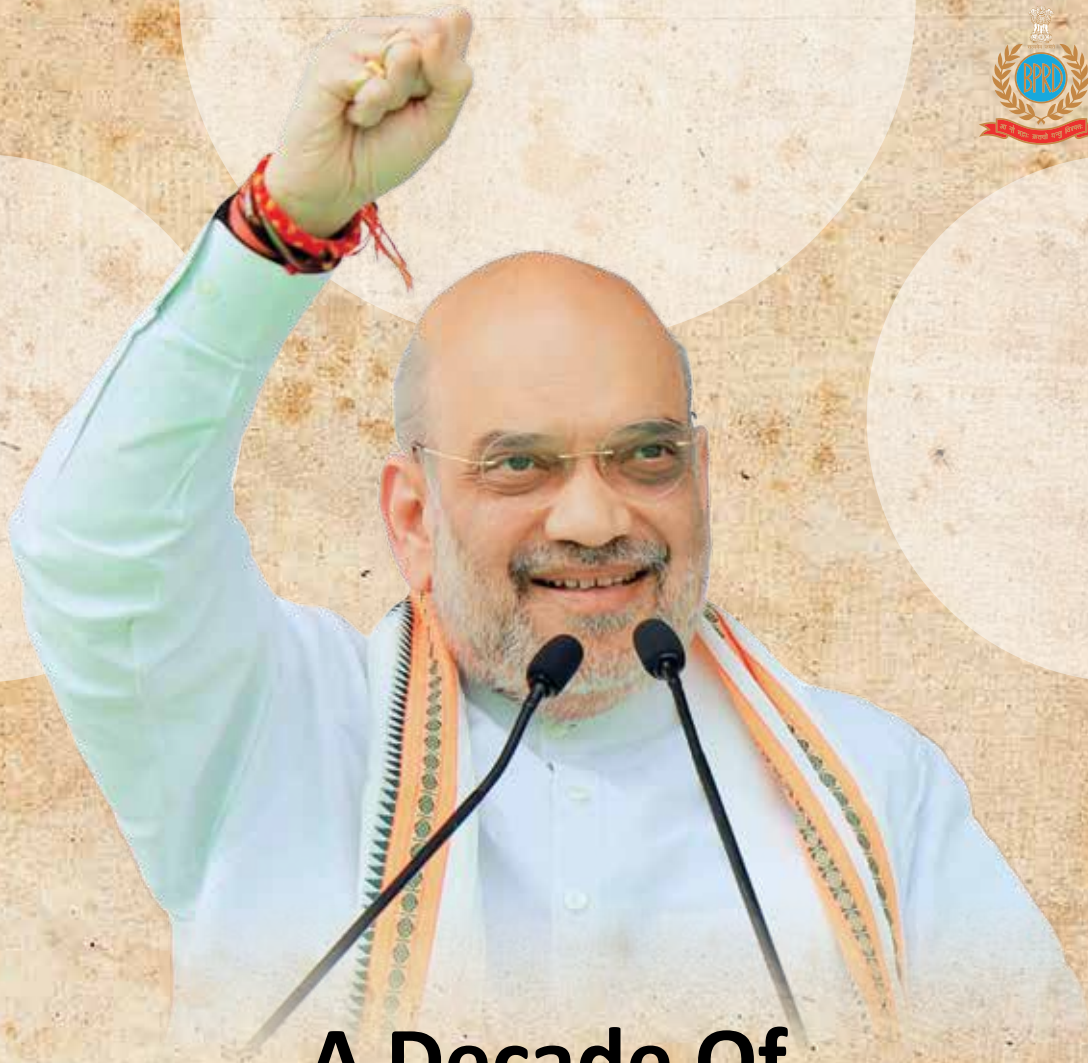


Peace, Security and Prosperity

Vigilant India

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A Decade Of **Historic** Decisions

Keeping India Safe With Strong Security Network



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From the Editor

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) discharges manifold responsibilities, including management of internal security, borders, Centre-State relations, Union Territories, various police organizations, disaster management, etc. In the last one decade, the Ministry has undertaken several momentous decisions in these key areas.

The introduction of the three New Criminal Laws demonstrates the Home Ministry's commitment to addressing the requirement of modernizing the criminal justice system, by repealing out-dated British-era laws. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 have been drafted to secure justice, on the principle of 'Citizen First – Justice First – Dignity First'.

Another significant decision has been the abrogation of Article 370, which ended the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, and was undertaken to enhance constitutional integration. The resultant creation of two Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh – has had subsequent affirmative and progressive changes, steering towards development and democracy.

Among decisions with operational impact on internal security, the 'National Policy & Action Plan to Address Left Wing Extremism' has led to unprecedented improvement in LWE scenario over the previous years. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act 2019 has strengthened anti-terror legislation, supplementing the institutional framework for counter-terrorism.

The Vibrant Villages Programme aims at the development and strengthening of border villages, thus enhancing our land border security. A biannual exercise, 'Sagar Kawach,' is conducted regularly to improve coastal security.

The Government is following a multi-pronged strategy to deal with insurgent and militant activities in the North East Region, pursuant to which, a number of outfits have come forward for talks with the Government and have entered into Suspension of Operations. The Union Home Ministry has revoked the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from some areas and signed several agreements to foster peace and stability in the North-eastern States.

As part of MHA's Action Plan for enhancing drug law enforcement in India, and as per the directions of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, in an effort to facilitate coordination between various Central & State stakeholders, NCORD has been restructured into a four-tier mechanism. The Home Ministry has also focused on strengthening cyber-security, with the setting up of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), NIDAAN Portal, e-Malkhana system, etc. Similarly, the disaster management system has also been significantly revamped, resulting in successful management of natural disasters.

There are numerous initiatives that have been undertaken, too many to be listed here.

This issue of 'Vigilant India' highlights major decisions over the past decade. Please share your thoughts and feedback at sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in

Jai Hind!

Director General, BPR&D

“Among decisions with operational impact on internal security, the “National Policy & Action Plan to Address Left Wing Extremism” has led to unprecedented improvement in LWE scenario over the previous years.



हमारे जनजातीय समाज के बेटे और बेटियां भी आसानी से डॉक्टर, इंजीनियर और वैज्ञानिक बन सकें, इसलिए हमने स्थानीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा देने का फैसला किया।



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



धारा 370 इतिहास है और सीए वास्तविकता है...



श्री अमित शाह
केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री



यशस्वी प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में हर वर्ग के नागरिकों के जीवनस्तर में अभूतपूर्व सुधार से उन्हें स्वाभिमान से जीने का हक मिला है।



श्री निशित प्रामाणिक
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री

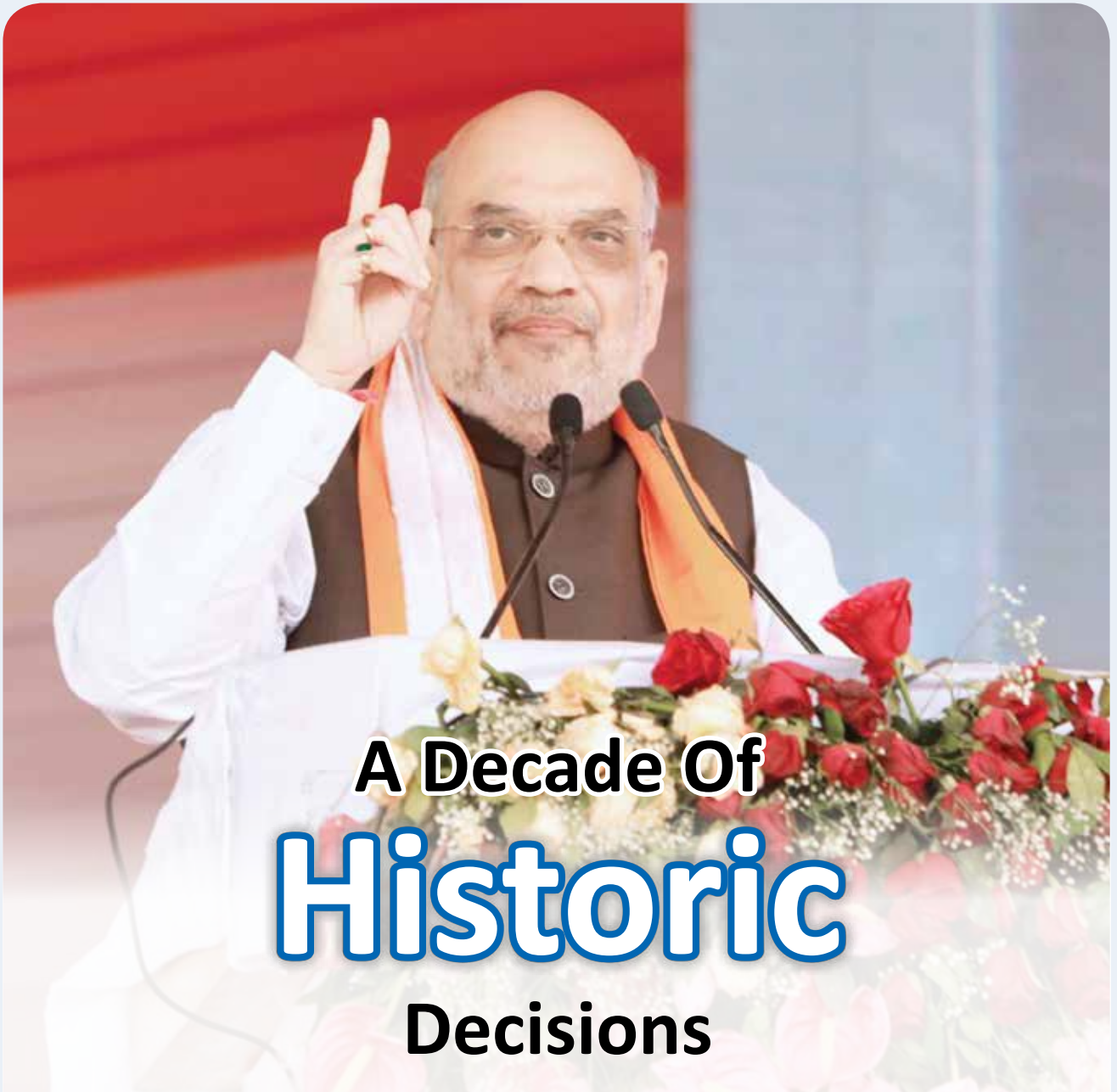


साइबर अपराधियों द्वारा पुलिस, NCB, CBI, RBI और अन्य कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों का रूप धारण कर साइबर अपराधियों द्वारा 'ब्लैकमेल' और 'डिजिटल अरेस्ट' की घटनाओं के खिलाफ अलर्ट!



गृह मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार





A Decade Of Historic Decisions

Bureau

As a new nation in 1947, India had to struggle with the burden of the colonial bondages and obscurantist traditions. Over the years, the country faced a host of challenges in maintaining peace and accelerating the pace of development, which required cooperation among the States as well as enhanced efforts for unity and integrity across regions. It also had to remove obstacles from



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, changes have been made in the three laws governing the nearly 150-year-old criminal justice system.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation





the society that were unfair to individuals, especially the female gender, who make up half of the nation's population.

To fulfil the vision of a New India, espoused by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Home Ministry led by Shri Amit Shah has been instrumental in implementing a series of historical decisions that have reshaped India's political and social landscape. These decisions have not only bolstered national security but have also promoted social justice, streamlined governance and curbed terrorism and extremism.

From the abrogation of Article 370 to the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Union Home Ministry's actions have addressed long-standing issues and laid the groundwork for a more unified and secure nation. These, and other pivotal decisions taken in the last one decade are

The abrogation of Article 370 has led to the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of India and its real identity lies in the egalitarian attitude towards all faiths along with its Sufi tradition.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

notable for their profound impact on India's trajectory.

The Union Home Ministry has prioritised enhancing national security through several landmark initiatives.

Implementation of a multi-layered security grid along India's borders, including the deployment of advanced surveillance technologies such as drones and thermal imagers under the Integrated Security Grid has been useful in this regard. Successful operations against terror outfits, resulting in the neutralisation of notorious terrorists and dismantling of terror networks, have been a significant achievement in counter-terrorism operations. Additionally, the Union Home Ministry has focused on revamping the intelligence framework by strengthening intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms among various security agencies for proactive threat mitigation. As the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has stated, the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi has adopted a strong strategy to curb terrorism.

Efforts to maintain and improve law and order across the country have also been a central focus for the Union Home Ministry. Significant investments in modernising police infrastructure, including the provision of advanced weaponry, communication systems and training programmes, have been made under the Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) scheme. Introduction of community policing programmes to foster better police-public relations and enhance trust in law enforcement agencies has been another key aspect of improving law and order.

The Union Home Ministry has taken robust measures to tackle the menace of left-wing extremism. Intensified anti-Naxal operations in affected States, leading to a significant decline in Naxal activities, have been pivotal for establishing peace. Additionally, launching various socio-economic development programmes in Naxal-affected regions to address the root causes of extremism has been a proactive step.

In a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter), Shri Shah said that as a result of the hammer blow to left-wing extremism, it is today in its last leg. He said that the Union Government has won the hearts of the marginalised living in the Naxalism-affected areas by building adequate healthcare and education infrastructure.

On February 23, the Union Home Minister said that on account of Prime Minister Shri Modi's holistic approach to development and security in the Naxal-affected regions, left-wing extremism has been steadily losing its breeding ground.

According to the data of the Ministry of Home



Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, any individual or organisation found involved in anti-India activities will be dealt with severely.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Affairs, left-wing extremism related violence has declined by 52% and the number of deaths by 69% from 6,035 to 1,868 in the period 2014-23 compared to 2004-14. Similarly, incidents of leftist extremism have reduced from 14,862 to 7,128 during the same period. The number of deaths of security forces due

Landmark Decisions Undertaken by MHA

Abrogation of Article 370

In a historic and landmark decision, the Union Government abrogated Article 370 in August 2019. This move was aimed at fully integrating Jammu and Kashmir into India. With this decision, all Indian laws became applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. The Government also decided to bifurcate the State into two Union Territories —Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision was aimed at integrating Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh more closely with other parts of India and promoting development and security in the region.

Three New Criminal Laws

The Union Home Ministry introduced three new criminal laws to reform India's criminal justice system, in place of colonial-era laws. Replacing the old Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act, the new laws are named the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023 respectively. These new laws are designed to make the Indian criminal justice system more effective, modern and justifiable.



Strengthening Anti-terror Laws

The amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2019 have bolstered anti-terrorism laws, empowering the Union Government to better combat the threat of terrorism. These amendments give more powers to the security agencies and help in taking stringent measures against terrorism.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

The implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019 has been a significant step of the Union Home Ministry, which aims to

grant Indian citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The Act simplifies the process of acquiring Indian citizenship for non-Muslim refugees. Under the CAA, migrants who entered India by December 31, 2014, are eligible for Indian citizenship.

NIA (Amendment) Act

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act 2019 has strengthened its capabilities in combating terrorism and other grave offences. The amendments have empowered the NIA to take more stringent actions in cases involving terrorism and serious crimes. These changes have enhanced the agency's capacity to effectively address criminal activities. The updated amendments have equipped the NIA with modern technology and regulations, enabling it to swiftly investigate cases.

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 is aimed at making stringent laws to curb sexual crimes against women and children and speed up the judicial process. The Act provides for stringent punishments in cases of rape and sexual assault and takes measures to expedite the judicial process. The death penalty has been provided in cases of rape of girls below 12 years of age, with a minimum punishment of 20 years in jail, which can be extended to life imprisonment, in cases of rape of girls below 16 years of age. The minimum punishment in cases of rape of women has been increased from 7 years to 10 years, which can be extended to life imprisonment.

to left-wing extremism has declined by 72% from 1,750 in 2004-14 to 485 during 2014-23 and the number of civilian deaths declined by 68% from 4,285 to 1,383. Similarly, the number of districts with violence was 96 in 2010, which declined by 53% to 45 in 2022. Along with this, the number of police stations reporting violence decreased from 465 in the year 2010 to 176 in 2022.

Likewise, several reforms have been introduced to ensure a more efficient and fair criminal justice system. The establishment of fast-track courts to expedite cases related to crimes against women and children and initiatives to reduce the pendency of cases and improve the overall efficiency of the judiciary have been key components of the reforms undertaken by the Union Government in the last 10 years.

In one of the major decisions, the Union Government enacted three new criminal laws that replaced the old Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and the Indian Evidence Act. The Government named the new laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. While addressing the 5th International and 44th All India Criminology Conference at National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on January 23, Union Home Minister Shri Shah said that India abolished the 150-year-old laws of criminal justice which had colonial imprints. The new laws have been brought to deliver timely justice and to curb crimes by increasing the conviction rate. He said that in all the three new laws, efforts have been made to embrace technology. The Home Minister said that now it has been made mandatory for a forensic science officer to visit the crime scene of offences which have a punishment of seven years or more. He said that this will simplify the investigation process and will also help in increasing the conviction rate. Shri Shah said that after five years, India's criminal justice system will be the most modern in the world.

It is noteworthy to mention that significant enhancements have been made in disaster management capabilities. Expansion and modernisation of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) units to ensure swift and effective disaster response and implementation of comprehensive disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies, including community-based disaster management programmes, have been instrumental in mitigating the effects of disasters.

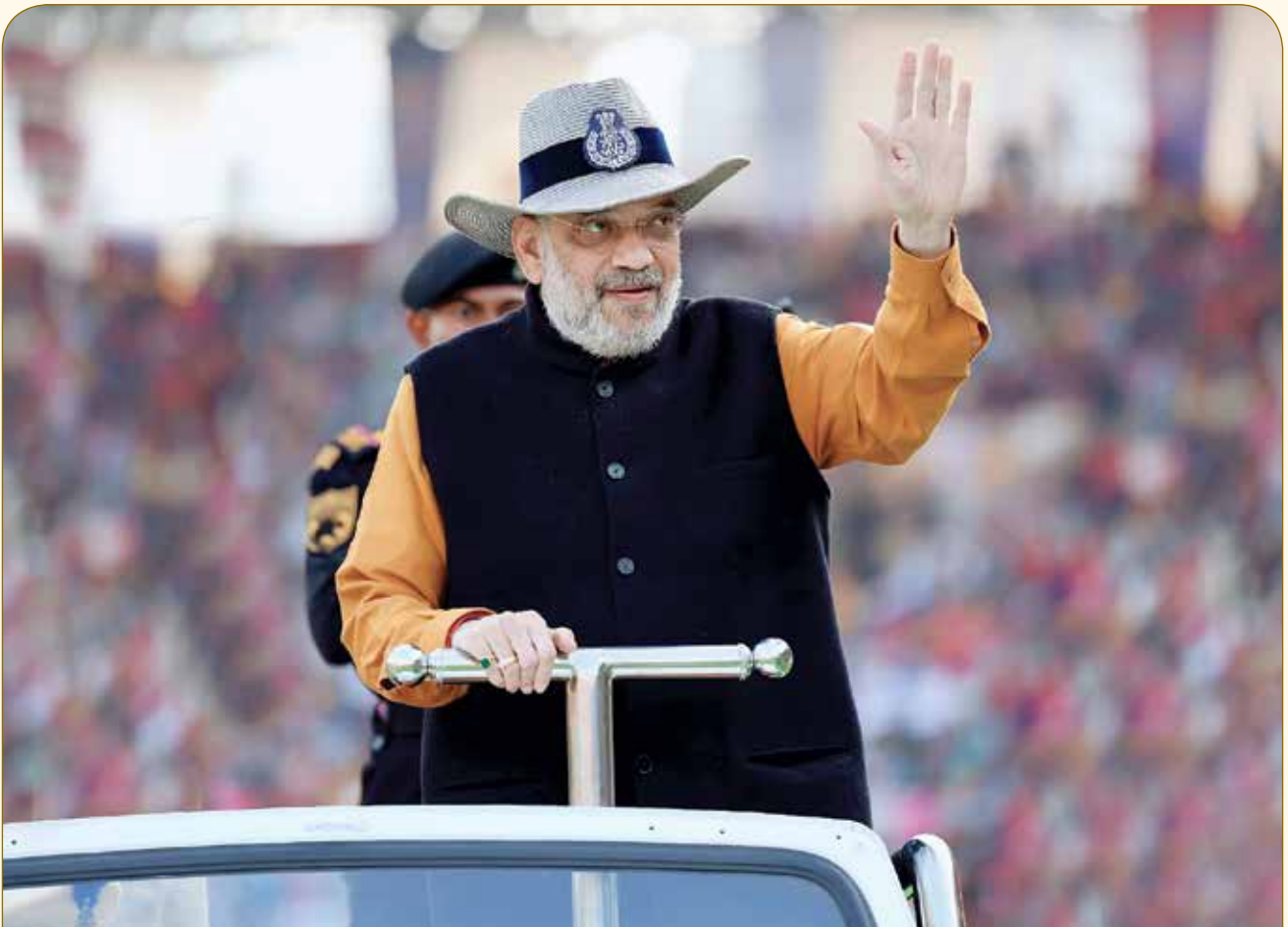


Left-wing extremism is in its last leg in the country today. The Union Government under Prime Minister Shri Modi Ji has won the hearts of the marginalised living in areas affected by left-wing extremism by building healthcare and education infrastructure.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Addressing the growing threat of cybercrime has been a key priority for the Union Home Ministry. The establishment of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to combat cyber threats and enhance cyber-security infrastructure and launching nationwide campaigns to raise awareness about cyber safety and promote digital literacy have been significant steps for the digital security of citizens.

Efforts to improve administrative efficiency have yielded positive results. Adoption of e-governance measures to streamline administrative processes and enhance transparency under the Digital India initiatives and introduction of various online services to facilitate easier access to Government services have been notable achievements of the Union Government in the last one decade. Securing India's extensive borders has also been a major focus for the Union Home Ministry. Construction of roads, fencing and other critical infrastructure along the borders to prevent illegal infiltration and smuggling and socio-economic development initiatives in border areas to improve living standards and curb illegal activities under the Border Area Development programme have been significant efforts in border management. ■



Keeping India Safe With Strong Security Network

Bureau

Internal peace is an essential precondition for development of any nation. Elected Governments need to address the issues leading to conflict preferably by negotiations or if these fail, by taking hard steps against the sources of disruption and violence.

After Shri Narendra Modi took charge as Prime Minister in 2014, the Union Government has taken various steps for comprehensive changes in the field of internal security based on the concrete policy and goal to establish peace and create an atmosphere for

The Union Government under Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership has decided to fence the India-Myanmar border on the lines of the Indo-Bangladesh border. The Government is also reconsidering the existing agreement between India and Myanmar for free movement.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



India faces a complex set of internal security challenges that vary from region to region. Issues such as insurgencies in the Northeast, Maoist conflicts in Central India and threats from cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir require constant vigilance. As the country continues to grow economically and technologically, maintaining peace and security has become even more crucial.

development. In the last 10 years, India has successfully built a strong network ensuring robust internal security architecture across States and Union Territories.

It is acknowledged by everyone that terrorism and left-wing extremism are two major ideology-based causes of violence, which have been prevalent in some pockets of the country. Thousands of innocent civilians and security personnel have fallen victim to them.

Delivering a lecture titled 'Security Beyond Tomorrow: Forging India's Resilient Future' at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi on February 5, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, said that due to strong policy measures and police actions, violent incidents due to extremism have come down by 62% to 12,466 between 2014 and 2023.

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of such incidents was 33,000, while the total number of deaths among civilians and security forces stood at 11,900. Incidentally, they declined by 72% to 3,276 in the period between 2014 and 2023.

The Union Home Minister said that under the

leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, India's success in combating terrorism has been recognised globally. "Shri Modi ji has made India a solution-providing country for challenges such as terrorism", he said.

Shri Shah said, "We want to maintain friendship with the whole world, but we will not compromise with the security of the country and its citizens. While Shri Modi ji has explained to the world that the country's internal security is threatened by some elements in the neighbourhood and the world has respected our position".

The Union Home Minister said when factors challenging internal security are addressed properly through various development programmes and schemes, perpetrators of violence are isolated. He said that in the last 10 years, due to the efforts of Prime Minister Shri Modi, India has achieved great success in establishing corruption-free governance, improving public welfare and forging an investor-friendly agenda alongside actualising a peaceful environment. He said that India has become the fastest growing economy in the world with a growth rate of 7.6%. He added



that the Union Government has lifted 25 crore people out of multidimensional poverty and raised the living standards of 60 crore people. This kind of effort has greatly reduced fresh recruitment of terrorists and left-wing extremists.

“These 60 crore poor people have got a taste of freedom and have come out of the trap of those who were misleading them to take arms and revolt”, Shri Shah said.

Shri Shah said that it was better to be a tourist guide instead of being a terrorist standing with a gun. He noted that on the one hand, the Union Government has curbed terrorism by adopting a zero-tolerance policy against it and on the other hand, it has made several legal changes to create a strong judicial system. He said that comprehensive and meaningful changes in anti-

There is a need to stop the spread of left-wing extremism and the key role is being played by the Union Government. We are linking undeveloped tribal areas with developed regions through good infrastructure.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

terrorism laws such as the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) have brought about major changes.

There were some ambiguities in criminal laws as they were old and archaic. After the enactment of the

three new criminal laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam in 2023, no case will last more than three years in India's criminal justice system. All criminals will be convicted within three years' time and that will be a huge discouragement for such elements. This will have an impressive impact on our internal security and also on law enforcement agencies.

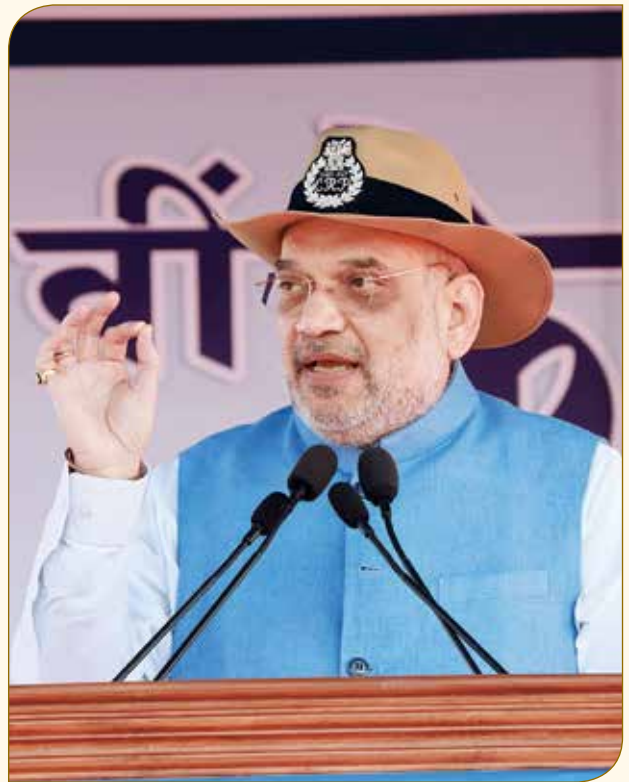
Shri Shah said the Union Government is working to free the country forever from the three scourges of corruption, nepotism and appeasement. "This has created confidence among the marginalised sections of society and their faith in the administration", the Union Home Minister added.

The Union Home Minister said that direct benefit transfers and digital money transactions through UPI has reduced circulation of currency notes in the market, thus preventing illegal cash flow and their use by criminals and other law and order violators.

Shri Shah said that Articles 370 and 35A had fuelled separatism in Jammu and Kashmir for years. After their abolition by the Parliament in 2019, the situation has now changed. "People in Kashmir have got constitutional rights like other parts of the country and today there are more than 30,000 local representatives in the Union Territory. Apart from this, more than 100 laws of the country which were not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir have been implemented by removing Article 370. These measures have weakened the forces challenging internal security of the country", he said.

As India shares a land border with seven countries and a maritime border with seven countries, external pressure on internal security is also acute. The Union Home Minister said that the Government has worked hard to ensure the security of the borders through multidimensional and integrated initiatives. He said that the Union Government's Vibrant Villages programme has instilled confidence in people staying in border villages, which were once called the last villages. In the last two years alone, work has been done to achieve 100% implementation of 300 Union Government schemes in at least 6,000 border villages.

Major achievements have also been gained in the Northeast. Citing an example, Union Home Minister Shri Shah said that in the last 10 years, as many as nine peace agreements were signed in the Northeast under which more than 9,000 insurgents have given up arms and joined the mainstream. He said that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been removed



After the abrogation of Article 370, youngsters in the Kashmir valley have tablets and laptops in their hands instead of stones.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

from more than 70% of areas in the Northeast. The Union government has also spent ₹14 lakh crore on infrastructure development in the region in just 10 years between 2014 and 2024. Today, rail and air connectivity work is going on in full swing in all the Northeastern States, he added.

As far as left-wing extremism-affected areas are concerned, many development works are being done and welfare schemes have been implemented. This has turned the tribal people away from the extremists and the support base of Maoists has shrunk. By taking strict actions against those carrying weapons, the Government has been successful in reducing 75% violence. This was possible by strengthening the security arrangements in the areas affected by Maoist violence.

The approach adopted to uproot extremism was



based on a multi-stakeholder approach, known as the “Whole of Government Approach”. The Union Government laid emphasis on education, welfare schemes for the poor, strengthening infrastructure

and having negotiations and peace agreements. A strong message was given to those who did not respect the peace agreements by adopting a policy of zero-tolerance against them.■

Zero-tolerance Against Terrorism

Since 2014, the Union Government has adopted a policy of zero-tolerance and bolstered its strategies to completely eliminate terrorism. It has not only considered it necessary to deal with terrorism, but have also dealt a heavy blow to its ecosystem. Due to its two-pronged policy, the Union Government has achieved huge success in the three hotspots, namely Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and pockets of Central India affected by LWE. The Government has achieved this success due to the “Whole of the Government Approach”, cooperation and coordination between the security agencies, strong legal framework, technology-based database and knowledge sharing. Under the multi-agency approach, the Union Government adopted a different policy in each theatre sector and achieved unexpected success in all the violence-affected hotspots.



Reform & Transparency in Prison Administration



Bureau

Under the guidance of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs has finalised the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023. This new Act aims to address the shortcomings of the British-era Prisons Act and will serve as a guiding document for States, promoting significant changes in prison reform.

The Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act,

The Model Prisons Act will place a stronger emphasis on the safety of women and transgender prisoners. This legislation aims to bring transparency in prison management and includes provisions for the reform and rehabilitation of inmates.

2023 is designed to steer the Indian prison system towards greater empathy and effectiveness. It will serve

as a role model for States to implement reformative programmes, emphasising on transparency, safety and rehabilitation within the prison system.

The Prisons Act, 1894 is a pre-Independence law that has been in place for 130 years. This Act primarily focuses on detaining offenders and maintaining discipline and order within prisons, without any provisions for the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. Over the past few decades, a new perspective has emerged globally regarding prisons and prisoners. Today, prisons are seen not merely as places of punishment, but as reformative and transformational institutions. The goal of the new Act is to facilitate behavioural change in prisoners and reintegrate them into society as law-abiding citizens.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the decisive guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, it was decided to review and amend the archaic colonial-era Prisons Act to reflect contemporary needs with a strong emphasis on reform. The Ministry of Home Affairs assigned the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) the task of amending the Prisons Act of 1894. The Bureau prepared a draft after detailed consultations with State prison administrations, reform experts and other stakeholders.

Aimed at addressing the deficiencies in the existing Prisons Act, the new draft includes the use of technology in prison management, provisions for parole, furlough and remission of sentences to promote good conduct, special provisions for women and transgender prisoners and measures for the physical and mental well-being of inmates. Additionally, it focuses on the reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

The new Prisons Act will serve as a guiding document for States to amend their prison laws and implement reformative programmes for inmates. ■



The aim of the Model Prisons Act, 2023 is to improve prison management and ensure rehabilitation of prisoners in society by turning them into law-abiding citizens.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Features of the Model Prisons Act, 2023

- Provisions for security assessment and segregation of prisoners, individual sentencing plans, grievance redressal, behavioural change towards prisoners.
- Provisions for segregation of women prisoners, transgender etc.
- Provisions for use of technology to bring transparency in prison administration.
- Provisions for video conferencing with courts, scientific and technological initiatives in prisons, etc.
- Provisions for punishment of prisoners and prison staff for using prohibited items such as mobile phones etc. in prisons.
- Provisions for establishment and management of high security prisons, open prisons (open and semi-open), etc.
- Provisions for protecting society from criminal activities of dreaded and habitual offenders.
- Provisions for providing legal aid to prisoners, parole, furlough and premature release etc. to promote good conduct.
- Emphasis on vocational training and skill development of prisoners and reintegrating them into society.

CAA Empowers the Persecuted



The Union Government is working to grant citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from some neighbouring countries through the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has unequivocally stated that granting Indian citizenship is a matter of national sovereignty, a decision that will not be compromised.

Bureau

E Providing Indian citizenship is the sovereign power of the Union Government. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has firmly asserted that this right will never be compromised. When the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed in the Parliament in 2019, he made this stance clear and has consistently upheld it in numerous interviews.

The CAA grants citizenship to individuals from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who had suffered religious persecution or fear of religious persecution in their country of origin. It specifically provides citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains,

Christians and Parsis from these three neighbouring countries, if they fall under the above criteria and had arrived in India on or before December 31, 2014.

The Union Home Minister has clarified that the NRC (National Register of Citizens) and the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) are unrelated. He stated that the CAA will not be implemented in specific areas of the Northeast where special provisions apply. These include regions requiring an Inner Line Permit and areas with special status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

It is noteworthy that the Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in 2019 after extensive discussions. This act aims to provide significant relief to those who have been seeking citizenship for a long time.

Shri Shah emphasised that the bill was not against



No provision of the Citizenship Amendment Act violates the Constitution. Article 11 of the Constitution gives Parliament all the power to make rules related to citizenship.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

any minority in India and that the rights of all Indian citizens will be equally protected. He reiterated the Union Government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of every citizen, declaring that the Government's sole allegiance is to the Constitution of India. "We are here not just to run the Government, but to solve the problems of the common man", he said.

The CAA was passed in the Indian Parliament on December 11, 2019, with 125 votes in favour and 105 votes against it. The President approved the bill on the next day. The Union Government asserts that the CAA offers citizenship specifically to persecuted minorities from Muslim-majority countries, where the likelihood of religious persecution is extremely high. It emphasises that the law does not threaten the citizenship of Indian Muslims or people of any religion and community. The Government stated that in these three Muslim-majority countries, Hindus and other minorities face discrimination, not Muslims, which is why Muslims are excluded from the provisions of the CAA.

The CAA aligns with the spirit of the 1950 Nehru-Liaquat Pact (Delhi Pact), which aimed to provide protection and rights to religious minorities. In 2016, the CAA was introduced to facilitate citizenship for non-Muslim refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Afghanistan. It was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on August 12, 2016, which submitted its report on January 7, 2019.

According to the Union Minister of State for Home, Shri Nityanand Rai, by December 2021, a total of 3,117 minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were granted Indian citizenship from 2018 to 2021, out of the 8,244 applications received. The Home Ministry's report for 2021-22 stated that 1,414 foreigners were granted Indian citizenship between April and December 2021. The Constitution grants Indians the right to citizenship, and neither the CAA nor any other law can revoke it.

The Home Minister stated that the Bill includes a provision to grant citizenship on reasonable grounds to refugees facing religious persecution, ensuring it does not contravene any provision of the Indian Constitution or Article 14. He also assured that the bill would not violate any aspect of Article 371. Addressing another amendment to the Act, Shri Shah highlighted that the Bill includes a provision to amend Section 7D. This amendment ensures that in cases of violation of any provision of the Citizenship Act or any other existing law, individuals would be given a fair opportunity to be heard. It also empowers the Union Government to cancel the registration of an overseas citizen if necessary.

Citizenship Granted to 14 Refugees Under New Law

Under the Citizenship Amendment Act, 14 individuals were granted citizenship on May 15, marking a significant milestone. The Union Government issued a notification on the Citizenship Amendment Act on March 11, and citizenship certificates were distributed for the first time following this notification. During a ceremony, Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over citizenship certificates to the applicants in New Delhi, with the director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Shri Tapan Deka also in attendance. The Home Secretary congratulated the recipients and highlighted the key points of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024.

The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed by the Parliament in 2019. The Union Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, officially notified the Citizenship Amendment Act Rules in March this year.

An empowered committee, led by the director of

APPLICATION PROCESS

- ◆ The applicants must specify the year they entered India without travel documents.

THE ONLINE FORM REQUIRES:

- ◆ Nine types of documents under Schedule 1A
- ◆ Twenty types of documents under Schedule 1B
- ◆ An affidavit under Schedule 1C
- ◆ Applicants must declare that they are non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh.

TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY, THEY NEED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTS SUCH AS:

- ◆ Passport ◆ Birth certificate
- ◆ Educational certificate ◆ Driving licence
- ◆ Land-related documents
- ◆ Additionally, applicants can apply using:
- ◆ Aadhaar card ◆ Ration card ◆ PAN card
- ◆ Electricity or water bill
- ◆ Marriage certificate issued by the by the Government of India.
- ◆ Similar Documents
- ◆ If any required documents are unavailable, applicants must explain the reasons.
- ◆ For those settled or intending to settle in a particular State, a domicile certificate as per State regulations is necessary.
- ◆ Since 2022, the Union Government has authorized 31 district magistrates and home secretaries in nine States to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan under the Citizenship Act, 1955. These States Include:
- ◆ Gujarat ◆ Rajasthan ◆ Chhattisgarh
- ◆ Haryana ◆ Punjab ◆ Madhya Pradesh
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh ◆ Delhi ◆ Maharashtra



Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who fled to India due to religious persecution in neighbouring Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024, outline the application process, the procedure for processing applications by district-level committees and the role of the state-level empowered committee in examining and granting citizenship. Since the implementation of these rules, applications were received from people who took shelter in India before December 31, 2014, due to religious persecution or the fear of it.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment to fulfilling promises has been reaffirmed. He expressed his sentiments on social media and said, "Today is a historic day. The wait of decades has ended, and through the Citizenship Amendment Act, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian brothers and sisters who came to India due to religious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan have begun receiving Indian citizenship. The Prime Minister has fulfilled the promises made at the time of Independence. I express my gratitude to Shri Modi Ji for delivering justice and rights to these people who have been suffering for decades. I also assure that the Union Government will provide citizenship to every refugee through the Citizenship Amendment Act." ■

Census Operations, decided to grant citizenship to 14 applicants following thorough investigation. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act includes provisions to expedite the process of granting Indian citizenship to

Three New Laws Pave Way for



Bureau

In a landmark legislative overhaul, the Parliament passed three new criminal laws in December 2023, fundamentally transforming the country's criminal justice system. The newly enacted laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023—replace the archaic Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, which had governed the system since the colonial era.

The passage of these laws represents a significant

The three new criminal laws prioritise justice over punishment, ensure speedy trials and swift justice, and protect the rights of victims.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

milestone, underscoring a well-established principle of jurisprudence: laws must evolve to respond to changing social and economic trends. This principle holds that legal frameworks are created for society and



Modern Criminal Justice System

must adapt to its needs, ensuring justice and relevance through time.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, highlighted the historical importance of this legislative change and said, "From 1860 to 2023, India's criminal justice system was operated based on laws made by the British Parliament. Now, these three laws will be replaced by imbibing the Indian soul, bringing a big change in our criminal justice system."

Introducing the bills in the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2023, Shri Shah emphasised that the new laws encompass the true concept of justice, designed to meet the contemporary needs of Indian society.

The BNS, BNSS, and BSS collectively introduce 313 changes to the existing legal framework. These changes are aimed at expediting justice, with a target of resolving cases within three years. Special provisions have been made to protect women and children and measures have been put in place to prevent the misuse of police powers. One of the most significant reforms is the repeal of the sedition law and the introduction of provisions to address crimes such as mob lynching, and terrorism. The new laws also provide clear definitions for crimes such as armed rebellion and secessionism and include provisions for confiscating the properties of those who commit these offences.

The new laws mandate that courts will now issue orders based on the cognisance of investigating officers. Notably, the Union Government has introduced the concept of trials in absentia, ensuring that fugitives can be tried and sentenced even if they are not present in the country. This move is expected to significantly expedite the judicial process, especially in cases where the accused are evading justice.

In an effort to modernise India's criminal justice system and improve delivery of justice, the new legislation has set an ambitious target of achieving a

90% conviction rate. A key provision to reach this target mandates that forensic teams must compulsorily visit crime scenes for offences punishable by seven years of imprisonment or more. This requirement is designed to ensure the collection of scientific evidence, significantly reducing the likelihood of acquittals in court.

The new laws also introduce radical changes in the handling of sexual violence cases. It is now mandatory to record the statements of victims in sexual violence cases, with video recording required for statements in cases of sexual harassment. Additionally, police are obliged to provide the complainant with the status of their complaint within 90 days and subsequently every 15 days. This ensures transparency and continuous updates for the victims.

Moreover, no Government can withdraw a case involving imprisonment of seven years or more without hearing the victim, thereby protecting the rights of victims and ensuring their voices are heard.

To streamline the judicial process, the new legislation sets a timeline of 90 days for filing chargesheets, which can be extended by the court for another 90 days if necessary. This ensures that investigations are completed within 180 days and promptly sent for trial. Courts are now required to issue notices to the accused to frame charges within 60 days. Furthermore, judges must deliver verdicts within 30 days of completing the arguments, ensuring timely decisions. The verdicts must be made available online within seven days, enhancing transparency and efficiency in the judicial process.

The passage of BNS 2023, BNSS 2023, and BSS 2023 represents a pivotal moment in Indian legal history, reinforcing the principle that laws must evolve to ensure justice and relevance. This landmark change marks a significant step in modernising India's legal framework, aligning it with the needs of contemporary society. ■

In December 2023, the Parliament enacted a historic transformation of the country's criminal justice system by passing three new criminal laws, replacing colonial-era statutes with modern legislations that reflect contemporary social and economic realities.

Landmark Decision Ensures Dignity for Muslim Women

Bureau

Each law is crafted keeping in mind the welfare of citizens and one such example is the legislation concerning the abolition of triple talaq. The Union Government enacted a law in 2019 to enforce the Supreme Court's ruling on triple talaq, which had declared it unconstitutional on May 18, 2017. Subsequently, the Triple Talaq Bill was passed in Parliament in 2019.

During the deliberations on the issue of triple talaq in the Parliament, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, expressed belief that the passage of the Triple Talaq Bill 2019 would remove the burden of repression faced by Muslim women in India, thereby empowering and supporting them. He emphasised that this historic bill was a crucial step towards upholding the dignity of Muslim women and ensuring its preservation.

Shri Shah highlighted the Union Government's commitment to women empowerment and safeguarding their rights, with the ban on triple talaq being a significant stride in that direction. He expressed confidence that this legislation would usher in a new era of hope and respect in the lives of Muslim women.

The Muslims Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 made Triple Talaq (instant divorce) illegal in India from August 1, 2019. It stipulates that 'talaq-e-biddat' in any form – spoken, written or by electronic means such as email or SMS – is illegal and void, with up to three years in jail for the husband. Further, the aggrieved woman is now entitled to demand maintenance for her dependent children.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed his gratitude to all political parties and parliamentarians who contributed to the passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Marriage Rights) Bill, 2019 in both houses of Parliament. He asserted that this step would create greater opportunities for Muslim women and would be etched in the annals of Indian history. The abolition of triple talaq by the Parliament rectified a historical injustice done



By abolishing the law of triple talaq, by ending the tradition, we have saved not just Muslim women but the entire Muslim family. We have freed them from that hanging sword.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

to Muslim women, ensuring victory for gender justice and fostering equality in society. The end of the practice of triple talaq will not only empower women, but also grant them the dignity they rightfully deserve in society, he said.

August 1, 2019, marked a historic day in the Indian Parliament when the bill to abolish the unjust practice of triple talaq was enacted as law. The day became a significant moment for constitutional, fundamental, democratic and equality rights for the Muslim women of the country. ■



Enhanced Preparedness To Mitigate Effects of Rising Natural Disasters

Bureau

In a decade marked by escalating natural disasters, India has emerged as a beacon of resilience, thanks to a series of transformative measures spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the leadership of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah.

At the heart of this transformation are meticulously crafted disaster management plans, spanning national, State and district levels. These plans, unveiled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2016 and further revised in 2019, align seamlessly with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, providing a robust blueprint for mitigating risks and coordinating responses.

The Union Government's vision extends beyond national borders. Prime Minister Shri Modi's visionary leadership led to the launch of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019. With a commitment of ₹480 crore in funding support, CDRI has rapidly expanded its membership, garnering endorsements from 31 countries and eight international organisations.

Financial support plays a pivotal role in achieving the required targets. The establishment of the National Disaster Mitigation Fund, alongside substantial allocations for State Disaster Mitigation Funds, empowers States to execute customised mitigation initiatives, ensuring that no community remains

vulnerable. The Union Government has instituted the National Disaster Mitigation Fund with an allocation of ₹13,693 crore for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Additionally, a sum of ₹32,031 crore has been earmarked for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund, covering all 28 States.

As technology evolves, so does India's arsenal against disasters. Central agencies have honed their early warning capabilities, providing accurate forecasts through user-friendly apps such as Meghdoot, Mausam and Damini. The implementation of the common alerting protocol ensures that timely alerts reach every corner of the nation, empowering citizens to take proactive measures in the face of impending emergencies.

With advance warnings from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters, the nation has significantly reduced cyclone-related fatalities. From the devastation of the super cyclone in Odisha in 1999 to the recent brush with Cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat, the shift is palpable—from thousands of lives lost to zero casualties.

In this decade-long saga of resilience, India has not only transformed its disaster management landscape, but has also set an example for the world to follow. With innovation, collaboration and community empowerment at its core, India marches steadfastly towards a future where disasters are no longer synonymous with destruction, but are instead met with resilience and resolve. ■

Home Ministry Takes Prompt Action

The Union Home Ministry is working in mission mode to swiftly address emerging challenges in the cyber world. As part of these efforts, an alert has been issued regarding incidents of 'blackmail' and 'digital arrest' by cyber criminals posing as officials from the police, NCB, CBI and other law enforcement agencies.

Bureau

With the advancement of technology, cyber criminals are employing new tactics to deceive the public. The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) has received numerous complaints of cyber criminals impersonating police officers, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) agents, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) representatives, Enforcement Directorate (ED) agents, and other law enforcement personnel. There has been a significant increase in complaints related to threats, blackmail, extortion and digital arrests.

The rising frequency of these incidents is alarming, with cyber criminals using fake identities to pose as law enforcement officials, thereby intimidating and extorting money from people. These activities not only cause significant mental and financial harm to the public, but also damage the reputation of legitimate law enforcement agencies.

Many victims across the country have lost substantial amounts of money after falling into the traps set by these criminals. It is an organised online economic crime, believed to be operated by cross-border criminal syndicates. Scammers typically contact potential victims, claiming that they have sent or received a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports or other contraband. Sometimes, they inform the victim that a loved one has been involved in a crime or accident and is in their custody. In these fabricated cases, money is demanded to settle the matter. In some instances, victims face digital arrest,

where they are forced to stay connected with the fraudsters on Skype or other video conferencing platforms until their demands are met. These fraudsters often operate from studios designed to look like police stations and Government offices, wearing uniforms to appear authentic.

The Union Home Ministry has been taking swift action to address these incidents. On numerous occasions, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah, has directed officials to prioritise the resolution of such issues.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, coordinates efforts to combat cybercrimes nationwide. The Union Home Ministry collaborates closely with other Ministries, agencies, the Reserve Bank of India, and various organisations to tackle these cybercrimes. The I4C also provides inputs and technical assistance to the police of States/ Union Territories for identifying and investigating such cases.

In partnership with Microsoft, the I4C has blocked more than 1,000 Skype IDs involved in these fraudulent activities. Additionally, it has blocked

SIM cards, mobile devices and mule accounts used by fraudsters. The I4C has issued multiple alerts through infographics and videos on Cyber Dost and social media platforms such as X, Facebook, Instagram and others.

The Union Home Ministry has advised citizens to be cautious of such scams and encourages spreading awareness about them. Upon receiving suspicious calls, citizens should immediately report them to the cybercrime helpline number 1930 or visit www.cybercrime.gov.in for assistance.



Terrorism Law Gets More Teeth

Bureau

Under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Government has consistently upheld a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, reaffirming its commitment to protecting the lives of citizens. This steadfast approach was further solidified on August 2, 2019, when the Parliament passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment (UAPA) Bill.

During the debate on the bill, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, emphasised the Union Government's support for stringent anti-terrorism laws. He said, "We have always supported a strong law against terrorism and have been committed to any amendment in this direction. A tough law is required to uproot terrorism from India, and we would always support it". He urged the House to pass the bill unanimously, sending a powerful message that terrorists are the enemies of humanity and India is resolute in eradicating terrorism from its soil.

The Union Home Minister said that terrorism has no religion and assured that the Government is dedicated to protecting the fundamental rights of its citizens, ensuring that individuals from a particular religion are not victimised. The bill empowers the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired through proceeds of terrorism, streamlining the process and eliminating delays caused by the previous requirement of obtaining prior permission from State DGPs.

Highlighting the efficiency of the NIA, Shri Shah noted its impressive 91% conviction rate, a benchmark of excellence by global standards. The amendment also empowered officers of the rank of inspectors and above to investigate cases under the UAPA, addressing the human resource crunch within the NIA and expediting the delivery of justice in terrorism-related cases.

The Union Home Minister pointed out that terrorist acts are perpetrated not just by organisations, but by lone individuals also. Declaring only organisations as terrorist entities without targeting individuals behind these acts would allow them to evade the law and continue their activities under different guises. The



We have always supported a strong law against terrorism. Earlier also we have been committed to any amendment in this direction. A strict law is needed to uproot terrorism from India and we will always support it.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

new amendment ensures that individuals involved in terrorist activities, those aiding and abetting such activities, propagating terrorist ideologies and members of known terrorist organisations will be designated as terrorists.

Recognising terrorism as a global issue, Shri Shah mentioned that the United Nations (UN) and several other countries have similar provisions to designate individuals as terrorists. This amendment aligns India's legal framework with international standards, reinforcing its commitment to combating terrorism effectively.

The passage of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019, marked a significant milestone in India's relentless fight against terrorism, showcasing the Union Government's dedication to maintaining national security and protecting the rights of every citizen. ■

Alert Security Apparatus Yielding



Bureau

The Union Home Ministry has significantly boosted the morale of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in recent years. The Union Government is providing the security forces with comprehensive facilities and has taken appropriate steps to modernise and enhance their capabilities to meet contemporary needs. This approach is yielding positive results. The Union Government is also implementing a specific strategy to address any gaps in security.

The security vacuum has been completely

eliminated by establishing security camps in former Maoist strongholds such as Barmasiya and Chakrabandha in Bihar, as well as Budha Pahad and Parasnath in Jharkhand. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has played a crucial role in this effort. Together with Jharkhand Police, the CRPF has successfully eradicated Naxalism from the Budha Pahad area. Security forces are also continuously patrolling the forests to prevent Naxalites from re-entering the region.

With Budha Pahad, located on the Garhwa-Latehar border near Chhattisgarh, now liberated after three decades of Naxalite control, the pace of development



Positive Results

is expected to accelerate. The Budha Pahad area is home to many villages where residents have long felt insecure due to Naxalite exploitation. After securing the area, the security forces established police camps at Tisiya and Navatoli on top of Budha Pahad. Initially, 400 soldiers from the CoBRA, Jaguar and CRPF units were deployed at both camps. Helipads have also been constructed at Tisiya and Budha Pahar.

In total, more than 200 camps have been established, including 33 new ones in 2023. To control inter-state cross-border activities, 11 Joint Task Forces (JTF) have been formed, comprising State police, Central Armed Police Forces and Special Police Forces of the States and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). Three additional JTF camps were planned last year, with approval already granted for JTF Aligudem and ₹1 crore has been allocated to the CRPF for this purpose.

When Budha Pahad was declared Naxal-free, the then Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Shri DG Kuldeep Singh, stated that Operation Octopus was conducted as a result of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's zero-tolerance policy against left-wing extremism. Army personnel, along with State police and CRPF forces, were airlifted to this area on the border of three States by helicopter, complete with logistical support. The army established a permanent camp on Budha Pahad with commendable speed and efficiency. Budha Pahad, a remote forested area, had long been



The areas of Budha Pahad, Chakrabandha and Parasnath in Bihar-Jharkhand, which have been the stronghold of left-wing extremists for decades, have been freed from extremism by the Central Reserve Police Force in coordination with the local police.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

a Naxalite stronghold due to its difficult geographical location, making it the safest hideout for Naxalites. This special campaign led by the Union Government dealt a severe blow to left-wing extremism.

The CRPF possesses extensive expertise in dealing with encounters involving Naxalites. The brave jawans and officers of the have achieved several remarkable





Minister Shri Shah, who was the chief guest, expressed immense pride in the fact that for the first time, the CRPF is conducting its foundation day parade in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, which is the heartland of left-wing extremism. He acknowledged that 763 jawans of the force have made the ultimate sacrifice in the ongoing campaign to eradicate left-wing extremism in Chhattisgarh. He emphasised that the battle against Naxals has reached a crucial stage where victory is within reach, and the brave martyrs have played a significant role in this endeavour.

Shri Shah expressed that CRPF jawans have demonstrated unparalleled courage and bravery in various endeavours, be it in Jammu and Kashmir, tackling unrest in the Northeast, or advancing development among tribal communities while combating left-wing extremism. He emphasised that the public's trust in CRPF jawans for maintaining internal security and peace in the nation is solely based on their remarkable courage and valour. ■

milestones through their unwavering dedication and sacrifice. During the 84th foundation day celebrations of the CRPF in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, Union Home

Officers Shine Bright in Passing Out Parade

April 29 marked a significant occasion for directly appointed gazetted officers as 22 of them took part in the passing out parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at the CRPF Academy in Gurugram. These individuals, having completed 52 weeks of intensive training encompassing various disciplines, are slated for their initial appointment as company commanders. The comprehensive training provided to this batch covered an extensive array of subjects ranging from firearms handling, law enforcement, and management to human rights, VIP security, law and order maintenance, physical fitness, unarmed combat, field engineering, IED modules, fieldcraft, jungle survival, etc.

CRPF Director General Shri Anish Dayal Singh presided over the passing out parade ceremony as the chief guest. The parade was led by Vinay Jawla, a trainee who not only displayed exceptional leadership but also earned accolades by clinching the Home Minister's Trophy, Sword of Honour and Best Trophy in outdoor training. Special recognition was also accorded to Sahil Chhikara for his outstanding performance in indoor disciplines and Anshul Mishra for demonstrating excellent physical training abilities.

Director General Anish Dayal Singh extended



heartfelt congratulations to the graduating officers and their families for their remarkable accomplishment following 52 weeks of rigorous basic training. He emphasised that the CRPF motto 'Seva aur Nishtha' (Service and Loyalty), will serve as a guiding principle throughout their careers. He expressed confidence that the dedication displayed during training will enable these young officers to bring honour and glory to the CRPF, ensuring the nation's internal security remains in capable hands. The young officers, now serving as company commanders across various regions of the country, were encouraged to prioritise the spirit of 'Nation First' and confront the challenges of internal security with resilience and determination.

Alertness Ensures Safety



Bureau

In a proactive measure to safeguard lives and properties from the impact of the Remal cyclone, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi convened a review meeting with relevant departmental officials at his official residence in New Delhi on May 26. During the session, the Prime Minister provided necessary directives to the officials.

The Prime Minister was briefed about the preparedness with the National Crisis Management Committee maintaining constant communication with the West Bengal Government. Fishermen were advised against venturing into the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, while approximately one lakh individuals were relocated to secure locations. Additionally, the Meteorological Department extended information to neighbouring Bangladesh through regular updates.

The review meeting saw the participation of key officials including the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, DG NDRF, DG IMD and Member Secretary, NDMA.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Union Government's support for the West Bengal Government, affirming continuous assistance. He instructed the Ministry of Home Affairs to closely monitor the situation, ensuring prompt aid post-cyclone landfall to facilitate the restoration of normalcy. In addition to the 12 NDRF teams deployed in West Bengal and one in Odisha, the Prime Minister directed the readiness of additional teams, capable of mobilising within an hour.

India grapples with cyclones periodically due to its geographical and ecological conditions. Following information about cyclone Remal, the Union Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, conducted thorough discussions with State Governments to review preparedness measures. The Prime Minister reaffirmed his support to State Governments, emphasising ongoing assistance.

The Indian Coast Guard was told to deploy its assets for emergency response, while stringent surveillance was upheld at ports, railways and highways to preempt any mishaps. As per the India Meteorological Department's forecast, Cyclone Remal was anticipated to traverse to Bangladesh and adjoining West Bengal coasts between Sagar Island and Khepupara, near the southwest of Mongla in Bangladesh.

Precautionary measures were promptly taken prior to its landfall along the West Bengal coast and neighbouring Bangladesh. Kolkata airport suspended operations for 21 hours and NDRF and SDRF teams were deployed in the region. A dedicated control room was established in Kolkata to coordinate disaster response efforts and disseminate essential information. ■

Transformative Decisions Changing the Security Landscape Across India

Effective governance is often defined by impactful decisions that drive a nation towards progress and inclusivity. Over the past 10 years, the Union Government, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs, has undertaken a series of significant initiatives aimed at safeguarding the nation from internal disturbances.

The core idea behind many of these significant decisions was two-fold: strengthening the unity of the nation amidst its unique diversity, in coordination with the States and Union Territories; and curbing internal disturbances emanating from a combination of various other factors.

The overall goal behind such far-reaching decisions was to create a conducive atmosphere to benefit the overall well-being, security, and prosperity of the nation and its citizens, by ensuring maintenance of peace and delivering efficient policing and effective justice delivery systems.

The repeal of the old criminal laws and adoption of the new ones reflects the country's current realities. Renaming these laws to reflect Indian ethos and culture —such as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 — marks a departure from the archaic British colonial era, emphasising justice and transparency over punishment.

In the last decade, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Government has taken a tough stance on religious fundamentalism and terrorism. These forces are now on the defensive due to Government's zero-tolerance policies and actions.

To achieve this goal, the government has made necessary amendments in relevant Acts, including the UAPA. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has now been empowered to investigate terror crimes related to Indians and Indian interests abroad also. The new criminal laws have further bolstered this change by allowing trials of criminal elements in their absence also.

The abrogation of the Article 370 marked a historic turning point for Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past five years, Jammu and Kashmir, along with the newly formed Union Territory of Ladakh, has experienced significant advancements across all sectors by effective management of security challenges and access to developmental opportunities, resulting in reduction in terrorism and increase in positive outcomes, with both the Union Territories turning into an all-weather tourist regions.

The national policy and action plan to address Left-Wing Extremism has been very effective in curtailing Maoist



Pankaj Kumar Singh

activities significantly reducing violence in the affected States. The involvement of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in collaboration with State police forces has been crucial in tackling the security environment. In recognition of the valiant sacrifices made by the police forces, the Government has set up the National Police Memorial in New Delhi as a national monument for police valour and sacrifice, with

similar initiatives in States.

India has a coastline of 7516.6 km and in order to fortify this aspect of the nation's security, patrolling protocols have been given a much-needed revamp. The biannual coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kawach', involving all maritime security agencies is being conducted regularly. Showcasing attention to details, security guidelines for implementation at even non-major ports have been issued to all States/UTs.

The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project, initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, inter-links police stations under a common application software, facilitating investigation, data analytics, research, policy-making and citizen services such as complaint reporting and tracking. This has created a centralized crime and criminal information repository, with attendant benefits for law enforcement agencies.

The 'Support to Poor Prisoners' scheme provides financial assistance to prisoners unable to afford bail or fines. The National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO), launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs, facilitates the investigation and tracking of sexual offenders with data of over 16.10 lakh individuals.

The establishment of the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) provides a national searchable repository of criminal fingerprints. Similarly, the establishment of National Forensic Science Universities (NFSUs) addresses the need for quality manpower in forensic sciences to improve quality of criminal investigations. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has revisited its campaigns for drug-free environments along with fortifying borders against drug smuggling.

A number of legislative and executive decisions have led to a vast change in the whole security scenario of the entire nation. The seriousness with which such efforts have been made is an indicator of the priority placed on the well-being of the common man, which is the basic foundation of national interest. ■

(The writer is Deputy National Security Advisor)



Training is crucial for disaster management as it can save precious lives. On May 11, basic training was provided to 2,159 recruits at the Basic Training Centre (BTC) in Bhanu. These recruits, from BTC Bhanu, learned life-saving techniques from an instructor of National Institute for Training in Search, Rescue and Disaster Response.

As part of CISF's commitment to cleanliness, CISF jawans from VSTPP Vindhyannagar conducted a cleanliness drive on May 7 under the Meri LIFE (Lifestyle For Environment). #SwachhBharat campaign.



On May 24, 17 personnel of the Border Security Force were decorated with medals, including 10 members who received the Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) and seven members who were honoured with the Jeevan Raksha Padak (JRP). National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval presided over the 21st Border Security Force Decoration Ceremony and conferred the honours. Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Director of Intelligence Bureau Shri Tapan Kumar Deka were also present on this occasion.

भारत के वीर

Tribute to the bravehearts

<https://bharatkeveer.gov.in>

GUIDELINES

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



The passage of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam is a watershed moment in our history. A new era begins with laws centred on public service and welfare.



Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



**Bureau of Police Research and Development
Ministry of Home Affairs, NH-48, Mahipalpur
New Delhi-110037**