the various DOs and DON'Ts in disasters. NDRF has also taken the initiative to develop content on DM in 25 different disaster modules in various regional languages and the same has been uploaded on NDRF YouTube



channel for the benefit of all.

To sum up, it is pertinent to mention that although NDRF, SDRF, and the Armed Forces are always available to respond to disasters, they may not be present everywhere. In such situations, the role of citizens becomes crucial, to save themselves, help their neighbours and volunteer for relief assistance. This can be achieved by creating a Family Disaster Plan, preparing an emergency kit, learning skills such as CPR and first-aid for immediate assistance, participating in drills, staying updated about potential hazards through media and use of *Sachet App*, sharing information, and assisting the community in the best possible manner. The important thing to remember is that in a disaster every hand matters and together we can make our country a disaster-resilient society.

Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat

Celebrating Sports and Unity in Jammu & Kashmir



Jammu & Kashmir, with its scenic landscapes and vibrant traditions, is embracing a new chapter of growth through sports. From Khelo India Winter Games 2025 in Gulmarg to Cricket under floodlights in Pulwama and vibrant Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 on Dal Lake, sports have emerged as a unifying force, driving prosperity and instilling a spirit of togetherness among people across the Union Territory.

Khelo India Winter Games 2025 : A Winter Carnival in the Himalayas

The year started with the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025, which have brought global attention to the snowy landscapes of Jammu & Kashmir. Conducted in two phases, first in Ladakh (Jan 23-27) and then in J&K (March 9-12), the event saw participation from over 400 athletes representing 19 teams across six winter sports disciplines.

The Winter Games were not only about athletic excellence but also about celebrating local culture, heritage, and tourism.

Royal Premier League: Pulwama's Symbol of Change

Pulwama, a district once synonymous with difficulties, has become the epicentre of a remarkable transformation. For the first time in history, the region hosted the Royal Premier League (RPL), a cricket tournament under floodlights, featuring 12 teams from across Jammu & Kashmir.

The tournament is more than just a sporting spectacle; it is a

beacon of peace and progress. The sight of youth chasing cricketing glory under floodlights reflects a profound shift towards aspiration, talent, and unity.

Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 : Dal Lake Turns into an Arena

Adding a new chapter to the sports culture in J&K, the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025 was held at the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar from August 21-23. This vibrant event featured five exhilarating water sports- rowing, canoeing, and kayaking, water skiing, shikara race, and dragon boat race.





showcased the rich culture and natural beauty of Kashmir, boosting local tourism and creating economic opportunities. It was a celebration of youth power, cultural pride, and the promise of sports as a tool for development.

Building the Foundation- 100 Khelo India Centres

Behind these sporting spectacles lies a strong foundation. In 2015, the Government of India with its special focus for developing sports infrastructure in J&K, approved a special package of ₹200 crore. Stadiums in Srinagar and Jammu were renovated,

For the first time, 36 States and Union Territories participated in an open-age category meet, turning Dal Lake into a grand sporting arena. Beyond competition, KIWSF



upgraded, and equipped to host national-level competitions.

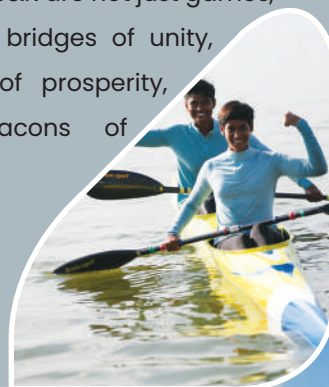
Today, through 100 Khelo India Centres across Jammu & Kashmir, local talent is being nurtured, coaches are mentoring the next generation, and modern facilities are giving wings to young athletes. This structured investment ensures that the spirit of sports is not limited to events, but becomes a way of life for the region's youth.

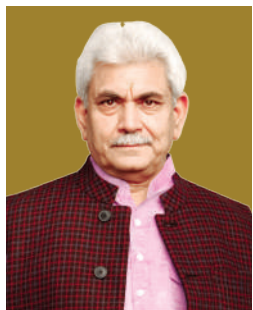
Sports as the Road to Unity and Transformation

These sporting events represent the dawn of a new era for Jammu & Kashmir by uniting people, creating opportunities,

and projecting the region as a hub of talent and tourism.

In a land where narratives were once shaped by challenges, sports have become the language of unity and aspiration. Sports in J&K are not just games, they are bridges of unity, engines of prosperity, and beacons of hope.





Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor,
Jammu & Kashmir

THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE OF ATHLETIC SUPREMACY IN J&K UT

Sports is a symphony of motion. It is a rhythm of courage, where heartbeats are intertwined. It gives an opportunity to athletes to leap through moments and align with the stars on the sporting arena. On August 25, Pulwama witnessed this grand orchestra of sweat and dreams during the day-night cricket match under the Royal Premier League 2025. The roar of thousands of spectators from various districts of Kashmir valley resonated like strings in every cricket shot and every ball bowled, each cheering in unison to the history being made in front of their eyes. It was the beginning of a new sporting era for Kashmir Valley.

With the Royal Premier League, Pulwama turned a leaf and scripted a new chapter of hope, peace, progress and prosperity. I am truly proud of what we have achieved in the past few years under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. This change reflects new dreams and aspirations of youth, and a peaceful and prosperous Union Territory. Since 2020, our effort has been to make Jammu & Kashmir a sporting powerhouse and create a sustainable sports ecosystem. Through 'Back to Village' and other community programmes, the administration has tried to create a strong

cultural value placed on sports, ensure societal support for athletes and drive participation.

The idea of organising these events was born out of our collective belief that the youth of J&K deserve the very best platforms to showcase their talent. J&K has become hub of sports activities even in the nights since the last 5 years as J&K Sports Council has established 60 stadiums across the Union Territories (UT) where such activities are undertaken, be it Sopore, Baramulla, Shopian, Kathua, Srinagar, etc. High-quality training facilities and equipment ensured top-tier resources to sportspersons at village level. Structured systems to scout and nurture talent helped

us to provide specialised coaching and organise national and international level tournaments. The classic example of past events includes Legends League Cricket, which gathered thousands of children to watch International Cricketers and Kashmir Super League in Football conducted recently in August 2025, gathering a record of 25,000 youth and online viewership reach was 1.9 million.

Pulwama, a district known for its vibrancy and resilience, was chosen for the first day-night cricket match to send a powerful message: that the floodlights of opportunity now shine brightly over every corner of J&K. This was important post Pahalgam incident to showcase J&K as a safe destination for sports tourism and



participation of children for such activities. Similarly, Dal Lake—our crown jewel and symbol of eternal beauty became the stage for the Khelo India Water Sports Festival, signalling to the nation and the world that J&K is ready to host events of international stature.

Behind these milestones lies the 'Whole of Government' approach. Various departments and agencies had worked together breaking the traditional silos to address the security challenges, establish peace and to fill the infrastructure gaps. J&K Sports Council carefully harvested the peace dividend. From upgrading infrastructure to scouting talent, from engaging schools and colleges to mobilising volunteers, their role has been pivotal. The success of these initiatives also belongs

to the local communities. Parents, teachers, and youth leaders came together to make these events possible. This partnership between government institutions and society is the true strength of our sporting culture.

In J&K UT, women athletes have significantly shaped progressive sporting culture even in far-flung areas. They have shattered stereotypes and their success is fostering grassroots engagement and values of inclusivity and equality. Every medal they win, every match they play, is a testament to the fact that the daughters of J&K are ready to lead from the front. The medal tally in Gymnastics, Wushu, Fencing, Thang-Ta and Pencak Silat is a glaring example of



the emerging girl power of J&K Sports.

In the past five years (2019–2025), J&K has hosted 54 National-level events including one International competition across 20+ sports disciplines, the highest ever in its history. From winter sports in Gulmarg to combat sports, team games, and traditional disciplines in Srinagar and Jammu, J&K has emerged as a pan-India sporting destination. Participation of athletes from all 36 States/UTs has positioned

J&K as a meeting ground of cultures and talents, embodying the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

The floodlit grounds of Pulwama and the shimmering waters of Dal Lake are more

than venues of sport; they are stages of hope, ambition, and transformation. They reflect the resilience of our people, the vision of our government, and the dedication of the J&K Sports Council. Most importantly, they tell the world that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir are ready to shine, not only for the Union Territory but for the entire nation. The dawn of a new sporting era is here. Together, with the strength of our youth and the support of our communities, we shall script a future where Jammu & Kashmir stands tall as a beacon of sporting excellence and national pride.



Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

A NEW DAWN ON DAL LAKE

The Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025, held on the iconic Dal Lake, has brought a wave of new opportunities and aspirations for people of Jammu & Kashmir. It has not only showcased the natural beauty of the region but also helped the youth connect deeply with sports, encouraging them to see it as a path of growth and achievement. With the Government of India investing significantly in sports infrastructure and talent development, the objective is clear: to boost games in the region, nurture local talent, and place Jammu & Kashmir firmly on the national and international sporting map.



The Khelo India Water Sports Festival logo captures the essence of Kashmir, featuring a Shikara gliding on Dal Lake, framed by snow-capped mountains and pine trees. Its calm reflections mirror the beauty of Kashmir, while the Khelo India colours unite tradition, nature, and the energy of sport.



34



“ This was my first Khelo India Games, and I truly enjoyed the experience in Srinagar. The arrangements, accommodation, and food were excellent. I feel grateful that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with me and encouraged me for the upcoming games. I will give my best to win a medal for India at the upcoming Asian Games and continue striving for success in future events



– Rashmita Sahu,
Gold Medallist –
Canoeing, Odisha

“ I am thankful to the Government of India for organising the first Khelo India Water Sports Festival here in Srinagar. There is immense talent and vast scope for sports in this region. I appeal to the youth to take up the sport of their choice and strive to represent India at the highest level. My dream is to win a medal at the Olympic Games, and I will continue to work hard to make it a reality.



– Mohsin Ali,
Gold Medallist –
Kayaking, Jammu
& Kashmir



35



Dr. Ajay Kumar
Chairman, UPSC

PRATIBHA SETU

Valuing the Journey of Every Aspirant

India's Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examinations are widely recognised as among the toughest competitive examinations in the world. Every year, lakhs of aspirants prepare with dedication, resilience, and years of hard work, but only a small fraction finally make it into the select list. Those who narrowly miss the cut are often equally capable, having demonstrated academic brilliance, discipline, analytical depth, and leadership qualities through the various stages of the examination. On the other side of the equation, industries, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), research institutions, and private employers constantly complain of an acute shortage of skilled manpower. They spend enormous sums on recruitment, screening, and training in search of precisely the kind of qualities UPSC aspirants embody. Inspired by the sensitive conviction that 'no effort should go to waste,' PRATIBHA Setu serves as a bridge between talented UPSC aspirants who narrowly miss selection and the industries and institutions that seek top-tier talent.

The origins of PRATIBHA Setu lie in the Public Disclosure Portal launched by UPSC in 2018. The portal was an important first step in making information about candidates who reached advanced stages of UPSC examinations but were not finally recommended available to the public. While it marked a useful beginning, its potential was only partially realised as the information was not structured to meet the needs of employers. Recognising this, UPSC reimaged and repositioned the initiative as PRATIBHA Setu, branding it in a market-friendly manner and designing it to actively connect talent with opportunity. By organising candidate



data in ways directly relevant to PSUs, industry, and research institutions, the new platform went beyond disclosure to become a dynamic bridge. This shift created significant traction, with employers showing strong interest in accessing the pool of highly capable aspirants.

A further boost came when Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned PRATIBHA Setu in his 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast of August 2025. By highlighting it as an example of sensitive governance and innovative thinking, he

underlined its significance as a national initiative to value effort and talent. This recognition from the highest level of leadership not only amplified awareness of the portal but also motivated the UPSC team to strengthen and expand its scope.

The uniqueness of PRATIBHA Setu rests on the calibre of candidates who enter the UPSC pipeline. Preparing for and advancing through UPSC examinations is a test of not just knowledge, but of character and temperament





for several reasons. The rigour of the exam is one of the most important reasons. Some UPSC examinations test domain expertise in engineering, medicine, economics, statistics, or the sciences with equal intensity. As part of their preparation for the exams, aspirants acquire qualities beyond academics. They cultivate discipline, analytical thinking, clarity of expression, leadership, time-management, and resilience—qualities that employers value immensely. Even those who fail to clear the final hurdle often rank in the top 1–2% of lakhs of candidates. Missing selection by a whisker does not diminish their brilliance; it only reflects the extreme competitiveness of the system.

PRATIBHA Setu is designed as a two-sided platform—one side representing aspirants who have

reached advanced stages of UPSC exams, and the other side representing employers seeking high-quality talent. The portal includes candidates who have reached the interview stage of the following examinations viz., the Civil Services Examination, the Indian Forest Service Examination, the Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, the Engineering Services Examination, the Combined Geo-Scientist Examination, the Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination, the Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service Examination and the Combined Medical Services Examination. Together, these cover aspirants from a wide spectrum—engineering, medicine, statistics, economics, geology, science, and social sciences. Only those who have cleared the rigorous screening



of UPSC Prelims, Mains, or Interviews are included. This ensures authenticity and reliability for employers. The portal categorises candidates by academic background, examination performance, and optional subjects, allowing employers to identify talent suited to their needs quickly. Candidates choose whether to make their biodata public, ensuring privacy and consent. Unlike traditional recruitment processes where industries spend heavily on talent acquisition, PRATIBHA Setu offers access to this pool completely free of cost.

For employers, PRATIBHA Setu is a goldmine of talent. Candidates are pre-tested at one of the world's toughest competitive standards. From doctors and engineers to economists and administrators,

the talent pool is diverse. Industries save enormous recruitment expenditure since the portal is free. Aspirants bring leadership, problem-solving, and resilience that are directly transferable to organisational challenges.

In the final analysis, PRATIBHA Setu is more than a portal; it is a national bridge of opportunity, turning near-success into real success, and transforming disappointment into dignity. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's endorsement has given the initiative not just visibility but also a national character, embedding it firmly within India's broader talent strategy. It now stands as a testimony to a progressive idea; that in the pursuit of excellence, no sincere effort should ever go in vain.

Guarding the Glory of Martyrs

The Story of Jitendra Singh



In the bustling city of Surat, far from the silence of the mountains where sentinels keep watch, lives an unassuming security guard named Jitendra Singh Rathore. For over two decades, he has been guarding something far more profound than any building or estate—he guards the memory of the nation's martyrs, preserving their stories with a devotion that redefines the very essence of patriotism.

Jitendra Singh's journey began with a dream—a dream to serve the nation as his father and forefathers had, as soldiers in the Indian Army. But in 1999, during the Kargil War, he fell short by just one centimetre in the physical examination of the army recruitment. Heartbroken but not defeated, he found his purpose soon after in the words of a grieving father. He read about the father of Martyr Arjun Ram Baswana, who said, "What if my son is gone, the country is safe, isn't it?" That single statement ignited in Jitendra a flame of purpose—a calling to

honour those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

With unwavering resolve, he began what would become his life's mission: collecting and preserving the stories of India's martyrs. At the time, he did not even have two rupees to buy the newspaper carrying that inspiring story. Undeterred, he would scour the railway tracks of his village each morning and evening, gathering discarded newspapers to piece together the narratives of bravery and sacrifice. From these humble beginnings, the '*Shaheed Sangrah*' (Martyr Collection) was born.

For 26 years, Jitendra Singh worked as a security guard, dedicating every rupee he earned to this sacred mission. Today, his collection stands as a monumental archive of national pride: records of 76,000 soldiers martyred in World War I, 80,000 from World War II, and over 27,000 martyrs since India's independence. He possesses 23,156 photographs and 26 quintals of documents, each page a testament to a life given for the nation.

But Jitendra's work goes beyond mere collection. It is an act of love, remembrance, and connection. He learned



that during wars, soldiers often wrote letters home assuring their families of their well-being, only to be martyred before those letters arrived. Moved by this, he made a vow: no martyr's family would ever feel forgotten. Since the days of 15-paise postcards, he has written countless letters to the families of fallen soldiers, offering solace and solidarity. Today, he is in touch with the families of 15,561 martyrs, a living bridge between the nation and its heroes.

His dedication knows no bounds. He has collected soil from beneath the feet of

the parents of 2,500 martyrs, symbolising his deep reverence for their sacrifice. He has built statues of 300 martyrs, ensuring their legacy remains alive in their hometowns. He continues undeterred, driven by the belief that his life must be of use to the nation.

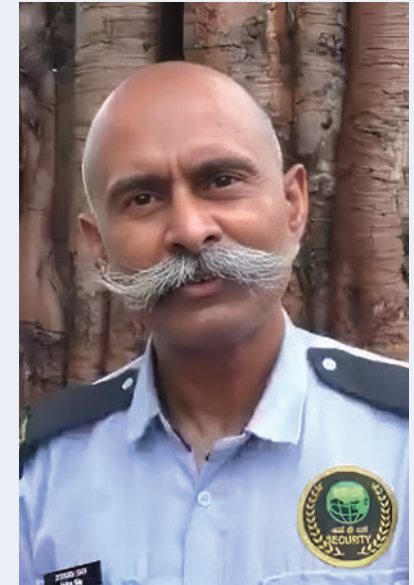
Jitendra Singh's story is a powerful reminder that patriotism is not confined to battlefields or uniforms. It is innate in every citizen—a duty to remember, to honour, and to draw inspiration from those who laid down their lives for the country. His mission embodies the idea that true



patriotism is found in actions, however small, that contribute to the nation's collective memory and moral fabric.

Recognition for his extraordinary efforts came from the highest office in the land. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann ki Baat' address, highlighted Jitendra Singh's remarkable mission, stating that his work is a great inspiration for every patriot. In a rapidly changing world, where values often fade with time, Jitendra Singh stands as a guardian of glory. His dream is to build a 'Shaheed Hall' where his immense collection can be preserved and shared with future generations. Through this, he hopes to inspire young Indians with the stories of courage and sacrifice that define the nation's spirit.

Jitendra Singh Rathore, a simple security guard, teaches us that the soul of a nation lies in its memory. By guarding the glory of martyrs, he guards the very essence of India—reminding us all that patriotism



is not just felt but lived, one act of remembrance at a time.

"During the Kargil War, when the recruitment was going on, I was short by 1 cm and I could not join the Army. At that time, I read in a newspaper that the father of soldier Arjun Ram Baswana had said, 'What if the son is gone, the country is safe.' This was the line that sowed the seeds of patriotism in me. I could not join the army like my ancestors, so I thought of collecting information about the martyrs"

-Jitendra Singh

From Podcast to World Stage

India's Story Inspires German Coach

In today's times, stories transcend borders and reach the entire world through the power of voice and emotion. An incident narrated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' programme proves this. The Prime Minister mentioned Shahdol's football players in a podcast with Lex Fridman. Hearing this, renowned German football coach Dietmar Beiersdorfer was so impressed that he offered to train these players in Germany. This incident is a beautiful example not only of sports but also of the power of coincidence and inspiration.



In today's digital world, podcasts have become a new medium of communication. Podcasts have given everyone a global platform. Anyone can share their thoughts, experiences, and knowledge with millions. This medium is not only a means of conversation but also a means of communication. The Prime Minister's speech and its impact on the world are examples of this.



The biggest impact of podcasts is that they are bringing the world closer. Now, a simple story from a small village, or a dream about an issue, can become part of a global discussion through the internet and podcasts. Through these podcasts, the skills of Shahdol players are now gaining international recognition.



I would like to thank Prime Minister Modi for the inspiring support of football in India. India has immense talent to develop. Happy to host and train the youth footballers, both girls and boys, and a coach from Shahdol. I got the inspiration to nurture the football talent there only because I heard Prime Minister Modi speak about Shahdol in a podcast. I hope this is the beginning of a new chapter in India-Germany football partnership. Thank you for your trust and support.

Dietmar Beiersdorfer, Former German Football Player and Coach, Managing Director, FC Ingolstadt, Germany



I am thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Chief Minister and the Sports Minister that they have given such a good platform to a small village. A group of two boys, two girls and one coach from here are going for training to a place like Germany. Whatever they learn from there will definitely have a very positive impact here.

Raees Ahmed, Assistant Sports Convener and NIS Coach, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh



The Radiant Revolution of Solar Didi

Devki Devi's Journey



Renewable energy is transforming the lives of rural women in India and has the potential to do much more. One such story can be traced in the heart of Ratanpura village, Muzaffarpur, Bihar. A quiet revolution is taking place—one powered by the sun and steered by the unwavering determination of Devki Devi, affectionately known as ‘Solar Didi.’

Devki's life was fraught with challenges. Married at a young age, she shouldered the responsibilities of raising four children with limited resources and a small farm. She is part of a self-help group where she learned about the government's PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme, which promotes solar pumps for irrigation. However, her decision to adopt this technology was met with fierce resistance. Her family warned her, villagers mocked her, and doubts were cast about the viability of solar energy. “Everything runs on diesel, power/line. This is some machine that runs on water,

which you are buying. You will get trapped,” they said. Yet, Devki remained resolute. With her son, she took a loan at 5–10% interest and pushed ahead, fuelled by a belief that this could change her destiny.

The Solar Pump Installation

The path to installation was not smooth. Access to fields was denied, and one farmer even threatened to charge ₹1,000 if any damage occurred during setup. Fortunately, a compassionate relative allowed her to use his field, and the solar pump was finally installed. Today, Devki's solar pump irrigates 40 acres of land, serving 112 farmers. What started as a solitary venture has now become a community

asset. Farmers eagerly ask her to expand the pipeline, saying, “Didi, increase the pipeline more. So many people are getting benefits, won't we get it?”

Economic Transformation

The financial impact has been profound. Before the solar pump, Devki struggled to make ends meet. Now, she earns over ₹1 lakh annually. “There is no problem even with the food,” she says. Her machine is never idle, even during the rainy season when there is a brief lull. The benefits extend to other farmers as well. Previously, irrigating one *kattha* of land cost ₹200 per hour. For six *katthas*, farmers paid ₹1,200. Now, with Solar Didi's pump, irrigating the same



area costs only ₹200 and takes less time. This efficiency allows farmers to pursue other income-generating activities, boosting their overall livelihoods.

Devki's efforts have not gone unnoticed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised her in the 125th episode of *'Mann ki Baat'*, highlighting how she transformed her village. "Devki ji of Bihar has changed the fate of her village with a solar pump," he said.

The PM-KUSUM Scheme

Approximately, 76 per cent of agri-allied activities are dominated by women in India. Climate change is responsible for shifting rainfall patterns in many rural geographies.



This makes access to water a primary concern for many rural women, whether for domestic, irrigation, or livestock use. Thus, access to small-scale irrigation systems has become essential for reducing farm production risks and improving the well-being of women farmers.

The PM-KUSUM scheme by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) offers subsidies and other incentives like feed-in tariff to support the adoption of solar-powered irrigation systems. The scheme aims to add Solar capacity of about 34,800 MW by March 2026 with the total Central Financial support of ₹ 34,422 crore.

The goal is to reduce



dependence on diesel and fossil fuels, curb carbon emissions, and empower farmers through sustainable energy. Devki's success is a microcosm of this larger vision. Her story exemplifies how solar energy can drive economic growth, social empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

Devki's message to others is simple yet powerful: "Gather courage like me and do some work. Do everything, you will also get some name, your respect will also increase." Her journey from a confined life to a confident woman entrepreneur—receiving UPI payments from farmers and commanding respect—shows that solar energy is not just about

electricity; it is about igniting hope and fostering self-reliance.

As *'Solar Didi'*, she stands as a symbol of progress, proving that with courage and innovation, even the darkest circumstances can be transformed into a radiant future. Her story is also a testament to the fact that, in rural India, renewable energy can drive energy availability in previously unconnected areas, generate jobs, enable social transformation, and accelerate economic growth.

"I like it. Everyone calls me Solar Didi and I like it a lot...I felt very good when Modiji took my name. I am very happy that there are 130 sisters like me"

- Devki ji

ENGINEERS' DAY

Remembering Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya



My dear countrymen, the 15th September is the birthday of India's great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya ji. We celebrate that day as Engineers' Day. Engineers do not just create machines; they are karmayogis who turn dreams into reality. I appreciate every engineer of India. I wish them all the best.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in
'Mann ki Baat' address



Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962), was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 1955, India's highest civilian honour, for his distinguished service in engineering and nation-building.



He is credited with planning and implementing iconic projects like the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore, a flood-protection system in Hyderabad, and working to save Visakhapatnam Port from erosion.



He patented a system of automatic weir water floodgates, first installed at Khadakvasla Reservoir near Pune in 1903.



As the 19th Dewan of Mysore from 1912–1918, he founded several landmark institutions, such as the Iron and Steel plant at Bhadravati, the Mysore Soap Factory, and the State Bank of Mysore.



His famous phrase "Industrialise or Perish" was cited by government sources as summarising his vision for India's progress through engineering and industry.



Engineers' Day, commemorating his birthday, is described in official releases as a tribute to his 'engineering genius' and contributions to modernising the country.



Popular books authored by him are Reconstructing India (1920) and Planned Economy for India (1934)

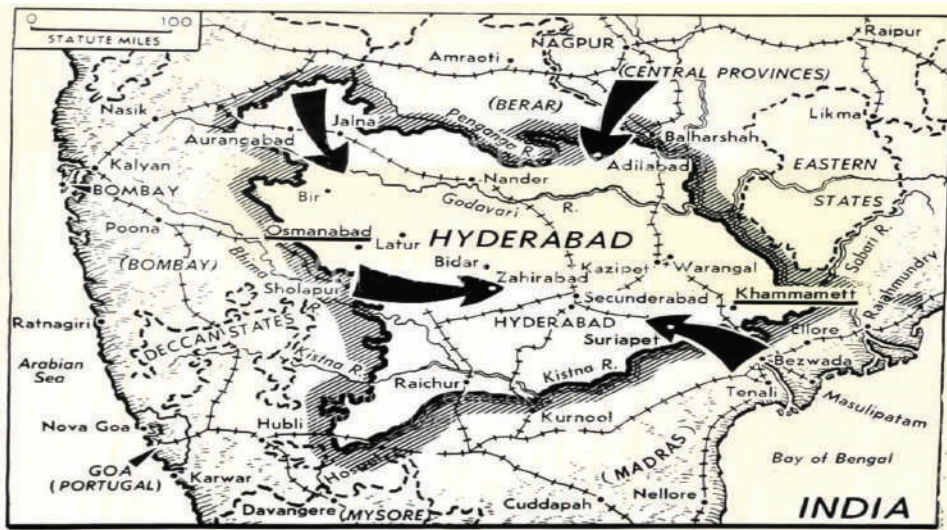


His work, 'Memoirs of My Working Life', was written when he was 90. The memoir starts with his entry into government service as Assistant Engineer in Bombay in 1884.



Operation Polo

The Story of Hyderabad's Integration



Movement of Indian troops during Operation Polo

source: Wikimedia Commons

Operation Polo, a five-day military action conducted from September 13 to 18, 1948, culminated in the integration of the princely state of Hyderabad into the newly independent Indian Union. This operation was a critical chapter in the complex process of India's political unification, masterfully dealt by then Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Following the Indian Independence Act of 1947, the Nizam of Hyderabad, Osman Ali Khan, aspired to maintain his state's sovereignty despite its geographical position entirely within India. While negotiations ensued, resulting in a Standstill Agreement, the situation within Hyderabad deteriorated. The rise of the Razakars, a militant group, and reports of internal unrest created a volatile environment that threatened regional stability.

Sardar Patel's handling of the Hyderabad issue is widely regarded as a testament to his strategic statesmanship. His approach was characterised by a dual strategy of patient diplomacy backed by resolute political will. Patel consistently advocated for a fair and equitable approach to all princely rulers, promising that their integration

would be handled with respect and that their privileges would be considered within the new Indian framework. He aimed to demonstrate that accession was not annexation but a partnership for a united future.

However, as the Nizam's administration equivocated, sought international intervention, and allowed law and order to break down, Patel concluded that diplomatic avenues had been exhausted. He recognised that an independent Hyderabad would become a source of perpetual conflict within India's heartland. His decision to initiate military action was not taken lightly but was presented as a necessary measure to ensure the stability and integrity of the Indian nation.

The Indian Army's operation was swift and decisive. Facing limited resistance from the Hyderabad State forces, troops secured the state and accepted the Nizam's surrender on September 18, 1948. The military action was followed

by a political settlement that reflected Patel's initial promises of dignified integration. The Nizam was later appointed as the Rajpramukh of the state, a move that underscored Patel's policy of reconciliation and ensured a peaceful transition of power.

The significance of Patel's role is frequently remembered in contemporary discourse. In a recent address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted Patel's statesmanship, noting his pain over the events in Hyderabad and his unwavering commitment to his promise of equal treatment for all princely rulers. He also emphasised that Patel's firm yet fair approach, which combined a willingness to negotiate with the resolve to act decisively when needed, was instrumental in convincing the government to launch Operation Polo, leading to the liberation of Hyderabad from a difficult period and its final, peaceful absorption into the Indian Union, an event now commemorated as Hyderabad Liberation Day.



Civilians looking at Indian Army tanks rolling into Hyderabad during Operation Polo
source: Wikimedia Commons

Vishwakarma Jayanti

Salute to the hands that laid the foundation of the country



In India, traditions and festivals are not limited to religious beliefs. These also serve as a means of honouring the hard work of society's labourers and artisans. One such sacred occasion is Vishwakarma Jayanti. It is celebrated every year on September 17th. This day is dedicated to Lord Vishwakarma, who is considered the first craftsman of the universe and the architect of the gods.

Lord Vishwakarma is known as the 'Adikarigar.' According to mythology, he was responsible for the creation of Indrapuri, Dwarka, Hastinapur, and Lord Shiva's Trishul. Therefore, he is considered the god of crafts, art, and construction.

Importance of Vishwakarma Jayanti

Vishwakarma Jayanti's significance isn't just religious, but also social. Even today, in our villages, towns, and cities, there are countless artisans, masons, carpenters, sculptors, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, and

potters whose skills shape the true image of India. Without any grand stage or the glare of spotlight, these individuals quietly continue to build the nation's progress with their tools. It is their labour that strengthens our economy, our daily lives, and our culture.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently mentioned these working brothers specifically in his 'Mann ki Baat' address. He said that craftspeople like carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, and sculptors have been the foundation of India's prosperity.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

The PM Vishwakarma Yojana

has been launched to recognise the contributions of workers, artisans, and craftspeople. The scheme aims to honour those with traditional skills and also to provide them with modern training, easy access to credit, and market access.

This Government of India scheme celebrates the hands that tirelessly and continuously preserve and build our society. The Prime Minister said that skills and crafts are not just a means of livelihood, but are our identity and heritage.

Vishwakarma Jayanti also reminds us that even in this age of science, technology, and





modernity, the importance of artisans remains undiminished. Indeed, their skills need to be recognised on an even greater scale. When a blacksmith forges tools with his hammer, a potter shapes clay on his wheel, or a

sculptor carves stone into art, it's not just hard work but also a confluence of generations of heritage and creativity.

Contribution of Artisans

The soul of India lies in the artisans who inhabit its villages and streets. Their skills teach us that hard work and their dedication create the true essence of a nation. Their craftsmanship reminds us that civilisation and culture are sustained not only by books but also by the labour of skilled hands.

It is crucial for today's generation to respect these craftspeople and understand their contributions. Because unless a nation respects its



workers and artisans, its progress remains incomplete.

Vishwakarma Jayanti teaches us to be grateful to the hands that build the nation. Those palms, etched with the lines of hard work, are India's true strength.

On this auspicious occasion, we must pledge to respect the hard work of our Vishwakarma brothers, support them in their progress and strive to pass on their skills to future generations. This will be a real tribute to them and is also the foundation for our nation's progress.



Indian Culture Abroad

Statues, Stories and a Shared Heritage



Indian culture is cherished and respected all over the world. From small towns in Europe to bustling cities of North America, the imprint of Indian civilisation can be seen in temples, community centres, art exhibitions, and even in the hearts of people from other cultures who have embraced India's timeless wisdom. Its presence is not confined to rituals or festivals alone. It breathes through the values of peace, harmony, and compassion that India has gifted to humanity.

Recently, supported by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under the programme 'Connecting the world through The Ramayana', the unveiling of a statue of Maharishi Valmiki in the small town of Camporotondo in Italy reflects the growing respect for Indian heritage across borders. For the Indian community living there, the statue is more than just an idol. It is a symbol of belonging and cultural pride. *Maharishi Valmiki*, the revered author of *The Ramayana*, continues

to inspire generations through his message of righteousness, resilience, and devotion. His presence in an Italian town is a reminder that the moral compass provided by India's ancient sages transcends geography and time.

Similarly, the unveiling of a 51-foot-tall statue of Shri Ram in Mississauga, Canada created a wave of excitement among the Indian diaspora and beyond. The statue is said to be the tallest statue of Shri Ram in North America. Lord Ram, the central figure in the *Ramayana*, embodies the virtues of truth, justice, and duty – values that resonate universally. For many in the diaspora, the installation of this statue not only strengthens their spiritual roots but also allows younger generations born abroad to connect with their ancestral traditions.

In Vladivostok, Russia, a unique exhibition was organised recently by the Consulate

General of India in collaboration with the Russian-Indian Club and the Primorye State Art Gallery. Paintings created by Russian children aged 5-16 on themes from *The Ramayana* were displayed, showcasing how deeply the epic resonates even with those who are far removed from India geographically. Such initiatives highlight how Indian culture is being reimagined and celebrated globally, often by people with no ancestral ties to India.

These examples demonstrate a powerful reality – that Indian culture has become a shared heritage, crossing borders and bridging diverse communities.

The Ramayana, Mahabharata, and teachings of sages like *Maharishi Valmiki* are not seen merely as religious texts but as repositories of universal values. Concepts such as respect for elders, concern for nature, and the triumph of good over evil resonate across societies.





At the heart of this cultural spread lies the Indian diaspora. Today, nearly 3.5 crore Indians live abroad, making them one of the largest diasporas in the world. They act as cultural ambassadors, ensuring that traditions are preserved while also sharing them with host communities. The installation of statues, the organisation of exhibitions,

and the celebration of festivals abroad are possible largely because of their dedication and emotional attachment to their roots. Yet, what makes this spread remarkable is that it is not confined to Indians alone; local communities often join hands in these celebrations, symbolising cultural exchange and mutual respect.

The world today is more interconnected than ever, and India's soft power— that is, its culture, philosophy, and traditions has become a significant contributor to global harmony. While technology and trade bind nations, culture nurtures emotional bonds. A

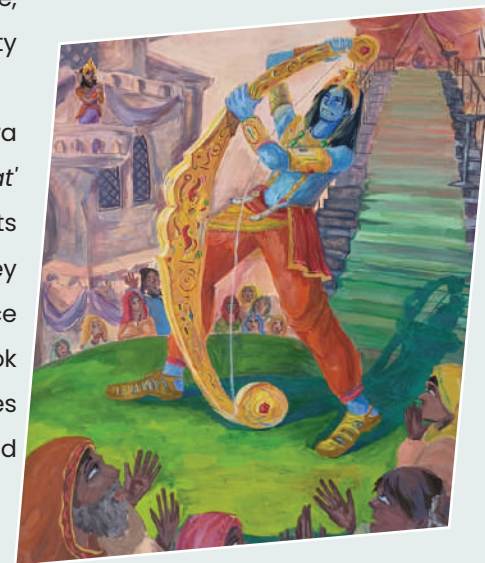


Гречка Вероника, 12 лет, "Равана похищает Ситу", (картон, гуашь)
ДШИ №1 им. С. Прокофьева г. Владивостока, педагог Лапаев В. Н.

statue of *Maharishi Valmiki* in Italy, a towering image of Lord Ram in Canada, or Russian children painting scenes from *The Ramayana* are not isolated events. They are part of a larger narrative where India's heritage becomes a global treasure, reminding us that humanity shares common ideals.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted in his 'Mann ki Baat' address, such developments are heartening to witness. They showcase a cultural confidence where India does not just look inward but also contributes outward, enriching the world

with its timeless stories, values, and traditions. Indian culture abroad is not just about statues or stories; it is about a shared heritage that unites people across continents, reminding us that while geography divides, culture connects.



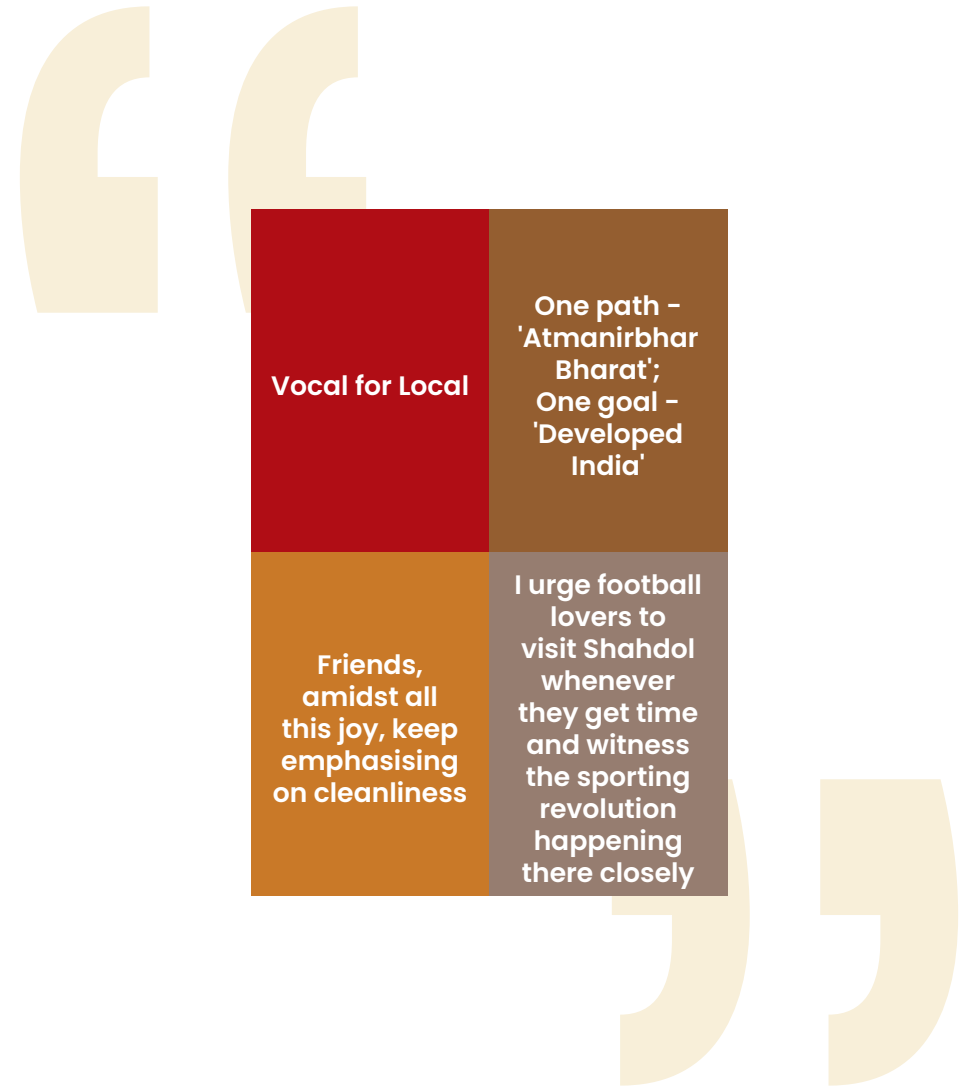


Media Scan

MAANN KI BAAAT

CALL FOR ACTION!

125th edition



Vocal for Local

One path -
'Atmanirbhar
Bharat';
One goal -
'Developed
India'

Friends,
amidst all
this joy, keep
emphasising
on cleanliness

I urge football
lovers to
visit Shahdol
whenever
they get time
and witness
the sporting
revolution
happening
there closely

India in Liberia @IndiaInLiberia

Indian culture takes over the world! -PM Modi in #MannKiBaat

@PMOIndia @narendramodi @PIB_India @mygovindia @ainewsalerts @DDNewsLive @meaIndia @IndianDiplomacy @MIB_India @diaspora_india

PMO India @PMOIndia - Aug 31
Indian culture takes over the world! #MannKiBaat

India in Australia @ICICanberra

Fascinating examples from Italy, Canada, and Russia, reflecting that Mahabharata and Ramayana continue to echo across cultures, carrying timeless values. #MannKiBaat #mannkiabaat2025

@MEAIndia @IndianDiplomacy @MinOfCultureGoI @ccq_hq @PMOIndia @mygovindia @MIB_India @PIB_India

PMO India @PMOIndia - Aug 31
Indian culture takes over the world! #MannKiBaat

Dr. S. Jalshankar @DrSjalshankar

In today's #MannKiBaat, PM @narendramodi highlighted the growing appreciation of Indian culture globally.

Do tune in [youtube.com/live/X5DLhF5Y...](https://www.youtube.com/live/X5DLhF5Y...)

PMO India @PMOIndia - Aug 31
Indian culture takes over the world! #MannKiBaat

Chowna Mein @ChownaMeinBIP

Glimpses from the 125th episode of #MannKiBaat, at the District BJP Office, Namsai, to listen to the inspiring words of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji.

The address highlighted India's journey of development, people's participation, and collective responsibility towards a stronger and self-reliant Nation. Always a moment of learning and motivation to walk together in service of society and the country.

Office of Kiren Rijiju @RijijuOffice

PM Modi urges pride in 'swadeshi' products during 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast

business-standard.com/india-news/pm-...

via NaMo App

PM Modi urges pride in 'swadeshi' products during 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast

BUSINESS STANDARD SEP 01, 2025

Saraswathi Pidaparthi @Saraswathi44800

PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat muse: How Bihar's 'Solar Didi' is powering a rural revolution

moneycontrol.com/city/pm-modi-s-...

via NaMo App

PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat muse: How Bihar's 'Solar Didi' is powering a rural revolution

MONEY CONTROL SEPTEMBER 01, 2025

Suvendu Adhikari @SuvenduJWB

Tuned in to Hon'ble Prime Minister; Shri @narendramodi ji's Mann Ki Baat along with @BJP4Bengal Karyakartas & Supporters at Nandigram.

Hon'ble PM hailed the efforts of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and Security Forces during the rescue operation amid monsoon mayhem causing flood situation across India especially in the hilly regions.

PM Modi announced the launch of a new digital platform 'Pratibha Setu' aimed at supporting aspirants of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examinations who narrowly missed making it to the final merit list. The databank on 'Pratibha Setu' already has details of over 10,000 such talented youth.

@BJP4India

India in Jamaica @hckington

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in #MannKiBaat:

"Young footballers from Shahdol inspired a German coach, who has invited them to train in Germany."

#MannKiBaat

@MEAIndia @PMOIndia @mygovindia @IndianDiplomacy @DDNewsLive @ainewsalerts @PIB_India

PMO India @PMOIndia - Aug 31
Young footballers from Shahdol inspired a German coach, who has invited them to train in Germany. #MannKiBaat

Vikas Kumar BJP @VikasKumarBJP

PM Modi urges pride in 'swadeshi' products during 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast

business-standard.com/india-news/pm-...

via NaMo App

PM Modi urges pride in 'swadeshi' products during 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast

BUSINESS STANDARD SEPTEMBER 01, 2025

69

live**mint**

मन की बात में पीएम मोदी ने जम्मू कश्मीर का किया जिक्र, कहा- 'मेरा देश बदल रहा है...' मिले हैं दो खास तोहफे

नवभारत

Mann Ki Baat: 'मन की बात' में पीएम मोदी बोले- अब एक ही मंत्र 'वोकल फॉर लोकल', एक ही रास्ता 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत'



Mann Ki Baat: 'My Country Is Changing...' PM Modi Highlights Pulwama Cricket Match And Dal Lake Water Sports Festival



Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi Highlights Odisha Athlete Rashmita Sahoo's Success, Khelo India Gold Medalists & Encourages Aspiring Sportswomen



PM Modi Expresses Concern Over Ongoing Natural Disasters In 'Mann Ki Baat'; Praises Security Forces



Mann ki Baat: Modi pushes Indians to go 'swadeshi' in festive season for self-reliant India



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Mann ki Baat

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Friends, the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat'; the unity of the country, is very important for the development of the country and certainly, sports play a big role in it. And that is why I say that the one who plays, blooms.

- Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India