

# Vigilant India

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Complimentary Copy

## Zonal Councils



# Enabling Cooperative Federalism



**A Historic Stride Towards Gender Equality**

# Contents

Moving Beyond Talks	10
In Collaborative Spirit	12
Focus on Economic Inclusivity	14
New Landmark for 'Viksit Bharat'	19
Addressing Pendency	21
A Historic Stride towards Gender Equality	22
Selfless Service	25
Govt Pioneers Principles of Federalism	26

## Cover Story



05 Enabling Cooperative  
Federalism

16 Proactive  
Platform

18 A Two-Decade-Old Journey  
Towards Global Prominence

## From the Editor



**Balaji Srivastava**

Director General, BPR&D

“

In the last nine years, over 1,000 issues have been discussed in the Zonal Council meetings, with 93% of these issues being effectively resolved. It is indeed a substantial achievement.

”

**A**fter India attained Independence on August 15, 1947, the architects of our Constitution established the nation's political and administrative framework as a Union of States. This cornerstone of Indian federalism specified the allocation of powers and responsibilities between the Union Government and the States, thus ensuring that the ethos of unity in diversity is embraced.

However, there was no mechanism for any collective dialogue between the Centre and the States. The Sarkaria Commission, set up in 1983, recognised this gap, and on its recommendations, the Inter-State Council was formed as a constitutional body in 1990 under Article 263 of the Constitution.

Since India is a vast and diverse democracy, its complexities are also large. Issues such as distribution of financial and natural resources used to crop up from time to time. The Inter-State Council as an institution is providing a critical platform for resolution of such contentious issues through discussion and mutual cooperation. While hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi communicates at the national level in the meetings with the Chief Ministers of the States, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, hon'ble Shri Amit Shah, heads the Standing Committee and Zonal Councils that hold dialogue between the Centre and the States to address emerging issues.

The Zonal Councils, comprising States within a specific geographic region, have played a crucial role in addressing regional imbalances. Numerous examples demonstrate how these Councils, under the leadership of Shri Shah, have facilitated collaborative planning and successfully implemented development initiatives, thereby promoting more equitable progress in regions with unique needs.

These initiatives have met the aspirations of federalism and coordinated governance. Prime Minister Shri Modi has further bolstered these objectives by advocating cooperative federalism, fostering a stronger sense of unity among the States.

In the current issue of Vigilant India, we have placed a strong emphasis on these issues. Please feel free to send your feedback at: [sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in](mailto:sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in)

Jai Hind!





नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम का ऐतिहासिक रूप से पास होना इस बात का भी प्रमाण है कि जब पूर्ण बहुमत वाली स्थिर सरकार होती है, तो देश कैसे बड़े फैसले लेता है।



**श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री**



शक्ति के बिना न्याय शक्तिविहीन होता है और न्याय के बिना शक्ति अत्याचारी हो जाती है। न्याय ही है, जो बैलेंस बनाकर रखता है। न्याय और हर प्रकार की शक्ति का संतुलन बहुत आवश्यक है, तभी न्यायपूर्ण समाज की रचना हो सकती है।



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



महिला आरक्षण नए भारत में 'नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम-2023' जैसे मोदी सरकार के निर्णयों से महिलाओं का तो विकास हो ही रहा है, साथ ही पंचायत से लेकर संसद तक महिलाओं के नेतृत्व में कैसे देश आगे बढ़े इसके लिए भी भगीरथ और सतत प्रयास फलीभूत हुआ है।



**श्री नित्यानंद राय  
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



A golden start by our #NariShakti as they script history by bagging the gold medal in cricket, making it a memorable debut at the #AsianGames. A thrilling performance with a nail-biting finish demonstrated the grit & passion of our #WomenInBlue.



**Shri Nisith Pramanik  
MoS, Ministry of Home Affairs**



भारत की बेटियों ने रचा इतिहास! एशियाई खेलों में भारत के नाम दूसरा स्वर्ण, भारतीय महिला क्रिकेट टीम ने फाइनल में श्रीलंका को 19 रनों से हराया।



**श्री अजय मिश्रा  
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री, श्री अमित शाह ने प्रधानमंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा लोक सभा में नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम प्रस्तुत करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री जी का आभार प्रकट किया।



**गृह मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार**





## Zonal Councils

# Enabling Cooperative Federalism

### Bureau

**I**ndia is defined by its vast and diverse landscape where harmonising the interests and aspirations of States can be a monumental challenge. It is a task that demands a platform where States can come together, share their concerns and collectively envision a brighter future. The Inter-State Council, a pivotal institution which implements its decisions through the Zonal Councils, caters to this objective and plays a crucial role in harmonising the relationship between the Union

A nation can move forward on the path of development only when the Union Government and States work together shoulder to shoulder.

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



Government and the States. It was established to strengthen the federal structure of India, while also ensuring the unity and integrity of the country.

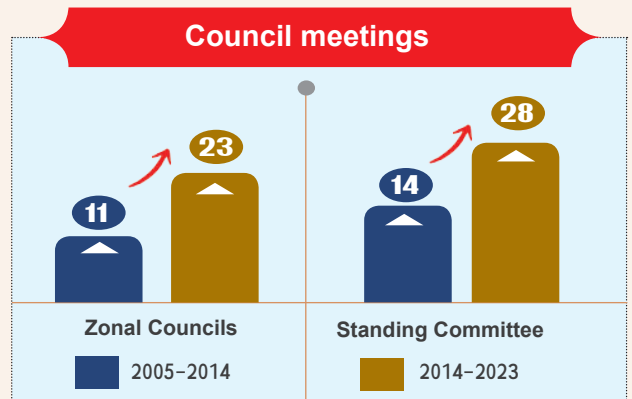
With a view to examine the relationship and distribution of power between the Central Government and the States and suggest changes within the framework of the Constitution of India, the Sarkaria Commission was set up in June 1983. It was headed by Rajinder Singh Sarkaria, a retired judge of the Supreme Court. In its report, the Commission recommended the creation of an Inter-State Council for regular consultations between the Centre and the States and also on issues among States. The Government of India accepted the recommendations of the Commission to set up an Inter-State Council and notified its establishment by a Presidential Order dated May 28, 1990.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is a proponent of cooperative federalism that intends to make the States stronger with the support of the Union Government. While being the Chief Minister of Gujarat for more than 12 years, he strongly felt that there was something amiss in the Centre-State relationship. When he became the Prime Minister in 2014, he got an opportunity to assess the points of cooperation between the Centre and the States. After studying the issues carefully, he convened a meeting of the Inter-State Council on July 16, 2016.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Shri Modi said, “In a democracy as big and diverse as ours — debates, deliberations and discussions — help evolve policies that relate to the ground reality. More importantly, they enable the effective

**The Zonal Council meetings are an effort to enable the Centre and the States to actively participate in development related policies.**

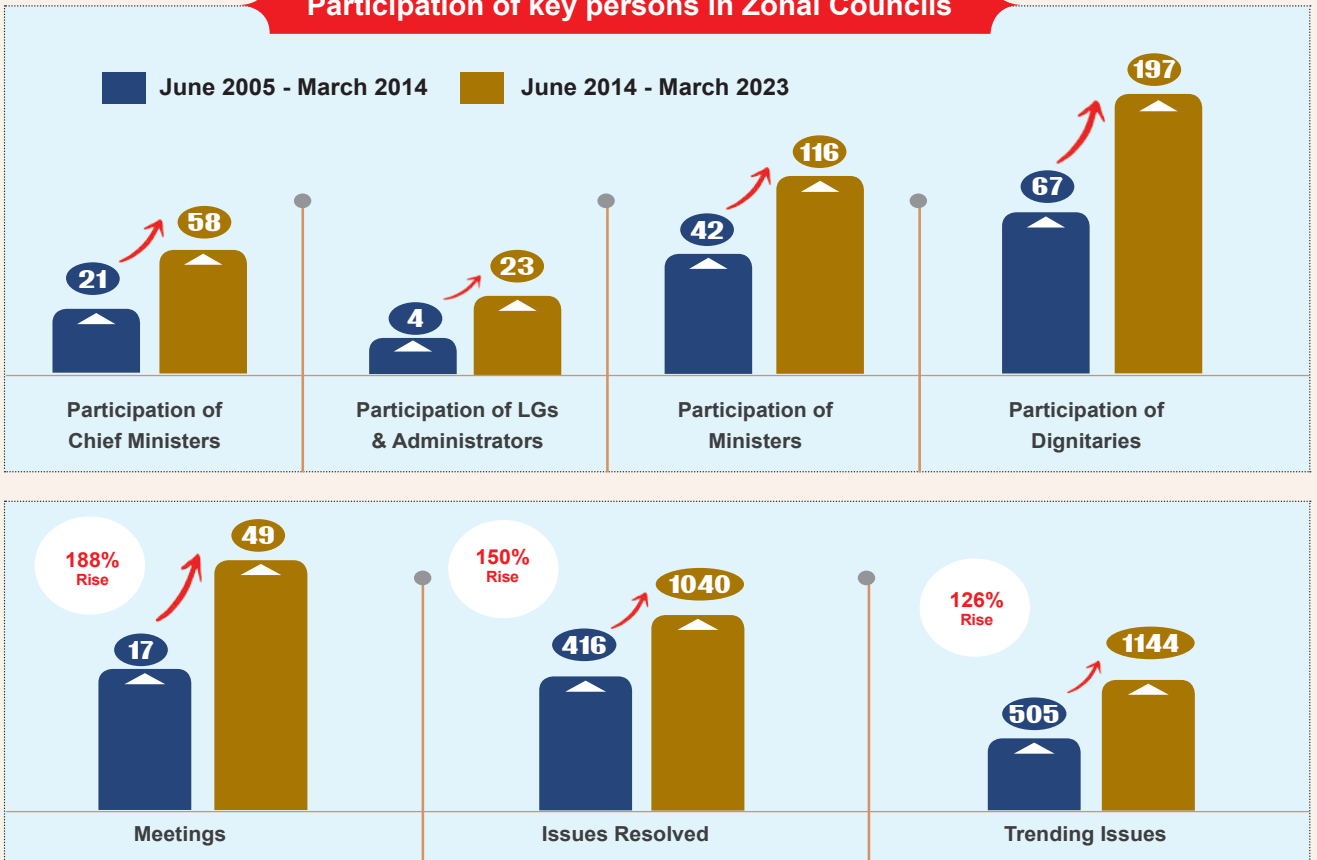
**Shri Amit Shah**  
**Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**





The need for Zonal Councils arose from the complexities of Centre-State relations in India. Prior to their establishment, there were various challenges, including Inter-State disputes, issues related to the sharing of resources and differences in policy implementation among States. The federal structure of governance required a mechanism to address these challenges and promote greater cooperation.

### Participation of key persons in Zonal Councils





implementation of such policies.” He said the Inter-State Council is an inter-governmental forum that can be used for evolving policy as well as ensuring its implementation. “I, therefore, urge the States to increasingly use this platform as an effective medium to strengthen our democracy, our society and our polity” he added. He said that the Inter-State Council was certainly the most significant platform for strengthening Centre-State as well as Inter-State relations.

Prime Minister Shri Modi is of the firm view that the nation can progress only if the Union and State Governments work together. In the 2016 Inter-State Council meeting, he set an example by announcing the acceptance of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and enhanced the states’ share in Central taxes from 32% to 42%. This meant greater financial resources to states in accordance with their requirements. “I am happy to share that the total amount received by States from the Centre during 2015-16 is 21% higher than the amount received in 2014-15,” he said.

Prime Minister Shri Modi’s vision about cooperative federalism does not stop at the gates of the States only. He has favoured federalism at the grassroots level also and the 2016 meeting approved ₹2.87 lakh crore for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies in accordance with the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance

Commission, which was substantially higher than the amount received by the local bodies when compared to previous years.

Prime Minister Shri Modi has kept the rights of States in mind even when revenues are received from the auction of natural resources. Upholding the spirit of cooperative federalism, he announced that ₹3.35 lakh crore will be given to respective States in the auction of coal blocks, while an additional ₹18,000 crore will also be given to them while auctioning other mines. Similarly, through amendments to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Act, about ₹40,000 crore lying idle in banks was freed and released to the States according to their requirements.

In a large democracy like India, it is imperative to evolve consensus at the policy formulation stage, so as to address issues of mutual interest. With this consideration in mind, Aadhaar and Direct Cash Benefit transfers for subsidy and other services were also discussed in the 2016 meeting.

Today, the simple Aadhaar card has become a symbol of empowerment and credit should be given to the Inter-State Council for accepting the government’s spirit of utilising it for common good. This has not only brought in transparency, but also resulted in savings of thousands of

## Pioneering Dynamic Role

The 11<sup>th</sup> Inter-State Council was convened in New Delhi on July 16, 2016, with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presiding over the meeting. During this meeting, he emphasised that the nation’s internal security could only be robust if there is a concerted effort to share intelligence, enhance coordination among agencies, and equip the police force with modern approaches and technology. Although considerable progress has been made in this regard, there is a need for continuous improvement in efficiency and capacity. Remaining vigilant and updated is vital, and the Union Home Ministry, led by Shri Amit Shah, is consistently working towards these goals, as highlighted in various Zonal Council meetings.

The Zonal Councils serve as an inter-governmental forum between the Centre and the States that not only contribute to the formulation of policies but also ensures their successful execution. The Prime Minister encouraged States to increasingly leverage this platform as a potent tool to fortify our democracy, society and governance.

The Zonal Councils aspire to play a dynamic role in shaping India’s future, aiming to strengthen the bonds of unity and cooperation among States. The vision for the future involves a deeper commitment to federalism, more efficient policy implementation and a prosperous India where every State thrives.

crores of rupees, which are being utilised for developmental works across States.

Another important area of discussion in the Inter-State Council meeting was education. India's greatest asset is its youth and more than 30 crore children are currently of school-going age. Our country has the potential to provide the world with skilled manpower for many years to come.

Internal security is another important issue on the agenda of the Inter-State council. It cannot be strengthened until we focus on intelligence sharing, ensure greater coordination among agencies and equip our police with modern approach and technology. "The more we are able to forge consensus on these vital issues, the better we shall be able to tackle them. In doing so, we shall not only strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism and Centre-State relations, but also secure a better future for our citizens," Prime Minister Shri Modi said.

The Inter-State Council is an apex body that regularly creates connect between the Centre and the States. It is headed by Prime Minister Shri Modi and under its purview is the Standing Committee and Zonal Councils. Both the Standing Committee and Zonal Councils are headed by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah.

With a view to fulfil the goals set by the Inter-State Council, the Zonal Councils work on regular basis with different States. Union Home Minister Shri Shah while chairing the meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> Zonal Council in Amritsar on September 24, reiterated Prime Minister Shri Modi's belief that strong States create a strong nation. He said that under



The Inter-State Council is certainly the most important forum for strengthening Centre-State and inter-State relations.

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

his guidance as Inter-State Council chairperson, Zonal Councils have emerged as a platform to enhance cooperation through a systematic mechanism. ■

## Positive Outcomes

- ⇒ Banking facilities to every village within a five-kilometre radius.
- ⇒ Formation of two lakh new PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies).
- ⇒ Elimination of malnutrition.
- ⇒ Zero dropout rate among school children.
- ⇒ Construction of basic facilities

- in districts affected by leftist extremism.
- ⇒ Accelerating the cooperative movement.
- ⇒ Decision to set the value of Kodo and Kutki crops at par with the minimum support price (MSP) of Ragi.
- ⇒ Setting up a study mechanism

- by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for inclusion of lac production in the Revised Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme.
- ⇒ Resolution of inter-State water-sharing disputes amicably through mutual discussion.



# Moving Beyond Talks

## Bureau

**O**n September 26, the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Northern Zonal Council took place in Amritsar, Punjab, under the leadership of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah. During this gathering, the Council addressed a total of 28 issues. The Union Home Minister commended the recent achievements of India, including the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, the global recognition received at the G20 Summit and the historic passing of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament.

Furthermore, Shri Shah emphasised on the collective importance of addressing issues such as the cooperative movement in the country, reducing school dropout rates and tackling malnutrition.

The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers from Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, as well as the Lieutenant Governors of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the Administrator of Chandigarh, senior ministers from member States, the Union Home Secretary, Secretaries, the officials of the Inter-State Council Secretariat, Chief Secretaries of member States and senior officials from Central Ministries and Union Territories.

In his address to the council, the Union Home Minister highlighted the transformative evolution of Zonal Councils under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the past five years.

These councils have shifted from being merely advisory bodies to becoming proactive platforms for action.

The Northern Zonal Council holds a significant role

The Northern Zonal Council plays a crucial role in the nation's growth and security. It encompasses 21% of the country's land area and is home to 13% of the population. Notably, over 35% of the country's food grains are cultivated in the Northern region.

**Shri Amit Shah**  
Union Home Minister and  
Minister of Cooperation

in the country's development and security. With 21% of the nation's land and 13% of its population, the Northern region contributes to producing more than 35% of the country's food grains.

Shri Shah noted that a substantial number of personnel in the Central Armed Police Forces and the Army, responsible for safeguarding the country's borders, hail from the States and Union Territories included in the Northern Zonal Council. The Home Minister urged member States of the Northern Zonal Council to approach their water-sharing disputes with an open-minded and mutually collaborative spirit.

The council meeting also addressed the Shanan Power Project with Punjab Chief Minister Shri Bhagwant Mann. Shri Shah commended the pivotal role of Zonal Councils, noting that while they have an advisory nature, they have proven to be essential in fostering healthy coordination, mutual understanding and cooperation across various sectors.





The Union Home Minister urged all the member States of the Northern Zonal Council to approach their water-sharing disputes with a spirit of openness and engage in mutual discussions. Additionally, he underlined that a significant number of personnel serving in the Central Armed Police Forces and the Army, responsible for safeguarding the nation's borders, hail from the States/UTs of the Northern Zonal Council.

Zonal Councils provide a valuable platform for high-level personal interactions among members, offering an effective forum to address intricate and challenging issues in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill. Through discussions and the exchange of ideas, Zonal Councils facilitate the development of a coordinated approach among States regarding critical matters related to social and economic development. Additionally, these councils deliberate on and make recommendations for issues of common interest to the States.

The Amritsar meeting encompassed a wide range of topics, including the sharing of Inter-State river waters, extending banking and postal services to villages, ensuring the effective implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer for social sector programmes, matters pertaining to Panjab University, road connectivity through the PMGSY programme, addressing cybercrimes, advancing the Jal Jeevan

Mission, resuming air services under the UDAN scheme, expediting the investigation of crimes against women and children, implementing the Fast Track Special Scheme, establishing courts for the swift resolution of cases under the POCSO Act, strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and regulating the purchase of agricultural land.

The Union Government has placed a strong focus on the East and the North-East, with an emphasis on the Act East Policy. During the 25<sup>th</sup> Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata on December 17, 2022, which was presided over by Union Home Minister Shri Shah, attention was drawn to these priorities. The meeting was characterised by a positive and constructive atmosphere and consensus was reached on a number of issues. He also focused on not letting left-wing extremism grow again from where it is uprooted. He asked States to ensure strengthening of NCORD at the district-level and use Artificial Intelligence in eradicating drug abuse. ■

## Resolution Opens Avenues for Growth in Andhra & Telangana

In a significant development, the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the issuance of further Terms of Reference (ToR) to the existing Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) on October 4. The decision was taken in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, for its adjudication between the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The move came after the Government of Telangana lodged a complaint. The resolution of the dispute between the two States over the use, distribution or control of Krishna river waters holds great promise, opening new avenues of growth for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The development is expected to benefit the people of both States, ultimately contributing to the nation's overall development.

The Government of Telangana forwarded a

complaint to the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, on July 14, 2014, referring to the dispute regarding the use, distribution, or control of Krishna river water. A writ petition was filed by the Telangana Government on the matter in the Supreme Court in 2015. In 2018, the Telangana Government requested the concerned departments to refer the complaint to the existing KWDT-II, while narrowing the scope of reference to the dispute between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The matter was further deliberated during the second Apex Council meeting in 2020, presided over by the Minister of Jal Shakti. The Government of Telangana withdrew the aforementioned writ petition in 2021. Subsequently, the Ministry of Law & Justice was consulted by the concerned departments for legal opinion on the matter.



# In Collaborative Spirit

Bureau

**N**ational progress hinges upon the collaborative efforts of both the Union and State Governments. However, upholding the integrity of the country's federal system presents several challenges. To ensure the seamless operation of this system, it is imperative to engage in periodic consultations. When the Government is under capable leadership, longstanding issues are resolved more effectively and new avenues for success are created.

There is no better illustration of this than the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, when enhanced cooperation between the Central and State Governments played a pivotal role in saving the lives of millions across the country. The Central Government, as the sole authority overseeing vaccine and oxygen production and distribution, bore the responsibility of ensuring a fair and equitable allocation of these vital resources. It effectively discharged this duty and promptly addressed concerns from States regarding disparities in vaccine distribution, medicine supplies and oxygen availability. In regions that grappled with severe COVID-19, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, acting on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's directives, personally assumed responsibility, visiting numerous

**The Inter-State Council fosters collaboration, coordination and the formulation of shared policies. When this mechanism is endowed with authority and operates with transparency and sound judgment, it not only narrates one, but numerous tales of accomplishments and triumphs.**

specialised hospitals and isolation centres established for COVID-19. The entire Government machinery remained vigilant and operated around the clock to tackle the situation.

On August 28, during the 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Gujarat, Shri Shah highlighted the importance of cooperative federalism. He emphasised the significance of addressing various issues, including land transfers, water supply, operation of auctioned mines, cash deposit facilities at common service centres, the expansion of banking services to villages, the expeditious handling of crime cases against women and children, and the implementation of fast track special courts for swift resolution of rape and POC SO Act cases.

It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Shri Narendra



The Zonal Council is an important forum of cooperative federalism to resolve issues between the Centre and the States. It believes in providing solutions through consensus, which is in line with the constitutional spirit.

**Shri Amit Shah**  
**Union Home Minister and**  
**Minister of Cooperation**

Modi has a very positive vision for leveraging cooperative and competitive federalism to foster comprehensive development in the country.

The Inter-State Council's efforts have brought significant benefits to farmers in Madhya Pradesh, leading to increased wheat and paddy production. Over the past four years, statistics reveal a remarkable 50% surge in paddy yield and a 53% rise in wheat yield. These advantages have been particularly evident in 28 districts across the state, translating to higher prices for farmers' produce and an overall improvement in their quality of life.

Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a substantial increase in the conviction rate of individuals charged with crimes against women and children. In 2022, the total number of convictions for crimes against women surged by 411% compared to 2020, while in POCSO cases, it was an impressive 580%. These positive outcomes reflect the Government's zero-tolerance policy towards crimes against women and children.

Significant progress has been made in West Bengal with regards to solar energy initiatives, resulting in the installation of solar power systems in schools. This has led to improved facilities for students and the transformation of schools in 13 districts across the state. Similarly, in Jharkhand, the positive outcomes of the Council's Adarsh Vidyalaya Scheme are evident, as schools at the block and panchayat levels have been equipped with modern amenities, with a particular focus on providing specialised resources for tribal students. In Odisha, essential support has

been extended to young athletes, ensuring they benefit from various Central Government schemes. The Kalinga Sports Complex now offers comprehensive facilities, allowing the youth to enhance their sporting abilities. Additionally, efforts are underway to revitalise schools and rural areas in Odisha, contributing to the overall development of the region.

During the Northern Zonal Council meeting, Union Home Minister Shri Shah consistently emphasised the positive transformation in Jammu and Kashmir since the removal of Article 370 in 2019. The Inter-State Council has played a significant role in bringing a fresh wave of development to the region through initiatives such as Digital India and transparent governance.

In Jammu and Kashmir, where daily internet shutdowns were the norm, a notable Digital India campaign is unfolding. There is a strong focus on digitalisation, particularly among the youth. The Government has also phased out the 150-year-old 'Darbar Move' system where the Secretariat and Government offices saw a bi-annual shift resulting in substantial annual savings of around ₹400 crore.

In the southern states, the Southern Zonal Council has also achieved commendable progress. Long-standing interstate issues are being effectively resolved and the Digital India initiative is making a substantial impact throughout the region. ■





**Encouraging open and inclusive conversations within Zonal Council meetings have expedited the progress and resolution of outstanding matters in these forums. The amicable and productive exchanges have proven successful in averting escalation of conflicts and resolving intricate issues through consensus.**

### Bureau

**F**inancial inclusion and economic empowerment in border and remote areas have witnessed significant progress through the expansion of bank branches and India Post Payments Banks (IPPB) touch points, with Zonal Councils playing a pivotal role.

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-State Council on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, emphasised the need for banking services to be accessible within 5 to 10 Kms for every citizen, with a particular focus on payment banking units.

Subsequently, during the Western Zonal Council meeting in Goa in August 2019, presided over by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, it was agreed that banking services should be available within 5 kilometres of each village across the country by the brick-and-mortar branches of banks and the India Post Payments Bank. A comprehensive strategy was formulated and a systematic review was conducted by all Zonal Councils. Collaborative efforts were made involving various Government

departments, including the Department of Financial Services, Department of Posts, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Cooperation and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to achieve this objective. The outcome was the establishment of bank branches in villages with a population of 3,000 or more and IPPB units within five kilometres of other villages, enhancing convenience through touch points.

This resulted in the opening of 5,746 new post offices and IPPB units by the Department of Posts, with financial approval secured for creating 13,283 necessary positions to support these touch points. Presently, 5.73 lakh inhabited villages have access to banking facilities within five kilometres, and efforts are underway to extend this coverage to the remaining villages by the end of this year. As a result, financial inclusion has been achieved in hilly, border and remote rural areas, propelling economic and social development in these regions.

Besides, during the Central Zonal Council meeting, the matter of determining the minimum support price (MSP) for Kodo and Kutki (small millets) by State Governments was raised. Following extensive



## Accelerating Infra Projects

The Zonal Councils are expediting infrastructure projects by fostering consensus through their deliberations. They have played a vital role in securing forest and wildlife clearances for various initiatives as well as advancing land acquisition processes.

For instance, the Hajipur-Sugauli new railway line project had faced roadblocks due to unresolved land acquisition issues in four districts of Bihar, despite the Railways having paid for the land in full way back in 2016. However, after discussions within the Eastern Zonal Council in

both 2020 and 2022, the Government of Bihar has now transferred most of the required land in three districts to the Railways. Additionally, they have finalised compensation arrangements for acquiring the remaining 200 acres of land in West Champaran district. This development has cleared the path for completing the land acquisition, resolving an issue that had lingered on for the last seven years and will facilitate the speedy completion of the project.

Similarly, the matter of transferring land for the construction of road-over-

bridges (ROBs) at Kadamdiha, Digri and West Medinipur under the Setu Bharatam project by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was raised by West Bengal. This required the transfer of 27 acres of defence land, which had been pending. Additionally, wildlife clearance has been granted for the Rajnandgaon-Kalumna third line project. The Railways raised concerns regarding pending wildlife clearance for the Bortalao-Gondia section of this project in the meeting of the Western Zonal Council held on January 28, 2022, in Panaji.

discussions with the relevant ministries, it was decided that the Department of Food and Public Distribution would formulate policy guidelines for the procurement of Kodo, Kutki and other specified small millets, drawing on information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

On August 9, the Department of Food and Public Distribution issued guidelines regarding the allocation, distribution and disposal of six grain crops, including Kodo and Kutki. This development now enables State Governments, Union Territories, their agencies and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to remunerate farmers for these small millets based on the established minimum support price (MSP) for Ragi.

Following deliberations in the Zonal Council, a mechanism was established for the Government's procurement of small millets, a development that promises improved prices for small and marginal farmers. This initiative not only fosters crop diversification and environmental conservation, but also promotes the economic well-being of tribal communities. It is worth noting that this issue was successfully addressed this year, coinciding with the International Year of Millets.

Furthermore, impediments associated with the progress of renewable energy were effectively resolved during these Zonal Council meetings. Following discussions in the Southern Zonal Council meeting held at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh in November

2021, relevant Government agencies shared their perspectives. In the Western Zonal Council meeting held in Goa in August 2019, a solution was found for the issue faced by coastal fishermen in establishing their identity in deep sea waters. It was decided to issue PVC Aadhaar cards with QR codes to all marine fishermen.

Subsequently, necessary arrangements were made for financial grant, standard procedures and card distribution to implement this decision. As a result, nearly all marine fishermen in coastal States now possess PVC Aadhaar cards with QR codes.

The Southern Zonal Council convened a meeting in September 2018 to address the concern of multiple shrimp consignments that were being rejected for export to the European Union (EU) and Japan due to the alleged presence of antibiotic residues. In response, a committee was constituted to look into the matter.

The facility for cash deposit at Common Service Centres (CSCs) was initiated in November 2021 and is now available at 4.68 lakh CSCs through the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS). Currently, 25 banks, including 7 public sector banks, are on NPCI's platform to offer this facility. From November 25, 2021 to June 30, 2023, the total number of cash deposit transactions made through 17 banks is 4,62,870, amounting to approximately ₹ 215.62 crores. ■



# Proactive Platform

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has advocated for cooperative federalism as a means to enhance relationships and foster improved communication between the Central Government and the States. The focus is on incorporating the Zonal Council platform into the policy framework, emphasising the use of cooperative federalism to address State-specific challenges.

## Bureau

**T**he Zonal Council meetings have been conducted periodically to enhance coordination between the Central and State Governments.

The Central Zonal Council meeting in Narenda Nagar in Uttarakhand, which was held on October 7, under the leadership of Shri Shah, a resolution was passed unanimously that commended athletes for securing over

100 medals in the recently-held Asian Games in China, marking a historic achievement for India. The meeting also celebrated the success of Chandrayaan-3, the well-organised G20 Summit and the Parliament's passage of the historic Women's Reservation Bill.

During his address, the Union Home Minister highlighted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's consistent emphasis on reinforcing cooperative federalism. He also underscored the role of Zonal Councils in problem-solving. As a significant move toward fulfilling the Prime Minister's





## Focus on Consultation

There are five Zonal Councils in the country that regularly convene meetings. These meetings are made possible through the proactive efforts of the Inter-State Council Secretariat, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. There has been a significant rise in the number of meetings conducted by the Zonal Councils. Over the past decade, starting from June 2014, a total of 54 meetings have taken place, which is more than twice the number of meetings held during the preceding 10 years from 2004 to May 2014.

particularly in the States of the Central Zonal Council.

Addressing priorities such as cooperation, the dropout rate of school children and malnutrition, Shri Shah urged all member States to give special attention to these issues. Stressing the need to eradicate child malnutrition, he emphasised that addressing this problem with utmost sensitivity is a collective responsibility.

Previously, the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southern Zonal Council took place in Tirupati on November 14, 2021, which was presided over by Union Home Minister Shri Shah. Chief Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry, along with Lieutenant Governors of Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Administrator of Lakshadweep attended the meeting. In addition to Ministers from the Council's constituent States, the meeting was also attended by the Union Home Secretary, Secretary of the Inter-State Council, Chief Secretaries and other senior officials from respective States and Union Territories.

Shri Shah emphasised that the ancient culture, traditions and languages of South Indian States significantly contribute to India's cultural and historical richness. He asserted that India's development is linked to the invaluable contributions of the South Indian States.

Highlighting the diversity of Indian culture, Shri Shah praised the languages and traditions of South India, noting that their appeal lies not only in India but globally as well. The Government, he stated, respects all regional languages in India, exemplified by the Southern Zonal Council meeting, which provided translation facilities for all languages spoken by the member states of the Council. ■

commitment to supporting farmers, the meeting decided that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) will now procure 100% pulses, oilseeds and maize from them across the country at a minimum support price (MSP).

During the meeting, it was decided to conduct a study supported by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to incorporate lac production into the revised weather-based crop insurance scheme. This initiative, accompanied by the issuance of Kisan Credit Cards, will prove beneficial for farmers engaged in lac production.

Earlier, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Central Zonal Council held in Bhopal on August 22, 2022, discussions included the incorporation of lac production into the Kisan Credit Card and Crop Insurance Scheme. Subsequently, the scale of finance for lac production has been established in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

In Bhopal, a decision was also made to set a benchmark price for Kodo and Kutki grain production, subsequently implemented through a Government of India order. It also determined to set the price for Kodo and Kutki produce based on the minimum support price of Ragi, a move expected to benefit lakhs of farmers nationwide,

# Vibrant Gujarat A Two-Decade-Old Journey Towards Global Prominence

Bureau

On the momentous occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Ahmedabad on September 27, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shared a remarkable journey that has transformed this state-based initiative into a truly global event. The Vibrant Gujarat Summit, which began on September 28, 2003, under his visionary leadership as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, has now evolved into one of India's premier business summits.

Addressing the event, the Prime Minister reminisced about the seeds sown two decades ago that have since blossomed into a magnificent and diverse event. He expressed his joy in participating in this landmark celebration, emphasising that the summit is not just a branding exercise, but a testament to the unbreakable bond between him and the seven crore people of Gujarat.

Prime Minister Shri Modi took the audience on a journey back in time, recalling the challenging circumstances Gujarat faced in the early 2000s. The region had been struck by a devastating earthquake in 2001, compounded by prolonged drought conditions and the collapse of the Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank, leading to a ripple effect in other cooperative banks.

These challenges were further exacerbated by the tragic Godhra train burning incident, which triggered violence in the state. However, despite his relative inexperience as Chief Minister at the time, Shri Modi displayed faith in Gujarat and its resilient people. He recalled facing a wave of agenda-driven criticism aimed at tarnishing Gujarat's image.

"I took a pledge that whatever be the circumstances, I will take Gujarat out of this situation. We were not just thinking about reconstruction, but were also



When we started Vibrant Gujarat, our intention was to make the State the growth engine for the country's progress. That vision has now become a reality.

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

planning for its future", said the Prime Minister. Under his leadership, Vibrant Gujarat became a vehicle for rejuvenating the spirit of the state and forging connections with the world. The summit not only showcased the State Government's decisive and focused approach to the world, but also highlighted the immense industrial potential of India.

The summit's journey, as explained by the Prime Minister, speaks volumes of its success. What began with just a few hundred participants in 2003 has now grown to include over 40,000 participants from 135 countries, with the number of exhibitors surging from 30 to more than 2,000. ■

# New Landmark for Viksit Bharat

Bureau

**I**ndia has witnessed multiple milestones in terms of infrastructure development, with each new project reflecting the country's commitment to modernisation and growth. A recent testament to this dedication is the inauguration of Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre – Yashobhoomi on September 17, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Dwarka, New Delhi.

The magnificent facility promises to elevate the capital city into the foremost hub of conference tourism, a clear realisation of the Prime Minister's vision of 'Skill, Speed and Scale'. In his address at the inauguration event, Prime Minister Shri Modi celebrated the impressive

progress that India has made in various sectors, emphasising how projects such as the Bharat Mandapam had garnered international attention.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the new convention centre has been built on this tradition of magnificence and asserted that any event hosted here would inevitably achieve success and recognition.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the 'shramiks' in the construction of Yashobhoomi. He dedicated the facility to every worker in the country, emphasising that Yashobhoomi would connect their creations with the global market. ■

## Aspirational Block

**P**rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched a unique and transformative week-long initiative called 'Sankalp Saptah' at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on September 30, marking a significant milestone in the Aspirational Blocks Programme journey. The 'Sankalp Saptah' initiative embodies the spirit of 'Sabka Prayas', where everyone's efforts are aligned towards a common goal. Prime Minister Modi emphasised that it is not just a week-long programme; it symbolises a pact for success, encapsulated in 'Sankalp se Siddhi'. Highlighting the remarkable impact of the Aspirational District Programme, the Prime Minister stated that it has already transformed the lives of approximately 25 crore people across 112 districts. The ADP's success laid the foundation for the Aspirational Blocks programme. This transformative endeavour has received global recognition and acclaim, not only due to its unprecedented nature but also because of the extraordinary individuals dedicated to its success.

'Sankalp Saptah' is linked to the effective implementation of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). Launched nationwide on January 7, this initiative has set its sights on better governance at the block level to elevate the quality of life for all citizens. ■





# Empowerment through Employment



## Bureau

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi distributed 51,000 appointment letters to job seekers via video conferencing as part of the national Rozgar Mela held on September 26. The recruits, who belonged to diverse backgrounds from across the nation, are set to join various Ministries and Departments of the Central Government.

The Rozgar Mela unfolded at 46 locations across the country and stands as a testament to the Government's resolute commitment to prioritise employment generation. It is not just a celebration of the individual achievements of the newly appointed candidates, but also a symbol of hope and opportunity for the youth, thereby empowering them and actively engaging them in national development.

With an emphasis on the significance of hard work and dedication, the Prime Minister congratulated the successful candidates. As the nation celebrated Ganesh Utsav, he described the moment as the arrival of Shri Ganesh — the harbinger of new beginnings for these appointees.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also recognised the remarkable accomplishments of these individuals and expressed confidence that their dedication to public service would lead the country to achieve its goals.

The Prime Minister highlighted the Government's recent historic achievements, notably the Narishakti Vandan Adhinyam, which will empower women in the Parliament. The law marked a momentous victory, as it resolved the long-standing issue of women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. He

The Government's policies are rooted in a fresh perspective, continuous monitoring, mission-oriented execution and active public engagement, contributing to the realisation of important goals.

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

emphasised that this decision heralded a new era for the nation. Acknowledging the significant presence of women among the new recruits, the Prime Minister celebrated the success of 'Nari-shakti' (women power) and reiterated the Government's commitment to foster opportunities for their growth.

The Prime Minister articulated the dreams of a New India as a resolve to achieve the status of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047. He underlined that in the next few years, the nation will become the third-largest economy in the world and Government employees will have a lot to contribute in the coming times. He also emphasised the role of technology in governance, exemplifying the positive impact of various digital initiatives — from Aadhaar card to online railway reservations — in combating corruption and enhancing efficiency.

Prime Minister Shri Modi reiterated the importance of the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal' and asked the new recruits to give highest priority to teamwork. ■

# Addressing Pendency

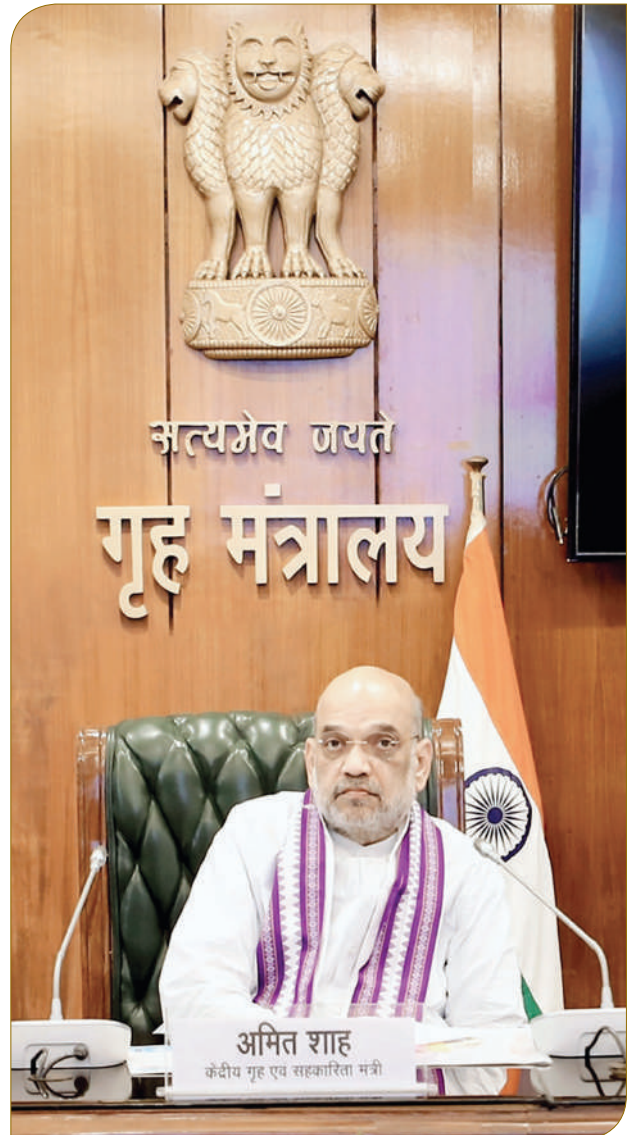
Bureau

**I**n a concerted effort to streamline Government operations and enhance efficiency, the Ministry of Home Affairs embarked on a remarkable journey to reduce the pendency of cases within its departments. This unique initiative, which spanned from November 2022 to August 2023, sought to address pending matters and create a more responsive and organised administrative framework. During this period, the Union Home Ministry also executed a staggering 3,438 cleanliness drives across various locations, with a particular focus on public contact areas and the immediate surroundings of Government offices. The commitment to cleanliness extended beyond the physical environment, as the Ministry diligently addressed a wide range of pending cases and references.

During this period, the Ministry successfully disposed of 632 Member of Parliament (MP) references, 37 Parliamentary assurances, six Cabinet proposals, 213 State Government references and 47 Prime Minister's Office (PMO) references. This colossal effort was further complemented by the resolution of 38,550 public complaints and 4,159 public grievance appeals, showcasing a significant reduction in the backlog of cases.

A remarkable feat was the freeing of 25,504 square feet of space that was lying vacant within Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) offices, showing the drive's comprehensive approach to streamline Government infrastructure and operations. Additionally, a cutting-edge inter-ministry portal was introduced to facilitate efficient coordination across the Ministry, enabling the real time sharing of campaign related data among its various divisions.

Building on the tremendous success of previous campaigns, the Ministry of Home Affairs is actively participating in a Special Campaign 3.0, organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public



**These campaigns are not just about administrative efficiency. They also signify that the Union Government is committed to positive change, responding to the evolving needs of its citizens and driving a more sustainable future.**

Grievances (DARPG). This campaign, spanning from September 15 to September 30 for preparation and from October 2 to October 31 for implementation, underscores the Ministry's commitment to creating sustainable and environmentally friendly workplaces. ■

# A Historic Stride towards Gender Equality



**The significance of September 19, 2023, will be etched in the history of the Indian Parliament. On this auspicious day, which coincided with Ganesh Chaturthi, a historic milestone was achieved as the new Parliament House commenced its proceedings for the first time. Simultaneously, a long-pending bill that grants reservation rights to women was introduced.**

## Bureau

**T**he Parliament witnessed a historic moment on September 19, as it commenced its session on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. It marked an epochal day when the Lok Sabha initiated discussions on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, a bill with the potential to rewrite the narrative of gender equality in India.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, played a pivotal role in this milestone event, one that will be etched in golden letters in India's parliamentary history.

While participating in the discussion on Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in the Lok Sabha on September 20, Shri Shah expressed profound gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the significant act of acknowledging and honouring women who constitute 50% of India's 140 crore population. This monumental step is an example of the Government's commitment to women's empowerment.

The bill, a constitutional amendment, reserved one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women across the country. This transformative legislation marks the culmination of a long-standing struggle for women's rights and paves the way for

women to actively participate in policy making.

The Home Minister emphasised that Prime Minister Shri Modi has been at the forefront of a movement that champions 'women-led development'. This vision was presented to the world during the recent G20 Summit, and with the passage of this bill, a new era is set to dawn. Women in India will not only be participants in shaping policies, but also instrumental in defining them, he said.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, women's safety, respect and equal participation have been at the heart of this Government's agenda. Shri Shah recalled that when Prime Minister Shri Modi took office in 2014, a significant portion of the population, roughly 70 crore people, lacked bank accounts. In response, the Jan-Dhan Yojana was launched, leading to the opening of 52 crore bank accounts, with 70% of them held in the names of women.

Shri Shah emphasised that this bill is designed to ensure women's active participation in decision-making and policy formulation, recognising that women are no less empowered than men. He underscored the Government's commitment to rectify societal flaws, elevate women's participation and pay them the respect they deserve. ■





## Forging Connections

### Bureau

**T**he Government of India is actively working to enhance the security of the India-Nepal border. In this regard, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, visited Araria in Bihar, with the aim of bolstering security measures and to strengthen the socio-cultural ties between the two nations. During his visit, he also inaugurated a residential colony for Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) jawans at the integrated check post in Jogbani on September 16.

Shri Shah emphasised that the Land Ports Authority would also serve as an ambassador for Indian culture and commerce. He acknowledged border related challenges faced by the country and assured that both the Central and State Governments would collaboratively address these issues without resorting to contentious actions.

According to the Union Home Minister, the integrated check post at Jogbani on the India-Nepal border facilitates approximately ₹10,500 crore in trade with Nepal, constituting 14% of the total trade volume between the two nations. Additionally, he mentioned that the Land Ports Authority has identified 19 land custom stations along the India-Nepal border, with 11 of them located in Bihar. There has been a notable increase in coordination, cooperation, and collaboration

The dedicated personnel who take care of India's border security have not only secured the borders but also strengthened the cultural identity of the villages located in the border areas and their connection with India.

**Shri Amit Shah**  
Union Home Minister and  
Minister of Cooperation

at these check posts situated on the India-Nepal border.

The Union Home Minister emphasised that India shares an extensive land border of more than 15,000 kilometres with neighbouring countries. This border serves as a valuable conduit not only for trade expansion, but also for strengthening cultural, social, and trade relations with neighbouring nations. He also underscored the proactive steps taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to enhance the efficiency of the Land Ports Authority of India. Over the next five years, all agencies under this authority are expected to serve as cultural and commercial envoys along India's border with neighbouring countries. ■



# A Pillar of Self-Reliance in Pharmaceutical Sector

Bureau

**U**nder the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, significant work has been done in the healthcare sector in the last nine years. Whether it is the Ayushman Bharat scheme or increasing the number of seats in medical colleges across the country, the Prime Minister has worked relentlessly to strengthen the healthcare sector.

According to the vision of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) is working as a bridge to connect knowledge, education, research and business in the pharmaceutical sector to make India self-reliant.

On September 30, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the permanent campus of NIPER in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He stated that NIPER, Gandhinagar, should aim to become a top institution in the field of research in the world. He mentioned that NIPER has already established itself as a centre of excellence and in the coming days, it will continue to grow.

Spread over 60 acres of land, NIPER-Gandhinagar will make a significant contribution to the entire world in making human life healthy and holistic. For the past three years, NIPER-Gandhinagar has been ranked among the top 10 pharmacy institutions in the country and with the construction of the new campus, it is poised to secure the first place. Prime Minister Shri Modi has allocated ₹2,200 crore for the construction of the state-of-the-art laboratory

In accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, NIPER is laying the foundation of making India self-reliant in the pharmaceutical sector by becoming a bridge connecting knowledge, education, research and business.

**Shri Amit Shah**  
Union Home Minister and  
Minister of Cooperation

at NIPER-Gandhinagar, which will help the students of the institution to progress further in the field of research in the upcoming days.

Shri Shah commended the significant achievements of NIPER students, including over 380 patents and more than 7,000 research papers. “The Government’s substantial allocation of ₹2,200 crore for a state-of-the-art laboratory at NIPER Gandhinagar reaffirms its commitment to foster cutting-edge research and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector”, he said.

NIPER has established itself as a key player and has signed 270 MoUs with the pharmaceutical sector. This gives NIPER the ability to bridge the realms of knowledge and business and exemplifies its pivotal role in propelling India towards self-reliance in the pharmaceutical sector. ■



# Selfless Service

The Central Government remains committed to its mission of serving people with strong leadership and visionary thinking. The Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs diligently fulfil their responsibilities, leading to a growing sense of trust and increasing public participation in the initiatives of the Union Government.

## Bureau

**O**n September 29, Shri Nityanand Rai, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, took part in a two-day conference held in Palermo, Italy, marking the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. He stressed on the importance of international cooperation in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call, emphasising that global threats necessitate a unified response. India is in its resolve to combat and eradicate all forms of organised crime, recognising the significant global challenge it presents and acknowledges the need for collective action to address the issue.

On September 28, at the historic 'Char Bhinti' memorial site in Satara city, Maharashtra, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Mishra, participated in the nationwide 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' initiative, inspired by Prime Minister Shri Modi.

During the event, the Minister distributed 'Amrit Kalash' and collected soil from this sacred location dedicated to the memory of freedom fighters. A day earlier, the Union Minister engaged with the public and media in Satara, discussing potential solutions to community issues.

On September 26, during an employment fair where the Prime Minister was distributing appointment letters to young candidates, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nisith Pramanik also attended the event. He highlighted the Prime Minister's commitment to empowering the youth. A day earlier, Shri Pramanik visited Port Blair in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He paid tribute to our freedom fighters and honoured their unyielding spirit at the 'Swatantrata Jyoti' in the Cellular Jail. He praised their dedication for India's Independence and hailed them as symbols of enduring courage. ■





# Modi Government Pioneers the Principles of Federalism

In the wake of the reorganisation of States under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, five Zonal Councils were created with the basic objective to promote cooperation and coordination among States. The move was also intended to provide a meeting ground for States in different zones for solving inter-State problems and fostering a balanced socio-economic development.

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, is the ex-officio Chairman of the Zonal Councils. I had the privilege of holding the office of the rotational Vice-Chairmanship of the Central Zonal Council at its 24th meeting held on October 7, 2023, at Narendra Nagar in Uttarakhand.

Zonal Councils can advise the Central Government and the States concerned on the actions to be taken on any related matter. Each Zonal Council has also set up a Standing Committee consisting of the Chief Secretaries of the States for monitoring implementation of its recommendations as also for screening and scrutinising agenda items. The meetings of the Standing Committees of Zonal Councils are regularly convened to scrutinise and provide official resolution to the agenda items meant for consideration of the Zonal Councils.

The institution of Zonal Councils has been strengthened since 2014. The number of meetings, as well as the regularity of the meetings of Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees, has increased significantly. Under the chairmanship of Shri Shah, the discussions have also become more productive, result-oriented and fruitful since 2019.

The Zonal Councils have not just been able to resolve most of the issues being placed before them for consideration, the number of issues discussed and resolved, and the rate of resolution have also increased significantly.

In the Narendra Nagar meeting of the Central Zonal Council hosted by the Government of Uttarakhand, a total of 16 issues were discussed out of which nine were resolved in this meeting itself. The issues resolved included items such as fixing of minimum support price (MSP) of kodo and kutki crops, inclusion of lac



Pushkar Singh Dhama

farming in Kisan Credit Card (KCC), review of Doon Valley notification, review of market fees, farmers' welfare fee and review of mandi labour charge under decentralised procurement scheme, finalisation of expenses of wheat and rice distributed in central pool, permission for diversion of forest land and allowing construction work on forest land in left-wing extremism

affected areas, etc.

Apart from the issues being sponsored by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and Central Ministries/Departments for consideration of the Zonal Councils, they are also sensitising and pursuing the States for effective delivery of several matters of national priority. These include coverage of all villages with brick-and-mortar bank branches/India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) touch-points, implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children and implementation of the Scheme of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases. From the current year, three new items of high national priority are also being discussed in these meetings. These include (1) addressing malnutrition among children through Poshan Abhiyan, (2) curtailing school drop-out rate and (3) performance of public hospitals under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY).

Many complex matters and policy issues of Zonal Councils, including of the Central Zone have been discussed and resolved and mutual cooperation between States has been strengthened. The meetings of Zonal Councils are a bridge for mutual cooperation between the Centre and the States and are also a powerful platform to share ideas and experiences and find solutions to problems.

I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for his vision that has brought together all the States and Union Territories of our country on the common theme of 'Competitive and Cooperative Federalism' and with a powerful vision of a developed India through 'Amrit Kal' by 2047.

**(The writer is Chief Minister of Uttarakhand)**



On September 24, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the concluding session of the International Lawyers Conference-2023 organised by the Bar Council of India at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

On September 17, Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, participated as the chief guest in the Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations in Telangana. Additionally, he virtually laid the foundation stone of 48 Type-KKK family houses of Sashastra Seema Bal, Ibrahimpatnam, at a cost of ₹20 crore.



The security of the under-construction Ram Temple in the historic city of Ayodhya was inspected by Shri SL Thaoson, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force. He commended the dedication of the CRPF jawans responsible for safeguarding the site. During the visit, he engaged in discussions with the Inspector General of Police and various officials.

The personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal underwent an intensive training programme aimed at demonstrating their resilience in challenging situations. The achievements of these training centres within Sashastra Seema Bal are showcased to the entire nation through BPR&D's 'Police aur Seva' YouTube channel.



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### 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.



India has impressed the world not only in times of crisis, but also in times of celebration. The diversity of this great nation was showcased during the G20 events that were held in more than 60 cities and during the G20 Summit in New Delhi. This is the true power of cooperative federalism.

**Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



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