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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“This month marks the
culmination of 10 years of
'Make in India' campaign.
Today, India has become a
manufacturing powerhouse and
it is because of the youth power
of the country that the whole
world is looking up to us.”

~ PM Narendra Modi

in the 114th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'
29 Sep 2024

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NAVARATNA SCHEMES OF MODI GOVERNMENT

*"Parents should gift their daughter intellectuality and power
of knowledge when she leaves for her husband's home.
They should give her a dowry of knowledge."*

- Atharva Veda 11.5.18.

*"Where women are honoured, divinity blossoms;
where they are not, all actions remain unfruitful."*

- Manusmriti 3.56.



Our culture has always worshipped and honoured the feminine part of life and world. During the Navaratri celebrations, we honor divinity in various female forms such as Shailaputri, Shakti, Sinivali, Saraswati, Durga, etc. All aspects of nature and energy that we experience in our life are celebrated as gifts of these various divinities. We have a long heritage of women poets, *rishikas* and rulers who have demonstrated that this worship and respect bestowed on them is not misplaced. Our greatest epics are centered around women and upholding

their honor in the society against all odds – be it the great Shri Rama who waged war against the most powerful emperor of his time or the struggles of the Pandavas to redeem the honor of their wife Draupadi. The Modi government has embraced this very essence of striving to improve the living conditions of Indian women and empower them through various initiatives. The commitment to women's empowerment is evident in the launch of several major schemes aimed at enhancing their socio-economic status, health, education, and security.

1. BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO

Launched on January 22, 2015, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aims to address the declining child sex ratio and promote the education and empowerment of girls. The initiative emphasizes the need to prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination and promotes girls' education and health. It operates through a multi-sectoral approach, engaging state governments, local bodies, and NGOs. Initially, the scheme received a budget allocation of ₹ 100 crore in its first year. The scheme has received over ₹ 500 crore in funding since its inception. It has resulted in increased awareness about the importance of the girl child, leading to improved enrollment rates in schools.



Reports indicate that the girl child enrollment in primary schools has seen a significant rise in various states, with an overall increase in the child sex ratio from 919 girls per 1,000 boys in 2015 to around 931 in 2021. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), the sex ratio has now improved to 1020 females per 1000 males in total, marking an improvement in the gender balance.

2. PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on May 1, 2016, to provide free LPG connections to women from below-poverty-line households. The scheme aims to ensure access to clean cooking fuel, thereby reducing health hazards associated with traditional cooking methods. This is extremely important as 68% of the population did not have access to clean cooking in 2010 which reduced to 53% in 2017.

The Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG consumers (PAHAL) was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Largest Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. As of 2024, over 29.16 crore PAHAL beneficiaries have been recorded, significantly reducing indoor air pollution and improving health outcomes for women and children. Cash given so far is ₹ 1.56 lakh crores and 1.14 crore people have given up their subsidy.

3. MAHILA E-HAAT

Mahila E-Haat was launched on March 7, 2016, as a digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs. This initiative aims to provide women with the opportunity to showcase and sell their products online, encouraging entrepreneurship and financial independence. The scheme has facilitated thousands of women in marketing their products, leading to increased financial stability & self-sufficiency. Support for this scheme was renewed in the 2024 budget.



4. SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, with the aim of promoting the financial security and education of the girl child. This scheme was designed to encourage parents to save for their daughters' future education and marriage expenses. It allows parents or legal guardians to open a savings account for a girl child aged up to 10 years.

The account can be opened in any Post Office or authorized bank, and deposits can be made for 15 years. The scheme offers an attractive interest rate of 8% as of 2024 - which is compounded annually, making it one of the most lucrative government-backed savings schemes. The scheme also offers Income Tax benefits under Section 80C, making it a dual advantage for families investing in their daughters' futures.



By 2024, the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana has seen widespread adoption, with over 3.5 crore accounts opened across the country. These accounts have mobilized significant funds towards girl child savings, underscoring the scheme's success in promoting long-term financial planning for daughters. Since its inception, over ₹ 1.75 lakh crore has been deposited under the scheme, reflecting the widespread financial participation of Indian families.

For the financial year 2024, the government has further supported SSY by allocating approximately ₹ 5,300 crore to ensure its continued viability and reach. Through SSY, the Modi government has focused on financial inclusion for girls, empowering them with a secure financial future while promoting a cultural shift towards valuing and investing in the education and well-being of daughters.

5. ONE STOP CENTRES

One Stop Centres (OSCs) were launched on January 1, 2015, to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence. The OSCs offer various services, including legal aid, counseling, medical assistance, and shelter. The scheme received an initial allocation of ₹ 500 crore and has since expanded to cover over 700 centres across the country. These centres have assisted thousands of women in distress, providing them with essential support and resources to rebuild their lives.



6. PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) was launched in January 2017 as a maternity benefit program to improve the health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers. The scheme provides a direct cash transfer of ₹ 5,000 in three installments to pregnant women and lactating mothers for their first living child. This initiative was introduced to address maternal and child health issues, particularly in light of India's high Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and poor nutrition indicators among new mothers. In 2015, India's MMR stood at 167 deaths per 100,000 live births, and malnutrition among mothers was a major contributor to complications during childbirth, leading

to both maternal and neonatal deaths. The scheme encourages institutional deliveries, early breast-feeding, and immunization of the child while reducing financial stress for women during their pregnancy.



Since its launch, the PMMVY has been allocated significant resources to ensure its effectiveness. In the financial year 2024, the scheme has received a budget allocation of ₹ 2,573 crore. The cumulative allocation since the scheme's inception reflects the government's commitment to maternal health.

Over 3 crore beneficiaries have availed the benefits of PMMVY by 2023, reflecting the scheme's wide reach and impact. However, there is ongoing demand to extend the benefits beyond the first childbirth and to increase the monetary support to reflect rising healthcare costs. By addressing maternal health holistically, the PMMVY aims to significantly reduce malnutrition and maternal mortality in India, fostering healthier outcomes for both mothers and their children.

7. WOMEN HELPLINE SCHEME

Launched on January 21, 2015, the Women Helpline Scheme provides 24/7 support to women in distress through a dedicated toll-free helpline number. This initiative addresses issues such as domestic violence, harassment, and exploitation. The scheme initially received an allocation of ₹ 100 crore and has since expanded its reach. Thousands of women have benefited from immediate support and counseling services, leading to an increase in the reporting of domestic violence cases.

8. SKILL INDIA MISSION

Although not exclusively for women, the Skill India Mission, launched in 2015, includes initiatives focussed on enhancing women's skills and promoting their employment opportunities. The mission aims to provide skill development and training across various sectors. The government allocated ₹ 4,000 crore in the 2021-22 budget for skill development initiatives. Millions of women have been trained under various programs, significantly increasing their employability and entrepreneurial potential.



9. MUDRA SCHEME

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), commonly known as the Mudra scheme, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015. The scheme was introduced to provide easy access to credit for small and micro enterprises, which often struggle to secure formal loans. Mudra loans are designed to encourage entrepreneurship among marginalized sectors of society, including women, by offering collateral-free loans up to ₹ 10 lakh.

The scheme is categorized into 3 tiers: Shishu (loans up to ₹ 50,000), Kishor (loans from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 5 lakh), and Tarun (loans from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh), each catering to different stages of business growth. The primary objective of the scheme is to empower small businesses and promote self-employment, particularly among under-represented groups such as women, rural entrepreneurs, and marginalized communities.

The Mudra scheme has significantly benefited women entrepreneurs. As of 2024, approximately 68% of the total beneficiaries under the PMMY have been women, showcasing its impact on women's financial empowerment. The scheme has sanctioned over ₹ 23 lakh crore in loans since its inception, and more than 40 crore beneficiaries have been supported. In the financial year 2024, the scheme has been allocated ₹ 3.56 lakh crore for further loan disbursements. The cumulative spending since 2015 highlights the government's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, enabling women and small businesses to grow, thereby contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation. The Mudra scheme remains a cornerstone of Modi's vision for women empowerment by providing them access to financial resources and giving them the much deserved respect at home and in the society.

But This Doesn't Stop Here:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has taken significant steps to increase the representation of women in the Indian Parliament and defence sectors, fostering greater inclusivity and empowerment. Modi has encouraged women's leadership through key

legislative changes. The Women's Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in 2023, ensures that 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha (Lower House) and State Legislative Assemblies are reserved for women, marking a historic step toward gender equality in decision-making roles. This policy, aligned with Modi's broader push for gender parity, aims to elevate women's voices in political processes, thus providing them with more significant decision-making power.

In the defence sector, Modi's administration has broken barriers for women by opening all combat roles in the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force to female officers. The Supreme Court's 2020 ruling, followed by govt implementation, granted Permanent Commission to women officers, allowing them to serve in top leadership and command positions across all branches of the armed forces. In the Indian Air Force, for instance, women have been inducted as fighter pilots since 2016, a major breakthrough in military roles previously restricted to men.

Modi's government has also ensured that women now participate in frontline naval duties, including aboard warships. Through these reforms, women in India's defence services are no longer restricted to administrative or medical roles but are now increasingly involved in key operational and decision-making capacities, reflecting the government's commitment to gender equality and women empowerment in crucial national sectors.

CONCLUSION:

The budget 2024 allocates over ₹ 3 lakh crore specifically for schemes benefiting women and girls, which highlights the government's commitment to gender equality. This allocation of over 6% of the total budget reflects a commitment to improving the lives of women and addressing gender inequality. In comparison, previous UPA budgets allocated around 3-4% of the total budget for women-related schemes, indicating a significant increase in focus and funding under the Modi led NDA government. This increase is a recognition of women's empowerment as a critical driver for national development, aligning with the principles of honouring and uplifting women, as emphasized in Hindu scriptures.

Through these initiatives, the Modi government is not only fulfilling its commitment to women's empowerment but also adhering to the dharma of fostering a society where women are respected, supported, and given equal opportunities to thrive.

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THE VIKAS OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE VIRASAT OF AYUDHA PUJA!

We worship Maa Durga on the 9th day of the Dasara to celebrate the numerous weapons she brandishes from her 1,000 arms. As a token gesture of indirectly praying to her, we worship all the tools, implements and weapons that we use in our daily life and work on Ayudha Pooja. So, what weapons does Maa Bharati possess to destroy her potential enemies? Let's take a quick look at how our defence capabilities have improved by leaps and bounds since 2014 when NDA govt came to power under the visionary leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi ji.

Since 2014, the Indian government has significantly enhanced its strategic and tactical military capabilities, with a strong emphasis on defence indigenization. The "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) initiative by Modi ji, alongside various defence modernization efforts, has been at the forefront of these changes that make India a major power at the global level.

VIKAS & VIRASAT: A BOND STRENGTHENED BY TIME!

Time and again the greatest Bharatiya *rishis* of yore and scientists of modern India have proved that Vikas and Virasat are always deeply integrated - and that each feed off the other for their own sustenance and progress. Our ancient *rishis* wrote phenomenal works on various industries, technologies, sciences and arts with a deep sense of indebtedness to their spiritual learning and earlier masters of their subject. Their works were always remembering the great contributions of their ancient seers and aligning their theses to the overall framework of dharma and culture.

Similarly, our modern scientists have carried on this proud heritage of linking their greatest technological progress and achievements to their ancient seers and concepts embedded in our heritage and culture. That is why is it not surprising for the famous missile man, Late. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, to name the first missile after AGNI or for the first satellite India launched to be named after its most famous mathematician of 1500 years ago, the Aryabhata.

Fast forward to the current times and we see our Hon. Defence Minister inaugurate the first Rafale fighter aircraft by performing a pooja and breaking coconuts as a ritual. We also see a space tech startup like SpaceFields, founded by engineers in their twenties, performing the Vishwakarma Puja on the designated day in honour of the ancient deity of craftsmen and artisans who mastered the tools and technologies of their times to deliver astounding monuments and crafts. Even our current ISRO chief was also seen performing pooja at a famous temple following the successful launch of India's latest space expedition and

ISRO scientists involved in the most complex engineering feats of this century are seen performing prayers and chanting mantras.

This bond between progress of technology and rootedness in ancient culture and heritage is a symptom of the comprehension that the most brilliant minds of this land have about the wisdom of our holy land and the exceptional flexibility it has offered through the millennia to embrace new developments in all fields without ever becoming irrelevant to the changing times and people. With the progress of time and technology, these bonds will only become stronger for our people.

ASTRAS THAT MAKE BHARAT PROUD!

Continuing the legacy of our legendary scientists and institutions, the Modi-led NDA government has pursued a policy of enhancing our offensive and defensive capabilities by investing a lot into the development of potent and deadly "Astras" which stand among the best in the world!



1. AGNI-V: more than 5,000 Km range ICBM that can accurately deliver massive payloads, including nuclear payloads, deep inside adversarial territories such as China. It's road and rail mountable platform enables agility of attack and flexibility in operations.

2. **AGNI with MIRV:** Bharat demonstrated its ability to launch ballistic missiles with multiple warheads on re-entry that can have their own targets assigned separately - which makes it one of the most deadly missiles as it cannot be countered easily by missile defence systems.



3. **NIRBHAY:** 1,000 Km range subsonic cruise missile that can deliver conventional and nuclear payloads with high precision and can be launched from any platform easily.



4. **ASTRA:** The 120 Km range beyond-visual-range missile gives our fighter aircraft superior air dominance and with advanced radars, delivers precision attacks on enemy aircraft.

5. **RUDRAM:** the 250 Km range supersonic anti-radiation missile can disable enemy radar installations and deny visibility into Indian airspace for enemy aircraft.



6. **DHRUVASTRA:** the helicopter launched missile is an advanced version of the Nag anti-tank missile that makes the Advanced Light Helicopter (Dhruv) extremely potent in battlefield.

7. **BRAHMOS:** the upcoming versions of this supersonic missile is expected to cross 800 Km and achieve hypersonic speeds of Mach-5 or higher while deliver devastating blow to enemies.

8. **PRALAY:** The subsonic quasi-ballistic missiles can launch a variety of conventional warheads to a range of 150 Km to 500 Km making it extremely flexible in field operations of the forces.

9. **NAG:** The anti-tank guided missiles work on a fire-and-forget principle making them deadly for any ground troops and armoured vehicles, even if they have missile defence systems.



10. **HSTDV:** the Hypersonic Tech Demonstrator Vehicle is a rare technology that has not been mastered by more than 3 or 4 countries in the world - and Bharat has conducted a test flight already to showcase its ability to cruise at speeds as great as Mach-7.

As we can see in this illustrious list of technology demonstrators, our brilliant scientists and research institutions have proudly showcased their virasat by naming all of their best inventions with terms rooted deep in our collective ancient culture and heritage.

NDA GOVERNMENT = NATIONAL DEFENCE ATTENTION

Since 2014, the Modi government has significantly enhanced India's strategic and tactical capabilities through a strong focus on multiple areas in a coordinated manner to ensure a holistic development of India's offensive and defensive capabilities such as:

1. Defence manufacturing indigenization
2. Boosting private sector participation in defence production
3. Advanced missiles development
4. Missile defence systems
5. Nuclear triad completion
6. Drone development and drone swarm defence
7. Cyber warfare capability setup
8. Networked warfare capability development
9. Space warfare and satellite-based weaponry
10. Defence procurement reforms

These efforts enable India to secure its borders, enhance its deterrence capabilities, and reduce dependency on foreign arms imports, making India a more self-reliant and empowered nation. ■

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MAJOR EDUCATION-RELATED POLICIES & SCHEMES BY NDA GOVERNMENT (2014-PRESENT)

Vidyaa dadaati vinayam – Education imbibes good conduct

Vinayaadyaati paatrataam – Good conduct begets qualification (among people)

Paatrataat dhanamaapnoti – Qualification (among people) helps one earn money

Dhanaat dharmam tatah sukham – From money one achieves good deeds, duties and happiness.

Pradhan Mantri Shri Narendra Modi is a leader who has realized the profound truth of this famous *subhashita* and hence, throughout his administrative career, he has focused on bringing education to the masses and encouraged people to skill themselves to become productive citizens. He also understands that good education can become the bedrock for a strong economy and society. So, the NDA govt has implemented numerous schemes and policies to improve education across the board, while also investing heavily in higher educational infrastructure, innovation and research.

KEY EDUCATION RELATED POLICIES OF NDA GOVERNMENT

Since the NDA government came to power in 2014, Narendra Modi-led government has implemented numerous policies that are focussed on improving the quality of education and thereby increase employability and economic opportunities for millions of people across India.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020

Goal: One of the most transformative educational policies, aimed at overhauling the Indian education system with a focus on holistic development, reducing the curriculum content, introducing multi-disciplinary education, and integrating vocational training.

Impact: Shifting from rote learning to conceptual understanding and introducing local languages. NEP has been adopted by over 7 lakh schools in India.

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (2018)

Goal: An integrated scheme for school education that extends from pre-school to class 12 focusing on improving the quality of education and infrastructure.

Impact: It has helped in infrastructural upgrades in over 1 lakh schools and 158 million students and teachers. With over ₹ 30,000 crore being allocated every year to this scheme from central budgets, it has successfully focussed on teacher training and digital learning through DIKSHA.

PRIME MINISTER'S RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Goal: To attract bright talent into research and encourage innovation in technology and science.

Impact: Over 2,000 fellowships were awarded. With over ₹ 200 crores allocated per year, the scheme awards ₹ 70,000 to ₹ 80,000 for research fellows in IITs and research institutions.

SKILL INDIA MISSION (2015)

Goal: Train over 40 crore people in various skills by 2022, to make them employable in line with the needs of the industry and the job market with nearly ₹ 3,000 crores allocated every year.

Impact: Over 1.25 crore youth have been trained under various programs and directly increased employment opportunities in the manufacturing sector for millions.

STUDY IN INDIA PROGRAMME

Goal: To attract foreign students to study in Indian universities, especially from neighbouring countries, to improve India's global educational standing by spending ₹ 120 crores annually.

Impact: Over 7,000 international students enrolling under the scheme as of 2021.

RASHTRIYA UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

Goal:

- Improving the quality of education and infrastructure

- Increasing access, equity & excellence in higher education
- Producing competitive graduates, PGs & PhDs
- Promoting research & innovation
- Empowering state universities

Impact: With budgetary allocations of ₹ 25,000 crore (2014-2021), over 1,000 universities and colleges across various states have received funds for infrastructure upgrades and research support. RUSA has helped improve laboratory facilities, classrooms, and research infrastructure, benefiting over 3 million students across the country at graduate level.

KEY EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

In tune with its focus on improving the education and skilling of the population, the Modi-led NDA government has also made significant investments in developing the infrastructure required to sustain the quality of education desired by the industry and the nation of the future.

DIKSHA & SWAYAM

DIKSHA: Platform for Teachers' Education

Impact: Over 30 million users by mid-2021

SWAYAM: Provides Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for students across study levels.

Impact: Provided more than 1,500 courses for free to 12 million students by the end of 2021 itself.

INCREASING CAPACITY FOR PREMIER MEDICAL RESEARCH WITH NEW AIIMS

Goal: To improve access to high-quality medical education and healthcare across India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

Impact: ₹ 20,000 crores allocated for setting up 22 new AIIMS institutes across Indian states. Each AIIMS is expected to cater to the healthcare needs of over 3-4 lakh patients annually, along with providing high-quality medical education to thousands of students.

EXPANDING GLOBAL STANDARD TECHNICAL EDUCATION WITH NEW IITS

Goal: To cater to the rising demand for high-quality technical education.

Impact: Over ₹ 10,000 crores allocated to set up 7 new IITs and upgrade existing infrastructure. Adding these IITs increased the seat capacity by almost 20,000 students in the past years.

BOOSTING THE INDIAN IT INDUSTRY WITH NEW IIITS

Goal: To enhance the availability of skilled IT professionals in public-private partnership (PPP).

Impact: ₹ 3,600 crores allocated for setting up 16 new IIITs with over 10,000 students benefit annually from these institutions, which focus on specialized IT and computer science courses.

SCALING QUALITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION WITH MORE NITS

Goal: To upgrade the facilities at older NITs and establish new ones for engineering education.

Impact: ₹ 5,000 crores allocated for infrastructure improvement and expansion of 11 new NITs with major more than ₹ 4,000 crores invested in upgradation projects at existing institutions. NITs across India currently cater to over 100,000 students from all kinds of backgrounds.

GROWING LEADERSHIP & MANAGERIAL CAPACITY WITH MORE IIIMS

Goal: To increase the management and leadership cadre needed to run growing industries.

Impact: 7 new IIIMs were established by the NDA government taking the total strength to 20.

Conclusion: In this auspicious month, when the entire nation is celebrating the Saraswati Puja during Dasara celebrations, it is important to understand how the NDA government has spread the wealth of high quality education across sectors and grades to all parts of Bharat with equal zest and fervour. PM Modi ji has understood that it is critical to his vision of building a Vikasit Bharat to bring development, progress and higher education to all corners of India and that is exactly what his government has been doing over the last 10 years.

The Modi-led NDA government has significantly increased the amount of money allocated to education not only in absolute numbers, but also as a percentage of the overall GDP of the country. This sets the foundation for ensuring a bright future for hundreds of millions of youth in the future Bharat which is expectantly waiting to reap the demographic dividends offered by the biggest workforce to be available in any single country in the next 50 years.

Let's pray to Maa Saraswati to bless this nation and its people.

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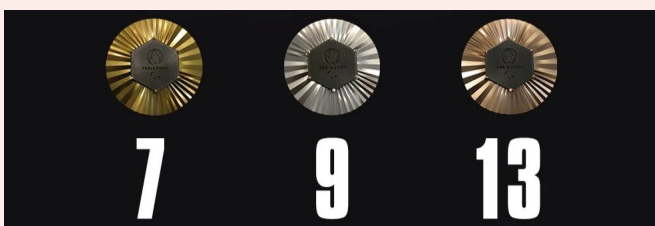
Member, Economic Cell - BJP Karnataka

LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE AT THE 2024 PARIS PARALYMPICS



India's performance at the 2024 Paris Paralympics was a landmark achievement, highlighted by historic medal wins and a growing stature on the global Paralympic stage. India sent its largest-ever contingent of 84 Athletes, competing across 12 sports, and returned with 29 medals - 7 Gold, 9 Silver & 13 Bronze - surpassing its previous record of 19 medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. This monumental success has been attributed not only to the athletes' efforts but also to the Indian Government's robust support under schemes like TOPS and the Khelo India Programme.



HISTORIC MOMENTS



AVANI LEKHARA

Became the 1st Indian woman to win 2 Paralympic Golds, defending her title in the 10m Air Rifle standing SH1.



SUMIT ANTIL

Broke his own world record 3 times in the Men's Javelin Throw F64, setting a new Paralympic record of 70.59m.



PRAVEEN KUMAR

Set an Asian record in High Jump T64, clinching Gold.



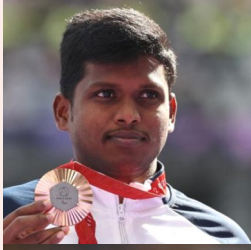
DHARAMBIR

Achieved an Asian record of 34.92m in the Men's Club Throw F51, winning Gold.



PREETI PAL

Earned India's first-ever Track Medal, winning Bronze in the Women's 100m T35.



MARIYAPPAN THANGAVELU

Became the 1st Indian to win medals in 3 consecutive Paralympics, earning Bronze in the High Jump T42.



DEEPTHI JEEVANJI

Won Bronze in the Women's 400m T20, becoming the 1st Intellectually Impaired Indian Athlete to win a Paralympic medal.



HARVINDER SINGH

Made history as India's 1st ever Paralympic champion in Archery, winning Gold in the individual event.

SHEETAL DEVI & RAKESH KUMAR

Set a world record in the compound Mixed Team Archery event, winning Bronze.



SHEETAL DEVI, at 17 years of age, became the youngest Indian paralympics champion. She is also the world's only armless female archer and currently the only armless archer who is active.

India's medal haul in Paris 2024 marks a significant jump from the 19 medals in Tokyo 2020 (5 Golds, 8 Silvers, 6 Bronzes). The increase in Gold medals, especially in events like javelin, archery, and high jump, shows India's growing prowess across various adaptive sports.

India ranked 18th on the medal table, improving its international standing. However, countries like China remained dominant with over 220 medals, followed by Great Britain (124) and USA (105). While India's total was smaller in comparison, the country's performance showed impressive gains considering the smaller size

of its delegation compared to these Paralympic powerhouses.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO THE PARA-ATHLETES

The Indian government has taken several significant steps to support its Paralympic athletes in preparation for the Paris 2024 Paralympics. Here's a detailed overview of the measures implemented:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The govt has increased financial support for para-athletes, providing them with training grants, cash rewards for medals in major competitions, and enhanced funding for their preparations, including support for training camps, equipment & travel expenses.

TRAINING FACILITIES

Enhanced training facilities have been established to cater specifically to para-athletes. This includes access to state-of-the-art equipment and specialized coaching staff. The Sports Authority of India has been instrumental in creating a conducive environment for training.

COACHING SUPPORT

The government has arranged for foreign coaches to work with Indian para-athletes, providing them with exposure to advanced techniques & training methodologies. This is aimed at improving performance levels and competitiveness on the world stage.

SPORTS SCIENCE & MEDICINE

Access to sports science experts, nutritionists, and physiotherapists has been prioritized. This multi-disciplinary approach helps in injury management and overall performance enhancement for para-athletes.

PROMOTION & AWARENESS

The government has launched campaigns to promote awareness about para-sports and to celebrate the achievements of para-athletes. This includes media coverage, social media campaigns, and events to raise the profile of para-sports in India.

SCHOLARSHIPS & INCENTIVES

Various scholarship schemes have been introduced to support para-athletes in their educational pursuits while they train for competitions. This ensures they have a fallback option while focusing on their sports careers.

COLLABORATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS

The Indian government collaborates with various sports organizations, NGOs, and corporate sponsors to

enhance resources available for para-athletes. This partnership helps in mobilizing additional support and funding.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The govt has been encouraging and facilitating the participation of para-athletes in international events leading up to the Paralympics. This provides them with crucial experience and exposure.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, there are initiatives in place to provide psychological support to athletes. This includes counseling and workshops to help them cope with the pressures of competition.

MEDAL TARGETS & RECOGNITION

The government has set specific medal targets for the Paralympics and has promised significant rewards for medal winners, motivating athletes to excel.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THROUGH TOPS & KHELO INDIA

The Modi govt played a pivotal role in enabling India's Paralympic success through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). During the Paris 2024 cycle, around ₹35-40 crore was allocated specifically for para-athletes, providing financial support for foreign training, nutrition, diet planning & hiring international coaches. This was in line with support provided to Olympic athletes, who also benefitted from foreign exposure and state-of-the-art training facilities.



Athletes like Avani Lekhara and Sumit Antil received specialized training abroad, with foreign coaches and nutrition plans tailored to their needs. Sheetal Devi consults world's first armless archer, Matt Stutzman, in order to improve her posture and performance. The

govt also increased its investments in accessibility and sports infrastructure, ensuring that para-athletes had equal opportunities as their Olympic counterparts.

The total investment under TOPS for the 2024 Olympic cycle was around ₹100 crore, with a significant portion of this funding directed toward Olympic sports. However, the allocation for Paralympic athletes reflected a growing equality in terms of support & facilities. Both groups of athletes received financial backing for training, equipment & international exposure. Para-athletes, particularly, benefitted from high-performance centers designed with adaptive needs in mind, and the recognition of their achievements led to larger rewards and incentives post-medals.

The Modi government's Khelo India Scheme also extended support to para-athletes by including adaptive sports in national competitions and focusing on grassroots talent identification. This holistic approach, combining financial aid with advanced sports science and foreign expertise, significantly boosted India's Paralympic prospects.

WHY INDIA EXCELS IN PARALYMPICS

You may wonder why India has won so many Paralympic medals as compared to Olympic medals this year. This success can be attributed to:

TAILORED COACHING

Specialized international coaches and equipment designed for adaptive sports have given para-athletes a competitive edge.

FOCUSED TRAINING

Athletes like Sumit Antil and Avani Lekhara received world-class training in adaptive sports, which is not as readily available in Olympic disciplines.

HIGHER MEDAL POTENTIAL

With a wide array of classifications, the Paralympics offers more events and medal opportunities, allowing countries like India to secure a higher medal count.

Conclusion: India's performance at the 2024 Paris Paralympics has set a new benchmark for future athletes. With increased government backing, strategic planning, and more opportunities for para-athletes, India is emerging as a force to be reckoned with in global adaptive sports. The achievements in Paris are not just medals but milestones in the journey of India's evolving sports ecosystem, thanks to comprehensive support under govt schemes like TOPS & Khelo India.

Author: **DISHA L. DINESHA**

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ACHIEVERS

First Indian Women



**ANANDIBAI
GOPALRAO JOSHI**

First Indian
Woman Doctor of
Western Medicine
in 1886



KIRAN BEDI

First Woman to join
Indian Police Service.
She also became the
first Indian and first
woman appointed as the
United Nations Police
Adviser and head of the
Police Division in 2003.



LEILA SETH

First Woman to become
Chief Justice of a
State High Court (1991)



**KARNAM
MALLESWARI**

First Indian Woman to
win a medal at the
Olympics. She won the
bronze at the
Sydney 2000 Olympics.

**KADAMBINI BOSE
GANGULY**

First Indian
Female Practicing Doctor
and one of the first
women to graduate with
a degree in Western
Medicine in India
in 1886



**JUSTICE
ANNA CHANDY**

First Female Judge (1937)
and then High Court Judge
(1959) of India.
Along with Justice
Emily Murphy, she was
one of the first female
judges in the British
Empire.



NILIMA GHOSE

First Indian Woman to
compete in the Olympics.
She participated in 100m
sprint and 80m hurdles
at the Helsinki 1952
Olympic Games.



FATHIMA BEEVI

First Woman Judge of the
Supreme Court of not just
India but also an Asian
country in 1989. She was
also the first Muslim
woman to serve the higher
judiciary in the country.
She was the first woman
Governor of TN and the
first chairperson of NHRC.





PT USHA

First Indian Woman to reach finals at an Olympics event.
First woman elected to Indian Olympic Association Presidency.



Dr. KAMALA SOHONIE

First Indian Woman to receive a Ph.D. in a scientific discipline in 1939.



PRIYA JHINGAN

First Woman in the Indian Army.
In 1992, she wrote a letter to the Army Chief himself, asking him to let women in.



AYYALASOMAYAJULA LALITHA

India's First Female Engineer who graduated in 1943 in Civil Engineering.



BACHENDRI PAL

First Indian Woman to climb Mt. Everest in 1984.



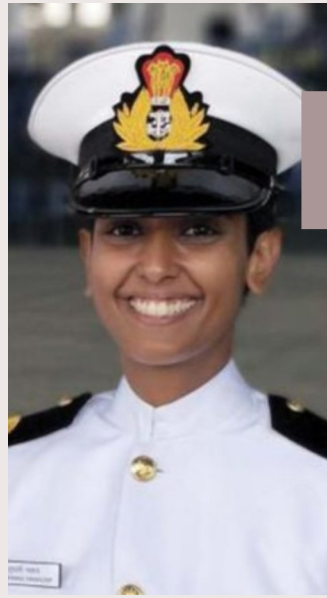
SARLA THAKRAL

First Female Pilot in India who got her Aviation License in 1936.



Lt. SHUBHANGI SWAROOP

First Female Pilot of the Indian Navy in 2019.



MOHANA SINGH, BHAWANA KANTH & AVANI CHATURVEDI

First Women to be inducted into the Indian Air Force as Fighter Pilots in 2016.

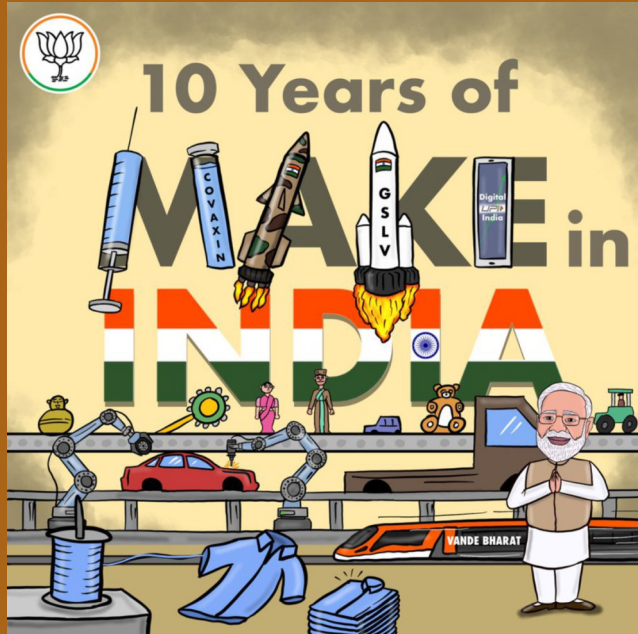


INFOGRAPHICS



#10YearsOfMakeInIndia

Under PM Modi's leadership, the Make in India initiative has transformed India into a global manufacturing hub. Since 2014, it has fostered several startups, creating a sustainable ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.



- 2nd Largest Mobile Manufacturer
- 3rd Largest Exporter of Textiles & Apparel
- 3rd Largest Start-up Ecosystem
- Defence Exports to 90 Countries
- Vaccine Exports to 150 Countries
- 239% Increase in Toy Exports

In today's day and age, everyone wants to Make in India!

PHARMA EXPORTS BOOM OWING TO MAKE IN INDIA



India ranks 3rd worldwide for the production of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals by volume.

85%
growth in a decade

\$15.07 billion
2013-14

\$27.85 billion
2023-24



POWERED ELECTRONICS REVOLUTION!

From just 2 mobile phone factories in 2014, India is now the 2nd largest mobile phone producer!

40.5%
growth in FY24 in exports of mobile phones

₹1,28,982 crore

₹1,556 crore

Apr-Jul 2021

Apr-Jul 2023

SMARTPHONE REVOLUTION: MAKE IN INDIA

99%
of smartphones are now made in India!

Mobile phone imports plummeted from ₹48,609 crore in 2014-15 to just ₹7,665 crore in 2023-24



TRACTOR EXPORTS SURGE!



Tractor exports have soared over the decade!



72%
increase from 2013 to 2021

\$594 million
2013

1,025 million
2021

The Sydney-based Lowy Institute's 2024 Asia Power Index
places India as the
3RD MOST POWERFUL NATION IN ASIA
behind only the United States & China, surpassing Japan, Australia & Russia!

INDIA'S DIPLOMATIC INFLUENCE IS GROWING LIKE NEVER BEFORE

ASIA POWER INDEX 2024 EDITION



Source: Lowy Institute

The Lowy Institute report notes India's significant gains in Economic Capability, Diplomatic Activity, and Future Resources, signalling a demographic dividend that could fuel its continued rise.

BJP leader Hardeep Singh Puri has attributed India's ascent in the latest Asia Power Index to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership and global strategy. "India's rise is no accident," Puri asserted. "This is the direct result of Prime Minister Modi's aggressive diplomatic strategy and his bold ambitions to reshape India's place in the world. Without his leadership, India would still be languishing behind, but today, we see a nation on the verge of superpower status." Puri further added, "While countries like China are aging and facing a slowdown, India, under PM Modi, has the resources and the leadership to take the throne as the new kingmaker of Asia." He concluded with a challenge to critics, stating, "Those who question Modi's impact on India's rise need to look at the facts. India's trajectory is up, and the world can no longer ignore it."