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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“If I keep NDA on one side,  
the aspirations & resolves  
of people of India,  
then I would say:  
**NDA: New India,  
Developed India,  
Aspirational India.**”

~ Narendra Modi

during the NDA Parliamentary Party  
Meeting on 8 June 2024

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# MODI 3.0



The people of Bharat have placed their faith in Modi's governance yet again. Bharat witnessed a historical moment when Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi took oath as the Prime Minister on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. What makes this a historical event is that he is the only Prime Minister to be born in independent India, the longest-serving national leader from a non-Congress party, and the second Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to be re-elected for a third consecutive term.

Wishes started pouring in from world leaders on June 4<sup>th</sup>, even before the Government was formed. The BJP-led NDA won 293 seats, of which BJP's share alone is 240, while the largest opposition party failed to reach the 3-figure mark for 3 consecutive elections and finished on 99. BJP has won more seats than the INDI Alliance opposition put together. The NDA is now in power in more than 2/3 Indian states. The Prime Minister thanked the public for their trust

and the *karyakartas* for their hard work and assured them to continue the good work and fulfil the people's aspirations to make India a Vikasit Bharat by 2047.

While addressing the gathering, Modi said that this coalition would be the “*Most successful alliance in India's history*” with consensus being the hallmark of NDA. He said, “*Majority is needed for running the government, but sarvamat (consensus) is required for running the country*”. He



stressed on consensus to take unanimous decisions for the country's welfare during the NDA meeting. He even said that the NDA represents a New Developed Aspirational India. Despite being a powerful warrior Shri Rama created an alliance of well-wishers in pursuit of his goal. He was ably assisted by Sugriva, Jambavan, Vibhishana, Agastya and others in his mission. We are reminded of similar sentiments when we listen to Shri Chirag Paswan of Lok Janashakthi Party describe himself as *"Narendra Modi's Hanuman"*. When Shri Pawan Kalyan, Chief of the Janasena Party, said *"As long as Modi is the Prime Minister of this country, India won't bow down to anyone"* we can see the sense of confidence in Modi and the oneness of purpose among all the allies in this coalition government.

NDA's win for the third time is significant not only for the country but for the world at large as well. A world torn by the ravages of a deadly pandemic followed by the wars in the Middle East and Europe has slipped into an economic recession that has afflicted even the developed countries of the West. China's problems with the BRI, its manufacturing slowdown and real estate sector collapse have pushed it to the brink of depression and unnecessary territorial and economic aggression in the region. Some Latin American and African countries, as well as some of our neighbours, have suffered devastating blows to their national economy which has pushed hundreds of millions of people into untold hardship with no clear path to recovery in the near term. All these short and medium-term economic challenges are further compounded by the adverse demographic changes happening in developed countries across the world where a large part of the population is retired or retiring soon. This means the burden on the economy and the healthcare

costs of the aged population will increase significantly in the coming decades and push growth to a negative range in the longer term as well.

Amidst such global recession, India has emerged as the only large economy with a high GDP growth thanks to NDA's measured approach to policymaking and a laser-sharp focus on the development of capital infrastructure. Such prudent decisions are not only creating economic growth for the short and medium term but also setting the stage for a Vikasit Bharat in the longer term. A stable, fast-growing Bharat means a reliable producer of goods and services for global consumers and industries. It also means Bharat will be a consumer of global goods and services to provide ballast to their economies. Moreover, a Bharat driven by its value of *Vasudaiva Kutumbam* will be a pillar of strength and support to other countries in their economic and internal distress.



So, a Vikasit Bharat means a stronger world and this coalition government of NDA led by Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modi is setting the stage for a better world with the start of this third term.

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# NAARI SHAKTI VANDANA

**I**ndian women have experienced tangible changes in their lives since Sri Narendra Modi became our Prime Minister. Traditionally, Indian women have dedicated their social role primarily to maintaining and caring for their home and family. In this process, they do not realize how special their contribution towards nation-building is. However, the Prime Minister has recognized their distinctive efforts and has implemented numerous policies and schemes focused on the holistic upliftment of Indian women.

## MAKING WOMEN'S DAILY LIFE BETTER

Indian women had to wait seven decades to be freed from the horrors of open defecation. My sisters and I had to wait for Modi's arrival to obtain a basic, yet essential, amenity like an in-house toilet! Since 2014, over 11 crore individual household toilets and 2.23 lakh community sanitary complexes have been built across all states and Union Territories under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Schemes like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala Scheme, Matru Vandana Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission have made our women's lives easier and helping them focus on more important aspects of life such as earning an income, providing for children's education and helping others.



## MAKING THE SOCIETY SAFER FOR WOMEN

An interesting impact of constructing indoor toilets in crores of houses is that the number of assaults on women has reduced as women do not have to venture out into the open at odd hours anymore! But, more consciously, the NDA govt amended the Criminal Law in 2018 to make the punishment for rape more stringent. It has applied technology to track cases and offenders using the Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO), National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO), Crime Multi-Agency Centre (CrimAC) & New Citizen Services. The Central govt launched the Emergency Response Support System

(ERSS) which has handled over 25 crore calls so far. It is equipped with computer-aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

## CARING FOR HER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The lives of more than 10 crore women have been transformed due to free gas connections through the PM Ujjwala Yojana. But it had a more benevolent impact of reducing risks to women's health! Apart from Ayushman Bharat Yojana which provides significant health coverage across hospitals for the whole family,



Modi's third term promises to expand the existing health services focused on the prevention and reduction of anaemia, breast cancer, cervical cancer, and osteoporosis. The Poshan Tracker monitors 13,95,100 Anganwadis and benefits more than 10 crore women & children. Through a robust and interconnected network that is firmly rooted in the ground, the health of 62+ lakhs pregnant women, 46+ lakhs lactating mothers, 4+ crore children below the age of 3 years, and 4+ crore children between the ages of 3 and 6 years are being monitored. 3 crore women have availed of the benefits of PM Matru Vandana Yojana and 6+ crore mothers and children have been vaccinated under Mission Indra Dhanush. Through the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017, maternity leave for working mothers was increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks by law.





## EMPOWERING THE SABALA NAARI

For the first time in 7 decades since independence, the banks are trusting the poor and hardworking women of India. Millions of women who used to just see the banks from the outside now have their own accounts and run businesses using UPI to sell vegetables, fruits, flowers and more. Modi govt has revolutionized the system by banking the unbanked and investing in the unfunded. Women street hawkers can now get a loan using her JAM under the SVANIDHI Yojana and Vishwakarma Yojana. Around 46+ crore loans worth ₹27+ lakh crores have been given under the PM Mudra Yojana and nearly two-thirds were issued to women. Without Modi's JAM trinity, all this money would never reach the women beneficiaries and instead get pocketed by middlemen.



## INVESTING IN THE ASPIRATIONAL NAARI

Women entrepreneurs were provided around 84% of the 2,09,000 loans sanctioned under the Start-up India Scheme. 88% of the 1.2 crore Self-Help Groups are run by women and support 14.2 crore households. According to the World Bank, the ratio of female to male labour force participation rate (in %) has jumped from 28% in 2018 to 37% in 2022. Around 1 crore rural women have been empowered through SHGs to become Lakhpati Didis. Modi 3.0 has set the target of making 3 crores more Lakhpati Didis. Infrastructure like working women's hostels and creches will be built to provide equal opportunities, especially near industrial and commercial centres.



## ENHANCING THE DIGNITY OF "WOMAN OF THE HOUSE"

Under the PM Awas Yojana, lakhs of women have been made the owners of their newly built houses. By providing a roof over her head, providing electricity connection, drinking water from tap, free gas connection and indoor toilets Modi has created a new economic system centred around the woman of the house! Launching "catch them early" yojanas such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and providing toilets in schools, Modi has set the foundation for a new generation of empowered women.



## NAARI SHAKTI IN LAW-MAKING

Nominating a tribal woman to the President's position, launching the Nari Shakti Puraskar and appointing Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman as the Finance Minister yet again is a testimony to Modi's 'walk-the-talk' principle in the empowerment of women at the highest offices of the nation! The rights of Muslim women have been protected by amending the law to ban triple talaq legally under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019. Another milestone in women empowerment was achieved by passing Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023, which accords 33% reservation to women in Lok Sabha, Legislative Assembly of every state, and the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Clearly, 'Women Empowerment' is not just a buzzword or a catch-phrase to be used in interviews and speeches for the NDA Government led by Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modi – it is a principle to be lived every day and a goal to be accomplished in every sphere of a Vikasit Bharat by 2047.

As Manusmriti states in Verse 3.56:

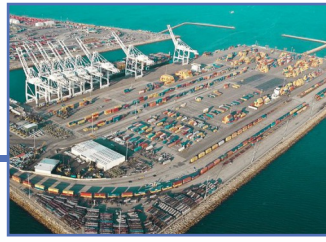
|| *Yatra naryastu pujoyante ramante tatra devataah |*  
*Yatra itaastas na pujoyante tatra sarvaa karyaa*  
*kriyaaah vrithaa ||*

*Where women are revered, there the gods rejoice;  
 but where they are not honoured,  
 no rite bears any fruit.*

Author: **MALAVIKA AVINASH**

Vice President - BJP Karnataka

# CHABAHAR PORT



## INDIA GETS FIRST OVERSEAS PORT

**B**harat under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has achieved many milestones. Diplomatic ties with other countries alone have scaled new heights. India successfully hosted the G20 summit in New Delhi in September 2023 for the first time and created history by including the African Union as a permanent member of G20. By doing so, India has emerged as a leader of the Global South and has showcased her growing influence on the world stage. In February 2024, India was also successful in securing the release of the 8 Indian Navy veterans who were detained in Qatar for 18 months and had been sentenced to death. This major diplomatic victory can be credited to the Prime Minister's outreach to Qatar and the hard work of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) under Dr. Jaishankar.

### THE WHAT



India has scripted history again on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. India and Iran reached a milestone agreement, granting India long-term management of Chabahar Port - the country's first overseas port venture. This agreement has been signed in the presence of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, between India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) and Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran for the duration of 10 years. Through this, India has gained control over the port's operations while promising to invest nearly \$120 million for upgrading and operating it. An additional \$250 million line of credit will be offered to improve related infrastructure projects. The MEA had already allocated ₹100 crore for Chabahar port for 2024-25.

The Chabahar project consists of 2 distinct ports - Shahid Beheshti & Shahid Kalantari terminals. India & Iran have inked the pact for the Shahid Beheshti port.

### THE WHERE

Located on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar port is of great geographical importance to India. It is situated 970 Kms away from Kandla port in Gujarat and 1,560 Kms away from Mumbai port in Maharashtra. It is near the Strait of Hormuz which is a narrow international waterway between Iran, Oman & UAE. It is also nearly 170 Kms away from China-controlled Gwadar port of Pakistan. Additionally, Chabahar has a road network leading to Zaranj in Afghanistan where a 218 Kms Zaranj-Delram road built with India's assistance connects to 4 major cities of Afghanistan.



### THE WHEN

The agreement was signed after a series of delays which lasted over many years.

- **2000:** India, Iran & Russia sign a trilateral agreement to create a transport corridor connecting India and Europe *via* Chabahar port as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- **2002:** Iran invites India to develop Chabahar port. Discussions begin.
- **2003:** Following USA's invasion of Afghanistan, India, Iran, and Afghanistan discuss regional co-operation and trade corridor involving Chabahar port.
- **2003-14:** No discussions and the project stalls.
- **2015:** India and Iran sign a bilateral agreement to develop two berths at Chabahar port for a 10-year period.
- **2016:** A trilateral agreement between India, Iran, and Afghanistan is signed to establish a transport and trade corridor that would link Chabahar port to Afghanistan and Central Asia.



- **2017:** India helps develop the Shahid Beheshti port. The first phase is inaugurated and India sends its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through Chabahar port.
- **2018:** IPGL takes over a part of the operations at Shahid Beheshti port.
- **2019:** Exports from Afghanistan to India transported through the port for the first time.
- **2024:** India signs an agreement with Iran to develop & operate Chabahar port for the next 10 years.

IPGL was already operating the Shahid Beheshti port albeit on a short-term agreement basis which had to be periodically renewed. In December 2019, Shahid Beheshti port's capacity alone had been increased to 5.8 million tonnes after the construction of a modern cruise terminal. According to IPGL's estimates, the port capacity will be 82 million tonnes per annum after completing all the 4 development phases of the port.

## THE WHY

India's trade with the landlocked countries like Afghanistan and those in Central Asia was frequently affected as Pakistan denied and restricted India access to its land and sea routes repeatedly. Due to these limitations, India has strategically focused on developing Chabahar which is nearly 170 Kms from Gwadar port and will help India in bypassing Pakistan.

Due to the strained relations with Pakistan, India was also limited from humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. However, through Chabahar, she has been able to resume the efforts, one of the reasons why the Trump-led USA government had excluded the Chabahar project when it had reimposed sanctions on Iran in 2018. According to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Afghanistan, India donated 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat which supported more than 1 million people in 2023 and 4.7 million people in 2022. The shipment towards the end of 2023 was of 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat shipped through Shahid Beheshti terminal. India was also able to send shipments of medicines & medical equipment to Indira Gandhi Children Hospital & UN specialized agencies like WHO and WFP, and provide 1 million Covaxin doses to Iran to administer to Afghan refugees in Iran. A total of 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses have been shipped from India to Afghanistan since IPGL took over the operation in 2018.

Chabahar port acts as a key link in the INSTC trade route which has now become a 7,200 Kms long ship-rail-road route for moving freight between India, Iran,

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asian countries and European countries. This route bypasses the Suez Canal which is another busy waterway that can lead to congestion, delays, and increased costs. It reduces the travel time by 15 days and is expected to reduce the freight costs by 30%.



The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most important oil passage transporting 21% of the global petroleum liquids consumption in 2022 and is a potential chokepoint for maritime trade. Since it has no major alternative routes yet, tensions in this Strait can significantly affect global oil prices and supplies. India can now diversify its import routes for oil and gas, thereby reducing its dependence on a potentially volatile route.

Finally, Bharat is able to counter China's String of Pearls strategy which surrounds India and increases their military presence in the Indian Ocean. It also leads to impacting India's economic interests due to increase in competition for resources and captured trade routes. China had acquired Gwadar port in Pakistan in 2002 as part of this strategy. China is also pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative or the New Silk Route which India is not a part of but will be adversely affected by it. India has countered both by adopting the Necklace of Diamonds strategy. Chabahar port plays a key role in this strategy and regain her influence in the Indian Ocean while accessing alternative trade routes. It has already handled more than 90,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container traffic and around 8.4 million tonnes of bulk and general cargo since 2018, proving its importance.

**This project was stalled for many years due to external and internal reasons. What started in 2002 by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was achieved by Shri Narendra Modi in 2024, only through sheer determination, powerful leadership, and a clear vision which has always put Bharat's interests at the front.**

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# THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN BHARAT 2014-2024

## POLICIES & IMPACT OF THE NARENDRA MODI GOVERNMENT



India's Digital Revolution between 2014 & 2024 marks a transformative period in the nation's history, characterized by a rapid expansion in digital infrastructure, widespread adoption of technology, and significant policy initiatives led by the Narendra Modi government.

This era has seen India emerge as a global digital powerhouse, impacting various sectors including governance, economy, education, and healthcare. The Modi govt's visionary policies and strategic initiatives have been central to this transformation, propelling India towards becoming a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

### DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE

Launched in July 2015, the Digital India initiative has been the cornerstone of the Modi government's efforts to revolutionize the country's digital landscape. This flagship program aimed to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically by improving online infrastructure and increasing internet connectivity. The initiative is built on 3 key vision areas:

**1. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS A CORE UTILITY TO EVERY CITIZEN:** This includes providing high-speed internet as a core utility, ensuring a unique digital identity for every citizen, and mobile phone and bank account enabling participation in the digital economy.

**2. GOVERNANCE & SERVICES ON DEMAND:** This involves seamless integration across departments or jurisdictions, making services available in real-time from online and mobile platforms, and ensuring digitally transformed services to improve ease of doing business.



**3. DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT OF CITIZENS:** This aims at universal digital literacy and making digital resources universally accessible.

### BROADBAND HIGHWAY

Under the BharatNet project, the government aimed to connect all 250,000 gram panchayats (village councils) with high-speed internet. As of 2024, a significant





majority of these panchayats have been connected, drastically improving internet penetration in rural areas. This broadband infrastructure has facilitated numerous digital services and initiatives, fostering inclusivity and bridging the urban-rural digital divide.

**PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM:** The establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs) has been another significant step. These centers act as access points for the delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thus promoting digital inclusion. By 2024, over 400,000 CSCs are operational across the country, providing services like e-governance, banking, telemedicine, and education.



**UNIVERSAL MOBILE CONNECTIVITY:** To improve mobile connectivity in remote and rural areas, the government launched various initiatives, including the provision of mobile towers and infrastructure in underserved regions. This effort has seen a substantial increase in mobile phone usage and internet access in rural areas, contributing to the overall digital growth.

## E-GOVERNANCE & DIGITAL SERVICES

**AADHAAR & DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (DBT):** The Aadhaar program, which provides a unique identification number to residents of India, has been a pivotal element in the government's digital agenda. By 2024, over 1.3 billion people have been enrolled in the Aadhaar system. This unique ID system underpins the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, where subsidies and welfare payments are directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts, reducing leakage and ensuring transparency.



**DIGILOCKER:** Launched in 2015, DigiLocker provides citizens with a cloud-based platform to store and share important documents securely. By 2024, millions of users are utilizing DigiLocker to store their driving licenses, education certificates, and other critical documents, reducing the need for physical documents and enhancing accessibility.



**DIGITAL PAYMENTS & FINANCIAL INCLUSION:** The government's push towards a cashless economy was significantly bolstered by the demonetization exercise in 2016, which aimed to curb black money and counterfeit currency. This move accelerated the adoption of digital payments. The introduction of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in 2016 revolutionized the payments landscape, providing a seamless, real-time payment system. By 2024, UPI transactions soared, with billions of transactions occurring monthly. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, launched in 2014, aimed to increase financial inclusion by providing bank accounts to the unbanked population. By 2024, over 450 million bank accounts have been opened under this scheme, many of which are now integrated with mobile banking and digital payment systems.



## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN KEY SECTORS

**EDUCATION:** The digital revolution has profoundly impacted the education sector. The launch of platforms like DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) and SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) has democratized access to quality educational content. During the



Covid-19 pandemic, these platforms became critical in ensuring continuity in education. By 2024, millions of students and educators are actively using these digital tools, which offer a wide range of courses & resources.



**HEALTHCARE:** Digital health initiatives like eSanjeevani, an online OPD service, and the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) have transformed healthcare delivery. These initiatives aim to create a digital health ecosystem, including a unique health ID for every citizen, digitized health records, and a registry of healthcare professionals and facilities. By 2024, these initiatives have made healthcare more accessible and efficient, particularly in rural areas.

**AGRICULTURE:** The agricultural sector has also benefited from the digital push. Platforms like eNAM (National Agriculture Market) have been established to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities, enhancing transparency & efficiency in agri trade. The use of mobile apps and digital tools for weather forecasts, soil health monitoring, and market prices has empowered farmers with critical information, leading to improved productivity and income.



## INDUSTRY & INNOVATION

### STARTUP INDIA & DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Startup India initiative, launched in 2016, aimed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country. Combined with digital infrastructure improvements, this initiative has spurred a start-up boom, with thousands of new ventures emerging across various sectors, from fintech & e-commerce

to health tech and edtech. By 2024, India has become one of the world's largest startup ecosystems, fostering innovation and creating millions of jobs.

**MAKE IN INDIA & INDUSTRY 4.0:** The Make in India campaign, coupled with digital transformation, has aimed to turn India into a global manufacturing hub. The adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and big data analytics, has modernized manufacturing processes, enhancing productivity & competitiveness. Smart factories and digital supply chains are becoming more common, positioning India as a leader in the global manufacturing landscape.

**CYBERSECURITY & DATA PROTECTION:** As digital adoption has grown, so have concerns about cybersecurity and data privacy. The government has introduced several measures to enhance cybersecurity, including the establishment of the National Cyber Security Policy and the creation of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). The proposed Personal Data Protection Bill, expected to become law by 2024, aims to safeguard citizens' data and establish a robust framework for data protection.

## CHALLENGES & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Despite significant progress, challenges remain. Bridging the digital divide, especially in remote and underserved areas, ensuring digital literacy across all sections of society, and addressing cybersecurity threats are critical areas that need continuous attention. Additionally, regulatory frameworks must evolve to keep pace with rapid technological advancements.

Looking ahead, the focus will be on leveraging emerging technologies like 5G, AI, and blockchain to drive further innovation and growth. The Modi government's continued emphasis on digital transformation promises to position India as a global leader in the digital economy, fostering inclusive growth and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

## CONCLUSION

The digital revolution in India between 2014 and 2024, driven by the visionary policies of the Narendra Modi government, has fundamentally transformed the nation. From enhancing governance and public service delivery to fostering innovation & economic growth, the impact of this digital push is profound and far-reaching. As India continues on its digital journey, it stands poised to harness the full potential of technology, ensuring sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens.

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# BECOMING A VIKASIT BHARAT by 2047

Inspirations from the Arthashastra

Part-I

## Sukhasya Moolam Dharmah

Arthashastra has a famous insight that is often quoted by many writers.

सुखस्य मूलं धर्मः धर्मस्य मूलम् अर्थः ।  
अर्थस्य मूलं राज्यः राज्यस्य मूलम् इन्द्रियजयः ॥

*Translation: The basis of a pleasant life is Dharma. The root of Dharma is in wealth and prosperity. Wealth and prosperity are dependent on the government, which must control their senses.*

*Dharma* is sustainable and duty-focused living guided by self-governed rules that ensure a good life without negatively affecting others. When *dharma* governs the accumulation and distribution of *artha* i.e., wealth and prosperity, it creates a sustainable model that leads everyone to happiness. Capitalism encourages the accumulation of wealth by any means. At the other extreme communism focuses only on the distribution of resources without the rationale of sustainability and growth. In contrast, *dharma* enforces both the right means of accumulation and the fair redistribution of the accumulated wealth.

In essence, for everyone to be happy a strong control of the senses by the ruling power is essential. In a *prajaa prabhutva*, for the society's well-being, the burden of sustenance (*dharma*) and wealth (*artha*) rests with every citizen at a personal and familial level. When we understand this basic precept, Arthashastra becomes relevant even in modern times.

### HOW IS DHARMA RELEVANT FOR A VIKASIT BHARAT?

The world has seen multiple models of economic systems over the centuries such as capitalism, socialism, mercantilism, feudalism, theocracies etc., At a broad level, an economic system boils down to the control and distribution of resources among the people either by a central actor (*a la* government, king, corporation) or by the people themselves.

As our nation surges to become a Vikasit Bharat, we

need to define what development looks like for our citizens. We cannot copy the failed templates of the USA, Russia, Scandinavia or China to script our growth story. We need to develop a new template that ensures sustainable development even centuries after becoming a developed nation. In this direction, it makes sense to dig into our ancestral wisdom and explore the tenets of *dharma* to build a sustainable economic model for a Vikasit Bharat by 2047.

### HOW TO MAKE DHARMA THE BEDROCK OF ECONOMICS?

If we agree that a *dharma*-based economic model needs to be adopted to become a sustainable Vikasit Bharat by 2047, then we need to look at the pillars of such an economic model.

**YAJNA-DAANA-TAPAS:** This is the underlying principle repeatedly prescribed by the *Vedas* and *Puranas*. We need to acquire wealth rightfully by pursuing it like a *tapas*. The principle of *yajna* - redistribution of acquired wealth to the needy and eligible people - needs to guide the wealth distribution. *Daana* should be a part of daily life to sustain the well-being of the lowest rung of society and certain classes of people and institutions within the society.

When the entire economic model is based on this tripod of *Yajna-Daana-Tapas* the entire society is taken care of in a sustainable manner even while pursuing growth and expansion of the wealth of the nation.

**EDUCATION:** One of the most important aspects of building a society based on *dharma* is creating awareness among the population. Bharat and its citizens are not new to the principles and practice of *dharma*. However, over the next 25 years, an entire generation of youth needs to be educated on the principles of *dharma* and encouraged to live a life based on *dharma*.

*Dharma* should not be conflated with the tenets of a religion or traditions and customs. It's a more specific list of characteristics that are as easily applicable today as they were millennia ago. It refers to the 8 *atma gunas*



that are listed under the *saamaanya dharma* such as - *Daya, Kshama, Ahimsa, Satya, Shaucha, Anasuya, Anrushamsya, and Mangala*. When these 8 *atma gunas* guide the thoughts and actions of all citizens, common criminal activities and the need to accumulate and hoard wealth at all costs reduce. Only when a sense of *dharma* pervades all the actions and activities in life will a generation of Indians learn to live, earn and enjoy the earth sustainably - instead of exploiting it for personal or national greed.

**INSTITUTIONS:** Institutional support will be required for people who follow a good *dharmic* life. Firstly, a corruption-free police system is critical to ensure the safety and well-being of the well-natured. Unless good people are protected, there's no incentive to be good.

Secondly, temples and charitable institutions need to be well-funded for the pursuit of *dharma*, art and culture of the civilization unobstructed by the politics of the ruling elite.

Thirdly, judicial systems need to be aligned with the principles of *dharma* and not blindly ape the moralities and woke thoughts of Western law and jurisprudence. With greater antiquity and exposure to a wider range of people and problems, our *dharma* has evolved significantly to treat crimes and punishment appropriately and it can be further enhanced to be applicable for the modern world.

Arthashastra supports the idea of self-governance at multiple strata with the government (the king) only involved in national security, issuing grants or adjudicating concerns and disputes related to wealth creation, accumulation and redistribution among the stakeholders of the society.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Arthashastra deals with a variety of aspects of economics such as taxes, governance, national defence, acquisition of wealth, regulation and rights of the corporations, different vocations, keeping the bureaucracy clean, right and wrong practices of trade and commerce, financial models, rights of the citizens, enforcing contractual obligations, maintaining records of the contracts, grants and transactions of the kingdom, etc.,

Arthashastra's ideas and principles have been gleaned from the prior works in its discipline and updated to keep them relevant for the times of Chanakya. Systems and processes were updated to reflect the realities of the author's times while keeping the principles consistent with the past. This is what we need now as well. Instead of blindly ignoring all traditional knowledge as archaic, we need to use the age-old principles of *dharma* from our ancestral wisdom and apply them in the context of the modern world to align with the new realities of the current economy.

## IS THIS ALL TOO THEORETICAL AND UTOPIAN?

When we propose an idea like this it might sound radical and fantastic. But, the reality is that we have always incrementally improved the systems of the past without letting go of them completely! So, it is not fantastic that a *shastra* written 2500 years ago is useful now - but then that's the nature of a *shastra* (science) based on *dharma* - it sustains and endures!

We have seen several examples of such thinking emulated by the BJP Government under Pradhan Mantri Narendra Modi ji. Eg., the Vaccine Maithri initiative is a perfect example of how to apply a *dharmic* principle of *Yajna-Daana-Tapas* during an economic and global crisis to win the world onto our side - though it would have seemed like a foolish thing to do when you consider the modern principles of economics - which depends on financial considerations more than the principles of sustenance!

Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana is a scheme that is directly based on Chanakya Arthashastra that advises the king to distribute the grains in the nation's godowns to farmers and the poor during a famine (or other calamities - like the Covid).

We can also see examples of Chanakyan thinking being applied in cases of macro economics and foreign policy such as in our country's dealings with the Middle East, Russia, the USA, Pakistan and the Maldives.

## CONCLUSION

Happiness is linked to *dharma* and *dharma* is rooted in the state, but in the end, it all boils down to *indriya nigraha* - control over one's senses. While this is stated in the context of the ruler of the state, in the modern democracy, the citizens are the indirect rulers of the state and thereby the principle of control over senses and *dharma* applies equally to the individual citizen as well.

Unchecked consumerism and irresponsible redistribution of wealth and resources of the nation are not going to result in a sustainable state. Instead, the citizens must focus on acquiring and distributing wealth in line with the principles of *dharma* to promote a model of economics that can lead to a healthy society.

**To realize the vision of the Pradhan Mantri to create a Vikasit Bharat by 2047 boosting the right education, institutions and policies that are based on the principles of *dharma* are key success factors.**

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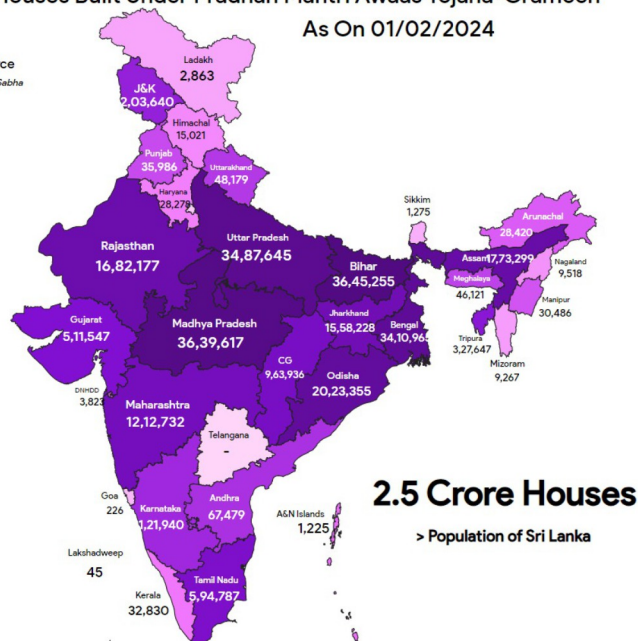
# INFOGRAPHICS

## GROWTH & TRANSFORMATION

Visual Indicators of Modi 1.0 & 2.0 which led to Bharat's Transformation in its Amrit Kaal.

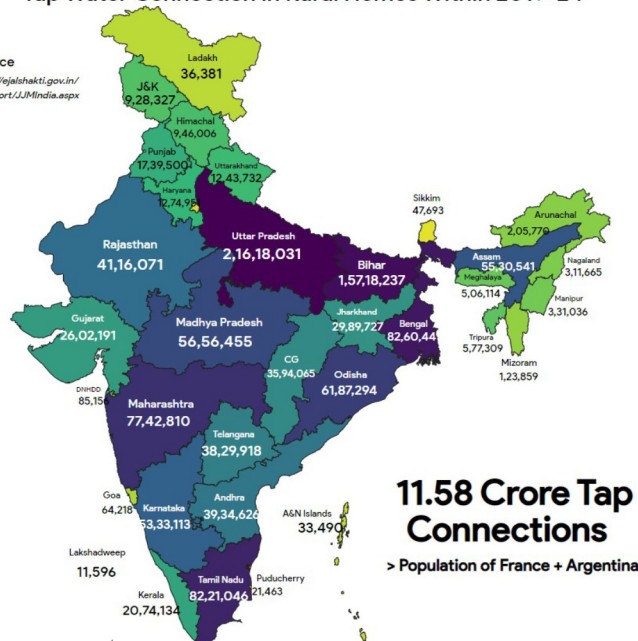
Houses Built Under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Grameen  
As On 01/02/2024

Source  
Rajya Sabha



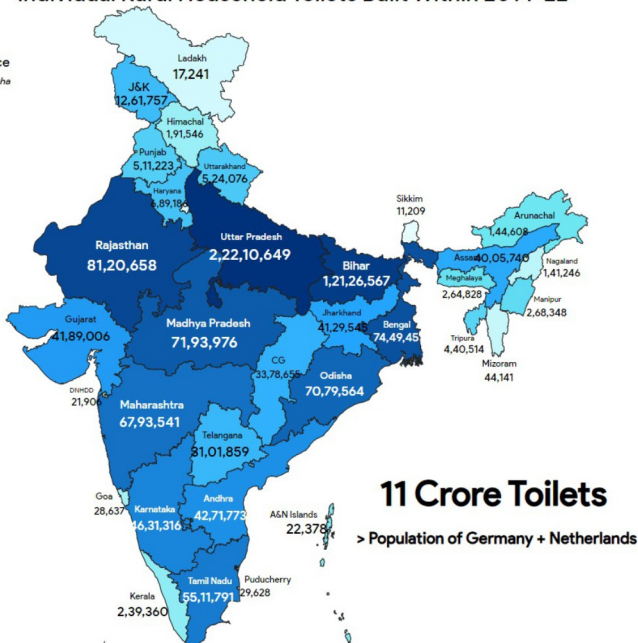
Tap Water Connection in Rural Homes Within 2019-24

Source  
<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jimreport/UJMIndia.aspx>



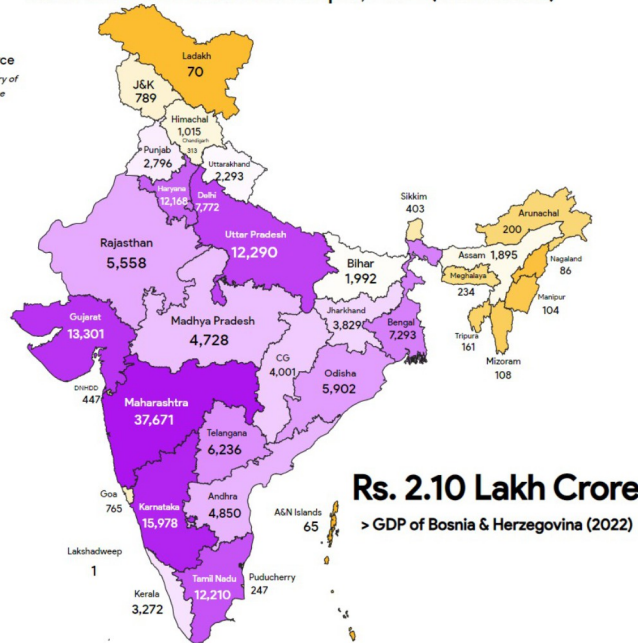
Individual Rural Household Toilets Built Within 2014-22

Source  
Lok Sabha



State Wise GST Collected in April, 2024 (in Rs. crore)

Source  
Ministry of Finance



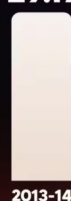
## POVERTY PLUNGES

UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT

About 24.82 crore individuals escaped multidimensional poverty during last nine years

Poverty Headcount Ratio (in %)

29.17



2013-14

11.28

2022-23

Data as on Jan 2024. Estimated figures by NITI Aayog for Multidimensional Poverty

## Building Rural Roads for All Weather Connectivity

under PM Gram Sadak Yojana

Completed Rural Road Length (in Lakh Km)

3.81



7.23

Cumulative figures up to 15 Jan 2023

## TRANSFORMATIVE GROWTH IN HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT

Horticulture Production (in Lakh Tonne)



Data as on Dec 2023. 3rd Advance Estimates of 2023-23