

Vibrant Villages: Their Prosperity is Nation's Security

# Vigilant India

Peace, Security and Prosperity

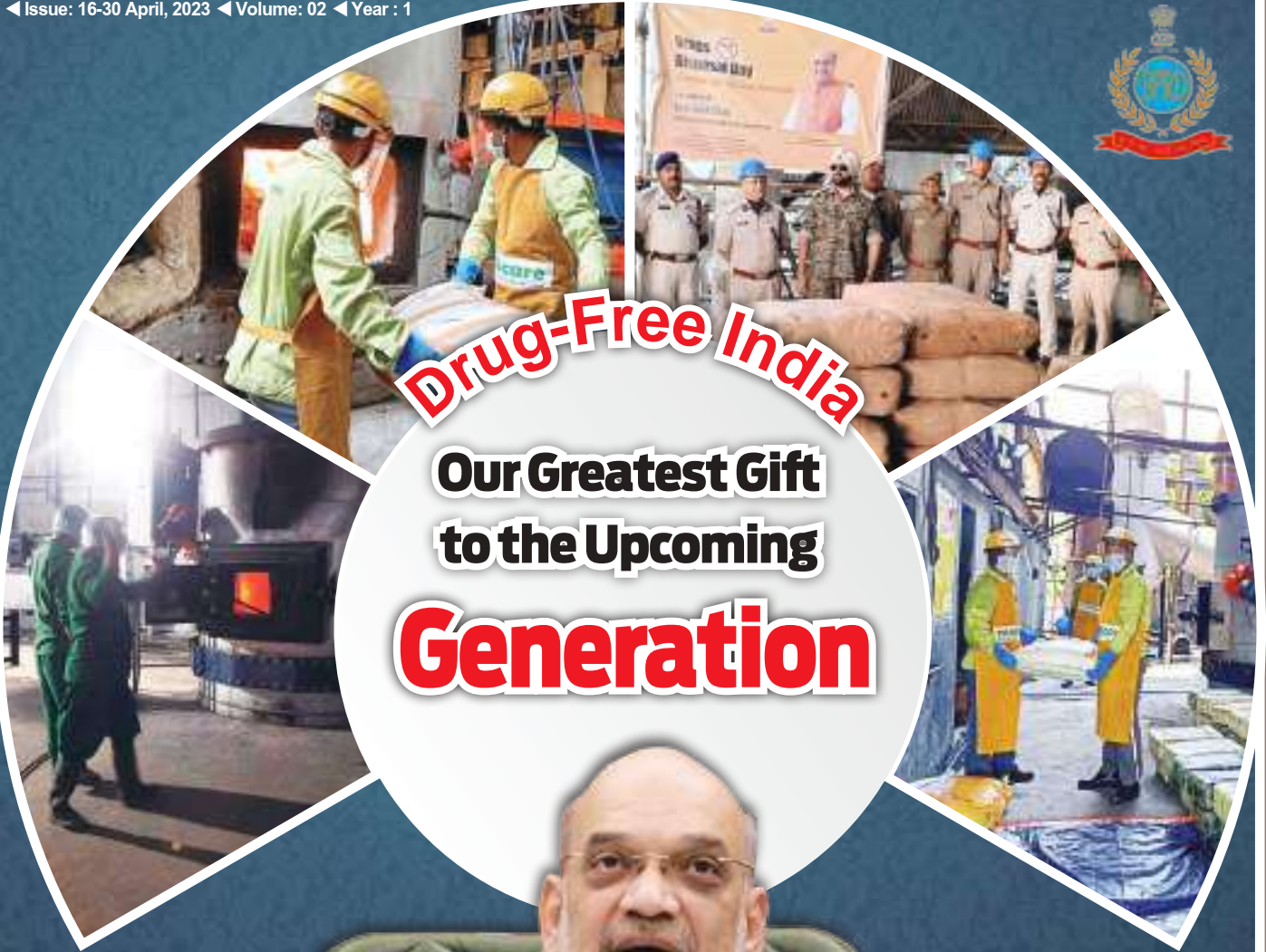
◀ Issue: 16-30 April, 2023 ◀ Volume: 02 ◀ Year : 1



**Drug-Free India**

**Our Greatest Gift  
to the Upcoming**

**Generation**



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## From the Editor's Desk

**“For me, every village at the border is the first village of the country. The people living at the border make for the country's strong guard. Every first village should evolve in to vibrant village”**

**Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**



**Sh. Balaji Srivastava**  
Director General, BPR&D

**“A**no bhadra krtavo yantu vishwatah-let noble thoughts come to me from all directions”. This vedic mantra was quoted by Hon'ble Prime minister during 90th Interpol General Assembly. He elaborated that it is a call for universal cooperation to make the world a better place. This mantra is also the motto of Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) and we at the Bureau imbibe it in our profession by spreading new ideas and noble thoughts in the sphere of police research and development.

The Government is committed to the concept of integrated development by taking everyone along. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (“One Earth• One Family• One Future”) has been adopted as the theme of the G20 Conference of Heads of State-2023.

During his visit to border village Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji said “For me, every village at the border is the first village of the country. The people living at the border make for the country's strong guard. Every first village should evolve into vibrant village” Accordingly the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “Vibrant Villages Programme” (VVP) for the Financial Years 2022-23 to 2025-26 with financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crores.

The scheme aids to identify and develop the economic drivers based on local natural human and other resources of the border villages on northern border and development of growth centres on “Hub and Spoke Model” through promotion of social entrepreneurship, empowerment of youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship, leveraging the tourism potential through promotion of local cultural, traditional knowledge and heritage and development of sustainable eco-agribusinesses on the concept of “One village-One product” through community based organisations, Cooperatives, NGOs etc. Boarder Area Development Programme (BADP) consists of works related to village infrastructure like roads and bridges, health, education, agriculture, sports, drinking water & sanitation etc. I take pride in saying that our boarder guarding forces are actively involved in BADP.

This vibrant village programme is also discussed in two-day Chintan Shivir, organised in Surajkund (Harayana) Where Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah interacted with various State Home Ministers and DGs/IGs of State police forces.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithoo - a border village in Arunachal Pradesh. He also laid the foundation stones of several projects of Indo-Tibetan Border Police—India's premier border security agency that keeps an eye on the Indo-Sino border. The security of the border is the security of the nation and this is the reason that the government led by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi is continuously working to improve the border infrastructure.

Drug-free India is very important for the coming generations. India under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi is at a decisive stage today and we can win this fight against drugs with the collective efforts and determination of 130 crore Indians. - **Team India and Whole of Government** approach. Narcotics Control Bureau, and Anti-Narcotics Task Force of States and Union Territories have come into the mission mode and done exemplary work in this direction.

Now the nation is geared up with the spirit of ‘Cooperative Federalism’ by promoting the 3C's, that is Cooperation, Coordination, Collaboration between the Centre and the States. We are also making steady progress in adopting scientific approach in investigation which results in better conviction rates in the country.

**Knowledge is power** - Government is working on the principle of "one data-one entry" and under this, NIA has been given a national database related to terrorist cases, NCB has a national database related to narcotics cases, ED has a database related to economic offences and NCRB has been given the responsibility of creating a fingerprint database – NAFIS and National Database of Sex Offenders (NDSO) and we are committed to the vision of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Women safety is being ensured through various initiatives that make them Atma Nirbhar Nari Shakti. We will never lose sight of "Vision 2047" and ‘Panch Pran’ announced in the Independence Day speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. As discussed in Chintan Shivir, issues like modernization of police forces, cyber crime management, increased use of Information Technology in the criminal justice system, land border management, coastal security, women's safety, and drug trafficking would be our road map to achieve our goal.

As I present the second issue of Vigilant India, I solicit your feedback that makes our efforts to render this magazine informative and fruitful. ■

**Jai Hind**

“  
The nation is geared up with the spirit of ‘Cooperative Federalism’ by promoting the 3C's, that is Cooperation, Coordination, Collaboration between the Centre and the States.  
”



Let us reiterate our commitment to #ShareFactsOnDrugs and realise our vision of a Drugs Free India. Remember- addiction is neither cool nor a style statement. Sharing an old #MannKiBaat episode which contained many aspects of overcoming the drugs menace.

- **Sh. Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister of India



ड्रग्स के खिलाफ लड़ाई कठिन अवश्य है, लेकिन असंभव नहीं और हम इसे अवश्य जीतेंगे। नशामुक्त भारत ही आने वाली पीढ़ी को हमारा सबसे बड़ा उपहार होगा।

-**श्री अमित शाह**  
केन्द्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री



9 अप्रैल, 1965 को सरदार और टाक पोस्ट पर देश की सुरक्षा में अपने साहस तथा पराक्रम का परिचय देते हुए सर्वश्रेष्ठ बलिदान देने वाले @crpfindia के अमर बलिदानियों को नमन। देश अपने सीआरपीएफ के जवानों के बलिदान और पराक्रम को शौर्य दिवस के रूप में याद करता है।

- **श्री नित्यानंद राय**  
केन्द्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री, भारत सरकार



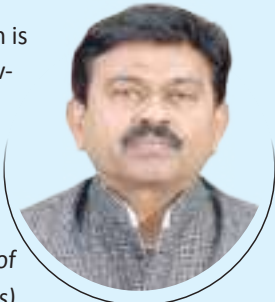
India has achieved a remarkable feat by running the world's largest financial inclusion program, empowering women through access to bank accounts. Over 26 crore accounts have been opened, enabling #NariShakti and making a significant impact on the lives of women in #NewIndia.

- **Sh. Nisith Pramanik**, Minister of State (Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)



India's digital revolution is empowering the underprivileged, unlocking new opportunities for their growth, and bridging the gap between the rich and the poor

- **Sh. Ajay Mishra**, Minister of State (Ministry of Home Affairs)



In a landmark decision under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, MHA approves conduct of Constable (General Duty) examination for CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English.

-**Ministry of Home Affairs**



India to be Drug-Free by 2047

# Drug-Free India to be Our Greatest Gift to the **Upcoming** Generation

*While the country is in its 75th year of independence, the Centre has set a target to make it drug free in the 100th year of independence. After assuming charge as the Prime Minister in the year 2014, Shri Narendra Modi called upon the entire society to get rid of drug menace. At the same time, Shri Amit Shah as the Home Minister of the country has hit the drug network in the last three years. Recently, in the first National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force Heads of States and Union Territories, he raised the pitch for de-addiction in the entire country.*

**I**n his monthly episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' in the year 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had said that when we see a youth taking drugs, we call him bad, but the reality is that the youth is not bad, it is drugs which are bad. The whole country should jointly run the 'Drugs Free India' campaign. Celebrities from film, cricket and other fields should also come together for awareness campaigns on drugs. The whole society

needs to think so that the young generation could come out of this quagmire.

The Prime Minister had also urged those who are active on social media that together a collective campaign could be run with the Drugs Free India hash-tag. Because most of the youth associated with drugs are also active on social media.

In the 'Mann Ki Baat' program on November 2, 2014, the Prime Minister had said that some people had written to him



## The Prime Minister in *Mann Ki Baat*

Drugs is such a terrible disease, such a terrible evil that it shakes even the good ones. I know that the child who gets trapped in this menace, sometimes we consider that child as guilty. The child is considered bad. The fact is that addiction is bad. Child is not bad, drug addiction is bad. The child is not bad, we should not consider our child bad. Deride the habit, detest the addiction and find ways to keep away from it. If you abuse the child, then he will start getting more drugs. This in itself is a Psycho-Socio-Medical problem. And, we need to diagnose it as a Psycho-Socio-Medical problem only. Some people feel that one gets addicted to drugs when disappointment comes in life, failure comes, when there is no way out in life. It appears to me that it becomes easy for drugs to enter in life if there is no aim, no goal, no high intentions and there is a vacuum. If you want to avoid drugs, if you want to save your child, then make them goal oriented, make them determined to do something, make them dreamers. You can see that they will not be diverted to other things. I remember those words of Swami Vivekananda. Those are very appropriate sentences for every youth. Swami Vivekananda has said - 'Take up one thought, make that thought your life. Think of it, dream of it. Bring that idea to life. Fill your mind, muscles, nerves, every part of your body with that thought and drop all other thoughts'.



**I want to ask those youth who use drugs, have you ever thought about where the money with which you buy drugs go? Drugs have three evils - Darkness, Destruction and Devastation. It is neither a style statement nor it is cool, in reality drugs are the reason behind destruction. Drugs take you into a dark alley, bring you to the point of destruction and lead you to destruction.**

**- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



these techniques, we will find ourselves two steps ahead in this battle, the Home Minister had said.

Centre has made many new beginnings. 'Map Drugs' - a mobile app and web portal has been launched to identify and destroy illegal cultivation in the country. All these initiatives will accelerate the fight against narcotics. Central funds

about menace of drug addiction. He then asked people to share their views and suggestions on the issue.

Since then, priorities have been set by the government regarding de-addiction and eradication of drug menace. Action plans were discussed in detail and implemented. On April 19, 2023, the first National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force Chiefs of States and Union Territories was held in New Delhi. As the chief guest, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we will create a drug-free India by the year 2047. He said that a drug-free India is very significant for the upcoming generations and country's future because today we are at such a stage in the fight against drugs that if we move forward with determination, collective efforts, Team India and Whole of Government approach, then our victory is certain. Shri Amit Shah said that the fight against drugs may be difficult, but we all have to resolve and move forward to achieve Modi ji's goal of a drug-free India by 2047.

Talking about the Centre's efforts, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah put some figures before the people. According to the Union Home Minister, the results of the fight against drugs in the last three years have been

encouraging. Shri Shah informed that a total of 1257 cases were registered between 2006-2013 which increased by 181 percent to 3544 between 2014-2022. In the same period, the total number of arrests increased by almost 300 percent to 5408 as against 1363. During 2006-2013, 1.52 lakh kg of drugs were seized which doubled to 3.73 lakh kg between the years 2014-2022. Drugs worth Rs 768 crore were seized between 2006-2013, which has increased by more than 25 times to Rs 22 thousand crore between 2014-2022.

We need to be technically efficient against the culprits in this time of information technology. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah also pointed this out in his address. He talked about two weapons that we have in the fight against drugs – PITNDPS and confiscation of property. Ruthless action needs to be taken against the drug peddlers, only then this fight will gain momentum. States should work in tandem with central agencies to crack down on the use of the dark net and cryptocurrencies. Along with this, all the states should also work together with the National Forensic Science University to use modern technologies like block chain analysis, intelligence mapping and digital forensics. If we work well for



## National Narcotics Coordination Portal is Very Important

Narcotics should be given first priority in the facilities provided by the Government under the Police Technology Mission. All the four meetings of the National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD), two at the Central and two at the state level, should be held regularly, the most important meeting is of the district level. Every state should make uniform efforts to have district level meetings. Shri Shah said that if all the information is uploaded on the centralized NCORD portal, it will help everyone in the form of Knowledge Management System. Our investigation must reach the international drug trafficking network and it is the responsibility of all anti-narcotics task force chiefs to destroy any part of that network anywhere in the country. A drug network chart of the district and state must be prepared, which will give us an idea of the spread of the menace and where to focus our fight. We need to be sensitive to convert this into success. There should be proper coordination between the central agencies, the coastal states and the local population to prevent drug smuggling through the sea route.

available for police modernization and upgradation of FSLs should also be used for narco related FSL upgradation. NDPS should refer cases to ED and other agencies to investigate commercial matters. Our emphasis should be on destroying the entire network. Apart from this, we also have to associate ourselves with rehabilitation and public awareness campaigns, which will benefit us a lot. The Union Home Minister says that the upcoming generations are the foundation for the development of our country and drugs makes these generations hollow. And, if the foundation of the country's development is hollow, then a strong country cannot be built on it. He said that apart from destroying the young generation of the country, narcotics also affect the country's economy. Narcotics

smuggling not only destroys the country's economy but also compromises national security through narco terror.

On April 20, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lauded the efforts to end the drug menace in the society. Responding to a tweet by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Prime Minister said, 'Good initiative to coordinate and expedite the efforts to eliminate the drug menace in the society.'

Recently, while addressing the Regional Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security in Bengaluru on March 24, 2023, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah had said that better cooperation and coordination between States, agencies and people can help eliminate the menace of drug trafficking. The fight

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**We need to move forward with 'bottom to top' and 'top to bottom' approaches and destroy the entire drug network. The fight against drugs may be tough, but we all have to resolve and move forward to achieve the goal of a drug-free India by 2047.**  
**- Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister**

”  
 against drugs should become a mass movement and every household and every individual should work together with the government and its agencies to make the Indian society drug free by the year 2047. The Union Home Minister remotely destroyed 9,298 kg of narcotics worth Rs 1,235 crore seized from Patna, Tamil Nadu, Kochi, Bengaluru and Delhi on March 24, 2023 and said that India can become a developed country if drug trafficking network is detected, the network of drug cartels is destroyed and the rehabilitation of criminals and drug abusers is expedited. ●





# Government Takes the Drug Menace by its Horns

*Following PM Modi's clarion call to free India from drug abuse, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is working proactively to destroy the deep roots that the drug mafia has in India. To that end, new-age technologies are being put to use and the NCB already has drug syndicates running for cover.*

## Bureau

In his popular radio address to the nation titled Mann ki Baat in November 2014, PM Modi challenged the youth of the country to say no to drug abuse. Addressing the youth directly, the PM said, "Gather the courage to tell your peers that drug abuse is very wrong." He continued, "The use of recreational drugs is neither a style statement nor is it cool. Drug abuse leads those who do it down a blind alley from which there is no return. Youth who spend money on buying such vile substances have to realise that along with their health, they are also leading the society they live in and the country on the path of destruction." He further cautioned the youth that the money they pay to drug dealers reaches the drug mafia that uses it to finance terrorists. This money is used to spread the terror net in India and spill the blood of soldiers, police personnel, and many innocent men, women, and children.

When PM Modi says something, the entire nation listens. When he shared these thoughts with the people of India through Mann ki Baat, the result was that security agencies, especially

NCB, came into a proactive mode and started destroying the underground infrastructure that the drug mafia had built over the past many decades. To prevent the youth of the country from falling prey to drug abuse, NCB has taken several steps and drug smuggling, drug selling, and drug abuse has been reduced to a small fraction of what it used to be. NCB has now started using new-age technologies, such as AI to intercept online drug trafficking on the dark-web. Other than this, NCB is also adopting latest encryption and communication technologies for smooth, secure, and seamless real-time coordination with other security agencies, such as police forces. According to latest statistics, during the eight-year period 2006–2013, NCB had registered a total of 1,257 cases related to drug trade in the country. But the increased vigilance of NCB after that has led to a sharp increase in the number of cases registered. For example, in the nine-year period 2014–2022, 3,172 cases—an impressive 173 percent increase—were registered and action was taken on them. The issue of drug abuse was also brought up by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in the two-day Chintan Shivir of Home Ministers of all States at Surajkund near Faridabad, Haryana in October 2022. The HM said that the zero tolerance policy of the Modi Government against narcotics is yielding good results and in the last eight years, not only has more than three thousand cases been registered by NCB, but drugs worth more than ₹20,000 crore have also been seized. The HM further said that keeping in mind the problem of narcotics and drug abuse, 372 districts of India have been identified by the Government as epicentres of the drug menace. HM Amit Shah further went on to say that there is a dire need for security to sharply focus on the narcotics issue and develop specific methods to fight it at a fast pace. Along with NCB





and state narcotics control bureaux, police forces, the Indian Coast Guard, the Indian Navy, and various Airport Authorities will also have to join this fight.

Cultivation of ganja (hemp) is still widespread in a few States and has to be dealt with strictly. A few such states are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, the eight northeast States, South Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. These States, the HM proposed should use drones for surveillance and artificial intelligence (AI) to help eliminate the cultivation of cannabis and ganja.

It is also worth noting that many incidents of drug smuggling via sea routes have come to light in Gujarat, a state with a long coastline of 1,596 kilometres. In spite of the numerous problems faced the Coast Guard and NCB in staying vigilant on such a long distance, said the HM, if such large seizures can be made in Gujarat, then other coastal states can also do the same.

According to a study conducted by the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, every seventh person in Punjab is a drug abuser. This means that almost 15.4 percent of the entire population of the state is addicted to narcotics and recreational drugs. Another survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India brought to light that the total number of drug addicts in Punjab is 2,32,856. Of these, the maximum number of drug addicts—53 percent (1,23,413)—are addicted to heroin and chitta and, on an



average, each addict spends ₹1,400 a day to purchase drugs.

Uttar Pradesh government has been

most proactive in the Country in fighting the menace of drugs. UP Government created the Anti-Narcotics Task Force in August 2022, and the Force was given all legal powers necessary to search, arrest, and investigation cases against criminals, and drug mafia and gangs involved in drug trade. The Modi Government has taken numerous attempts to combat the problem of drug peddling and drug abuse. To address the issue, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in 272 of India's most disadvantaged districts in August 2020. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is the Government of India's Nodal Department for Drug Demand Reduction.

NMBA has so far attracted about eight crore people, including three crore youths and two crore women, and 1.59 lakh educational institutions. The day is not far when India will be a truly drug abuse-free country. ●

## The Impact of K9 Squads



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah says that the e-prison module of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) should also be studied in detail and K9 squads that have been formed should be used by State narcotics control bureaux as well. There should be trained dog squad at every airport and every port. A lot of drugs can be confiscated if checking of random packages and parcels are done by this squad.

# Crackdown on



# Smuggling Network

## Bureau



iming to realise the concept of a drug-free India, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) conducts raids and seizures. NCB has

consistently been on the job and over the years it has mapped the chart of the drugs network and the route of drugs entering the states. Its network has been mapped in 472 districts and sent to the concerned states. During a discussion in the Lok Sabha on December 21, 2022, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah discussed the issues surrounding drugs in the country and the steps taken by the government to deal with it. In this discussion, the example of the NCB Annual Report, 2022 was given.

The NCB Annual Report, 2022 mentions the seizure of 11 kg of methamphetamine by the Chennai zone and the biggest pharmaceutical seizure by the Mumbai team in December, 2022. Acting on specific information, officials of Narcotics Control Bureau of Chennai Regional Unit intercepted a truck bearing Tamil Nadu registration number coming from Guwahati to Gummudipundi on February 7, 2022. The NCB team caught the driver of the truck and seized 11 kg of methamphetamine. Interrogation of the driver disclosed that the owner of the truck was a Sri Lankan national. The driver did not know much about him. However, the owner of the truck was nabbed when he was going to Chennai in a bus of V. Kaveri Travels. Interrogation was done during Mahajar (Panchnama), in which he disclosed many names and also exposed their mutual



**Adopting a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, the Ministry of Home Affairs has formulated a three-pronged strategy for drug-free India.**

relations. Based on this enquiry, the NCB team identified another Sri Lankan national as a mediator in the Methamphetamine purchase transaction and proceeded against him. Four persons were arrested. Searches at the receiver's residence in Chennai resulted in the seizure of incriminating documents and Indian currency worth Rs 4,21,100 and Sri Lankan currency worth Rs 37,130. NCB busted the entire network and financier, supplier and receiver was caught and taken into custody.

Another major highlight of the NCB's success story is the seizure of Codeine Based Cough Syrup (CBCS) bottles and Nitrazepam tablets by NCB, Mumbai Zone. Acting



## Boosting Institutional Structure

Keeping in view Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's emphasis on boosting the system and accountability, the Ministry of Home Affairs has made continuous efforts for institutional restructuring and strengthening of legal provisions. Under this, a four-level (apex level, executive level, state level, and district level committee) NCORD Mechanism was formed by the Union Home Ministry in the year 2019 for better coordination. Along with this, on March 25, 2022, the four-tier NCORD mechanism was reconstituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs. NCB has been made the nodal agency at the national level.

on a tip-off, a team of NCB Mumbai Regional Unit seized 920 bottles of Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Codeine Phosphate Syrup Phencirest Cough Syrup 100ml at Sector 14, Koparkhairane, Thane Navi Mumbai on December 09, 2022 and arrested a couple. One more accused was caught and arrested in this case and on the basis of further revelations, NCB Mumbai again seized 6000 tablets of Nitrazepu Nitrazepam (Nitrevet 10 mg) Weighing (3-6 Kg) and Codeine Phosphate and Chlorpheniramine Seven bottles of Malate Syrup were seized from a petrol pump at Western Express Highway, Kashimira, Mira Road (E), Thane on 10th December and the fourth accused in the case was also arrested. On the basis of disclosure of one of the accused, NCB Mumbai seized 480 bottles of Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Codeine Phosphate Syrup Phencirest Cough Syrup 100 ml on December 12, 2022 at Kandivali, Mumbai and arrested the 5th accused. Further investigation led to the arrest of the 6th accused (supplier) in the case.

In fact, NCB has successfully conducted hundreds of such operations throughout the year. The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha that the cases of drug smuggling have been put into serious category of cases and nearly 13,000 cases registered against drug smuggling dealers show that the campaign is in the right direction and showing results. In the last 5 years, 61 new psychotropic substances have been notified by the government, which did not come under this category earlier. ●





## Drug-free India

# Use of Drones, Artificial Intelligence and Satellites

*To prevent all this, the government has taken several new initiatives for the North East states. The regional office of NCB has been established in Guwahati. In the coming years NCB will work in four regions including Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. New regional offices are also proposed to be set up at Agartala in Tripura and Pasighat/Lower Siang in Arunachal Pradesh.*

### Bureau

**A**s part of the campaign to make the country drug-free, the government is taking the aid of technology in the form of drones, artificial intelligence and satellites to monitor and control opium production. Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit

Shah said that by bringing a synergy with the states and taking all the concerned agencies on a single platform, the message has to be given that the country has now found the root cause of this problem and has decided to solve the issue. Our focus should be on network and stopping cross-border smuggling. We need to go beyond

catching drug users and distributors involved in seizures and need to follow the masterminds who smuggle drugs into India from across the border. Along with this, the network spread inside the country will have to be destroyed.

The country's north eastern region shares international borders with four



countries and is adjacent to the opium growing region of Myanmar, which is the second largest producer of opium in the world after Afghanistan. Drug abuse is a serious problem in Northeast India. According to the Magnitude of Substance Report, 2019, published by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the consumption of opium and Ganja is at an alarming level in seven states of the Northeast. This is more than the average of their intake in the country. The Home Minister said that some new trends have emerged in the Northeast. Drug syndicates take advantage of bank accounts and postal addresses belonging to North East India. Myanmar nationals have bank accounts in some Indian banks in Manipur. The collusion of drug smugglers from the Northeast with Nigerians has also emerged.

To prevent all this, the government has taken several new initiatives for the North East states. The regional office of NCB has been established in Guwahati. In the coming years NCB will work in four regions including Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. New regional offices are also proposed to be set up at Agartala in Tripura and Pasighat/Lower Siang in Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from this, there is a proposal to start a Zonal Office at New Jalpaiguri for better coverage of the areas adjoining Sikkim. Several measures have been taken against the illegal cultivation of Ganja and opium poppy in the North Eastern region as well as in other parts of the country. The Home Ministry is setting up a study group to destroy illegal cultivation in hilly and difficult terrain using drones and latest technology on a large scale without harming farmers. An inter-ministerial committee has been constituted on alternative livelihood arrangements for farmers engaged in cultivation of illegal crops. Also, NCB is sharing satellite imagery to destroy illegal cultivation of opium poppy in the North Eastern region.

## E-pledge against Drugs

Apart from being the premier narcotics law enforcement

Awareness program organized by NCB in 2022		
Month	No. of awareness programs	No. of participants
Jan	34	9187
February	30	2119
March	23	2557
April	25	1822
May	27	2420
June	307	106144
July	32	5914
August	23	1490
Sep	15	2630
October	19	3430
November	19	4712
Dec	20	7695
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>150120</b>

agency, NCB is also entrusted with the responsibility of spreading awareness against the ill-effects of the drug in coordination with state authorities and stakeholders. With a view to achieve this goal, an e-pledge titled 'Yes to life, no to drugs' has been uploaded on mygov.in website.

The objective is to spread the message of ill-effects of drugs among the citizens so that they can show resolve to make India a drug-free nation and lead a healthy life. Citizens can take the e-pledge through this link <http://pledge.mygov.in/fightagainstdrugabuse/>.

Various Central Ministries like Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Personnel and Training, National Child Protection Commission, CAPFs and other partner agencies including police and state authorities have been made aware of this initiative and have been requested that this information be disseminated to the entire society including educational institutions, so that a mass movement can be generated in the fight against drug addiction.

NCB has also launched a 'Totally Pledged Campus' (movement against drug) through its regional units in selected schools and colleges/educational institutions in a mission/campaign mode under the guidance of the concerned Regional Offices. By the end of 2022, around 30 lakh people took an e-pledge against drugs. ●

## Other programs by NCB

Apart from its routine work in the field of drug prohibition, NCB also works in spreading awareness among the public through various programmes. These programs include-

- ◆ Street Play / Cultural Program
- ◆ Race Against Drug Abuse
- ◆ Display of awareness boards at pubs, bars and airports
- ◆ Oath taking ceremony
- ◆ Display of banners and posters at prominent public places
- ◆ Publication of advertisement in leading newspapers
- ◆ Message against drugs through radio channel
- ◆ SMS alert about drug awareness

Celebrating June 26 as the 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' to create awareness.

During 2022, NCB conducted 574 awareness and educational programs in various States/UTs of the country involving approximately 1,50,120 participants to fulfil the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Nasha Mukta Bharat'.



For a developed India, it is necessary that the government should support the aspirations of every countryman. Earlier it was believed that 'the government will do everything', but now there is thinking that 'the government will do for everyone'. Today's government's motto is - Nation First - Citizen First and today's government's priority is prioritizing the deprived. Today's aspirational citizens are not ready to wait for long to see a change in the system.

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



# Motivation of Civil Servants and Development of Villages

## Bureau

**T**here is no match for Indians in terms of development. Apart from the hard work of the citizens, the Prime Minister has played a significant role on this. When our leader is great, people will be inspired to do positive work. It comes from the general public to the bureaucracy. On April 21, 2023, in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the civil service officers present in the gathering on the 16th Civil Services Day. The Prime Minister emphasized that when time is limited,

it becomes very important to decide the direction and plan of action. Today's challenge is not about efficiency, but about how to find and remove deficiencies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "the young officers are extremely fortunate to serve the nation in this Amrit Kaal...The responsibility to accomplish the dreams of every freedom fighter of the nation lies upon every shoulder" the Prime Minister remarked as he pointed out the paucity of time but the abundance of potential and courage in the country.

The Prime Minister said that the country is prepared for take-off due to the work done in the last 9 years. He said

that better results are being obtained with the same bureaucracy and personnel. He acknowledged the role of Karmyogis in the growing profile of the country on the global stage, for the growing confidence of the poorest of the poor in 'Sushasan' and for a new momentum of development of the country. He remarked on transformative changes in the rural economy, railways, highways, port capacity augmentation and the number of airports. He said, the awards today reflect the contribution and sense of service of the Karmyogis.

The Prime Minister told the government servants that there are two



**Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi awarded officers for excellence in public administration and released 'Viksit Bharat - Empowering Citizens and Reaching the Last Mile' on the occasion of 16th Civil Services Day. On the same day, he was also in Rewa in Madhya Pradesh where he talked about E-Gram Swaraj. Property cards were given to 35 lakh rural families of the country under the Swamitva Yojana.**

approaches to life, first, getting things done and second letting things happen. The first is an active attitude and the second reflects a passive attitude. People with faith in getting things done take ownership in a proactive manner and become the driving force of their teams. "By this burning desire to bring change in the lives of the people you will be able to leave a memorable legacy. You will not be judged by what you have done for yourself but by what changes have you brought in the lives of the people", the Prime Minister told the Karmyogis. Therefore, he said "Good governance is the key. People-centric governance solves problems and gives better results", he said.

The Prime Minister consistently appreciated the contribution of civil servants in nation building and exhorted them to work harder. The event served as an apt platform for the Prime Minister to enthuse and inspire civil servants across the country to serve the nation with similar enthusiasm, especially during this phase of Amrit Kaal. The policies of the Central Government and its correct implementation by the officers can lead to the development of the person standing at the last rung of the society.

Similarly, while speaking on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj Day celebrations in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister talked in detail about the schemes of the government, the benefits of which are reaching every person in the village. Referring to e-GramSwaraj and GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level, the Prime Minister said that it will ease the working of the Panchayats. He also mentioned the distribution of 35 lakh SVAMITVA Property Cards and projects worth Rs.17000 crores regarding railways, housing, water and employment for the development of Madhya Pradesh

The Prime Minister said that the government is working ceaselessly to bridge the gap between villages and cities. Panchayats are being made smart in this

age of the digital revolution. Technology is being harnessed in the projects being undertaken by the Panchayats. The Prime Minister gave the example of Amrit Sarovar where issues like the selection of sites and completion of the project are being done with the help of technology. He said the GeM portal for public procurement at the Panchayat level will make procurement by the Panchayats easy and transparent. Local cottage industry will find a strong avenue for their sales, the Prime Minister said.

Throwing light on the lack of efforts made by the previous governments before 2014, the Prime Minister informed that the finance commission granted less than Rs.70,000 crores which was a paltry amount when one considers the scale of the country, but after 2014, this grant was increased to more than Rs.2 lakh crores. He also mentioned that merely 6,000 Panchayat Bhawans were constructed a decade before 2014, whereas the present government constructed more than 30,000 Panchayat Bhawans in the last 8 years. He also informed that less than 70 Gram Panchayats were connected with optical fiber compared to more than 2 lakh Gram Panchayats that got optical fiber connectivity after the present government came to power.

The PM also noted the lack of faith

shown in the existing Panchayati Raj system by the previous governments after India's independence. Recalling the words of Mahatma Gandhi that 'India lives in its villages', the Prime Minister has said that the focus of the government is towards all-round development of villages.

The Prime Minister said that today, Panchayats are coming up as the life force of India's development. "Gram Panchayat Vikas Yojana is helping Panchayats to work effectively", PM Modi added.

With the aim of taking forward people's participation towards ensuring saturation of schemes of the government, Prime Minister unveiled a campaign named 'विकास की ओर साझे कदम' (Combined efforts towards development). The theme of the campaign will be inclusive development, with a focus on reaching the last mile.

The Prime Minister also handed over around 35 lakh SVAMITVA Property Cards to beneficiaries. Post this programme, around 1.25 crore property cards were distributed under SVAMITVA Scheme in the country, including those distributed here. Taking a step towards fulfilling the vision of achieving 'Housing for All', the Prime Minister participated in a programme marking the 'Griha Pravesh' of more than 4 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various railway projects worth around Rs. 2,300 crores. The projects include 100 percent rail electrification in Madhya Pradesh, along with various doubling, gauge conversion and electrification projects. He also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Gwalior station. ●







**You have to focus on sports infrastructure, and sports training according to each tournament. You also have to decide short-term, medium-term and long-term goals.**

**- -Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



# Consistency is the Key to Success

**Any Chintan Shivir begins with contemplation, proceeds with rumination and ends with implementation. Northeast and Manipur have contributed significantly in taking forward the sports tradition in the country.**

## Bureau

To be successful, it is necessary to make continuous efforts. Let there be continuity. If India has to show its strength by joining the developed countries of the world, then it is most important that the youth have to be prepared the most and be strong. This was once again reminded by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister expressed delight that 'Chintan Shivir' is taking place in Manipur this year and many sportspersons from the Northeast have raised the glory of the Tricolour by winning medals for the country. The Prime Minister highlighted the indigenous games of the region such as Sagol Kangjai, Thang-ta, Yubi Lakpi, Mukna and Hiang Tannaba, and said that they are very attractive in their own right. "Northeast and Manipur have significantly contributed in taking forward the sports tradition of the country", Shri Modi added. Further explaining the indigenous games, the Prime Minister mentioned Oo-Lawabi of Manipur which resembles Kabaddi, Hiyang Tannaba reminds one of Kerala's boat race. He also

noted Manipur's historical association with polo and said that the Northeast adds new colours to the country's cultural diversity and provides new dimensions to the country's sports diversity. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that Sports Ministers from all over the country will have a learning experience at the end of the 'Chintan Shivir'.

Highlighting the performance of Indian athletes and sportspersons in the last year, the Prime Minister lauded their phenomenal efforts, especially in international sports events. He stressed on further extending help to the players while celebrating these achievements. The Prime Minister pointed out that the preparations of the Sports Ministry and its departments will be tested in events like Squash World Cup, Hockey Asian Champions Trophy, and Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championship in the times to come and stressed that while players are preparing themselves, it is now time for the ministries to work with a different approach regarding sports

tournaments. Drawing the analogy of man-to-man marking in sports like football and hockey, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to carry out different strategies for each tournament and follow the approach of match-to-match marking. "You have to focus on sports infrastructure, and sports training according to each tournament. You also have to decide short-term, medium-term and long-term goals", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said that fitness could be achieved by a player alone but it is the continuity that makes way for great performance. He underlined the need to play more competitions and sports tournaments at the local level so that players get to learn a lot from this. Shri Modi asked the Sports Ministers to ensure no sporting talent is overlooked. Highlighting the sporting developments carried out in the Northeast, the Prime Minister said that the region is a huge inspiration for the nation. He informed that projects worth more than 400 crores related to sports infrastructure are giving a new direction to the development of the Northeast today. The Prime Minister gave examples of the National Sports University of Imphal which will provide new opportunities to the youth of the country in the coming times, and efforts like Khelo India Scheme and TOPS that have played a big role in this. Informing that at least 2 Khelo India Centers in every district of the Northeast, and Khelo India State Center of Excellence in every State are being set up, the Prime Minister said that these efforts would become the foundation of a new India in the sports world and will give a new identity to the country. ●



# 'Mann Ki Baat'

## Stands on the Foundation of Democracy

*The Prime Minister has been connecting with people with 'Mann Ki Baat' for the last 100 months with the concern of every individual and wishing prosperity for everyone. Recently, the Union Home Minister said that the 'Mann Ki Baat' program stands on the foundation of democracy and one of the main aspects of democracy is the dialogue between the public and the leader, the stronger and more meaningful this dialogue is, the stronger and more successful the foundation of democracy is.*

### Bureau

When it comes to communication skills and connecting with the common people, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi remains unsurpassed. While fulfilling the onerous responsibility of the Prime Minister, it may not be possible to personally meet every citizen of the country, but the concern and curiosity to communicate with them started the Mann Ki Baat programme. This thing has been said by common public as well as by special people. Since the year 2014, the Prime Minister has been continuously communicating with people through Mann Ki Baat on the last Sunday of every month. In the 100th edition, it was a matter of discussion not only in the country, but at the international level, as well.

In the 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said that for him, Mann Ki Baat is a journey from ego to self. 'Mann Ki Baat' has become a spiritual journey of my mind. Apart from this, the PM discussed many things including the contribution of the people to the country. After becoming the Prime Minister, due to the compulsion of the circumstances, he had the challenge of being cut off from the public. But, 'Mann Ki Baat' provided a solution and a way to connect with the common people. It has become a unique festival of the goodness and positivity of the countrymen.

The Prime Minister said that when he served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, it was natural to interact with the common people there, but when he became the Prime Minister, life was different as the nature of

the work was different, the responsibilities were different. At the same time, there were rigours of security and constraint of time. "In the initial days, something felt different, there was emptiness. Fifty years ago, I did not leave my home just to find one day it would be difficult to contact the people of my own country. The very countrymen who are my everything,... I could not live separated from them. 'Mann Ki Baat' gave me a solution to this challenge, a way to connect with the common man," he said.

Earlier, on April 26, 2023, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the closing ceremony of 'National Conclave: Mann Ki Baat @ 100' in the capital Delhi as the chief guest. A commemorative stamp and coin were also released on the





occasion. Several dignitaries including Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chowdhary and Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Shri Apoorva Chandra were present on the occasion.

During this, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that there are many media of mass communication in a democracy and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chose All India Radio to engage with people through Mann Ki Baat. He said that All India Radio is the voice of soul of the people of India. Shri Shah said that people had almost forgotten All India Radio due to changing times and different media of communication, but Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has connected the young generation through Mann Ki Baat and gave new lease of life to All India Radio. He said that Shri Modi made All India Radio a medium of communication and took it to every home and village of the country. Shri Amit Shah said that by encouraging over 700 contributors and 270 organizations, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inspired and instilled confidence in them to contribute towards the society. He said that Mann Ki Baat program has realized the concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” and reached many countries including Argentina, Mongolia, Australia, Mali, Greece, Oman, Guyana and Japan. He said that the communication skill of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has 4 main pillars – it promotes emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical activities. Shri Shah said that this is a PERFECT communication, which means P- Peace, E-Empowerment, R- Reflective, F- Festive, E- Economic Development, C- Caring and T- Thoughtful

He said that from Ladakh and Lakshadweep to Northeast and Punjab, from farmers to science, from self-help groups to startups and from cooperatives to space, through this program Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made a very successful attempt to cover individuals, organizations as well as every sector. Shri Shah said that this effort has left a wide and huge impact on the people. Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has two major contributions in India's democracy – Shri Modi has freed our democratic system from casteism, nepotism and appeasement and taken it towards the



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**The fruits of democracy can be achieved only when there is dialogue between the leader and the public. He said that this is such a unique program in which the Prime Minister of the country has been communicating with the people for nine years but has not spoken a single political thing. In this programme, Shri Modi has provided a platform to the country's positive energy, creative power and spiritual power. He said that democracy can never be successful in a country where these powers are not unified and rewarded. Shri Modi has brought this mantra of democracy to the grassroots through 99 episodes of Mann Ki Baat.**

**- Mr. Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister**

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politics of performance. Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has successfully interpreted the present times in most relevant way, and also presented our traditions with fresh interpretation in front of the society. Mann Ki Baat has emerged as a strong communication medium to strengthen the democracy, to provide platform to the individual and society, to refine and reward the efforts made by the virtuous citizens.

Amit Shah said that the Mann Ki Baat program, started on October 3, 2014 is listened to by the people in 23 languages and 29 dialects through 501 radio stations of All India Radio. Apart from this, it is also broadcast in 11 foreign languages. He said

that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has ensured success of many initiatives related to public awareness and social change such as, Swachh Bharat, Fit India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Water Conservation, Vocal for Local, Self-reliant India, Sugamya Bharat and Promotion of cultural heritage through this program. He said that these programs are taking India on the path of progress and social transformation.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that in the November, 2022 -episode of Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi talked about India's chairmanship of G-20 and appealed for world peace highlighting the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also talked about the duality of spiritual and world peace during his Mann Ki Baat and put forth the secrets of our Puranas in front of the people. During the 92nd episode, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi focused on the issue of malnourishment among people through observation of 'Poshan Maah' and has also cleared the misconception about Startup India and worked to speed up the cooperative movement through Mann Ki Baat. During the September 24, 2017 episode, Prime Minister Modi mentioned that Khadi is not just a cloth but an idea and after Mahatma Gandhi, this idea has been popularized most by Shri Modi. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given a boost to the rural economy through Mann Ki Baat. Shri Shah said that when PM Modi talked about Indian toys, the import of toys declined by 70% from \$371 million in 2018-19 to \$110 million in 2021-22, while the export of Indian toys increased from \$202 million to \$326 million. Now children play with Indian toys and it shows the huge impact of Mann Ki Baat. ●





## ‘SWAGAT’ stands by the idea of Ease of Living and Reach of Governance

### Bureau

Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasised on the ease of living of common people of the Country. Recently, while addressing a programme marking 20 years of completion of the State Wide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology - SWAGAT Initiative in Gujarat via video conferencing, the Prime Minister said the government’s attitude should be friendly. “The attitude of the government should be friendly and common citizens can easily share their issues with them”, the Prime Minister said.

Addressing the gathering on April 27, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that the objective behind starting Swagat has been successfully achieved where citizens not only find solutions to their problems but also raise issues of the entire community of hundreds. The Prime Minister remarked that the SWAGAT initiative is completing 20 years of its existence and recalled his past experiences upon interacting with the beneficiaries. He said that it is the effort and dedication of the



**I was clear that I would not become a slave of the restrictions of the chair. I will remain among people and will be there for them**

**-Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**



citizens that make SWAGAT initiative a grand success and congratulated everyone who has contributed in this direction.

The Gujarat government celebrated SWAGAT Saptah on successfully completing 20 years of the initiative. During the event, the Prime Minister also interacted with the past beneficiaries of the scheme.

The Prime Minister said that the destiny of

any scheme is determined by the intention and vision of that scheme when it is conceived. He recalled that when the initiative was launched in 2003 he was not very old as Chief Minister and he too faced the common refrain that power changes everyone. He said that he was clear to remain unchanged by the assumption of the chair. “I was clear that I would not become a slave of the restrictions of the chair. I will remain among people and will be there for them”, he said. This determination gave birth to StateWide Attention on Grievances by Application of Technology (SWAGAT). The Prime Minister said that the idea behind SWAGAT was to welcome the views of the common citizens in democratic institutions, be it in legislation or solutions. “SWAGAT stands by the idea of Ease of Living and Reach of Governance”, the Prime Minister said.

He underlined that the good governance model of Gujarat has found its own identity in the world due to the efforts made by the government with all honesty and dedication. The Prime Minister mentioned the International Telecom Organisation which presented the prime example of good



governance by SWAGAT as e-transparency and e-accountability. He also mentioned that SWAGAT drew a lot of praise from the United Nations and was also conferred the prestigious award for Public Service. The Prime Minister pointed out that Gujarat received the gold award from the Government of India for e-governance owing to SWAGAT during the Congress regime in 2011.

“For me, the biggest reward is that we could serve the people of Gujarat through SWAGAT”, the Prime Minister said. In SWAGAT we prepared a practical system. The first systems of public hearings under SWAGAT were created at the block and tehsil levels. After that District Magistrate was made responsible at the district level. And at the state level, the Prime Minister informed that he took the responsibility on his own shoulders. This, he said, helped him a great deal to understand the impact and reach of the initiatives and schemes and the relations between implementing agencies and the end beneficiaries. SWAGAT empowered the citizens and gained credibility.

The Prime Minister said that SWAGAT changed the old notion of following the established trails in government. “We proved that governance is not limited to old rules and laws but governance takes place due to innovations and new ideas”, he added. Shri Modi recalled that in 2003, e-governance was not much of a priority by the governments of the time. Paper trails and physical files led to a lot of delays and harassment video conferencing was mostly unknown. “Under these circumstances, Gujarat worked on futuristic ideas. And today, a system like SWAGAT has become the inspiration for many solutions to governance. Many states are working on this type of system. At the center we have also made a system called PRAGATI to review the working of the government. PRAGATI has played a big role in the rapid development of the country in the last 9 years. This concept is also based on the idea of SWAGAT.” The Prime Minister informed that he has reviewed projects worth about 16 lakh crores through PRAGATI and many projects were speeded up due to this.

The Prime Minister noted that even though the SWAGAT programme was held only once a week, the work related to it would be done all over the month as there were hundreds of grievances. The Prime Minister also informed that he would carry



out an analysis to understand if there were any specific departments, officers or regions whose complaints were registered more often than others. “An in-depth analysis was carried out where policies were also amended if needed”, Shri Modi continued, “this created a sense of trust amongst the common citizens”. He remarked that the measure of good governance in society is dependent on the quality of the public grievance redressal system and this is the true test of democracy.

The Prime Minister gave the analogy of a seed sprouting into a massive tree with hundreds of branches and expressed confidence that the idea of SWAGAT will give way to thousands of new innovations in governance. He expressed delight that governance initiatives are being celebrated like this as it infuses new life and energy in them. “It will continue to serve the public by becoming a model of public-oriented governance”, the Prime Minister concluded.

SWAGAT was started by the Prime Minister in April 2003 when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. The programme was driven by his belief that the foremost responsibility of a Chief Minister is to solve the problems of the people of the State. With this resolve, along with the early realization of the potential of technology to promote ease of living, the then

CM Modi launched a first-of-its-kind tech-based grievance redressal programme.

The main purpose of this programme was to act as a bridge between the citizens and the government by using technology to solve their day-to-day grievances in a quick, efficient and time-bound manner. Over time, SWAGAT brought about a transformative impact on the lives of people and became an effective tool to solve woes in a paperless, transparent and hassle-free manner.

The uniqueness of SWAGAT is that it helps the common citizen air his grievances directly to the Chief Minister. It is held on the fourth Thursday of every month wherein the Chief Minister interacts with citizens for grievance redressal. The programme has been instrumental in bridging the gap between people and government through a prompt resolution of grievances. Under the programme, it is ensured that every applicant is informed of the decision. More than 99% of grievances submitted to date have been resolved.

The SWAGAT Online Programme has been given various awards over the years, including the United Nations Public Service Award in 2010 for improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public service. ●





# Assam-Arunachal Border Dispute Ends, Opens New Avenues of Development

*The long-standing border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh has come to an end because of the efforts of the Modi government. This landmark agreement is a true example of cooperative federalism and will provide a roadmap for resolving border disputes between other states.*

## Bureau

**P**rim Minister Shri Narendra Modi saying that the strong government will lead to the development of the society and the state has been getting huge public support. The strong government has proved to be effective in resolving many old issues. There has been a decades-old border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. While the negotiations had been going on for long, it reached a decisive stage only recently on April 20, 2023 and the day emerged historic for the North Eastern states.

Under this agreement, the border of over 700 kilometers between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be complete and final. It has been said that no new claim related to any area or village would be presented by both the parties in future. Keeping in view the historical perspective, demographic profile, administrative convenience, proximity to the border and the aspirations of the residents, an agreement has been reached between the two states to end this dispute relating to 123 villages adjacent to the

inter-state border. After the agreement, a detailed survey will be done by the Survey of India in the presence of representatives of both the state governments to determine the boundaries of both the states.

This agreement will prove to be a milestone in realizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of a developed, peaceful and conflict-free North East. In fact, due to the efforts of the Modi government, all-round development has been taking place in every region of the Northeast for the last few years. This agreement will prove to be auspicious for the entire Northeast including both the states and will open new doors of development. Prime Minister Modi has been to the Northeast states more than 50 times and has always promoted its language, culture, literature, costumes and cuisine. Recently, the Prime Minister made it popular in the world by witnessing the famous local Bihu dance during the Bihu festival in Assam.

It is noteworthy that on April 20, a historic agreement was signed between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to settle the inter-state border dispute pending for years in the presence of Union



Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in New Delhi. The important agreement was signed by Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Pema Khandu. Union Law Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla were also present on the occasion.

Assam and Arunachal Pradesh share an 804.1 kilometer long border and the border dispute has continued between the two states ever since Arunachal Pradesh was declared a Union Territory in 1972. It includes the resolution of 27 villages that came out during the signing of the 'Namsai Declaration' on July 15, 2022, and the resolution of 34 villages that came out under the agreement. Out of these 71 villages, one village from Arunachal Pradesh will be included in Assam, 10 villages will remain in Assam and 60 villages

from Assam will be included in Arunachal Pradesh. Out of the remaining 52 villages, the boundaries of 49 villages will be determined by the regional committees in the next six months, while three villages falling under the IAF's bombing area need to be rehabilitated. Under this agreement, the dispute concluded with the governments of both the states having agreed that this will be the final decision on 123 villages.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that at a time when the country is celebrating 75 years of independence, the dispute over 123 villages located on the inter-state border of the two states has now ended once and for all. The 'amicable' settlement of the old pending border dispute by Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is a 'historic' event for both the states. The end of this age-old border dispute since 1972 will bring

all-round development and peace in the North Eastern states.

Shri Amit Shah appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu in resolving this long pending border dispute. He said that both the states formed a regional committee to settle the dispute, talked to the common people and worked to include everyone in this effort. Due to the efforts of the Modi government, all-round development is being seen in the entire North-East and the whole region is moving forward on the path of progress. Congratulating the people of both the states on behalf of the Government of India, he said that this agreement will prove to be auspicious for both the states and will open new avenues of development.

The Union Home Minister also said that in the last eight years, the central



## India attaches special importance to Disaster Risk Reduction

Sharing his views, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that India attaches special importance to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in promoting dialogue on the subject relating to multi-dimensional political, security and economic subjects

Chairing a meeting of heads of departments of SCO member states responsible for Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations, the Home Minister said that they are responsible for prevention and elimination of emergency situations. On India's initiative, a Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction has been constituted at the G-20, and the first meeting of this Group was held recently in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. India has hosted joint bilateral exercises with

SAARC, BIMSTEC and SCO countries. The SCO is probably the largest regional organization in the world, representing 40 percent of the global population, 25 percent of the global GDP and 22 percent of the world's total land area.

The Home Minister said that India believes that no hazard is small or big and it does not leave anyone behind. Shri Shah said that India now has more accurate and timely early warning system in place and the country has seen a sea change in the way its early warning systems (EWS) of drought, flood, lightning, heat wave, cold wave, cyclone, have improved. He said that the forecast not only warns us about the disaster but also predicts the potential impact it is likely to cause. He said that India's priority as

the Chair of the Council is to take forward the SECURE theme articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Qingdao Summit of the SCO in 2018, which means, S – Security, E – Economic Cooperation, C – Connectivity, U – Unity, R – Respect For Sovereignty and Integrity and E – Environment Protection.

India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) today has 39 members from across the world. CDRI is working with member countries to ensure that all investments in infrastructure is made in a manner that it makes our infrastructure resilient to disasters, thereby securing not just our present but also our future. Along with this, CDRI is placing particular emphasis on some of the most vulnerable regions of the world, such as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Based on these consultations, the Member-States enhanced cooperation in the field of preparedness and emergency response and jointly mitigated the impact arising from natural and man-made disasters within the framework of the SCO. The participants also discussed and approved the action plan for implementation of the Agreement among SCO Member-States on Cooperation in Providing Assistance in the Elimination of Emergency Situations in 2023-2025. The action plan contributes to enhancing cooperation among SCO member-states in dealing with the prevention and elimination of emergency situations. ●



## Action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047"

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah presided over a 'Chintan Shivir' of senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi. Objective of the Chintan Shivir was to review the work of the Ministry and evolve an action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047".

The Chintan Shivir commenced with an in-depth review of the status of compliance of the instructions given by the Home Minister during an earlier discussion held with the officers of the Ministry. Home Minister also reviewed the functioning of MHA dashboard, Government Land Information System (GLIS), Budget Utilization, E-Office and Special Recruitment Drive etc. He also reviewed the work of various Divisions on their priorities and deliverables in the coming years, position on AtmaNirbhar Bharat, various Budget announcements and important pending issues.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah emphasised on developing ecosystem for cybercrime management, modernization of police forces, increased use of IT in criminal justice system, land border management and coastal security issues etc. Shri Shah said that enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence should be made to utilise the CCTNS database for critical analysis of crimes, thus, making cities safer for women, children and vulnerable sections.

Shri Amit Shah stressed on the need to fast-track the recruitment process and said that anticipating the future vacancies recruitment should be initiated well in advance. He said that meetings of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC) should be held regularly so that employees get timely promotions. He also emphasised on taking various welfare measures for CAPF personnel like creating healthcare facilities, improving housing satisfaction ratio amongst others. Home Minister also emphasised on importance of training and said that regular training should be conducted by all wings of the MHA.



government handled the issues of this area on priority basis and initiated quick action. He said that since 2018, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government of India has signed Bru, NLFT, Karbi Anglong, tribal peace agreements to establish peace and end violence in the Northeast. As a result of these agreements, a new chapter of peace has begun in the entire North East and till now more than 8000 armed youth have left the path of violence and joined the mainstream of the society. Compared to 2014, there has been a substantial reduction of 67% in incidents of violence, 60% reduction in the number of deaths of security forces and 83% decline in the number of civilian deaths in the Northeast, which is a great achievement

of the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Modi government has removed AFSPA from many places in the Northeast. Total 70 per cent areas in Assam, 15 police stations in 6 districts of Manipur, all except three districts in Arunachal, seven districts in Nagaland, and Tripura and Meghalaya have been completely freed from AFSPA.

Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma termed the signing of the agreement as historic and said that it would bring peace and prosperity. After 51 years, India's oldest interstate border dispute has reached its conclusion and this has been made possible with the blessings of the Prime Minister, the guidance of the Union Home Minister and the untiring support of

the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. He said that this will boost brotherhood in the Northeast and strengthen federal structure as it has brought a new way of resolving disputes between states.

The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Pema Khandu termed the settlement of the border dispute as significant and historic and expressed confidence that it would bring about a paradigm shift in peace and development of both the states. This agreement has been possible with the inspiration and political will of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and the active cooperation of the Government of Assam. Of the 123 villages claimed by Arunachal Pradesh before the Local Commission in 2007, 71 have been amicably settled, he said. ●



*The Indian side specifically conveyed its concerns on the misuse of UK's asylum status by the Pro-Khalistani elements to aid and abet terrorist activities in India and requested better cooperation with UK and increased monitoring of UK based Pro-Khalistan Extremists and take appropriate proactive action.*

### Bureau

The Indian delegation led by Union Home Secretary, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla and the UK delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, Home Office, Sir Matthew Rycroft took part in the 5th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue (HAD) held in New Delhi on April 12. The meeting was also attended by other senior officials of both countries.

During the meeting both sides reviewed the ongoing cooperation and identified further steps that can be taken to explore opportunities and synergies in advancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security and global supply chains, drug trafficking, migration, extradition, anti-India activities in UK including Pro-Khalistan Extremism among other issues.

The Indian side specifically conveyed its concerns on the misuse of UK's asylum status by the Pro-Khalistani elements to aid and abet terrorist activities in India and requested better cooperation with UK and increased monitoring of UK based Pro-Khalistan Extremists and take appropriate proactive action. India's concerns over the breach of security of the Indian High Commission were also emphasized.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing satisfaction with the ongoing partnership and agreeing to deepen bilateral engagement and maintain the momentum for enhanced security cooperation between the two countries.

Before this on April 10, Union Home Secretary (UHS) accompanied the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah who launched the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at Kibithoo - a border village in Arunachal Pradesh on April 10, 2023.

On April 12, the Union Home Secretary



## Security Along With Development

held a meeting to review the security assessment of Railway tracks, stations or installations in Jammu & Kashmir. Senior officers from Railways, J&K Police, MHA and other stakeholders participated in the meeting. The Home Secretary desired that immediate action may be taken to ensure security apparatus of railway stations & related installations of J&K on priority.

The Union Home Secretary reviewed the progress of transfer of defence land situated at Tattoo ground in Srinagar to MHA for promotion of tourism and associated activities in the UT of J&K on April 14. With the aim to create awareness and to promote the use or consumption of Millets in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs,) Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla on April 19 held a meeting with the concerned organizations and other senior officers of MHA.

Similarly, on April 24, the Union Home Secretary chaired the meeting of the SC-NEC for setting up the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) project in MHA. Apart from this, the Union Home Secretary on the same day held a meeting with the Secretary (Telecom) to discuss the various issues relating to implementation of Pan India BroadBand Public Protection and Disaster Relief (BB-PPDR) Communication network. The

senior officers concerned of MHA, DCPW and DoT were present in the meeting.

Union Home Secretary on April 25 held a meeting for establishment of a permanent NMFT Ministerial Conference Secretariat in India. Senior officials of MEA, NIA, MHA and other Agencies attended the meeting. Apart from this, third Coordination Meeting was held by the Home Secretary UHS on the same day with enforcement and security agencies regarding malpractices and unscrupulous financial activities inimical to national security. The status of action taken by the various agencies were reviewed and shared for plugging the gaps in the regulatory mechanism.

Moreover, the Union Home Secretary also held a meeting on April 25 to discuss strengthening of NIC email services from a cyber security point of view to make the system safe and secure and to obviate any possibility of compromise.

Apart from this, the Union Home Secretary gave the welcome address at the Chintan Shivir' of senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs which was held in New Delhi on April 18. It was presided over by Hon'ble Home Minister. The objective of the Chintan Shivir was to review the work of the Ministry and to evolve an action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047". ●



*True development is not indicated by only statistics or a bird's eye view of the situation. It lies in whether everyone's trust is earned and whether everyone benefits from it. This has been done by PM Modi when he made a small change in the nomenclature of border villages. He refers to them as First villages and not the Last. Keeping in mind the sea change in perspective that this subtle change has brought about, the 'Whole of Government' approach is now in mission mode for the development of these first villages.*

# Vibrant Villages: Their Prosperity is Nation's Security

## Bureau



A change in perspective changes the way in which any individual or organisation functions. This change is very essential in order to keep pace with the changing times and yields positive results, thus solving many problems. Ever since the Government of India launched the Vibrant Villages Programme, border villages have started witnessing development. Residents of these villages have started feeling more secure than before because along with social security, new employment opportunities are also being

created. Providing growth, connectivity, and social and employment security are the main objectives of this programme. The current Central Government believes that this programme will help in improving the quality of life of the people living in the border villages. Migration of people in search of employment will stop and people will be encouraged to remain in their native places, which will strengthen the security of the borders.

The Vibrant Villages Programme is designed to empower villages along India's international borders with China and Nepal borders. The Central Government has made adequate budgetary provisions to ensure that this change which will





transform border villages into vibrant villages happens well within time. Providing villagers in border villages with adequate supplies of water, electricity, irrigation, roads, health, communication, and other basic facilities are the main objectives of the programme. Along with this, the programme also envisages border villages where people have employment and livelihood opportunities. This ambitious programme has been allocated ₹4800 crore and will cover 2,967 villages in 46 blocks of 19 districts along the international border with China and Nepal. The purpose of the Vibrant Villages programme is to also enhance security in villages located near the line of actual control (LAC) with China. These villages are located in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Ladakh. In the first phase of the Vibrant Villages programme, 662 villages have been identified on priority basis, including: 455 villages in Arunachal Pradesh; 75 in Himachal Pradesh; 35 in Ladakh; 46; in Sikkim; and 51 and in Uttarakhand. The programme, which was started in financial year (FY) 2022–2023 is scheduled to be completed by FY 2025–26. One of its purposes is also to secure the Indo–Tibetan border from encroachment by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Chinese army. For ensuring that this security shield becomes impregnable, ₹1,800 crore has been earmarked for raising seven battalions of ITBP and constructing 47 new posts

and 12 staging camps. Permission for the construction of these outposts was given in January 2020, and in a cabinet meeting held in February 2023, the raising of these new battalions of ITBP was also approved. The raising of these battalions has also been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by PM Modi, and it will lead to the recruitment of 9,400 personnel.

Currently, ITBP has 176 outposts on the Indo-Sino border, and along with the new outposts and battalions, establishment of a Sector Headquarters has also been cleared. In the last six decades, In the cabinet meeting, a decision was also taken for taking measures to stop the migration of residents of border villages and promoting tourism in the area. Sharing information about the decisions of the cabinet, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Shri Anurag Thakur said that keeping in view the need

for effective surveillance in border areas, it has been decided to raise additional battalions. The work of increasing the number of battalions and establishment of sector headquarters will be completed by FY 2025–2026. A non-recurring expenditure of ₹1,808.15 crore has been approved for construction of government and residential buildings, land acquisition, and purchase of arms and ammunition for the new battalions.

A recurring expenditure of ₹963.68 crore per annum has been approved for salaries and ration of ITBF personnel. The I&B Minister also informed that the decision to raise the new battalions will increase the strength of the Indo–Tibetan Border Police from the present 88,000 personnel to 97,000. Once these battalions are raised, he further said, ITBP will become the fourth largest Central Armed Police Force in the country.

Recently, Union HM Shri Amit Shah

### Top Officials & Ministers to Visit Vibrant Villages

In the two-day Chintan Shivir held recently at Surajkund, PM Modi said in his address that all participants have to keep the development of coastal and border areas in mind. He also informed the gathering that adequate budgetary allocations have been made for the development of these areas. He urged all participants that their senior officials and ministers should visit these villages and spend a night there. The frequency of these visits, the PM said, should be five or seven border villages in a year, and even spend a night there. Whether it is a State border village or an international border village, PM Modi told participants that such visits will make everyone aware of a lot of cultural nuances on our country that is one with perhaps the most diversities in the world.





## Made of the Right Stuff

launched several developmental projects under this programme during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh. The pilot programme under Vibrant Villages was launched at Kibithu village, located on the Indo-Sino border in East Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. The HM also inaugurated nine micro hydroelectric projects under the Golden Jubilee Border Lighting Programme at Kibithu. When launching the Vibrant Village programme at Kibithu, Union HM Amit Shah said that the valour of the Army and the ITBP has ensured that no one can encroach on even an inch of land in Indian territory. In 1962, he said, the Chinese had tried encroaching this land, but had to return because of the patriotism of people living on the border. Earlier, those visiting border areas used to refer to villages there as last villages of India, but after the Modi government started referring to them as first villages, even the perspective of people has changed. No one greets each other with Namaste in Arunachal Pradesh, but with Jai Hind, which is proof of the patriotism of people living there. The presence of ITBP on this border is a guarantee of security for local residents. In adverse conditions, apart from securing the hilly borders of the country, ITBP also serves people in times of natural calamities such as snowstorms and blizzards. In the last few years, many incidents of confrontation have happened between the ITBP and PLA soldiers. ITBP jawans and officers rose to the occasion during all these confrontations and pushed back the Chinese army. But, China is increasing its activity across the border and to make its security cordon stronger, it has become necessary to further fortify ITBP's infrastructure. It is noteworthy that under the Vibrant Village programme, there will

The ITBP is responsible for the security of India's international border with China and Tibet. At 3,488 kilometers, the Indo-China border is India's longest international border and the terrain and weather conditions there make it one of the most inhospitable borders in the world. But this does not dampen the spirits of ITBP jawans and officers. Serving the nation with the motto of *Shaurya–Dridhata–KarmaNishtha* (Bravery–Perseverance–Duty-Bound), the ITBP keeps guard on the 3,488-kilometre-long international border located in mountains with altitudes ranging from 9,000 ft. to 18,700 ft. and the mercury dipping to a freezing 45 degree Celsius below zero.

be a rise in rural tourism, employment opportunities will be available not just in ITBP but also at the local level. This will stop the exodus of people from the border villages and will help increase vigilance on the border. The sense of security that ITBP assures the local people of with its presence will further increase when the seven new battalions are raised.

With the decisions of the Central Government to increase the number of ITBP boots-on-the-ground and also to further fortify its infrastructure, more employment opportunities will be available in rural areas. Restoration work will be done in 9,400 ITBP outposts, which will not only provide direct employment to locals but also increase indirect employment in other sectors. Along with this, the construction of Shinkun La tunnel has also been approved along the all-weather road being laid in Ladakh and this will further increase employment opportunities. Apart from this, ITBP has also been addressing social concerns in bordering villages and providing villagers with social security. This is along with executing various civic action programmes. These programmes include health-camps that ITBP has been

organising in bordering villages from time to time. These camps are for not just people but for their livestock also. Because these livestock plays an important role in the rural economy, it has earned the trust and gratitude of villagers who know that ITBP is continuously working for their integrated development.

To change the narration a bit from how ITBP is also excelling in other fields along with enhancing the quality of life of locals on the Indo-China border, a mention has to be made about its contribution in the field of sports, especially adventure sports such as mountaineering. Jawans and officers of ITBP have been setting new global benchmarks in scaling the highest peaks in the world. The force has carried the tricolor to more than 165 mountain peaks, including Mt Everest five times. Other peaks that ITBP has conquered are Kangchenjunga, India's highest peak Nanda Devi, Mount Kamet in the Himalayas, and various mountain peaks in Iran and America are also in this list. To sum it up in a nutshell, ITBP is a force that has served the country and its citizens for decades and has also earned laurels for India in the international arena. It is a force we all are proud to call our own. ●



# Vibrant Villages: Perfect blend of Heritage and Development

- This campaign will introduce you to various cultures.
- Boost for Tourism and Employment.

## Bureau



There are a total 6 lakh 40 thousand villages in India. The scent of every village is unique. Every village is different from the other village. Every village has diversity in language, culture, taste, song-music, handicrafts, nature-beauty etc. One cannot feel this fragrance by staying in a big city or a big state. One has to come to the villages to live and feel this fragrance. One may get its impression online through the journey of handicrafts and flavors, but to feel it one has to come to villages. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged everyone, especially the youth of India to go to the border villages. Coming here will develop your thinking and understanding. Those living in villages will also be benefited. If you come here, arrangements for food and accommodation will be made in the village itself. The money given for this will bring salvation to the villagers. If this sequence of coming and going continues, this will give a

boost to tourism in the village. As a result, the villages will also prosper along with the government exchequer.

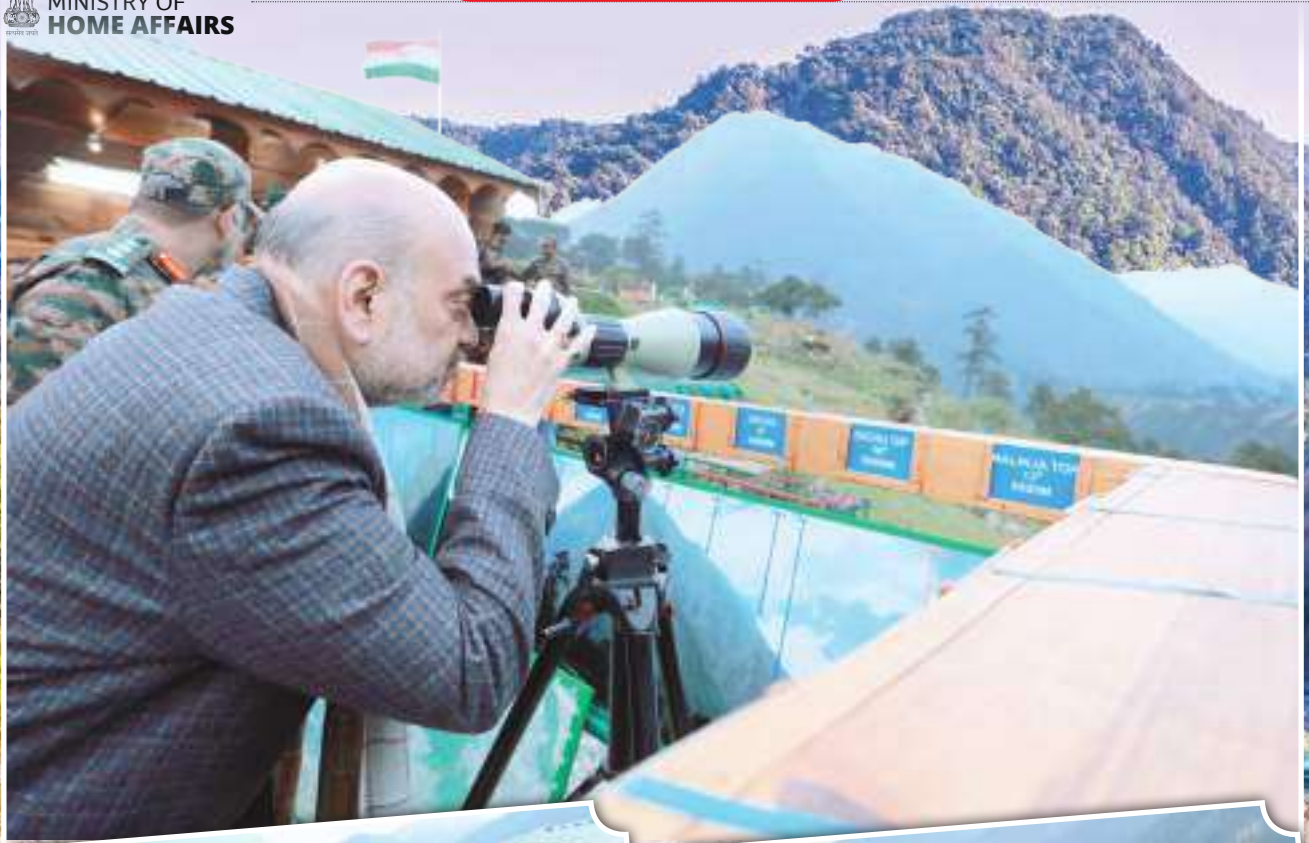
In fact, under the Vibrant Villages Program, the central government will ensure the development of villages along the China border by spending Rs 4,800 crore. Under this, villages near the borders of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh have been identified. The road connectivity of all these villages will be improved by spending Rs 2500 crore from this budget. Not only this, this scheme will change the picture of the border villages when electricity, tourist centers, health services, drinking water facilities, road construction, mobile and internet facilities will be developed in the villages. Then, there will be no migration from here. When there will be better employment opportunities here, then, there is no question of migrating from the village. For this, the Prime Minister has made a special request to the youth. After all, youth are the future of the country. This initiative of the Central Government will strengthen

the country and every citizen. The country is witnessing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. According to the information given on the Twitter handle of Amrit Mahotsav, the youth of Odisha are on a tour of Kibithu and Tooting villages under the Vibrant Villages Program. The Vibrant Villages program is giving youth an opportunity to learn about the lifestyle, tribes, folk music and handicrafts of the North Eastern region and immerse themselves in its local flavor and natural beauty.

Responding to Amrit Mahotsav's tweet, the Prime Minister tweeted, "Must have been a memorable experience. I would urge others, especially the youth of India, to visit the border villages. It will introduce our youth to different cultures and give them an opportunity to experience the hospitality of the people living there.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged the youth of the country to visit border villages under the 'Vibrant Villages Program' (VVP). In fact, recently Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Arunachal Pradesh Vibrant Villages Program. Amrit Mahotsav's





Twitter handle said that the Vibrant Village Program is a great way to embrace cultural and traditional exchange, celebrate the diversity of our remote border villages and bring them into the national mainstream. Under this initiative, youths of Odisha are currently on a tour of Kibithu and Tooting villages.

Significantly, under the 'Vibrant Villages Programme', efforts are being made to set up development centers in these special areas, to strengthen tourism potential by promoting local culture, traditional knowledge, heritage and through community-based organizations, cooperatives, NGOs. The focus will be on

the development of sustainable eco-agri business on the concept of "One Village One Product". While the villages will

witness all-round development, people will also be able to know the heritage of these villages. ●







# Salute to the Martyrs, Accolades for Soldiers

**D**uring the visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister remembered the supreme sacrifice of the jawans posted on the border and encouraged them. Shri Shah said that in the 1962 war, the then Kumaon Regiment had shown unparalleled courage. He said that today the whole country sleeps peacefully because of the bravery and sacrifice of our Himveers of ITBP and Army soldiers and it is only because of them that no one can even look towards our borders. Shri Shah said that the sacrifice, bravery, enthusiasm and patriotism of all the Jawans who are staying away from their families and serving the country at an altitude of 13,000 feet is commendable. Recalling the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Home Minister said

that before 2014, the entire Northeast was known as a region ridden with many issues, but in the last 9 years, due to the Look East policy of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today the Northeast has been recognized as a region contributing to the development of the country. He said that once upon a time due to the wrong approach of the leaders sitting in Delhi, this region was disputed, insurgency-ridden and lacked peace, development and connectivity. Shri Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, disputes and insurgency are coming to an end and a new era of development and peace has started. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has worked in the Northeast on 3 fronts – preserving its phenomenal cultural heritage,

establishing peace by settling disputes, and making several pacts with insurgent groups that have resulted in a 67 percent reduction in violence, 60 percent reduction in deaths of security forces and 83 percent decline in civilian deaths in 2022 as compared to 2014. Shri Shah said that the government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has signed BRU, NLFT, Bodo, Karbi-Anglong accords and resolved inter-state border disputes. He said that the government has removed AFSPA from 70 percent of the Northeast and the day is not far when it will be removed from the entire Northeast. He said that today the youth who have taken up arms are joining the mainstream and contributing to the development of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ●





R. K. Pachnanda

# Development of Border areas



It brings relief, joy and happiness to the people when positive changes take place. Earlier, Mana village of Uttarakhand was termed as the last village of the country, but now it has become the first village of the country. This has brought new enthusiasm and hope to the people of this village. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police is associated with the people of many border villages in the country. We have also known and understood thousands of such villagers closely and always held their hand. The way the present government is empowering the border villages more than ever before is indeed worthy of appreciation.

The Government of India is continuously working on the Border Area Development Plan to make the country's borders more secure. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has named these villages as Vibrant Villages. The villages which had been earlier termed as the last villages have now been referred as first villages of the country at the initiative of the Prime Minister. Several schemes under the Vibrant Village programme were inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah at Kibithu village in Arunachal Pradesh. The Union Home Minister also encouraged the soldiers and officers of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police on the occasion.

It is only due to the unflinching resolve of the Prime Minister that there has been a great leap in infrastructure development at the Indo China border on the Indian side. This will help integrate the border areas with the hinterland and create a positive perception of care and great convenience for the villagers. At the same time these roads will enable brisk movement of security forces on our borders which will be a great deterrent for predators to cast an evil eye towards our borders. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police has been responsible for the security of these border villages in the mountainous areas and in performing its duties sincerely and dedicatedly with great aplomb.

Capacity building of the officers posted in

ITBP commences from the induction training itself to enable them perform their duty with determination and valour while facing various challenges in sub-zero temperatures and the inhospitable terrain. Following the induction training, the personnel receive special training in various training institutes of ITBP on mountain warfare to make them battle worthy in order to keep them fighting fit in adverse weather conditions in high altitude terrain.

It was a significant decision that in view of the strategic importance of the Indo-China border, the Government of India has approved the setting up seven new ITBP battalions in a phased manner in the next three years and one regional headquarters. In the first phase, the establishment of two battalions will be completed this year itself. By the time the entire process is over, about 9,400 new youth will be recruited in the force and it will also open up promotional avenues of many of the currently serving officers. This initiative will also certainly provide an opportunity to local youth in border areas to join the force and contribute in strengthening the country's security system.

Moreover, this initiative will boost the sense of security among the people living near the international border and will accelerate the pace of the development of road construction and other infrastructure in these areas. Along with this, the impetus will create more employment opportunities for the youth living in the border areas and give a fillip the economic system of the entire region. Keeping in view the geographical conditions and infrastructure of the border areas and to ensure effective

surveillance, strong security arrangements and intensive patrolling on the Indo-China border, there is an urgent need to increase the number of ITBP forward posts, to reduce the distance between two posts and to establish them closer to the borders. ITBP's 47 Forward Posts and 12 "Staging Camps" will be set up in a phased manner during the next three years in coordination with the concerned state governments and forest departments. In this regard, all the preliminary work has been completed.

We believe that with the increased presence of ITBP, the border villagers are feeling more safe and secure than ever before. Simultaneously, efforts are being made to achieve many other objectives with the plans of Vibrant Villages. These objectives include all-weather roads, drinking water, 24X7 power supply through solar and wind energy, mobile and internet connectivity, tourist centres, multipurpose centers and health and wellness centers. All these measures shall ensure growth, empower grassroot institutions, reinforce governance, generate employment, broaden social inclusion and promote development in the border villages and also fortify the security of the border. Here lies the accomplishment of a determined government which wants India to be secure and committed towards the welfare of its countrymen. ●

(The author is former Director General of Indo Tibetan Border Police. Shri Pachnanda, a 1983 batch IPS officer, has held several important positions. He served as Director General of ITBP and DG NDRF, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata and also served in BSF, CRPF, CISF, SPG, CBI, West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police)



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai awarded President's Medals to service personnel for their gallantry and distinguished service contribution in the Fire Service, Civil Defense and Home Guard Services in a program organized on April 17 at the National Fire Service College, Nagpur.

On April 28, 2023, the Fourth National Conference of the Micro Mission of the National Police Mission was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nishit Pramanik at the Bureau of Police Research & Development Headquarters. Director General, Bureau of Police Research & Development, Shri Balaji Srivastava delivered the welcome address in the conference.



Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Ajay Mishra Teni took a review meeting on April 25, 2023 at the Civil Secretariat in Gangtok, Sikkim.



On April 21, 2023, Dr. S L Thaosen, Director General, Border Security Force visited Jammu FTR. He took full details about the terrorist incident in Poonch and instructed the IG of Jammu region and other officers for security preparedness to deal with such challenges in future.



On April 20, 2023, 137 BSF personnel of INDFPU-2 were honoured with UN Peacekeeping Medal in a ceremonial parade held at INDFPU-2 Camp, Beni of D R Congo. Brig Gen. Mody Berethe, Head of Monusco Police, reviewed the parade and applauded the all-out efforts of BSF personnel.



DG, BSF, Dr. S L Thaosen on April 15 met with Border Guard Bangladesh Official at Teen Bigha Corridor and presented fruit basket as a gesture of friendship between two countries.







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