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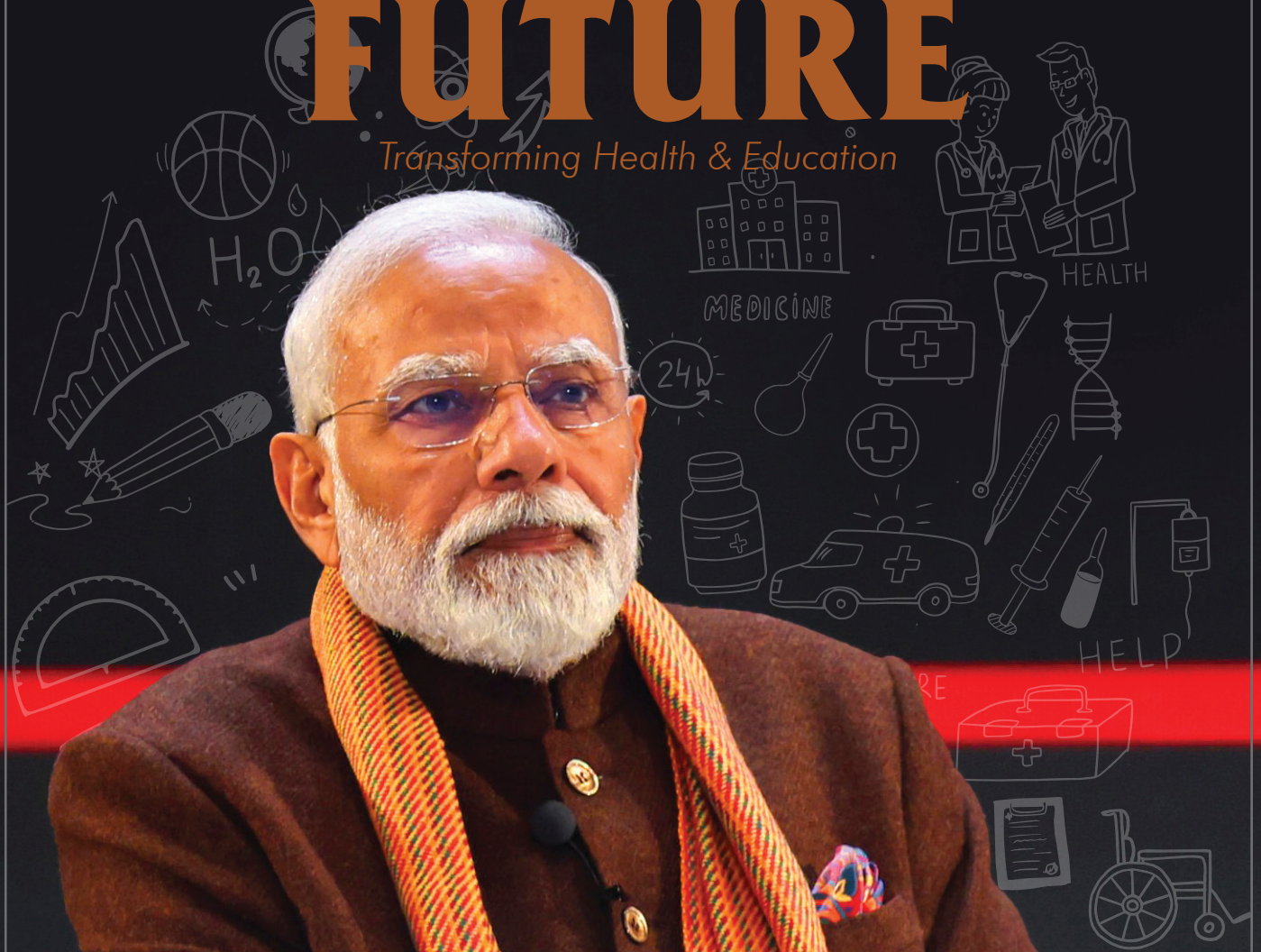
Magazine

JAN 2024 VOL 28

REVOLUTIONISING

FUTURE

Transforming Health & Education



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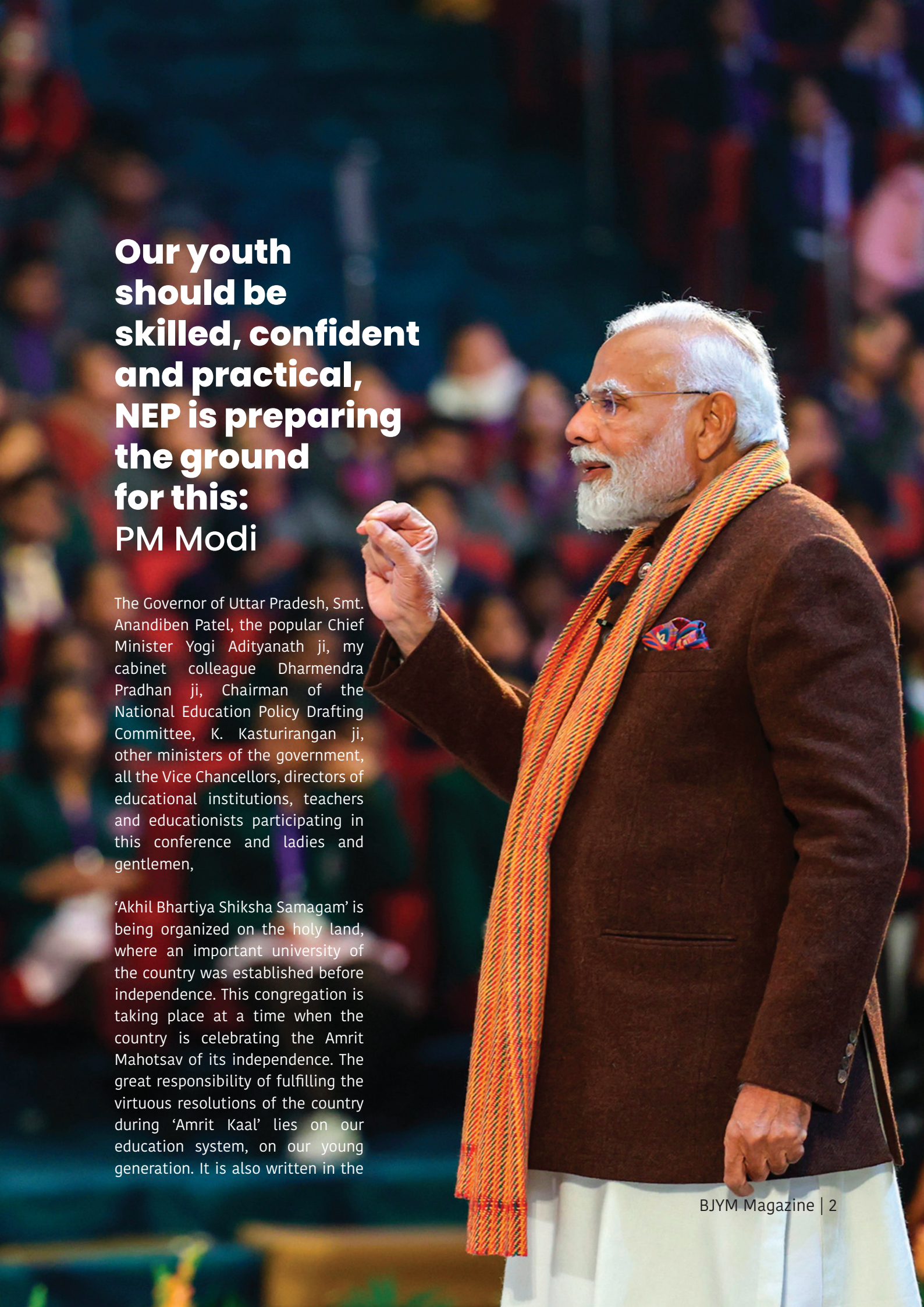
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**Our youth
should be
skilled, confident
and practical,
NEP is preparing
the ground
for this:
PM Modi**

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Anandiben Patel, the popular Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji, my cabinet colleague Dharmendra Pradhan ji, Chairman of the National Education Policy Drafting Committee, K. Kasturirangan ji, other ministers of the government, all the Vice Chancellors, directors of educational institutions, teachers and educationists participating in this conference and ladies and gentlemen,

‘Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam’ is being organized on the holy land, where an important university of the country was established before independence. This congregation is taking place at a time when the country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of its independence. The great responsibility of fulfilling the virtuous resolutions of the country during ‘Amrit Kaal’ lies on our education system, on our young generation. It is also written in the

Upanishads विद्यया अमृतम् अश्नुते i.e., knowledge leads to immortality and nectar. Kashi is also called the city of salvation because the only way of liberation is considered to be knowledge. Therefore, when such a great churning of education and research, learning and understanding, happens in the important centre of knowledge in Kashi, the nectar emanating from it will surely give a new direction to the country. On this occasion, I bow at the feet of Mahamana (Madan Mohan) Malaviya ji and wish you all the best for this event. I am an MP from Kashi. Since you have come to Kashi, so in a way I am also your host. You are also my guests. I am sure that you will not have many problems as everyone must have tried his best to make better arrangements. But still if there is any shortcoming, then the fault will be mine. And being a host, I apologize in advance if there is any inconvenience.

Friends,

I have come here after attending an event. There was a centralized kitchen for mid-day meals there and I got an opportunity to interact with the children of 10-12 years of age of the government school in Kashi. I would like to share with you what I heard from them. I would also like to meet the teachers of the students whom I met today when I come here next time. You must be wondering why this thought came to my mind. I had just 10-15 minutes to spend with them, but it left a lasting impression on my mind because of the talent, confidence and diversity among the students of a government school who come from a very ordinary background. Such was their talent that if your grandson also possessed such talent, you would also be bound to tell him to demonstrate that talent whenever any guests visit you. What I mean to say is that this potential and ability of the present generation will take them to the positions that you hold now. By then, you will not be there but the institutes that you create will welcome such talented children in the time to come. You have a bigger responsibility to ensure that they do not miss out on anything there. I am sure that the discussion over the next three days here will give an effective direction to the implementation of the National Education Policy.

Friends,

As you are aware the basic premise of the National Education Policy is to take education out of narrow thinking and to integrate it with the modern ideas of the 21st century. There was never a dearth of intellect and talent in our country. But, unfortunately, we inherited a system where education meant only securing jobs. During their rule, the British provided this education system to prepare a servant class for themselves to meet their needs. Though there were minor changes in it after independence, much remained unchanged. The system created by the British was never part of Indian ethos and it can't be. If we look at the ancient times of our country, we had the concept of different arts in education. And Banaras is a living example of this. Banaras was the center of knowledge not only because it had good Gurukuls and educational institutions. Banaras was the center of knowledge because knowledge and education here was multi-dimensional and multi-sector. This diversity in education should also be the source of inspiration for our education system. We should not only create degree-holder youth, but prepare an education system which should provide whatever human resources needed for the country to move forward. Our teachers and educational institutions should take a lead in this resolve. The faster our teachers imbibe this spirit, the more the youth and the students will benefit and so will be the future of the country.

Friends,

The creation of new systems, the inclusion of modern systems, is equally important for a new India. What has never happened before and the goals that the country did not even imagine to achieve are actually being realized in today's India. Now you see, not only did we recover rapidly from such a big pandemic of Corona, today India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. Today we are the third largest start-up ecosystem in the world. Areas such as space technology which were only the domain of the government earlier have been thrown open to the private players. Now a new world is being prepared for the youth and the whole space is within their reach, friends. Today the sectors, which were barred for daughters of the

country earlier, are exemplifying their talent.

Friends,

When the mood and the pace of the country is such then we also have to instill new energy in our youth so that it can give wings to their dreams. Until now, schools, colleges and books used to decide the direction of the children. But now the responsibility on the youth has increased even more after the National Education Policy. And with this, our responsibility too has increased to continuously encourage the dreams and flight of the youth and understand their mind and aspirations. Only then will we be able to prepare them. Gone are the days when the youths of the country were imposed anything without recognizing their talent. We have to always keep this in mind that we have to prepare education, institutions and human resource development according to their needs. The focus of the new education policy is to make the children skilled according to their talents and choices. The education policy is preparing the ground so that our youth are skilled, confident, practical and calculative.

Friends,

In the midst of rapid changes in the country, I will give you an example of how important is the role of the education system and all the great people associated with it. I would like to share my experience during my initial years as Chief Minister of Gujarat. When I became Chief Minister, I had no experience of governance. This responsibility came all of a sudden. I mooted an idea. I told all my secretaries that they were the chief ministers of their respective departments. I told them to explain to me how and where they would take their departments in the next five years. What would be your achievement and how would it benefit the common people of Gujarat? I told them to give me a detailed presentation of their vision. I told this to the secretaries of all the departments and every day at five o'clock in the evening all the ministers of my council of ministers and the secretaries used to meet. One of the secretaries would give a detailed presentation of his department and that used to be debated. All the secretaries used to be present in that meeting. There used to be debates and our

ministers would also take part in it. I would hear them and try to learn. This program went on for about a month. It would begin at five o'clock in the evening and would continue till 10 p.m. It was a very intense program. Perhaps this must have happened for the first time in the history of India. So one day there was a presentation related to the industry. They were detailing everything regarding the industries and where they saw industrial development in the next few years. The moment the program ended, the education secretary came to me because he was to make the presentation the next day. He told me that he would not be able to make the presentation the next day. I asked him for the reason because he was asked to give his presentation a month ago and he was expressing his inability to make the presentation at the last moment. He said that he was prepared and could also make the presentation but he felt that it was of no match after watching the presentation of industrial development. He said both the departments were going in opposite directions. He sought time to modify his presentation in the light of the presentation on industrial development and said only then could both academia and industry work in the direction of inclusive growth. We should also be aware of other universities of the world and in which direction they are moving. Where does our country figure? Where do our youths figure? How I am preparing the youth who would be in charge of India in the next 15-20 years. This is our enormous responsibility, friends. And on the same lines, all our educational institutions also need to ask themselves whether they are future ready. Is it only my duty to take exams and hold convocations or should I create such an institution whose students would be playing an important role in the completion of 100 years of the country's independence? All of you need to take care of the present. You have to carry forward the work of your predecessors. And those who are working today will have to think about the future and develop systems accordingly. As I said earlier, I met some of the students today and experienced their curiosities. You must also be experiencing the same thing at your home when your little grandchildren ask you questions. You also have to think a while to answer their questions. Sometimes, you may feel that he is

pestering you. But he is not pestering you. In fact, you are unable to answer him. All of you must have experienced this in your homes. Today's generation comes up with many questions after going through Google. They question your wisdom because they go by what Google offers. The child counters you. What would happen to you if these children come to your university after 10 years? We have to prepare ourselves from now on. You are experiencing mismatches with your children even at home. It would be a great injustice if we are not able to live up to the young generation which would be there in the schools and colleges with a new thinking. Therefore, it is necessary that we understand the future and develop systems accordingly. I went to see an exhibition in Gandhinagar a few days back under the Digital India campaign. There were children from government schools. There were children in the 10th, 11th and 12th class. I was impressed by the work of these children looking at their projects and ideas. I was stunned to see their research potential and their innovations at such a young age. Many children were interested in biotech and genetics. At a time when they are taught the fundamentals of science in their class, they were talking about gene mapping, affinity chromatography and genetic library based tools. Now imagine how big the difference is. Looking at their work, I was wondering if our institutes will be prepared according to their modern thinking when they go for higher education. If we wait for these children to reach their higher education, by then the world will go a long way, friends. Therefore, we have to plan now to provide guidance and resources at this age when the children are motivated. We should work on creating such a system in our institutions.

Friends,

The National Education Policy is going to complete two years at the end of this month, i.e., on July 29. And just now Dharmendra ji was telling us that this education policy was made after a lot of brainstorming. Kasturirangan ji provided very able leadership and it became possible due to him. The acceptance of the National Education Policy in such a diverse country is a great achievement in itself. It is a great accomplishment. But look at its specialty.

There was a lot of brainstorming behind it. And as it happens with the governments, once a document is ready it is left at the mercy of time and some persons. The document adorns the table for a few days. Then a new document comes and replaces it. The matter ends there. You too must have the same experience of this culture. But we didn't let that happen.

We have kept this National Education Policy alive every moment. I myself have probably attended at least 25 seminars in such a short time. I think there must be over 25 seminars and I have been regularly speaking on this subject. Kasturirangan ji himself is constantly communicating with people from all walks of life after submitting this report. He has been explaining the clarifications, vision and all the background information of this policy. All the departments of the government are constantly reaching out to various people. It has come about after 30 years and can't be merely treated as any other document. Though you may have read all the pages, you will come across many nuances when you brainstorm this policy for the next three days. At the end of this congregation, make a plan to have similar continuous brainstorming in your universities. Don't go away just by listening to what is said here. You should discuss this policy with the rest of your companions and only then will it be beneficial. And we should keep paying attention to every detail on the challenges for its implementation.

Friends,

When someone takes work in his own hands, then the solution of problems also emerges faster. If someone only considers it as a problem and does not make efforts then a solution can never be found. Friends! The country has taken many concrete steps towards implementing the National Education Policy in these two years. In the meantime, workshops on important topics like Access, Quality and Future Readiness have also helped a lot. The discussions with the academicians of the country and abroad and my interactions with the education ministers of the country have also speeded up the process. Just a few days ago, our Dharmendra ji also called a meeting of education ministers from all

over the country. It was discussed with them the way we are discussing it with you. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure its 100 percent implementation? The state governments have also taken several important steps in this direction at their own level. And it is the result of everyone's efforts that the country, especially the youth of the country, are becoming a participant in this important change.

Friends,

Major infrastructure overhaul has been carried out in the education sector of the country for the new National Education Policy. Today a large number of new colleges and universities are opening and new IITs and IIMs are being established. Since 2014, the number of medical colleges in the country has increased by 55 percent. In order to give better opportunities to the youth, Common University Entrance Test (CUET) has also been implemented from this year for uniform standards across universities. Many more such reforms have been carried out. It is the result of these efforts that the number of Indian institutions in the World University Rankings is gradually increasing. This change is only the beginning. We still have a long way to go in this direction.

Friends,

I am also satisfied that the National Education Policy is now opening the way for studies in the mother tongue. Accordingly, ancient Indian languages like Sanskrit are also being promoted. I can see special arrangements have also been made here for the people associated with Sanskrit. This beginning from the land of Kashi will surely serve to give new energy to Indian languages and resolutions.

Friends,

I have full faith that India can emerge as a major center of global education in the world in the near future. India can not only become an education destination for the youth of the world, but also new opportunities can be created for our youth in other countries of the world. Therefore, we have to prepare our education system as per international standards. The country is also making continuous

efforts in this direction. New guidelines have been issued to prepare higher education according to international standards. Special offices for international affairs have also been established in about 180 higher education institutions. I would like all of you not only to have necessary discussions in this direction, but also try to familiarize with the arrangements outside India. These new systems will also help in connecting India's education system with international experiences.

Friends,

You will be discussing many important topics spread over different sessions in the next three days. I would like this discussion to pave the way for new avenues for the country in different fields and guide the younger generation. Many countries of the world owe their progress in different fields to universities. Universities constantly conduct research on socio-economic and scientific subjects, giving suggestions to the government. We need to develop the same culture and methodology here too. This gives the young generation an understanding of the country and the policies of the country and they also become aware of numerous possibilities. I have always believed that more and more new systems should be aligned with the innovative thinking and new ideas of the youth of the country. It leads to fresh talent and new ideas. I would like all of you to discuss this also and prepare a roadmap. How universities can partner with the government in different areas can also be discussed. You have to decide your own expertise. You should conduct surveys and studies in your field and give suggestions to the government. What are the problems faced by the general public in the 50-100 km radius of your university? What are the solutions? What are resources? What can be done for those resources? What is the attitude of ordinary people there? Your students will get a project and there will be a great report in this regard. A better report can be made regarding any scheme of the government, its advantages, shortcomings, and possibilities of improvement. If all these things are taken seriously by the government, there can be unprecedented results. I remember when I was in Gujarat there was a program in Sardar Patel University. The officials of Sardar Patel University

had prepared some books after doing a lot of research in rural development. They gifted those books to me. I found them very interesting as I read those books. I gave a task to the department. I told the officials to find out the difference between what the children were saying and how the government was moving ahead as far as rural development is concerned. You will be surprised that there were many issues which really helped me in our projects for rural development. It was the task given to the students by the teachers. It is very difficult to make decisions while sitting in the air conditioned rooms. Our new generation which hits the ground gets very good results. For that matter, we have Agriculture University which conducts research in labs. No matter how good it works, it gets a certificate and its article is published in an international magazine. Even if it gets a degree, the entire research will remain in the lab. We should also have a roadmap for 'lab to land'. What is there in the lab should be implemented in the land. Similarly, those who hit the ground have great experience. The experience of the ground realities should also be used in the labs. We can consider steps on how to enrich research and the traditional experience. Similarly, it is with the knowledge of traditional medicine i.e., Ayurveda. Neither you nor I will challenge it. But there are many countries of the world which are ahead of us in traditional medicine. This is because in today's time both results and proof are needed. For example, if we say that this herb is very useful and we get the desired results. We get the results but there is no proof, and therefore, we must have proofs along with results. We must have a database. We should have a complete record of it, from where and how the change took place. We cannot change the world based on emotions. It cannot be presented as a model before the world. Therefore, despite the results, the need for proof is very important in today's world. Therefore, our universities which are familiar with the results but lack proofs need to make mechanisms and develop systems and traditions in this regard. And it is not possible without your help. Our universities can do research on evidence-based traditional medicine very well.

Friends,

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Our demographic dividend is our biggest strength. We also discuss it, but is there any university which has studied this demographic dividend? What kinds of steps were taken by the world when such an opportunity of demographic dividend arose? How did the universities in those countries react to it and how did they benefit? Though we keep repeating it, why should we not work on the possibilities of demographic dividend? How can we use this potential for the country for the coming 20-25-30 years? Look at the condition of the countries of the world, even the richest of the rich countries are troubled by the fact that the age of the people is increasing there. Aging is the problem and the younger generation is almost missing. The elders form a huge bulk of the population. They are unable to run the countries. Now this cycle is such that everyone has to face it. Today our country is young, but our country will also have to face the problem of aging when there will be less number of young people and the number of elderly people will be more. Those days will come. Is there anyone in the world who has found ways to solve the problems of old age? How are they solving problems in the absence of youth? Which mechanism has been developed so that things are moving forward very smoothly? All these issues should be the innate nature of our universities. I believe there is a good scope for research and work in this regard for universities. If these projects are given to children, they develop a vision. They also get the opportunity to understand new things. Now there is such a huge discussion about climate change. We have unlimited possibilities in the field of climate change. Now there is a scheme called CDRI in our country. In the event of climate change, our infrastructure should be such that it can withstand the vagaries of climate and should be resilient. Now how can we move forward without research on it? Earlier such systems were developed so that there were neither so much flood, nor so much rain. Nature also supported us and we also supported Nature. Now we are doing just the opposite. Therefore, we need to make arrangements on how to live in the face of this new crisis. Today the entire world is moving towards solar power. India is fortunate that it is bestowed with a blazing sun. How will we utilize the sun? How do we make this

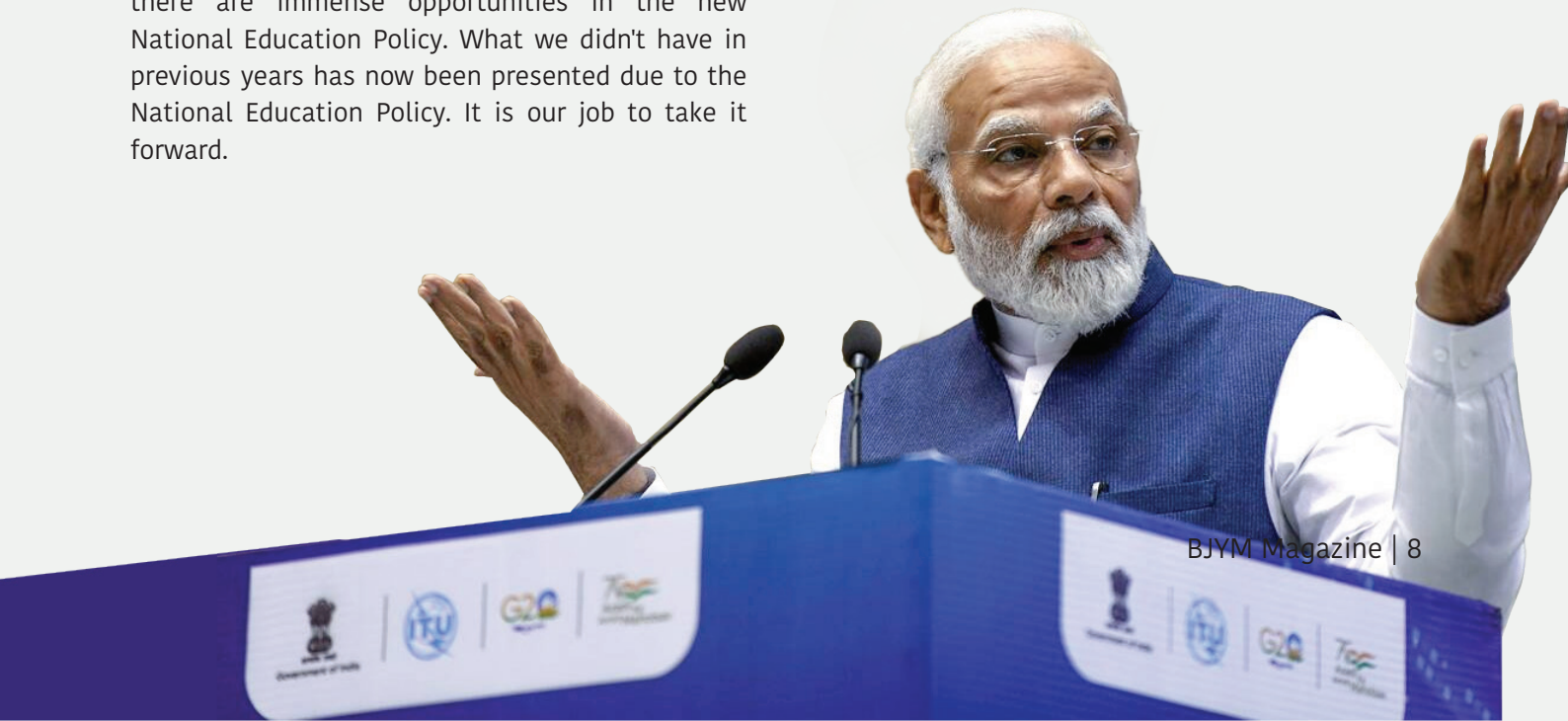
power a part of our life system? Solar power has been given so much importance in the policies of the Government. But we need to do a lot of work to use this energy through new research. Similarly, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been embodied by everybody. There should not be any compromise regarding Swachh Bharat. But things don't end there. Unless we make plans towards Waste to Wealth, what can be the circular economy of this waste which is generated, what can be its best product, no progress can be made. Universities can research it. The new generation can make experiments on how to make the best out of the waste? How do we strengthen the circular economy? There are many areas which are open for our students today, especially at the local level, in this regard. Today the country is also making new achievements in the field of sports with new confidence. New sports universities are being developed. But our universities should not have this feeling that their students have nothing to do with sports since there are special sports universities. The grounds of our universities should be buzzing with students in the evening. Such an environment should be created in the universities so that the children find it difficult to rush to their homes immediately after the classes. Our universities can set these targets. Every university can set targets for the gold medals for its students. Why should these not be the targets of our universities? How to prepare the students in the universities in the field of sports so that they can play in other countries? They will get the necessary exposure. Friends, I am sharing these stray thoughts with you because there are immense opportunities in the new National Education Policy. What we didn't have in previous years has now been presented due to the National Education Policy. It is our job to take it forward.

Friends,

We all have to remember that the leadership of the National Education Policy is in your hands to build the future of the country. I am sure that the elixir of your brainstorming and your suggestions in the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam will give a new direction to the country. You have to prepare the youth with whom you spend your time, not for the present, but for tomorrow. If you want to prepare them for tomorrow, you have to prepare for the year ahead. If you are ready for the coming year, then you have to prepare the institute for the next 100 years. Only then can you achieve this task. With this spirit you are on this holy land of Kashi and on the banks of the Mother Ganges.

The cultural tradition gives us new consciousness and inspiration. Some nectar points from that tradition will come in your destinies too which will help the young boys and girls of your universities in shaping the bright future of India in the 'Amrit Kaal'. I once again thank the department for this program. You all have participated in it with enthusiasm and zeal. I am sure you will not get tired in the next three days. I was watching the program while seated. I have no idea what will happen to you after three days. But since you belong to the academic world, you will definitely take it forward. I wish you all the best.

Thanks a lot!



Remarks of BJP President

Shri J.P.Nadda

Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, cultural politics shifted pre-2014 and post-2014. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas' prioritizes people over caste or section. Peaceful policy changes credit People's Participation, transparency, accountability, and flawless delivery. ABHA- Ayushman Bharat Health Account is being delivered door to door by the Anganwadi workers. Schemes like Ujjwala, Ujala, Ayushman Bharat, and Saubhagya Yojna transcended caste barriers, benefiting a diverse range of individuals, including rickshaw pullers and hawkers.

Shri J.P. Nadda at "Sushasan Mahotsav 2024



Message
from the
BJYM President
Shri Tejasvi
Surya



Namaskar!

Since its election in 2014, the government of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made significant strides in the fields of health and education, implementing numerous policies and programs aimed at improving the quality of life and opportunities for its citizens.

In the realm of healthcare, one of the most notable achievements of the Modi government is the launch of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). This ambitious program, which started in 2018, is often touted as one of the largest government-funded healthcare schemes in the world. It aims to provide free health coverage at the secondary and tertiary levels to more than 500 million underprivileged citizens. This initiative has been a significant step towards universal health coverage in India, addressing the critical issue of healthcare affordability for the poor and vulnerable.

Another significant health initiative is the National

Health Mission (NHM), which encompasses a wide range of health programs. It includes initiatives like Mission Indradhanush, which targets immunization of children and pregnant women against seven vaccine-preventable diseases. This mission has contributed substantially to improving immunization coverage in India.

Turning to education, the Modi government has made remarkable efforts to improve India's educational infrastructure and quality. The implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) in 2020 marked a historic overhaul of India's education system. The NEP aims to make education more holistic, flexible, and aligned with the needs of the 21st century. It emphasizes critical thinking and creativity, reducing the curriculum content to enhance essential learning and critical thinking. Additionally, the government's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, launched in 2015, has been pivotal in promoting girls' education. This initiative aims to address the declining child sex ratio and to change society's attitudes towards the girl child. It has made significant impacts in improving the enrollment and retention rates of girls in schools. The government has also embraced digital innovation in education through initiatives like the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and the DIKSHA platform, aiming to create a unified digital infrastructure to enrich the learning experience for students and teachers.

Modi government has demonstrated a firm commitment to advancing the health and education sectors in India. Through a blend of ambitious policies and innovative programs, there has been a tangible improvement in healthcare accessibility and the quality of education, which are critical for the nation's overall development and future prosperity. While there have been notable successes, the path ahead requires persistent effort and commitment to ensure that every citizen can benefit from high-quality healthcare and education, which are indispensable for the nation's progress and prosperity.

Vande Mataram

Tejasvi Surya

MP Lok Sabha, Bengaluru South



EDITORIAL

Eight years ago, a wave of hope swept across India with the election of the Modi government. This wave carried with it a yearning for progress and a deep desire for positive change, particularly in the bedrock sectors of health and education. Today, as we stand amidst the fruits of this transformation, it's clear that the Modi government has not only delivered on its promises but has fundamentally reshaped these landscapes for good, paving the way for an inclusive and futuristic India.

In the realm of healthcare, the Modi government has woven a tapestry of accessibility and affordability. Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health insurance scheme, stands as a testament to this commitment. More than 50 crore Indians now have the financial shield to access essential medical care, breaking down the long-standing barrier of cost. From life-saving surgeries to chronic disease management, Ayushman Bharat has brought hope and healing to millions who were previously ostracized by prohibitive healthcare costs.

But accessibility is just the first step. The Modi government has embarked on a monumental mission to strengthen India's medical infrastructure. New AIIMS hospitals and medical colleges are dotting the map, bringing specialized care closer to people in every corner of the nation. Telemedicine initiatives are bridging the geographical divide, connecting remote communities with expert medical advice. The focus on preventive healthcare, exemplified by Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the promotion of traditional practices like yoga and Ayurveda, is laying the foundation for a healthier future generation.

Beyond the physical infrastructure, the Modi government is nurturing a culture of innovation. India's fight against infectious diseases, including the ambitious goal of TB

eradication by 2025, is being fueled by cutting-edge technology and research. Public-private partnerships are fostering the development of indigenous medical solutions, ensuring affordability and self-reliance in the long run.

Education has witnessed a similar revolution under the Modi government's watch. The New Education Policy 2020 is not just a policy; it's a blueprint for an education system that equips future generations with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world. The emphasis on critical thinking, holistic development, and skill-based learning is a radical departure from the rote learning of the past.

This shift is already bearing fruit. Increased enrollment rates, particularly among girls, testify to the policy's inclusivity. Vocational training programs are opening doors to new career paths, empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute meaningfully to the economy. Atal Tinkering Labs nurtures young minds with an entrepreneurial spirit, fostering innovation and creativity from the grassroots level.

Challenges, of course, remain. Bridging the digital divide and ensuring quality education in remote areas require sustained investment and innovative solutions. But the commitment is unwavering. The Modi government is constantly refining its policies based on feedback and ground realities, ensuring that no child is left behind in this march towards educational excellence.

The impact of these transformative initiatives extends far beyond healthcare and education. A healthier, more educated population is the bedrock of a thriving nation. As India rises on the global stage, its empowered citizens will be its driving force. The Modi government's vision is not just about providing access to better healthcare and education; it's about building a future where every Indian has the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances.

This transformation is not merely a political achievement; it's a social revolution. It's about dismantling the barriers of inequality and creating a level playing field where every child can dream big and chase their aspirations. It's about fostering a culture of innovation and progress, where India's youth become not just consumers of knowledge but creators of solutions for the world.

The journey is far from over, but the direction is clear. Under the Modi government's leadership, India is steadily transforming into a healthier, wiser nation, one policy, one hospital, and one classroom at a time. It is not just a story of progress; it's a testament to the power of vision, commitment, and unwavering belief in the potential of the Indian people. As we celebrate the present and look towards the future, one thing is certain: India's transformation is an unstoppable force, and the Modi government is leading the way with a relentless spirit and an unwavering commitment to a brighter tomorrow.





National Digital Health Mission in India: A Leap Towards Digital Healthcare

PM Sai Prasad, National Treasurer BJYM and in-charge of BJYM Assam

Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a significant transformation in its healthcare system, marked by the launch of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. This initiative represents a comprehensive effort to integrate digital technology into the healthcare infrastructure, aiming to revolutionize the way healthcare services are delivered in India. The NDHM is a testament to the government's commitment to leveraging digital advancements to enhance healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and quality.

The inception of the NDHM can be traced back to the vision of creating a unified digital health ecosystem in India. With a population of over 1.3 billion, India faces unique challenges in healthcare delivery, including disparities in access, quality, and affordability. The traditional healthcare system has been strained under the weight of these challenges.

The NDHM emerges as a solution to bridge these gaps through technology, thereby ensuring that healthcare reaches every corner of the nation efficiently.

Core Components of the NDHM

The NDHM is built on several foundational pillars:

- **Health ID:** Every citizen receives a unique, lifelong identifier – their digital health passport. It empowers individuals to control and share their medical records with authorized providers, eliminating bureaucratic hurdles and fostering seamless continuity of care. Imagine transcending geographical boundaries and presenting your complete medical history at any healthcare facility with a few clicks. That's the power of the Health ID.
- **Health Information Platform (HIP):** Envision a secure national repository for health data, accessible only with consent and adhering to stringent privacy protocols. The HIP serves as

this digital vault, allowing authorized healthcare professionals to view complete medical histories, facilitating accurate diagnoses and informed treatment decisions. Gone are the days of fragmented records and redundant tests. The HIP paints a holistic picture, leading to personalized and effective care.

- **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR):** Transparency and accountability are cornerstone principles of a robust healthcare system. The HPR meticulously tracks and verifies healthcare professionals, upholding standards of qualification and practice and empowering informed patient choices. Patients can now access a verified directory of healthcare providers, fostering trust and confidence in the system.
- **Digital Health Services and Applications (DHSA):** Beyond just static records, NDHM envisions a vibrant ecosystem of healthcare apps and services. Telemedicine consultations from the comfort of your home, medication reminders to prevent missed doses, personalized health management tools – the possibilities are endless. DHSA empowers individuals to actively participate in their well-being, becoming informed partners in their healthcare journey.
- **Standards and Interoperability:** Building bridges, not silos, is the philosophy at the heart of NDHM. Robust data standards and interoperable systems ensure seamless exchange of health information across platforms and providers, regardless of location or technology. Data flows freely, eliminating redundancies and enabling efficient, coordinated care.
- **E-Pharmacy:** An online service to provide medicines, ensuring availability and accessibility to drugs across the country.

Objectives and Goals

The primary objectives of the NDHM are manifold:

- **Enhancing Accessibility:** By digitizing health records and services, the NDHM aims to make healthcare more accessible, especially in rural and remote areas.

- **Improving Efficiency:** Streamlining healthcare processes through digital means to reduce wait times, improve service delivery, and enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system.
- **Promoting Preventive Healthcare:** With easier access to health records, there is a greater emphasis on preventive care, leading to early diagnosis and timely intervention.
- **Data Security and Privacy:** Ensuring the confidentiality and security of patient data through robust digital infrastructure and compliance with global standards.

Painting a Canvas of Transformation:

Despite the lingering challenges, the potential of NDHM to transform healthcare in India is undeniable. Here are some of the transformative strokes this digital brush promises to paint:

- **Unfettered Access:** Imagine scaling mountains and traversing rivers, yet accessing quality healthcare. NDHM's telemedicine infrastructure promises to bridge geographical barriers, making care accessible even in the remotest corners of the country. Rural communities, long neglected, can now receive specialized consultations without arduous travel.
- **Enhanced Care Precision:** Fragmented medical histories often lead to misdiagnosis and suboptimal treatment. With HIP, healthcare professionals can paint a holistic picture of a patient's health journey, leading to more accurate diagnoses, evidence-based treatment plans, and improved patient outcomes. Precision medicine becomes a reality, with care tailored to individual needs.
- **Cost-Conscious Canvas:** Repetitive tests, inefficient processes, and paper-laden bureaucracy drive up healthcare costs. NDHM's digital framework streamlines processes, eliminates redundancies, and promotes paperless transactions, leading to significant cost savings for both individuals and the government. Healthcare has become more affordable and accessible to all.
- **Empowered Individuals:** Healthcare becomes a collaborative journey with NDHM. Access to Health IDs empowers individuals to actively participate in their well-being, monitor health

parameters, and make informed decisions about their health. Patients are no longer passive recipients of care; they become partners in their health journey.

- **Fueling Innovation:** The vast repository of health data within the HIP becomes a catalyst for medical research and development. This data can fuel the discovery of new treatments.

Challenges and Solutions

While the NDHM is ambitious, it faces several challenges:

- **Digital Divide:** In a diverse country like India, bridging the digital divide is crucial. The government needs to ensure that digital literacy and infrastructure reach even the most remote areas.
- **Data Privacy and Security:** Safeguarding sensitive health data is paramount. Stringent data protection laws and secure digital platforms are essential to gain public trust.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** Integrating the NDHM with existing health infrastructures without disrupting services is a complex task that requires careful planning and execution.

To address these challenges, the government has initiated various measures, including extensive digital literacy campaigns, strengthening cybersecurity frameworks, and collaborating with

state governments and private players for seamless integration.

The Way Forward

The NDHM is not just a policy initiative but a movement towards a more inclusive and efficient healthcare system in India. It is a step towards realizing the dream of a digital India where technology catalyzes social and economic transformation.

For the NDHM to succeed, it is imperative to have the participation and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, healthcare providers, technology partners, and most importantly, the citizens. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of the program based on feedback and technological advancements will be crucial.

The National Digital Health Mission is a visionary step by the Modi government to overhaul India's healthcare system through digital innovation. It holds the promise of transforming healthcare delivery by making it more accessible, efficient, and patient-centric. As the NDHM unfolds, it is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of healthcare in India, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey towards digital empowerment and healthcare equity.





Āyurvijñānākrānti: Multimodal Biomedical AI, Gene Therapy, and the National Medical Devices Policy

Dr. Mrittunjoy Guha Majumdar

In recent years, India has emerged as a prominent global player in the healthcare sector, particularly excelling in the medical device industry. This success can be attributed to significant strides in research and development, resulting in cutting-edge medical equipment and diagnostic tools. The nation's strong economy and commitment to innovation have propelled its medical device market, which is projected to achieve a steady Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15%, reaching an impressive \$50 billion by 2025. Dean Ornish, proponent of lacto-ovo vegetarianism, once said

"Whether it's by helping us search for health-related information, connecting us with doctors through online portals, or enabling us to store and retrieve our medical records online, the Internet is starting to show the promise it has to transform the way people interact with and improve their own health and wellness."

We, as a nation, have come a long way from the advent of the internet as a tool of healthcare. Today, Bharat's prowess in healthcare technology has been solidified by embracing advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning. This strategic incorporation positions India as a leading exporter of cutting-edge medical technology, fostering international

recognition and enhancing the "Made in India" narrative. In addition to testing the use of AI in primary care for the early detection of diabetes complications, the NITI Aayog is currently validating the use of AI as a screening tool in eye care by comparing its diagnostic accuracy with that of retina specialists. The capacity for eye screenings and early detection can be increased, and access in remote areas of the nation can be made possible by integrating AI capabilities with portable screening devices such as 3Nethra. Oncology offers potential uses for similar applications.

The Comprehensive Archive of Imaging, India's first de-identified cancer picture collection, was just introduced by the Indian Institute of Technology and the Tata Medical Centre. High-quality de-identified photos can be used by AI-based tools to help machine-learning models find biomarkers and enhance the results of cancer research. Microsoft's AI Network for Healthcare and Apollo Hospitals are working on a machine learning model to predict better the risk of a heart attack in the cardiovascular healthcare field, which is a significant and unique challenge for India. With the use of clinical and laboratory data from more than 400,000 patients, the AI solution can find new risk factors and provide patients with a heart risk score without requiring a thorough physical examination, allowing for the early discovery of disease. Collaborations with global organisations have facilitated technology transfer, information sharing, and foreign investments, establishing India as a formidable contender in the global healthcare sector.

The resilience of India's medical device industry during the COVID-19 pandemic underscored its vital role in supplying diagnostic kits and essential medical equipment. The sector's rapid growth is evident, with the Indian medical device market reaching a projected value of ₹90,000 crores in 2020, contributing 1.5% to the global medical device market. Government initiatives, such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and the establishment of Medical Device Parks, emphasise the commitment to fostering sectoral growth.

Recognising the need for comprehensive

legislation, the National Medical Devices Policy of 2023 aims to facilitate disciplined industry expansion. The policy vision, as outlined in the official gazette notification, is as follows:

"The Policy envisions to place the Indian medical devices sector on an accelerated growth path with a patient-centric approach to meet the evolving healthcare needs of patients by building an innovative and globally competitive industry in India, supported by world class infrastructure in alignment with PM Gati Shakti, enabling ecosystem, streamlined regulatory framework and quality manpower. This will ensure access to patient-centric, innovative and affordable healthcare products of excellent quality for better healthcare outcomes. This aim is to emerge as the global leader in the manufacturing and innovation of medical devices by achieving 10-12% share in the expanding global market over the next 25 years."

The National Medical Devices Policy outlines a comprehensive approach across six key areas to address challenges and harness opportunities in the medical devices sector. Emphasising regulatory streamlining, the policy aims to strike a balance between patient safety and product innovation by introducing a 'Single Window Clearance System.' Infrastructure enhancement includes the establishment of medical device parks and testing facilities, aligning with the National Industrial Corridor Program. Focused on fostering research and innovation, the policy encourages collaboration between academic institutions and the industry, promoting Centres of Excellence and innovation hubs.

It also addresses investment facilitation through risk-adjusted financing and engagement with startups. Human resources development is a priority, involving skilling initiatives aligned with the Skill India program. The policy also stresses brand positioning, global competitiveness, and awareness creation. Monitoring and evaluation will be based on quantitative metrics aligned with sustainable development goals, emphasising equity, self-reliance, healthcare improvement, and economic indicators. Overall, the policy aims to catalyse innovation, spur industry growth, and contribute to India's healthcare advancements. Bharat still faces significant healthcare challenges,

particularly with over 40 million individuals affected by hereditary illnesses such as Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia. Addressing these challenges necessitates a paradigm shift in thinking as well as applications, such as transformative gene therapy, especially for rare diseases.

Investments in infrastructure and research are imperative to make groundbreaking treatments accessible, filling critical gaps in India's healthcare system. Cancer remains a major affliction for our populace and demands cutting-edge treatments like gene and cell therapy. Precision medicine tailored to each patient's genetic composition becomes essential in this context. Despite challenges, these therapies have the potential to improve treatment outcomes, address health inequalities and reduce side effects associated with traditional methods. Gene therapy has emerged as a potential solution for infectious diseases in India, including tuberculosis and dengue. The advancements showcased by COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, essentially gene-therapy products, highlight breakthroughs in addressing infectious diseases. Gene and cell therapy can target diseases like dengue, HIV/AIDS, cytomegalovirus (CMV), and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), as well as conditions like severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), offering protection against various infections.

In our quest for comprehensive physiological well-being, as a nation, we cannot but consider the words of John Doolittle:

"Developments in medical technology have long been confined to procedural or pharmaceutical advances, while neglecting a most basic and essential component of medicine: patient information management."

To this end, Bharat has made major advancements in the last decade. The integration of multimodal artificial intelligence in medicine has been gaining momentum due to growing access to diverse biomedical data sources. Despite challenges posed by the complexity and high dimensionality of health data, developments in wearable sensors, improved data capture, and declining sequencing costs open opportunities for multimodal AI models. These models promise advancements in individualised

medicine, real-time pandemic surveillance, digital clinical trials, and virtual health coaching.

Multimodal architectures in AI/ML systems are appealing as they mirror the diverse input conditions in clinical practices. Electronic health records (EHR) incorporate various data formats, including tabular data, images (X-rays, CT scans), time-series data (pulse oximetry, blood chemistry), structured sequence data (genomics, proteomics), and unstructured sequence data (notes, reports, voice recordings). Recent AI/ML models spanning various medical domains, have shown improved performance by leveraging multiple data modalities compared to single-modality approaches. However, creating unified and scalable pipelines for consistently training multimodal systems remains challenging. Addressing this, Holistic Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (HAIM) frameworks have been introduced lately, offering a modular ML pipeline adaptable to standard EHR information from diverse modalities.

The integration of smart linked care shapes the changing landscape of medical equipment and diagnostics. Smart medical devices, digital therapies, AI-based solutions, predictive data analytics, and wearable technology are anticipated to be significant growth areas. These technologies enable real-time data collection and analysis, facilitating precise health monitoring and early disease detection. The Union Cabinet's approval of the National Medical Devices Policy in 2023 signalled Bharat's commitment to achieving a 10-12% global market share by 2030. Looking ahead to 2024, the medical technology sector anticipates favourable policy conditions supporting exports and scalability. Expected amendments to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act, custom duty rationalisation, and improved export incentives emphasise the industry's aspirations. To establish India as a major global MedTech hub, priorities include stronger collaborations, strategic technology usage, and a well-defined policy framework. Collaboration among business, academia, and policymakers is essential for sustainable growth, ensuring a healthier and more prosperous future for all, as India continues this transformative journey of Āyurvijñānkrānti!

नए युग का नया भारत, नए भारत की नई इबारत

सौरभ पाण्डेय शौर्य

(लेखक BJYM मैगज़ीन टीम के सम्पादक मंडल के सदस्य हैं)



नए युग का नया भारत, नए भारत की नई इबारत. यही मूल उद्देश्य दिखता है, मोदी सरकार द्वारा शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में किये गए कार्यों की जब हम खुले मन से समीक्षा करते हैं. अपने दूसरे कार्यकाल के आरम्भ से ही मोदी सरकार शिक्षा क्षेत्र में आधारभूत परिवर्तनों के लिए कार्यशील है. हालाँकि, इन परिवर्तनों की पृष्ठभूमि पहले कार्यकाल में ही तैयार होने लगी थी. व्यापक विचार-विमर्श और जन-भागीदारी से निर्मित राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति-2020 उसी तैयारी का फल है. मैकॉले द्वारा निर्मित-विकसित भारत का शिक्षा-तंत्र भारत और भारतीयों पर सांस्कृतिक प्रहार करते रहा है. भारत के स्वाभिमान का मानमर्दन करता रहा है. जिस नए भारत का संकल्प मोदी जी ने लिया है. पुरानी थोपी हुई शिक्षा प्रणाली उसमें सबसे बड़ी बाधाओं में से एक है. नई शिक्षा नीति देश की शिक्षा व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करने एवं सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाने हेतु प्रतिबद्ध है.

मोदी जी ने जब लाल किले से अपने संबोधन में औपनिवेशिक दौर की सभी निशानियों को समाप्त कर स्वदेश के आत्मगौरव की बात कही थी. ये तभी स्पष्ट हो गया था कि अंग्रेजों द्वारा बनाई गई इस शिक्षा व्यवस्था में बदलाव अवश्य होंगे. इसीलिए, इस औपनिवेशिक तंत्र में आमूलचूल परिवर्तन करते हुए उसे भारत केंद्रित बनाने और उसके भारतीयकरण पर जोर दिया जा रहा है. भारतीय ज्ञान परंपरा का पुनराविष्कार और प्रतिष्ठा राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति की केंद्रीय चिंता है. शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता बढ़ाकर और उसकी पहुँच सर्वसाधारण तक सुनिश्चित करके ही भारत में अंतर्निहित अपरिमित संसाधनों और भारतवासियों की असीम क्षमताओं का पूर्ण विकास संभव है. गुणवत्तापूर्ण और सर्वसुलभ शिक्षा, समाजोपयोगी नवाचारी शोध तथा युवा पीढ़ी के कौशल विकास द्वारा ही राष्ट्रीय विकास का मार्ग प्रशस्त हो सकता है.

नई शिक्षा नीति के अनुसार केन्द्र और राज्यों के प्रत्येक सरकारी स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में खेल शिक्षकों की भर्ती होगी, तभी खेल विषय "शारीरिक शिक्षा" को शामिल करने का फायदा है, ओलिंपिक में पदक

मिलना और भारत में आयोजन तभी आसान हो सकता है, जब स्कूली-स्तर पर छात्रों को भारत की ओलिंपिक खेलों की सच्चाई का पता चलेगा. मोदी सरकार ने हर उस पहलू को ध्यान में रखा है, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत का मान बढ़ाने में अपनी अहम भूमिका निभाने वाले हैं.

इसी उद्देश्य की पूर्ति के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा 2018 में 'भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा आयोग' तथा 2019 में 'राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान फाउंडेशन' के गठन की घोषणा की गयी थी. अब तक उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में अनेक संस्थाएँ थीं. उनके अपने अपने मानदंड व मापदंड हुआ करते थे. इनकी प्रक्रिया बड़ी जटिल थी. ये संस्थान अनेक प्रकार की समस्याओं का सामना करते रहे हैं. कई बार इन नियामक संस्थाओं में अनियमितता एवं पक्षपातपूर्ण रवैया अपनाने का दोषारोपण भी होता रहा है. पाठ्यक्रमों के निर्माण एवं उनके कार्यान्वयन में भी ये नियामक संस्थाएँ दोषयुक्त थी. ये स्वायत्त नियामक संस्थाएँ आपसी टकराव और अंतर्विरोध का भी शिकार रहती थी. इससे संबंधित संस्थानों को अनावश्यक अड़चन और अवरोध का सामना करना पड़ता था.

इसीलिए, मोदी सरकार ने इन सभी नियामक संस्थाओं की कार्यशैली का मूल्यांकन करते हुए इन्हें एक निकाय के अधीन लाने का निर्णय लिया है. अब अलग-अलग नियामक संस्थाओं में बँटी-बिखरी हुई उच्च शिक्षा एक ही नियामक संस्था 'भारतीय उच्च शिक्षा आयोग', जो कि सीधे तौर पर शिक्षा मंत्रालय की निगरानी में काम करेगा, के अधीन होगी.

मोदी सरकार द्वारा शिक्षा जगत में किये गए कार्यों को एक लेख में समाहित कर पाना सम्भव नहीं है. सारांश की बात करें तो शिक्षा जगत में किये गए सुधार भविष्य में आने वाली पीढ़ियों में आत्मचेतना का ऐसा प्रवाह करेंगी, जो अगले कई शताब्दियों तक भारत के विश्वगुरु के स्वरूप को मजबूती प्रदान करेगा.

Revolutionizing Education: How the Modi Government Transformed Higher, Technical, & Medical Education in India

Dhananjay Sharma: Member of BJYM Magazine Team

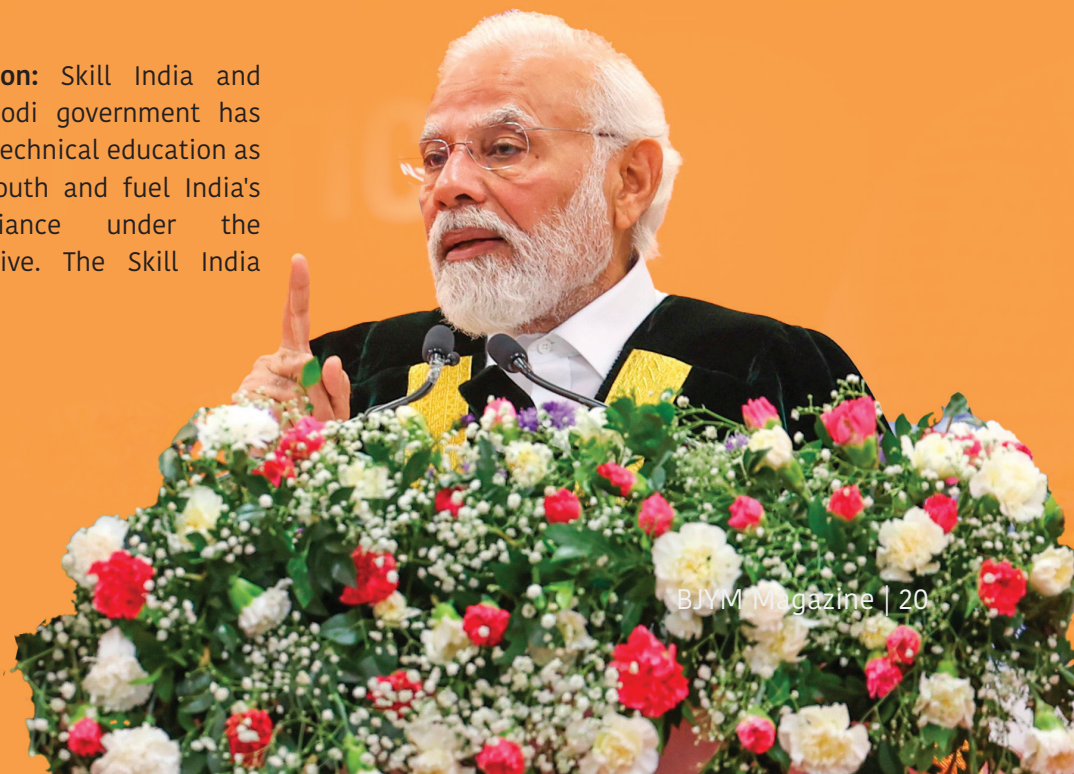
Introduction: Since ascending to power in 2014, the Modi government has embarked on an ambitious journey to overhaul India's higher, technical, and medical education sectors. Recognizing the pivotal role of education in driving economic growth and social development, the administration has introduced a series of reforms aimed at enhancing quality, increasing accessibility, and fostering innovation. This article delves into the transformative initiatives that have reshaped India's educational landscape, highlighting their impact on students, educators, and the nation at large.

Reforming Higher Education: The National Education Policy 2020 At the heart of the Modi government's educational reforms is the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a landmark policy that seeks to address longstanding challenges and set a new direction for the Indian education system. The NEP's vision for higher education includes increasing the Gross Enrollment Ratio to 50% by 2035, promoting multidisciplinary institutions, and ensuring holistic and flexible learning opportunities. By advocating for autonomy, equity, and excellence, the NEP aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge hub.

Boosting Technical Education: Skill India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat The Modi government has placed a strong emphasis on technical education as a means to empower the youth and fuel India's journey towards self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The Skill India

Mission, launched in 2015, aims to train over 400 million people by 2022 in various skills. This mission encompasses several programs, including the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), which focuses on skill development and certification to enhance employability. Additionally, the government has revamped technical education curricula to align with industry 4.0 standards, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills needed for the future.

Elevating Medical Education: Increasing Access and Quality Recognizing the critical need for quality healthcare professionals in India, the Modi government has implemented significant reforms in medical education. It includes the establishment of new AIIMS (All India Institutes of Medical Sciences) across the country and the increase in MBBS and postgraduate medical seats. The government established numerous new institutions, including 11 IITs, 7 IIMs, 15 NITs, and 20 AIIMS, addressing regional imbalances and increasing access to specialized education. The introduction of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act in 2019 marked a historic reform aiming to improve the



quality and accessibility of medical education and healthcare. The Act facilitates a transparent, inclusive, and effective regulatory framework, promoting high ethical standards and addressing the shortage of healthcare professionals in India.

Enhancing Research and Innovation: The Push for a Knowledge Economy The Modi administration has also prioritized research and innovation as key components of higher education. Initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the establishment of Institutions of Eminence (IoEs), and the Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme are designed to foster a culture of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship. These efforts aim to position India as a global research and innovation hub, attracting talent and investment from around the world.

Digital Transformation of Education: A Leap into the Future In response to the rapid digitalization of society, the government has undertaken significant steps to integrate technology into education. Platforms like SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) provide free access to quality educational resources, facilitating distance learning and ensuring that geographical constraints do not bind education. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of these digital initiatives, as they became crucial in continuing education during lockdowns.

Internationalizing Indian Education: Attracting Global Talent The Modi government's policies have also focused on internationalizing Indian education, aiming to attract foreign students and establish partnerships with leading global universities. The 'Study in India' program, for instance, seeks to make India a preferred destination for higher education among students from across the world. Additionally, regulatory reforms have been implemented to encourage Indian universities to offer joint degrees, dual degrees, and twinning programs with foreign institutions, enhancing the global mobility of Indian students.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF):

This ranking system incentivizes universities and colleges to improve their infrastructure, faculty quality, and research output, promoting healthy competition.

Faculty Development Programs: Schemes like SWAYAM Prabha and PARAMSHISHVA offer online and offline training programs for faculty, upskilling them in pedagogy, research methodology, and digital tools.

Addressing Equity and Inclusion: Empowering the Marginalized A key aspect of the government's educational reforms has been the focus on equity and inclusion. Special attention has been given to ensuring that students from marginalized communities, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and women, have equal access to higher, technical, and medical education. Scholarship schemes, reservation policies, and targeted programs have been strengthened or introduced to support these students, aiming to reduce disparities and promote social justice.

Challenges and the Road Ahead Despite these significant strides, challenges such as improving the quality of education across all institutions, ensuring equitable access to resources, and meeting the dynamic needs of the job market remain. The success of the Modi government's educational reforms will ultimately depend on their effective implementation, continuous evaluation, and adaptation to future challenges.

The Modi government's comprehensive approach to reforming India's higher, technical, and medical education sectors has set the foundation for a more inclusive, innovative, and quality-driven educational system. By focusing on accessibility, quality, and global competitiveness, these reforms have the potential to transform India into a global education hub, empowering the next generation of students to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development and the global community. As India continues to navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the ongoing commitment to education reform will be critical in realizing the vision of an empowered, knowledgeable, and self-reliant nation.



HEALTHCARE IN INDIA: A COMPREHENSIVE EVOLUTION

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India as a country always poses complex problems, be they in any sector. In recent times, India has experienced significant advancements in its healthcare sector, witnessing collaborative efforts from both public and private entities to enhance the nation's health infrastructure. From the perspective of an Indian doctor working in one of the largest government hospitals in the country, I've witnessed the transformation across primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare levels under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The multifaceted health initiatives by the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) to improve healthcare accessibility across the country have played a pivotal role in evolving healthcare in India.

Ayushman Bharat: Revolutionizing Healthcare

Central to India's healthcare transformation is the

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), popularly known as Ayushman Bharat. Launched in September 2018, this ambitious health insurance initiative aims to offer financial protection to over 100 million vulnerable families, making it the largest government-funded healthcare program globally. Ayushman Bharat addresses the challenges of rising healthcare costs and the financial strain on individuals during medical emergencies. By providing coverage for various medical procedures and hospitalization expenses, the scheme ensures that citizens can access quality healthcare without the fear of financial repercussions, contributing significantly to the goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Strengthening Healthcare Pillars: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Levels

A resilient healthcare system caters to diverse needs across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The Indian government has actively worked to fortify each of these pillars.

1. Primary Healthcare: The cornerstone of a robust healthcare system lies in accessible and efficient primary healthcare. The government's focus on Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat is noteworthy. These centres serve as the first point of contact, offering essential services such as maternal and child health, immunization, and management of common illnesses.

2. Secondary Healthcare: Secondary healthcare facilities play a pivotal role in addressing more complex medical needs. The government's efforts to upgrade district hospitals and expand their capabilities aim to bridge the gap between primary and tertiary care, ensuring a seamless healthcare journey for patients.

3. Tertiary Healthcare: Tertiary care institutions handle complex medical cases and specialized treatments. The government's commitment to enhancing and establishing All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) showcases its dedication to providing advanced medical care across the nation.

Integration of the pharma sector: Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Acknowledging the burden of high medication costs, the BJP government has taken significant strides in making quality generic medicines accessible to all through Jan Aushadhi Kendras. These centres offer a range of generic drugs at a fraction of the cost of their branded counterparts, reducing the financial strain and out-of-pocket expenditure of patients, especially in cases of chronic illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, etc.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Scheme: Health for all

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDHM) stands as a groundbreaking initiative

aimed at revolutionizing healthcare delivery in India. Launched to complement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), this mission harnesses the power of technology to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and overall healthcare outcomes. At its core, ABDHM focuses on creating a robust digital health ecosystem, ensuring seamless integration of health information across the nation. The establishment of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) serves as the cornerstone, facilitating the creation of digital health records for every citizen. It empowers individuals with the ability to access and share their health information securely, fostering better-informed healthcare decisions.

The way forward for ABDHM involves expanding its scope to include a wide array of digital health services, such as telemedicine consultations, e-pharmacies, and health analytics. This holistic approach not only caters to the immediate healthcare needs of the population but also lays the foundation for predictive and preventive healthcare measures.

Telemedicine: e-Sanjeevani: This telemedicine initiative allows remote consultations, breaking down geographical barriers and providing medical advice to those in remote areas, which is especially crucial during the ongoing global health crisis. The 'eSanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC)' is a Doctor-to-Doctor telemedicine service Operating on a Hub-and-Spoke model. It connects rural Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) with tertiary healthcare facilities. This innovative approach facilitates real-time virtual consultations between doctors and specialists at the hub with beneficiaries at the spoke, overcoming barriers of geography and accessibility. Additionally, 'eSanjeevaniOPD' extends patient-to-doctor telemedicine services, with over 3 million app downloads, enabling citizens across the country to access outpatient services from the comfort of their homes, aligning with the vision of providing quality healthcare to all. More than 3 Crore tele-consultations have been given out through this platform so far.

Tribal healthcare: Making advancements

In India, tribal healthcare is witnessing a transformative focus, with concerted efforts to address prevalent issues like sickle cell anaemia. Recognizing the higher incidence of sickle cell anaemia among tribal populations, targeted initiatives aim to eradicate sickle cell anaemia through comprehensive screening, genetic counselling, and treatment programs. By integrating traditional tribal health practices with modern medical approaches, these efforts are fostering community engagement and awareness. This holistic approach not only seeks to eliminate the burden of sickle cell anaemia but also underscores the importance of culturally sensitive healthcare solutions, ensuring the well-being of tribal communities across India.

AYUSH: Integration of different systems of medicine AYUSH, comprising Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, has been seamlessly integrated into India's healthcare system. Recognizing the holistic healing these traditional systems offer, the government has established AYUSH hospitals, clinics, and research centres nationwide. This integration promotes a synergistic approach, combining the strengths of traditional medicine with modern healthcare. The benefits include personalized and natural remedies, reduced side effects, and preventive wellness practices. AYUSH plays a crucial role in addressing diverse health needs, contributing to a more inclusive healthcare landscape.

A Glimpse into the Future

As we reflect on India's healthcare journey, it's evident that collaborative efforts are steering the nation towards a healthier and more equitable future. Challenges persist, and continuous efforts are needed to address healthcare infrastructure gaps, manpower shortages, and the need for advanced medical research. Collaborative endeavours between the government, healthcare professionals, and the private sector will be key to overcoming these challenges and ensuring every Indian has access to quality healthcare. The future of Indian healthcare under the BJP government is poised for advancements driven by a commitment to inclusivity, technology integration, and a holistic approach to healthcare. The ongoing initiatives, coupled with potential new reforms, set the stage for a healthier, more accessible, and digitally empowered healthcare system in India.

In conclusion, the transformation of India's healthcare landscape is an ongoing journey marked by significant milestones. The government of India's health initiatives serve as beacons of progress, illuminating the path towards a healthier, more resilient nation. As healthcare professionals, policymakers, and citizens unite in this collective effort, the vision of a healthier India for all is within reach.



Healing Minds, Shaping Futures: India's Transformative Journey in Mental Health Since 2014

Devansh Shah, Member, BJYM National PRT

India's approach to mental health has evolved significantly since its independence, particularly after a crucial turning point in 2014. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the nation witnessed a paradigm shift in its handling of mental health issues. For decades, mental health illnesses were shrouded in stigma and misconceptions, often viewed through the lens of superstitions rather than medical understanding. This perspective left many critical issues, such as depression, student and farmer suicides, and domestic violence, inadequately addressed.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its consequent lockdowns, brought a surge in mental

health illnesses, underscoring the urgency for effective mental health care solutions. In response to these growing challenges, the Indian government made a landmark move in 2014 with the enactment of the Mental Health Policy. This initiative marked the first significant overhaul of the nation's mental healthcare system since 1982. The policy, complemented by the Mental Health Action Plan and Mental Health Bill, established a rights-based framework for mental health care in India.

Integral to this new approach was the revamping of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), which was introduced in 1982 and subsequently revised to integrate mental health services into



general healthcare. This integration was primarily achieved through the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), which emphasised a comprehensive approach including life course, recovery, equity, evidence-based health systems, and rights-based perspectives.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has been instrumental in continually reviewing the mental health scenario in India, identifying policy gaps, and adopting successful strategies from other contexts. In 2015-16, the ministry commissioned NIMHANS to undertake a national survey, aiming to develop a detailed understanding of the prevalence, patterns, and outcomes of mental disorders in the country.

Significant strides have been made in budgetary allocations for mental health, particularly in the 2023-24 budget. Mental health institutions received the lion's share of the funding, over 85%, demonstrating the government's commitment to strengthening the institutional backbone of mental health services. Furthermore, the T-MANAS initiative, a testament to the government's focus on digital mental health solutions, received a significant portion of the budget, highlighting a shift towards modern, accessible mental health care post-COVID-19.

The National Tele Mental Health Programme, launched in October 2022, is another milestone in India's mental health journey. As of December 2023, this program has established 46 Tele MANAS Cells across 34 States and Union Territories, handling over half a million calls. This initiative represents a leap forward in making mental health counselling and care services more accessible, especially in remote areas of the country.

Under the NMHP, the expansion in districts has been noteworthy. The DMHP component now operates in 738 districts, offering a range of services from outpatient care to in-patient facilities, ensuring a broader reach of mental health services.

The tertiary care component of the NMHP has also seen significant growth. The government has

sanctioned 25 Centres of Excellence and supported 19 medical colleges to enhance postgraduate departments in mental health specialities. This move aims to increase the number of trained mental health professionals and improve tertiary-level treatment facilities across the country.

Addressing the alarming rates of suicide, the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, released in November 2022, aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10% by 2030. This comprehensive strategy outlines a multi-stakeholder approach to suicide prevention, a critical component of the national mental health agenda.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Issues such as insufficient human resources, inadequate fund allocation and utilisation, and administrative barriers persist. The Mental Health Survey conducted by NIMHANS indicates that about 10.6% of adults over the age of 18 suffer from mental disorders. This statistic underscores the need for continued and focused efforts in this domain.

In conclusion, India's journey in addressing mental health since 2014 has been marked by significant policy shifts, increased budgetary allocations, and the introduction of innovative initiatives like T-MANAS and the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. The focus has expanded from merely treating mental health issues to creating a system that reduces the burden of untreated mental disorders, upholds human rights, and improves the quality of life for all, especially the most vulnerable. However, the path ahead requires sustained effort, effective implementation of policies, and addressing the existing challenges to ensure a mentally healthier India.

We also need to sensitise parents, teachers and other stakeholders to spot and assist young citizens in need of help. We need to have conversations on mental health issues first within the family and gradually include the school environment, too.

Digitalizing Destiny: Unveiling the Educational Revolution in India through Modi Government's Visionary Digital India Policy

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Digital India, launched by the Modi government, is a comprehensive initiative aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society. One of its significant impacts has been felt in the education sector, bringing about innovative changes to enhance accessibility, efficiency, and quality.

Overcoming Infrastructural Barriers to Education

Digital India policy has played a transformative role in reforming rural education by addressing long-standing infrastructural barriers. In many rural areas, the lack of proper educational infrastructure and resources had hindered the learning experience. The policy's focus on expanding digital infrastructure, including the provision of high-speed internet and the establishment of Common Service

Centers (CSCs), has bridged the digital divide. This infrastructural enhancement has enabled rural schools to integrate technology into the educational process, offering students access to a wealth of online resources and educational content. Digital literacy camps organized at the community level in states like Uttar Pradesh have involved local residents in the process of digital skill development. These camps not only teach the basics of digital literacy but also emphasize the integration of technology into daily life, fostering a holistic understanding of the digital landscape.

Enhancing Access to Educational Resources

One of the primary objectives of the Digital India policy in the context of rural education has been to

enhance access to educational resources. Through initiatives like SWAYAM and the National Digital Library (NDL), students in rural areas now have access to a diverse range of courses, e-books, and learning materials. This democratization of educational resources has empowered students and teachers alike, fostering an environment where quality education is not confined by geographical constraints. As a result, students in remote villages can now explore subjects beyond their textbooks, broadening their educational horizons.

At the national level, the Digital India policy has laid the groundwork for substantial reforms in rural education by prioritizing the development of digital infrastructure. The BharatNet project, a key component of Digital India, aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. This initiative directly benefits rural education by ensuring that even the remotest areas have access to the internet, enabling schools to implement digital learning tools. Furthermore, the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) initiative has been pivotal in connecting rural schools, allowing them to tap into online resources and participate in e-learning programs.

E-Learning Platforms for Remote Education

Digital India has facilitated the rise of e-learning platforms, providing a platform for remote education in rural areas. The implementation of digital classrooms and online learning modules has allowed students in geographically isolated regions to receive quality education without the need to travel long distances. This has not only improved the learning experience for students but has also attracted skilled educators to contribute to the educational landscape in rural India through virtual platforms. The states across India have complemented the Digital India policy by implementing initiatives focused on digital literacy in rural areas. For instance, the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana' in Rajasthan aims to make youth in rural areas digitally literate. Under this scheme, students are provided with tablets and smartphones, facilitating their engagement with digital educational content. This not only fosters digital literacy but also integrates technology into

the learning process, preparing students for a digital-centric future.

Skill Development and Employment Opportunities

The Digital India policy's impact on rural education extends beyond traditional academic subjects. With a focus on skill development, the policy has introduced various online programs that cater to the specific needs of rural communities. Skill India, a component of Digital India, offers courses that align with local industries and employment opportunities. This strategic approach aims to empower rural youth with practical skills, making them more employable and contributing to the economic development of their communities.

The Skill India initiative, a part of the Digital India campaign, has witnessed collaborative efforts between the central and state governments to empower rural youth with relevant skills. States like Maharashtra have aligned their skill development programs with local industries, offering courses that address the specific needs of their rural population. This collaboration ensures that the skill development initiatives resonate with the employment opportunities available in the respective regions, creating a more impactful and region-specific approach to rural education reform.

Transformative Impact on Teaching Methods: The integration of digital technology has transformed teaching methods in rural schools. The use of interactive whiteboards, educational apps, and multimedia content has made learning more engaging and effective. Teachers in rural areas have received training to incorporate technology into their lessons, fostering a more dynamic and participatory learning environment. This shift not only enhances the quality of education but also ensures that students in rural India are better prepared for the challenges of a digitalized world, aligning with the broader goals of the Digital India policy. The National Digital Library (NDL) is a prime example of the Digital India policy's impact, as it addresses the need for comprehensive digital resources in the education sector. At the national level, the central government has actively promoted the NDL as a repository of academic content

accessible to students, educators, and researchers across the country. The NDL hosts a vast collection of e-books, articles, and educational materials, providing a centralized digital platform that supports various academic disciplines. This initiative aligns with the Digital India vision by ensuring that students, regardless of their geographical location, have access to a rich pool of educational resources, enhancing the quality and diversity of learning materials available. Several states have initiated virtual classrooms and e-learning platforms to enhance the quality of education in rural areas. In Karnataka, the 'Vidyagama' program has been launched, where teachers conduct virtual classes and provide educational content through a dedicated TV channel. This innovative approach ensures that students in remote villages have access to quality education even during challenging times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing the adaptability of rural education through digital means.

State-Centric Implementation of NEP 2020 with Digital Tools

The Digital India policy has empowered states to implement NEP 2020 in a manner that suits their unique educational landscapes. States like

Maharashtra and Karnataka have leveraged digital tools to align their education systems with the goals of NEP 2020. This includes the use of technology for teacher training programs, the introduction of e-learning modules, and the integration of digital resources in classroom instruction. Maharashtra's 'Shikshan Prerna' initiative, for instance, focuses on enhancing teachers' digital literacy skills, aligning with NEP's emphasis on capacity building. These state-centric approaches highlight the adaptability and scalability of digital solutions, enabling a seamless integration of NEP 2020's transformative measures into the diverse educational ecosystems across the country. The synergy between the Digital India policy and NEP 2020 showcases a collaborative effort between the central and state governments, leveraging technology for the comprehensive enhancement of India's education sector.

As we applaud the Modi government's leadership, it is essential to recognize the symbiotic relationship between NEP 2020 and broader initiatives like Digital India. The seamless integration of digital tools, online resources, and modern assessment methods showcases a commitment to leveraging technology for the betterment of education.



Transforming Education: The Modi Government's Legacy Since 2014

Akshit Dahiya

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Introduction: Since taking office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has embarked on a transformative journey to overhaul India's education system. Recognizing education as the cornerstone of economic and social development, the Modi administration has introduced a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing access, improving quality, and fostering innovation across the educational landscape. This article delves into the significant achievements and reforms in the field of education under the Modi government, highlighting their impact on students, educators, and the nation at large.

Revolutionizing School Education: One of the earliest and most impactful initiatives has been the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which replaced the three-decade-old National Policy on Education 1986. The NEP 2020 aims to make the Indian education system more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and aligned to the needs of the 21st century, aiming to bring out the unique capabilities of each student. Key highlights include the introduction of the 5+3+3+4 system, replacing the 10+2 structure to cater to students from ages 3 to 18, and emphasis on the mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction till Grade 5.



Empowering Higher Education: In higher education, the Modi government has worked towards increasing the gross enrollment ratio, fostering research and innovation, and enhancing the quality of higher education institutions. Initiatives like the Institutes of Eminence (IoE) scheme aim to propel Indian institutes to global recognition. Furthermore, the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) has been instrumental in providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions.

Digital Education and Technology Integration: Recognizing the role of technology in education, the Modi government has significantly invested in digital infrastructure. The DIKSHA platform, SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds), and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI) are pivotal in providing digital resources across the country, ensuring that learning continues beyond the confines of classrooms and is accessible to all.

Skill Development and Vocational Training: The Skill India Mission, launched in 2015, aims to train over 400 million people in India in different skills by 2022. The initiative includes various programs such as the National Skill Development Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), and the establishment of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to promote skill development among the youth.

Educational Infrastructure and Accessibility: Significant efforts have been made to improve the physical and digital infrastructure within schools and colleges. The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan has been a holistic scheme to treat schooling as a continuum from preschool to senior secondary levels and improve the quality of education by focusing on teacher training and learning outcomes.

Focus on Research and Innovation: The government has also emphasized research and innovation by setting up the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools, and encouraging higher education institutions to focus on research projects that address national priorities.

Addressing Educational Disparities: Efforts to reduce disparities in education have been noteworthy. Initiatives such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) campaign, and scholarships for minority students aim to promote education among underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.

Globalizing Indian Education: The Modi government has also made efforts to globalize Indian education through collaborations with foreign universities, enabling dual degrees, joint degrees, and twinning arrangements to enhance the global mobility of Indian students and attract international students to India.

Challenges and the Road Ahead: Despite these achievements, the Modi government's education reforms face challenges such as improving the quality of education across all levels, reducing dropout rates, especially in rural and underprivileged areas, and ensuring that digital education reaches every corner of the country.

The Modi government's efforts in the field of education since 2014 have set a solid foundation for a more inclusive, accessible, and modern education system. While significant strides have been made, the true success of these initiatives will depend on their implementation and the continuous evaluation of their impact on the Indian education landscape. As India moves forward, the focus must remain on building an education system that not only imparts knowledge but also fosters innovation, critical thinking, and a lifelong love for learning among its students. The journey of educational reform is ongoing, and the achievements thus far pave the way for a brighter, more educated future for India.

Bridging the Gap: Empowering SC/ST Students Through Education Under PM Modi

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Since its inception in 2014, the Modi government has placed significant emphasis on inclusivity and empowerment in education, particularly for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Understanding the historical marginalization faced by these communities, the administration has launched a series of initiatives aimed at dismantling barriers, increasing access, and providing greater opportunities in education for SC/ST students. This article explores the multifaceted strategies employed to uplift SC/ST students, highlighting the government's commitment to creating an equitable educational landscape.

Strategic Scholarships and Financial Support: A cornerstone of the government's approach has been the introduction and expansion of scholarship schemes tailored for SC/ST students. These

scholarships, such as the National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students and the Post Matric Scholarship for SC Students, have been instrumental in alleviating financial burdens and enabling continued education. By covering a broad spectrum of costs associated with education, these initiatives have opened doors for many SC/ST students to pursue their academic aspirations without financial constraints.

Enhancing Access to Quality Education: To directly address the issue of access, the Modi government has significantly invested in building and upgrading educational infrastructure in regions predominantly inhabited by SCs and STs. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), for instance, stand out as a beacon of quality education, providing not only academic excellence but also boarding facilities in tribal areas. These schools are designed to offer a



conducive learning environment, aiming to reduce dropout rates and promote higher educational attainment among tribal students.

Fostering Digital Literacy and Accessibility:

Acknowledging the digital divide, initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) have been pivotal in enhancing digital literacy among SC/ST students in rural areas. By facilitating access to digital resources and training, the government has ensured that students from these communities are not left behind in an increasingly digitalized world. This approach has been particularly beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic, where digital learning became the norm, underscoring the importance of digital inclusivity.

Skill Development for the Future:

Understanding the importance of vocational training and skill development, the Skill India Mission has been tailored to meet the needs of SC/ST youths. Programs under this mission are designed to equip students with industry-relevant skills, enhancing their employability and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to India's economic growth. This focus on skill development has opened up new avenues for SC/ST students, moving beyond traditional education to ensure they are prepared for the demands of the modern workforce.

Legislative Measures and Institutional Reforms:

To complement these educational initiatives, the Modi government has strengthened legislative and institutional frameworks to protect the rights of SC/ST students. Amendments to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act have provided a robust legal mechanism to combat discrimination, creating safer and more inclusive educational environments. Moreover, the establishment of committees and cells within educational institutions to address grievances of SC/ST students has been a step towards ensuring equity and justice in the educational domain.

Promoting Research and Innovation:

Encouraging SC/ST students to engage in research and innovation has been another focus area. Programs like the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the

establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools have aimed to nurture creativity and problem-solving skills. By providing platforms for innovation, the government has aimed to empower SC/ST students to become leaders in research and development, furthering their academic and professional prospects.

Global Exposure and Opportunities:

The Modi government has also recognized the value of international exposure in education. Initiatives encouraging collaborations with foreign universities, enabling dual degrees, and facilitating international exchange programs have been particularly beneficial for SC/ST students. These opportunities for global engagement have not only enriched the educational experience of SC/ST students but have also prepared them for global competitiveness. It has increased grant of National Overseas scholarship to obtain higher education, viz., Master's degree or PhD courses, by studying abroad, thereby improving their Economic and Social status and opening new horizons.

Challenges and the Way Forward:

Despite significant progress, challenges remain in fully realizing the educational empowerment of SC/ST communities. Issues such as geographical isolation, cultural barriers, and lingering social stigma continue to pose hurdles. Moving forward, a sustained and focused approach, including continuous monitoring, feedback from communities, and adaptive strategies, will be essential in overcoming these challenges.

The Modi government's initiatives since 2014 have marked a significant shift towards inclusivity and empowerment in education for SC/ST students. Through financial support, access to quality education, digital literacy, skill development, and legislative protections, substantial progress has been made in enabling greater opportunities for these communities. However, the journey towards educational equity is ongoing, requiring commitment, innovation, and collaboration to ensure that SC/ST students not only access education but thrive within it, contributing to India's growth and diversity.

Healing a Nation, Nurturing Minds: A Decade of Central Government's Impact on Health and Education

Shambhavi Shahi & Tarishi Verma
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Introduction:

Nelson Mandela's insightful words, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," underscore the transformative potential of education. Over the last decade, the central government of India has recognised the intrinsic link between education and societal progress, as evident in its concerted efforts to strengthen both the healthcare and education sectors. This period has seen a comprehensive approach aimed at fostering the holistic well-being and development

of the nation's diverse populace.

Healthcare Initiatives: An In-Depth Analysis:

In the healthcare sector, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's government has embarked on a transformative journey through initiatives such as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Serving as a linchpin, NRHM has catalysed the integration and refinement of health services, particularly in underserved rural regions. This initiative not only aimed to rectify existing healthcare disparities but also sought to architecturally correct the healthcare

delivery system for greater efficacy.

National Health Policy 2017:

The introduction of the National Health Policy in 2017 marked a significant milestone, signifying the government's commitment to achieving universal health coverage and promoting overall wellness. Ambitious targets, including a specified percentage of GDP allocated to health expenditure, underscored the administration's determination to elevate healthcare standards across the country.

Ayushman Bharat Program:

The Ayushman Bharat program, encompassing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), emerged as a beacon of hope for vulnerable families. By providing financial protection and enhancing access to quality healthcare services, this holistic approach addressed various health issues, with a particular emphasis on maternal and child health. The government's unwavering commitment to eliminating Kala-azar and its success in reducing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) showcase the effectiveness of targeted interventions.

Affordable Medicines through Janaushadhi Kendras:

The establishment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras, offering generic medicines at more affordable prices, has democratised access to essential drugs. This initiative, spanning thousands of stores across the country, significantly impacts citizens, ensuring that healthcare is not only accessible but also economically viable.

Education Reforms: An Insightful Overview:

Government Expenditure Trends:

In the domain of education, the government has demonstrated a commendable commitment by steadily increasing expenditure. From 7.92% in 1952 to 15.7% in 2014, the total government expenditure percentage highlights the growing importance of education. The imposition of a two per cent education cess on union taxes further underscores the government's dedication to enhancing elementary education.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Impact:

The introduction of the NEP 2020 marks a watershed moment, emphasising curricular changes, holistic student development, and internationalisation. The substantial budget allocation of 993 billion Indian rupees to education in the 2020 union budget underscores the government's commitment to implementing the NEP effectively. The focus on building foundational skills and making India a preferred destination for higher education reflects a forward-looking vision.

Educational Landscape and Challenges:

India's education system, with millions of schools, teachers, and students, offers immense potential. However, challenges persist, particularly in terms of literacy rates and gender disparities. Regional variations highlight the need for targeted interventions to bridge educational gaps. The magnitude of the education system underscores the importance of effective implementation of policies to ensure quality and inclusivity.

In conclusion, the last decade has witnessed a proactive and multifaceted approach by the central government in fortifying the healthcare and education sectors. The transformative initiatives in healthcare, such as NRHM and Ayushman Bharat, reflect a commitment to inclusive and accessible healthcare. Simultaneously, in the education sector, increased expenditure and policy reforms like the NEP 2020 signal a strategic approach to building a robust learning environment.

Despite the progress, challenges persist in both sectors. However, the success stories, such as Bihar's improvement in female literacy, showcase the potential for positive change through targeted interventions. As the government navigates the complexities of healthcare and education, sustained commitment, innovative strategies, and a focus on quality will be pivotal in shaping a healthier, more educated, and empowered India. The last decade stands as a testament to the government's dedication to fostering a holistic and inclusive development paradigm for the nation.

HEALTHCARE ATTAINMENTS IN NaMo BHARAT

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AN OVERVIEW

"आरोग्यं परमं भाग्यं स्वास्थ्यं सर्वार्थ साधनम्" meaning that "Health is the biggest wealth in one's life. It is the only thing with which all the other things can be achieved in life". Healthy lifestyles mentioned in the entire range of Bharatiya Darshan have been rooted in the concept of coherence and co-existence in line with nature. Over the last nine and half years, 'healthcare and wellness' have been a key focus area under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It has been a crucial factor in India's emerging victorious from the global COVID-19 pandemic by administering over 220 crore doses of vaccines and exporting a significant number of vaccines to the world in time of need.

Accessible and affordable quality healthcare, a top priority for the Modi government, has turned into a reality for the countrymen. Prior to the Modi Government, medical expenditures were a severe economic burden for low-income households and often led them into vicious circles of debt. In 2018, the Modi government launched Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the world's largest health insurance programme, providing permanent relief from debt burden to approximately twenty-two crores beneficiaries. Further, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is realising the vision of building a digitally connected healthcare ecosystem. More than 25 crores of individuals' health records have been linked to their Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA). The digitally available health records will enable the ABHA holders to avail of paperless health services across the ABDM network.

The e-Sanjeevani is a revolutionary programme in the healthcare sector. Through it, more than 10 crore

beneficiaries have been able to access quality healthcare at their doorstep, thus bridging the rural-urban barrier in the provision of specialised medical care. Over 9300 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, located in more than 700 districts from every nook and corner of the country, are providing quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all.

The Modi government has been firmly committed to avoiding any suffering from vaccine-preventable diseases. In this regard, under various phases of Mission Indradhanush, 4.45 crore Children and 1.2 crore Pregnant Women have been vaccinated against 12 diseases. Resultantly, a significant decline in Maternal Mortality Rate from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20 has been recorded.

The Modi government has brought a crucial turnaround in medical education. Few government colleges, high fees in private medical colleges, and massive corruption in seat allocation had severely limited opportunities for medical education. In the last nine and half years, the NaMo government has approved/established new AIIMS and a large number of new medical colleges in several states. These include the first-ever AIIMS in the North-east in Guwahati, Assam. Further, the government's bold decision to replace the 'Medical Council of India' with the 'National Medical Commission' has ended the dark chapter of corruption in medical education. In New India, talented students from humble backgrounds can also fulfil their dream of becoming doctors.

India's quick and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic was supported by its roll-out of the world's largest vaccination drive using indigenously developed vaccines. In a landmark shift from the past, when citizens had to wait for decades for the start of vaccination drives, PM Modi led the government and ensured the administration of more than 2.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine in a short span of two years. Numerous other huge strides have been made in the healthcare sector, and some of those major attainments are being discussed here briefly:

MILESTONE ATTAINMENTS: AT A GLANCE

- 4.54 crore hospital admissions under Ayushman Bharat
- Mission Indradhanush protects over 5.65 crores of mothers and children
- Over 220 crores COVID-19 vaccine doses administered
- A total of 69,663 medical seats added since 2014 during NaMo Bharat
- More than 1.59 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres operational
- 15 crore teleconsultations through Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
- 15 new AIIMS and 225 medical colleges are being added
- Over 37 crores Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts Created
- Over 39 Crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) created
- Over Rs. 64,100 crore outlay for PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
- More than 1,500 PSA (Pressure swing adsorption) plants sanctioned by the central government
- Over 9,300 Jan Aushadhi Kendras and 230+ AMRIT Pharmacies for Affordable medicines
- More than 3 crore citizens purchased affordable medicines from AMRIT pharmacies
- Approximately Rs. 23,000 crores saved under Jan Aushadhi Kendras
- Over 110 crore registered users on the Made in India Co-WIN portal
- Over 5,000 Rapid Molecular Diagnostic Machines for Tuberculosis are now operational, up from just 40 in 2014
- 660 Medical Colleges are now operational, an increase of over 70 per cent since 2014
- 730 Integrated Public Health Labs being established in all districts
- Over 600 Critical Care Hospital Blocks in all districts with a population of 5 lakhs

A 360 Degree Policy Push To prevent diseases: Mission Indradhanush

- Over 5 crore pregnant mothers and children immunised, Push for AYUSH and Yoga.

For Primary Age: Ayushman Bharat

- Health and Wellness Centres (1.5 Lakh HWCs),
- Hypertension Screenings: 35.43 crores
- Diabetes Screenings: 30.5 crores
- Tele-consultations: 15 crores
- Total screenings of cancers at AB-HWCs (Oral, Breast & Cervical): 37.5 crores

For Secondary and Tertiary Care: Ayushman Bharat-PM JAY

- Health Cover of Rs. 5 Lakhs
- Ayushman Cards: 23.19 crores
- Hospital Admissions: 4.54 crores
- Treatment worth Rs. 54,758 crores

For Medicines: Jan Aushadhi Kendras

- 9304 kendras sell medicines at lower prices
- Approx. over Rs. 23,000 crores saved for citizens

Historic ramping up of infrastructure to fight COVID-19

- Testing Labs: 14 Labs (March 2020), 3390 Labs (2023)
- Domestic manufacturing capacity of PPE kits: 0 (March 2020), 20 Lakh per day (2023)
- ICU Beds: 2168 (March 2020), 1.44 Lakhs (20203)
- Oxygen-supported Beds: 50,583 (March 2020), 5.14 Laks (2023)

Budget allocation for the Department of Health & Family Welfare: Increased by 159%

- 2013-14 (BE): Rs. 33,278 crore
- 2023-24 (BE): Rs. 86,175 crore

Per capita Government Health expenditure: Increased by 82%

- 2014-15: Rs. 1108
- 2018-19: Rs. 2014

Healthcare: 2.6 times increase in expenditure in last 9 years

- 2015-16: Rs. 34.13 thousand crores
- 2023-24 (BE): Rs. 88.95 thousand crores

Number of AIIMS: 3-fold Increase

- 2014: 7 AIIMS
- 2023: 23 AIIMS

Medical Colleges: Increased by 71%

- 2014: 387
- 2023: 660

MBBS seats: Increased by 97%

- 2014: 51,348
- 2023: 1,01,043

PG Medical seats: Increased by 110%

- 2014: 31,185
- 2023: 65,335

Households with any member covered by health insurance

- NFHS-4 (2015-16): 28.7%
- NFHS-5 (2019-21): 41%

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (NMR) reduced by 23%

- 2014: 26
- 2020: 20

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) reduced by 25%

- 2014-16: 130 per lakh Live births
- 2018-20: 97 per lakh Live births

Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5-MR) reduced by 28%

- 2014: 45 per 1000 Live births
- 2020: 32 per 1000 Live births

Household expenditure on healthcare reduced by 15.5%

- 2014-15: 62.6%
- 2019-20: 47.1%

Share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure increased

- 2014-15: 29%
- 2019-20: 41.4%

Market size of AYUSH industry increased 535%!

- 2014-15: Rs. 23,532 crore
- 2020: Rs. 1.49 lakh crore

ATTAINMENTS AT THE GLOBAL STAGE

One Earth – One Health: Paving the Way for a Healthier Tomorrow

- Over 220 Crores vaccinations against COVID-19: World's largest voluntary vaccination drive in NaMo Bharat
- 4.81 crores admissions covered with Ayushman Bharat: World's largest government-funded health insurance scheme
- Over 29 crores doses shared under Vaccine Maitri: India exported Made in India vaccines to 100+ countries
- 2nd Highest FDA-approved manufacturing plant: New India is known as the 'Pharmacy of the World'
- 1st Low-cost pharmaceuticals: New India is the largest supplier of low-cost Generics & Vaccines
- Pharmaceutical Exports worth INR 2 lakh crore+: New India exported pharmaceuticals worth over USD 25 billion in 2022
- 2nd largest Ayurvedic and Herbal Medicine Exports, with a market size of over USD 18 billion: New India is the 2nd largest exporter of Alternative Medicines
- Over 147 crores Cumulative Footfalls at Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs): Footfalls at AB-HWCs are over 3 times the population of the EU.

PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP: New India

- At a time when several global leaders failed even to recognise COVID-19 as a global calamity, even before India had a single case, screening began at airports
- Long before many other nations took it seriously, in the first week of March 2020, our visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said he would avoid gatherings, such as Holi Milan and set an example
- Mandatory uses of Mask were enacted in larger parts of India long before the World Health Organization (WHO) called for them
- In April 2020, India had already set up a vaccine task force to save lives when several countries were only thinking of massive

mortalities

- India started using 'Rapid Antigen Tests' to speed up testing long before WHO recommended it
- The fact that India went into an early lockdown has been universally acknowledged. It helped ramp up medical infrastructure. Future-proofing India with PM-ABHIM
- PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to invest Rs. 64,180 crores in health infrastructure
- Support for 17,788 rural health and wellness centres in 10 high-focus states
- Establishing 11,024 urban health and wellness centres in all the states
- 3,382 block public health units in 11 high-focus states
- Setting up integrated public health labs in all districts
- Establishing Critical Care Hospital blocks in all districts with a population of more than 5 lakh persons

VACCINES IN INDIA: A RECORD-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT

- COVID-19 Vaccine: Globally introduced in December 2020, Introduced in India within a month only
- IPV (Inactivated Polio Vaccine): Globally introduced in 1955, Introduced in India after 60 years
- TT (Tetanus Toxoid) Vaccine: Globally introduced in 1926, Introduced in India after 57 years
- BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) Vaccine: Globally introduced in 1927, Introduced in India after 51 years
- Measles & Rubella Vaccine: Globally introduced in 1971, Introduced in India after 46 years
- DPT (Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus) Vaccine: Globally introduced in 1948, Introduced in India after 30 years
- Hepatitis-B Vaccine: Globally introduced in 1982, Introduced in India after 20 years
- Pneumococcal Vaccine: Globally introduced in 2000, Introduced in India after 17 years (during NaMo Bharat)
- Rotavirus Vaccine: Globally introduced in 2006,

Introduced in India after 10 years (during NaMo Bharat)

FLAGSHIP SCHEMES: TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM): filling critical gaps in public health infrastructure

- Support for 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States
- Establishing 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres in all the States
- 3382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High-Focus States
- Setting up of 730 Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts
- Establishing 602 Critical Care Hospital Blocks
- 5 New National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units
- Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry that is, at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land crossings
- Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 container-based mobile hospitals
- Setting up of a national institution for One Health, 4 New National Institutes for Virology, a Regional Research Platform for the WHO South East Asia Region and 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories
- 708 District NCD Clinics, 194 District Cardiac Care Units, 301 Day Care Centres and 5,671 Community Health Centre NCD Clinics have been set up across the country under the National Health Mission (NHM)
- 19 State Cancer Institutes (SCIs) and 20 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) have been approved under NHM. 15 Institutes are functional so far.

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhanmantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY): Making Healthcare Affordable for the Most Vulnerable

- AB-PMJAY is the world's largest health protection scheme
- Health coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per beneficiary family per annum to over 60 crore beneficiaries

- 23.3 crore Ayushman cards issued (as of 20 March, 2023)
- 4.95 crore hospital admissions authorised (as of 17 May, 2023)
- 28,090 hospitals empanelled (as of 17 May, 2023)
- About 40,000 hospital admissions are authorised under the scheme every day.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDHM): to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the nation:

- 39 Crore+ Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) created
- 27 crore+ health records linked
- 2.06 lakh verified facilities
- 1.83 lakh verified healthcare professionals
- With the success of Co-WIN and Aarogya Setu, the power of tech in healthcare has been seen
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDHM) is creating a seamless online platform for healthcare
- Citizens create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records are linked
- With the citizen's consent, this data can be accessed by healthcare professionals
- ABDHM facilitates evidence-based decision-making for effective health interventions
- 37.07 crore ABHAs have been created so far

National telemedicine service of India – e-Sanjeevani: quick and easy access to doctors even in remote areas:

- More than 11.83 Crore Teleconsultation provided to date
- Over 57 per cent of beneficiaries are women
- Around 12 per cent of beneficiaries are senior citizens

Tele-MANAS: provides free tele-mental health services across the country

- 36 Tele MANAS Cells operationalised
- 63,800+ calls handled

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

(PMJJBY): provides life insurance coverage of Rs 2 Lakh to anyone aged up to 55 years and having a bank account:

- Cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 16.19 crore (as of 26 April 2023)
- Amount of Rs. 13,290 crore has been paid for 6.64 lakh claims paid under PMJJBY (as of 26 April, 2023)

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): provides accidental death cum disability cover of Rs. 2 lakh for death or disability due to an accident against a premium of just ₹ 20 per annum:

- Cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 34.18 crore (as of 26 April, 2023)
- Amount of Rs. 2,302 crore has been paid for 1.15 lakh claims

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA): provides quality antenatal care to all pregnant women

- Over 3.94 Crore pregnant women examined under PMSMA
- 19,215 facilities providing PMSMA services

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): providing direct cash benefits to meet enhanced nutritional needs of pregnant women

- More than 3.32 crore beneficiaries enrolled under PMMVY
- More than 3.05 crore beneficiaries have been paid more than Rs 13,766 crores as maternity benefits under PMMVY

POSHAN Abhiyaan: improving nutritional status of Children, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers

- Mission POSHAN 2.0 rolled out across the country
- Only fortified rice being allocated under POSHAN 2.0
- Millets are to be mandatorily supplied at least once a week under POSHAN 2.0
- 10.18 crore beneficiaries registered under POSHAN 2.0
- Covers around 730 Districts, including 112 Aspirational Districts

- Around 60+ crore Jan Andolan-based activities have been held

Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya): to improve the quality of care in labour rooms and maternity operation theatres

- 2660 Labour Rooms and 1989 Maternity Operation Theatres LaQshya National certified (up till 24 March 2023)
- 283 obstetric high dependency unit/Intensive care unit approved
- The percentage of institutional deliveries out of the total deliveries has increased from 86.9 per cent in 2014-15 to 94.8 per cent in 2020-21

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: to foster a change in the minds of people to ensure the survival, protection & education of girl child

- Improvement in the Sex ratio of the total population:
- Women: 1020
- Men: 1000
- Improvement of Sex ratio at Birth by 19 points from 918 (2014-15) to 937 (2020-21)
- Percentage of 1st Trimester ANC Registration has shown improvement from 61 per cent in 2014-15 to 73.9 per cent in 2020-21

Increased opportunity in Healthcare Education

- 157 medical colleges were sanctioned; 97 medical colleges are functional till now.
- 22 new AIIMS-approved undergraduate courses have started in 19 of these.
- 75 government medical college upgrade projects have been approved, out of which 60 projects are complete.

Landmark Initiatives Ensuring Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All

- More than 1.59 lakh Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) operationalised across the country, in which essential drugs and healthcare services are provided free of cost to all
- Around 9,300 Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) have been opened across the country to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices
- The prices of medicines sold through the

Kendras are at least 50 per cent cheaper than that of branded medicines available in the open market

- The product basket of PMBJKs presently comprises 1,759 medicines and 280 surgical devices
- An estimated 10-12 lakh people buy medicines from PMBJKs on a daily basis
- Savings of more than Rs. 20,000 crores made by citizens since 2014 by purchasing medicines from these Janaushadhi Kendras
- Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) stores have been set up in hospitals, where essential life-saving medicines are provided at a substantial discount
- 238 AMRIT Pharmacies are operating in 28 States/UTs (as of 9 December 2022)
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed ceiling prices of 890 scheduled formulations across various therapeutic categories under NLEM 2015
- NPPA has fixed ceiling prices of 344 scheduled formulations under NLEM 2022
- Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 526 brands of anti-cancer medicines has been reduced by up to 90 per cent

Moving Towards a 'TB Mukht Bharat'

- TB Patient Registrations: Up from 15.5 lakh (2014) to 24.22 lakh (2022); 56 per cent increase
- 18 per cent decline in incidence of TB in India in 2021 compared to 2015, from 256/lakh population in 2015 to 210/lakh population in 2021

- Rapid Molecular Diagnostic Machines scaled up from 40 in 2014 to 5,090 in 2022

Making India a Global Hub for Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

PLI Scheme for Bulk Drugs

- Total financial outlay of Rs. 6,940 crores
- 41 products identified for financial incentive
- 51 applications selected under the scheme
- 22 projects have already been commissioned with an installed capacity of 34,255 MT

PLI Scheme for Promoting Domestic Manufacturing of Medical Devices

- Total financial outlay of Rs. 3,420 crore
- 26 applications approved
- 14 projects already commissioned
- Domestic manufacturing of high-end medical devices like MRI scans, CT-Scan, Mammogram and X-ray tubes started.

PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals

- Financial outlay Rs. 15,000 crores
- 55 applicants were selected for financial incentive

AYUSH – Reviving Knowledge of Traditional Medicines

- Nations across the world are increasingly utilising Indian medicine systems
- 12,500 AYUSH HWCs approved
- 5,800+ AYUSH HWCs made functional
- 780 AYUSH colleges established with over 62,700 students
- WHO-Global Center for Traditional Medicine: 1st such centre established in India



Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024: PM Modi Advocates Music & Teacher-Student Bonds for Stress-Free Education

Abheet Sangotra

(State I.T Incharge BJYM Jammu Kashmir
& Advocate J&K High Court)



"Pariksha Pe Charcha" is an interactive program initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to address the concerns of students, parents, and teachers regarding examinations and the stress associated with them. The initiative aims to create a stress-free atmosphere for students across the country and to discuss strategies to ensure better academic outcomes. During these sessions, the Prime Minister shares his insights and tips on how to deal with exam-related stress, encouraging students to focus on their studies without fear. The program also provides a platform for students, parents, and teachers to share their experiences and suggestions with the Prime Minister, making it a collaborative effort to tackle the challenges of examination pressures. It is part of a broader set of educational reforms and initiatives undertaken by the government to improve the quality of education and the overall well-being of students in India. In a bid to address the perennial issue of exam stress among students, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took centre stage at the Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024, an event that allows direct interaction between the Prime Minister and students. The session, a cornerstone of the 'Exam Warriors' initiative, delved into the transformative power of music and the pivotal role teachers play in shaping students' lives.

The Power of Music in Education:

During the Pariksha Pe Charcha, PM Modi highlighted the therapeutic role of music in alleviating stress among students. Recognizing the multifaceted benefits of music, he emphasized its ability to act as a stress buster and mood enhancer. The Prime Minister encouraged students to incorporate music into their daily routines, recognizing its potential to foster a positive mindset, which is crucial during exam preparations.

Teacher's Unique Role:

Prime Minister Modi extended his focus to the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students. Beyond the traditional realms of syllabus and curriculum, he emphasized that teachers should aim to form a unique bond with their students. According to him, a school's music teacher, in particular, possesses a unique ability to ease the

stress of every student, showcasing the profound impact educators can have beyond academics.

Beyond Syllabus and Curriculum:

The Prime Minister urged teachers to go beyond the confines of textbooks, encouraging them to connect with students on a personal level. He emphasized the need for teachers to believe in their ability to shape and augment the lives of their students positively. This holistic approach, as per PM Modi, contributes significantly to creating a conducive and stress-free learning environment.

Creating Safe Spaces:

PM Modi stressed the importance of teachers creating a special place for themselves and their students. This space, he suggested, should be an environment where students feel comfortable communicating their tensions and stress freely. By fostering open communication, teachers can play a pivotal role in motivating students and helping them navigate the challenges of academic pressure.

Pariksha Pe Charcha and the 'Exam Warriors' Initiative:

Pariksha Pe Charcha is an integral part of the broader 'Exam Warriors' initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This initiative aims to bring together students, parents, teachers, and society at large to foster a stress-free environment for the youth. Through interactive sessions like Pariksha Pe Charcha, PM Modi seeks to directly engage with students, addressing concerns related to exams, stress, and the overall educational experience.

Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 showcased Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to nurturing a positive and stress-free educational ecosystem. By highlighting the power of music and the pivotal role of teachers, PM Modi provided valuable insights for students, educators, and parents alike. The 'Exam Warriors' initiative continues to be a beacon, advocating for a holistic approach to education that goes beyond exams and embraces the well-being of students.

Empowering Youth: NEP 2020 & the Quest for Educational Equity

Gourav Lama

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The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 draws a roadmap of how the future education would be imparted and executed in India. It is pertinent to mention at the outset that, without any doubt, it would revolutionise the entire education system and shape the future generation of the country. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the pivotal role of educational institutions in the personality development of an individual and underlined that a nation becomes developed only with the development of its people. Hence, education needs to be prioritised during the 'Amrit Kaal'.

The NEP creates opportunities for the students to be exposed to the ancient culture of India, flexible learning, digital methods of teaching and learning, and creative and logical thinking, to name a few. Emphasis on the local and regional language for imparting education is another point that would bridge the gap between the urban and rural divide

that exists in the country. To quote the Prime Minister, "Education in the mother tongue indicates a new form of justice for the students in India. It is a very significant step towards social justice". He mentioned this in the context of grave injustice faced by the students from rural areas, thus opening up new avenues of possibilities for the students who are not familiar with the English Language. This formula would do away with social injustice, which is important for a 'Viksit Bharat' or a Developed India.

The NEP stated that by 2030, at least one Higher Education Institution would be established in every district, thereby facilitating opportunities for students even in the most remote areas of the country. Steps would also be taken to establish high-quality higher education institutions, both public and private, where the medium of instruction would be both local languages and English. The estimated aim is to increase the Gross Enrolment



Ratio in higher education (including vocational education) from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.

The general scenario concerning Higher education has been quite positive for the last 9 years as since coming to power in the year 2014, the NDA government has taken significant steps to increase the number of Universities, IITs, IIMs and similar institutions across the Nation. The number of Universities witnessed a significant rise in the last decade from 732 in 2014 to 1113 in 2023. Similarly, there has been a marked increase in the number of colleges from 38,498 in 2014 to 43796 in 2023, leading to increased access to education across the country. With 7 new IIMs and 7 new IITs built in the last decade, the government has ensured new opportunities to pursue higher education. Thus, in terms of infrastructure, the focus of the government is on high-quality education research and innovation, which has put India as a global player in higher education.

The National Education Policy thus provides us with a vision and clearly states that given the 21st-century requirements, higher education must aim to develop well-rounded, thoughtful, creative individuals. Given the challenges faced by higher education in India in the past few decades after independence, like rigid separation of disciplines, limited access in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, limited teacher and institutional autonomy, ineffective regulation, and others, The National Education Policy envisions to energise the higher education system by overcoming the existing challenges and delivering high-quality education with inclusion and equity. Therefore, for the first time, as mentioned above, it would remove the shackles of the past that the education system had inherited from the colonial era. Decolonising the education system is the first step to move ahead in the path of 'Viksit Bharat'.

If we delve into the past, historically, India had a long tradition of multidisciplinary learning in Universities like Nalanda, Vikramshila and Takshashila, where extensive literature on various subjects was taught. Banabhatta's Kadambari mentions that a good education/knowledge comprises 64 kalas or arts, which consist of not only

singing and painting but also scientific and vocational fields. Therefore, drawing inspiration from its ancient Knowledge system, the National Education Policy aims to move towards a higher education system which would consist of multidisciplinary courses at both the post-graduate and undergraduate courses, increased equity, access and inclusion through a range of measures like scholarships, online education, open distance learning and greater opportunities for outstanding public education.

The thrust would also be on value-based education like ethical values of righteous conduct (dharma), peace (shanti), truth (satya), non-violence (ahimsa), love (prem), scientific temper, citizenship value, lessons in services (seva) would be an integral part of holistic education. Thus, the aim is to provide a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to developing various capacities of human beings, such as physical, emotional, intellectual, moral, and aesthetic, in an integrated manner. Such interdisciplinary and holistic education is required and needed to lead the country into the 21st century and the fourth industrial revolution. In such an environment, the gaps between various streams will be narrowed down as even engineering institutions like IITs move towards learning arts and humanities, and the students of humanities aim to learn science, which was not given importance in past education policies. In a nutshell, the NEP 2020, therefore, paves the path for decolonising the education system, creating new opportunities and creating a holistic environment for the future of India, not only in the education sector but for the overall development of the Youth Force and the Nation.

To conclude, it is important to note that what the NEP envisions and what it can actually materialise are things that will depend on our consistency and efforts. However, our Honourable Prime Minister has made it clear that along with NEP, the need is to channelise the energy of the youths and students of every university towards achieving the common goal of 'Viksit Bharat' and to create an Amrit generation, which would keep the national interests as its priority.

Innovation & Inclusion: The Hallmarks of Modi's Healthcare Agenda

Amarjeet Verma,
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As Indians, it is natural to keep on celebrating and taking immense pride in our nation's incredible accomplishments, be it the revolutionary digital transformation, independent India-first-centric foreign policy or the augmenting IT sector boom, to name a few. But amid these glories and achievements, a fundamental question remains mostly overlooked: Has the situation really improved for the common citizens when it comes to access to healthcare? Ever since our independence, the healthcare & education sector has been adversarial, neglected and inconsequential for successive governments. It was only in 2014, with the onset of the Modi government, that there was a fundamental change that placed a lot of attention on healthcare and education and ensured their wide availability across the nation, irrespective of geographical hindrances.

Healthcare @Focus | It was the Modi government that gave healthcare and education the priority they deserved. However, this journey has been marked by unprecedented challenges, including issues related to access to healthcare, infant mortality, the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare infrastructure and integration of technology in the healthcare ecosystem. Despite these unforeseen challenges, this government's performance and quickest 'homemade' responses underscore its steadfast devotion to making healthcare a priority and a fundamental right of all citizens.

Caring for Everyone | An exemplary instance of the Modi government's efforts, Ayushman Bharat, which is considered the world's largest health insurance scheme, has remarkably improved the accessibility



and inclusiveness of healthcare for the common people of India. Designed to offer cashless benefit cover of Rs. 5 Lacs per year per family for secondary and tertiary hospitalization, it aims to leave no one behind, especially targeting vulnerable groups such as children, women and the elderly. Millions of people, especially the economically weaker sections of society, benefit from this, contributing to the emergence of a resilient society.

Increasing Women's Health Equity | Women's healthcare is an integral part of the overall healthcare ecosystem. With the right message and awareness, it has shown a complementary impact on the overall well-being of the family members. Multiple initiatives and schemes from the Modi government, like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ujjwala Scheme, Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyan, have greatly benefitted women, ensured health equality and saved millions from diseases.

Concern for Children | Modi government initiatives have produced remarkable results as far as child health is concerned. The institutional births that took place in healthcare settings increased from 39% to an impressive 88.6%, indicating better access to healthcare facilities. The infant mortality rate witnessed a consequential reduction, and even out-of-hospital births saw an increase in the percentage attended by a healthcare professional, from 47% to 89.4%. Vaccination rates have improved significantly, with fully vaccinated children aged 12-23 months rising from 44% to 76.4%. The incidence of diarrhoea also decreased, which means a significant improvement in the overall health of the child.

Modified Healthcare Infra | Long story short, the Modi government's dedication to modernizing healthcare is evident in the extent of efforts to expand healthcare infrastructure and professionals exponentially. The number of medical colleges and medical seats has doubled since 2014, with 22 AIIMS as compared to 7 AIIMS in 2014. Also, in line with the vision of a healthy India, every small effort does matter, as PM Modi launched the rotavirus vaccine Rotavac, developed by Bharat Biotech, the first in a

developing nation like India, addresses rotavirus and diarrhoea-related infant deaths. India's ability to innovate and solve its problems makes it one of the fastest-growing medical tourism destinations in Asia and the world, which is not only effective but also economical. Additionally, India is continuously strengthening its position as the pharmacy of the world.

Technology helping Healthcare | Recognizing the transformative potential of technology, the Modi government introduced the National Digital Health Mission, which aims to create a robust and universal digital health ecosystem, ensuring seamless access to health records and telemedicine services, paving the way for a future-proof healthcare ecosystem. Modi government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated India's strength in innovation, unity and impactful leadership. The philosophy of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' played a key role in India's triumph when the nation did not seek a single dose of vaccine from other nations. As part of 'Vaccine Maitri', India even exported vaccines, demonstrating resilience and self-reliance.

Preventive Healthcare Priority | The Modi government's key focus is on preventive health care and the popularization of yoga, Ayurveda, and the Fit India campaign, which are instrumental in disease prevention and call for a healthy India. All these practices have brilliantly reached global audiences, resulting in greater international support and recognition for India.

Lastly, the metamorphic impact of the Modi government on healthcare & education in India is commendable and unparalleled. From establishing health coverage benefits to the brilliant use of technology, support for education & awareness and a key focus on preventive health care, the Modi government, indeed, has laid the foundation for a healthier, more educated and stronger India. As we reflect on India's progress, let us acknowledge the silent revolution taking place in healthcare and education that is shaping a brighter and healthier future for every common Indian.

भारत चिकित्सा जआत्मनिर्भर भारत के स्वप्न को साकार करती नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीतिगत की नई महाशक्ति

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भारतीयता से अनुप्राणित नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 आत्मनिर्भर भारत के स्वप्न को साकार करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। यह राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति शिक्षा व्यवस्था की वर्तमान समस्याओं को दूर करने के साथ ही 21वीं सदी के बदलते हुए परिवेश के अनुरूप भारत में आधुनिकता पर आधारित कौशल भी प्रदान करेगी। ऐसा नहीं है कि यह राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति भारत में पहली बार आई है लेकिन प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन के अभाव में ठंडे बस्ते में चली गई। 34 वर्ष बाद आई इस राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 के बारे में एक महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह सही मायनों में अपने स्वरूप में राष्ट्रीय है क्योंकि इसे देश भर के लाखों गांवों से सुझाव और संवाद के उपरांत तैयार किया गया है। यह राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति दीनदयाल उपाध्याय के राष्ट्रवाद, एकात्म मानव दर्शन के साथ ही अंत्योदय दर्शन को भी अपने प्रावधानों के द्वारा चरितार्थ करती है। यह नीति; शिक्षा के माध्यम से ज्ञान के साथ ही कौशल में प्रवीणता प्रदान करने का काम करेगी। आत्मनिर्भर भारत के उद्देश्यों के साथ ज्ञान और कौशल में वृद्धि कर मनुष्य को योग्य और कुशल मनुष्य बनाने का कार्य यह शिक्षा नीति करेगी। इस शिक्षा नीति में मूल्य आधारित शिक्षा, भारतीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा, शिक्षा में स्वायत्तता, भारतीय ज्ञान परंपरा का समावेश, मल्टीपल एंड्री, मल्टीपल एग्जिट, नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन, अंतरानुशासनिक अध्ययन तथा एकेडमिक बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट्स जैसे अनेक महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधानों का पहली बार समावेश किया गया है। मैकाले आधारित शिक्षा नीति ने भारत में बच्चों के स्कूल बैग का बोझ बढ़ने के साथ ही बेरोजगारी की बड़ी खेप तैयार की है जबकि इस राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति को उपर्युक्त प्रावधानों के आने से न सिर्फ ज्ञानवान, संस्कारवान अपितु कौशलयुक्त मनुष्य तैयार करने की दिशा में एक सराहनीय पहल के रूप में देखा जा सकता है।

यह शिक्षा नीति व्यक्ति के रचनात्मक कौशल के साथ ही तार्किक और समस्या समाधान से संबंधित संज्ञानात्मक क्षमताओं के विकास पर भी बल देती है। इस शिक्षा नीति में आलोचनात्मक चिंतन की भी बात की गई है और विशेष बात यह है कि प्राथमिक शिक्षा से ही आलोचनात्मक चिंतन की क्षमता विकसित करने की बात इस शिक्षा नीति में की गई है। इस शिक्षा नीति के कुछ महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधानों को समझने की आवश्यकता है। ये महत्वपूर्ण प्रावधान इस प्रकार हैं:

1. मल्टीपल एंड्री, मल्टीपल एग्जिट: इस प्रावधान के शामिल किए जाने से ऐसे विद्यार्थी जिनको उच्च शिक्षा में अपनी पढ़ाई किन्हीं आर्थिक या सामाजिक कारणों से बीच में ही छोड़नी पड़ती थी, उनके लिए विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है। इस प्रावधान के तहत यदि कोई विद्यार्थी स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम के प्रथम वर्ष के उपरांत अपनी पढ़ाई छोड़ देता है तो उसे उस विषय में सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स का, यदि द्वितीय वर्ष के बाद अपनी पढ़ाई छोड़ता है तो उसे डिप्लोमा कोर्स का, यदि तृतीय वर्ष की पढ़ाई के बाद छोड़ता है तो उसे स्नातक अथवा एडवांस डिप्लोमा का प्रमाण पत्र दिया जा सकेगा। जबकि पूर्व में यदि कोई विद्यार्थी तीन वर्ष पूर्ण होने से पहले कभी भी अपनी पढ़ाई छोड़ता था तो उसे कोई प्रमाण पत्र नहीं मिलता था।

2. एकेडमिक बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट्स: इसके तहत कोई विद्यार्थी अपनी रुचि के अनुसार यदि कुछ क्रेडिट के पाठ्यक्रम किसी अन्य संस्थान से पूरा करना चाहता है तो उसे इस बात की छूट होगी। पूर्व में जिस संस्थान में विद्यार्थी अध्ययनरत है वहीं के पाठ्यक्रम में जो भी विषय हैं उसी का अध्ययन अनिवार्य था।

3. अंतरानुशासनिक अध्ययन को प्रोत्साहन: इस प्रावधान के आने से विद्यार्थी को विज्ञान के अनुशासन में अध्ययन करते हुए भी अन्य किसी भी विषय को भी अध्ययन करने की स्वतंत्रता होगी।

4. भारतीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा: इस प्रावधान के अंतर्गत मातृभाषा में प्राथमिक शिक्षा को अनिवार्य किया गया है। साथ ही भारतीय भाषाओं में उच्च शिक्षा को भी प्रोत्साहन देने की बात की गई है। शिक्षाविदों का भी मानना है कि प्राथमिक शिक्षा का माध्यम मातृभाषा ही होना चाहिए इससे बच्चों को अधिगम क्षमता में वृद्धि होती है।

5. नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन: भारतीयता से संबंधित विषयों पर शोध और नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन बनाने की बात राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 में की गई है। इससे सामाजिक उपयोगिता के विषयों पर शोध को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।

6. आलोचनात्मक चिंतन को प्रोत्साहन: राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 में शिक्षा के प्राथमिक स्तर से पाठ्यक्रम में ऐसे तत्व शामिल करने की बात की गई है जिससे विद्यार्थी की तार्किक और आलोचनात्मक क्षमता का विकास हो सके। इससे वह तार्किक ढंग से अपने जीवन में निर्णय ले सकेगा।

7. कौशल युक्त शिक्षा को प्रोत्साहन: इस प्रावधान में इस बात पर बल दिया गया है कि बच्चों के पाठ्यक्रम में प्रायोगिक पाठ्यक्रम को भी शामिल किया जाए। इससे न ही उनका सर्वांगीण विकास हो सकेगा अपितु विद्यार्थियों में कौशल का भी विकास संभव हो सकेगा। नई राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति सरकार ने लागू तो कर दिया है लेकिन इसमें आगे की राह इसके अनेक हितधारक तय करेंगे, उनमें शिक्षक, अभिभावक, शैक्षिक संस्थान तथा राज्य सरकारें प्रमुख हैं। इसलिए आवश्यक ये है कि राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के प्रचार प्रसार के लिए न सिर्फ शहरी अपितु कस्बाई इलाकों में भी शिक्षा नीति पहुंचे, इसके उद्देश्य से संगोष्ठी या कार्यशालाएं आयोजित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। इससे यह शिक्षा नीति इसके अनेक हितधारकों तक पहुंच सकेगी और इसके क्रियान्वयन में सहूलियत मिलेगी। इस दिशा में शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास शहरी क्षेत्रों के साथ ही ग्रामीण और कस्बाई इलाकों में शिक्षा नीति को पहुंचाने के उद्देश्य से महत्वपूर्ण कार्य कर रही है। राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 के आने से पहले भी अनेक शिक्षा नीति आई लेकिन क्रियान्वयन के अभाव में वह ठंडे बस्ते में चली गई। इसलिए शिक्षा नीति के लागू किए जाने के बाद सभी हितधारकों के द्वारा उसके क्रियान्वयन के लिए विशेष प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

भारत चिकित्सा जगत की नई महाशक्ति

संजय राणा (लेखक, अधिवक्ता, एवं राजनीतिक विश्लेषक हैं)

किसी भी विकसित राष्ट्र में शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य ऐसे दो पैमाने होते हैं, जिनकी कसौटी पर सरकार के कामकाज को कसा जाता है। भारत में आज़ादी के बाद से दशकों तक अच्छा इलाज केवल दिल्ली और मुंबई जैसे महानगरों में ही संभव था लेकिन मोदी सरकार ने स्वास्थ्य को सुदूर इलाकों में आधुनिक सुविधाओं के साथ पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य रखा है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के सक्षम नेतृत्व में केंद्र सरकार देश के गरीब और मध्यम वर्ग के लोगों के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बेहतर करने और इलाज के खर्च को कम करने की लगातार कार्य कर रही है। इस प्रक्रिया में ना केवल बेहतर अस्पतालों को देश के कोने कोने में स्थापित किया जा रहा है बल्कि अधिक योग्य डॉक्टरों की नियुक्ति हो सके इसके लिए मेडिकल शिक्षा में सीटें भी बढ़ाई जा रही हैं। साथ ही मेडिकल की पढ़ाई इंग्लिश के अतिरिक्त स्थानीय भाषा में भी हो सके इसकी भी व्यवस्था हो रही है ताकि निम्न-मध्यम वर्ग के भी बच्चे, जिन्होंने स्कूल में अंग्रेजी माध्यम में पढ़ाई नहीं की है, वो भी अब डॉक्टर बन सकें। सरकार की कोशिश है कि सरल और सस्ता इलाज सबकी पहुंच में हो।

सत्ता में आने के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हर राज्य में भारतीय स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का मानक अस्पताल “एम्स” स्थापित करने की योजना बनायी। आज उनके कार्यकाल में एम्स 7 से बढ़कर 22 हो गए हैं। देश के अलग अलग हिस्सों में अब तक लगभग 1,50,000 स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण केंद्र स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं। इन केंद्रों पर योग्य डॉक्टरों और नर्सों को इसके लिए सरकार प्रयत्नशील है। आज देश में 562 मेडिकल कॉलेज हैं, जबकि अन्य 175 मेडिकल कॉलेज भी विकास की प्रक्रिया में हैं। ये वो मेडिकल कॉलेज हैं जहाँ सरकारी या निजी मेडिकल कॉलेज पहले से नहीं हैं।

मुफ्त इलाज की मोदी जी की गारंटी लोगो को बड़ी रास आ रही है। आयुष्मान भारत योजना के अंतर्गत आज करोड़ों भारतीयों का इलाज निःशुल्क किया जा रहा है और साथ ही सस्ते दामों में सस्ती जेनेरिक दवाएं उपलब्ध कारवाई जा रही है। 25 करोड़ से अधिक लोग आयुष्मान भारत स्वास्थ्य खाता से लिंक कर दिए हैं। आर्थिक समीक्षा 2022-23 के अंतर्गत 50,409 करोड़ रुपये के व्यय से अस्पतालों में लगभग 4 करोड़ 30 लाख रोगियों का उपचार किया गया है। खास बात ये है कि इस योजना का लाभ पाने वालों में 46.7 प्रतिशत महिलाएं हैं। सस्ती दवाएं सबके लिए उपलब्ध रहें, इस ध्येय के साथ बीते 9 सालों में लगभग 9 हजार जन-औषधि केंद्र खोले जा चुके हैं। यहाँ मिलने वाली दवाएं आधे से भी कम कीमतों पर उपलब्ध है। माना जा रहा है कि इन केंद्रों में मिल रही सस्ती दवाई के कारण देश भर में गरीब परिवारों के 20 हजार करोड़ रुपये बचे हैं।

आज भारत न केवल अपने देश के हर कोने में उच्चतम सुविधा युक्त स्वास्थ्य केंद्र बना रहा है बल्कि दुनिया भर से मरीज भारत इलाज कराने आ रहे हैं। चिकित्सा पर्यटन देश में एक बड़े क्षेत्र के रूप में उभरा है। इसने अर्थव्यवस्था के साथ-साथ रोजगार को भी बढ़ावा दिया है। उत्तम स्वास्थ्य शारीरिक, मानसिक और सामाजिक कल्याण के लिए सबसे आवश्यक कारक है। अगर वो सरलता कम मूल्य में मिल जाये तो इससे बेहतर कुछ नहीं होगा।

मोदी सरकार के चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में किये गए उल्लेखनीय कार्यों की समीक्षा करें तो हमें पता चलता है। 'सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे संतु निरामयाः' के मूल मंत्र के साथ जनसुलभ, किफायती और गुणवत्ता पूर्ण इलाज, जो कि हर नागरिक का मूलभूत अधिकार और राज्य का मूलभूत कर्तव्य है दोनों फलीभूत हो रहा है।

From Ayushman Bharat to COVID-19: Tracing Modi's Healthcare Milestone

Adv. Rushikesh Dhawale

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Prime Shri Minister Modi has completely changed this definition of leadership by accelerating Bharat's transformation from poor healthcare standards to today's most attractive medical tourism destination, from deficiency to not only self-sufficiency but also the world's largest pharma industry. Bharat's unwavering commitment towards a healthier nation has led to significant strides in the healthcare sector.

India, that is, Bharat, was truly visionary and advanced in its healthcare and hygiene approach. It's Bharat who taught the world the mystical and magical stream of Yoga. It's we who gifted Ayurveda to the world. Now, under the leadership of PM Modi, we once again put forward a vision before the world, i.e. One Earth One Health. It involves holistic healthcare for all creatures, viz. humans, animals or plants.

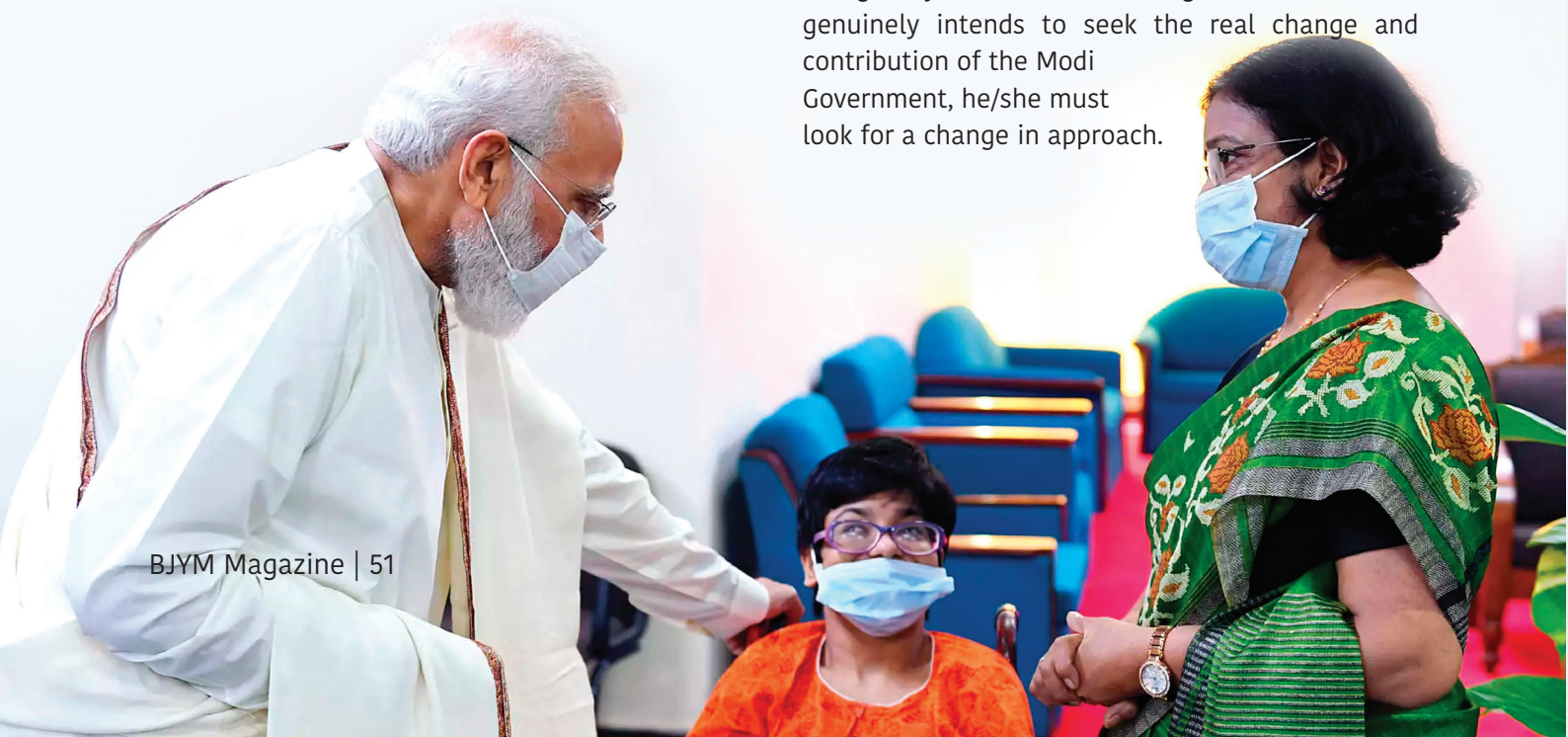
Before the Modi government, healthcare in Bharata was quite an ignored subject. As "healthcare" lies in the state list, every Union Government to date has ignored the healthcare sector in India. However, the arrival of the Modi era in 2014 has substantially changed the attitude and attributes of healthcare facilities in Bharata.

If we consider a few statistics, We had 387 medical colleges before 2014; now, we have 706 medical colleges with sufficient coverage. If we compare this with the USA, they just achieved a 9% growth rate, with 144 medical colleges in 2014 and 157 colleges in 2024. In terms of medical seats, Bharat achieved 105% growth from 51,300 seats in 2014 to 1,05,383 medical seats in 2024. Again, in comparison to the USA, the country only achieved 23% growth, with 23000 medical seats in 2014 to 28,337 seats in 2024.

This increase is not just in colleges; it is also visible in other parameters.

1. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in 2014 was 130 per lakh, and in 2020 it was 97 per lakh.
2. The Infant Mortality Ratio (IMR), which was 39 in 2014, will be 28 in 2022 per 1000 live births, respectively.
3. Neo-Natal Mortality Ratio (NMR) and Under-5 Mortality Ratio (U5MR), which was 26 in 2014, is 20 in 2020 per 1000 live births, and 45 in 2014 is now 32 in 2020, respectively.

But there's one hidden catch to today's achievement. Generally, people notice physical and visible changes. But the most vibrant and substantial change is the attitudinal change brought by PM Modi and his government. If one genuinely intends to seek the real change and contribution of the Modi Government, he/she must look for a change in approach.



One India, One Healthcare Approach:- PM Modi gave this epic mantra of One India, One Healthcare to combat not only diseases but also to prevent any upcoming health emergency by synchronising the whole nation. As healthcare is a State Subject in the 7th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, there's not much for a central government to contribute. It was the mindset of previous governments. PM Modi destroyed this psyche and consistently stood for increasing medical infrastructure, environmental sanitation, the issue of undernutrition, building a women-centric approach, and uprooting poverty by providing sufficient employment opportunities.

Key participation of CSR:- Before the Modi government, CSR was an ignored subject. But now, this government has successfully used CSR potential. It resulted in the establishment of many CSR-funded hospitals and other healthcare services. Many corporations are looking forward to establishing medical facilities in untouched areas.

This government initiates hundreds of healthcare schemes. But to mark the rise of Bharata's self-sufficiency, we should focus on a few landmark policies of the Modi Government.

Ayushman Bharat: One of the significant healthcare initiatives of the Modi government is the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The scheme aims to provide health coverage to over 50 crores of people from economically weaker sections of society. The scheme includes cashless health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. It has been formulated with a view to minimise expenditure of weaker sections, especially for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation and prescriptions after a hospital stay. This profound approach resulted in making Bharata significant in providing coverage of what could otherwise be catastrophic healthcare costs. The total number of Aayushman Bharat Cards issued to date is 23.21 crore, and total hospital admissions have crossed the mark of 5 crore till 2023.

Digital Health Mission: The government launched the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in August 2020 with the aim of creating a digital

health ecosystem that will provide universal health coverage to Bharatiya citizens, including access to health records and other healthcare services. This approach was most beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even today, thousands have transitioned to telehealth consultation. During COVID-19, it was of immense help as millions have used this service without stepping out of their houses. It contributed to minimising the spread of the pandemic.

Healthcare Infrastructure: Healthcare efficiency is directly related to the country's healthcare infrastructure. With this understanding, the government has raised its investments in healthcare infrastructure significantly. It includes building new medical colleges, upgrading existing healthcare facilities, expanding critical care health infrastructure to tier 2 and tier 3 cities, and upgrading current PHCs. Outpacing countries globally, Bharat has now established 302 new medical colleges in the past 9 years. It has opened doors for more doctors and medical personnel across the country.

Pandemic Response: The Modi government took several steps to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes rapidly setting up new and efficient COVID treatment-enabled hospitals and simultaneously increasing the testing potential of existing hospitals. Further, the vaccine game has pushed our growth in combating the pandemic to new horizons. In the past, we as a country were dependent on foreign vaccines. But under the leadership of PM Modi, Bharat has transformed from a dependant to a dependable country. Bharat made the first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine. It helped us to vaccinate the entire population of 1.4 billion.

In a democracy, there's a famous saying that people are the best analysers of policy. When we look through this, millions of tweets and reposts of the "#9YearsOfHealthForAll" hashtag itself reflect the trust of millions of Bharatiya. From social media to India's deepest area, this government has contributed in every possible manner. It shows the willpower and strength of the current leadership.

Activating Education Policy: Driving Soft Power, Delivering an Indic Decolonization

Manishankar Prasad
Columnist

Introduction: Rejigging Leftist Biases

Education is a policy driver that has an emancipatory impulse for society as a whole, which accelerates social mobility for hundreds of millions. Education is a state subject in India, although the central government sets the macro agenda. Education policy has caused deep ripples that set the tone for Amrit Kaal, as it creates the intellectual seed for cultivating minds. The New Education Policy has been a game changer for the country, which gives priority to a multiplicity of languages alongside English and Hindi, including Adivasi languages. A recent conference call for papers for a Gondwana Language seminar in Gadchiroli caught my attention as such an event would normally have been the object of elite Eurocentric decolonization



tailor-made for the India International Centre Annex crowd in Lutyens Delhi. Now, this is truly beyond the often-mentioned unfounded critique of 'Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan', which the government's critics hurl towards. Bharat is beyond the conceptual vocabulary of leftist biases.

Education policy helmed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has expanded the network of IITs and IIMs to create the intellectual capital for Make in India programs where India is now capable of sending a rover to the Moon, which has truly catapulted Bharat into an elite league where we send payload from Singapore on our spacecraft on a commercial basis. The Prime Minister, in his hugely popular, engaging, and inspiring Mann Ki Baat outreach, has brought out countless stories of resilience and ground-up innovation that are not captured by our conventional education systems. The current government has recognized that other traditional knowledge systems add to the intellectual richness of our country. A critical aspect of Indic Decolonisation is the ability to preserve and promote our past treasures as a cultural resource towards an 'Atma Nirbhar' future.

Indian Education as Global Soft Power

India realizes its geopolitical presence and heft as a major educational hub in the Indo-Pacific with the first Indian Institute of Technology opening in Zanzibar, which has a long *durée* Gujarati diaspora. If there can be American Universities in the Gulf, such as NYU in Abu Dhabi, then Indian technical educational talent can play a significant role in the projection of Indian Soft Power. The BITS Pilani has had a Dubai campus for many years, and there have been calls for IITs to expand internationally. The Indian Diaspora in the Gulf, Mauritius, and Malaysia have been major natural catchment areas for exporting Indian educational excellence globally. Manipal Medical College has a campus in Melaka, Malaysia, tapping into the significant demand that ethnic Indian and Chinese minorities in Malaysia have had for good-quality medical education. Initially, Malaysians used to travel for medical college to Manipal in Karnataka, where the private sector revolution in higher education began. At most 24-hour private sector clinics in Kuala Lumpur, one can often find Malaysian doctors who studied in

India. The writer of this article has studied at the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra campus in Oman, and has seen the power of Indian educational leverage in the Gulf.

Education as Wri(gh)ting the Past

Education policy is a contested ideological terrain, particularly for history writing, as anything where culture is centred, is severely fought by a minority of left-liberal voices. As the electoral space for the opposition has justifiably shrunk, thankfully due to the exemplary leadership of Modiji over the past two terms, the saffron epoch has, through education policy levers, sought to rectify erasures of the Thapar-esque typology. Cultural Ideologue Swapan Dasgupta to Journalist Barkha Dutt has quipped that a large part of the Ayodhya movement was a reaction to the deliberate obscuration of leftist academics of a chapter of history that resides in the collective memory of Hindus under the brunt of subordination of the culture of the land. A few chapters from authors such as Amish, J Sai Deepak, Hindol Sengupta, and Vikram Sampath in our history curriculum would go a long way toward pluralizing narratives beyond a narrow lens. Unearthing our past is one of the ways to cultivate a more nuanced understanding of our history beyond the classic binaries of the Marxist school of Indian History Writing. There is an entire school of history on Indian empires in current-day Southeast Asia, which is not taught in our land-centric histories but rather in ocean-centric modes of history writing. Economist Sanjeev Sanyal's *Ocean of Churn* is an accessible reference that is a good starting point for thinking about Indian history beyond the Mughal obsession.

Education as Citizen Building

One of the wins of the government's education policy is the recentring of the student as a patriotic Indian citizen. Education is for the mind and for building the nationalist cultural consciousness rather than for purely utilitarian ends. Education over the past decade has had numerous successes which have been measured. Still, the real success of education is in society building, which is a multigenerational effort often missed by electoral cycles.

Beyond The Nehruvian Shadows: NEP 2020 & India's Cultural Awakening

Rahul Singh Rajput, MA (Buddhist studies), University of Calcutta

Today, after 75 years of independence, India is again awakening to its civilisational power and depth, no longer in the shadow of European politics and its ongoing wars. Invaders & colonial rulers have been exposed for their cruel exploitation of numerous countries, peoples and cultures worldwide. It includes the harsh oppression which Turkic, Mughals and British wrought on India, extending to genocides to famines that killed millions, as well as the devastation of India's economy, and education system, which snatched the title of 'Golden Bird' from India.

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), introduced by the Modi government, envisions a massive transformation in education through an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is, Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant, knowledgeable society, by providing high quality & non-biased education to all, thereby making India a global knowledge superpower and archiving its lost glory.

The key factors of our old education system, which was colonised systematically and how the changes are coming after implementing NEP'20 -

How Marxist Ideology Shaped India's Historical Narratives & The Role of NEP'20 in Balancing Perspectives:

Over time, a group of self-styled progressives arose, following a destructive set of political, economic,

and cultural agendas to remake India and change its identity. These were products of the socialist left from Europe, which was opposed to the colonial right and viewed it as oppressive. Yet, though claiming to be anti-imperialists, they also sought to impose their Eurocentric views and political ideologies, similarly alienating the colonies from their own cultures and traditions. They looked upon traditional cultures as the enemy, along with the colonial forces, as just different types of oppressors. The Communists were the most opposed to traditional cultures and aimed to destroy India's civilisation, just as did the old colonial armies, using force if necessary. The Marxists worked to undermine native and non-Western cultures. It meant honouring a 'superior' European culture and politics, viewing traditional spiritual cultures as politically backward, unjust and needing to be conquered and overthrown. Marxism proved to be the worst form of colonialism and often the most violent and genocidal. They created the Maoist Naxalites, which became the largest terrorist group in modern India.

The new education policy (NEP'20) in India has brought about significant changes in the way history is taught and understood. One of the key changes has been the move away from the previous narrative, which was often criticised for its leftist bias and glorification of foreign empires over others. For example, the Mughal and Turkic empires have been given significant attention and praise in



historical narratives, while the accomplishments and contributions of indigenous empires have been overlooked. However, with the new education policy, there has been a push to present a more balanced and inclusive view of Indian history. It means that the achievements of indigenous empires and civilisations are being given more recognition and importance in the curriculum.

Salvation from The Nehruvian Liberal Neo-colonialism:

Under conjoined British education and Marxist views, a new elite arose in India, who followed British Fabian Socialism along with Marxist sympathies. The Congress Party, under Jawaharlal Nehru's control, came to power after India's independence at the political, economic, media, and educational levels, making itself into the new ruling class. This Nehruvian colonialist elite looked down on traditional India, particularly its temples and festivals, with arrogance and contempt, much like the British did.

If one examines history textbooks that India's Nehruvian Marxists like Romila Thapar or Irfan Habib developed, the views expressed were imitations of the European Marxist deconstructionist thought, which viewed India as a country with a dubious identity, questionable history and rampant inequality direly in need of leftist political salvation to terminate India's oppressive traditional culture and bring in the benefits of socialism and Communism to everyone. Yet their patrons did little to improve the economy or culture wherever they came to power in India; instead, they amassed wealth and power for themselves, creating their dynasties.

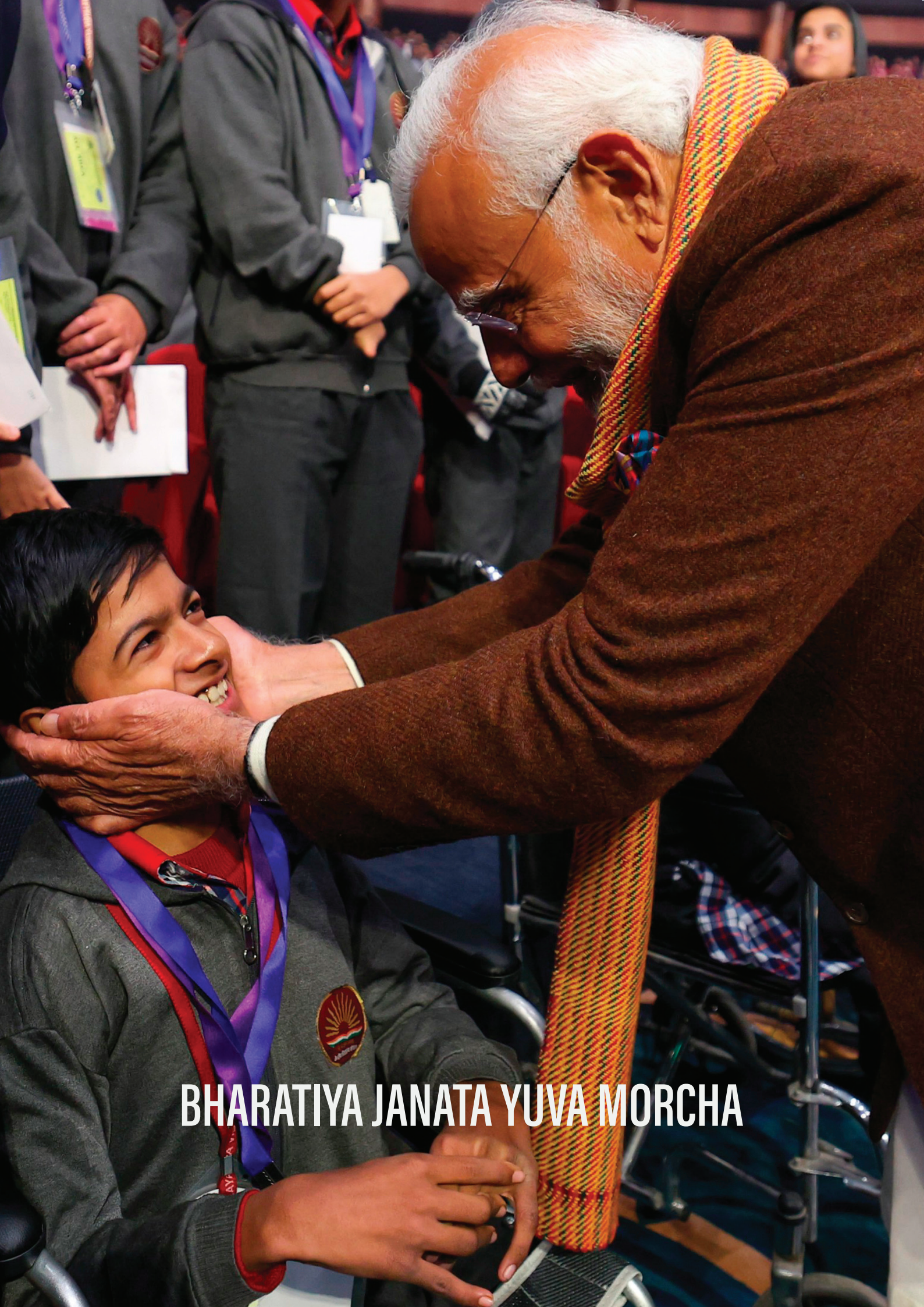
India, under their influence, developed a new leftist media strongly connected to the leftist/liberal media of the West, which denigrated India's national culture and politics as regressive, right-wing or fascist. Related secular missionaries appeared in a flood of NGOs coming into India, aiming to help India under the pretext of social reform, removing local and traditional cultures, much as the colonial administrators tried to do. Nehruvian education following such leftist agendas aimed to alienate the youth from their traditions

and make them dislike and reject their own cultural background and historical identity. This Nehruvian neo-colonialism kept India economically backward and culturally divided.

Modi Government's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to rejuvenate India's educational landscape by departing from Nehruvian liberal neo-colonialism and embracing a more inclusive, multidisciplinary approach. NEP prioritises value-based education, including ethical values like dharma, shānti, satya, ahimsā, prem, and sevā. It reflects a return to the ethical foundations that were integral to India's ancient educational systems. While NEP doesn't explicitly aim to demolish any particular ideology, its focus on reviving indigenous values and methodologies aligns with the idea of reclaiming India's ancient glory. It seeks to build an education system that blends the best of India's heritage with the demands of the contemporary world.

In conclusion, the new education policy in India has ushered in a significant shift in the way history is taught and understood. By emphasising the contributions of indigenous polity and challenging previous narratives, it seeks to provide a more holistic and balanced view of India's rich and diverse history. This approach not only promotes a deeper understanding of the past but also fosters a sense of pride and appreciation for India's cultural and historical heritage.

The intent is to provide students with a more comprehensive understanding of India's rich and diverse history, showcasing the contributions of various dynasties and empires that have shaped the country over millennia. Emphasis is on the need to acknowledge the cultural, architectural, and scientific advancements achieved by Indis. It is an important shift as it provides a more holistic view of India's past, moving away from a narrative that prioritises certain empires while side-lining others. In addition, the new education policy seeks to instil a sense of pride and understanding of India's historical and cultural heritage among students. By presenting a more balanced and inclusive view of history, it aims to foster a sense of ownership and appreciation for the rich tapestry of India's past.



BHARATIYA JANATA YUVA MORCHA