◄Issue: 01-28 February, 2025 ◄Year: 2 ◄Volume: 21/22 (Joint Edition)

Peace, Security and Prosperity

Vigilant India

Complimentary Copy

Collaborative Governance is Key to All-round Development



Zonal Councils Evolve Under Modi Government

Model Directorate of Prosecution to Come Up in Maharashtra, Says Union Home Minister

Implementing New Criminal Laws in Totality Under the PM's Leadership

Delhi Embraces PM's Vision With Focus on Development & Security

Contents

Celebrating 75 Glorious Years of the Indian Constitution

The Union Government has unveiled a year-long historic celebration to commemorate 75 years since the adoption of the Constitution. This initiative showcases the remarkable journey of India's democracy and the enduring legacy of its founding principles and constitutional values. The celebrations under the banner **'Hamara Samvidhaan, Hamara Swabhiman'** commenced on Constitution Day on November 26, 2024.



Let us explore the artistic depictions embedded in the Constitution

Part VI of the Constitution of India, which pertains to the States listed in Part 'A' of the First Schedule, begins with a captivating illustration of Vardhaman Mahavira in a meditative pose. It was created by artists Jamuna Sen, Nandalal Bose and Rajniti.



Yoga is a Journey that Elevates Us from the Self to Universal: Shri Shah 18



India & USA Forge New Era of Strategic Cooperation 20



Software, Services & User Awareness Key to Tackling Cyber Fraud 24

Model Directorate of Prosecution to Come Up in Maharashtra, Says Union Home Minister 11
Implementing New Criminal Laws in Totality Under the PM's Leadership 13
'Watan Ko Jano' Showcases India's Social & Cultural Fabric 14
Delhi Embraces PM's Vision With Focus on Development & Security 15
Empowering Citizens Through Reforms in Energy Sector 22
India Champions Global Unity in War Against Terror Financing 26
Speedy Trials Under New Criminal Laws 27
India Progressing at a Rapid Pace 29
Guest Column 30

Zonal Councils Evolve Under Modi Government

Cover Story



Contents



Tripura Govt Distributes 2,800 Appointment Letters

17



AI Writing the Code for Humanity

23



Since 2014, we have emphasised on the aspirations of the youth of the country. As a result of that, today our youth are waving the flag of success in every field.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Budget 2025 is a new opportunity and a new medium for the prosperity of gig workers. Now gig workers will not only get identity cards by registering on the e-Shram portal, but will also benefit from health facilities. Also, with the expansion of PM Svanidhi Yojana, street vendors will be able to get credit cards up to ₹30,000 and higher loans from banks by connecting to UPI.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and
Minister of Cooperation



When power becomes service, a nation is built, but when power is made into an inheritance, democracy ends.

Shri Nityanand Rai
Minister of State for
Home Affairs



On the Indian Coast Guard Raising Day, we salute the relentless courage and commitment of our maritime warriors. From securing our coasts to saving lives at sea, their service ensures India's safety and sovereignty. Respect and gratitude to our Coast Guard personnel for their unwavering vigilance!

Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar
Minister of State for Home Affairs



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired a high-level review meeting on the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir in New Delhi.

Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India



From the Editor...

As India strides towards its vision of becoming a developed nation, the principle of cooperative and competitive federalism has emerged as a cornerstone for sustainable and inclusive development. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the ethos—that strong States make a stronger nation—has been invigorated, with Zonal Councils transforming into dynamic platforms that truly exemplify the power of collaboration and dialogue.

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has emphasised that through Zonal Council meetings, the country has successfully fostered inclusive solutions and holistic development, driven by dialogue, engagement and collaboration.

The Zonal Councils were originally envisioned as advisory bodies to promote coordination between the Centre and States. But ever since the Prime Minister assumed office in 2014, their role has been redefined—transforming them into strategic platforms for decision-making, innovative solutions and cooperative federalism. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has emphasised that through Zonal Council meetings, the country has successfully fostered inclusive solutions and holistic development, driven by dialogue, engagement and collaboration.

The Zonal Councils have experienced a remarkable revival in recent years. Under the present dispensation, Zonal Council meetings are being convened far more frequently, with a significant increase in the number of issues discussed and resolved—reflecting a massive surge in activities. By transforming these councils into platforms for meaningful dialogue, innovation and resolution, the Union Government has reinforced the principle that India's strength lies in the collective progress of its States and Union Territories.

This transformation reflects the Union Government's 'Whole of Government' approach, promoting synergy across Ministries and States. Now, the Zonal Councils serve as dynamic platforms and address various concerns related to health, infrastructure, education, malnutrition and mining, aligning regional priorities with national goals.

During the last 10 years, Zonal Councils have tackled issues of regional as well as national significance with renewed focus. The 27th Western Zonal Council meeting held in February in Pune, which was chaired by the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, addressed as many as 18 issues, including the speedy investigation of sexual assault cases, implementation of Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO cases, urban master planning, etc.

The Zonal Councils are adapting to emerging challenges, with digital infrastructure and cybercrime set to be included in the Inter-State Council's purview, ensuring that India's federal framework remains future-ready.

This edition of 'Vigilant India' delves into the efforts undertaken by the Centre to redefine the role of Zonal Councils—an evolution that will undoubtedly shape India's federal landscape for decades to come, reinforcing the maxim: Strong States, Strong Nation. We hope readers will find this issue insightful. Readers may kindly share their feedback at sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in

Jai Hind!

Rajeev Kumar Sharma
Director General, BPR&D



Collaborative Governance is Key to All-round Development

Zonal Councils

Evolve Under Modi Government

Since Shri Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, the Zonal Councils have evolved from mere formal institutions into dynamic platforms driving meaningful change.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Bureau

In a rapidly evolving India, the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism has emerged as the cornerstone of the nation's progress. The principle that strong states make a strong nation resonates deeply in the functioning of Zonal Councils, which have transformed into dynamic platforms for dialogue, collaboration and problem-solving.

The 27th meeting of the Western Zonal Council, chaired by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, in Pune on February 22, 2025, underscored the pivotal role of these councils in driving national progress through cooperation and shared goals. Shri Shah highlighted the evolution of Zonal Councils from their traditional advisory role to becoming dynamic forums for collaboration and decision making, saying that these council meetings



Shri Amit Shah in a group photo during the 27th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Pune, Maharashtra.

have evolved into a platform for sharing best practices adopted by various states and showcasing significant national-level achievements.

A Platform for Dialogue & Development

The Western Zonal Council meeting, attended by dignitaries including the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa, the Administrator of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, and senior officials from various states and Central ministries, exemplified the power of collective action. The meeting addressed 18 critical issues impacting the member states and the country at large. These ranged from land transfers, mining and food security norms to pressing social challenges such as the speedy investigation of rape cases, implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for cases under the POCSO Act and reducing school dropout rates.

The discussions also encompassed multiple issues of national priorities, including urban master planning, affordable housing, uninterrupted electricity supply, malnutrition elimination through the Poshan Abhiyan, and strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). By fostering an exchange of best practices among states and Union Territories, the meeting highlighted how Zonal Councils serve as incubators for innovative solutions that can be scaled nationwide.

Leveraging cooperative and competitive federalism, the 27th Western Zonal Council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasised collaborative governance as key to India's all-round development.

Zonal Councils: Driving Progress Through Collaboration

- **Whole of Government Approach:** Zonal Councils embody Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, turning dialogues into actionable outcomes for inclusive and holistic development.
- **Future-Ready Initiatives:** The three New Criminal Laws implemented, with digital infrastructure and cybercrime set to be included in the Inter-State Council's purview.
- **Critical Issues Addressed:** As many as 18 issues discussed, including land transfers, mining, speedy investigation of rape cases and implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for POCSO cases.
- **National Priorities Tackled:** Urban planning, affordable housing, uninterrupted electricity supply and strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) prioritised for nationwide impact.
- **Prosperity Through Cooperation Vision:** Cooperatives are key to 100% employment, with states urged to bolster cooperative infrastructure at the grassroots level.



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah with Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis at the 27th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Pune.

The Evolution of Zonal Councils

Since Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, Zonal Councils have undergone a remarkable transformation. Shri Shah highlighted that from 2004 to 2014, only 25 meetings were held, where 469 topics were discussed and 448 issues were resolved. In contrast, from 2014 to February 2025, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, 61 meetings were conducted—a 140% increase. During this period, 1,541 topics were discussed and 1,280 issues were resolved, marking a 170% surge in activities. This exponential growth reflects the Modi Government's "Whole of Government" approach, which has turned the councils into vibrant platforms for decision-making and change, the Union Home Minister asserted.

Shri Shah emphasised that Zonal Councils have moved beyond their traditional role to become strategic decision-making bodies. The Eastern Zonal Council, for instance, has facilitated transformative decisions, while the Western Zonal Council has emerged as a benchmark for balanced and holistic development. The Western region, which includes Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and the UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, plays a critical role in India's economy. Contributing 25% to the nation's GDP and accounting for over half of India's global trade. The region serves as a vital hub for industries and infrastructure, supporting not only its own states but also other states such as MP and Rajasthan along with the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing Key Challenges

The Western Zonal Council meeting tackled a wide array of challenges, reflecting the diverse needs of the region and the nation. One significant



Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

While the role of Zonal Councils is advisory in nature, in recent years, these meetings have evolved into a platform for sharing best practices adopted by various states and showcasing significant national-level achievements. Through zonal council meetings, the country has successfully fostered inclusive solutions and holistic development, driven by dialogue, engagement and collaboration.

Zonal Councils: The Genesis

The Zonal Councils were established under Part III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, as part of the broader scheme for the reorganisation of states. According to Section 15 of the Act, a Zonal Council is constituted for each of the five zones of the country. The present composition of each Zonal Council is as follows:

Northern Zonal Council

Comprises the States/Union Territories of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Central Zonal Council

Comprises the States of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Eastern Zonal Council

Comprises the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

Western Zonal Council

Comprises the States of Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

Southern Zonal Council

Comprises the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and the Union Territory of Puducherry.



The need of the hour is cooperative competitive federalism. Let there be a healthy spirit of competition among the states on progressing in different sectors.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

achievement highlighted by Shri Shah was the near-completion of the goal to establish bank branches or postal banking facilities within a five-kilometre radius of every village. Building on this success, a new target was set to reduce the distance to three kilometres, further enhancing financial access for rural communities. This milestone, achieved through the cooperation of all states and Union Territories, underscores the power of collective effort.

However, a few challenges remain, particularly in addressing malnutrition and stunting among children in the prosperous Western states. Shri Shah urged state leaders to prioritise these issues, emphasising that good health begins with prevention rather than reliance on medical interventions. He also called for measures to reduce school dropout rates and improve educational quality, recognising education as a foundation for long-term development.

On the agricultural front, Shri Shah expressed concern over India's reliance on imported pulses and advocated for boosting domestic production. He highlighted the development of a mobile app that enables direct purchase of pulses at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), ensuring fair prices for farmers. By promoting this app and encouraging farmer registrations, Western states can contribute to India's self-sufficiency in pulse production.

Adapting to Emerging Challenges

The Zonal Council meeting also addressed the implementation of the three New Criminal Laws, which aim to ensure that citizens fully exercise

Zonal Councils as Catalysts for Development

- **Evolution of Zonal Councils:** Transformed from advisory bodies into strategic platforms for decision-making, fostering cooperative and competitive federalism under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership.
- **Surge in Activity (2014–2025):** 61 meetings held, 1,541 topics discussed and 1,280 issues resolved, marking a 140% increase in meetings and 170% surge in topics compared to 2004–2014.
- **Western Region's Economic Significance:** Contributes 25% to India's GDP and over 50% of the country's global trade, serving as a hub for industries and infrastructure supporting states like Madhya Pradesh.
- **Financial Inclusion Milestone:** Near-completion of bank branches/postal banking within 5-km radius of every village, with a new target set to reduce this to 3-km.
- **Focus on Social Challenges:** Emphasis on eliminating malnutrition and stunting, reducing school dropout rates and improving the quality of education.

their constitutional rights. Shri Shah highlighted the need to prepare for emerging issues such as digital infrastructure and cybercrime, which will soon fall under the purview of the Inter-State Council. By proactively addressing these challenges, states can stay ahead of the curve and safeguard their citizens in an increasingly digital world, the Union Home Minister said.

A Roadmap for Long-Term Growth

Shri Shah underscored the importance of leveraging Zonal Councils to maximise India's growth potential. By utilising these platforms to achieve 100% development objectives, states can drive long-term economic progress. The Western Zonal Council, with its economic significance and strategic infrastructure, serves as a model for how cooperative and competitive federalism can yield transformative results.

The Cooperative Vision

A key theme of the meeting was Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation). The Union Home Minister emphasised that cooperation is the key to achieving 100% employment in India. Strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and implementing over 56 initiatives to realise this vision were identified as critical steps. Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa were urged to build robust cooperative infrastructure at the grassroots level, ensuring that the benefits of cooperative federalism reach each and every citizen.

Strong States, Strong Nation

The meeting reaffirmed the power of cooperative and competitive federalism in building a stronger and more prosperous India. By fostering dialogue, sharing best practices and addressing critical issues through a systematic mechanism, Zonal Councils embody the principle that strong states make a strong nation. As India continues its journey toward holistic development, these councils will remain indispensable in driving inclusive solutions, resolving long-standing challenges and ensuring that every citizen benefits from the nation's progress. ■

Zonal Councils: Key Objectives

Each Zonal Council is an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the states represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the states represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Union Government and the Government of each state concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter.

- Prioritising national integration
- Arresting the growth of acute state consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies
- Enabling the Centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences
- Establishing a climate of cooperation amongst the states for successful and speedy execution of development projects

They can discuss/make recommendations on:

- Any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
- Any matter concerning border disputes, linguistic minorities or inter-state transport;
- Any matter connected with or arising out of the re-organisation of the states under the States Reorganisation Act.



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah chairs a review meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in New Delhi on the implementation of the three New Criminal Laws.

Model Directorate of Prosecution

to Come Up in Maharashtra, Says Union Home Minister

A significant step has been taken to make the prosecution system in Maharashtra more effective, transparent and accountable. The Union Home Minister has instructed the state Government to establish a model Directorate of Prosecution in alignment with the New Criminal Laws.

Bureau

The Maharashtra Government will establish a model Directorate of Prosecution in the state to ensure the effective implementation of the three New Criminal Laws and to enhance the efficiency of the justice system. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, directed this initiative while chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the New Criminal Laws in Maharashtra. The meeting was held in New Delhi on February 14, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

The system will be developed in line with the New Criminal Laws introduced by the Union Government, which include the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). It will focus on implementing comprehensive reforms in the prosecution system by modernising the structure and operations of the Directorate, making it more transparent and technology driven. As part of this initiative, prosecutors will receive specialised training in line with new technologies and procedures, enabling them to deliver speedy and effective justice in complex cases. It is expected to enhance accountability, improve quality and ensure fairness in the prosecution process, thereby strengthening public trust in the judicial system.

The Union Home Minister emphasised the need for concrete efforts to raise the conviction rate to over 90% in cases where the punishment is seven years or more. He stated that achieving this goal would require close coordination between the police, Government prosecutors and the judiciary to ensure



Shri Amit Shah chairs review meeting on the implementation of three New Criminal Laws in Maharashtra.

swift punishment for offenders and to reinforce public confidence in the judicial process.

Shri Shah stated that for the effective implementation of the New Criminal Laws, it is essential to make the prosecution system technology-enabled, efficient and accountable at the grassroots level. He also recommended that prosecutors at the state level receive modern training, enabling them to present strong, evidence-based arguments in court. In addition, he emphasised the need to build capability to effectively present digital evidence during legal proceedings.

In line with the implementation of the New Criminal Laws, Maharashtra's initiative will not only strengthen the state's legal framework, but also serve as a model for other states to follow. Shri Shah reiterated the importance of regular monitoring by senior police officials to ensure fair and effective action in serious offences such as terrorism, organised crime and mob lynching. He stressed that continuous oversight and transparency are essential to prevent the misuse of legal provisions related to these offences.

The Union Home Minister stated that arrangements should be made to record evidence via video conferencing in key institutions such as jails, Government hospitals, banks and forensic science laboratories. This would ensure both transparency and speed in the judicial process.

Shri Shah also said that a system should be implemented where FIRs can be transferred between two states through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). He recommended that Maharashtra should adopt CCTNS 2.0 and Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0.

The Union Home Minister stated that the police should provide information about individuals held in custody for interrogation on an electronic dashboard. He also emphasised the need to improve internet connectivity in police stations. He added that the availability of forensic science mobile vans should be ensured in every police sub-division.

To strengthen law and order, it is essential for crimes to be registered; there should be no delay in filing FIRs.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

While stressing the importance of filling vacant positions in the Forensic Department at the earliest, Shri Shah highlighted that increasing the number of forensic experts is crucial to strengthen crime investigations through technical and scientific means. This initiative by the Union Home Minister is seen as a significant step towards integrating crime control with technology and accountability, ultimately making the country's law and order system stronger and more modern.

The implementation and current status of various new provisions related to the Police, Prisons, Courts, Prosecution and Forensics in Maharashtra were reviewed during the meeting. The meeting was attended by Union Home Secretary Shri Govind Mohan, Maharashtra Chief Secretary Smt Sujata Saunik, Director General of Police Smt Rashmi Shukla, the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development, the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau, along with several senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and the Maharashtra Government.■

Implementing New Criminal Laws in Totality Under the PM's Leadership

The administration and the Government have made commendable progress in implementing the New Criminal Laws, even under challenging circumstances.



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, chairs a review meeting on the New Criminal Laws in New Delhi.

Bureau

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, held a review meeting with Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah in New Delhi on February 18 to discuss the implementation of the three New Criminal Laws in the Union Territory.

Shri Shah directed the local administration to ensure the effective implementation of the New Criminal Laws introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that these laws are important for good governance, transparency and protection of citizens' rights. The Union Home Minister stressed the importance of changing the mindset of both the police and administration, while also raising awareness among the public.

He further urged that all necessary measures be taken to ensure the full implementation of the three new laws by April this year.

Shri Shah emphasised the need to strengthen law and order, streamline the entire administrative process and ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir benefit from the new laws. He also emphasised the importance of accelerating the implementation of the provision for 'trial in absentia'.

This provision allows legal proceedings to continue and trials to be held even if an accused is absent or on the run. It is especially useful in cases involving terrorism, organised crime or other serious offences in which the accused may have fled the country , ensuring that those avoiding justice cannot escape the law and that the judicial process proceeds without disruption.

Every police station in Jammu and Kashmir should maximise the use of NAFIS.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Shah instructed police officers to expedite the process of filing chargesheets. He also emphasised the need for widespread use of NAFIS (National Automated Fingerprint Identification System) to improve law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that NAFIS will aid in identifying criminals and creating digital records of criminals, making investigations more accurate and transparent. The Union Home Secretary, Shri Govind Mohan; Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Shri Rajeev Kumar Sharma; the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau, Shri Alok Ranjan and senior officials from the Union Home Ministry and senior police officers from Jammu and Kashmir were present at the meeting.■



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah interacts with 250 children from Jammu and Kashmir under the 'Watan Ko Jano' programme in New Delhi.

‘Watan Ko Jano’

Showcases India’s Social & Cultural Fabric

Bureau

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, interacted with 250 children from Jammu and Kashmir in the national capital on February 24, under the ‘Watan Ko Jano’ programme. The event, also attended by the Union Home Secretary and Director of the Intelligence Bureau, aimed to familiarise the children with the nation’s dynamic progress, cultural richness and social diversity.

Shri Shah encouraged the children to become ambassadors of peace and development. He emphasised that the peace restored in Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership must now be transformed into permanent peace by them.

Underlining the significance of the programme, the Union Home Minister described ‘Watan Ko Jano’ as a powerful initiative to deepen the emotional and cultural integration of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. He noted that the abrogation of Article 370 has given every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir equal rights, and that real, lasting peace will only be achieved when the people, especially the youth, embrace the spirit of unity and harmony.

Our country is our home and just as we are familiar with every part of our home, we should also know our country in the same way. This vision led the Union Government to launch the ‘Watan Ko Jano’ programme.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Shah highlighted the transformative changes brought to Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister Shri Modi—including the development of educational institutions, hospitals, industries, infrastructure and access to basic amenities. He urged the children to return to their villages and inspire their families and neighbours to choose peace over violence and to reject terrorism in all forms.

Organised by the Social Welfare Department of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the exposure tour took the children—62 girls and 188 boys aged 9-18 years—from weaker sections and terrorism-affected families to Jaipur, Ajmer and Delhi. ■

Delhi Embraces PM's Vision With Focus on Development & Security



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, chairs a high-level meeting on law and order in New Delhi.

Bureau

To improve coordination among Central agencies and enhance security efforts in the National Capital, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, held a crucial meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Smt Rekha Gupta, Delhi Home Minister Shri Ashish Sood and Delhi Police Commissioner Shri Sanjay Arora on February 28.

The meeting focused on strengthening Delhi's security system and accelerating development projects. It featured an in-depth discussion on improving the traffic system and enhancing public safety across the National Capital. Several suggestions and measures were discussed regarding the safety of women, children and senior citizens in Delhi, as well as improving the overall law and order situation, with an emphasis on controlling crimes.

While assessing the performance of the Delhi Police, the Union Home Minister acknowledged their commendable efforts in maintaining law and order in the National Capital. Shri Shah stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Delhi Government will progress at double the pace towards realising the vision of 'Developed Delhi & Safe Delhi.' He reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to further strengthening law and order in Delhi, implementing technological advancements in police administration and ensuring the safety of the public.

Shri Shah instructed that strict action should be taken against Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants living illegally in Delhi. He emphasised that legal measures should be taken against everyone involved in the network that facilitates the entry of these intruders into India by obtaining false documents that allow them to remain in the country. The Union Home Minister also clarified that this issue is not only about illegal migration, but is closely tied to national security. Therefore, all illegal immigrants should be identified and deported at the earliest, he said.

KEY DIRECTIONS

- Interstate gangs to be eliminated with a ruthless approach
- No permission required from Delhi Police for construction-related matters
- DCP-level officers to visit police stations and organise public hearing camps to address public issues
- Police to identify areas with daily traffic jams and implement quick solutions
- Delhi Government to create a 'Monsoon Action Plan' to address waterlogging by identifying affected areas



The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, has emphasised that a crime-free and ideal national capital can only be achieved through mutual cooperation between the Delhi Police and the Delhi Government. He highlighted the importance of focusing on areas such as traffic management, the safety of women and children, fighting corruption, community policing and CCTV surveillance.

The Union Home Minister also issued directives to enhance the effectiveness of the Delhi Police. He said that it is very important to know the level of satisfaction of the people about various measures undertaken by the Delhi Police through third party surveys ranging from traffic management, safety of senior citizens and the Himmat App that specialises on women's safety. Review by third parties will help improve the efficiency of these initiatives, he said.

According to the Home Ministry, concrete measures will be taken to establish a modern security system in Delhi, strengthen digital surveillance and further empower the police force.

Taking a firm stance against crimes, Shri Shah said that it should be the priority of the Delhi Police to eliminate interstate gangs operating in Delhi with a ruthless approach. The Union Home Minister said that DCP-level officers should go to police stations and organise public hearing camps to solve the problems of the public. He added that all ACPs should monitor serious cases themselves. He said that for the next one year, the Delhi Police should run a special drive against crimes at a regular interval of every three months and later on it should be done every 45 days.

Apart from these instructions, the Union Home Minister also stated a 'top-to-bottom' and 'bottom-to-top' approach for addressing narcotics cases and dismantling the entire network. He proposed the formation of 25 security committees on a pilot basis to ensure the safety of women and children in slum areas. If these committees are successful in their endeavour, they will be expanded further.

The issue of illegal intruders is also related to national security and it should be dealt with strictly and they should be identified and deported.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

The Union Home Minister also advised the Delhi Government to develop a 'Monsoon Action Plan' to tackle waterlogging by identifying vulnerable areas.

Shri Shah also said that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) needs to establish Quick Response Teams (QRTs) to address traffic disruptions caused by malfunctioning buses. He also emphasised the need for coordination with other departments to ensure swift action and minimise delays in clearing traffic blockages.■



Shri Amit Shah addresses a programme via video conferencing, where the Tripura Government distributed appointment letters for jobs.





Tripura Govt Distributes

2,800 Appointment Letters

Tripura Ensuring Transparent & Merit-Based Jobs Free from Discrimination & Corruption

Bureau

With the Union Government's proactive action plan, armed groups in Tripura are reintegrating into mainstream society, marking a crucial step in ending the decades-old insurgency. This shift, driven by effective security measures and rehabilitation policies, reflects a growing commitment to a violence-free future of the Northeastern state. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, shared these thoughts while addressing a job distribution programme on February 5 via video conference where 2,800 appointment letters for Tripura Government jobs were distributed.

The Union Home Minister said that the distribution of appointment letters is a revolutionary initiative by the Tripura Government. He stated that with the appointment of 2,437 multi-tasking staff and the recruitment of 370 youth in the health department, a new chapter has begun in the lives of these individuals. Shri Shah emphasised that upon receiving their appointment letters, these 2,807 youth have now become a part of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a developed Tripura and a developed India.

The Union Home Minister spoke about the state's rapid progress in creating opportunities for its citizens. He highlighted that the Union Government has worked towards achieving lasting peace in Tripura by signing three agreements over the past decade. He said efforts have been made to bring positive changes in the lives of the Bru-Reang community by providing them with permanent residence, education, healthcare and job opportunities.

> The Union Government has brought a positive change in the lives of the Bru-Reang brothers and sisters by providing them with permanent residency, education, healthcare and job opportunities.
>
> **Shri Amit Shah**
> **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**

Shri Shah also noted that all rebel groups in Tripura have surrendered their arms and joined the mainstream. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha, Tripura is now advancing on a path of participation, progress and welfare. He assured that the Union Government is fully committed to the continued development of the state.■

Yoga is a Journey that Elevates Us from the Self to Universal: Shri Shah

Bureau

Tamil culture, with its deep spiritual heritage, stands as a pillar of India's rich and diverse history. Amid heightened spiritual fervour and reinforced security arrangements, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, attended the grand Mahashivaratri celebrations organised by the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore on February 26.

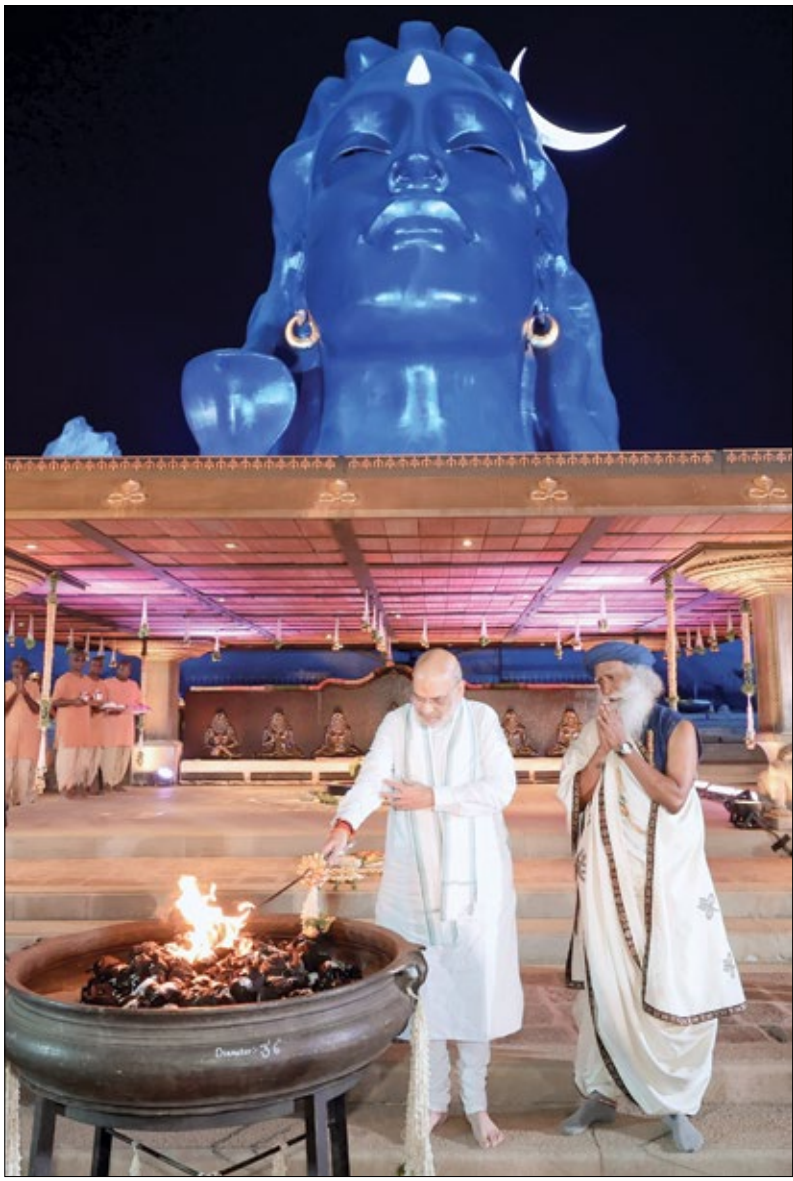
Shri Shah emphasised that India's spiritual history remains incomplete without acknowledging the richness of Tamil culture. Praising Tamil Nadu as a timeless land of sages, saints, and seekers, he underscored that the southern state remains a place where spirituality continues to thrive in its most authentic form.

With the sacred Adi Yogi statue forming the backdrop, Shri Shah's words resonated deeply with the tens of thousands gathered to celebrate one of the most significant nights in the Hindu calendar. He commended Sadhguru, the founder of the Isha Foundation, for inspiring the youth towards spirituality.

Given the high-profile nature of the event and the large crowd it attracted, elaborate security measures were put in place. The district administration in Coimbatore worked closely with the police and security agencies to ensure seamless arrangements for the Union Home Minister's visit. Security officers conducted advance inspections and deployed additional forces along the routes leading to the Isha Yoga Centre. Crowd control measures were meticulously implemented, including checkpoints, surveillance systems and emergency response teams, ensuring that the spiritual gathering remained peaceful and safe.

Shri Shah emphasised the profound spiritual meaning of Mahashivaratri, describing it not merely as a festival, but as a night of self-awakening. He said the sacred night marks the celestial wedding of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, symbolising the soul's union with the Supreme and paving the way for salvation through devotion.

Shri Shah remarked that from Somnath to Kedarnath, Pashupatinath to Rameswaram and Kashi to Coimbatore, the entire nation resonates with the devotion of Lord Shiva. Yet, it is in Tamil Nadu, he noted, that spirituality lives and



Any account of India's spiritual history is incomplete without mentioning rich Tamil culture. Tamil Nadu is a land enriched with countless living examples of spirituality, carrying forward an unbroken legacy of wisdom and devotion.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

breathes through every stone, temple and ritual.

The Union Home Minister lauded the efforts of the Isha Foundation, calling the Mahashivaratri celebrations "amazing, unimaginable and beyond words." He said that the foundation has created a spiritual confluence that blends science and spirituality, turning abstract concepts such as meditation and energy into lived experiences for millions. Describing Lord Shiva as the "eternal presence, the first yogi and the fundamental foundation of existence," Shri Shah said that Lord Shiva is both destruction and creation, truth and beauty, 'Shambhu' and 'Swayambhu'. He is Bholenath, Mahakaal and above all, the Adi Yogi who continues to inspire seekers on the path of self-realisation.

In a powerful articulation of Yoga's enduring relevance, Shri Shah highlighted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's contribution in elevating India's heritage on the world stage through International Day of Yoga and emphasised the spiritual essence of Yoga through Adi Yogi. "Yoga is not just an exercise; it is a journey—from 'sva' (self) to 'sarv' (universal) and from 'aham' (ego) to 'vayam' (togetherness). It bridges resolve and realisation, detachment and enlightenment", he said. In this context, he underscored how ancient spiritual traditions continue to find new relevance in a fast-paced modern world, acting as a unifying force for the mind, body and soul.

Shri Shah declared that the true offering of Mahashivaratri is not flowers or incense, but dedication to the divine. He emphasised that it is this spirit of inner surrender and awakening that defines the occasion and gives it its transformative power.

Drawing a parallel with the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Shri Shah called the Mahashivaratri celebrations in Coimbatore a 'Mahakumbh of Devotion.'

The Isha Yoga Centre, with its towering Adi Yogi statue, glowing fire rituals and night-long chants, created an atmosphere that transcended the physical—bringing alive the spiritual essence of Mahashivaratri as a cosmic event.■

Antyodaya: Uplifting the Marginalised



Antyodaya, the principle of uplifting the last person in the line, is a fundamental philosophy that underpins India's model of inclusive development. On February 27, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, addressed the Remembrance Day ceremony on the 15th death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. Paying rich tributes, Shri Shah described Nanaji as a visionary whose life and mission continue to shape India's journey toward inclusive development. Highlighting the core philosophy of Antyodaya, Shri Shah noted that Nanaji Deshmukh brought Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideals to life through his pioneering work in rural development. He emphasised that Antyodaya is not merely a slogan but the foundation of India's development model, where the well-being of the poorest and most marginalised reflects the true progress of the nation. Shri Shah reaffirmed that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is deeply committed to the vision of Antyodaya. Over the past decade, the Union Government has transformed the lives of 60 crore citizens through initiatives such as housing for all, sanitation, clean drinking water, LPG connections, free grain distribution, rural electrification and health coverage. These efforts resonate strongly with Nanaji's dream of self-reliant and empowered villages or 'gokul grams', he said. Shri Shah praised Nanaji's enduring contributions to education and cultural nationalism, notably his establishment of the first Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Gorakhpur—an initiative that has grown into a national movement instilling values and learning among children. Conferred with the Padma Vibhushan and later honoured posthumously with the Bharat Ratna, Nanaji Deshmukh's life remains a beacon of service and sacrifice.



Strengthening Bilateral Relations: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets with USA President Mr Donald Trump, at the White House.

India & USA

Forge New Era of Strategic Cooperation

Bureau

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day official visit to the United States at the invitation of President Mr Donald J Trump. The Prime Minister emphasised his commitment to further strengthening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Prime Minister Shri Modi's visit aimed to build upon the successes of previous collaborations and set a forward-looking agenda to deepen the partnership across key areas such as technology, trade, defence, energy and supply chain resilience.

On February 13, President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Shri Modi at the White House in Washington DC. They reaffirmed their commitment to democratic values, freedom, human rights and pluralism, while reiterating their commitment to the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

A key highlight of the visit was the launch of the 'US-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century' initiative. This ambitious framework aims to drive transformative change in military cooperation, economic growth and technological collaboration, with tangible outcomes expected within a year.

The 21st century is a technology-driven century. Close cooperation in the technology sector between countries that believe in democratic values can give new direction, strength and opportunities to the entire humanity. India and the United States will work together in Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, quantum, biotechnology and other technologies.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The leaders underscored the growing convergence of India-US strategic interests, reaffirming their

commitment to a dynamic defence partnership. A major announcement was made regarding the signing of a new 10-year Framework for the India-US Major Defence Partnership in the 21st Century. The agreement is expected to further strengthen military cooperation across various domains, including air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace.

Additionally, the integration of US-origin defence equipment into India's military arsenal was highlighted, with discussions on expanding defence sales and co-production initiatives. Notably, India will procure additional Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles and Stryker Infantry Combat Vehicles, alongside six P-8I maritime patrol aircraft to enhance India's maritime surveillance capabilities. The leaders also announced the establishment of the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA) to boost industry partnerships in advanced autonomous technologies.

Prime Minister Shri Modi and President Mr Trump unveiled 'Mission 500', a bold initiative aimed at doubling bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030. To achieve this, both countries will negotiate a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) covering multiple sectors, with the first phase expected to be completed by this year. The leaders also underscored the importance of resilient and fair trade policies that ensure national security, economic growth and job creation. The commitment to improving supply chain resilience was also reaffirmed.

Energy security emerged as another key pillar of discussion, with the two leaders reaffirming their commitment to the India-US Energy Security Partnership. The agreement emphasises oil, gas and civil nuclear energy cooperation, ensuring stable and affordable energy markets. Recognising India's growing role in the global energy landscape, the US expressed strong support for India's full membership in the International Energy Agency (IEA). Discussions also covered on expanding strategic petroleum reserves and securing stable global energy prices through joint initiatives.

To bolster technological cooperation, the two countries launched the India-US TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology) Initiative. This will enhance collaboration in critical emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, energy and space exploration.

A significant development under this initiative is the establishment of the India-US Roadmap on Accelerating AI Infrastructure. The roadmap aims to identify constraints in financing, infrastructure development and regulatory frameworks for AI-based innovations. The two nations will also work together to strengthen industry partnerships for developing cutting-edge AI applications.



The partnership between India and the United States underpins democracy and democratic values and systems. We will work together to enhance peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The leaders reaffirmed that a strong India-US partnership is crucial for a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. As Quad partners, the both the nations reiterated their commitment to freedom of navigation and adherence to international law. Shri Modi also extended a warm invitation to President Mr Trump to visit New Delhi for the Quad Leaders' Summit scheduled to be held later this year, marking another step forward in the deepening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

As the visit concluded, both the leaders expressed optimism about the future of India-US relations and pledged to sustain high-level engagements between their Governments, industries and academic institutions.■

Empowering Citizens Through Reforms in Energy Sector



India is driving not only its growth but also the growth of the world, with the energy sector playing a significant role.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Bureau

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the India Energy Week 2025 via video message on February 11, emphasising India's ambitious energy vision and reforms. Speaking to the gathering at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, he welcomed the participants, including international delegates, acknowledging their crucial role in India's energy journey.

The Prime Minister outlined five key pillars shaping India's energy ambitions: resource utilisation, innovation, economic strength and political stability, strategic geography and commitment to sustainability. These factors, Shri Modi said, are creating new opportunities in India's growing energy sector. He underscored that the next two decades are critical for achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.

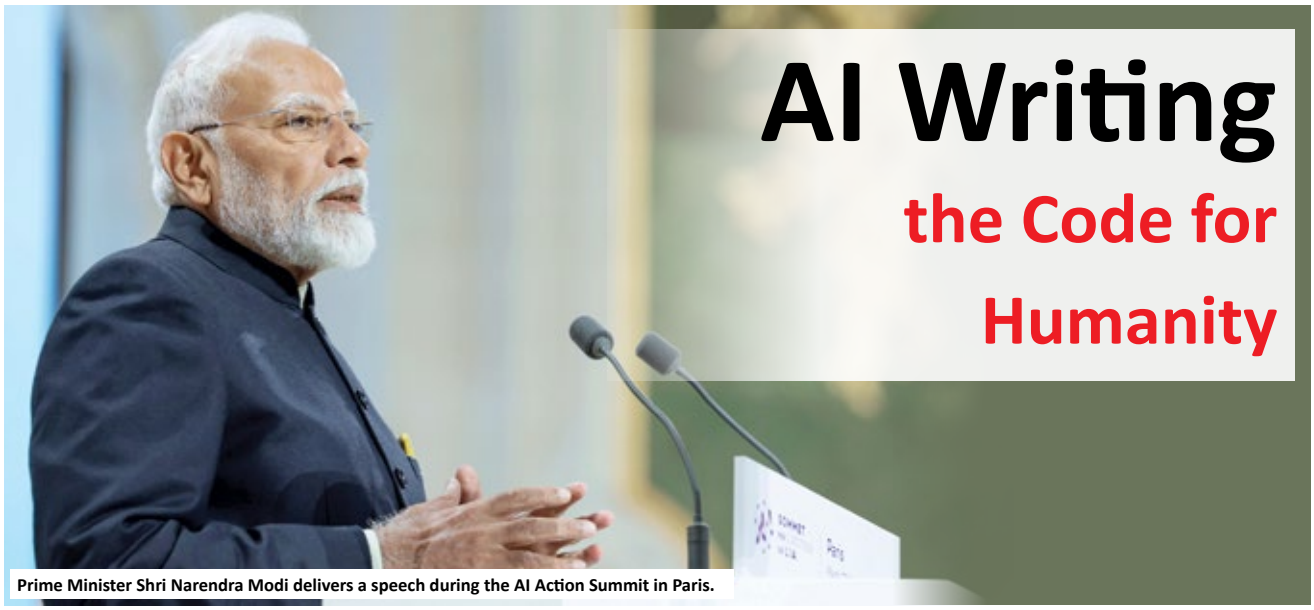
The Prime Minister noted that several energy targets have been set for 2030, including adding 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, achieving net-zero carbon emissions for the Indian Railways and producing five million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually. Despite these ambitious goals, India's achievements over the past decade instil confidence in their realisation, he said.

Shri Modi highlighted that in the last 10 years, India has advanced from the world's 10th largest economy to the fifth largest. He also noted that India's solar power generation capacity has increased 32 times, making it the third-largest solar power generator globally. Additionally, India has tripled its non-fossil fuel energy capacity and became the first G20 country to achieve the Paris Agreement goals ahead of schedule.

Shri Modi emphasised India's remarkable achievements in ethanol blending, which has reached 19%, leading to foreign exchange savings, increased farmer incomes and substantial carbon emissions reductions. He reaffirmed India's commitment to achieving a 20% ethanol blending mandate by October this year and highlighted the vast potential of the biofuels industry, which has a sustainable feedstock of 500 million metric tonnes. He also lauded the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance during India's G20 presidency, which now includes 28 nations and 12 international organisations.

The Prime Minister outlined recent budgetary provisions supporting green energy, including exemptions on essential materials for electric vehicles (EVs) and mobile phone batteries, such as cobalt powder and lithium-ion battery waste. He stated that the National Critical Minerals Mission will play a vital role in securing India's supply chain for these materials and that the Union Government is also promoting non-lithium battery ecosystems.

Shri Modi reaffirmed the Union Government's commitment to making energy accessible and inclusive. He highlighted the PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme, which empowers households and farmers to become energy providers. The scheme is not only boosting solar power production, but also creating jobs and a service ecosystem in the renewable energy sector.■



AI Writing the Code for Humanity

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivers a speech during the AI Action Summit in Paris.

Bureau

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi co-chaired the AI Action Summit alongside French President Mr Emmanuel Macron in Paris on February 11, marking a significant global dialogue on the future of Artificial Intelligence. Prime Minister's statement at the AI Action Summit was significant, as he emphasised that AI holds the potential to transform millions of lives by enhancing health, education, agriculture, etc. while also accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants from over 100 countries, including Government leaders, international organisations, representatives of civil society, the private sector and academic and research communities attended the summit.

Highlighting AI's transformative role, Shri Modi asserted that AI is fast writing the code for humanity in this century, reshaping global polity, economy, security and society. President Macron had invited Prime Minister Shri Modi to deliver the opening address at the summit's plenary session. In his speech, the Prime Minister said that AI is having an unprecedented impact compared to past technological advancements and called for a collective global effort to establish governance frameworks that uphold shared values, mitigate risks and foster trust.

Prime Minister Shri Modi emphasised that AI governance should not merely focus on risk management but also promote innovation for global good. He stressed the need for democratising AI to ensure inclusive access, particularly for the Global South. Drawing from the successful India-France sustainability partnership, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), he underscored the importance of collaboration in forging an innovation-driven responsible future. Highlighting AI's vast potential, Shri Modi noted its ability to transform lives by improving healthcare, education and agriculture. He urged global stakeholders to pool resources and talent, develop open-source systems for transparency, build unbiased data sets and create AI solutions tailored to local ecosystems. He also stressed the need to address pressing concerns such as cybersecurity threats, disinformation and deep fakes.

Shri Modi showcased India's pioneering success in developing Digital Public Infrastructure for its 140 crore citizens using open and accessible technology. He also outlined India's AI Mission, revealing the nation's efforts in developing its own Large Language Models tailored to its diverse population for AI.■

AI is already reshaping our polity, our economy, our security and even our society. It is writing the code for humanity in this century.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

AI to be Used for Closing Mule Accounts

Software, Services & User Awareness Key to Tackling Cyber Fraud



Efforts are underway to create a system to identify mule accounts with the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Arrangements will also be made to close all mule accounts before they become operational.

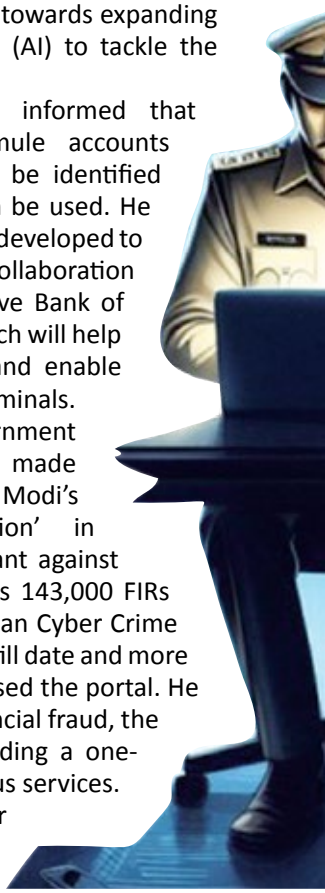
Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Bureau

As digital transactions and online services continue to expand across the country, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, stressed that effectively addressing the challenges in the cyber sector can only be accomplished through a deep and comprehensive understanding of these evolving issues. He highlighted these points while presiding over a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi on February 11, which focused on cybersecurity and cybercrime. The Union Home Minister emphasised that India is undergoing an unprecedented digital revolution under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

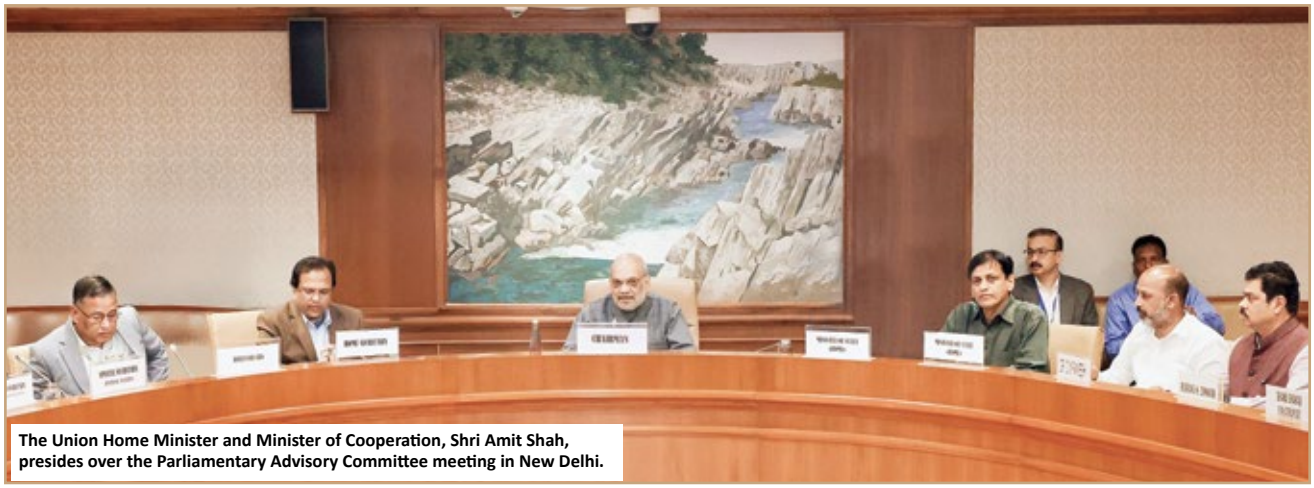
During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on strategies to combat the growing number of cybercrime related incidents in the country and how to enhance digital security. Shri Shah said that the Union Home Ministry is working towards expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to tackle the menace of cybercrime.

The Union Home Minister informed that through AI technology, all mule accounts (fraudulent bank accounts) will be identified and deactivated before they can be used. He mentioned that a system is being developed to identify mule accounts through collaboration with banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This proactive approach will help prevent digital financial fraud and enable strict action against the cyber criminals.



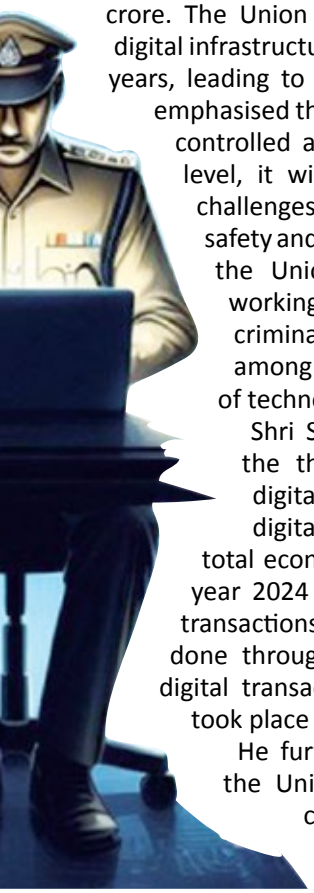
Shri Shah said the Union Government has ensured that people are made aware of Prime Minister Shri Modi's mantra 'Stop-Think-Take Action' in order to make them more vigilant against cybercrimes. He said as many as 143,000 FIRs have been registered on the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) portal till date and more than 19 crore people have accessed the portal. He stated that to counter cyber financial fraud, the '1930' helpline number is providing a one-point solution and offering various services.

Shri Shah stated that for national security reasons, 805 apps and 3,266 website links



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, presides over the Parliamentary Advisory Committee meeting in New Delhi.

have been blocked based on the recommendations of the I4C. Additionally, 399 banks and financial intermediaries have come on board to join the fight against cyber fraud. Over six lakh suspicious data points have been shared, more than 19 lakh mule accounts have been deactivated along with the prevention of fraudulent transactions worth ₹2,038 crore. The Union Home Minister said that India's digital infrastructure has grown rapidly in the recent years, leading to an increase in cyber attacks. He emphasised that unless cyber fraud is effectively controlled at the software, service and user level, it will be impossible to address the challenges of cyber security. To ensure the safety and security of India's digital progress, the Union Government is continuously working to take strict action against cyber criminals while also raising awareness among citizens and maximising the use of technological innovations.



Shri Shah said that India has become the third-largest country in terms of digital landscape in the world. The digital economy contributes 20% to the total economy of India. He said that in the year 2024 alone, a total of 246 lakh crore transactions worth ₹17, 221 lakh crore were done through UPI, adding that 48% of the digital transactions done in the whole world took place in India last year.

He further mentioned that the goal of the Union Home Ministry is to reduce cybercrime to such an extent that there would be no need to file an FIR in any case. The Union Home Minister said that to tackle cybercrime, the Centre has adopted four types of strategies, which include Convergence, Coordination, Communication and Capacity. All of these are being implemented with clear objectives and a strategic approach. He mentioned that inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination within the Home Ministry have been strengthened, ensuring seamless communication and smooth flow of information.

Cybercrime has eliminated all geographical boundaries. It is a 'borderless' and 'formless' crime because it has no boundaries or fixed form. India has witnessed a digital revolution in the last decade. Without understanding the size and scale of the digital revolution, we cannot face the challenges of the cyber sector.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Shah said that a healthy tradition of exchange of information between the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN), I4C and departments such as Telecom and Banking has led to the successful tackling of many cybercrime cases. The meeting was attended by Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Home Secretary Shri Govind Mohan, members of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs.■



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai at the 4th 'No Money for Terror' Conference in Munich, Germany.

India Champions Global Unity in War Against Terror Financing

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the global fight against terrorism at the 4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference held in Germany.

Bureau

India participated in the 4th 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Conference held in Munich, Germany on February 13, 2025. The Indian delegation was led by the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, who strongly advocated for global unity in countering the financing of terrorism.

The conference, attended by representatives from across the world, focused on four critical sub-verticals: Multilateral Cooperation, Financing Methods for Terrorism, Financial Inclusion & Risk-Based Approach and Terrorist Financing & Organised Crime.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Rai highlighted India's deep concern over the increasing complexity of terror financing networks, especially those with cross-border linkages. He emphasised that the evolution of digital technologies has made the flow of funds to terrorist organisations more covert and difficult to trace, thereby posing serious challenges to international peace and security. He emphasised that unity among nations is essential in the global fight against terrorism. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India stands steadfast with the international community in confronting this grave menace, he added.

India also proposed the establishment of a permanent NMFT Secretariat in India—a vision first introduced during the NMFT Conference 2022 held in New Delhi. This would help institutionalise the global effort and ensure sustained momentum in dismantling financial networks that enable terrorism.

Shri Rai expressed his gratitude to Germany for hosting this important dialogue and called for continued multilateral cooperation to build a shared understanding of the risks associated with terror financing. He also held bilateral meetings with dignitaries from Singapore and Turkey, reinforcing India's commitment to international collaboration.

India's active participation in NMFT Conferences since 2018 reflects its deepening engagement in combatting the financing of terrorism. Through enhanced coordination, intelligence sharing and enforcement measures, India has significantly strengthened its capabilities in preventing terror-related financial flows.

India's message is strong and clear—under Prime Minister Shri Modi's decisive leadership, the nation remains committed to working hand in hand with the global community to eliminate terrorism and ensure a secure and peaceful future for all.■

Speedy Trials Under
New Criminal Laws

The three New Criminal Laws have come into force with effect from July 1, 2024. As per the directives of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has been conducting review meetings on their implementation and a positive impact is already becoming evident across the country.

Bureau

The implementation of the three New Criminal Laws is designed to prioritise justice, dignity and the rights of citizens. Built on the principles of "citizen first, justice first, dignity first", the new laws focus on a justice-centric approach rather than mere punishment. A key feature of these laws is their commitment to protecting vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, ensuring their safety and dignity within the legal system.

By setting fixed time limits and incorporating technology to streamline and expedite the trial process, these laws aim to reduce delays and improve efficiency in the judicial system. Their implementation has enhanced citizens' trust in the judicial system, offering renewed hope for timely and fair justice.

Criminal cases are now being registered, investigated and prosecuted under the new laws. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023 (BNSS), has established clear timelines, creating a structured framework for each stage of the criminal process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and transparency of the judicial proceedings. Cases that once remained pending for years are now being resolved within a few months.

This transformation highlights the commitment to reinforcing the rule of law in the country and accelerating the judicial process. Let us take a look at a few more cases in this edition of Vigilant India where justice has been delivered in a timely manner under the three New Criminal Laws, marking a historic beginning in India's Criminal Justice System.

Landmark Verdict in Infant Rape Case in Andhra Pradesh

A historic verdict has been delivered in a case of a heinous crime against a five-month-old girl in Andhra Pradesh. The court sentenced the accused to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment, sending a strong message against crimes targeting children. The case, numbered Cr. No. 126/2024, involved charges under Section 65 of the BNS and Sections 5 and 6 of the POCSO Act. The crime took place in the Ramabhadrapuram Police Station area, Bobbili (R) Circle, Vizianagaram district. This verdict marks a significant step towards strengthening child protection laws and ensuring swift justice.

After the registration of the complaint, a team of forensic experts gathered scientific evidence and recorded a video and audio of the crime scene. Based on the forensic evidence and investigation reports, the court sentenced the accused to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Hearing Completed in 17 Days in Public Nuisance Case, Convict Sentenced

In a remarkable display of swift justice, a public nuisance case (FIR No. 54, dated 17.09.2024) in Chandigarh's IT Park police station area saw the court complete the hearing in just 17 days. The individual found guilty was swiftly sentenced to six months of probation, a ₹10,000 fine and ₹2,000 in litigation expenses, showcasing the efficiency of the new legal process.

In another case of vehicle theft in Chandigarh's Industrial Area (FIR No. 650, dated 21.07.2024), the Chandigarh Police demonstrated the power of

digital evidence. Utilising the e-Sakshya application to document search and seizure through videography and photography, the police was able to strengthen the case significantly. With the chargesheet filed in just 19 days, the court swiftly delivered its verdict in 151 days, sentencing the accused to two months of simple imprisonment.The use of digital technologies such as Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), e-Sakshya and e-Prosecution by Chandigarh Police has expedited both the investigation and judicial process. This marks a significant step towards the swift punishment of criminals under the new laws, making the justice system more victim-centric and efficient.

Sexual Assault Case in Uttar Pradesh, 60-year-old Man gets Life Term

A 60-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 6-year-old girl in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh.

The accused tricked the minor by promising her food. After the assault, the victim narrated the incident to her mother, prompting her to report the crime to the local police. A case was filed against him under Sections 65(2), 127(2), 351(2) of the BNS on July 13, 2024.

Police launched an immediate and well-coordinated investigation with the swift arrest of the accused and filed a chargesheet within 14 days of the FIR, ensuring all procedures were completed on time. The Court initiated the trial proceedings against the accused under Sections 65(2), 127(2), 351(2) BNS and M/6 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012. The verdict was delivered on October 25, 2024, following a swift trial that concluded in just three months.

Delivering the verdict, the court said that there is a provision for punishment ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment, and in the present case, it seems appropriate to punish the accused under Section 65 (2) of the BNS. Therefore, it would be just to punish the accused with life imprisonment and a fine of ₹5 lakh under Section 65(2) of the BNS. The accused was given a life imprisonment along with a fine of ₹5 lakh, with ₹3 lakh earmarked for the rehabilitation of the minor victim.

This case demonstrates the effectiveness and speed of the justice system under the New Criminal Laws.

Mother Among Four Sentenced to Life Imprisonment in Shocking Child Trafficking Case in Bihar

In a harrowing case of child trafficking, a Bihar court has sentenced four individuals, including the mother of the victim, to life imprisonment with hard labour. The case pertains to the kidnapping and sale of a seven-year-old girl, reported under FIR No. 328/2024 at Raniganj Police Station, Araria district. The offence took place on July 21, 2024 and the FIR was filed the following day.The investigation revealed that the mother of the victim had sold her daughter to the accused for ₹50,000. The police arrested the accused and his associate and recovered the child from their possession from Pratap Ganj bus stand after analysing the call records of the victim's mother.

On January 23, 2025, the court found the victim's mother guilty and sentenced her under multiple sections of the BNS-2023, including 93, 98, 111(5), and 143(4). She received sentences ranging from 7 to 20 years rigorous imprisonment and was also fined ₹5.9 lakh. Other accused were also convicted under sections 98, 99 and 111(5) BNS, and sentenced to life imprisonment, with fines and additional imprisonment for default. Sentencing orders were issued on January 25, 2025.■

Bulandshahr: Swift Action Taken in Theft Case

In a theft case from a business establishment in the Sikandrabad police station area of Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, the police acted swiftly by arresting three suspects. On August 13, 2024, ₹5 lakh was stolen from the cash box of a shop belonging to a resident of Anaj Mandi in Sikandrabad. Following the victim's complaint on September 2, Sikandrabad police registered a case against the three accused under Section 316(4) of the BNS. All three suspects were arrested on the same day, along with a motorcycle. During interrogation, the accused revealed they had purchased a motorcycle for ₹2,33,000 and a mobile phone for ₹26,999 with the stolen money. The police recovered the stolen cash and Section 317(2) of the BNS was added since goods were purchased with the stolen cash. The police filed a plea under Section 107(1) of the BNSS for confiscation/attachment of the goods. On November 13, the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Bulandshahr passed the confiscation/attachment order. As per the order, the motorcycle (UP-13CK-6871) and mobile phone recovered from the accused will be confiscated under Section 107(1) of the BNSS. This case demonstrates how the police and judiciary acted promptly, highlighting the efficiency and transparency of the judicial process with swift arrests, recovery of stolen properties and the court's timely action.



The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, along with NDA MPs from Bihar, meet PM Shri Narendra Modi in the Parliament.

India Progressing at a Rapid Pace



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar at the Bylakuppe Tibetan Settlement in Kodagu, Karnataka.

Bureau

On the occasion of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Jayanti, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, attended a capacity development programme of Vikas Mitras at the Bapu Sabhagar in Patna on February 12. After paying floral tributes to the portraits of Sant Ravidas and Babasaheb Ambedkar, he urged people to stay vigilant against those attempting to spread discrimination and hatred in society. He emphasised that Sant Ravidas dedicated his life to uniting people and encouraged everyone to follow the saint's path.

During the event, Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar reaffirmed his commitment to the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He highlighted the launch of the Mahadalit Vikas Mission in 2009, aimed at delivering the benefits of Government schemes to underprivileged communities. He said that 9,707 Vikas Mitras are currently active in Bihar under this initiative. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Samrat Choudhary and Shri Vijay Sinha also attended the event, along with Ministers Shri Ashok Choudhary, Shri Janak Ram and several other distinguished guests.

- The Members of Parliament from Bihar, representing the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), including Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Rai, met with Prime Minister Shri Modi at the Parliament on February 7. During the meeting, he praised the Prime Minister for prioritising the development of Bihar.
- The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, visited the Bylakuppe Tibetan Settlement in Kodagu, Karnataka, on February 13. He was warmly welcomed at the Federation of Tibetan Cooperatives in India (FTCI). He visited the Golden Temple in Kodagu, Sera Lachi Monastery and Sera Lachi University. He also visited the Organic Research Training Centre (ORTC) and engaged with the Tibetan community.
- On February 8, Shri Kumar attended the annual function at Academic Heights School in Karimnagar, Telangana. He extended his best wishes for continued success to both the students and teachers gathered at the event.■

Zonal Councils: Pillars of Unity and Progress in India's Federal Structure



Anuradha Prasad

The writer is former Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

In the vibrant structure of India's federal democracy, Zonal Councils stand as quiet, yet powerful catalysts of unity and progress. Established under Part III of the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, these regional fora—Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Central—were envisioned to foster cooperation among States as well as between the Centre and States.

Zonal Councils serve as vital platforms for open dialogue and collaboration, where the Centre and States—and States among themselves—can address and resolve differences through discussion and consensus. As advisory bodies, they offer the flexibility for candid and constructive exchanges. But what sets them apart is their regional focus and pragmatic approach with the ability to bring together neighbouring States that share economic, social and cultural ties, enabling them to collectively tackle region-specific challenges.

The objectives of the Zonal Councils are both ambitious and practical—promoting national integration, facilitating Centre-State cooperation and inter-State cooperation, fostering balanced socio-economic regional development and ensuring the swift execution of development projects. By creating a climate of collaboration, they enable States to share ideas, experiences and innovations, transforming potential differences into opportunities for collective growth.

Since 2014, the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has breathed new life into the Zonal Councils, elevating them from mere formal institutions into dynamic platforms for action. The Prime Minister's emphasis on cooperative and competitive federalism has found a natural resonance in these Councils, which now serve as engines of dialogue and decision-making. Between 2004 and 2014, only 25 meetings were held, discussing 469 topics and resolving 448 issues. In contrast, from 2014 to February 2025, as many as 61 meetings deliberated on 1,541 topics and resolved 1,280 issues—a 140% increase in the number of meetings and a 185% surge in the issues resolved.

Zonal Councils are uniquely positioned to address region-specific challenges while advancing national priorities. The 27th Western Zonal Council meeting at Pune in February 2025, chaired by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, tackled 18 issues, from land transfers and mining to the speedy investigation of rape cases and implementation of Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO cases. Many national priorities, including affordable housing, the fight against malnutrition through the Poshan Abhiyan, reducing drop-out rate of school children, strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), etc, were also discussed, showcasing the Councils' ability to balance regional and national imperatives. While noting that the goal of establishment of bank branches or postal banking facilities within 5 km of every village has been almost accomplished through cooperation of all States, it was decided in the Pune meeting to set a new target to further reduce the distance to 3 km, ensuring even greater accessibility.

Looking ahead, Zonal Councils are poised to tackle emerging challenges such as digital infrastructure and cybercrime, ensuring India's federal framework remains agile and forward-looking. As the country charts its path towards 'Viksit Bharat' in 2047, Zonal Councils must continue to evolve as vibrant fora for cooperative federalism. States should leverage these platforms to address pressing issues, while the Centre must sustain its commitment to empowering the States.■

As the country charts its path towards Viksit Bharat in 2047, Zonal Councils must continue to evolve as vibrant fora for cooperative federalism.



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest of the 38th National Games in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, on February 14, 2025. During the event, he passed the flag to Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma, in preparation for hosting the upcoming National Games.



A workshop on Anti-Human Trafficking was conducted at the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) headquarters in New Delhi on February 14. The workshop focused on problem identification and best practices with officials from State Police forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the National Commission for Women, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Shri PM Nair, IPS (Retd.), an expert on anti-human trafficking, also took part in the workshop.



The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) unit of ASG Mumbai organised a cyclothon at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai on February 22, 2025, showcasing CISF's commitment towards fitness and environmental protection. As many as 300 participants took part in the event. The Additional Director General (South Zone), CISF was the Chief Guest at the event. The winners were awarded medals and trophies.

भारत के वीर

Tribute to the bravehearts **https://bharatkeveer.gov.in**

GUIDELINES

- You can donate directly to individual braveheart's account (upto max of ₹15 lakh) or may donate to the Bharat Ke Veer corpus.
- To ensure maximum coverage, a cap of ₹15 lakh is envisaged per braveheart and the donor would be alerted if the amount exceeds ₹15 lakh, so that they can choose to either decrease their contribution or divert part of the contribution to another braveheart's account, or to the Bharat Ke Veer corpus.
- Bharat Ke Veer corpus would be managed by a committee made up of eminent persons and senior government officials, in equal number, who would decide to disburse the fund equitably to the braveheart families on a need basis.

Note: Contents of articles are based on various press releases and material available on Government official websites.
Published for Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) by Fortuna Public Relations Pvt. Ltd New Delhi and printed by VIBA Press PVT.LTD. New Delhi



"We imagined an aspirational district. In every state, we said that we need to bring the district to the parameter of the state. The Central Government made the plan. All the states are working together in our aspirational district and aspirational blocks. And we are seeing very good results."

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Bureau of Police Research and Development

Ministry of Home Affairs, NH-48, Mahipalpur

New Delhi-110037