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PM ATTENDS PROGRAM MARKING NAVY DAY 2023 CELEBRATIONS IN SINDHUDURG, MAHARASHTRA

Relevant for: null | Topic: Miscellaneous Facts

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended the program marking 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg. He also witnessed the 'Operational Demonstrations' by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from Tarkarli beach, Sindhudurg. Shri Modi inspected the guard of honor.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that the historic day of 4th December along the magnificent fort of Sindhudurg on the coast of Malvan, Tarkarli, the splendor of Veer Shivaji Maharaj and the inauguration of his spectacular statue at Rajkot Fort along with the roars of the Indian Navy has filled every citizen of India with passion and enthusiasm. Shri Modi conveyed his best wishes on the occasion of Navy Day and bowed before the brave hearts who laid down their lives for the country.

Prime Minister Modi said that it is indeed a moment of unprecedented pride to celebrate Navy Day from the victorious land of Sindhudurg. "The Sindhudurg Fort instills a feeling of pride in every citizen of India", the Prime Minister said as he underlined Shivaji Maharaj's foresight in recognizing the importance of naval capabilities for any nation. Reiterating Shivaji Maharaj's acclamation that those who have control over the seas hold the ultimate power, the Prime Minister said that he had drafted a powerful navy. He also bowed before warriors like Kanhoji Angre, Mayaji Naik Bhatkar and Hiroji Indulkar, and said that they remain an inspiration even today.

Inspired by the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Prime Minister said, the India of today is moving forward abandoning the slavery mentality. He expressed happiness that the epaulettes donned by the Naval Officers will now highlight the heritage and legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as the new epaulettes will be similar to the naval ensign. He also recalled unveiling the Naval Ensign last year. With the feeling of taking pride in one's heritage, the Prime Minister announced that the Indian Navy is now going to name its ranks in line with Indian traditions. He also emphasized strengthening Nari Shakti in the armed forces. Shri Modi congratulated the Indian Navy on the appointment of India's first woman commanding officer in a naval ship.

The Prime Minister said that the trust of 140 crore Indians is the biggest strength as India is setting big goals and working to achieve them with full determination. The Prime Minister said that a glimpse of positive outcomes of unity of resolutions, emotions and aspirations are visible as people of the diverse states are being driven by the spirit of 'nation first'. "Today, the country has taken inspiration from history and is busy preparing a roadmap for a bright future. People have pledged to move forward in every field by defeating the politics of negativity. This pledge will take us towards a developed India", he added.

Reflecting on India's widespread history, the Prime Minister emphasized that it is not about slavery, defeats and disappointments alone, but also comprises the glorious chapters of India's victories, courage, knowledge and science, art and creative skills, and India's maritime capabilities. He highlighted India's capabilities by giving the example of forts like Sindhudurg which were erected when technology and resources were next to none. He mentioned the heritage of the Indus Valley Civilization port found in Lothal, Gujarat and the docking of more than 80 ships in the port of Surat. The Prime Minister credited India's maritime strength for the

expansion of trade to countries of South East Asia by the Chola Empire. Lamenting that it was the maritime power of India that first came under attack by foreign powers, the Prime Minister said that India which was famous for making boats and ships, lost control of the sea and thereby lost strategic-economic strength. As India is moving towards development, the Prime Minister emphasized regaining the lost glory and highlighted the government's unprecedented impetus to the Blue Economy. He mentioned the port-led development under 'Sagarmala' and said that India is moving towards harnessing the full potential of its oceans under the 'Maritime Vision'. He informed that the government has made new rules to promote merchant shipping, leading to the number of seafarers in India increasing by more than 140 percent in the last 9 years.

Emphasizing the importance of the present time, the Prime Minister said, "This is that period of India's history, which is going to write the future not just of 5-10 years but for the coming centuries." He informed that in the last 10 years, India became 5th largest economy from 10th place and rapidly moving towards 3rd spot. "The World is seeing the rise of a 'Vishwa Mitra (friend of the world) in India", Shri Modi said measures like India Middle East European Corridor will recreate the lost spice route. He also touched upon the strength of Made in India and illustrated that with the mention of Tejas, Kisan Drone, UPI system and Chandrayaan-3. Self-reliance in defence is also visible by the imminent start of production of transport aircraft, aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

Reiterating the government's approach of treating the coastal and border villages as the first villages instead of the last, Shri Modi said "Today, it is the priority of the Central Government to improve the life of every family living on the coastal areas." He mentioned the creation of the separate fisheries ministry in 2019 and 40 thousand crore rupees investment in the sector. He informed that after 2014 fishery production increased by 8 percent and exports increased by 110 percent. Furthermore, insurance cover for the farmers has been increased from 2 to 5 lakh and they are getting the benefit of the Kisan Credit Card.

Concerning the value chain development in the fisheries sector, the Prime Minister said that the Sagarmala Scheme is strengthening modern connectivity in the coastal areas. Lakhs of crore rupees are being spent on this and new business and industry will come to the coastal areas. Seafood processing-related industry and modernization of the fishing boats are also being undertaken.

"Konkan is a region of unprecedented possibilities", the Prime Minister said. Highlighting the government's commitment to the development of the region, the Prime Minister mentioned the inauguration of medical colleges in Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Alibaug, Parbhani and Dharashiv, operations of Chipi Airport, and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor connecting till Mangaon. The Prime Minister also mentioned special schemes being drafted for the cashew farmers here. He underlined the government's priority is to safeguard the residential areas situated on the sea coast. In this effort, he mentioned the emphasis being laid on expanding the scope of mangroves. Prime Minister Modi informed that the many sites of Maharashtra including Malvan, Achara-Ratnagiri, and Devgarh-Vijaydurg have been selected for mangrove management.

"Heritage as well as development, this is our path to a developed India", the Prime Minister underlined. He said that central and state governments are determined to preserve the forts and forts built during the period of Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji Maharaj where hundreds of crores of rupees are being spent on the conservation of these heritages in the entire Maharashtra including Konkan. The Prime Minister stated that it would also increase tourism in the area and create new employment and self-employment opportunities.

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Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Eknath Shinde, the Union Minister of Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Shri Narayan Rane, Deputy Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Shri Ajit Pawar, Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar among others were present on the occasion.

Background

Navy Day is celebrated on 4th December every year. 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg pay homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, whose seal inspired the new Naval Ensign which was adopted last year when the Prime Minister commissioned the first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

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Salute to our Navy personnel for their steadfast dedication and indomitable spirit in safeguarding the Motherland. <https://t.co/8d7vwqcQAF>

India salutes the dedication of our navy personnel. <pic.twitter.com/OZKj7TJOQL>

Veer Chhatrapati Maharaj knew the importance of having a strong naval force. <pic.twitter.com/GjnNXRJvOi>

<pic.twitter.com/flfEk4nmOu>

We are committed to increasing the strength of our women in the armed forces. <pic.twitter.com/YbqCx8aVSK>

Today, India is setting impressive targets. <pic.twitter.com/m7Q8TYt2GE>

India has a glorious history of victories, bravery, knowledge, sciences, skills and our naval strength. <pic.twitter.com/CTKWYrqEA3>

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Veer Chhatrapati Maharaj knew the importance of having a strong naval force. <pic.twitter.com/GjnNXRJvOi>

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We are committed to increasing the strength of our women in the armed forces. <pic.twitter.com/YbqCx8aVSK>

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STATUS OF PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Ministry of Jal Shakti provided technical support, and partial financial assistance under its ongoing schemes to the identified water resources projects to the State Governments. Further, techno-economic appraisal of major and medium irrigation projects on inter-state river systems is to be undertaken by Central Water Commission under this Ministry. However, planning, implementation and operation & maintenance of water resources projects lies in the domain of the State Government concerned.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. It is an umbrella scheme, consisting of two major components being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub-components: (i) Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM); (ii) Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI); (iii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies; and (iv) Ground Water (GW) Development. In addition, PMKSY has Watershed Development (WD) component which is being implemented by Department of Land Resources. Further, during the period 2015-22, Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component was also being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) under PMKSY.

Further, in December, 2021, implementation of PMKSY for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been approved by Government of India. However, Ground Water component under PMKSY-HKKP has provisionally been accorded for 2021-22, which was extended subsequently till completion of ongoing works and liabilities. Also, Per Drop More Crop component, which was earlier a component of PMKSY, is now being implemented separately by DoA&FW.

Apart from PMKSY, financial assistance is also being provided by this Ministry for creation/stabilization of irrigation potential for the identified water resources projects under National project scheme, and also as special projects. These include Lakhwar multipurpose project, Shahpur Kandi dam project, Polavaram (National) irrigation project, Relining of identified stretches of Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind Feeder of Punjab, North Koel reservoir project and Ken-Betwa river interlinking project.

In addition, in July, 2018, Government of India has approved a special package for Maharashtra whereby financial assistance is being provided to 83 surface minor irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 major / medium irrigation projects in drought prone districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra.

The quantum of central grants released to the States under different components of PMKSY since 2016-17 is tabulated below.

Component of PMKSY

Central assistance (CA) released during 2016-23 (Rs. in crore)

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme with pari passu implementation of Command Area Development & Water Management

18,727.78

Har Khet Ko Pani – Surface Minor Irrigation and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies

4,010.32

Har Khet Ko Pani – Ground Water Development

764.89

Per Drop More Crop

16,688.71

Watershed Development

9,559.07

Total

49,750.77

Number of targeted beneficiaries under different components of PMKSY is estimated to be about 2.68 crore. However, so far no project has been proposed by Government of Puducherry for inclusion under any component of PMKSY.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under this Ministry has in partnership with Indo-European Water Partnership, developed a National Framework for reuse of treated water. The framework has been made available in public domain through the NMCG website. It is meant to develop suitable market and business models for reuse of treated water.

Further, the framework identifies agriculture as a potential area where reuse of treated water can be explored. It envisages and promotes adoption of safer irrigation practices towards use of treated water by farmers in peri-urban and rural areas.

However, so far no project involving reuse of treated water is being provided financial assistance by this Ministry under PMKSY.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Jal Shakti, **Shri** Bishweswar Tudu in a written reply in **Rajya Sabha** today.

AS

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UNION MINISTER SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR TO INAUGURATE FIRST-EVER KHELO INDIA PARA GAMES 2023

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur will inaugurate the Khelo India Para Games 2023 in New Delhi tomorrow.

More than 1400 players from 32 states and Union Territories and Services Sports Board are participating in these Games between December 10 and 17 at three venues in New Delhi.

The opening ceremony will be held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall located at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex . The Delhi Police band will showcase a grand performance during the ceremony, followed by a peppy ensemble by dance artists of 'We Are One' group who will perform on '*Mitti Mein Mil Jawa*' and '*Vande Mataram*.'

The Games anthem track will set the ball rolling at the opening ceremony while an LED dance performance on the theme 'Evolution of Para Games' is set to entice the audience. There will also be a special performance put together by SAI officials for the opening ceremony.

The cultural program will conclude with the performance of 'United by Sports' and there will also be a special message from the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for all the participants.

The central government's aim behind organizing the Khelo India Para Games is to empower all para athletes. The government has initiated several key projects for the welfare of the physically challenged. The inaugural Khelo India Para Games is being organized at three venues – Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range. Competition will be held in seven para sports –athletics, shooting, archery, football, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting. Some of India's top international para stars like Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ashok, Pramod Bhagat among others will participate.

After the immense success of Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games, now Khelo India Para Games is being organized and there is an atmosphere of celebration in the national capital regarding Khelo India Para Games being organized for the first time. This week-long sports festival will be a symbol of inclusivity as well as celebrate human dignity.

PPG/SK

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The central government's aim behind organizing the Khelo India Para Games is to empower all para athletes. The government has initiated several key projects for the welfare of the physically challenged. The inaugural Khelo India Para Games is being organized at three venues – Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Karni Singh Shooting Range. Competition will be held in seven para sports –athletics, shooting, archery, football, badminton, table tennis and weightlifting. Some of India's top international para stars like Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ashok, Pramod Bhagat among others will participate.

After the immense success of Khelo India Youth Games and Khelo India University Games, now Khelo India Para Games is being organized and there is an atmosphere of celebration in the national capital regarding Khelo India Para Games being organized for the first time. This week-long sports festival will be a symbol of inclusivity as well as celebrate human dignity.

PPG/SK

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YOUTH FOR UNNATI AND VIKAS WITH AI (YUVAI) TO FEATURE IN GPAI SUMMIT 2023

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

YUVAi-Youth for Unnati and Vikas with AI'- a collaborative initiative of National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Intel India, is set to be prominently featured at the upcoming Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit. This programme, designed to equip the youth with essential AI skills, has garnered attention for its innovative approach and commitment to enabling a future-ready workforce.

YUVAi is aimed to foster a deeper understanding of AI, to enable school students from class 8 to 12 across the nation with AI skills and empower them to become human-centric designers and users of AI. The GPAI Summit, a global platform bringing together leaders, policymakers and experts in the field of AI, is scheduled here from December 12-14, 2023. It will provide an ideal stage for YUVAi to showcase its impact and significance. As the world witnesses the transformative power of AI, YUVAi stands as an encouraging light, guiding the next generation towards responsibly using AI to solve myriad social challenges.

Key Updates and Features of YUVAi Programme:

YUVAi will be represented at the GPAI Summit with its Top 10 finalists showcasing their AI-based social impact projects. As the GPAI Summit unfolds, YUVAi aims to inspire policymakers, educators, and industry leaders to collaborate in creating a future where AI is not just a tool but a force for positive change.

DK/DK/SMP

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AWARDS FOR WORDS: ON THE SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Prizes and Related Facts

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Literary borders should be porous and the [Sahitya Akademi awards](#), which have been honouring writers of 24 Indian languages down the years, should be seen in that light. This year the Akademi has picked nine books of poems, six novels, five short stories, three essays and one literary study in Dogri, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Manipuri, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Santali and others. It is a prize to be welcomed just for the sheer linguistic diversity it acknowledges in a country where there is a change in dialect every few square kilometres, and no dearth of marginalised communities or languages facing extinction. The possibilities are immense: in a country where not everyone has the ability to whip up a PR frenzy, a Sahitya Akademi award is encouragement to keep pursuing the craft; writers can expect to see a rise in sales and be taught in schools and universities; and readers can hope to discover some hidden gems. Writers also have the opportunity to be translated into other regional languages, and into English too. Neelum Saran Gour, who has won this year for her English novel, *Requiem in Raga Janki*, which had also bagged [The Hindu Fiction Prize in 2018](#), can look forward to her story being translated into other Indian languages.

However, it is a pity that the Sahitya Akademi awards, first conferred in 1955, do not have top-of-the-mind recall such as the Booker Prize or the Pulitzer. The National Academy of Letters was established in 1954 and its stated goal was to be “the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English”. To that end, the Sahitya Akademi does hold lectures, readings, discussions, exchange programmes, and workshops, including all communities, but it is so woefully promoted that few get to know of the programmes. Though the Sahitya Akademi award is the pinnacle, there are other awards such as the Bal Sahitya award, the Yuva Puraskar and the Bhasha Samman or translation prize. But not enough is being done to promote its activities. The Akademi’s website is not updated and is bristling with grammatical errors; its social media presence is abysmal. It has brought out thousands of books, but the fact is that the publications, though affordable, are hard to come by. At a time when children particularly are glued to screens and losing their reading habits, the Sahitya Akademi with its extensive network should do more to spread the word about India’s rich literary tradition.

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DR. JITENDRA SINGH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS TO INAUGURATE GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY ON 25TH DECEMBER, 2023

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Schemes & Programmes of the Government

Department of Personnel and Training is going to celebrate Good Governance Day on 25th December, 2023.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India will launch and inaugurate the Good Governance Day at North Block, New Delhi.

On this special occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh will Launch 3 new features on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform: **My iGOT, Blended Programs, and Curated Programs.**

My iGOT delivers targeted training courses on home page of individual officer that directly address the unique capacity building needs of the officer as identified in the Capacity-Building Plan for their Ministries/Departments thereby facilitating a highly personalized, focused and targeted capacity-building experience thereby ensuring a perfect fit between the individual and organizational learning needs. More than 28 lakh users have on boarded the platform till now with about 830 high quality e-learning courses being made available on the platform.

Blended Programs on iGOT-Karmayogi platform will facilitate equitable access to training methodologies across all levels to meet dynamic training needs of the officials. Blended Programs integrate traditional offline (in person) classroom courses with online learning components. It enables officers and faculty to leverage the flexibility and convenience of online courses while retaining the invaluable benefits of face-to-face classroom interactions.

Curated Programs on iGOT Karmayogi are designed to cater to diverse learning needs of the Ministries/Departments and Training Institutions. The Course Providers will be able to curate relevant content, resources, and assessments from the repository of iGOT with a Programmatic approach to provide a tailored learning journey.

On this special day, Dr. Jitendra Singh will also launch 12 domain specific capacity building e-learning courses developed in a span of two months as part of Annual Capacity Building Plan (ACBP) of the DOPT by Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab (KDLL) of DOPT. KDLL was inaugurated by the Hon'ble MoS (PP) in August 2021 to develop e-learning courses to build the capacity of the civil servants. Annual Capacity Building Plan for DOPT was launched on 27th Sept. 2023 by the Hon'ble Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. These 12 courses will not only directly address the domain competency requirements of the Civil Servants working in DOPT, but also help the other Government organisations in handling the functional matters on a day to day basis in an effective manner.

Dr. Jitendra Singh will also launch a new blended learning programme named VIKAS

(Variable & Immersive Karmayogi Advanced Support) meant for capacity building of Middle management civil servants in Central Secretariat. VIKAS is a blended programme with iGOT consisting of 33 hours complemented by 30 hours of offline training at ISTM with focuses on development of functional, behavioral and technological competencies required in Central Government.

SNC/PK

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PM RELEASES 'COLLECTED WORKS OF PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA' ON OCCASION OF HIS 162ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Relevant for: null | Topic: Important Places & Personalities (World & India)

On the occasion of the 162nd birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released the first series of 11 volumes of 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya', at a program in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today. Shri Modi also paid floral tributes to Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya. The illustrious founder of Banaras Hindu University, Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya occupies a leading place among the makers of modern India. He is remembered as an outstanding scholar and freedom fighter who worked immensely to raise national consciousness among people.

The Prime Minister began his address by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. He underlined that today's occasion is a festival of inspiration for the people who believe in Bharat and Bharatiyata as today marks Atal Jayanti and the birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. Prime Minister Modi bowed before the Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and Former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He also noted the celebrations of Good Governance Day on the occasion of Atal Jayanti and conveyed his best wishes to every citizen of India.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of the collected works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya for the young generation and research scholars. He said that the collected works will shed light on BHU-related issues, Mahamana's dialogue with Congress leadership, and his attitude towards the British leadership. The volume related to the diary of the Mahamana, said PM Modi, can guide the people of the country in the dimensions of society, nation and spiritualism. The Prime Minister acknowledged the hard work of the team behind the collected work and congratulated the Ministry of I&B, Mahamana Malaviya Mission and Shri Ram Bahadur Rai.

"Personalities like Mahamana are born once in centuries and their impact can be witnessed on several future generations", the Prime Minister remarked as he said that he was on par with the greatest scholars of his time in terms of knowledge and capability. "Mahamana was a confluence of modern thinking and Sanatan culture", he added. PM Modi underlined that he made equal contributions to the freedom struggle as well as reviving the spiritual soul of the nation. He had one eye on the present-day challenges and the second on futuristic developments while prioritizing national interests. The Prime Minister underlined that Mahamana fought for the country with the greatest force and sowed new seeds of possibilities even in the most difficult environment. He emphasized that many such contributions of Mahamana will now be revealed authentically through the 11 volumes of the complete book being launched today. "It is the privilege of our government to confer the Bharat Ratna upon Mahamana", he said. Shri Modi also noted that he, like Mahamana, got the opportunity to serve the people of Kashi. He recalled that his name was proposed by the family members of Malaviya ji when he came to contest the election from Kashi. He underlined that Mahamana had immense faith in Kashi and the city is touching new heights of development and restoring the glory of its heritage today.

The Prime Minister pointed out that in the Amrit Kaal, India is moving while shedding the mentality of slavery. Shri Modi said "You will feel the fragrance of Malviya ji's thoughts somewhere in the work of our governments also. Malviya ji has given us the vision of a nation in which its ancient soul remains safe and protected in its modern body." The Prime Minister noted

Malaviya ji's advocacy for education infused with Indian values and the creation of Banaras Hindu University, his advocacy of Indian languages. "Due to his efforts, the Nagari script came into use and Indian languages got respect. Today, these efforts of Malviya ji are also reflected in the new National Education Policy of the country", said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister said, "In making any nation strong, its institutions also have equal importance. Malviya ji created many such institutions in his life where national personalities were created." The Prime Minister mentioned, apart from BHU, Rishikul Brahmasharam in Haridwar, Bharti Bhawan Pustakalaya, Prayagraj, Sanatan Dharma Mahavidyalaya. PM Modi mentioned the series of institutions that are coming into existence under the current government such as Ministry of Cooperation, Ayush Ministry, WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine, Institute of Millet Research, Global Biofuel Alliance, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, DAKSHIN for Global South, India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor, In-Space and SAGAR in the field of Maritime. "India today is becoming the creator of many institutions of national and international importance. These institutions will work to give a new direction not only to 21st-century India but also to the 21st-century world", he said.

Drawing an analogy between the ideologies that influenced both Mahamana and Atal Ji, the Prime Minister recalled Atal Ji's words for Mahamana and said, "When a person sets out to do something without the government's assistance, Mahamana's personality and his work will illuminate his path like a beacon". He reiterated that the government is striving to achieve the dreams and aspirations of Malviya ji, Atal ji and every freedom fighter by giving emphasis to good governance. "Good governance means being service-centric rather than power-centric", Shri Modi continued, "Good governance is when policies are made with clear intentions and sensitivity and every deserving person gets his full rights without any discrimination." The Prime Minister underlined that the principle of good governance has become the identity of the present government today where its citizens need not run from pillar to post for basic facilities. Instead, the government is committed to last-mile delivery by reaching the doorsteps of the beneficiaries. Shri Modi touched upon the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which aims to achieve saturation of all government schemes. Highlighting the impact of 'Modi Ki Guarantee' vehicle, the Prime Minister informed about handing out crores of new Ayushman Cards to those who were left behind previously just within 40 days.

Stressing the role of honesty and transparency in good governance, the Prime Minister elaborated on scam-free governance despite spending lakhs of crores on welfare schemes. He mentioned expenditure of 4 lakh crore on free ration for the poor, 4 lakh crore rupees on pucca houses for the poor and more than 3 lakh crore for piped water in every household. "If every penny of an honest taxpayer is spent in the public interest and national interest, this is good governance. Good governance has resulted in 13.5 crore people coming out of poverty ", he added.

Stressing the importance of sensitivity and good governance, PM Modi said that the Aspirational District programme transformed 110 districts that were consigned to the darkness of backwardness. Now the same focus is being provided to the aspirational blocks, he said.

"When thinking and approach changes, the results also change", the Prime Minister said as he highlighted the Vibrant Village Scheme which gives priority to the development of border areas. He also highlighted the government's steadfast approach to providing relief work during natural calamities or emergencies and gave the example of relief measures during the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine War. "Change in governance is now changing the thinking of the society as well", the Prime Minister said as he highlighted the increased trust between the public and the government. "This trust is reflected in the country's self-confidence and becoming the energy for building a developed India in Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal", Shri Modi added.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stressed realizing the dream of a developed India in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal by considering the thoughts of Mahamana and Atal ji as the touchstone. He expressed confidence that every citizen of the country will contribute to the path of success with determination.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Secretary of Mahamana Malaviya Mission, Shri Prabhunaryan Shrivastav, and Chief Editor of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Sampurna Vangamay, Shri Rambahadur Rai among others were present on the occasion.

Background

In Amrit Kaal, it has been the Prime Minister's vision to bestow fitting recognition to freedom fighters who have contributed immensely to the service of the Nation. The 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya' is an endeavor in this direction.

The bilingual (English and Hindi) work in 11 volumes, spread across about 4,000 pages, is a collection of the writings and speeches of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, collected from every nook and corner of the country. These volumes comprise his unpublished letters, articles and speeches, including memorandums; the editorial content of Hindi weekly 'Abhyudaya' started by him in 1907; articles, pamphlets and booklets written by him from time to time; all speeches given in the Legislative Council of the United Provinces of Agra and Awadh between 1903 and 1910; statements given before the Royal Commission; speeches given during the presentation of bills in the Imperial Legislative Council between 1910 and 1920; letters, articles and speeches written before and after the establishment of Banaras Hindu University; and a diary written by him between 1923 and 1925.

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DS/TS

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The bilingual (English and Hindi) work in 11 volumes, spread across about 4,000 pages, is a collection of the writings and speeches of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, collected from every nook and corner of the country. These volumes comprise his unpublished letters, articles and speeches, including memorandums; the editorial content of Hindi weekly 'Abhyudaya' started by him in 1907; articles, pamphlets and booklets written by him from time to time; all speeches given in the Legislative Council of the United Provinces of Agra and Awadh between 1903 and 1910; statements given before the Royal Commission; speeches given during the presentation of bills in the Imperial Legislative Council between 1910 and 1920; letters, articles and speeches written before and after the establishment of Banaras Hindu University; and a diary written by him between 1923 and 1925.

The work of researching and compiling the documents written and spoken by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was undertaken by the Mahamana Malaviya Mission, an institution devoted to propagating the ideals and values of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. A dedicated team of the Mission, led by eminent journalist Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, has worked on Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's original literature without altering the language and text. The Publications Division under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has published these books.

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A CALL FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION THAT MUST BE HEEDED

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'People in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities are the most excluded and left behind, especially in times of crisis, as was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic' | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

It is almost a month since the International Day for Persons with Disabilities (December 3) passed. Yet, we must pause and consider the importance of novel and innovative solutions that enhance two important outcomes for the people affected, i.e., activities of daily life and quality of life. By calling for “transformative solutions that will lead to inclusive development, leaving no one behind”, the United Nations has shifted the focus back on innovations that reduce disability. In the important medical field of “neuropsychiatry” that straddles the brain-mind interface, there have been several treatment innovations with the potential to enhance outcomes — and the focus of this article.

Neuropsychiatric disorders are, by definition, disabling and present themselves across the lifespan. These range from autism, Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and intellectual disability in childhood (317 million), and to mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, eating disorder, addictions, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder through adolescence and adult life (167 million adolescents and 970 million people, globally), traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, epilepsy and headache across the lifespan, stroke, neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer’s dementia and Parkinson’s disease that appear in old age (276 million neurologically affected individuals in all).

With such a large burden of people affected around the globe, it is rational to assume that rehabilitation needs are plentiful. According to the World Health Organization’s Global Burden of Disease study, 2019, 2.41 billion individuals had conditions that would benefit from rehabilitation, contributing to 310 million Years of Living with Disabilities (YLD). This number had increased by 63% from 1990 to 2019. However, with rehabilitation often being seen as a disability-specific service, needed by only a few, it has, despite its individual and societal benefits, not been prioritised in countries and is traditionally under-resourced.

With neurology and psychiatry being closely linked, there exists a continuum of needs between these conditions, often with considerable overlap. Rehabilitation services must, therefore, be designed to address the wide spectrum of neurological and mental health problems as opposed to being narrow in concept and specialist led. There is a need to build awareness in the

community that disablement does not need to be endured and can be treated, even reversed, in a proportion of cases.

There is also a need to encourage medical professionals, medical service providers (government, private and non-profit) as well as public health professionals to consider rehabilitation as an essential service. Beyond doctors and nurses, rehabilitation across the lifespan requires a range of professionals: physical and occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychological therapists and professional caregivers. Enhancing these professional profiles, improving training, creating mainstream opportunities for career development and empowering their professional growth is important in order for services to develop and evolve. Further, it is widely understood today that rehabilitation services need to be multidisciplinary, multicomponent and holistic. Developing such service paradigms is crucial.

There are unique paradigms of care that have emerged through scientific advances that we must consider. A host of non-invasive brain stimulation (NIBS) procedures have proved themselves to be very useful in the care and rehabilitation of neurological and mental health conditions. Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) as a mainstream treatment for both depression and obsessive compulsive disorder and as an adjuvant treatment for diverse conditions: tremors of Parkinson's disease, Schizophrenia (hallucinations and other psychotic symptoms), addictions, pain and spasticity management especially that following strokes and traumatic brain injury, adolescent and adult Autism Spectrum Disorder, aggression and so on. An allied technique, Functional (or peripheral) Magnetic Stimulation (FMS), is also available today for pain, spasticity, incontinence and other disabling neurological symptoms.

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Another NIBS technique with great promise is transcranial electrical stimulation (TES) with its many sub-types (direct current, alternate current and random noise). The treatment has shown itself to be successful in improving memory and cognition, mood and behaviour, anxiety, tremors, confusion and delirium, and sleep disorders. It has the advantage of being portable and bedside. In the post-COVID-19 era, another treatment that has assumed importance is transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (tA-VNS), vagus nerve abnormalities being responsible for a host of long COVID-19 symptoms. Developed as a treatment for epilepsy, this is currently being investigated for depression, migraine and dysautonomia.

With a billion people with disabilities worldwide, 80% in developing countries, the United Nation's call for disability inclusion being central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind assumes importance. People in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities are the most excluded and left behind, especially in times of crisis, as was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is crucial for governments, the public and private sectors to collaborate and find innovative solutions for and with persons with disabilities, to make the world a more accessible and equitable place.

Dr. Ennapadam S. Krishnamoorthy is Founder – Buddhi Clinic, Past President, International Neuropsychiatric Association (INA) and Adjunct Professor, Manipal University and the Public Health Foundation of India

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