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03 Media Scan
My dear countrymen, Namaskar

I have received many letters from all of you for ‘Mann ki Baat’; I have also received many messages on social media and NaMo App. I am very thankful to you for that. In this program, it is our endeavour to discuss each other’s inspiring efforts; to tell the story of change through mass movement to the entire country. In this episode, I want to discuss with you today one such mass movement of the country, that holds great importance in the life of every citizen of the country. **But, before that, I want to ask a question to the youth of today’s generation, to the youth in the age group of 24-25 years, and the question is very serious… do ponder over my question. Did you know that when your parents were your age, once, even their Right to Life was snatched away from them? You must be thinking how this could have happened? This is just impossible! But my young friends, this had happened once in our country. This took place years ago in 1975. It was the month of June when Emergency was imposed. In that, all the rights were taken away from the citizens of the country. One amongst those rights was the ‘Right to Life and Personal Liberty’, provided to all Indians under Article 21 of the Constitution. At that time, an attempt was made to crush the democracy of India.
country’s courts, every constitutional institution, the press, were put under control. The condition of censorship was such that nothing could be printed without approval. I remember, when the famous singer Kishore Kumar refused to applaud the Government, he was banned. His entry on the radio was done away with. But even after many attempts, thousands of arrests and atrocities on lakhs of people, the faith of the people of India in democracy did not shake... not at all! For us, the people of India, the sanskars of democracy which we have been carrying on for centuries; the democratic spirit which is in our veins, finally won. The people of India got rid of the Emergency and re-established democracy in a democratic way. It is difficult to find such an example of defeating a dictatorial mindset, a dictatorial tendency in a democratic way, in the whole world. During the Emergency, I had the good fortune to have been a witness; to be a partner in the struggle of the countrymen – as a soldier of democracy. Today, when our India is touching the sky of success in so many fields, how can the skies, or space, remain untouched by it! In the past few years, many big feats related to the space sector have been accomplished in our country. One of these achievements of the country has been the creation of an agency named IN-SPACE... an agency that is promoting new opportunities in the space sector for the private sector of India. This beginning has especially attracted the youth of our country. I have received messages related to this from many young people. A few days ago, when I went to the dedication ceremony of the headquarters of IN-SPACE, I saw the ideas and enthusiasm of many young start-ups. I also talked to them for a long time. You too will not be able to help being surprised when you learn about them. For example, take just the number and speed of Space start-ups. Till a few years ago, in our country, in the space sector, no one even thought about start-ups. Today, their number is more than a hundred. All these start-ups are working synonymous with making dreams come true. Today, when our India is touching the sky of success in so many fields, how can the skies, or space, remain untouched by it! In the past few years, many big feats related to the space sector have been accomplished in our country. One of these achievements of the country has been the creation of an agency named IN-SPACE... an agency that is promoting new opportunities in the space sector for the private sector of India. This beginning has especially attracted the youth of our country. I have received messages related to this from many young people. A few days ago, when I went to the dedication ceremony of the headquarters of IN-SPACE, I saw the ideas and enthusiasm of many young start-ups. I also talked to them for a long time. You too will not be able to help being surprised when you learn about them. For example, take just the number and speed of Space start-ups. Till a few years ago, in our country, in the space sector, no one even thought about start-ups. Today, their number is more than a hundred. All these start-ups are working...
on ideas, which were either not thought about earlier, or were considered impossible for the private sector. For example, Chennai and Hyderabad have two start-ups – Agnikul and Skyroot! These start-ups are developing launch vehicles that will take small payloads into space. Through this, the cost of space launching is estimated to come down significantly. Similarly, Dhruka Space, another start-up of Hyderabad, is working on High Technology Solar Panels for Satellite Deployer and Satellites. I also met Tanveer Ahmed of Digantara, who is trying to map waste in space. I have also given him a challenge that they should evolve work technology, which can solve the problem of waste in space. Both Digantara and Dhruka Space are going to make their first launch from ISRO’s launch vehicle on the 30th of June. Similarly, Neha, the founder of Astrome, a space start-up based in Bangalore, is also working on an amazing idea. This start-up is making such flat antennas which will not only be small, but their cost will also be very low. Demand for this technology can be all over the world.

Friends, in the program of IN-SPACEe, I also met beti Tanvi Patel, a school student of Mehsana. She is working on a very small satellite, which is going to be launched in space in the next few months. Tanvi recounted to me about her work in simple Gujarati. Like Tanvi, about seven hundred and fifty school students in the country are working on 75 such satellites in the Amrit Mahotsav, and it is also a matter of joy that most of these students are from small towns of the country.

Friends, these are the same youth, in whose mind the image of the space sector was like a secret mission a few years ago, but the country undertook space reforms, and the same youth are now launching their own satellites. When the youth of the country is ready to touch the sky, how can our country be left behind?

My dear countrymen, in ‘Mann ki Baat’, let’s now talk about a topic that will delight your mind and inspire you as well. Recently, our Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was again in the headlines. Even after the Olympics, he is setting new records one after the other. Neeraj won the silver at Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland. Not only that, he also broke the record of his own javelin throw. Neeraj once again made the country proud by winning the gold in Kuortane Games. He won this gold in conditions when the weather was also inclement. This zest is the hallmark of today's youth. From start-ups to the sports world, the youth of India are making new records. In the recently held Khelo India Youth Games too, our players set many records. You would love to know that a total of 12 records have been broken in these games, not only that, 11 records have been registered in the names of female players. M. Martina Devi of Manipur has made eight records in weightlifting.

Similarly, Sanjana, Sonakshi and Bhavna have also made different records. With their hard work, these players have proven how much India's prestige is going to rise in international sports arena in the coming times. I also congratulate all these players and wish them all the best for the future.

Friends, there has been another special feature of Khelo India Youth Games. This time too, many such talents have emerged who are from very ordinary families. These
Friends, there is going to be an international tournament of a game which was born centuries ago in our own country... in India. This is the event of Chess Olympiad beginning from the 28th July. This time, more than 180 countries are participating in the Chess Olympiad. Today's discussion of sports and fitness cannot be complete without another name – this is the name of Telangana's mountaineer Poorna Malavath. By completing the Seven Summits Challenge, Poorna has added another feather in her cap of success. The Seven Summits Challenge is the challenge of surmounting seven most difficult and highest mountain peaks. With her indomitable spirit, Poorna ascended the highest peak of North America Mount Denali and brought honour to the country. Poorna is the same daughter of India who had accomplished the amazing feat of conquering Mount Everest at the age of just 13.

Friends, when it comes to sports, today I would also like to discuss Mithali Raj, one of the most talented cricketers in India. Just this month, she has announced her retirement from cricket which has emotionally moved many sports lovers. Mithali has not only been an extraordinary player, but has

Father of Adil Altaf from Srinagar, who won the gold in 70-km cycling, does tailoring work, but, has left no stone unturned to fulfill his son's dreams. Today, Adil has brought pride to his father and the entire Jammu & Kashmir. Gold winner L. Dhanush's father is a carpenter in Chennai. Sangli's daughter Kajol Sargar's father works as a tea vendor. Kajol would help her father and practice weightlifting as well. This hard work of hers and her family paid off and Kajol has won a lot of accolades in weightlifting. Tanu of Rohtak has performed a similar kind of miracle. Tanu's father Rajbir Singh is a school bus driver in Rohtak. By winning the gold medal in wrestling, Tanu has realized her own, her family's and her father's dream.

In the sports world, now, the dominance of Indian players is increasing; at the same time, a new image of Indian sports is also emerging. For example, in Khelo India Youth Games, besides disciplines that are in Olympics, five indigenous sports were also included this time. These five sports are – Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasan, Kalaripayattu and Mallakhamb.
people come to see the beaches and marine beauty there. But the pollution caused by plastic was also increasing on the sea coast of Puducherry, therefore, to save its sea, beaches and ecology, people here have started the ‘Recycling for Life’ campaign. Today, thousands of kilograms of garbage is collected and segregated every day in Karaikal, Puducherry. The organic waste from that is made into compost; the rest of the matter is separated and recycled. Such efforts are not only inspiring, but also lend momentum to India’s campaign against single-use plastic.

Friends, at this time when I am talking to you, a unique cycling rally is also going on in Himachal Pradesh. I want to tell you about this too. A group of cyclists have started from Shimla to Mandi, carrying the message of cleanliness. These people will complete this distance of about one hundred and seventy five kilometers on mountain roads, only by cycling. There are children as well as the elderly in this group. If our environment is clean, our mountains and rivers, our seas remain clean; our health also gets better. You must keep writing to me about such efforts.

My dear countymen, monsoon is continuously progressing in our country. Rain is increasing in many states. This is also the time to make special efforts in the direction of ‘water’ and ‘water conservation’. In our country, for centuries, this responsibility has been taken by the society together. You will remember, in ‘Mann ki Baat’, we once discussed the legacy of stepwells. The Baolis are those big wells which are reached by descending stairs. In Udaipur, Rajasthan, there is one such stepwell which is hundreds of years old – ‘Sultan Ki Baoli’. It was built by Rao Sultan Singh, but due to neglect, gradually this place has become deserted and has turned into a pile of garbage. One day, some youths roaming around reached this stepwell and were very sad and}

also been an inspiration to many players. I wish Mithali all the very best for her future.

My dear countymen, in ‘Mann ki Baat’, we have been discussing the successful efforts related to ‘waste to wealth’. One such example is that of Aizwal, the capital of Mizoram. There is a beautiful river ‘Chite Lui’ in Aizwal, which due to neglect for years, had turned into a heap of dirt and garbage. Efforts have started in the last few years to save this river. For this, local agencies, voluntary organizations and local people, together, are also running the Save Chite Lui Action Plan. This campaign of cleaning the river has also made an opportunity for wealth creation from waste. Actually, this river and its banks were full of plastic and polythene waste. The organization working to save the river decided to build a road using this polythene, that is, the waste that came out of the river. From that, in a village in Mizoram, the state’s first plastic road was built... that is cleanliness and development as well.

Friends, one such effort has also been undertaken by the youth of Puducherry through their voluntary organizations. Puducherry is situated along the sea coast. A large number of
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Water conservation is actually life conservation. You must have seen, nowadays, how many ‘river festivals’ are being held! Whatever water sources are there in your cities, you must organize some event or the other there.

My dear countrymen, our Upanishads mention about a life mantra – ‘Charaiveti-Charaiveti-Charaiveti’—you must have heard this mantra too. It means – keep going, keep going. This mantra is so popular in our country because it is part of our nature to keep moving, to be dynamic. As a nation, we have come this far through a journey of development spanning thousands of years. As a society, we have always moved ahead by accepting new ideas, new changes. Our cultural mobility and travels have contributed a lot in this. That is why our sages and saints had entrusted us with spiritual responsibilities like pilgrimage. All of us go on varied pilgrimages. You must have seen that this time a large number of devotees participated in the Char Dham Yatra. In our country, from time to time, different Dev-yatras also take place. Dev-yatras... that is, in which not only the devotees but also our Gods go on a journey. In just a few days from now, on the 1st of July, the famous journey of Lord Jagannath is going to commence. All of us are familiar with the Puri Yatra in Odisha. People make efforts to ensure that on this occasion they get the good fortune of going to Puri. In other states too, Jagannath Yatras are taken out with great gaiety and fervour. Lord Jagannath Yatra begins on Dwitiya, the second day of the month of Ashadha. In our texts, Ashadhasya Dwitiya Diwase... Rath Yatra, this is how the description is found in Sanskrit shlokas. In Ahmedabad, Gujarat too, every year, Rath Yatra begins from Ashadha Dwitiya. I was in Gujarat, so I also used to get the privilege of serving in this Yatra every year. Ashadha Dwitiya, also known as Ashadhi Beej, marks the beginning of the new year of Kutch on this day. I also wish Happy New Year to all my Kutchi brothers and sisters. For me, this day is also very special – I remember, a day before Ashadha Dwitiya, that is, on the first Tithi of Ashadha, we started a Sanskrit festival in Gujarat, which comprises songs, music and cultural programs in Sanskrit language. The name of this event is – ‘Ashadhasya to see its condition. At that very moment, these youths resolved to change the picture and destiny of Sultan Ki Baoli. They named this mission of theirs – ‘Sultan se Sur Tan’. You must be wondering, what is this Sur Tan! In fact, with their efforts, these youths have not only rejuvenated the stepwell, but have also linked it to the notes and melody of the music. After cleaning the Sultan’s stepwell, after decorating it, now program of harmony and music is also held there. There is so much talk of this change, that many people from abroad have started coming to see it. The most important thing about this successful effort is that the youth who started the campaign are chartered accountants. Coincidentally, a few days from now, 1st July is observed as Chartered Accountants day. I congratulate all the CAs of the country in advance. We can create a similar sense of awareness about our water bodies by connecting them with music and other social programs.
Friends, be it Ahmedabad or Puri, Lord Jagannath also gives us several messages of humanity through this journey. Lord Jagannath is the lord of the world, but the poor and downtrodden have a special participation in his journey. God also walks along with every section and person of the society. Similarly, in all the journeys that take place in our country, there is no such distinction between poor and rich, high and low. Rising above all discrimination, the journey itself is paramount. As you must have heard about the Yatra of Pandharpur in Maharashtra, one is neither big nor small. Everyone is a Varkari, a servant of Lord Vitthal. Just four days later, the Amarnath Yatra is also going to start from the 30th of June. Devotees from all over the country reach Jammu & Kashmir for the Amarnath Yatra. The local people of Jammu & Kashmir take the responsibility of this Yatra with equal reverence, and cooperate with the pilgrims.

Friends, the Sabarimala Yatra has the same importance in the South. This pilgrimage to seek Darshan of Lord Ayyappa on the hills of Sabarimala has been going on from the times when this path was completely surrounded by forests. Even today, when people go on these yatras, how many opportunities are created for the poor... from religious rituals to lodging arrangements... that is, these yatras directly give us an opportunity to serve the poor and are equally beneficial to them. That is why, the country too is now making many efforts to increase the facilities for the devotees in their spiritual journeys. If you too go on such a journey, you will also have a glance of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat along with spirituality.

My dear countrymen, as always, this time also it was a very pleasant experience to connect with all of you through ‘Mann ki Baat’. We discussed the successes and achievements of the countrymen. In the midst of all this, we also have to take precautions against Corona. However, it is a matter of satisfaction that today the country has a comprehensive protective shield of a vaccine. We have reached close to 200 crore vaccine doses. Precaution dose is also being rapidly administered in the country. If it is time for a precaution dose after your second dose, then you must take this third dose. Make your family members, especially the elderly, take a precautionary dose. We also have to take necessary precautions like hand-hygiene and masks. We also have to be alert of the diseases caused by the surrounding filth during the rainy season. All of you stay alert, stay healthy and keep moving forward with similar positive energy. We’ll meet again next month, until then, many many thanks. Namaskar!

Pratham Diwase’. There is also a reason behind giving this special name to the festival. Actually, the great Sanskrit poet Kalidas wrote the Meghdootam on the arrival of rain from the month of Ashadha. There is a verse in Meghdootam – Ashadhasya Pratham Diwase, Megham Ashlshta Sanum, that is, mountain peaks covered with clouds on the first day of Ashadha, this verse became the basis of this event.
MANN KI BAAT

Special Mentions by Prime Minister
INDIA’S SPACE ODYSSEY
ENTERING THE NEW ERA OF YOUTH-LED ACCESSIBLE SPACE

"Today, when our India is touching the sky of success in so many fields, how can the skies, or space, remain untouched by it! In the past few years, many big feats related to the space sector have been accomplished in our country. One of these has been the creation of IN-SPACe."

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

Today, 21st November, 1963 — India launches its first sounding rocket from Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This humble beginning from a village church ground was more than an initiative to probe the upper atmosphere; it marked the launch of the Indian Space Programme.

The Indian Space Programme, born in St. Mary Magdalene Church, has come a long way since then. And the agency which has made all this possible is the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the backbone of the Indian Space Programme.

From the launch of the first sounding rocket to the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) successfully entering the planet’s orbit 51 years later in 2014, India’s space journey has witnessed the grit and determination of thousands of scientists and technicians who believed in Dr. Vikram Sarabhai’s vision that “we must be second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society.”

Following Dr. Sarabhai’s vision, the Government of India constituted the Space Commission and established the Department of Space (DOS) in June 1972 with the primary responsibility of promoting the development of space science, technology, and application for self-reliance. While everything for the launch of the first sounding rocket including the rocket, payload, the radar, and the computer came from abroad, the MOM was a completely indigenous mission. This laid the foundation for an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

India’s space programme is not about winning the space race. Rather, the primary aim has always been facilitating the all-round development of the nation. India’s own regional navigation satellite system IRNSS, or the NaviC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), developed by ISRO, is being utilized in various application sectors such as vehicle tracking system, mobiles, timing and power synchronization, fisheries, surveying, etc.

ISRO is also gearing up for ‘Gaganyaan’— India’s first human spaceflight mission. Besides, ‘Chandrayaan-3’, ‘Shukrayaan’ (Venus Mission), Mission ‘Trishna’ (in collaboration with French Space Agency CNES) for accurate mapping of land surface temperature are also in the pipeline.

The Government has also recognized the importance of a vibrant ecosystem of startups in the space sector. The Prime Minister has always emphasized the need to promote private sector activity in all high technology areas including space, to fully unlock the potential of India’s youth and entrepreneurs. He believes that while every Indian citizen is able to reap the benefits of space technology, they should also be able to participate as stakeholders in the development of this sector.

The Prime Minister, in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, talked about the creation of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) to promote
I want to express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking my name in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address. My parents and my entire village are proud of me. We were trained by Space Kidz India on how to work on the board and we did that and had it sent to Delhi. 750 girls from 75 Government schools from Kanyakumari to Kashmir have worked on this kit, out of which our school in Gujarat was selected and called in for an event organized by Space Kidz India. To celebrate ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, this satellite has been named ‘Azadi-SAT’. The launch of Azadi-SAT in space will help in working on Internet tools. I already have a lot of interest in science and in the future, I want to study engineering and become a scientist.

To know more about the start-ups mentioned by the Prime Minister, scan the QR code.

“What can be more spectacular than the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India announcing the launch of Digantara’s space weather mission to the world (in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)! We would like to thank the Government for recognising our efforts.”

– Anirudh Sharma
CEO and co-founder,
Digantara

new opportunities in the space for the private entities in India. He said, “(Until) a few years ago, in our country, in the Space sector, no one even thought about start-ups. Today, their number is more than a hundred. All these start-ups are working on ideas, which were either not thought about earlier, or were considered impossible for the private sector.”

Over 55 start-ups have registered with ISRO, in just about two years since the Indian Space Department and the ISRO were opened to the private sector. IN-SPACE will not only result in an accelerated growth of the space sector but will also enable Indian Industry to be an important player in the global space economy. With this, large-scale employment opportunities will open up in the technology sector.

The space sector has shown a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurs and private businesses with aid from Government policies and reforms. India’s space economy presently is valued at around Rs. 40,000 crore and is sure to grow exponentially and become a leading contributor to India’s economic growth story. The Indian Space Programme is truly the flag bearer of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.
As per the international agreement, the Government is responsible for all the space activities being carried out by Government or private entities of a particular nation. Therefore, to regulate and authorize space activities by private entities, a national level single window system called IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre) is created with its Headquarters at Ahmedabad.

Another challenge in the space activities is the requirement of very high cost, huge infrastructure. In this aspect also, the Government had a way out, permitting private industries to utilize the Government-owned infrastructure built by ISRO as well as technologies. Also, to enable private industries to do the activities without any hurdle, very easy space policy is drafted and soon it will be approved by the Government. These are the excellent steps taken by the Government to ensure the private industries are doing the high risk, complex space business very easily and efficiently.

Based on the directions given by the Prime Minister as well as initiatives taken by IN-SPACe, start-ups and private industries started the space activities enthusiastically. From announcement by the Government of India in June 2021, till date, more than 100 industries/start-ups, have started operating. These start-ups are working on design development and realization of small satellite launch vehicles, spacecrafts/launch vehicle mechanism, handling space debris, etc.

This is a good sign. Also, it is heartening to note that the tasks taken by private industries/start-ups cover the entire gamut of space activities. The pace of innovative technological development by start-ups/industries is really exciting and gives enormous confidence.

Two such technologies developed by two start-ups were demonstrated recently in the PSLV-C53 launch which happened on 30th June 2022.

The innovative development of high-end space technologies are taken up on fast track. With this rate, I am sure, very soon, young team, especially start-ups will have private launch vehicle, which will launch private satellites and provide space-based services globally.

Therefore, the space sector reform, in the very near future, not only will provide high-end, accurate space-based services at low cost to the nation, but the services by private industries will also capture the global space markets, thereby bringing huge part of space economy to India. Because of huge space activities being spread across India due to space sector reform, the job opportunities are also expected to increase exponentially.
Indian Space Programme

Key Milestones

Nov 21, 1963: The first sounding rocket launched from TERLS.

April 19, 1975: Aryabhata, the first Indian satellite launched.

Aug 10, 1979: First experimental launch of SLV-3. SLV-3 is the first launch vehicle of India.

June 19, 1981: APPLE, an experimental geo-stationary communication satellite launched.

March 17, 1988: The first operational Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-1A launched.

July 23, 1993: INSAT-2B, the first indigenous communication satellite, launched.

Oct 15, 1994: First successful launch of PSLV.

Sept 20, 2004: First successful operational flight of GSLV.

May 5, 2005: Cartosat-1, the first Indian Remote Sensing Satellite capable of providing in-orbit stereo images.

Nov 8, 2008: India becomes the 5th nation in the world to put a spacecraft around the Moon with Chandrayaan-1.

July 1, 2013: PSLV-C22 launches India’s first dedicated navigation satellite IRNSS-1A.


Jan 5, 2014: In its first successful flight with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage, GSLV-D5 successfully places GSAT-14 into GTO.

Feb 15, 2017: Successful launch of 104 satellites, the highest number of satellites launched in a single flight.

June 22, 2019: India’s 2nd mission to the moon, Chandrayaan-2 launched. It had a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander and Rover.

June 10, 2022: Prime Minister inaugurates Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE).
The Prime Minister, through ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, gives a lot of encouragement to people. The way he talks to the common citizens (through this programme) has a very deep impact. What he talked about IN-SPACe and start-ups has greatly encouraged our team and start-ups. The start-ups that the Prime Minister mentioned are on cloud nine because they never imagined that the Prime Minister would take their name in front of the whole country. Mehsana’s Tanvi, mentioned in the programme, has become a hero in her school today; all the kids want to talk to her.

Information about space is very limited among common people and through ‘Mann ki Baat’ the Prime Minister told us how important space is in our life. He talked about how much more work can be done in this area, which may not have been done so far, and how the start-ups are working in this direction and how IN-SPACe is supporting such start-ups.

The Prime Minister himself is the brand ambassador of IN-SPACe. More than 80 applications have arrived and this number is increasing continuously. The mention of IN-SPACe in ‘Mann ki Baat’ is increasing the curiosity among more people and I believe we will be overloaded with applications in the coming days.

When the Prime Minister came to inaugurate IN-SPACe, he not only came here and saw the work of start-ups, but he also took an interest in what they are doing and what more they can do and how it will affect the country. These are small things, but the impact they have is very deep. The Prime Minister has taken upon himself the responsibility of spreading the word of space across the country and I think it is making a big difference.

IN-SPACe is for space, IN-SPACe is for pace, and IN-SPACe is for ace.
Digantara is on a mission to make space sustainable

Digantara, a space tech start-up, is developing a two-pronged system to address the difficulties of space operations and situational awareness with a mission to build a sustainable space to simplify operations for space stakeholders. Our Doordarshan team talked to the co-founders of the start-up Anirudh Sharma and Tanveer Ahmed.

“Digantara is an Indian space tech start-up developing solutions for space traffic management and space situational awareness. In simpler terms, we are building maps to/through space. We simplify the space operations, be it anyone in the space industry—launch companies, satellite operators. We provide data sets to them from the data that we get from our satellites,” Anirudh Sharma, co-founder and CEO of Digantara, said. Tanveer Ahmed, the co-founder and CTO, said, “We started Digantara in our college days with the aim of making space maps. That time, it was a student project but after graduating from college, we decided to give Digantara the shape of a company.” Digantara launched their first mission on 30th June, 2022 on PSLV-C53. It is the world’s first commercial mission to measure and map space weather.

Talking about their mention in ‘Mann ki Baat’, he said, “It is quite encouraging that we are getting support from the Government and ISRO. The Prime Minister was quite interested in the solutions that we are developing and he did give us a challenge about solving the issue of space debris removal.” To this Tanveer added, “In that direction, we have taken the first step by launching ROBI (ROBust Integrating proton fluence meter), a space weather instrument on PSLV-C53. We have been able to successfully communicate with the instrument and we are analysing the data that we are receiving.” ROBI is the world’s smallest digital space weather monitor.

Dhruva Space is working on the lines of ‘AtmaNirbhar Bharat’ initiative

Started in 2012, Dhruva Space is today leading the private industry-led space revolution in the country. Our Doordarshan team talked to the co-founders of the start-up.

“During ‘Mann ki Baat’, the Prime Minister spoke about Dhruva Space launching its first mission to space. It gives a great sense of encouragement for young entrepreneurs like us who are building cutting-edge technology in the country. When we started the company, we were a very small company trying to build technologies for the global market. It’s been a long journey of 10 years navigating through various hurdles,” Sanjay Nekkanti, CEO and co-founder of Dhruva Space said.

Nekkanti believes that the new programmes, especially the Start-up India initiative and IN-SPACe that has come into place for facilitating private space activities in the country, act as a catalyst for the entire private sector. “In the coming few years, we will see a lot more private companies launching several satellites into space. This is just the beginning and there are many more to come.”

Abhay Egoor, the CTO and co-founder, said, “It gives me immense pleasure that Dhruva Space has found its mention in the Prime Minister’s ‘Mann ki Baat’ programme. We built a DSOD, which is a satellite orbital deployer that will be integrated onto the fourth stage of a rocket and enable the rocket to launch multiple cubesats in a single go. What we have done in Dhruva Space is that we have completely indigenously built a system that (has been) integrated on the PSLV-C53 (launched on 30th June, 2022). With the support from all the entities involved, right from ISRO, IN-SPACe for the regulatory approval and the numerous MSMEs that have been the part of the Indian Space Programme, we are very thrilled and excited for this new step and milestone in our journey.”
Astrome: Making 5G and Rural Broadband Network Affordable

Astrome, a Bengaluru-based start-up, is pioneering the future of millimeter wave wireless communication – be it on earth or from space. They are working on building innovative and affordable products for terrestrial and satellite communication networks. Our Doordarshan team talked to the co-founder and CEO of Astrome, Neha Satak.

“When we started Astrome, my co-founder (Prasad H. L. Bhat) and I, the thinking was that we want to use technology to solve a problem which is going to affect the masses. Connectivity is one thing which affects all of us and with the pandemic, this has become even more pronounced. We started developing tech for space as well as for the 5G infra along the way,” Satak said.

“The tech we are building is very unique. It is the world’s first implementation of multi-beam e-band radio. This tech will help the telecom operators to reduce the cost of telecom infrastructure by about 50 per cent and will help them deploy 5G and rural broadband network faster. We have also patented this technology,” she added.

Astrome envisions bringing down the import bill of the country for telecom and 5G. “Today, a lot of our telecom equipment is imported. And with the coming of products like ours, and other companies that are bringing in different solutions, we will be able to come together and reduce this import bill. Our products will help India deploy rural broadband and 5G infrastructure at much cheaper cost and fasterate. That’s the goal we are all working towards,” Satak further said.

Expressing happiness over Astrome’s mention in ‘Mann ki Baat’, Satak said, “It’s a really great honour to be mentioned by the Prime Minister (in his address). The work we are doing is being appreciated at the national level. We now feel even more responsible that we have to do better and we have to succeed on a global level. That’s what we feel this recognition has done for us. It has given us a lot of strength and motivation to go global.”

Astrome is also helping the defence (forces) to have connectivity along the border areas. In addition, their products help consumers and businesses in India to get reliable and inexpensive satellite connectivity.

Vision is to make space accessible to all: Agnikul

Agnikul Cosmos are on a mission to make the Earth-to-space journey as simple, quick, and affordable as possible. Our Doordarshan team talked to the co-founders of the start-up Professor Satya Chakravarthy, Sayed Moin, and Srinath Ravichandran.

Sayed Moin, also the COO of Agnikul, is ecstatic to find his start-up’s mention in ‘Mann ki Baat’. “When we started in 2017, we never expected that we would get to be a part of the Prime Minister’s address. Our vision to make space accessible and affordable for everybody is right now aligning with the Prime Minister’s vision.”

Agnikul was also present at the inauguration of the IN-SPACe headquarters on 10th June, 2022 in Bopal, Gujarat. Moin fondly recounts his interaction with the Prime Minister at the event. “I had personally called the Prime minister for a full-scale mock-up model we had there. And when he actually came and fulfilled his promise by standing next to the (Agnikul) rocket along with us, that was a surreal moment for all of us.”

Satya Chakravarthy, the co-founder and adviser at Agnikul, said, “The cooperation we have been getting from ISRO, through IN-SPACe, has been tremendous. As a national project, we essentially want to develop on-demand launches for Indian applications and Indian customers, including the Armed Forces, as well as develop this technology in India for the rest of the world. The Prime Minister’s recognition and his support is a tremendous boost for our morale,” he added.
FLOURISHING SPORTS CULTURE IN INDIA

The year 2021 saw a slew of historic firsts for Indian sports. India’s extraordinary performance at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 was a true testimony of the Indian talent in sports and the country’s intent to attain glory and name at the quadrennial sporting extravaganza. With Neeraj Chopra’s golden throw, PV Sindhu’s double, Mirabai Chanu’s world-record lift, 3 debutant wins, and the Indian hockey team ending a 41 year-old drought, India closed at an all-time high of seven with one gold, two silvers, and four bronze medals to its name. Following a memorable victory at the Tokyo Olympics, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic contingent provided even more joy for Indian fans and won 19 medals including 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze, in 5 sports in the Paralympic Games 2020.

India is home to a very old and rich sports culture birthing some of the finest sports-persons. Sports in India are synonymous with names like Major Dhyan Chand, whose extraordinary goal-scoring skills made India dominate the International Hockey Circuit in the 1920s and 30s; ‘Flying Sikh’ Milkha Singh, who became the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games; Known as ‘Little Master’ and icon of cricket in India, Sachin Tendulkar considered as a force to be reckoned with on the field; Mithali Raj, the captain of the Indian women’s cricket team, who is also the highest run-scorer in women’s international cricket; Viswanathan Anand, who is not only India’s greatest chess player but also considered to be one of the very best in the world; and Mary Kom, a five-time World Amateur Boxing champion and the most famous Indian female boxer; the list is endless.

The Prime Minister in his recent ‘Mann ki Baat’ address congratulated such icons who continue to make headlines like the Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra who is setting new records of success, one after the other. After winning the silver at Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland, he broke his record in javelin throw and made the country proud by winning the gold in Kuortane Games. Be it badminton, tennis, athletics, boxing, wrestling, or other sports, our players are giving new wings to our expectations and aspirations. As a result, the country is seeing the sporting fraternity unleash several domestic talents and younger crops of skillful athletes at an early age who can be nurtured to represent India on the world stage. The medals won are not only the result of their tenacity and penance but also a measure of enthusiasm and confidence of the new India.

Envisioned by the Hon’ble PM, “For sports to thrive in the country, it is necessary that the youth should have faith in sports and should be encouraged to take up sports as a profession.”

In the sports world, now, the dominance of Indian players is increasing; at the same time, a new image of Indian sports is also emerging. In Khelo India Youth Games, besides disciplines that are in Olympics, five indigenous sports, were also included this time – Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasan, Kalaripayattu and Mallakhamb.

“Prim Minister Narendra Modi
(in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)

“I am grateful to the Hon’ble Prime Minister for recognizing the young talent in the country and sharing their achievements with one and all during his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address.”

Neeraj Chopra
Olympic Gold Medalist

“To be appreciated by our beloved and respected Hon’ble Prime Minister of India is always special, especially on the day I made my International debut. Thank you so much for your kind wishes, Sir.”

Mithali Raj
Former Captain, Indian Women’s Cricket Team
Realizing the power of youth and sports to transform the nation, the Government of India is striving to revamp the existing sports ecosystem in the country, with a focus on grass-root level talent identification, infrastructure building, support to elite athletes, and creating an overall sports culture that would provide equal opportunities to women, divyangs and youth from far-flung areas. Schemes like Khelo India Scheme which promotes sports at the grass-root level; the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) which provides impetus to Indian athletes competing in the Olympics; FIT India Movement which is focused on improving India’s fitness quotient, have been introduced to harness the true potential and nurture the youth of tomorrow. The Union Government has also raised the sports budget from Rs. 864 crore in 2014 to a whopping Rs. 1,992 crore in 2022, and the outcome is pretty evident.

Established in 2018, the Khelo India Youth Games has been a landmark flagship initiative by the Government of India to provide the youngsters of the nation a new platform to showcase their sporting talent. Beginning with 18 sports in 2018, the list of sports increased to 20, in 2020. This time, 5 new traditional games were a part of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 namely Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba, and Yogasana extending the list to 25 sports. Increasing India's prestige in the international sporting arena, 11 records have been broken in these games and not only that, 11 records have been registered in the names of female players. M. Martina Devi of Manipur has made eight records in weightlifting, shared the Hon’ble PM in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

What makes this initiative all the more rewarding is the fact that prodigy talents are emerging, hailing from ordinary families and humble backgrounds through these games. Father of Adil Altaf from Srinagar, who won the gold in 70-km cycling, does tailoring work; Gold winner L. Dhanush’s father is a carpenter in Chennai; Sangli’s daughter Kajol Sargar, who is an ace weightlifter, helps her father work as a tea vendor; and Tanu, a gold medallist wrestler’s father Rajbir Singh is a school bus driver in Rohtak. But nothing stopped these young, talented women from realizing their dreams and winning accolades in the sporting arena. Their hard work coupled with their families’ and parents’ convictions plays a major role in their success in the field.

As the nation hosts an International Chess Olympiad from 28th July welcoming over 180 participating countries while the Indian Deaflympics contingent scripts history with best ever haul of medals, the nation is together sprinting towards building a new, inclusive, fit India while crossing milestones on its way to sporting success!
GAME, SET, MATCH: PM MODI’S KHELO INDIA MANTRA IS DOING WONDERS

Anurag Singh Thakur
Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, and Information & Broadcasting

Inaugurating the first Khelo India Youth Games in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stressed, “Khelo India is not only about winning medals. It is an effort to give strength to a mass movement for playing more.” Four years later, we find that this statement by the visionary leader has become the foundational belief of India’s sports ecosystem. Conceived as a national platform that would give youngsters across India a chance to showcase their sporting talent and, in turn, get selected to be nurtured for participating in higher levels of national and international competitions, Khelo India Youth Games has been a successful project. Every year, around 10,000 athletes from all 36 States and UTs now participate in the annual Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games. Of them, 2,500 athletes across disciplines are provided with scholarship which helps them to further their sports careers. Young Indians from disadvantaged families get an advantage which they would not have got otherwise.

The chosen ‘Khelo India Athletes’, or KIAs as they are called, get an allowance of Rs 10,000 per month to spend on their personal needs like diet, sports gear and travel costs to participate in competitive events. This is in addition to Rs 5 lakh that is spent on each of them every year for their training, board and lodging, and coaching at a Khelo India Academy or a SAI Centre.

This 360-degree support to grassroots-level athletes and the robust enthusiasm with which so many young men and women have taken to sports seriously is a result of the vision of PM and his continuous effort to untiringly inspire the youth of India. As the Prime Minister said, “Sports are an important means of personality development... Sports should occupy a central place in the lives of our youth...”

What has motivated the youth of India, most of them from very humble backgrounds, to actually turn out in large numbers to participate at a national-level sporting event like Khelo India is not just about their love for sports or the possibility of proving their talent and thus build a future in...
Who can forget his message on social media to Bhawani Devi, India’s first participant in fencing in the Olympic Games? She lost the competition in the second round, but the Prime Minister reached out to her, just to tell her that he and the entire country were proud of her achievement. It was this message that made the entire country back her for her achievement of representing India as the first fencer in the Olympics.

It was the same for the women’s hockey team which finished fourth in Tokyo 2020, a spectacular achievement of pulling India’s position up from being 12th (last) in the Rio Olympics by missing a medal this time by a whisker. The athletes were heartbroken, but it was the Prime Minister who was the first to call them and tell them that the country was with them – they may have lost the game but they had won a billion hearts with their courage and determination on the field.

After India’s athletes returned home from the Tokyo Olympics, Tokyo Paralympics, Deaflympics and the Thomas Cup, he met them all, irrespective of whether they had won a medal or not. It is this constant motivation to all sportspersons and the assurance that the Government is committed to taking all possible measures to ensure that athletes have all that they need to excel, which is turning India into a country where sport is becoming a way of life. Khelo India is now a lived experience.
When the legendary Indian cricketer with a 23-year-long career, Mithali Raj announced her retirement on social media on 8th June, 2022, it not only marked the end of an era but also the end of one of the most decorated careers in sports. With 805 runs from 232 ODIs, the highest tally in the format, and 10,868 runs in all, this Indian captain was truly an icon of the game. Mithali played six 50-over World Cups and led the country to two World Cup finals, in 2005 and 2017.

Her list of achievements is as incredible as it gets. From being the highest run-scorer in women’s ODIs and India’s highest run-scorer in women’s T20Is to scoring the most runs in international cricket and playing the most ODI matches as captain, she has it all to her name. Mithali is also the youngest player to score a double century in Tests, making her the linchpin of the Indian batting line-up.

But the legacy she leaves behind goes well beyond mere numbers. The first woman to make it big in a male-dominated sport like cricket, she helped girls across the country nurture a dream.

For over 2 decades, Mithali was the face and voice of Indian women’s cricket.

“I set out as a little girl on the journey to wear the India blues as representing your country is the highest honour.”

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Poorna Malavath: The Youngest Girl to Climb Mt. Everest at the age of 13

So far I have climbed all 7 highest mountains in the world and some Indian mountains.

I started my journey from school when I was in 9th grade. It was very challenging and scary for me at that age, but slowly I became confident through my training, through my course to the advanced level, through a winter expedition that I did, and eventually got selected to climb Mount Everest. One will be amazed to know that I started my journey when I was thirteen years and four months, and I climbed Mount Everest when I was thirteen years and eleven months. When I got selected for this opportunity, I was determined and committed to showing the world that girls can do anything.

When I got to know about the Seven Summits, I decided that this would be my way of showing the strength, and perseverance of a woman and I decided to just go for it.

So far, I did it for my passion, now I want to continue mountaineering for a purpose. The purpose is to inspire my new project, called SHAKTI, led by 2 women aiming to raise funds for underprivileged girls for their education. The objective of this project is “we climb, so they could climb”.

After my Everest achievement, I was fortunate to meet our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was an honour for me to be appreciated by him and receive an excellency certificate from him. He also mentioned my achievements of climbing the Seven Summits in his recent ‘Mann ki Baat’ address and I feel extremely happy and motivated by all his appreciation, will continue to make India proud.
India’s ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra’s first competitive event after ten months turned out to be a historical moment as he broke his own National record at the Stockholm Diamond League by throwing his personal best of 89.94m. The 24-year-old who has been eyeing the 90m mark, which is considered the gold standard in the world of javelin throw, for quite some time, has been slowly progressing towards his goal. Earlier this month, Neeraj created a National Record of 89.30m at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland.

He is the first Indian to win a gold medal in athletics at the Olympics, and is only the second Indian individual, after shooter Abhinav Bindra, to win an Olympic gold medal. For his glorious and historic win at the Olympics, he was conferred with the Padma Shri, India’s fourth-highest civilian award.

After adding prestige to the tricolour with his performance, the Haryana-born athlete will continue to register his name in history and hope to put his entire power to throw the javelin as far as possible.

Neeraj Chopra said, “In ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, the Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought to light the achievements of many sportspersons. I am grateful to him for recognizing the young talent in the country and sharing their achievements with one and all. Being recognized at such a big platform, that reaches people across the nation, gives more inspiration to the young athletes, motivates them to perform even better for the nation and inspires a collective enthusiasm towards sports in India. I hope the people of India, much like the Hon’ble PM, continue to support us and we shall continue to bring prestige to the tricolour in our respective fields.”

Stars of Khelo Indian Youth Games share their experiences

Adil Altaf - Athlete Cycling
2 medals (Gold & Silver) in KIYG
Recently, the Prime Minister mentioned me in his ‘Mann Ki Baat’ address and I am extremely thankful and feel grateful to him for introducing events like Khelo India Youth Games in India. I hope more such initiatives are taken even in the future so that our athletes get a platform to showcase their talent and soar even higher to much greater heights. I hope, through this platform, our Indian athletes are able to reach the international level where they are able to face tougher competition and create newer records from India.

Kajol Sagar - Athlete Weightlifting
Gold medal in KIYG
In the KIYG held in Haryana, I won the first gold medal for Maharashtra. My mention in Prime Minister’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’ address and his praise is a moment of pride, not only for me but my entire family and the people of Sangli village. Under the leadership of the Hon’ble PM, the Government is thoroughly supporting and encouraging the players of India through many competitions like the KIYG and for that, I am extremely thankful.

Tanu - Wrestler
Gold medal in KIYG
I am grateful to the Prime Minister for establishing a platform like the Khelo India Youth Games. It has given a great boost to young sportspersons in India to make their career in sports and has helped them get better at their respective sports. This has created newer, higher ways of change in the world of sports, and for this I am extremely thankful to him.
Viswanathan Anand
International Chess Grandmaster

India is emerging as a chess powerhouse in the world. With the 44th Chess Olympiad taking place for the first time in India, the game is actually returning to its birthplace. The country has made rapid strides in it, tripling its grandmaster count in the last decade, which now stands at 74—leaving an indelible mark in the Chess world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on 19th June. This year, for the very first time, International Chess Federation, FIDE, has instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch as a part of the Olympic tradition. India is the first country to have the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay and it was a moment of pride for the entire country when FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to the Indian Prime Minister, who in turn bestowed me with the honour of carrying it forward as a mentor. This torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before the final culmination at Mahabalipuram near Chennai. At every location, the grandmasters of the state will receive the torch.

Even a few months back, we wouldn't have imagined that India would be organizing this historic International Chess Olympiad. On such a tight deadline of merely three months, it seemed close to impossible. But due to the diligent efforts of the Government and the vision of the PM, I'm certain that we will be able to put up a great show. The commitment of the Sports Minister, the constant support of the ministry, and the inaugural launch by the PM himself make this a solemn occasion adding prestige to the initiative, and will provide more and more visibility to the sport.

The Olympic Torch Relay is a collective show of the pride India takes in Chess. It is a game that has origins in India. We have a new generation of chess players who are finding their place in the World's elite. When they share the dais with our esteemed Prime Minister, there's a sense of collective pride as a player, as a team, and as a nation.

As a sportsperson, there are certain moments in your sporting career that stand out. I am sure when each of my team members saw the torch being lit at this historic launch and shared the stage with great visionaries of the country, it will be one of the moments that will remain with them forever. During his speech, the PM called out each of our names and mentioned our contribution to Indian chess. The Prime Minister's encouragement and support for the game and each one of us is commendable. I met our respected Prime Minister in 2010 when he was the Chief Minister. We staged the Guinness World Record for the most number of games played at a venue. When we prepared for event, I met him a few times more. He would know all the facts and the details that were needed to be known and was always willing to provide his support for the targets we had hoped to achieve. His attention to detail is something we strive for in chess. His encouraging words, “Give your hundred per cent with zero per cent tension or pressure”, will most certainly motivate the young participants to move forward in leaps and bounds for the Chess Olympiad commencing on 28th July.

As India emerges as a sporting nation, we as a country need to think of the importance of sports for its citizens. Such a thought process can happen only when the leader of the nation decides to make that shift in ideology. Many kinds of infrastructure and grants are being provided to sportspersons to train. The Government partners with organizations and corporates to help maximize talent and results. Chessplayers also do benefit from these initiatives. I hope the staging of an event such as the Chess Olympiad will bring chess into the home and hearth of every Indian. More of our youngsters would feel motivated to represent their country on the world stage.
challenges. However, accepting these challenges and addressing the gaps and failings of its times is what sets India apart from the rest of the world. Throughout history, despite various socio-political and developmental challenges, the country has continued to evolve to become a symbol of progress and stand firmly on the unshakable pillar of the Indian Constitution and its democratic ethos.

India threw off the yoke of colonial rule on 15th August, 1947 after a long, steady, and peaceful freedom movement. The task at hand then was to ensure swift transition into a democratic Government, ensuring all-round development of the country. For this, our forefathers laid down the foundation of Indian polity by framing the Constitution of India in a period of less than three years, which translated the nationalist and democratic aspirations of an independent polity, following decolonization.

The soul of the Constitution lies in its Preamble. It declares India to be a “Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.” The Preamble promotes fraternity, dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation. The opening and last sentences of the Preamble: “We, the people... adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution” signifies that the power is ultimately vested in the hands of the people.

Our Constitution ensures for the citizens of India the fundamental rights and duties which are the bedrock of Indian democracy. Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. While providing the fundamental rights, our Constitution also enjoins upon citizens certain duties that safeguard others’ rights. Thus, the Constitution of India is both — the fountainhead of our democratic system of governance and the guiding.
light for our future endeavours. Treading on the path of democracy, the country held its first General Elections in 1952. Universal suffrage is considered a sine qua non of democratic rule and India lost no time after gaining independence to provide this basic right to all its citizens. Since then, free and fair elections to all the three tiers of Government have been a central feature of the working of the largest democracy in the world.

Article 21 of the Constitution of India states that “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law.” However, on 26th June, 1975, this fundamental right of the citizens of the country was taken away. The imposition of Emergency for almost two years marked the dark period of democracy, when Indians faced brutal trials and tribulations. With the ‘Right to Life and Personal Liberty’ wrenched away, the democratic framework of the country was endangered. The country’s courts, constitutional institutions, and the press were put under control for a 21-month period between 1975-1977.

The condition of censorship was such that nothing could be printed without approval, and when the famous singer Kishore Kumar refused to applaud the Government, his songs were banned on AIR and Doordarshan. Despite the ordeals and hardships, the democratic spirit of Indians prevailed. As Prime Minister Modi in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ proclaimed, “For us, the people of India, the sanskars of democracy which we have been carrying on for centuries; the democratic spirit which is in our veins, finally won. The people of India got rid of the Emergency and re-established democracy in a democratic way.”

India has shown that democracy can deliver and has delivered. Today, India is moving fast on building a strong foundation for the next 25 years, following the Prime Minister’s mantra of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayaas’. The most important resolution related to this foundation is the creation of a New India which includes all, benefits all, which is strong and also self-reliant. The journey till now and ahead would not be possible without the active participation and vibrancy of ideas of its 1.3 billion-strong population.

Talking about its citizens, the Prime Minister once remarked that India has a billion solutions to a million problems. The ‘land of the snake charmers’ is now charming the world with its transformative and timely service delivery. Today, every village in India is open defecation free and has electricity connection. Ninety-nine per cent of the villages have been provided with clean cooking fuel. The entirety of India is connected with ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ which has been instrumental in providing free rations to over 80 crore poor people in the last two years. Moreover, 40 per cent of digital transactions in the world are from India and extensive efforts are being made to bridge the digital divide with initiatives like ‘Digital India’.

With the mantra of ‘Reform, Perform and Transform’, India’s supremacy is an echo roaring worldwide. Today, India features among the top 50 innovative economies globally. It has the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world. Given India’s vast area, diversity, heterogeneity and it being a leader in disaster management, the world looks up to India for global challenges such as climate change.

A democratic republic with the advantage of a demographic dividend coupled with an unfailing Government working round the clock, India is proudly dictating the changing times today with grit and grace. The sense of duty that comes from belonging to one of the greatest democracies in the world will propel India to even greater heights as we enter the ‘Amrit Kaal’.
The Saga of EMERGENCY

To this day, this 21-month period is remembered as the darkest chapter in the story of our democratic nation.

June 25, 2022, marked the 47th anniversary of the Emergency. It was on this day in 1975 that Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the then President of India, announced a State of Emergency across the country.

A cartoon by R.K. Laxman during the Emergency

The then government censored the media, ensuring only that a picture of peace, prosperity and progress was presented. Some newspapers protested against censorship by leaving blank spaces where the news had been censored.

Morarji Desai was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on March 24, 1977.

The Emergency was officially withdrawn on March 21, 1977. Fresh elections were held and after a resounding pro-democracy verdict of the people, for the first time, a non-Congress government came to power at the Centre.

The Emergency took away the freedom and civil liberties of the citizens. Leaders like George Fernandes organised widespread protests against the government. Many opposition leaders were arrested. Thousands of people were also held for opposing the government.
At the very least, democracy means the right of citizens to choose a Government — be it national, regional, and local — of their preference. It means the right to say ‘Yes’ when necessary and ‘No’ when dissatisfied. These are huge rights and privileges for which people in different parts of the world have rightly sacrificed their lives and even caused momentous upheavals. What we take for granted has proved elusive to millions of people living in other parts of the world where the right to say ‘No’ is forbidden. It is acceptance or nothing.

Yet, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi reminded us in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, this fundamental right was rudely snatched away from us for nearly 20 months between 1975 and 1977. In the life of post-independence India, this horrible spell was too brief to scar us permanently, but at least it taught us the virtues of democracy — a system that has its undoubted flaws but which we also cherish. The Emergency, which was overturned by the collective will of the people, left Indians with a simple message: Never again. It is unlikely that future generations will disregard this.

If democracy is a fact of life and is unlikely to be subverted yet again, why is it necessary for responsible leaders to constantly invoke its existence? Why, is it necessary for the Prime Minister to attend global summits and create alliance of democracies? What more needs to be done?

The answer in a word is plenty. Democracy has conferred rights on people, some of these have even been codified in the Constitution. Yet it is one thing to confer a right, it is something altogether different for these rights to be availed of by the people.

In India, the awareness of what democracy means has been growing over the past 75 years of independence. A small indicator is the growing percentage of people who are queueing up to vote. Another indicator is the visible improvements in the election system and the attempts over the years to rid it of distortions. Yet, despite these endeavours, democracy hasn't touched every citizen equally.

How can it? To internalise democracy, it is necessary to have a stake in the system. Unfortunately, millions of our citizens are still grounded in dire poverty. Being poor doesn’t imply a lack of awareness. In India, it is the poor who turn out to vote in the largest numbers, unlike in the so-called advanced democracies, where there does not seem to be a direct correlation between poverty and low voter turnout. The battle here is to improve the quality of democracy by making every citizen a stakeholder in the decisions that flow from the Practitioners of democracy. By enlarging the welfare net and ensuring its efficient and honest delivery to the intended beneficiaries, the Prime Minister has given millions of hitherto deprived people a tangible stake in the system — whether it is in the form of housing, access to drinking water and toilets, availability of cooking gas and free rations during a time of intense distress.

To raise people from subsistence levels, gives them dignity and accords them a stake in the system. That is when they can truly avail of democracy.
Pilgrimage or the practice of journeying to sites where religious powers, knowledge, or experiences are deemed accessible has found its earliest references in ancient scriptures like Rigveda and Puranas. It is a ritual that involves reaching such destinations with preliminary vows and fasting, intensive cooperative efforts among different pilgrim groups, extensive travelling on foot, and the constant singing of devotional songs that keep their energy levels on a high during this transcendental journey. What is important to note here is that these pilgrimages signify more than just the movement of a person from one place to another.

For our sages, a pilgrimage was important as an exploration of inner and outer self.

For pilgrims, it is more than merely visiting the shrines and sanctums. It is also an important gateway of cultural exploration, a conquest for moral and spiritual significance intertwined with a curiosity of knowing about other pilgrims, lands, culture and traditions. The Char Dham Yatra is a perfect example of the collective consciousness of Indians. The high altitude yatra opens during the summer months of April or May and goes on till October. In 2019, it witnessed a footfall of more than 34 lakh pilgrims from all around India. This year, the numbers have already touched the 16 lakh mark in its first month. Another great example is the Jagannath Yatra in Puri that began on 1st of July 2022, after a break of two years due to COVID restrictions. More than 10 lakh devotees from across the country thronged temple town to pull the three wooden chariots carrying Lord Jagannath and his siblings.

The present Government is aware of the importance of religious tourism not only as an economic enabler but also as a tool to ensure communal harmony. The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan Scheme is developing tourism infrastructure in the identified circuits, across the country, having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner. Under the scheme, fifteen thematic circuits have been identified for...
development including themes covering religious/spiritual sites in the country: Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Rural Circuit. Development of integrated tourism infrastructure at religious and heritage sites has also been undertaken under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive or the PRASHAD Scheme. It focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India to enrich the religious tourism experience.

In this sacred land, where faith and spirituality are omnipresent, pilgrimages are extremely popular and are one of the most important tourism explorations that one undertakes. In present times, these journeys have become extremely popular, especially after the increased connectivity and much-improved transportation.

As of June 2022, with the ease in COVID restrictions, the travel and hotel industry witnessed a 35-40 per cent increase in business at spiritual tourist locations such as temple towns including Rishikesh, Haridwar, Varanasi and Char Dham. Not just the elderly, but the younger generations are also heading towards the spiritual destinations of the country, thanks to the impetus-led development by the Government in the country’s tourism sector.

India has tremendous potential to become the spiritual capital of the world. Pilgrimage should be viewed as the sacred path where the inner self becomes inseparable from the Almighty. This march of awakening helps to recognise the innate qualities of the Indian heritage and the spirit of mother nature. God also walks along with every section and person of the society. Similarly, in all the journeys that take place in our country, there is no such distinction between poor and rich, high and low. One can easily come across a family from Chennai traversing through the gates of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, or a family from North India visiting the Tirumala Tirupati Temple. Rising above all discrimination, the journey itself is paramount. This is the picture of India that the Prime Minister envisioned when he launched the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign.

“The age-old tradition where the path of the Rath Yatra is cleaned with a golden broom is carried out by the Puri Gajapati in Puri, and by the Chief Minister of Gujarat in Ahmedabad. One of the members of the Jagannath family, Narendra Modi ji, the Prime Minister of India, carried out the traditions here for 13 years.”

– Mahendra Jha
Trustee, Jagannath Temple, Ahmedabad
nature, usually located in far flung places and remote areas and getting there requires a lot of effort. It is for the reverence of the place that makes devotees traverse through such tough terrains in order to reach there, as it brings them closer to the Almighty. Besides the spiritual benefits, pilgrimages also bind the county together. American Scholar Diana Eck has written wonderful lines about our country that India was built “not by the power of kings and governments, but by the footsteps of pilgrims.”

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s words in ‘Mann ki Baat’ about importance of cultural mobility, Amish said, India and Indians have been bound together over millennia through the gentle yet enduring thread of Dharma. So, when you travel to another place there is something which binds you there. When I went to the Sri Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur, Kerala, it is because I am a Shiv Bhakt. Even though I barely know the Malayalam language, that did not stop me from interacting with many other devotees visiting the shrine. At the temple, we were not divided by the lack of a common language, but instead we were connected by our devotion to Lord Shiva and the chanting of shlokas we all knew. It is similar to binding a garland with different flowers. For the garland that our country is, the string is Dharma.

These yatras like Jagannath yatra, Amarnath yatra, Sabarimala Yatra are attended by people from all corners of India. Foreigners too attend these yatras. The Jagannath Rath Yatra is an ancient tradition that was carried out in most cities of India in ancient times. The beauty of such yatras lies in the involvement of the people who come together as one to serve the deities. Since these Rath Yatras are carried on the main streets, it would also improve the overall infrastructure of the city.

Talking about Government initiatives like PRASHAD Scheme, Swadesh Darshan Scheme, ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ etc., he said, apart from these initiatives, reforms are taking place in the education policy as well that will help the younger generations in connecting with their roots. When we talk about the schemes mentioned, everyone would love to go to places if all the facilities are available and the journey is made less cumbersome. Connectivity through airports and railway station creates a positive mind-set among people. And when the infrastructure is good even foreigners can get there with ease. This plays a key role in boosting the local economy. Amish also affirms that cleanliness of pilgrimage sites is of utmost importance, he added, if you find plastic on road while going to Kedarnath, you know it is not only environmentally dangerous but it is also an insult to our Gods and Goddesses. When you go on a pilgrimage, you should go with a positive approach. My suggestion to pilgrims would be to not litter and make use of garbage bins.
Rath Yatra or the Chariot festival, one of the much-awaited Hindu festivals, is celebrated every year on the second day of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Ashadh, the third month according to the Panchang. The foremost epicentre for this festival is the Jagannath Puri temple in Odisha, one of the four major Hindu shrines. The festival honours Lord Jagannath’s visit along with his siblings to the temple of Queen Gundicha. Thousands of pilgrims visit Puri every year to take part in the celebrations.

Our Doordarshan team got in touch with the Chief Servitor of the Jagannath Temple, Gajapati Maharaj Dibyasingh Deo. “The auspicious Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is taking place after two years. Just like every other year, the prosperous occasion is in full swing where the devotees pull the sacred ropes of the three grand raths and take it to Shri Gundicha Temple. On this auspicious occasion we pray to Lord Jagannath that he blesses the entire world with prosperity. We pray that a situation like the coronavirus pandemic does not engulf the Earth again. Hari Om!”

Similar scenes can be seen across many states in the country. One such place is the Lord Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Mahendra Jha, the trustee of the temple, told our Doordarshan team, “Once a year, Lord Jagannath comes out of the sanctum to visit the devotees. The entire city remains engulfed in enthusiasm and excitement and the devotees eagerly wait to get a glimpse of the Lord. The age-old tradition where the path of the Rath Yatra is cleaned with a golden broom is carried out by the Puri Gajapati in Puri, and by the Chief Minister of Gujarat in Ahmedabad. One of the members of the Jagannath family, Narendra Modi Ji, the Prime Minister of India, carried out the traditions here for 13 years. The devotees give up their caste and creed and come together as followers of Lord Jagannath to make this event a grand success,” he added.
Significance of Kerala’s Sabarimala Teerth

Sabarimala Temple, dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, is situated on a hilltop (about 3,000 feet above sea level) named Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. The temple is open to people belonging to all religions. Millions of pilgrims from all over the country assemble here during the most arduous festivals called as ‘Vishu Vilakku’ in April, ‘Mandalapooja’, in the months of Vrishikam Dhanu (Nov–Dec) and ‘Makaravilakku’ in mid–January, coinciding with Sankramam. Our Doordarshan team got in touch with Sabarimala Tantri (head priest), Kantaru Rajeevaru.

Our respected Prime Minister referred to Sabarimala (in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address) and gave a quite relevant perspective. Sabarimala is one of the most important pilgrim places in South India. There has never been any practice of differentiation among the pilgrims, or between the rich and the poor. Groups from different places (in India) come here and eat food together. Once they start the pilgrimage, the devotees call each other Swami or Ayyappa.

So many poor people depend on Sabarimala for their livelihood. A lot of merchants and others are able to render their services to pilgrims and earn revenue. Ranging from head load workers to large scale merchants, Sabarimala pilgrimage benefits everyone.

What the Prime Minister spoke about Sabarimala was quite important and has captured the attention of people. So many people listen to his words carefully. Not just South India, I am sure millions will come from North India too to have darshan at Sabarimala drawing inspiration from Prime Minister’s words. I invite the Prime Minister with all respect to visit Sabarimala.

Historic journey to Shivadham in Amarnath cave

Amarnath is considered to be one of the major Hindu Dhams. Situated in a gorge at the farther end of Lidder Valley in Jammu and Kashmir, the holy cave is the abode of Lord Shiva. The Lord is enshrined in the form of an icingam in this cave, which is formed naturally. Our Doordarshan team talked to the CEO of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Nitishwar Kumar.

"The words of the Hon’ble Prime Minister in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address regarding spiritual tourism boosting the local economy is true to the word. The Amarnath Yatra is a historic heritage that is organised with the contribution of locals along with the Amarnathji Shrine board for a long time. The locals and the Shrine Board strive to ensure that the devotees have a better and spiritual experience during the Yatra.

The issuance of RFID cards to all devotees is a very suitable arrangement so that we can keep track of their safety during the Yatra. It also helps us in managing the crowd in a better way. We have also asked all devotees at the time of registration to follow the DOs and DONTs of the Yatra since it is a very high altitude trek peaking at 14,000 to 15,000 feet. We have also made foolproof arrangements of health centres at the base camps, on the trek and at the shrine. These health centres are capable of handling any emergency.

We are also organising online darshan for devotees with the help of Doordarshan and two other private players. It is accessible, free of cost during the morning and evening aartis. On behalf of the Amarnath Shrine Board, we urge all devotees to come and visit the shrine."
WASTE TO WEALTH

TOWARDS A CLEANER, GREENER AND DEVELOPED INDIA

“Today, the country is witnessing a unique sweep of cleanliness throughout its length and breadth. There is a deep sense of janshagirdari in every citizen, including the little champions of tomorrow and senior citizens who are coming together and contributing for the cause of the environment. The Prime Minister has always discussed the issue of cleanliness and waste management in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address to the nation. In the recent edition, he highlighted many successful efforts related to waste to wealth being undertaken by various groups of Swachhata Warriors. Waste is a natural by-product of life and growth of society. According to the reports for 2017-18, the Central Pollution Control Board has estimated that India generates 9.4 million tonnes of plastic in a year. This waste not only causes harm to the planet, but also affects health, productivity and progress of the society. Hence, efficient handling of waste becomes an important factor in the developmental progress of India and the health of its people. Effective waste management is one of the key priorities in the development journey of new India. The Government has launched various campaigns and programmes in the recent past such as Swachh Bharat Mission and Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PMSTIAC) to make a waste-free nation. PMSTIAC aims to identify, develop and deploy technologies to treat waste to generate, recycle materials, and extract resources of value and identify and support development of modern technologies to create a clean and green environment. In addition to these, the Government has notified Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, according to which manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic has been prohibited to further control plastic pollution, with effect from 1st July 2022. These initiatives, along with the advancement in technologies and awareness among the community are turning waste into a valuable resource through recycling and reusing. It is not only leading to elimination in waste, but is also generating new employment opportunities for Indians. While the Government is taking all the measures to reduce and recycle the plastic waste, the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make a cleaner India is becoming a reality with the innovations that young start-ups are bringing in the country to make a greener tomorrow. Several start-ups and businesses have mushroomed in the recent past which are using technology, world class innovation and working on the ground-breaking ideas to recycle the waste into useful products. For instance, the plastic waste that once created menace is now being collected and recycled into fabrics that are further used to make fashionable clothes and sneakers. The plastic cutlery that once littered the earth is now getting replaced by edible and biodegradable cutlery which is environment-friendly and

“Waste to Wealth”
TOWARDS A CLEANER, GREENER AND DEVELOPED INDIA

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“It was a very pleasant experience that the supreme leader of our country has appreciated our work. Being mentioned on ‘Mann ki Baat’ is a very proud moment for us and it is inspiring us to do more such works in future also, where besides environmental upliftment, there is also cultural upliftment of our society.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

“It is gratifying that the Prime Minister has mentioned active solid waste management by our company in the ‘Mann ki Baat’ episode. We are thankful to the Prime Minister for recognising this project. This is an honour for Karaikal Municipality.”

-Ramesh
Karaikal Project Manager for Hand in Hand

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“We have been discussing the successful efforts related to ‘waste to wealth’. Such efforts are not only inspiring, but also lend momentum to India’s campaign against single-use plastic. If our environment is clean, our mountains and rivers, our seas remain clean; our health also gets better.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

“(in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ address)
High number of small-scale industries, hotels, restaurants and large floating population led to dumping and burning of plastic waste in the open. Nearby villages like Shindewadi, Velu and Kasurdi were facing the same problem.

The Panchayats recognised the problem and with a will to find the solution, actions were taken under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase II.

Panchayats collaborated with a private company to process the plastic, convert it into a type of crude oil used for burners in the industries.

Sasewadi village took the lead by setting up a system for collection, segregation and transportation of waste, while utilizing available resources at the best.

To build a low-cost model for PWM, the proposed vermi-composting units were converted into a resource recovery centre, where they created a storage of collected plastic waste. Workers were hired to collect and segregate plastic waste and transport the same to the company which purchased the waste at Rs. 8/kg. This money was again utilized in the operation and maintenance of the system.

Today, all kinds of plastic waste are accepted by the processing unit and the by-products of the process are not harmful to the environment. In fact, the gas produced as the by-product is used to power the equipment at the plant.

Through this innovative, low-cost, cluster-level and eco-friendly model of PWM, and collective efforts of the villagers, the Sasewadi Gram panchayat has set a healthy precedent towards eliminating plastic waste and achieving total cleanliness.

During his recent ‘Mann ki Baat’, Prime Minister mentioned about some of such Swachhta Warriors who have made a mark by taking unique initiatives at their level and bringing about a change in the nation.

The ‘Save Chite Lui Action Plan’ campaign started by the people of Aizawl has not just revived the Chite Lui river which had become a heap of plastic waste, but also used the plastic to build the first plastic road of the state. In Karaikal, Puducherry, people came together to start the ‘Recycling for Life’ campaign to collect the plastic waste from the beaches and recycle it.

As India celebrates the glorious 75 years of its independence and the next 25 years, that is India’s Amrit Kaal, the steps taken by each and every citizen of the nation in coming years will redefine the future of the nation. Sabka Saath and Sabka Prayaas can help build a new cleaner, greener and developed India in years to come.

“Water conservation is actually life conservation. You must have seen, nowadays, how many ‘river festivals’ are being held! Whatever water sources are there in your cities, you must organize some event or the other there.”

Sasewadi Village: A Model for Plastic Waste Management

When Sasewadi village of Pune district struggled with the problem of Plastic Waste Management (PWM), the local people took it upon themselves to make their village clean and free from garbage.

“On behalf of the Save Chite Lui Coordination Committee, I extend a sincere thanks and gratitude to Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning and endorsing the ongoing attempt and struggle to save our Chite Lui in his ‘Mann ki Baat’ program.”

~Shri Rochamliana
General Secretary, Save Chite Lui Mission

During his recent ‘Mann ki Baat’, Prime Minister mentioned about some of such Swachhta Warriors who have made a mark by taking unique initiatives at their level and bringing about a change in the nation.
Cycling is a very eco-friendly, nature-friendly and environment-friendly activity. From the beginning, it was our complete belief and passion that if we promote cycling in our beautiful state, we will develop a good culture for not just tourism, but also for transportation and sport. I strongly believe that if we encourage the youth towards cycling, then in coming times, these young people will stay away from intoxication and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The campaign that we have started also is in line with 'FIT India', which is a flagship program of the Government of India.

Shri Mohit Sood further expressed his thanks to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for mentioning their initiative and said that it has filled them with more zeal and passion to work towards the initiative which they started 18 years back.

Himachal’s Cycle Rally: Promoting Environmental Protection

Himachal Pradesh is among the favorite destinations for a large number of people to beat the heat and enjoy nature’s beauty. But the state is not untouched by the menace of pollution and waste accumulation. Moreover, increasing number of motor vehicles on the plying the hilly roads is further harming the state’s natural environment. Thus, in the year 2004, the founder of HASTPA (Himalayan Adventure Sports and Tourism Promotion Association), Shri Mohit Sood started the MTB cycle rally to promote the natural beauty and environment protection, and boost tourism in the region.

The cycle rally has not only been an event where renowned cyclists from across the globe participate, but it has also given various national-level cyclists.

The team of Doordarshan, talked to Shri Mohit Sood to know more about his initiative:

"Cycling is a very eco-friendly, nature-friendly and environment-friendly activity. From the beginning, it was our complete belief and passion that if we promote cycling in our beautiful state, we will develop a good culture for not just tourism, but also for transportation and sport. I strongly believe that if we encourage the youth towards cycling, then in coming times, these young people will stay away from intoxication and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The campaign that we have started also is in line with 'FIT India', which is a flagship program of the Government of India."

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Save Chite Lui Mission: Rejuvenating the Dying River

Chite Lui, a beautiful river in Aizawl, Mizoram, had turned into a heap of dirt and garbage due to years of neglect. What brought the river back to life was the collective effort of local authorities, NGOs and most importantly, local people, in the form of Save Chite Lui Mission, formally started in the year 2017. Several initiatives have been taken under the mission, from cleaning of plastic waste from the river to building the state’s first plastic road made from the collected waste.

Talking to Doordarshan team, Shri Rochamliana, General Secretary, Save Chite Lui Mission, told more about the initiative and their achievements:

"The first thing that we did was creating awareness, educating the masses and sensitizing the stakeholder. In collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), we undertook several mass cleaning programs of the river. Many NGOs and religious organisations also came forward and lent a helping hand for the mission. Legislation of the Chite Lui (Prevention and Control of Water Pollution) Act, 2018 has been an achievement. The Act provides the prevention and control of water pollution in Chite Lui, including the river bank on both sides at 50 metre from the boundary of the river. The Chite Lui Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Rules 2020 followed the Act. Another thing worth mentioning is the plastic road, made from the polythene waste gathered from Chite Lui, between Reiek main junction and the tourist resort.

It is amazing to see people from all walks of life, from different areas and localities coming together at the Chite river, trying their best for not just saving the river but innovatively using the waste to build something useful thus contributing to the progress of the area."

Save Chite Lui Mission: Rejuvenating the Dying River

Himachal’s Cycle Rally: Promoting Environmental Protection
Recycle for Life: An exemplar of turning waste to wealth

Karaikal in Puducherry is showing the way to turn waste into wealth. A large number of people visit Puducherry to enjoy its serene beaches and marine beauty. But there had been an increase of plastic waste on the sea coast, disturbing the entire ecosystem of the place. Therefore, to save the sea, beaches and ecology, people started a ‘Recycling for Life’ campaign. Moreover, the waste dumping yard in this port city is no longer a dumping yard, instead proper solid waste management is being done here using advanced scientific methods.

The solid waste segregated now produces wealth. For instance, food waste from hotels is used to produce biogas and biofertilizer. Non-compostable waste is used to create flowerpots and decorative objects like birds and animals for display in the park.

For this work, an NGO ‘Hand in Hand Inclusive Development and Services’ has worked tremendously. Shri Ramesh, Karaikal Project Manager for Hand in Hand explained how they sorted out the garbage coming from houses and made it useful.

Shri Loganathan, engineer, Karaikal Municipality gave further insights into the initiative. He said, “We did door-to-door collection of waste, and nearly 85% of solid waste is disposed of using scientific methods. We also produce electricity from waste.” He further expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister for speaking about their activity of composting and producing biogas through recycling garbage in ‘Mann ki Baat’. “This gives us a lot of happiness and inspiration,” he added.

Ms. Mariya Rose, Circle Manager, Hand in Hand NGO further elaborated on the recycling of waste and said, “Garbage is separated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. The recycled waste is put to use. There is no such thing as waste. It can be used through recycling. Through this project, women from more than 200 families have benefited. It is a pleasure that the Prime Minister of India highlighted us in the ‘Mann ki Baat’ episode recently,” she added.

Sultaan se Sur-Taan: The Rejuvenation Story

An important architectural element that served water and was celebrated over the arid regions of India was Baori, the stepwell. One such marvel is ‘Sultan ki Baori’, hundreds of years old step well in Bedla village of Udaipur, Rajasthan, built by Rao Sultan Singh. But, due to neglect, gradually this place became deserted and turned into a pile of garbage. But, one day, a group of youth accidentally came across it and seeing its sad state, took it in their hands to restore, revive and rejuvenate the Baori. It was their determination and hard work, which brought the people of the village together and changed the picture of the stepwell.

They called their mission ‘Sultaan se Sur-Taan’. Shri Sunil S. Ladha, architect, ASAP Academic Foundation, and one of the leaders of the initiative, tells how the stepwell fascinated them and upon exploring its history, they found that its name was actually Sur Taan Baori. They not just rejuvenated the stepwell but also created an alternate use for it so it doesn’t die away again. “Since water is now available at homes through taps, the stepwell will become old, it won’t have any use. We did a music festival there, where we called artists, who painted in tune with the music. This way, it sank in the hearts of the villagers that this place is their cultural centre, which they can use for various purposes,” he said. Baori has become the talk of the town and it has awed even foreigner visitors, including a delegation from Japan and Denmark and world-renowned architect Mr. Bill Bensley.

Shri Amit Gaurav, architect, ASAP Academic Foundation further added, “Seeing its condition, the idea of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan came to our mind and we started its restoration work. No one could have imagined that the stepwell could become a tourist spot. There are thousands of lakhs of stepwells in our country and we must start a campaign to bring them alive.”

He expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and said, “We started this work from our heart but we never thought that the Prime Minister would appreciate it. It is a great inspiration. Because of him, perhaps this small initiative will turn into a huge one.”
राष्ट्रपति श्री रामनाथ कोविंद ने दी नए साल की शुभेच्छा।

राष्ट्रपति श्री रामनाथ कोविंद ने 1 सितंबर को दी नए साल की शुभेच्छा।

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Thank Honb @PMOIndia for mentioning the efforts of Youth of Puducherry & Keralikal for 'Recycling for Life' to save sea, beaches & ecology. In today's #MannKiBaat, The organic waste collected were made into compost. Recalled massive cleaning initiative at 75 places in #Puducherry

Humbled by this recognition. Lucky to be doing this when such historic reforms are happening. Thank you Hon’ble Shri @narendramodi ji. We are grateful to have the Govt’s support & will make sure we use this opportunity to make original tech in India @PMOIndia @sotro @NSPACEIndia

Kini Ilifa @NileIlifa

Some incredibly inspiring stories of determination and grit today from @KheloIndia Youth Games on Hon’ble PM Shri @narendramodi’s #MannKiBaat.

When a Maharashtra’s daughter Kajol Sanger gets mentioned by Hon PM @narendramodi ji, for her achievements in weight lifting along with helping her father at his tea stall in Shinga. Proud of you, Kajol!

#MannKiBaat @mannki баat

Dr Jitendra Singh @DrtitendraSingh

"तन्दूळ की तरह ही देश के करीब सात सी न्युज़लैंड स्कूल स्टूडेंट्स, अमूज़ मान्यता में ऐसे ही 75 सैटेलाइट्स पर काम कर रहे हैं, और भी खुशी की बात है, कि, इसमें से ज्यादा स्टूडेंट्स के छोटे छात्र से हैं।"

- पीएम श्री @narendramodi.

#MannKiBaat

PM Modi hails KIYG medallists

He appreciated the fact that many youngsters came from humble backgrounds.

"Mithali Raj is an inspiration to many"

India Women Cricket Team

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Mithali Raj on her performance in the T20 World Cup 2023, expressing his joy over her record-breaking achievement. The Prime Minister said that Mithali Raj's performance had inspired many young girls and women. He congratulated the entire Indian women's cricket team for their remarkable performance in the recent tournament. "

PM lauds Khelo India Games

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on Sunday appreciated Khelo India Youth Games 2023, which were held at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex, Panchkula, under the supervision of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The PM also appreciated the response set off by girls in sports. This"
Democratic ethos won against Emergency: PM

The democratic ethos won against Emergency, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Mumbai on Thursday.

PM said that while the country was not an exception to the world, it was not an exception when it comes to the democratic ethos.

He said that the Emergency was a mistake made by the previous government, but the democratic ethos won.

PM also said that the Emergency was a period of darkness that the country had to go through.

India can’t lag behind as youth is ready to touch the sky: PM

PM Modi, who was addressing a gathering of young people, said that the country is moving towards a future where youth will play a major role.

He said that the government is working towards creating a future where the youth will be the main focus.

PM lauds India’s success in sports

PM Narendra Modi said that India has made significant progress in sports in recent years.

He said that India has won over 100 space startups and is now one of the leading countries in the world in terms of space technology.

Increase uptake of boosters: PM

PM Modi said that India is committed to increasing the uptake of boosters and precautionary doses.

He said that the government is working towards making vaccines available to everyone.

Mental health services

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PM Narendra Modi said that India has made significant progress in sports in recent years.

He said that India has won over 100 space startups and is now one of the leading countries in the world in terms of space technology.
100 space startups have come up in a few yrs; 750 students making 75 small satellites: PM Modi

PM Modi lauds KIYG 2021 stars in 'Mann ki Baat'

Mann ki Baat: PM Modi mentions Emergency, lauds achievers from sports, pitches for conservation of water

'Waste To Wealth': PM Modi Shares Inspiring Stories Of Efforts Made Towards Cleanliness

Lord Jagannath’s Rath Yatra conveys deep human messages: PM Modi
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