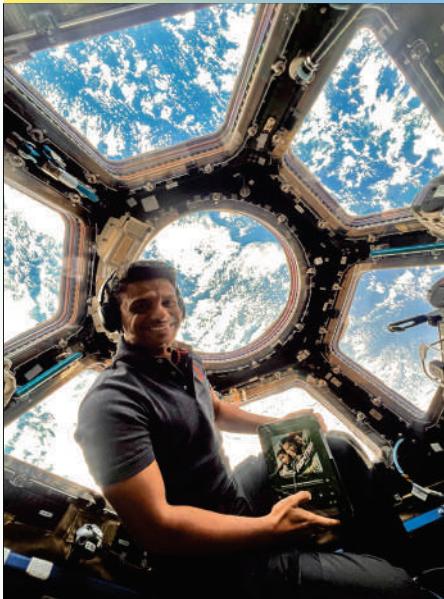


# MAN KIBAAT

# 2025: India's Year of Global Impact and National Pride



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Address to the Nation



# Prime Minister's Address



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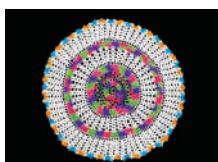
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# My dear Countrymen

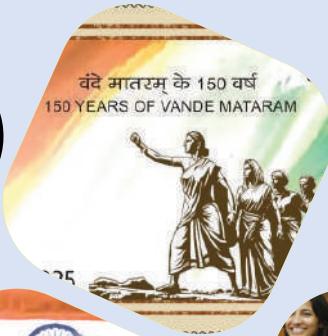
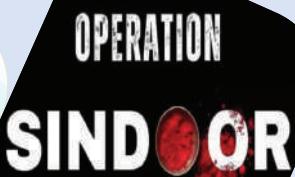
# Namaskar

Welcome back to 'Mann ki Baat', greetings to you. The year 2026 is knocking at the door, and today, as I speak to you, memories of an entire year are swirling in my mind – myriad images, many discussions, many achievements that bound the nation together. **2025 gave us many moments that made every Indian proud.** From national security to the sports field, from science laboratories to the world's biggest platforms, India left a strong mark everywhere.

This year, 'Operation Sindoor' became a symbol

of pride for every Indian. The world clearly saw that today's India does not compromise on its security. During 'Operation Sindoor', images of love and devotion towards Maa Bharati emerged from every corner of the country. People expressed their feelings in their own unique ways.

Friends, the same spirit was also visible when 'Vande Mataram' completed 150 years. I had requested you to send your messages and suggestions with '#VandeMataram150'. The countrymen participated enthusiastically in this campaign.





Friends, 2025 was also a memorable year in terms of sports. Our men's cricket team won the ICC Champions Trophy. The women's cricket team won the World Cup for the first time. India's daughters created history by winning the Women's Blind T20 World Cup. The tricolour also fluttered high with pride in the Asia Cup T20. In the World Championship Para-athletes proved by winning several medals that no obstacle can come in the way of zeal & determination. India also took a big leap in the field of Science and Space. Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station. Many efforts related to environmental conservation

and wildlife protection also became the hallmark of 2025.

The number of cheetahs in India has now increased to more than 30. In 2025, faith, culture, and India's unique heritage all came together. The Prayagraj Mahakumbh organized at the beginning of the year astonished the entire world. At the end of the year, the Dhwajarohan ceremony at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya filled every Indian with pride. The excitement towards Swadeshi was also evident among one & all. People are purchasing only those goods that bear the sweat of an Indian and the fragrance of Indian soil. Today, we can proudly say that 2025 has given India even greater confidence. It

is also true that this year we had to face natural disasters, at very many places. Now, the country is ready to move forward in 2026 with new hopes and new resolutions.

My dear countrymen, today the world is looking at India with great hope. The biggest reason for hope in India is our youth power. Our achievements in the field of science, new innovations, and the expansion of technology have greatly impressed countries around the world.

**Friends, the youth of India always have a passion for something new and they are equally aware. My young friends often ask me how they can further contribute to nation-building. How can they share their ideas?** Many among them enquire as to how they can present their ideas to me. **The answer to this curiosity of our young colleagues is the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue'.** Its first edition was held last year, and now its second edition is scheduled in a few days' time. On the 12th of next month, 'National Youth Day' will be celebrated on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. A 'Young Leaders



**VIKSIT BHARAT**  
**YOUNG LEADERS**  
**DIALOGUE 2026**

Dialogue' will also be held on this day, and I will certainly participate in that. In this, our youth will share their ideas on important topics like innovation, fitness, startups, and agriculture. I am very eager about this program.

Friends, I am pleased to see the rising participation of our youth in this program. A quiz competition related to this was held a few days ago. More than 50 lakh youth participated in it. An essay competition was also held, in which students expressed their views on various topics. Tamil Nadu stood first and Uttar Pradesh second in this competition.

Friends, today, the youth in the country are getting new opportunities to showcase their talent. Many platforms are being developed where youth can showcase their talent as per their abilities and interests. One such platform is 'Smart India Hackathon'; another medium



## SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2025

where ideas are turned into action.

Friends, the 'Smart India Hackathon 2025' concluded this month. During this Hackathon, students worked on more than 270 problems of more than 80 government departments. Students offered solutions which were related to real life challenges like traffic related problems. Related to this, the youth shared very interesting perspectives on 'Smart Traffic Management'. The youth also put forward their ideas on solutions to challenges like Financial Frauds and Digital Arrests. Suggestions

were extended on Cyber Security Framework for digital banking in villages. Many youth remained engaged in solving the challenges in the agriculture sector.

Friends, over 13 lakh students and over 6,000 institutes have participated in the 'Smart India Hackathon' in the last 7 to 8 years. The youth have also provided accurate solutions to hundreds of problems. Such Hackathons are organized from time to time. I urge my young friends to certainly be a part of these Hackathons.

Friends, today's life is becoming tech-driven, and the changes that used to happen over centuries; we are seeing them happen over a few years. At times, some people express concern whether robots are



*From the 10th Anniversary programme of Geetanjali, IISc*

going to replace humans! In such changing times, it is very important to stay connected to our roots for human development. I am very happy to see that our next generation is holding on to the roots of our culture well – with new thinking and new methods.

**Friends, you must have heard the name of the Indian Institute of Science. Research and innovation are the hallmarks of this institute. A few years ago, some students there felt that there should be a place accorded for music amidst studies and research.** That's where a small music class started. Neither a big stage, nor a big budget. **Gradually, this initiative grew and today we know it as 'Geetanjali IISc'.** It is no longer just a class; it is the cultural centre of the campus.

Here, there is Hindustani

classical music, folk traditions, classical genres; students here sit together and practice. Professors come along and their families also join. Today, more than two hundred people are associated with it. And the special thing is that even those who have moved abroad are joining online and holding on to the threads of this group.

Friends, this effort to stay connected to one's roots is not limited to India. Indians living in different corners of the world are also playing their part. Another example that takes us outside the country is Dubai. Kannada families living there asked themselves an important question: Our children are moving ahead in the tech world, but aren't they moving away from their language? **This is where 'Kannada Pathshala' was born.** An initiative where





**'Where there is a Will, there is a Way'**  
**Determination Lights the Way**

**children are taught to teach, learn, write, and speak Kannada. Today, more than a thousand children are associated with it. Truly, *Kannada Nadu, Nudi Namma Hemme*. (The land and language of Kannada are our pride.)**

Friends, there is an old saying: 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' This saying has been proved true once again by a young man from Manipur, Moirangthem Seth ji. He is less than 40 years old. The remote area of Manipur where Shriram Moirangthem ji lived had a major electricity problem. To overcome this challenge, he focused on local solutions and found this solution in solar power. In our Manipur, it is anyway easy to generate solar energy. So, Moirangthem started a campaign to install solar panels and on account of this campaign,

today solar power has reached hundreds of houses in his area. The special thing is that he has used solar power to improve health care and livelihood. Today, owing to his efforts, many health centres in Manipur are also getting solar power.

The woman power of Manipur has also benefited a lot from this endeavour. Local fishermen and artists have also been helped through this.

Friends, **today, under the 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana', the government is providing approximately 75,000 to 80,000 rupees to each beneficiary family for installing solar panels.** While Moirangthem's efforts are personal, they are giving new impetus to every campaign related to solar power. I extend my best wishes to him through 'Mann ki Baat'.

My dear countrymen, let's now head towards Jammu and Kashmir. I want to share a saga about Jammu and Kashmir's cultural and historical heritage that will fill you up with pride. In Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, there is a place called Jehanpora. For years, people had been seeing some tall mounds there. These were ordinary mounds, and no one knew what they were. Then, one day, an archaeologist noticed them.

When he began to observe the area carefully, these mounds appeared somewhat unusual. Following this, a scientific study of these mounds began. Drones were used to take photographs from above, and the land was mapped. And then some surprising things started

to emerge. It turned out that these mounds weren't natural. They were the remains of a large human-made structure. Meanwhile, another interesting connection emerged.

**Thousands of kilometres away from Kashmir, an old, blurred photograph was found in the archives of a museum in France. Three Buddhist stupas were visible in that photograph of Baramulla. From here, time took a turn, and Kashmir's glorious past was revealed to us. This history dates back nearly two thousand years. This Buddhist complex in Zehanpora, Kashmir, reminds us of Kashmir's past and its rich identity.**

My dear countrymen, i now want to share with you about an endeavour thousands of



*The site at Zehanpora Baramulla, J&K*



# Ancient Tamil finds young learners from Fiji to Varanasi



kilometres away from India, which is heart-touching. **In Fiji, a commendable initiative is being taken to spread Indian language and culture. Continuous efforts are being made at many levels to connect the new generation there with Tamil language. Last month, Tamil Day was celebrated for the first time in a school in Raki-Raki, Fiji.** On that day, children found a platform where they openly expressed pride in their language. Children recited poems in Tamil, gave speeches, and confidently showcased their culture on stage.

Friends, continuous work is also being done within the country to promote the Tamil language. A few days ago, the fourth 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' was held in my Parliamentary Constituency, Kashi. I am now

going to play you an audio clip. Listen to it and guess where these children trying to speak Tamil are from?



Friends, you will be surprised to know that these children, who express themselves so fluently in Tamil, are from Kashi, Varanasi. Their mother tongue is Hindi, but their love for the Tamil language inspired them to learn Tamil. **This year, during the 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' in Varanasi, special emphasis was placed on learning Tamil. Under the theme of 'Learn Tamil - Tamil Karakalam', special campaigns were also run in more than 50 schools in Varanasi.**

The results of that can be heard in this audio clip.



Friends, tamil is the world's oldest language. Tamil literature is also extremely rich. I had requested you to participate in the 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' in 'Mann ki Baat'. I am happy that today, in other parts of the country, there is a renewed interest in the Tamil language among children and youth – this is the power of the language, this is the unity of India.

Friends, next month we will celebrate the 77th Republic Day of the country. Whenever such occasions arise, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the freedom fighters and the makers of the Constitution. Our country fought a long struggle for independence.

People from every part

of the country contributed to the freedom movement but unfortunately, many of the heroes, both men and women of independence did not receive the respect they deserved.

One such freedom fighter is Parvati Giri ji of Odisha. Her birth centenary will be celebrated in January 2026. She participated in the Quit India Movement at the age of 16. Friends, after the independence movement, Parvati Giri ji dedicated her life to social service and tribal welfare. She established several orphanages. Her inspiring life will continue to guide every generation.

“मूँ पार्वती गिरि जिंकु श्रद्धांजलि अर्पण करही ।”

“I pay my tribute to Parvati Giri.”

Friends, It is our responsibility that we do not forget our heritage. We must pass on the



## Remembering Parbati Giri A Life of Courage, Service and Sacrifice



## Medicines require Guidance, and Antibiotics require Doctors

great saga of the heroes, both men and women who brought us independence, to the next generation. You may recall that when we celebrated 75 years of independence, the government created a special website. A section on it was dedicated to "Unsung Heroes." Even today, you can visit this website to learn about the great personalities who played a significant role in achieving independence for our country.

My dear countrymen, 'Mann ki Baat' provides us with a wonderful opportunity to discuss important topics related to the welfare of society. Today, I want to address one such issue that has become a matter of concern for all of us.

The ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) recently released a report. It states

that antibiotics are proving ineffective against many diseases like pneumonia and UTI. This is a matter of great concern for all of us. According to the report, a major reason for this is people's indiscriminate use of antibiotics. Antibiotics are not medicines that should be taken mindlessly. They should be used only on the doctor's advice. **Nowadays, people have started believing that just taking a pill would cure all their problems.** This is the reason, diseases and infections are proving to be too strong for these antibiotics. I urge all of you to refrain from using medicines at your own discretion. This is especially important when it comes to antibiotics. I would simply say: **Medicines require guidance, and antibiotics require doctors.** This practice will prove to be very

helpful in improving your health.

My dear countrymen, our traditional arts are empowering society and becoming a major vehicle for people's economic progress. **The lace craft of Narasapuram district in Andhra Pradesh is gaining popularity across the country.** This lace craft has been in the hands of women for generations. The women of the country have preserved it with great patience and meticulousness. Today, this tradition is being carried forward with a new dimension. The Andhra Pradesh government and NABARD are jointly teaching artisans new designs, providing better skill training, and connecting them with new markets.

**The Narasapuram Lace has also received the GI Tag. Today, more than 500 products are being made from it, and approximately 1 lakh women**

**in more than 250 villages are getting employment from it.**

Friends, 'Mann ki Baat' is also a platform to bring forward such people who, through their hard work, are not only promoting traditional arts, but are also empowering the local people through it. The efforts of Margaret Ramtharsiem of Churachandpur, Manipur, are also of a similar kind. She saw Manipur's traditional products, its handicrafts, and items made from bamboo and wood, with a broad vision. Because of that vision, from a handicraft artist she became a medium for transforming people's lives. Today, Margaret ji's unit employs over 50 artists, and through her hard work, she has developed a market for her products in several states across the country, including Delhi.

Friends, Another example from Manipur is that of Chokhone Krichena ji, a resident of Senapati

## Traditional Knowledge, Modern Opportunities, and Economic Empowerment





## A Grand Festival in the White Rann

district. Her entire family has been involved in traditional farming. Krichena expanded this traditional experience to a greater extent. She made floriculture her passion. Today, she connects this work with various markets and empowers local communities in her area. Friends, this instance exemplifies the fact that when traditional knowledge is leveraged with a modern vision, it can become a major vehicle for economic progress. If you have similar success stories around you, please share them with me.

**Friends, the most beautiful thing about our country is that there's a festive atmosphere in some part of the country or the other, throughout the year. Not only are there various festivals, but local festivals are also held in different states. Which means, if you make up your mind to**

travel, you'll find some corner of the country ready with its own unique celebration at any given time. One such festival is currently underway in the Rann of Kutch. **This year, the Kutch Ranotsav began on the 23rd of November and will continue until the 20th of February. The diverse folk culture, folk music, dance, and handicrafts of Kutch are on display here.** Witnessing the grandeur of the White Rann of Kutch is a delightful experience in itself. At night, when the moonlight spreads over the White Rann, the view is mesmerizing. **The Rann Utsav's Tent City is very popular. I have been informed that over Two lakh people have participated in the Ranotsav in the past month, coming over from all corners of the country and even from abroad.** Whenever you get the opportunity, be sure to

participate in such festivals and enjoy India's diversity.

Friends, This is the last episode of 'Mann ki Baat' in 2025. Now, in the year 2026, we will certainly join the 'Mann ki Baat' programme to share our own, varied 'Mann ki Baat' with the same enthusiasm and zeal, with a sense of belonging. New energy, new topics and countless stories of countrymen, filling us with inspiration, connect us all in 'Mann ki Baat'.

Every month, I receive many such messages in which people share their vision for a 'Viksit Bharat'. Seeing the suggestions from people and their efforts in this direction, this belief gets strengthened and when all

these messages reach me, the resolution of a 'Viksit Bharat' will definitely be fulfilled. This belief grows stronger day by day.

May the year 2026 prove to be an important milestone in the journey towards the fulfillment of this resolve. May you and your family have a happy life. With this wish, before bidding farewell to this episode, I will definitely say, 'Fit India Movement'... you too have to stay fit. This winter season is very suitable for exercise... do exercise. Wishing you all a very Happy 2026. Thank you. Vande Mataram.

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



# MANNAKI BAAT

*Special Mentions by Prime Minister*





The year 2025 unfolded as a powerful tapestry of India's courage, confidence, culture and collective achievement. From safeguarding national security to scaling new scientific frontiers, from sporting excellence to spiritual grandeur, India's journey was marked by moments that stirred pride in the heart of every citizen. This photo feature brings together some of the most defining visuals, recalled by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 'Mann ki Baat', that capture the spirit of India stepping into 2026 with firmer resolve and optimism.

## Security, Space and National Heritage

'Operation Sindoor' emerged as a powerful symbol of national security and collective devotion to 'Maa Bharati', with citizens across the country expressing unity and pride. Alongside this, history was made when Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station, marking a giant leap for India's space ambitions. The celebration of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' further rekindled patriotic fervour, reminding the nation of the song that has inspired generations in India's freedom and nation-building journey.





# Faith, Spirituality and the Spirit of Swadeshi

The 'Prayagraj Mahakumbh', organised at the beginning of 2025, saw large-scale participation and administrative coordination. The growing emphasis on 'Swadeshi' is reflected through increased public preference for domestically manufactured goods. The 'Dhwajarohan' ceremony at Ram Mandir, Ayodhya marked a significant religious and cultural moment towards the end of the year.



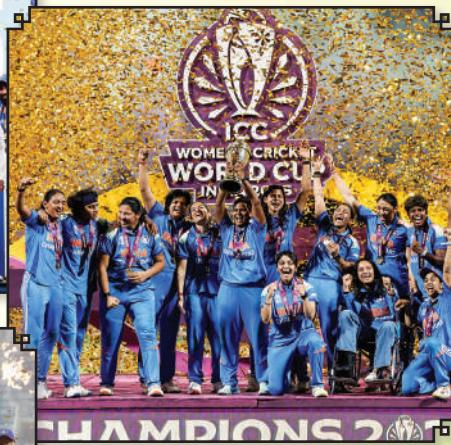
## Wildlife Conservation and Biodiversity

Under the 'Project Cheetah', the number of cheetahs in India increased to 30 during the year. The project forms part of ongoing government-led efforts towards species restoration, habitat management and biodiversity conservation.



## Achievements in Sports

India's men's cricket team won the ICC Champions Trophy, while the women's cricket team secured their first ICC Women's Cricket World Cup title. India also won the Women's Blind T20 World Cup, reflecting progress in inclusive sports. The Asia Cup T20 title further added to the year's successes, and Indian para-athletes won 22 medals at the World Para Athletics Championships.



# Young Leaders Dialogue 2.0

Building Viksit Bharat through Ideas and Innovation



The dream of a 'Viksit Bharat', or a Developed India, is a collective national mission. Its most powerful drivers are the nation's young minds, brimming with fresh perspectives and an untapped zeal to contribute. Recognising this immense potential, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, launched a unique platform—the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' (VBYLD). As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pointed out in the 129th Address of 'Mann ki Baat', this initiative is the direct answer to a common question from the youth: "How can they share their ideas?". More than just an event, VBYLD 2.0 represents a systematic and inclusive process to harness youth innovation for national progress.

This second edition of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD 2026) successfully culminated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on January 12, 2026, coinciding with National Youth Day and the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The four-day event provided a dynamic platform for young leaders to present actionable ideas across ten critical sectors, including women-led development, sustainable agriculture, and India's startup ecosystem.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the concluding session,

engaging directly with the youth and expressing his unwavering faith in their capabilities to lead India's development. He highlighted the massive engagement with the initiative, stating, "The association of crores of young people with this initiative... such large-scale engagement of youth power is unprecedented." The Prime Minister also encouraged the youth to blend global knowledge with India's heritage, quoting the Vedic phrase "Aano Bhadrāh Kratavo Yantu Vishwatah" (let auspicious thoughts come from all directions) and advising, "You must learn from the best practices around the world, but never let the tendency to

# VBYLD

VIKSIT BHARAT

## YOUNG LEADERS DIALOGUE 2026

undervalue your own heritage and ideas dominate."

This unprecedented scale of participation was made possible by the dialogue's foundational design as a mass movement. The success of VBYLD lies in this design, which begins at the grassroots through wide-reaching competitions. A preliminary 'Viksit Bharat Quiz'



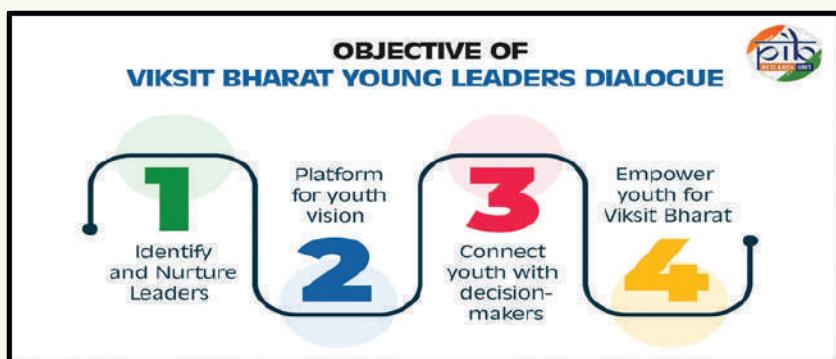


hosted on the MY Bharat portal saw staggering participation from over 50 lakh young Indians. Conducted in 12 languages, the quiz tests knowledge on various aspects of the country and vision towards 'Viksit Bharat'. The quiz was jointly hosted on the MY Bharat and MyGov platforms between September 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025, with participation from all 28 states and 8 Union Territories. States like Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana and West Bengal reported

the highest participation. This massive outreach ensured that the dialogue was not limited to a select few in metropolitan centres but tapped into the talent pool across the entire nation.

The first edition (2025) laid a strong foundation, creating a historic space for over 2,000 young leaders to engage in a free-flowing dialogue with the nation's leadership at Bharat Mandapam. This edition expands its scope with new innovation verticals like 'Design for Bharat' and 'Tech for Viksit Bharat' hackathons, focussing on actionable solutions for societal challenges. For the first time, it saw participation of international participants, which transformed the dialogue into a global exchange of ideas.

The true genius of VBYLD lies in its structure- a platform for young people aged 15-29 years to articulate innovative ideas on sector-specific themes such as agriculture, skill development, governance, space technology, and more. It starts with digital and regional engagements like





quizzes, essays, and state-level presentations let that identify talent and crystallise ideas. The culmination is the national dialogue, where shortlisted young leaders present their refined ideas directly to the Prime Minister and other policymakers. This process ensures that the final dialogue is substantive, with ideas that have been scrutinised and developed, moving beyond mere symbolism to genuine policy input.

The significance of VBYLD 2.0 is profound. First, it democratises innovation by providing a clear, accessible route for any young Indian with an idea. Second, it builds ownership among the youth, making them active stakeholders in the Viksit Bharat mission rather than passive beneficiaries. Third, it aligns youthful energy with national goals, directing creativity towards solving real-world challenges in agriculture, health, technology,

and sustainability.

The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) has today evolved into a nationwide movement of young changemakers. Anchored in the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Jan Bhagidari and Yuva Shakti, it stands as a dynamic platform for India's youth to engage with governance, share innovative ideas, and contribute meaningfully to the country's developmental agenda. Driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering youth, VBYLD is shaping a new generation of leaders contributing ideas for governance, innovation and nation-building. The initiative has emerged as a major forum for young voices as India marches toward the Viksit Bharat 2047.



**Dr. Abhay Jere**

Vice Chairman  
AICTE & Chief Innovation  
Officer  
Ministry of Education

# SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2025

## Where Young India Leads

The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) stands as a cornerstone of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047' serving as a transformative platform where the ingenuity of India's youth is harnessed to solve real-world national challenges. By evolving from a competition into a nationwide movement, SIH empowers students to transition from being job seekers to innovation leaders, turning complex problems from various government departments into actionable solutions. The Prime Minister's emphasis on this initiative highlights a shift towards a product-oriented nation, where the massive participation of over 13 lakh students democratises innovation and ensures that the 'Amrit of Solutions' flows from every corner of the country. Through this collaborative ecosystem, the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister and SIH are together building a future where young India leads the global stage through social awareness, technological maturity, and a relentless spirit of entrepreneurship.

### Youth-Led Innovation: The Heart of Nation-Building

The Smart India Hackathon is more than just a 36-hour coding marathon; it is a manifestation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's belief that 'the youth of today are not just the future, but the makers of our present'. By presenting students with real-world challenges faced by government departments and industries, SIH encourages them to move beyond theoretical learning. It empowers them to become 'producers' rather than just 'consumers' of technology. Whether it is creating AI-powered systems for railway safety or low-cost hardware for agricultural efficiency, SIH provides

the scaffolding for youth-led innovation to directly impact nation-building.

### **From Competition to National Movement**

Since its inception in 2017, SIH has witnessed exponential growth. What started as a modest initiative has been institutionalised into a model for crowdsourcing solutions. Over the last eight years, it has fostered a 'Hackathon Culture' across the country. Today, the movement has scaled to such heights that SIH 2025 received an unprecedented 72,165 idea submissions from over 68,000 teams. This surge represents a seven-fold increase in participation since

the early editions, proving that innovation is no longer restricted to elite laboratories and mega-metro cities, but has become a household aspiration for students in every corner of India. By transforming the vast potential of our youth into a structured engine for problem-solving, the programme has successfully decentralised creativity from metropolitan hubs to the grassroots level. This remarkable trajectory reinforces the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision that when the nation's youth are provided the right platform, they can effectively bridge the gap between imagination and impactful governance.



## Inclusivity: Democratising the Innovation Ecosystem

One of the most significant achievements of SIH 2025 is its radical inclusivity. With over 13 lakh students and 6,000+ institutes participating over the years, the platform has successfully bridged the gap between urban hubs and rural talent. This year, the focus on regional inclusivity, multilingual submissions, and the establishment of 60 Nodal Centers across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities ensured that a student in Nabha or Erode has the same opportunity to solve national problems as the one in New Delhi or Bengaluru. Furthermore, the rising participation of women with over 2,900 female finalists in the 2025 edition underscores

that India's innovation journey is truly collective. (See Teamwise participation in SIH 2025)

## Collaboration: Bridging Governance and Academia

The strength of SIH lies in its collaborative architecture. This year, over 80 government



departments, PSUs, and industries contributed 271 critical problem statements. This collaboration ensures that the energy of our youth is channelled towards high-priority sectors such as Cybersecurity, Space Technology, MedTech, and Clean Energy. When a student team works on a 'Cyber Incident & Safety Web Portal' for the Ministry of Defence or a 'Smart Crop Advisory System' for the Government of Punjab, they are not just winning a prize; they are entering a partnership with the state to improve the lives of 1.4 billion citizens.

### Social Awareness and Maturity of Young Minds

The themes chosen by participants in SIH 2025 reflect a deep-seated social awareness. Solutions developed for Financial Fraud Prevention, Digital Arrests, and Rural Cybersecurity reveal that our youth are acutely aware of the modern-day 'demons' that society is facing. Their focus on mental health platforms and sustainable waste management shows a generation that is empathetic and responsible. They are using Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain not just for profit, but for protection and progress.

### A Launchpad for a Global Innovation Hub

As India climbed to the



39th rank in the 2024 Global Innovation Index, platforms like SIH have certainly contributed to this ascent. SIH is now a vital launchpad for entrepreneurship; a large number of student/faculty-led Startups have already emerged from previous editions, supported by initiatives like the AICTE's YUKTI portal and the NIDHI Prayas Scheme.

By encouraging students to think 'Out-of-the-Box,' SIH is creating a pipeline of 'Made in India' solutions that are scalable for the world. As we look towards 2047, the Smart India Hackathon stands as a testament to the fact that when the government provides a platform and the youth contribute the passion, there is no challenge that India cannot solve.

The 129th episode of 'Mann ki Baat' was a call to action. To every young innovator, I say, the platform is ready, the problems are identified, and the nation is watching. Your ideas are the blueprints for a developed India

Music transcends All – this is the motto that drives GEETANJALI IISc, a Hindustani classical music group that was formed a decade ago at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. Today, it remains the foundation on which the group nurtures the spirit of music and culture at IISc. What started as a modest attempt to share her love for classical music by Geeta Ananth, has grown from four students to a thriving community of music enthusiasts of all ages, from four to 85.

"Music does transcend all in our group," Geeta Ananth, the founder of GEETANJALI IISc, once mentioned in an interview to Connect, IISc's quarterly magazine. "We do not see anything other than interest and passion for and in music. There is nothing else that matters – age, gender, religion, how much music you already know ... none of these matters."

GEETANJALI IISc's members come from a wide variety of backgrounds – students, faculty members, their spouses and children. Three decades ago, Geeta walked into the IISc campus after having spent her life living across the country because of her father's job with the Indian Railways. When her husband, Ananth Ramaswamy (now Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering), took up a faculty position at IISc, she moved to Bengaluru with him. Having experienced constant change, little did Geeta realise that she would set deep roots here on campus. There was one motivating factor: her great passion for music.

Geeta started Hindustani music classes in 2001, with less than a handful of people at her house. "With a few of my students and with the support and blessings of my family and gurus, we started the group



**Prof. Govindan  
Rangarajan**

Director, Indian Institute  
of Science (IISc)

## **Geetanjali IISc Spreading the love**

GEETANJALI IISc. From there, we took off," she says.

The group, initially made up of children of faculty members and students, soon grew as several others in the Institute community came forth. Some came for the love of music, others came because of curiosity. A few found the challenge of picking up a new skill intriguing and several more joined because this was an opportunity that they had always been looking for. A certain percentage also came to find a community for themselves. In a high-stakes environment like the IISc campus, GEETANJALI IISc offered a chance to disconnect from work.

By 2015, the group had grown substantially and became an established club, one that also started providing students an opportunity to perform on stage. Although, primarily focussed on Hindustani classical music, the group also explores folk songs, semi-classical songs, regional music, and even Western music from time to time.

Now, the group works in





partnership with SPICMACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) to organise events every month at IISc, including music or dance performances as well as others such as puppet shows, folk dances, jazz concerts, and theatre.

"The idea was to have events as well as meet and interact with the artists and learn from them," says Geeta. Additionally, the group also gives a full-fledged performance at least twice a year. Success has also come in the shape of invitations to international conferences; one of the members even put out a Gazal album to rave reviews.

Despite the growing numbers, GEETANJALI IISc has

managed to retain a close-knit family-like atmosphere within its community. Geeta continues to take classes on a one-to-one basis throughout the week. Being a big believer of the Guru-Shishya Parampara, she instills this ethos in her students. She believes that it has helped the group become close and be there for each other. In fact, several students who have graduated from IISc and moved on continue to attend GEETANJALI IISc classes online, keeping the connections alive.

The group also serves as a sanctuary for students working in a high-stress research environment. They open up about their struggles. Geeta equates overcoming





challenges in life or the lab to mastering ragas – neither comes easily and requires patience, persistence, and discipline; qualities that help with scientific research.

The performance aspect on stage is also a focus during these classes, how to show confidence, make eye contact and interact with an audience – facets that are important for personal and professional growth.

"GEETANJALI IISc is one huge family," says Geeta. "In our group, we do not compete or compare. If you see our performances, you will sometimes find father-daughter or father-son duos performing, or the mothers performing. You will also find

that the entire family gets interested and involved. It would not be wrong to say that GEETANJALI IISc has spread the rich Indian classical music and culture amongst the people of IISc and has made the Institute more culturally vibrant too."

At the core of it all is a deep love for music. "Music should not feel like added pressure. This is their space to express themselves, breathe, and just be," Geeta says. Finding a place like that is the hardest thing for students and researchers struggling with day-to-day challenges to do. At IISc, it already exists and is called GEETANJALI IISc.



We extend our deepest thanks to the Honourable Prime Minister for highlighting the efforts of Kannada Patha shaale Dubai and, through it, acknowledging the dedication of the global Kannada diaspora. His words were not merely a recognition of an institution, but a powerful validation of the cultural, linguistic, and emotional bonds that Indians continue to nurture, irrespective of geography.

For Kannadigas living outside India especially in a cosmopolitan city like Dubai, this recognition serves as a tremendous source of encouragement. It reassures us that our efforts to preserve and pass on our mother tongue to the next generation are seen, valued, and respected at the national level.

#### **Birth of Kannada Patha Shaale Dubai**

Kannada Patha shaale Dubai (KPSD) was born from a simple yet deeply felt concern: how do we ensure that children growing up in a foreign land remain connected to their roots? As families from Karnataka settled in the UAE for professional and personal opportunities, many parents noticed a gradual disconnect between their children and the Kannada language.

One of the earliest challenges was securing a venue. This was overcome with the generous support of JSS Private School, under the guidance of His Holiness Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji of Suttur Mutt, followed by venue support from ASAP Tutors and Bilva India School managed by Dr. Prabhakara Kore.

What began as informal weekend gatherings, where dedicated volunteers taught Kannada alphabets and basic vocabulary, gradually evolved into a structured learning initiative. In 2014, a



**Shashidhar  
Nagarajappa**

President  
Kannada Mitraru, U.A.E

# **KANNADA PATHA SHAALE**

## **Keeping Language, Identity and Roots Alive Beyond Borders**

formal managing committee was formed, led by myself, along with Siddalingesh B.R., Sunil Gavaskar, Shashidhar Mundaragi, and Nagaraj Rao. This effort was strengthened by over 50 volunteers and teachers, led by Roopa H.G., who worked tirelessly to build the institution.

### **Mother Tongue Literacy: A Child's Birthright**

KPSD firmly believes that mother tongue literacy is the birthright of every child. It is the responsibility of parents and communities to facilitate this, so that, future generations of NRIs remain connected to their cultural heritage and ancestral traditions. Language is the most authentic medium through which values, emotions, and identity are expressed.

Driven entirely by passion rather than profit, Kannada Patha shaale, Dubai was founded with the mission of spreading Kannada literacy, instilling linguistic pride, fostering cultural



reconnection, and nurturing a sense of belonging among young NRI Kannadigas in the UAE.

### **Growth through Community**

#### **Effort**

Over the years, KPSD has grown steadily through the unwavering support of parents, volunteers, teachers, and community leaders. Esteemed patrons such as Praveen Shetty and Mohan Narasimha Murthy, Advisors Mohammad Mooluru and Dr. Frank Fernandes, and support from community organisations played a vital role in this journey.

Classes became more structured, syllabi were developed with the support of the Karnataka Government's Kannada Development Board, and cultural programmes were introduced. Students began

engaging not only in language learning, but also in Kannada literature, songs, storytelling, and festivals.

What makes Kannada Patha shaale, Dubai truly special is its strong community spirit. Teachers volunteer their time after long working hours, parents actively participate in events, and children proudly read, write, and speak Kannada despite being surrounded by multiple global languages. The Honourable Prime Minister's mention of this initiative stands as a testament to this collective effort and cultural commitment.

### **Free Learning through Selfless Service**

KPSD operates on a strictly non-commercial basis. We believe that passing linguistic knowledge to the younger



generation is a moral duty. Therefore, no fee is charged, and teachers serve without remuneration. This selfless team of educators has been serving the cause of Kannada for over 12 years with dedication and pride.

The current year's teachers include Kavya, Bindu, Divya, Chetana, Vinutha, Manasa Hegade, Meena, Roopa Vorate, Manjula, Triveni, Rakshitha, Swati, Nayana, Anupama, Archana, Kalpa, Mandela, Manasa Vinya, along with many others who have contributed in earlier years.

### **Challenges of Teaching Kannada Abroad**

Teaching Kannada in a foreign land presents unique challenges. Children are primarily exposed to English, Arabic, and other global languages, making Kannada largely a 'home



language'. Time constraints, limited weekend classes, lack of overseas-oriented learning resources, and sustaining long-term interest in a multicultural environment require constant innovation. Teachers overcome these challenges by integrating stories, drama, music, and cultural values into learning.

### **A Renewed Sense of Purpose**

The Honourable Prime Minister's acknowledgement has infused Kannada Patha shaale, Dubai with renewed energy and purpose. It has strengthened the resolve of teachers, inspired parents, and motivated students to take pride in their language and heritage.

It sends a powerful message: **Indian languages live wherever Indians live.**



# PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: Brightening Lives



As beautiful as the lush green valleys of Manipur are, life in its remote regions is equally full of challenges. In many villages, nestled among the hills, where the sun rises first, it was ironic that darkness would descend as soon as the evening fell. The lack of electricity not only kept homes in darkness, but also had a deep impact on health and livelihoods. But as the saying goes, it is better to light a lamp than to curse the darkness. Manipur's young innovator Moirangthem Seth did exactly that.

Instead of waiting for grid-based electricity, Moirangthem Seth chose to harness the power of sunlight itself. Today, through his efforts along with those of the government, a new revolution is taking shape in the remote regions of Manipur.

## Search for a Local Solution

Moirangthem Seth belongs to the generation that grew up witnessing severe electricity shortages. For him, solar energy was not just a technology, it was a necessity. When asked about the

inspiration behind his work, he shares : "Growing up in Manipur, I witnessed firsthand how villages struggled with unreliable electricity. Families, schools, and healthcare centres often had to function in darkness. I realised that waiting for grid expansion was not enough. We needed a local, sustainable solution. Solar energy felt like the most practical and empowering choice because it could be harnessed right where people lived."

#### **Success Achieved by Overcoming Challenges**

Working on the hilly terrains of Manipur was no easy task. When Moirangthem began installing solar panels, he initially faced scepticism from people as well as technical challenges. Speaking about the early days of his journey, he says : "The initial challenges were immense-lack of awareness, and financial



constraints. Many villagers were sceptical at first, and convincing them required patience and trust-building. On the technical side, transporting equipment to hilly terrains and ensuring proper installation demanded creativity and resilience. But each successful installation gave us confidence to scale further."





### Changing Health Services and Livelihoods

Today, thanks to Moirangthem's initiative, hundreds of homes are now illuminated. But the most remarkable aspect is that solar energy has had a significant positive impact on healthcare services and the livelihoods of the people there. Manipur's

womenpower, fishermen, and local artisans have greatly benefited from it. Speaking about its impact, Moirangthem says: "Rural clinics can now store vaccines safely and conduct deliveries at night under proper lighting. Artisans and farmers use solar-powered tools to extend their working hours and improve productivity. For





children, evening study under solar lamps has opened doors to better education."

#### **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: A New Takeoff**

The efforts of young innovators like Moirangthem are gaining new momentum through the Central Government's 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'. Under this scheme, to promote solar energy, the government provides beneficiary families with a subsidy of around ₹75,000 to ₹80,000 to install solar panels.

When grassroots efforts and government policies come together, the impact is tremendous. Speaking about the significance of this scheme, Moirangthem says:

"Government initiatives like the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana are crucial because they provide financial and policy support that strengthens grassroots efforts. When national programmes align with local initiatives, it creates a powerful synergy, reducing costs for families, encouraging adoption, and building confidence in renewable energy."

#### **Message for the Youth**

The transformation in the valleys of Manipur stands as proof that no destination is too far when intentions are strong. Moirangthem Seth is an example for all the young people in the country who wish to bring change to their society. His message is simple yet deeply inspiring: "Change begins with courage and persistence. Do not wait for perfect conditions. Start with what you have, where you are... If you combine innovation with compassion, you can transform lives. Every small step you take today will light the path for generations to come."

Today, thanks to the 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana' and heroes like Moirangthem, not only are bulbs lighting up in the remote villages of Manipur, but people's hopes too are shining bright as well.

Archaeological Excavation at Zehanpora Baramulla is the first of its kind Archaeological Excavation undertaken by the Department in the history of the Department as well as J&K that is why, it has been titled the 'First Act of the Spade'.

Zehanpora Baramulla is a geographically and strategically significant site as it was historically north-western entry route into the Kashmir Valley, traditionally connecting the region with Gandhara and Central Asia. In the 7th Century C.E., the Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang described entering the valley through the 'stone gates' of Baramulla, noting the presence of numerous stupas and monasteries before residing at a major vihara at Ushkur which is in Baramulla.

To proceed with the technological know-how and the expertise thereof, the department entered into an MoU with Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir for collaboration and cooperation towards Archaeological Research, Exploration, Preservation, Conservation and Documentation of Archaeological Sites. The Project is one of its kind in the country wherein Archaeological Excavation is being carried out under convergence and dovetailing of resources between the government department and an educational institution.

The excavation process took a measured approach to expose each layer of soil that was naturally formed, with a photographic record taken at the end of every day documenting soil changes, features and artefacts encountered during excavation. All notable discoveries had precise coordinate points and were documented in place through photography and hand-drawn diagrams. The most significant evidence



**Kuldeep Krishan  
Sidha (JKAS)**

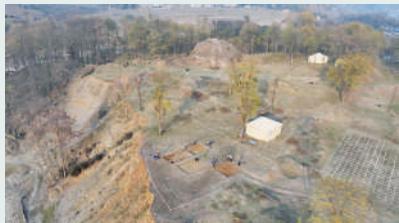
Director  
Archives, Archaeology &  
Museums,  
Jammu & Kashmir

# **FIRST ACT OF THE SPADE**

## **Archaeological Excavation at Zehanpora Baramulla, J&K**

uncovered was 'diaper pebble/rubble wall' running parallel in east-west direction suggesting a foundation base of a large architectural complex and its curvature and alignment along with associated feature strongly indicating that it is formed part of an apsidal chaitya or prayer hall, a relatively rare architectural form in Kashmir, previously reported at Harwan Site at Srinagar. Additional evidence found include dense concentration of brickbats, lime-plastered surfaces, large stone boulders some of which represent collapsed pillars or super structural elements.

Excavations near the main stupa have exposed well-constructed buttress and lime-plastered foundation surface reflecting advanced engineering techniques intended to counter environmental degradation/stress. Also, a near complete human skeleton has been



*Site at Zehanpora, Baramulla*

discovered during excavation and a petrous portion of the temporal bone of the same has been collected for the DNA analysis which will provide the genetic ancestry and reconstruction of population history. It has also raised curiosity towards the prevailing funerary practices of that time. The excavation has also yielded a high concentration of pottery, charcoal, animal bones, ceramics, terracotta objects and metal artefacts comprising iron nails, pins, brackets, rods, copper pin and copper earrings. Other notable finds till date include glass bangle fragments, a cowrie shell and a clay hopscotch piece.



*Photograph of Ruins of the Stupa Mound, Baramulla, 1925 (Guimet Museum, Paris)*



*Mound at Zehanpora site*

The overall evidence supports that Zehanpora represents an early historic settlement and provides evidence about religious, domestic and ritualistic practices at that site. The presence of what appears to be an apsidal chaitya and an adjacent stupa and other architectural elements substantially support and provide that Zehanpora function

as a part of a larger Buddhist monastic environment and the physical space point towards three primary functional spaces (construction space, ritual space and residential space).

On typological and architectural grounds, the site can broadly be dated to the early historic period likely between 1st and 5th Century CE. The construction techniques and the



*Excavation at Zehanpora site*



*Kushan Diaper Pebble Walls (Across Grid Layout) being excavated at Zehanpora site*

finds are closely related to the other Buddhist sites in Kashmir such as Harwan and Ushkur. However, radiocarbon analysis will refine this chronology.

The archaeological excavation clearly underscores the archaeological importance of the site and has put Zehanpora at a critical position within the Buddhist cultural geography of Kashmir particularly along the Baramulla-Jhelum corridor. This site will confirm and reveal the Kashmir's Buddhist history and also signify Kashmir as a vibrant centre of Buddhist learning. The mounds at Zehanpora which were dismissed as ordinary mounds have transformed the landscape into a sacred and historical site.

The architectural style at Zehanpora closely resembles Gandharan Art found in present day Afghanistan and Pakistan. The excavation proves that ancient Kashmir was serving

as a bridge between the Indian heartland, Central Asia and the Silk Road. It shifts the local identity from isolation to one of cosmopolitanism and philosophy indicating that Ideas, Art and Philosophy flowed freely in the region. The technological validation with use of modern tools-drone surveys and archival research (19th Century French Photograph) has instilled a sense of pride in the local community. The Zehanpora stretches the memory of Kashmir back to two millennia from the medieval and early modern periods and most significantly highlights a period of religious interaction where Buddhism and later Hinduism co-existed and influenced one another.

# Tamil Unites From Kashi to Fiji



India's cultural strength lies in its profound diversity, and its unity is beautifully demonstrated when its parts actively celebrate one another. A powerful example of this is the contemporary revival of interest in the Tamil language, driven by parallel initiatives on the global stage and within the country's heartland. From the Pacific islands of Fiji to the ancient city of Kashi (Varanasi), children are embracing Tamil, weaving a stronger fabric of cultural bonds and national unity.

On the international front, the diaspora community in Fiji is reconnecting with its linguistic roots. As highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 129th 'Mann ki Baat' address, commendable efforts are underway to connect Fiji's new generation with the Tamil language, a vital part of their heritage. The celebration of the first 'Tamil Day' at a school in Raki-Raki marked a significant milestone. On this platform, children recited poems and gave speeches in Tamil, openly expressing

pride in their cultural identity. This initiative is crucial for preserving the cultural legacy of the Tamil diaspora, ensuring that geographical distance does not dilute a rich heritage.

Simultaneously, within India, the 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' (KTS) takes the light as an unprecedented domestic cultural exchange. This government-led programme bridges the North and South by bringing the cultures of Tamil Nadu and Kashi together. Its most impactful aspect has been the 'Learn Tamil - Tamil Karakalam' campaign, run in over 50 schools in Varanasi.

The 'Tamil Karakalam' initiative was a central educational component of the Fourth Edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 4.0), held from December 2025, in Varanasi. This





edition placed Tamil language learning at the centre of its vision, carrying forward the belief that all Indian languages belong to a shared Bharatiya Bhasha family. The theme conveys a simple but powerful message: **Linguistic Diversity strengthens Cultural Unity.**

It was organised broadly under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' mission. The primary objective of this initiative was to teach the Tamil language to school students in Varanasi. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with educational institutions and language experts from Tamil Nadu, who traveled to Varanasi to conduct

the classes. The curriculum was designed to provide basic conversational skills and cultural familiarity.

This profound impact is best captured in the voices of the young learners themselves. In video testimonials, students from Varanasi like Pawan Singh and





Shidan Srivastava from Uday Pratap Inter College express their joy in learning Tamil under teacher Sandhya Rani as part of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, thanking the Prime Minister for the opportunity. Another student, Priyanshu Verma, highlights how the initiative, mentioned in 'Mann ki Baat', made the language accessible. A heartfelt

'Vanakkam' from Rashi of St. Mary's School punctuates these sentiments, showcasing the genuine happiness and pride the programme has instilled in Hindi-speaking children, turning policy into personal triumph.

The synergy between these two endeavors is profound. In Fiji, the work is about conservation—maintaining a cultural identity



in a foreign land. In Kashi, it is about integration—building new bridges of understanding within India's own diverse society. Both approaches move beyond textbook learning to create emotional and celebratory connections with the language. They transform Tamil from an academic subject into a living experience of shared heritage.

The outcomes are significant. Firstly, it strengthens global Indian identity, giving the diaspora a tangible link to their ancestry. Secondly, it reinforces national unity by fostering

mutual respect and curiosity between different linguistic communities within India. When a child in Varanasi learns Tamil, it breaks down regional barriers and cultivates a genuine appreciation for a sister culture. As the Prime Minister rightly noted, this renewed interest is *“the power of the language, this is the unity of India”*. Finally, it empowers the youth by giving them access to the vast literary and philosophical wealth of one of the world's oldest classical languages.

“We really enjoyed learning the Tamil language as part of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam programme...We would like to thank the Prime Minister for this opportunity.”

—Pawan Singh, Class 9, Uday Pratap Inter College, Varanasi



"We received excellent education here as part of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam programme. We really enjoyed learning the Tamil language, which helped us gain a lot of knowledge. Ms. Sandhya Rani came to teach us Tamil, and she taught us very well."

-Shidan Srivastav, Class 8, Uday Pratap Inter College



"I really enjoyed learning this language. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for providing this opportunity for every child to learn Tamil. The Prime Minister also mentioned this initiative in the 'Mann ki Baat' programme, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to him."

-Priyanshu Verma, Class 9, Uday Pratap Inter College



"Vanakkam! My name is Rashi from Class 8B from the school St. Mary Kent. I feel very happy to speak about the Tamil classes that were provided to us by the government at Tamil Sangamam 4.0 in Varanasi"

-Rashi, Class 8, St. Mary Kent



# Parbati Giri

Odisha's Unsung Hero of India's Freedom Struggle

“One such freedom fighter is Parbati Giri ji of Odisha. Her birth centenary will be celebrated in January 2026. She participated in the ‘Quit India Movement’ at the age of 16. Friends, after the independence movement, Parbati Giri ji dedicated her life to social service and tribal welfare. She established several orphanages. Her inspiring life will continue to guide every generation.”

“मूँ पार्वती गिरि जिंकु श्रद्धांजलि अर्पण करुछी।”

“I pay my tribute to Parbati Giri.”

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



- Parbati Giri (January 19, 1926 - August 17, 1995) is regarded as the 'Mother Teresa of Western Odisha' because of her selfless services to mankind.
- She used to accompany her uncle, Ramachandra Giri to the meetings of Congress leaders who were planning strategies against British rule. She dropped out of school at the age of 11 to join them.
- In 1938, she left home to completely dedicate her life to the freedom struggle and social works.
- In 1940, she travelled from village to village and inspired people to join Gandhi ji's Khadi Movement. She herself learnt the art of weaving and handicrafts.
- She was jailed for two years because she sat on Bargarh's SDO's chair behaving like a judge and ordered the boys with her to tie the SDO with ropes like a culprit.
- She once went to Bargarh court ordering lawyers to vacate the court and stop cooperating with the British in the matters of law.
- In 1984, she was awarded a prize by the Department of Social Welfare and had also earned an honorary Doctorate from the University of Sambalpur in 1988 for her contribution in the freedom struggle and to the society, including the time of 1951 famine in Odisha.



Antibiotics have transformed modern medicine. Yet, their power is rapidly diminishing due to their misuse and overuse, fueling the global crisis of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Resistant infections prolong hospital stays, inflate healthcare costs, and claim lives, threatening the gains made in combating infectious diseases.



**Dr. Rajiv Bahl**  
Director General  
Indian Council of Medical  
Research &  
Secretary, Department of  
Health Research

# ANTIBIOTICS

## WITH

## CAUTION

### A Call for Responsible Use of Antibiotics

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has reported alarmingly high levels of resistance to commonly used antibiotics in India. Many bacteria that cause common infections—such as *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Salmonella*, are no longer responding to first-line and even second-line antibiotics. Resistance is not only restricted to hospitals, but is also seen in community settings. The report highlights increasing resistance to 'last-resort' drugs, limited treatment options which may result in longer illnesses, higher costs, and increased risk of death.

Antibiotic use has been recognised as one of the key drivers of antibiotic resistance. Inappropriate use of antibiotics results in some bacteria surviving instead of being killed. These surviving bacteria adapt and become resistant. Over time, these resistant bacteria multiply and spread causing infections which are harder to treat. In effect, misuse of antibiotics 'trains' bacteria to defeat medicines that once killed them.

Inappropriate antibiotic use includes taking antibiotics for viral illnesses like colds, flu, or COVID-19, stopping antibiotics as soon as symptoms improve, saving leftover antibiotics for future use, sharing antibiotics with family members, using old prescriptions without medical advice and taking incorrect doses or at irregular timings. Each of these

practices increases the risk of resistance and treatment failure.

Not every illness requires antibiotics, hence our Honourable Prime Minister has given a call that "Medicines require guidance and Antibiotics require doctors". Doctors, based on symptoms, clinical examination, and sometimes laboratory tests, should decide whether an antibiotic is needed at all, which antibiotic would be appropriate, and how long it should be taken. Taking antibiotics without prescription can be ineffective, harmful, and dangerous—masking serious illness, causing side effects, and promoting resistance that affects everyone. Resistant bacteria spread among people, through food, water, hospitals, and the environment. This means that one person's



misuse of antibiotics can lead to community-wide resistance. It increases healthcare costs, overwhelms hospitals, reduces workforce productivity, and threatens national health security. Antibiotic resistance is therefore not just a personal problem- rather a societal threat.

If antibiotic resistance continues to rise, common infections may become



untreatable, routine surgeries, childbirth and cancer therapy, and organ transplants will become high-risk. This will result in hospital stays becoming longer and more expensive and may result in an increasing number of deaths from simple infections. We risk returning to a time when minor infections could again become fatal.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is leading India's AMR research agenda through a comprehensive set



of initiatives that combine surveillance, development of new diagnostics tests to detect bacterial infections and antimicrobial resistance, implementation research to promote rational use of antibiotics and developing new strategies to address AMR. Its flagship Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (AMRSN) generates nationally representative data on resistance patterns across priority pathogens, while digital platforms strengthen standardised data collection and reporting. This data is used to guide treatment strategies. The network also undertakes advanced research on resistance mechanisms, diagnostics, and new drug development. ICMR





has also initiated research on hospital-based antimicrobial stewardship programmes, developed evidence-based treatment guidelines, and supported implementation research to improve antibiotic use and infection control. Through targeted funding, multicentric studies, and national and international collaborations, ICMR is ensuring that AMR research in India is closely aligned with public health needs and directly informs national policies and action plans.

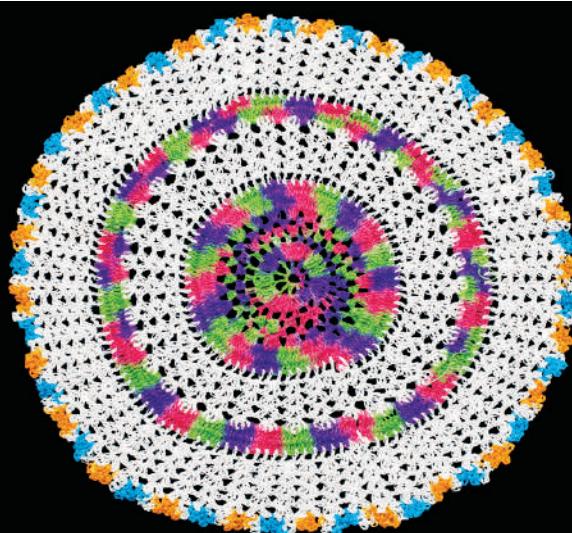
All citizens can contribute to containment of antibiotic resistance by following some basic rules like, taking antibiotics only when prescribed by a qualified doctor, completing the full prescribed course and never



sharing or reusing antibiotics. Patients should also refrain from pressurising Doctors to prescribe antibiotics. By practicing good hygiene (handwashing, food-safety) and getting vaccinated to prevent infections, one can reduce the chances of situations requiring antibiotics. Small, responsible actions by individuals can collectively protect antibiotics for future generations.

# Tradition to Transformation

How India's Arts and Skills Empower Communities



India's traditional arts and cultural practices are not only symbols of identity and heritage, they are also powerful instruments of economic empowerment. In the recent episode of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted three such inspiring efforts - the Narasapuram Lace Craft of Andhra Pradesh, the transformation of bamboo and wood handicrafts into sustainable enterprises and Floriculture initiatives in Manipur. Together, these stories show how tradition, when aligned with innovation, market access, and Government's support, becomes a powerful vehicle for inclusive economic growth.

## **GI Tag Recognition to Narasapuram Lace**

Narasapuram Lace, also known as 'Narasapur Crochet Lace', is a traditional hand-made crochet lace craft from Narasapur in the West Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh, with a heritage of over 150 years. The craft, predominantly practiced by women artisans from local farming communities, involves using fine cotton, sometimes silk or synthetic

threads, and delicate crochet needles to create intricate floral, geometric, and paisley motifs, which are then made into doilies, bedspreads, cushion covers, and table runners etc. Its rich legacy endured historical hardships and has grown into a globally recognised cottage industry with significant exports to countries like the USA, UK, and France.

For Narasapuram Lace, the GI Tag has been transformative. The Geographical Indication (GI) Tag legally links a product

to its place of origin, protecting its uniqueness and reputation. After receiving the GI certificate in 2024, artisans have benefited in multiple ways viz., authenticity and protection against imitation, better pricing due to brand value, and access to new domestic and international markets.

#### **Handicrafts of Manipur: From Remote Villages to National Markets**

In Manipur, traditional handicrafts made from bamboo and wood have long been part of everyday life - used for





storage, farming, rituals, and architecture. Artisans create baskets, trays, hats, furniture, decorative items, and utility products, blending functionality with indigenous design.

Entrepreneurs like Margaret Ramtharsiem have shown how these crafts can empower communities economically. By organising artisans, introducing new designs inspired by global exposure, and taking responsibility for marketing, her work has significantly increased artisans' incomes and restored dignity to traditional skills.

Hailing from Parbung, a deep village in Pherzawl district, at the heart of her enterprise is livelihood creation. "Earlier, some artisans earned barely ₹2,500–₹3,000 a month. After working with us, many now earn ₹20,000–₹30,000 regularly. Handicraft is very good for earning money, it gives dignity,"

she says. To bring more youth into the fold, she offers free training several times a year. "After training, whatever they make, we buy it. They don't need to worry about marketing. We take care of that."

#### **Floriculture in Manipur: Tradition Meets Market**

In Manipur, Chokhone Krichena has redefined agriculture by blending traditional farming wisdom with modern floriculture. Coming from a family deeply rooted in traditional farming, she reflects, "I saw both its strength and its limitations. While conventional agriculture is labour-intensive and often gives modest returns, floriculture offers better economic opportunities for our region. Growing flowers has always been my passion, and expanding into floriculture allowed me to honour our farming legacy while creating a



more sustainable and rewarding livelihood for farmers."

Her traditional understanding of soil, seasons, climate, and crop care became the foundation for innovation. "This wisdom helped me make informed choices while adopting modern practices. By blending traditional know-how with innovation and market-driven approaches, I was able to improve productivity, reduce risks, and gradually scale the work in a sustainable way," she explains.

Floriculture, she says, has brought tangible change to the community. "It has created new and sustainable income opportunities by offering higher and quicker returns compared to traditional crops. It has generated year-round livelihoods and empowered farmers, especially women and youth, by turning flower cultivation into a viable enterprise rather than

subsistence farming." By sourcing locally grown flower varieties and connecting farmers directly to better markets, her initiative has increased incomes, and generated local employment in Senapati district.

Together, these stories from Andhra Pradesh and Manipur reflect a larger national movement where India's traditional arts and skills are being reimagined as engines of economic progress. Whether through the GI-tagged legacy of Narasapuram lace, the revival of bamboo and wood handicrafts in Manipur's remote villages, or the transformation of farming through floriculture, each initiative shows how heritage skills, when supported by innovation, entrepreneurship, and policy backing, can create dignified livelihoods and inclusive growth.



# Rann Utsav

Celebration of India's Vibrant Culture



Just imagine—a vast stretch of white land meeting the blue sky as far as the eye can see. A place where even silence has its own music, and where barren land bursts into a vibrant festival of colours. This is not a dream, but the Rann Utsav of Kutch in Gujarat. It is not merely a festival; it is an extraordinary confluence of nature, culture, and the beauty of humanity.

Every year in winter, the desert of Kutch takes on a distinct and captivating form. Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly said in his 'Mann ki Baat' that the most special thing about our country is that a festive spirit prevails here throughout the year. In this very tradition, the Rann Utsav serves as a splendid platform for presenting India's diversity to the world.

## **A Miracle of Nature: The White Rann**

Witnessing the Rann of Kutch is nothing short of a magical experience. In the light of day, this salt-covered desert sparkles like

a diamond under the sun's rays. But the true magic unfolds at night. As the Prime Minister has said, "At night, when moonlight spreads over the White Rann, the sight is mesmerising in itself."

On a full moon night, the view here feels as if the earth has draped itself in a white sheet. It creates a sense of calm and serenity that is difficult to put into words. Being here, one forgets the complexities of everyday life and becomes immersed in the beauty of nature.

### **A Confluence of Culture and Craftsmanship**

The Rann Utsav is not limited to natural beauty alone; it also serves as a remarkable reflection of Kutch's rich heritage. On this barren land, the local people breathe life into the surroundings with their vibrant

colours. The festival provides a major platform for local artists and artisans. When tourists visit and shop in the local markets, they not only find unique and exquisite products, but also help strengthen the livelihoods of local craftsmen. This is one of the finest examples of 'Vocal for Local'.

As the sun sets, the place comes alive with gatherings of folk music and dance. The voices of the folk artists and the melodies of their instruments touch the heart directly. The hospitality here is such that you will feel like you are not a tourist, but a part of the family.

### **Connecting People**

The Rann Utsav is not just a place to visit; it works as a bridge that connects people's hearts. As the Honourable Prime



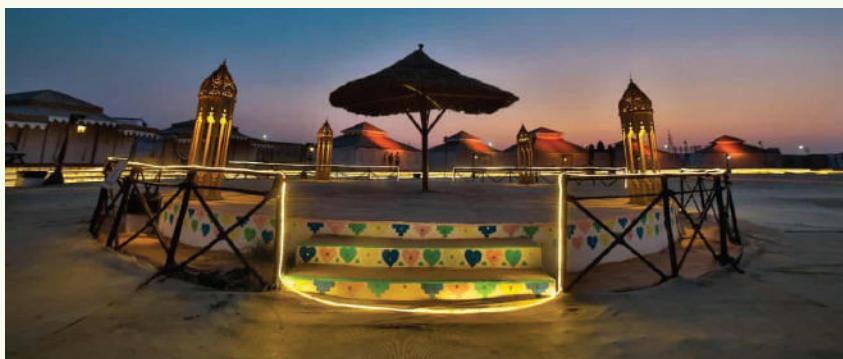


Minister mentioned, "In the past one month alone, more than 200,000 people have already been part of the Rann Utsav." People come here from every corner of the country and the world.

The specially created 'Tent City' here is a unique attraction in itself. Thousands of people live together, trying to understand each other's cultures and forging new connections. When Kashmiri, Bengali, and South

Indian visitors come together to watch Gujarati Garba and Dandiya, the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat (One India, Best India)' becomes even clearer and more beautiful.

The Rann Utsav weaves the finest elements of Kutch into a single thread. Here, you can experience traditional mud 'bhunga' houses, exquisite handicrafts, and savour the flavours of local cuisine. The adventure activities, cultural





performances, and light-and-sound shows make it a special destination for families. Visitors can also explore, besides Dhordo, nearby renowned places such as Dholavira, the Road to Heaven, Lakhpat, Mata no Madh, Narayan Sarovar, Kalo Dungar, Smritivan, and Mandvi, all of which are rich in history and natural beauty.

This year, the festival began on November 23, will continue until February 20,

2026. As the Prime Minister has urged, "Whenever you get an opportunity, do take part in such festivals and enjoy the diversity of India." If you seek moments of tranquility away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, the Rann Utsav offers an unparalleled experience. More than a journey, it is a celebration of culture, nature, and serenity—one that will leave an everlasting impression on your memory..

# भारत की बाल शक्ति @2047

# मीट हॉल दिवस

26 नवंबर 2025





# MANAKI BAAT

Media Scan

# CALL FOR ACTION!

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129<sup>th</sup> Edition

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This winter season  
is very suitable  
for exercise... do  
exercise.

Over Two lakh people  
have participated  
in the Rannotsav  
in the past month...  
Whenever you get  
the opportunity, be  
sure to participate  
in such festivals  
and enjoy India's  
diversity.

I urge all of you to  
refrain from using  
medicines at your  
own discretion.

Over 13 lakh  
students and over  
6,000 institutes  
have participated  
in the 'Smart India  
Hackathon' in the  
last 7 to 8 years...  
I urge my young  
friends to certainly  
be a part of these  
Hackathons.



Jagat Prakash Nadda  @JPNadda

 Show translation

ICMR यांत्री Indian Council of Medical Research ने हात ही में एक report जारी की है। इसमें बताया गया है कि नियोनेटिंग और पीटी जैसी कई बीमारियों के विशेष antibiotic दवाएं क्रमसंरच सवित हो रही हैं। हम यसी के लिए यह बहुत ही चिंताजनक है।

ICMR Report के मुत्तोंक द्वासपा प्रक बढ़ा करण तोगों द्वारा दिना शेन-समां एंटीबायोटिक दवाओं को सेवन है।

Antibiotic ऐसी दवाएं नहीं हैं, जिन्हें यूही ते लिया जाए। इनका इस्तेमाल Doctor की सहाय से ही करना चाहिए।

- आदरश प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी



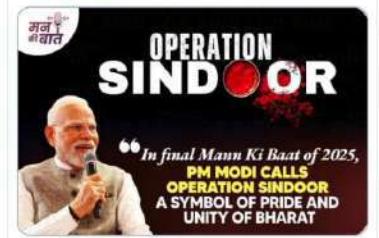
Office of Kiren Rijiju  @RijijuOffice

In final Mann Ki Baat of 2025, PM Modi calls Operation Sindoor a symbol of pride and unity of Bharat  
[ogjanis.org/2025/12/26/332...](http://ogjanis.org/2025/12/26/332...)

via NaMo App

In final Mann Ki Baat of 2025, PM Modi calls Operation Sindoor a symbol of pride and...

ORGANISER DEC 29, 2025



Dr Mansukh Mandaviya  @mansukhmandaviya

 Show translation

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue में प्रधानमंत्री श्री @NarendraModi जी के समाज युग्म रखने की नियन्त्रण के अपने ideas...

#MannKiBaat



Dr. S. Jaishankar  @DrJaishankar

 Show translation

In today's year ending #MannKiBaat, PM @narendramodi underlined:

➡ #OperationSindoor reaffirmed 's zero-tolerance towards terrorism stance to the world.

➡ Kannada Patashala in Dubai  keeping Kannada language and culture alive among young expats.

➡ Identification of around 2000 years old Buddhist cultural past of Zehanpora region in Kashmir's Baramulla district, using archives from a French  museum.

➡ Tamil Day celebration in Rakhi-Rakhi region of Fiji , connecting the young diaspora with their culture.

Do listen: [youtube.com/watch?v=x064\\_6...](https://youtube.com/watch?v=x064_6...)



**Kannada Patashala** is an initiative where children are taught to teach, learn, write, and speak Kannada.

Today, more than a 1000 children are associated with it.  culture on stage in  on Tamil Day.

Continuous work is also being done within the country to promote the Tamil language.



Bhajanlal Sharma  @BhajanlalBp

 Show translation

मन की बात में आदरश प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी की अपील - एंटीबायोटिक दवाएं सिर्फ डॉक्टर की मताह पर ही ले।

#MannKiBaat













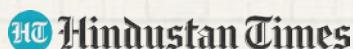
राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, एकता और आत्मविश्वास से भरा 2025... PM मोदी ने 'मन की बात' में गिनाई देश की उपलब्धियां



"اپریشن سنڈور ملک کا فخر بن گیا، من کی بات پروگرام میں سال 2025 کی 'کامیابیوں' کا تذکرہ"



**Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi Highlights India's Global Impact Through Youth, Science, & Innovation**



Modi flags antibiotic misuse in Mann Ki Baat, doctors welcome message, warn of growing resistance



एंटी बायोटिक दवाइयां पड़ रही कमज़ोर; मन की बात कार्यक्रम में पीएम मोदी ने जताई चिंता



**'Mann Ki Baat' Reveals How Blurred Photos in French Museum Brought Forgotten Buddhist Ruins in Jammu and Kashmir Village to Life**

डॉक्टरांच्या सल्ल्याशिवाय 'अंटीबायोटिक्स' घेऊ नका, पंतप्रधानांनी 'मन की बात'मध्ये केले कळकळीचे आवाहन



भारत ने साइंस और स्पेस के क्षेत्र में बड़ी छलांग लगाई...मन की बात में पीएम मोदी



**Manipur Solar Entrepreneur Moirangthem Seth Praised By PM Modi On Mann Ki Baat**



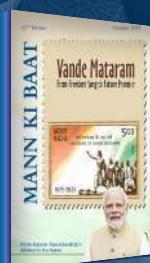
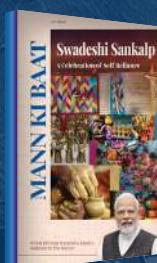
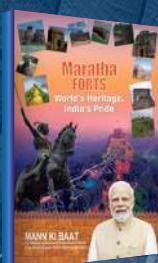
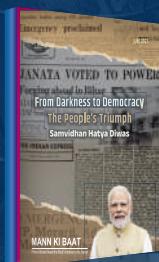
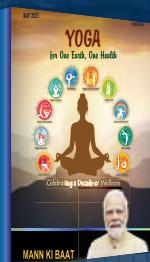
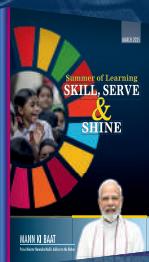
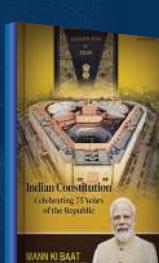
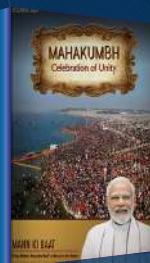
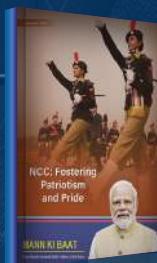
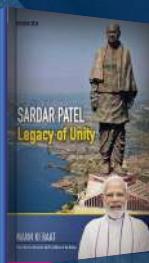
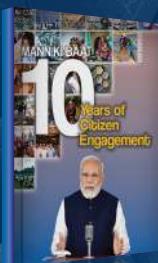
**Mann Ki Baat: World looking at India with great hope due to 'youth power', says PM Modi**



**PM pays tribute to Odisha's Parbati Giri, freedom fighter and social reformer in Mann ki Baat**



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“ 2025 gave us many moments that made every Indian proud. From national security to the sports field, from science laboratories to the world's biggest platforms, India left a strong mark everywhere.

— Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India