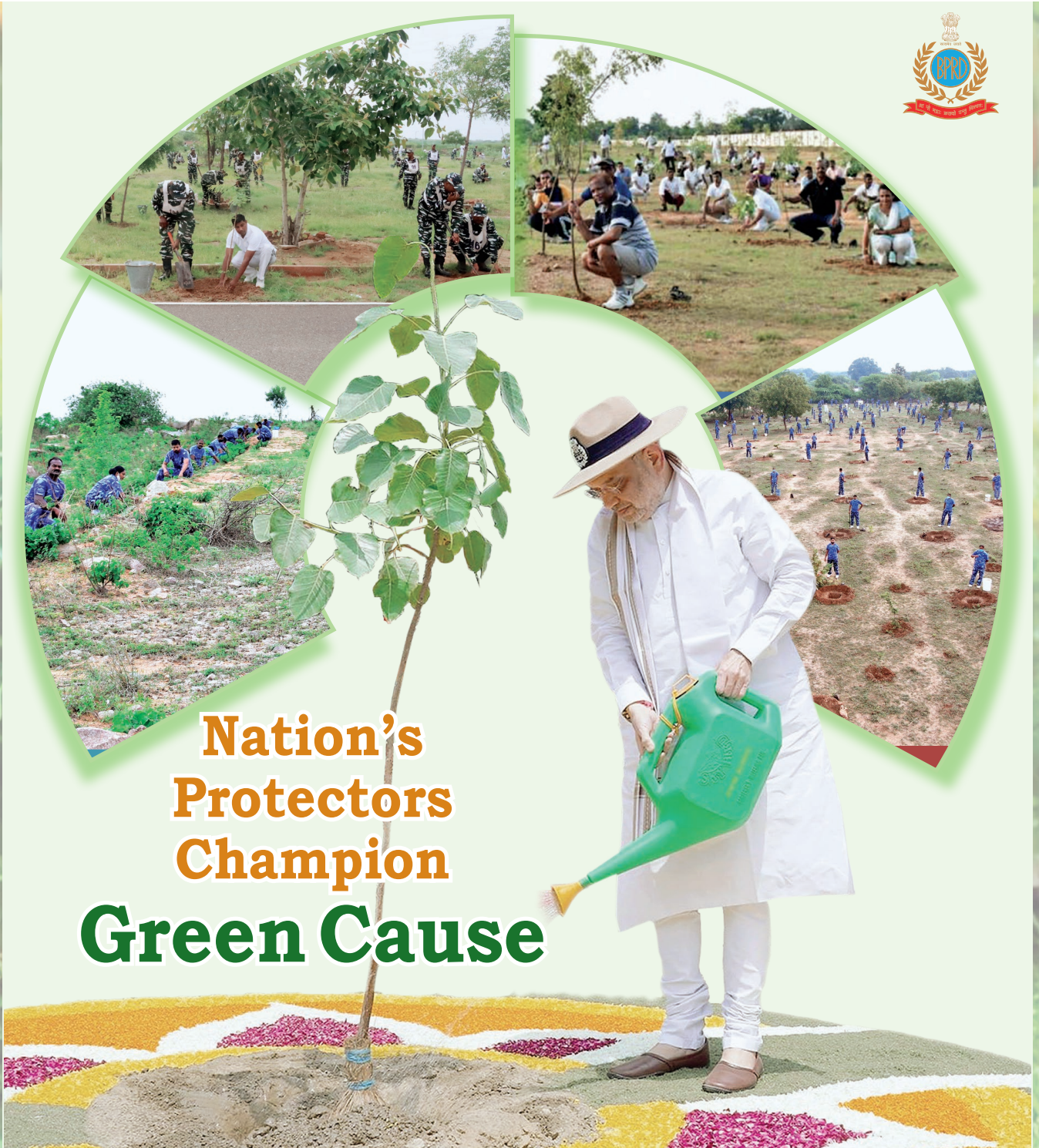


Vigilant India

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Nation's Protectors Champion Green Cause

MHA's All India Tree Plantation Campaign

Contents

Gandhinagar Goes Green	11
CAPF's Green Mission Enhances Tree Cover	13
Balancing Development and Ecology	14
PM Modi Showcases New India's Soft Power	16
Meri Mati Mera Desh	20
Remembering Vajpayee Ji	21
Forging Partnerships to Bolster Global Ties	23
Serving Citizens with Sincerity	25

Cover Story



05 Nation's Protectors
Champion Green Cause

09 Mahakumbh of
Green Initiatives

18 Lunar
Leap

From the Editor



Balaji Srivastava

Director General, BPR&D



The Union Ministry of Home Affairs aims to plant five crore trees through the 'All India Tree Plantation Campaign'. So far, more than four crore saplings have been planted. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah has called it a *Mahakumbh*, a mass effort to conserve the environment.



We are witnessing an era of heightened environmental awareness. Across society, individuals are increasingly concerned about the state of our environment, recognising the urgent need for collective action. To address these challenges, government agencies formulate targeted plans for environmental conservation and expect community involvement to implement them successfully. Spearheaded by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the 'All India Tree Plantation Campaign' aims to extend its reach to every household, thereby fostering greater environmental consciousness. As a testament to the campaign's impact, four crore saplings have already been planted. The milestone four-Crore tree was personally planted by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. He likened the campaign to a *Mahakumbh*, symbolising it as a mass effort in the realm of environmental conservation.

In this context, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi responded to a post on X platform (formerly Twitter) by Shri Shah, lauding the plantation campaign as a significant milestone. He stated that the initiative led by the Home Ministry serves as an inspiration for all, promoting environmental conservation.

For almost a decade, tree plantation has risen to prominence as one of the government's key priorities. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has underscored its significance on multiple occasions through his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme. Various states such as Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been highlighted in these broadcasts for their noteworthy contributions to the plantation efforts.

Tree plantation activities are no longer confined to World Environment Day. It has found its place on occasions such as birthdays and festivals. The practice of gifting plants as a token of welcome at various events is gaining traction. The Bureau of Police Research and Development has also adopted this environmentally conscious practice, opting to welcome esteemed guests by presenting them with plants.

In this issue of 'Vigilant India,' we have focused specifically on environmental conservation and tree plantation. I believe the responsibility for safeguarding the environment rests with every citizen. It's our moral obligation to plant trees for the well-being of future generations. We welcome your feedback on our efforts. Please feel free to reach out to us at: sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in

Jai Hind!



पर्यावरण और प्रकृति के संरक्षण की दिशा में गृह मंत्रालय का यह वृक्षारोपण अभियान हर किसी को प्रेरित करने वाला है।



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



गृह मंत्रालय के 'अखिल भारतीय वृक्षारोपण अभियान' के तहत 4 करोड़वां पौधा लगाया। देश की सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ पर्यावरण की रक्षा वाले इस अभियान को सफल बनाने में केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल के जवानों के प्रयास अत्यंत प्रशंसनीय हैं।



**श्री अमित शाह
केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री**



रक्षाबंधन के अवसर पर सशस्त्र सीमा बल फ्रंटियर, पटना की बहनों और भाइयों के साथ रक्षाबंधन मनाया। इस अवसर पर सशस्त्र सीमा बल के आईजी पंकज दाराद जी, डीआईजी विक्रम जी, कमांडेंट जितेंद्र सिंह जी, उप कमांडेंट श्री अजीत सिंह जी, डॉ. सुधांशु जी एवं सशस्त्र सीमा बल के पदाधिकारी रहे।



**श्री नित्यानंद राय
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



मज़िलें क्या हैं, रास्ता क्या है, हौसला हो तो, फासला क्या है 'इसरो' के सभी वैज्ञानिकों को चाँद तक के सफर की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।



**श्री निशीथ प्रमाणिक
केंद्रीय गृह राज्यमंत्री**



59 साल, 50 करोड़+ बैंक खाते! वित्तीय समावेशन को सुनिश्चित करने एवं देशवासियों के सशक्तिकरण करने हेतु उल्लेखनीय पहल साबित हो रही जन धन योजना।



**श्री अजय मिश्रा
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीति सम्मेलन 2023 के समापन पर गृहमंत्री श्री अमित शाह ने पुलिस नेतृत्व से एक ऐसी आपराधिक न्यायिक व्यवस्था की रचना करने को कहा जो नए कानूनों पर आधारित हो, जिसमें नई तकनीक का समावेश, फॉरेंसिक का उपयोग हो और नागरिकों को संवैधानिक अधिकार व त्वरित न्याय मिल सके।



**गृह मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार**



All India Tree Plantation Campaign

Nation's Protectors Champion Green Cause

Bureau

The global community is witnessing the adverse impact of climate change, with natural calamities serving as stark reminders of the need for heightened environmental conservation efforts. The call to safeguard our environment and ecology has never been more resounding. Amidst the pressing global concern over climate change, India is steadfastly taking initiatives to transition into an

environmentally conscious nation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision centres on promoting the nation's commitment to a clean and green mission. To realise this vision, in January 2020, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, set an ambitious goal for tree plantation, with the assistance of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The endeavour aimed to plant five crore saplings by the end of 2023. The initiative called for planting 50% of saplings with a lifespan of 150-200 years and



Vision for a Greener Tomorrow

The campaign chose the 'Matsya Purana' sutra as its fundamental mantra to instil awareness and sensitivity toward trees among the security personnel and within society at large. The sutra emphasises the significance of trees in human life with the following verse: *Dashakupasamavapi, dashavapisamo hradah. Dashahardasamo putro, Dashaputrasamo drumah* that translates into "A pond is equal to 10 wells, a lake is equal to ten ponds; a son is worth ten lakes, and a tree is worth ten sons".

the remaining 50% as fast-growing species with a minimum lifespan of 10 years. The campaign's objective was to plant one crore trees annually, underscoring the environmental conscientiousness of the forces who are also responsible for internal security.

The active involvement of CAPF personnel and officers in the All India Tree Plantation Campaign initiated by the Union Home Ministry deserves accolades. These individuals, who have dedicated themselves to safeguarding our nation, are now stepping forward to protect our environment.

It is worth noting that Shri Shah launched the distinctive tree plantation campaign on July 12, 2020 and in a span of two years — from 2020 to

2022 — the CAPF collectively planted over 3.55 crore saplings across the country. The total number of trees planted under the initiative will soon reach five crore, a testament to the remarkable contribution of the CAPF to the nation's overarching environmental conservation efforts.

PM Commends Home Ministry's Campaign

The Union Home Ministry's ambitious initiative to plant five crore trees has garnered praise from Prime Minister Shri Modi. The Prime Minister envisions the tree plantation campaign as a catalyst for inspiring widespread commitment to environmental conservation and nature preservation. Incidentally, during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had demonstrated his concern for the environment, leading to the establishment of a dedicated department for environmental matters.

In a remarkable milestone, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah planted the one-crore sapling, as part of the All India Tree Plantation Campaign on Prime Minister Shri Modi's birthday on September 17, 2021, marking the significant moment at the Regional Training Centre of the Central Reserve Police Force at Mudkhed in Nanded, Maharashtra.

The plantation campaign showcases the unwavering commitment of the CAPFs in not only safeguarding the nation's external and internal security, but also to the safeguarding of the environment.



A remarkable achievement!

The tree plantation campaign of the Home Ministry will inspire everyone towards the conservation of the environment.



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister





Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah takes part in a tree plantation drive at Tin Bigha in West Bengal.



Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah at a plantation event at Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh.



Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah plants a sapling at Guwahati in Assam.



Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah plants a sapling at Kishanganj in Bihar.



Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah plants a sapling at Lethipora, J&K.

What Sets this Campaign Apart?

The Union Home Ministry's effort to plant five crore trees stands out as a distinctive initiative compared to other tree plantation campaigns. Under the guidance of the Union Home Minister himself, specific directives have been issued to the Director Generals of the CAPFs, mandating regular assessments of the saplings' growth throughout the three-year campaign.

In an extraordinary display of commitment, Shri Shah has personally travelled to various regions of the country to boost the morale of the security forces engaged in the campaign. He has entrusted the responsibility for ensuring the healthy growth of the planted trees to the respective commanding officers, who are consistently monitoring their progress. An Additional Director General (ADG) serves as the nodal officer, alongside an Assistant Commandant in a similar role and they are responsible for overseeing and reporting on the status of the tree plantation

Combating Climate Change

The Central Armed Police Forces reaffirm their commitment to safeguard the nation's internal security and preserving its unity and integrity. Furthermore, they express their determination to incorporate environmental protection and conservation into their upcoming missions. Over the past year, personnel from the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles have collectively planted an impressive four crore saplings. This tree plantation initiative by the paramilitary forces aligns seamlessly with India's aspirations to lead the world in combating climate change and global warming through green initiatives.

drive to the respective Director Generals.

The Union Home Minister emphasised that forming a bond with nature not only brings self-satisfaction,



Environmental protection is possible only by planting trees, a tree planted today will provide oxygen to many future generations. With increasing pollution, the ozone layer is being damaged, and as a result, in the future, solar rays will directly impact the Earth.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and
Minister of Cooperation

but also serves as a stress reliever and cultivates a creative outlook. Shri Shah firmly believes in the responsible utilisation of natural resources rather than their exploitation. Indiscriminate development has taken a toll on the global environment, leading to significant damage. Issues such as global warming and climate change have emerged as universal threats affecting each and every country.

Instances of heavy rainfall, droughts and landslides have surged considerably, primarily driven by climate change. Therefore, alongside the pursuit of development, the integration of concerns related to global warming and climate change should be embedded into our systems. The most straightforward

approach to achieve this is by reducing carbon emissions, primarily through an increased focus on tree planting. This not only ensures the availability of oxygen, but also contributes to the preservation of the ozone layer.

Many departments under the Union Home Ministry have been actively engaging in tree plantation initiatives. Officers and personnel regularly participate in tree planting activities at Birsa Munda Garden, inside the premises of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) headquarters in New Delhi. Furthermore, the Bureau consistently encourages its affiliated units to partake in these endeavours. ■

Tree Plantations by Central Armed Police Forces in 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023

S.No.	Name of the Force	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023 (Till Aug 31)
1	Assam Rifles	76,42,484	31,08,186	21,15,103	7,52,966
2	BSF	11,82,379	20,06,589	25,00,000	7,85,651
3	CISF	8,98,656	8,06,986	5,36,719	4,90,760
4	CRPF	27,87,615	24,03,441	25,30,232	19,53,524
5	ITBP	5,45,652	10,21,984	6,07,672	4,92,469
6	NSG	2,59,969	1,03,817	3,00,100	1,95,592
7	SSB	14,21,285	12,70,242	10,33,699	12,18,489
Total		1,47,38,040	1,07,21,245	96,23,525	58,89,451

- Under the Afforestation Campaign-2023, a tree plantation programme was organised on August 18, 2023, at the Group Centre, CRPF, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Honourable Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation participated in this programme and planted a (Peepal) sapling.
- As on August 18, 2023, 11,15,557 saplings were planted by all the Central Armed Police Forces in their campuses.
- A total of 4,14,73,069 saplings have been planted till August 31, 2023.

Mahakumbh of Green Initiatives



Bureau

The Union Home Ministry has set an ambitious target of planting five crore saplings under the All India Tree Plantation Campaign. On August 18, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, commemorated the planting of the four-croreth sapling at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Greater Noida, UP. This initiative led by the Ministry is akin to a *Mahakumbh*, dedicated entirely to the cause of environmental protection.

Following the planting of the four-croreth sapling, Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, marked the day as highly significant for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). He stressed on the fact that this year itself, the CAPFs have set an ambitious target of planting one crore 50 lakh saplings. In this ongoing

- ⇒ On August 18, 2023, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah planted the four croreth sapling in the CRPF camp.
- ⇒ The Union Home Ministry has set a target of planting five crore trees under the All India Tree Plantation Campaign.

endeavour, a total of four crore saplings have already been planted so far, bringing the Union Home Ministry very close to its goal.

After planting a peepal sapling as the four-croreth tree, Shri Shah expressed his determination and said, “We will soon achieve the target of planting five crore trees”. He went on to explain that this commitment was made three years ago, with the objective of planting five crore trees before December 2023, and nurturing them for the sake of the global environment. The Union Home Minister conveyed his confidence in the security personnel, asserting that they would indeed accomplish the five crore tree planting target by the end of this year.

It is worth noting that Shri Shah inaugurated this comprehensive and unique tree plantation campaign on July 12, 2020. In just two years, from 2020 to 2022, CAPFs collectively planted over 3.55 crore saplings throughout the country. The campaign underscores CAPF’s exemplary role in the nation’s broader efforts toward environmental conservation.

What sets this campaign apart is the meticulous planning involved, with the assessment of the number and species of saplings to be planted based

Plantation by Shri Amit Shah

Date	Place	Name of Tree
Mar 1, 2020	Kolkata, West Bengal	Mango
Jul 12, 2020	Gurugram, Haryana	Peepal
Jul 25, 2021	Cherrapunji, Meghalaya	Poplar
Sep 17, 2021	Nanded, Maharashtra	Peepal
Oct 26, 2021	Lethipora, J&K	Rudraksh
May 6, 2022	Tin Bigha, West Bengal	Mango
Sep 24, 2022	Kishanganj, Bihar	Neem
Apr 10, 2023	Kibithu, Arunachal	Orange
Aug 18, 2023	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Peepal

on the local climatic conditions. Nodal officers were appointed to oversee the process and an emphasis was placed on choosing indigenous plant species with long lifespans and environmental benefits. Careful consideration was also accorded in the selection of healthy and environmentally beneficial plants. In January 2020, Union Home Minister Shri Shah directed CAPFs to initiate an intensive tree plantation programme for environmental protection. They were tasked with planting trees on vacant lands, with a requirement that 50% of the saplings have a lifespan of 150-200 years, while the remaining 50% are fast-growing species with a minimum lifespan of 10 years. The initiative was launched with a target of

planting one crore trees annually, underscoring the commitment of the forces responsible for internal security to environmental preservation.

Shri Shah personally participated in the tree plantation campaign on several significant occasions and encouraged others to adopt an environment-friendly behaviour. On June 21, 2021, he inaugurated a tree plantation programme at nine different locations in Ahmedabad under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency. On this occasion, he chanted, 'Vriksham Rakshati Rakshit', which means, "If we protect the environment, the environment will protect us".

The Home Minister emphasised that the neglect of trees would endanger the Earth's existence. Furthermore, he highlighted the reverence accorded to trees in the Upanishads and elucidated the medicinal properties of trees, committing to preserve over 11 lakh trees in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, a mission that required the collective effort of workers and residents alike.

To be sure, the tree plantation campaign has not remained confined to CAPF personnel; it has evolved into a family endeavour, with their family members actively joining forces to achieve this noble objective. To ensure the success of this initiative, the responsibility for nurturing and caring for the planted saplings was entrusted to commanding officers, who diligently maintained up-to-date records. ■



Gandhinagar Goes Green

Gandhinagar Lok Sabha MP and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah leads the successful tree plantation campaign in the Gujarat capital.

Bureau

The Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat has actively participated in the All India Tree Plantation Campaign initiated by the Union Home Ministry. The green cover here has undergone a massive surge, thanks to the proactive initiatives of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, and Gandhinagar MP, Shri Amit Shah. In the current fiscal year, the Union Home Minister's dedicated efforts placed emphasis on tasks such as replacing dead plants, incorporating Anganwadis, schools, and housing societies into the tree planting drive, and enhancing the distinctive character of Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency by planting trees along its entry roads.

On June 21, 2021, Shri Shah spoke of his vision to turn Ahmedabad into a city with the highest

Statistics Bear Witness

- During 2014-19, the tree density in Gandhinagar was 59.19 per hectare, which increased to 64.03 trees per hectare during 2019-2023.
- In the current fiscal (2023-24), an estimated total of 16.40 lakh saplings were distributed for free.
- From 2019-2020 to 2023-24, a total of 477 hectares in Kalol taluka and 374 hectares in Gandhinagar taluka, totalling 851 hectares, were afforested under various schemes, and a total of 7,31,695 saplings were planted.
- In the current fiscal, a tree plantation campaign spread on 317 hectares of land in Kalol and Gandhinagar has been initiated in which a total of 3,14,741 saplings are being planted.
- A total of 13,200 saplings have been planted along 12 roads passing through Kalol and Gandhinagar talukas falling under Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency in 2022-23 and 2023-24.



green cover, not only in India but in the world while inaugurating a tree saplings plantation programme at Sindhu Bhavan Road in his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "If trees are not taken care of, the very existence of the Earth will be in danger".

Shri Shah said 5,000 trees were destroyed in the city due to a cyclone, and there was an urgent need to replenish the empty spaces with fresh trees. On his call, the city administration increased the tree plantation target from 10 lakh to 15 lakh. The Union Home Minister said efforts should be made to plant trees which can provide oxygen for future generations.

In the Sanand and Bavla talukas of Ahmedabad district, the forest department has carried out active



Before



The forest department's tree plantation campaign has transformed Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar into a symbol of lush greenery. Various agroforestry models have been used to increase the green cover. In the 2023-24 fiscal, one lakh saplings of diverse species are being planted across Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency.



After



A renovated pond in Gandhinagar



tree plantation work under various schemes with active community participation over the last four years. It has come up with tangible results.

In 2017, tree density in Bavla and Sanand talukas was 7.98 per hectare, which increased to 10.28 per hectare in Bavla and 13.54 per hectare in Sanand in 2021. To further increase this, during the ongoing fiscal year 2023-24, an estimated total of 12 lakh saplings have been distributed free of charge through programmes such as Amrut Sarovar and *Meri Mati Mera Desh*, in coordination with the education department, panchayat department, rural development department, GIDC, and Anganwadis.

Over the last four years, from 2019-20 to 2023-24, a total of 503 hectares in Sanand taluka and 426 hectares in Bavla taluka, totalling 929 hectares, have seen tree plantation activities under various schemes. In the current fiscal, tree plantation has been carried out on 232 hectares in both talukas. The plantation is being done on panchayat land, government buildings, farmers' fields, and other public places. In

2022-23 and 2023-24, a total of 17,350 saplings have been planted alongside nine roads passing through Sanand and Bavla talukas in Ahmedabad district. In the current year, one forest area has been prepared in the Sanand taluka, where approximately 10,000 saplings have been planted in one hectare.

Under social forestry by the forest department in Gandhinagar district, various models like roadside plantation, village forest plantation, e-environment, farm forestry, and green village are being carried out. Afforestation in farmers/beneficiaries fields is also carried out under the social forestry department. In addition, under the new forest cover model in the current year, 1,00,000 saplings have been planted on 10 hectares of land. The survival rate of the planted trees in Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency is 70%.

Taking special interest in the plantation activities in his constituency, Shri Shah suggested inclusion of Anganwadis, schools, and residential committees in tree plantation campaigns, and specific identification by planting trees along all entry roads to the constituency. ■



CAPF's Green Mission Enhances Tree Cover

Bureau

Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision and under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have collectively planted over 3.55 crore saplings nationwide in a remarkably short period of time from 2020 to 2022.

A shared goal has also been set for the year 2023 that aims to plant a total of 1.5 crore saplings, an effort that will raise the cumulative sapling count to an impressive five crore, significantly contributing to the nation's environmental protection initiatives and highlighting the exceptional dedication of the police and paramilitary forces, serving as a symbol of their profound gratitude to Mother Earth.

The CAPF's role in the plantation drive deserves applause as areas previously devoid of greenery have been totally transformed. Stretches of barren land have turned into lush green landscapes due to the relentless efforts undertaken by these dedicated personnel.

Notably, personnel from the National Security Guard (NSG) have also joined the campaign with great enthusiasm and are consistently planting saplings in the Aravallis near the national capital, resulting in a delightful transformation of the region.

A distinctive aspect of CAPF's efforts is their widespread reach, spanning from Ladakh to Kanyakumari and from Bhuj to the eastern tip of Arunachal Pradesh. Over a period of three years, more than 10 lakh CAPF personnel have actively engaged in large-scale tree

Rise in Plantation Area

India's total forest and tree cover now spans 80.9 million hectares, representing 24.62% of the nation's geographical area. In comparison to the 2019 assessment, there has been a noteworthy increase of 2,261 square kilometres in the country's combined forest area. This growth comprises a forest cover expansion of 1,540 square kilometres and a tree cover increase of 721 square kilometres. In terms of area, Madhya Pradesh boasts the largest forest cover in the country, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Maharashtra. When measured as a percentage of the total geographical area, the top five states with the highest forest cover are Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.90%).

plantation drives, often involving collaboration with civil societies, educators, and schoolchildren.

On August 18, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) organised a one-day mega tree plantation campaign in areas affected by Maoist extremism in Chhattisgarh. With the support of local communities, ITBP conducted tree plantation programmes in several areas, including Rajnandgaon, Mohla-Manpur-Chowki, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, Narayanpur, and Kondagaon. ITBP units planted more than 20,000 saplings in Chhattisgarh alone, reflecting the collective effort of CAPFs, which saw over 11 lakh saplings planted across the country in a single day. ■

Balancing Development and Ecology

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has conveyed significant messages not only to the country but also to the global community regarding the importance of environmental protection. The commitment to environmental concerns was highlighted during India's active participation in the G20 meetings of the Environment Ministers, where issues related to the ecology were accorded topmost priority.

Bureau

Environmental concerns transcend national boundaries, extending their significance globally. The Government of India remains committed in its continuous efforts to address these concerns, implementing many nationwide schemes for environmental protection. In addition to its extensive responsibilities, the Union Home Ministry actively contributes to environmental improvement initiatives.

Throughout his tenure, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised the importance of global collaboration on environmental issues. Most notably, during the recent gathering of G20 Environment Ministers in Chennai, India's unwavering commitment to environmental preservation has been highlighted on the international stage.

The Prime Minister has conveyed significant messages to the global community regarding



environmental protection. He underscored that the G20 countries, through the Delhi Declaration, have pledged to “urgently accelerate” actions aimed at addressing environmental crises, particularly climate change.

During the video conference of the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministerial meeting in Chennai on July 28, Prime Minister Shri Modi called for the development of an international legally binding agreement to combat plastic pollution. To summarise, he urged the G20 nations to collaboratively work towards crafting an effective international legal instrument to combat the menace of plastic pollution.

Giving the reference of renowned Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, who lived nearly 2,000 years ago, the Prime Minister emphasised that if the clouds fail to return the water they draw from the earth in the form of rain, even the oceans will eventually run dry.

Discussing about the inherent wisdom of nature and its role as a perennial source of education in India, the Prime Minister cited a Sanskrit verse, explaining that rivers do not consume their own waters, trees do not partake in their own fruit, and even clouds do not consume rainwater.

Prime Minister Shri Modi stressed on the importance of reciprocating provisions for the Nature. “It is our fundamental responsibility to safeguard and nurture Mother Earth, and today, this responsibility has crystallised into the concept of ‘Climate Action’ as it has been neglected for far too long by many”, he said.

India has achieved its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources nine years ahead of the 2030 target, now ranking among the world’s top five countries in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.

Discussing India’s objectives, the Prime Minister stated that the country has set the ambitious goal of achieving ‘Net Zero’ emissions by 2070. The country continues to engage in collaborative efforts with international partners through initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, CDRI, and the Leadership Group for Industry Transformation. Additionally, the Gandhinagar Implementation Roadmap and Platform aims to identify strategies for restoring priority landscapes affected by forest fires and mining.

Grounded in India’s age-old wisdom, the Prime Minister emphasised that climate action must adhere to the principle of ‘Antyodaya’, ensuring the upliftment



Climate action must follow ‘*Antyodaya*’ which means ensuring the rise and development of the last person in the society. With the countries of the Global South being particularly impacted by climate change and environmental issues, there is a need to enhance action on commitments under the UN Climate Convention and the Paris Agreement as it can be crucial in helping the Global South fulfil its developmental aspirations in a climate-friendly way.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

of the most marginalised members of society.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed India’s commitment to collaborate with international coalitions, including the International Solar Alliance, CSIR-CDRI, and the Leadership Group for Industry Transformation. ■

PM Modi Showcases New India's Soft Power



Bureau

In a display of India's commitment to cultural preservation, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered an address at the G20 Culture Ministers' meeting held in Varanasi.

Prime Minister Shri Modi said Varanasi is a city synonymous with heritage and spirituality as he welcomed delegates to his parliamentary constituency. He encouraged the attendees to explore the city's rich cultural offerings, including the famed 'Ganga Aarti' and a visit to the nearby historic town of Sarnath, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon.

Highlighting the power of culture to unite and foster understanding, the Prime Minister stressed India's commitment to preserving its intangible cultural heritage. He cited initiatives such as mapping the nation's cultural assets and artists at all levels, the establishment of cultural centres, and the remarkable tribal museums across the country.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Shri Modi emphasised the economic potential of cultural heritage, aligning it with India's motto of *Vikas bhi Virasat bhi* (Development and Heritage). He also highlighted India's rich legacy of handicrafts and the 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Government.

In his closing comments, Prime Minister Shri Modi commended the launch of the 'Culture Unites All' campaign by the G20 Culture Ministers'

working group, embodying the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* — One Earth, One Family, One Future. He also praised their role in shaping a tangible G20 Action Plan. ■

B20 Summit Bats for Inclusive Growth



Speaking at the B20 Summit India-2023 held in New Delhi on August 27, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi elaborated on the summit's theme 'RAISE' (responsibility, acceleration, innovation, sustainability and equitable business) and how they will promote good business practices. He particularly highlighted the invitation extended to the African Union for a permanent seat at the G20, aligning with B20s emphasis on Africa's economic development.

Amrit Rakshaks of Amrit Kaal

Bureau

Over the past nine years, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made a significant mark through his conduct, vision and demeanour. His distinctive quality lies in his ability to respect every citizen and acknowledge their potential. This approach has led to a growing acceptance of him among people of all ages and regions.

Demonstrating his commitment to youth empowerment and dignity, Prime Minister Shri Modi handed out appointment letters to 51,000 young individuals, referring to them as “Amrit Kaal ke Amrit Rakshaks”. Employment fairs were hosted at 45 locations across the country on August 28. Organised by the Union Home Ministry, they facilitated the recruitment of personnel into various Central Armed Police Forces, including the



Over the last few years, we have made several major changes in the recruitment process of the paramilitary forces. A secure environment fostered by the rule of law accelerates development.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The Prime Minister stressed that global economic challenges and sustainable growth are intertwined, underlining the significance of the decisions made at the summit. He portrayed India as an attractive partner for the global business community, showcasing the nation’s youthful talent pool and digital revolution.

Prime Minister Modi affirmed the transformative power of business, stating that it can turn potential into prosperity and obstacles into opportunities. He called for a focus on sustainability, using millet as an example of a sustainable superfood, benefiting both the environment and small farmers.

The Prime Minister urged businesses to transcend boundaries by emphasising supply chain resilience and sustainability. He expressed confidence that the B20 Summit had paved the way for collective transformation.

B20 was formed in 2010 as an official forum of G20 countries to spur economic growth and development among partner countries. Its role is important in providing concrete actionable policy recommendations.

The B20 India Summit has provided a platform for deliberations and discussions among policymakers, industrialists and experts from across the world. ■

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and Delhi Police. Selected candidates from different parts of the country will be appointed to various positions, such as Constable (General Duty), Sub-Inspector (General Duty), and Non-General Duty roles, within various police forces under the Union Home Ministry. He referred to these newly appointed candidates as ‘Amrit Rakshaks’ as they would not only serve but also safeguard the nation and its citizens.

Emphasising the profound responsibility that comes with a career in defence, security, and the police forces, the Prime Minister highlighted the government’s commitment to meet their needs. He mentioned significant changes in the recruitment process for the paramilitary forces, streamlining it from application to final selection. Previously, examinations were conducted solely in English or Hindi; now, they are conducted in 13 regional languages as well.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also noted efforts to relax recruitment norms in the Maoist-affected areas of Chhattisgarh. ■



On August 23, India created history by catapulting itself to the forefront of global space exploration with the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 at the lunar South Pole. The momentous event not only solidified India's standing in the realm of space exploration, but also symbolised the country's growing technological prowess.

Lunar Leap

Bureau

The country's lunar exploration programme Chandrayaan-3 under the aegis of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), exemplifies the country's commitment towards unravelling the mysteries of the Moon. It also reflects India's dedication and contribution towards the global understanding of lunar geology, atmosphere, and resources.

The landmark milestone carried an added significance as it unfolded during India's stewardship of the G20 Summit, symbolising the country's growing technological competence and global prominence.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was attending the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, joined the ISRO team via video conferencing on August 23, and applauded the achievement. He said that it is a moment of unparalleled significance and lauded the indomitable spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) and the boundless potential of India's 1.4 billion people.

“This moment signifies a new energy, a new belief and a new consciousness of 1.4 billion Indians. It will be forever etched in India's ascending destiny.”

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The Prime Minister said, “India is now on the moon,” and emphasised that the historic event marked the inaugural flight of a New India, signifying a bold step into an era of boundless possibilities. He also outlined a bold vision for the future, highlighting missions such as Aditya L-1 for the study of the Sun and India's aspirations to explore Venus. He highlighted that India's journey to the moon was just the beginning, and said that the sky was not the limit for the country. He said Bharat was poised to explore the infinite possibilities of the universe, including its



ambitious human space flight mission, Gaganyaan.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru on August 26, to celebrate the success of Chandrayaan-3. The visit followed his return from Greece and highlighted the global significance of India's space endeavours.

One of the most notable aspects of the visit was the Prime Minister's announcement that the location of the moon lander's touchdown would be named 'Shivshakti Point'. He explained the significance of the name from the civilisational ethos of the country and said that it will promote gender equality and inclusivity. "In Shiv, there is resolution for the welfare of humanity, and Shakti gives us the strength to fulfil those resolutions. The Shiv Shakti Point of the Moon also gives a sense of connect from the high Himalayas to Kanyakumari", he added.

In another gesture soaked in national pride, Prime Minister Modi declared that the point where Chandrayaan-2 had left its mark on the Moon would now be known as 'Tiranga Point'. He envisioned this location as a source of inspiration for all of India, reminding the nation that failure is not the end and that strong will-power guarantees success.

The Prime Minister's announcement of 'National Space Day' on August 23, the day of Chandrayaan-3's soft-landing on the Moon, was met with great enthusiasm. "On this day every year, we will celebrate the spirit of science, technology, and innovation and serve as a perpetual source of inspiration for generations to come", he said.

Key Points

- ◆ The spacecraft completed approximately 20 Earth orbits, ascending during each parabolic trajectory until it entered the influence of the Moon's gravitational field.
- ◆ In contrast to the unsuccessful Russian Moon mission, which had an expenditure of ₹1,600 crore, the Chandrayaan-3 mission was carried out at a significantly lower cost of around ₹600 crore.
- ◆ The point of the lander will now be known as 'Shiv Shakti'.
- ◆ The spot on the Moon's surface where Chandrayaan-3 left its mark will be known as 'Tiranga'.
- ◆ Every year, India will celebrate August 23 as National Space Day.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah also extended heartfelt congratulations to Indians and lauded the relentless dedication and meticulous planning exhibited by Team Chandrayaan. Their remarkable success in orchestrating the precise landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon is a testament to India's growing prowess in the field of space exploration. In a video message, he expressed profound gratitude and praised Prime Minister Shri Modi for spearheading a visionary new space policy that envisions India's ascension to the forefront of space missions. ■

Meri Mati Mera Desh

More than 2.33 lakh *shilaphalakams* were erected across 36 States and Union Territories. The Panch Pran pledge, another cornerstone of the initiative, saw close to four crore participants upload their pledges online.



Bureau

The nationwide *Meri Mati Mera Desh* campaign, launched on August 9, has received a warm reception with massive public participation in various activities dedicated to paying tribute to the nation's freedom fighters and security forces. It will culminate on October 31. The campaign will serve as a seamless bridge between urban and rural landscapes.

In its first phase, the campaign achieved significant milestones. More than 2.33 lakh memorial plaques, known as *shilaphalakams*, were erected across 36 States and Union Territories. The Panch Pran pledge, another cornerstone of the initiative, saw close to four crore participants upload their pledges online.

In addition, over two lakh felicitation programmes were organised to honour bravehearts who served the country. Under the Vasudha Vandan theme, more than 2.36 crore indigenous saplings were planted, and an impressive 2.63 lakh *Amrit Vatikas* were established.

As the campaign moves into its second phase, there are plans for an even broader reach, with activities extending to every household in India. The second phase features the Amrit Kalash Yatras,

a procession carrying sacred pots filled with soil collected from rural and urban areas. These pots, or *kalash*, will ultimately make their way to Delhi to take part in a grand national programme. Over 8,500 pots are expected to arrive in the national capital by the end of October.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah have invited citizens to join the campaign.

Shri Shah while launching the second phase of the programme in New Delhi on September 1, emphasised that the campaign's goal is to connect every Indian emotionally with the vision of a great India. Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed his confidence that the campaign will make strides in unifying the nation, echoing his vision for *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*.

As the *Meri Mati Mera Desh* campaign gathers momentum, it serves not only as a tribute to those who have sacrificed for India, but also as a reminder of the ongoing collective responsibility to build a unified, strong nation. 'Mitti' (soil) from villages will be collected at the block level and then finally brought to the Capital along with volunteers from each block who would assemble on the Kartavya Path. ■

Remembering Vajpayee Ji



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah pay floral tributes to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Sadaiv Atal on the leader's fifth death anniversary.

Bureau

In the realm of politics, there are individuals whose persona transcends the ordinary, connecting the peaks of policy and principle. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee exemplified one such persona. On August 16, the nation solemnly marked the fifth death anniversary of the former three-term Prime Minister who was also a recipient of the Bharat Ratna.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, and several Union Ministers visited 'Sadaiv Atal' in Delhi to offer floral tributes, honouring the legacy of Shri Vajpayee. Additionally, President Smt Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar participated in a prayer meeting on the leader's death anniversary.

Shri Shah, in a heartfelt tribute, praised the former Prime Minister's towering presence in Indian politics. He noted that Atal Ji, a revered figure, had set the highest standards of politics rooted in ideology and principles. His resolute commitment to serve the nation laid the foundation for good governance and showcased India's potential to the world through initiatives such as the Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998. His organisational acumen also played a pivotal role in propelling the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to unprecedented heights, the Union Home Minister said.

Reflecting on the political journey of Shri Vajpayee, it becomes evident that he was a trailblazer. As one of the founders of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and its president from 1968-1973, his popularity and influence extended

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee served three terms as Prime Minister of India, first for a period of 13 days in 1996, then for 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004. He also served as India's External Affairs Minister in the Morarji Desai Government from 1977 to 1979. He passed away at AIIMS in New Delhi on August 16, 2018.

across the nation. Remarkably, he represented six Lok Sabha constituencies in four different states during his four-decade-long parliamentary career. From Lucknow to Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Gwalior, and Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, and the New Delhi parliamentary seat in Delhi, Shri Vajpayee's electoral feats were widespread.

Shri Vajpayee served three terms as Prime Minister of India, first for a period of 13 days in 1996, then for 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004. He also served as India's external affairs minister in the Morarji Desai government from 1977 to 1979. He passed away at the AIIMS Hospital in New Delhi on August 16, 2018.

Shri Vajpayee retired from active politics in 2005. His tenure as Prime Minister witnessed the creation of historical milestones. He coined the iconic slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan', encapsulating the nation's aspirations. When India's progress story is narrated, his name invariably takes centre stage. His leadership was instrumental in steering the country towards progress. ■

Amit Shah Lauds PM's Visionary Space Policy



Under the Union Government's new space policy, 55 spacecraft and 50 launch vehicle missions were carried out over the past decade. India set a record by launching 104 satellites simultaneously, became the first country to reach Mars on its initial attempt, and has now achieved success with the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Congratulations to 140 crore people of the country. In the Amrit Kaal of Independence, India has emerged as a powerhouse in space technology and it is a matter of pride for all of us. I congratulate all the scientists and engineers associated with Team Chandrayaan.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Home Minister and
Minister of Cooperation

Bureau

In the momentous feat that resonates with national pride, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, extended heartfelt congratulations to Indians and lauded the relentless dedication and meticulous planning exhibited by Team Chandrayaan. Their remarkable success in orchestrating the precise landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon is a testament to India's growing prowess in the field of space

exploration. In a video message, Shri Shah expressed profound gratitude and praised Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for spearheading a visionary new space policy that envisions India's ascension to the forefront of space missions.

The Home Minister attributed the achievement to the unwavering commitment and ingenuity of the nation's scientists and engineers, who have brought glory to India on the global stage. Shri Shah proudly announced that with the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, India has joined the exclusive ranks and is now one of the four nations to achieve lunar landings.

Shri Shah highlighted the transformative impact of the new space policy, which has seen India launch 55 spacecraft and undertake 50 launch vehicle missions in the last decade alone. The country's achievements include setting a record by launching 104 satellites simultaneously, a successful first attempt at reaching Mars, and now the Chandrayaan-3 triumph.

The Union Home Minister commended the reforms introduced by the Narendra Modi government in the space sector in 2020, which have opened doors for private players and promise to accelerate India's space mission. He aptly noted that the new space odyssey not only propels India's celestial aspirations to unprecedented heights but also positions the nation as the world's premier launchpad for space projects. He added that the government's space policy is unlocking a gateway to space for Indian companies, and will create a plethora of employment opportunities for the youth. ■

Forging Partnerships to Bolster Global Ties

BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development

AUGUST 2023, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the BRICS Summit in South Africa showcased India's commitment to multilateralism, dedication to foster global partnerships, and unwavering pursuit of mutual prosperity. The visit served as a testament to India's rising prominence on the global stage and its proactive role in shaping world politics.

Bureau

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 22-24, 2023, for the 15th BRICS Summit, marked a significant milestone in India's diplomatic endeavours. The in-person summit, the first since 2019, provided a perfect platform for constructive dialogue, strengthening international cooperation, and honouring India's contributions to global friendship.

The summit, held under South Africa's chairmanship, convened leaders from the BRICS countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — to discuss crucial matters concerning global economic recovery, collaboration with Africa and the Global South.

In his address, Prime Minister Shri Modi articulated his vision for a stronger BRICS, encapsulated in the acronym B-R-I-C-S, which stands for 'Breaking barriers', 'Revitalizing economies', 'Inspiring innovation', 'Creating opportunities', and 'Shaping the future'. This vision reaffirmed the group's commitment to overcoming challenges and shaping a

prosperous world. During the summit, Prime Minister Shri Modi seized the opportunity to address critical global issues and advocate for substantial reforms. He stressed the urgency of setting defined timelines for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms, emphasising the imperative of creating a more inclusive global order. Furthermore, he stressed on the need for reforms within financial institutions, recognising the pivotal role they play in advancing the interests of developing nations.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also highlighted the necessity of reforming the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to effectively address the contemporary challenges of international trade. He consistently emphasised the importance of unity over polarisation, urging BRICS nations to build consensus on expansion.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also took part in the BRICS business forum leaders' dialogue on August 22. He highlighted India's ongoing business reforms, emphasising technology-driven solutions for socio-economic challenges. He invited BRICS business leaders to engage in India's developmental journey. ■

Apart from strengthening our administrative and judicial systems, we must also promote a culture of morality and honesty in our value systems.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Envisioning a Secure Nation



Bureau

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is committed to safeguard the nation's security and enhance its preparedness for a range of challenges. In line with this vision, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the two-day National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference 2023 in New Delhi on August 24-25. It brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on a multitude of critical national security topics and chart a path forward in ensuring the safety and security of India.

The first day of the conference was marked by insightful discussions on a wide array of national security subjects. These discussions encompassed topics such as the evolving trends in terror and narco-financing in India, the application of forensic science in investigations, addressing social challenges, emergency preparedness for nuclear and radiological exigencies, and strengthening the nation's cyber security framework.

Shri Amit Shah highlighted the pivotal role played by district-level police officers in managing internal security. He stressed on the importance of leveraging scientific tools for effective law enforcement and investigation, emphasising the need for modernisation in the police force.

The Home Minister also reaffirmed the government's commitment to combat drug trafficking and other security-related challenges. He commended

the efforts of various agencies in this regard and called upon all states and agencies to continue taking strong actions against drug dealers and networks.

The concluding day of the conference on August 25, witnessed Shri Amit Shah emphasising the paramount importance of providing timely justice to citizens and ensuring a robust system that upholds their constitutional rights. He urged top police officers to embrace modern approaches in addressing the country's internal security challenges. He stressed on the use of cutting-edge technology in policing, advocating for its implementation from the grassroots level to higher formations within the police force.

Highlighting the recent legislative initiatives introduced in the Parliament, the Home Minister outlined a vision for revamping the entire criminal justice system. He urged police officers to be prepared to implement these new laws at the grassroots level to usher in a comprehensive transformation of the criminal justice landscape. Shri Shah also underscored the critical role of digital technology in the investigative and prosecutorial processes. He advocated the adoption of technology-led policing, envisioning it as a vital component of a revamped criminal justice system capable of meeting future demands.

Recognising the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Shri Shah said that while AI presents opportunities, it also poses innumerable threats. He encouraged law enforcement agencies to harness the potential of AI, while also preparing to mitigate its adverse effects. ■

Serving Citizens with Sincerity

In the spirit of commitment to the welfare of the nation, the Union Ministers of State for Home have been actively engaged in various initiatives that promote unity, employment and development. Under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the initiatives showcase their dedication to serve the people of India.

Bureau

On August 31, the Union Minister of State for Home, Shri Nityananda Rai, celebrated Rakshabandhan with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Patna. Senior officials of SSB also took part in the celebrations, emphasising the bond of love and trust.

On August 28, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spearheaded an employment drive, providing appointment letters to over 51,000 newly appointed candidates in the eighth phase of the Rozgar Mela. Shri Rai was present at the event, which was held at the BSF camp at Chhawla in New Delhi, primarily focused on recruiting candidates for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and the Delhi Police.



Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted India's proactive approach to employment since 2014, resulting in abundant employment and self-employment opportunities across the country.

Remarkably, this effort aims to provide employment to 10 lakh youngsters within a year, which will be a historic milestone. Shri Rai extended his best wishes to all the newly appointed candidates and their parents, applauding their dedication to serve the nation.

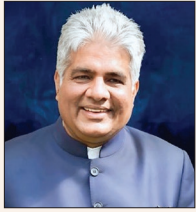
On August 31, the Union Minister of State for Home, Shri Nisith Pramanik, expressed his delight at celebrating Rakshabandhan with the enthusiastic NCC cadets of Cooch Behar Town High School in West Bengal.

Earlier on August 28, Shri Pramanik attended the 8th tranche of the Rozgar Mela organised by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Gangtok. During the event, 104 newly appointed candidates from Sikkim, West Bengal, and Bihar received their appointment letters. This initiative demonstrates the government's commitment to providing employment opportunities across different regions of the country, thereby fostering economic growth and self-reliance.



On August 18, Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Kumar Mishra, launched two schemes — Repco Thangamagal (a deposit scheme) and Repco Vruksha (a microfinance loan scheme) at a programme organised by Repco Bank and Repco Micro Finance Ltd in Chennai. Additionally, he distributed sewing machines, empowering individuals to pursue self-employment opportunities. Furthermore, on August 17, Shri Mishra inaugurated the newly constructed staff quarters at the National Security Guard (NSG) regional hub in Chennai, enhancing the living conditions of the NSG personnel and their families. ■





Shri Bhupender Yadav

The message in MHA's All India Tree Plantation drive

One of the most fundamental things that climate change has done is break the myth about human superiority. Endowed with brains that can invent and innovate, humans began to see themselves as not just different from all other creations of nature, but also as superior to them. It is because of this thought that people began to recklessly exploit nature for their greed, cutting trees and polluting rivers. This exploitation was born out of the thought that all natural resources were up for grabs for human beings.

Climate change and the vagaries it unleashes served as a reality check to humans that they are at the mercy of nature just as nature is at their mercy. A practical philosophy beautifully captured in the motto of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change प्रकृति रक्षति रक्षित (Nature protects when it is protected).

This happens because elements of nature also think. Eduardo Kohn's book *How Forests Think* offers a very scientific explanation to how elements of nature think and respond on the basis of their thinking.

Kohn writes that people living in and around the jungles of Ecuador sleep face up so that if a jaguar comes he will see them and go back because he knows people can see him. If they sleep facedown, the jaguar will think they cannot see him and hence can become his food. If a jaguar sees people as being capable of looking back—a self like himself, he'll leave them alone. But if he should come to see people as prey, he will kill them and eat them. The jaguar, therefore, can think clearly about when it can attack and exactly when it can come under attack.

Kohn argues that even trees can think. He says that specific trees growing in specific areas is not accidental. Trees interact with their environment because they have specialised characteristics.

Kohn's work warns us against being 'soul blind' to our environment.

Under this light, the All India Tree Plantation

drive, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, reflecting the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has given a clarion call for pro-planet steps, presents a remarkable example of environmental consciousness. Launched on July 12, 2020, what makes this initiative particularly praiseworthy is the engagement of our Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. The involvement of CAPF personnel as 'nature warriors' adds a unique layer of credibility and unprecedented dedication to the entire project.

This collaboration may appear unusual at the outset; however, the rationale becomes clear when one considers the diverse terrains our police forces navigate. Stationed at some of the most ecologically sensitive regions, they are first-hand witness to the implications of environmental degradation. Their active involvement surely brings unparalleled richness and understanding to the initiative.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change lauds this incredible initiative which aims to plant over five crore saplings across India. It resonates well with our goals of enhancing green cover, preserving biodiversity, and combating climate change. By setting a target of planting five crore trees, especially in areas burdened by deforestation and urbanisation, CAPFs' contributions augment our national efforts in forest conservation.

The brilliance of this initiative lies in its inclusive approach. It also engages family members of the CAPF personnel, inviting them to be a part of the green revolution, whether through direct participation or through supported programmes.

Community involvement is crucial. Our collective efforts in building a sustainable environment will be bolstered when each citizen heeds this call to action. I hope all institutions will follow the example being set by CAPFs, even as many government departments are already planting trees on their own. ■

(The writer is Union Cabinet Minister of Labour and Employment; Environment, Forest and Climate Change)



On August 1, 'Police Vijyan' published by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) was released at the Bureau headquarters in New Delhi. The participants of the inter-office competition organised by the Bureau and NCRB also got awards.

On August 28, the Union Minister of State for Home, Shri Ajay Mishra, participated in the appointment letter distribution programme under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Mela in Srinagar.



The 14th NDRF team conducted an operation at a landslide incident site, Shiv Mandir Summer Hill in Himachal Pradesh and recovered three bodies on August 24. With tireless and arduous efforts, NDRF teams have recovered 12 bodies from the incident site between August 15 and August 24.



BPR&D's YouTube channel 'Police aur Seva' highlighted a disaster defence practice session 'Rope Rescue' organised in Una, Sirmaur, Kullu and Chamba districts of Himachal Pradesh.



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 need basis.



Many references in the culture and literature of our country point to the importance of conserving trees and forests. Upholding the environment as well as developmental works have been the hallmark of our Government. India is the fastest growing economy in the world, but we have also been the only major country to meet all committed climate targets.

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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