

Peace, Security and Prosperity

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Union Territories Evolve as Development Models



J&K: Setting A New Development Benchmark



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From the Editor

Union Territories (UTs) occupy a distinctive place within India's federal system. They were created for various reasons, including their small size, geography, administrative requirements, unique culture and strategic importance. While some of them are administered by elected Governments, all UTs are directly accountable to the Union Government for key decisions.

Out of the eight Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh were added in 2019. They are particularly important for India's unity and integrity. Because of the Union Government's direct attention to developmental programmes after the abrogation of Article 370, these two UTs have made great strides in overcoming terrorism and growth stagnation. Other UTs are similarly capitalising on their particular areas of growth, setting precedents in the implementation of Union Government schemes and community-led projects that foster self-reliance.

Some of the UTs are also important from India's global outreach point of view and the Indo-Pacific strategy. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep come under this category and they require special attention. They are also important for India's maritime security and neighbourhood policy.

As India aims to be a developed nation by 2047, the role of UTs would also be crucial. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, while addressing the 'Conference on Union Territories' on December 29, 2022, directed the Union Territories to prepare their vision for 2047. He said that Union Territories should take inspiration from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's motto of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' while striving to become a hub of tourism, development and welfare.

Efforts are also being made to promote awareness about the UTs and showcase their heritage both domestically and internationally. Notably, Prime Minister Shri Modi's recent visit to Lakshadweep highlights this strategy by showcasing the island's serene landscapes on a global stage.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, exemplifying this strategy has time and again said that the objective is to position the UTs, through the implementation of Government programmes and community initiatives, in such a way that they become the beacons of economic prosperity and self-reliance.

The geographical compactness and simple administrative frameworks of the UTs make them ideal grounds for innovative pilot projects and schemes, whose successes can be replicated in broader national strategies. A renewed emphasis on cooperative development, particularly in sectors such as fisheries and manufacturing, aims to decrease reliance on external resources and propel UTs towards economic vibrancy.

This issue of 'Vigilant India' highlights the changing faces of the UTs. Please feel free to share feedback at sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in

Jai Hind!

Director General, BPR&D

The geographical compactness and simple administrative frameworks of the UTs make them ideal grounds for innovative pilot projects and schemes, whose successes can be replicated in broader national strategies.



यह बीते 10 वर्षों के सतत प्रयासों का परिणाम है कि आज भारत की बेरियां थल, जल और नभ से लेकर अंतरिक्ष तक अपना लोहा मनवा रही हैं।



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



सीमाओं की सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ सशस्त्र सीमा बल सीमावर्ती इलाकों के इतिहास को सहेजने का काम कर रही है।



श्री अमित शाह
केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री



जम्मू-कश्मीर में पंचायती राज व्यवस्था हुई सुदृढ़ और पुनर्जीवित हुआ प्रजातंत्र।



श्री नित्यानंद राय
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री



Impressed by the skills of local artisans & craftsmen at the state-level Yuva Utsav 2024. Their stalls exuded the alluring charm of indigenous creations, truly capturing the essence of #VocalForLocal India. Let's continue promoting & uplifting our local talents!



Shri Nisith Pramanik
MoS, Ministry of Home Affairs



देश के उत्थान में समर्पित नायकों का सम्मान, यही है नए भारत की पहचान।



श्री अजय मिश्रा
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री



प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में गृह मंत्री श्री अमित शाह जी ने जम्मू-कश्मीर से धारा 370 को समाप्त किया। जम्मू-कश्मीर में आतंकवाद और अलगाववाद पर नकेल कस मोदी सरकार ने यहाँ शांति के एक नए युग की शुरुआत की।



गृह मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

Hon'ble Prime Minister



Union Territories Evolve as Development Models

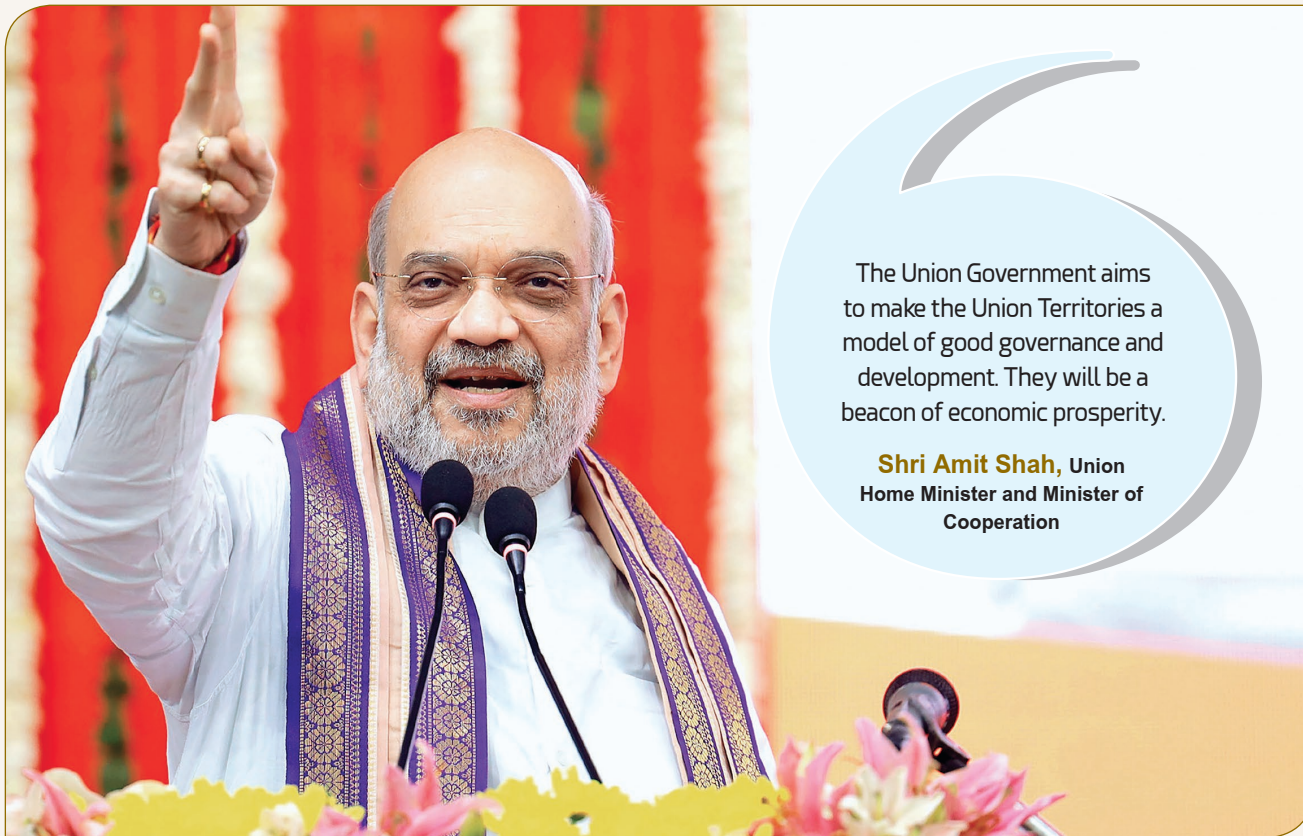
Lakshadweep will play a big role in the creation of Viksit Bharat. The Government of India is trying to bring Lakshadweep prominently on the international tourism map. It has gained international recognition due to the recent G20 meeting held here.

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Bureau

In the first week of January, when photographs of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sitting by the sea in Lakshadweep were seen in the media, the public realised how a small island group in the country has attained a level

of development and moved up on the world tourism map. This incident not only establishes the strategic and diplomatic importance of Lakshadweep, but also narrates the story of prosperity in Union Territories across the country over the past decade. The Union Government has made improvements in several areas, including infrastructure, education, health,



The Union Government aims to make the Union Territories a model of good governance and development. They will be a beacon of economic prosperity.

Shri Amit Shah, Union
Home Minister and Minister of
Cooperation

The pace of development continues steadily in the Union Territories, with positive results being observed in many sectors. Efforts undertaken by the Union Government have led to improvements in various sectors, including education, health, social empowerment, transportation and electricity. In line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Home Ministry is setting new standards of development and upgrading basic facilities across all the eight Union Territories.

transportation, electricity, research and development.

Under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs is continuously working for the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry. It is setting new standards of development along with upgrading the basic services and infrastructure in all Union Territories. Puducherry is the first Union Territory to achieve 100% Jan Dhan coverage. All the schemes related to the welfare of Scheduled Castes have also achieved 100% Aadhaar coverage.

The Union Government wants to showcase the Union Territories as a model to the entire country. It has initiated several schemes and programmes

aimed at promoting excellent governance, social inclusion and economic development. Through these efforts, the Union Territories are moving towards prosperity and inclusive development at both social and economic levels.

For several years now, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been working on this. Work at the departmental level for this has been ongoing consistently. Meetings are held from time to time to implement the planned activities and review them.

Through these meetings, decisions have been taken considering the needs of all the eight Union Territories in the country and the expectations of the people. If we talk about the decisions taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard, in the year 2023 alone, the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill,

Puducherry has the power to guide the entire nation. Like a lighthouse, it can show the way to its neighboring States. By establishing a new ecosystem related to tourism, creating environment-friendly transport systems, 100% LED penetration and through various innovative methods, Puducherry can set a new example of development.

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



2023, has been passed by the Parliament. The benefits of this will be seen by the people of Delhi in the coming time. The Union Home Minister also handed over appointment letters to 4,400 employees of the New Delhi Municipal Council upon their regularisation. He also inaugurated various projects in New Delhi.

Additionally, the Union Cabinet has approved the 'Vibrant Villages' programme, a centrally sponsored scheme with a financial allocation of ₹4,800 crore for the fiscal years 2022-23 to 2025-26, which is facilitating the development of border villages. This programme will assist the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh situated on the borders.

An important highlight was that the improvement in the conditions of the Union Territories and the breeze of development there were felt on a global stage. When the third G20 Tourism Working Group meeting was held in Srinagar from May 22 to 24, 2023, the visiting guests departed with sweet memories.

Due to the Government's efforts, there has been a significant increase in the number of tourists in

New Traditions in Federalism

Since becoming Prime Minister in 2014, Shri Modi has given a new direction to federalism. Moving away from the past practices, the Prime Minister emphasised on cooperative and competitive federalism to achieve comprehensive development. For a long time, we observed a big brother-like relationship between the Centre and the States, using a 'one size fits all' approach for years. The formation of the NITI Aayog aimed to empower States and Union Territories with more robustness and authority, replacing the 'one-way flow policy' from the Centre to the States.

this area. In 2022, an unprecedented increase in the tourism sector was observed in Jammu and Kashmir, with more than 1.88 crore people visiting the Union



Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. By December 2023, more than two crore tourists had visited. In the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, nine tourist routes and 30 trekking routes have been opened. Jammu is the only city in the country that hosts an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), and an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). In the non-gazetted ranks of Jammu and Kashmir Police Services, 15% horizontal reservation has been provided for female candidates.

On December 4, 2023, a high-level meeting on Ladakh was organised in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai. He stated that the Home Ministry is committed to the development in Ladakh and fulfilling the aspirations of its people. He mentioned that significant progress has been made since it became a Union Territory in 2019. Due to this historic step, administration and development have been brought closer to the people of Ladakh. He noted that budgetary allocation for the Union Territory has been enhanced and funds for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council in Leh have

been increased. Rapid development of infrastructure such as ensuring connectivity, mobile networks, roads and construction of new helipads has taken place across the Union Territory.

Shri Rai affirmed that the Union Government would continue working consistently with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and with the people of Ladakh for their holistic and sustainable development. LAB and KDA have welcomed the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs to amend the terms of references and include new members. Members of LAB and KDA raised various issues such as protecting the rights of Ladakh residents, expediting recruitment processes and greater participation in decision-making.

As the Union Government is working on the strategy to develop the Union Territories as role models for the entire country, there are also plans to fully leverage their potential in the fulfilment of India's goal of becoming the third largest economy in the world. For this purpose, the Union Territories have been asked to prepare their vision for 2047 when India aspires to become a developed nation. To reach this goal, the



Union Territories should develop a roadmap with a five-year action plan and annual plans. To maximise the benefits, the implementation and progress of these action plans should be monitored and reviewed regularly and rigorously.

It has also been underlined that while taking pride in their heritage, they should exchange their best practices in terms of security and excellence in flagship schemes. So, while working to expand its opportunities, they should take inspiration from Vocal for Local and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat while maintaining the motto of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance and Zero-Tolerance towards Corruption.

The Union Territories, being small in geographical size and having a relatively simple administrative structure, are ideal for experimenting with pilot programmes. These experiments can be tested on a small scale in the Union Territories and then replicated in the States.

There has been a series of meetings and conferences from time to time that offered opportunities for cross-learning and knowledge sharing among the Union Territories and other stakeholders. It also offered a



MHA Flagship Schemes for UTs

- ➔ 100% electronic transfer of funds in all Union Territories.
- ➔ The target of 100% electrification has been achieved in the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- ➔ Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 100% LPG coverage has been achieved in Andaman and Nicobar, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi.
- ➔ Notification issued to ban certain types of single-use plastics in the Union Territories.
- ➔ Saturation achieved in the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- ➔ Health and wellness centres have been established.
- ➔ The One Nation-One Ration Card scheme has been implemented across all the Union Territories. Fair price shops have also been automated.

platform for the Union Territories to express their aspirations, achievements, local priorities and unique challenges. These are attended by officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the eight Union Territories.

Recognising their contribution in history, Union Territories are being recognised in various ways. For example, Prime Minister Shri Modi participated in a ceremony to name 21 of the largest unnamed islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago after the



awardees of the Param Vir Chakra, and unveiled the model of a national monument dedicated to Netaji, constructed on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island.

Likewise, under the Sagarmala programme, the Puducherry port is being developed in a way that would benefit the fishermen who use this port to go out to the sea. Shri Modi stated that this would provide sea connectivity from Chennai, which would assist the cargo activities of industries in Puducherry and aid in unloading at the Chennai port. This will also facilitate the movement of travellers in coastal cities. Puducherry has the resources, capability, and will, and the people there have the potential to reach new heights of development. Sagarmala project has strengthened the ports and ushered in an era of port-led development.

On the same line, various development projects worth over ₹4,850 crore are being developed in Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. These projects included the inauguration of the NAMO Medical Education and Research Institute in Silvassa and the foundation stone laying of Government schools, a State engineering college, beautification, strengthening and widening of various roads, a fish market, shopping centres, and a water supply scheme in Daman. In April

2023, along with laying the foundation stone for these projects, the Prime Minister also handed over the keys of houses to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Urban from Daman and Silvassa. He said that in the past few years, a lot of work has been done on physical and social infrastructure in the Union Territories with an allocation of ₹5,500 crore.

Over the past 10 years, a new work style and culture have developed in the Union Territories on the commitment of the Union Government believing on the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas," along with a strong focus on the balanced development of every region of the country.

The Union Government has taken various steps for the economic development of the Union Territories, such as boosting tourism, enhancing telecommunications and web connectivity, developing road, sea and air connectivity, promoting clean and green energy and initiatives for waste management, including waste-to-energy projects and launching new power projects. The tourism sector in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been given the status of an industry, and Daman and Diu has developed world-class maritime facilities and major riverfronts.



Eco-tourism resorts are also being developed in the Union Territories. In the Union Territory of Ladakh, the country's first Dark Sky Reserve will be established in Hanle to promote astronomy-tourism and enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

The Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI) optical fibre cable project, costing around ₹1,224 crore, has significantly increased internet/broadband and mobile/digital connectivity in Andaman. This project has revolutionised internet connectivity, increasing bandwidth usage from 4.1 gigabytes per second (GBPS) to 70.31 GBPS, and internet speed from 100 kilobytes per second (KBPS) to 300 megabytes per second (MBPS). Total mobile connections have increased from 470,000 to nearly 700,000 and Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) services, which provide high broadband speed directly to homes and offices, have increased to approximately 34,500. It is noteworthy to mention that 5G services have also been launched in the Union Territory.

The Union Government is focusing on enhancing air, road and maritime connectivity in the Union Territories. A new terminal building at Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair has been constructed at a cost of approximately ₹710 crore, which can facilitate up to

five million passengers per year. The Azad Hind Fauj Setu on Humphrey Strait, built at a cost of ₹203 crore, has significantly improved road connectivity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

To boost the fishing industry and the maritime economy in Andaman and Nicobar; and Lakshadweep, the Union Government has initiated various projects. These initiatives mainly focus on infrastructure and logistics, deep-sea fishing, aquaculture, capacity building and fisheries management. The Government is also creating forward market linkages and promoting fisheries-related cooperative societies and self-help groups (SHGs). Agencies such as the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Export Inspection Agency (EIA) and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) are providing technical assistance and training for capacity building of fishermen and fish farmers.

The Union Government's initiation of information technology-enabled initiatives has brought greater accountability, transparency and financial transformation in the Union Territories. This has significantly boosted business and economic growth, positioning them as drivers of economic prosperity for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). ■

Synergy in Action: UTs New Drivers



Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair

The Union Government is leaving no stone unturned to make the Union Territories into models of development and economic powerhouses, focusing on tourism, digital connectivity, infrastructure and governance reforms. These efforts aim to harness the unique strengths of each Union Territory, contributing significantly to India's goal of becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2027.

Bureau

The Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasised the need for Union Territories to work synergistically to achieve national objectives and transform India into the third-largest economy by 2047. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has also underscored the pivotal role that Union Territories would play in India's journey towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. Emphasising the need for collective effort and synergy, the Union Home Minister has called for the Union Territories to unite on a common platform to achieve the national objectives and vision.

Harnessing Potential through Synergy

Shri Shah had highlighted the unique position of Union Territories as ideal prototypes for pilot programmes. While speaking at a conference on Union Territories in New Delhi on December 29, 2022, he said, "The smaller geographical size and simpler administrative setup make the Union Territories perfect for testing innovative initiatives on a smaller scale before replicating them in larger States. They should come together and work synergistically to take the country forward in the journey of development".

Vision for 2047

As the country prepares to celebrate 100 years of Independence in 2047, Shri Shah urged all Indians to pledge to transform India. He outlined a roadmap for

of Economic Growth & Sustainability

the Union Territories for the year 2047, with a clear action plan for the next five years. This plan includes regular monitoring and rigorous reviews to ensure maximum benefits.

In line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Shri Shah advocated for the development of tourist circuits within the country to attract more tourists and reduce transportation costs. He asked the Union Territories to take pride in their heritage and work together to harness their immense tourism potential. He also stressed on the facts that true development is measured by its positive impact on the remotest and most deprived members of society, not just by rising GDP figures.

The Union Home Minister reiterated Prime Minister Shri Modi's 'Panch Pranas' (Five Resolutions) of Amrit Kaal, urging Union Territories to embrace these principles—creation of safe and secure Union Territories, achieving saturation in flagship schemes, minimum Government and maximum governance, zero-tolerance towards corruption and developing best practices for overall development.

Primary education, according to Shri Shah, is crucial for instilling these principles in future generations. He encouraged Union Territories, especially Puducherry, to lead in documenting and spreading awareness about the inspirational life of Sri Aurobindo, which holds valuable lessons for administration.

The Union Home Minister urged Union Territories to boost their manufacturing sectors to reduce dependency on external resources, thereby minimising revenue loss.

Towards Sustainable & Inclusive Growth

The Union Government's multifaceted approach to the holistic development of Union Territories includes promoting tourism and developing infrastructure. As articulated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, in a Rajya Sabha reply on December 20, 2023, these initiatives are pivotal in driving growth and prosperity.

Tourism, identified as a key sector for its multiplier effect, is being actively promoted through various forms, including ecotourism, heritage tourism, adventure tourism and niche tourism activities. In the



Union Territories should take inspiration from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's motto of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' while striving to become hubs of tourism, development and welfare.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, tourism has been granted the status of an industry, while Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have developed world-class sea and riverfronts. The first-ever dark sky reserve in Ladakh's Hanle has been established to promote astro-tourism, fostering economic activities and benefiting local communities.

The Union Government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and the introduction of IT-enabled initiatives have enhanced transparency, accountability



and financial transformation, fostering an environment conducive to business and economic development. This approach aligns with the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, positioning the Union Territories as new drivers of economic prosperity.

Furthermore, a robust monitoring mechanism ensures the effective implementation of various flagship and development schemes. The holistic development of Union Territories as global tourism hubs, improving their living standards and achieving saturation of Government schemes are continuous

processes. In promoting the blue economy, the Union Government is focusing on infrastructure and logistics, deep-sea fishing, aquaculture and capacity building in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

The Union Government has continuously made significant efforts towards realising India's vision of becoming the third largest economy by leveraging the collective potential of the Union Territories. By working synergistically and focusing on development at the grassroots level, the Union Territories are poised to become crucial contributors to this national aspiration. ■

Infrastructure & Governance Reforms

The Union Government is prioritising the enhancement of air, road and sea connectivity across the Union Territories. A new terminal building at Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair, costing ₹710 crore, now handles 50 lakh passengers annually. The construction of the Azad Hind Fauj Setu on Humphrey Strait in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has improved road connectivity significantly, while projects such as the Zoji-la tunnel in Ladakh are set to further boost infrastructure. It is also worth mentioning that 'ease of doing business' is being promoted through governance reforms and reduced compliance burdens. The implementation of single-window clearance systems and policies to promote industry, handicrafts, agriculture and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are encouraging business activities and entrepreneurship in the Union Territories. Investment promotion schemes offer capital and interest subsidies in thrust sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, information technology (IT) and agriculture. Flagship programmes such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation programme, PM Vishwakarma and PM SVAnidhi schemes are effectively implemented in the Union Territories to generate employment, provide financial support and foster skill development. These initiatives are vital in driving economic growth and self-reliance.

Setting a Brand New Development Benchmark



Bureau

The decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir into two administrative units was a significant milestone in the annals of Independent India. After the reorganisation, both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been classified as two separate Union Territories. This transformative move has ushered in a new era, tailored to the distinctive characteristics of the regions, namely Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, empowering them to better recognise and address their individual needs.

With the advent of separate governance structures, tailored schemes have been initiated, directly benefiting the populace. Notably, concerted efforts have been made to address the unique challenges faced by the Kashmir Valley, the Jammu region and

We will make 'Viksit Jammu and Kashmir' and to achieve this, the Union Government is giving special attention to the marginalised, farmers, youth and women.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Ladakh. However, the reorganisation is poised for further evolution, as assured by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, on the floors of both the Houses of Parliament. The two Union Territories will eventually attain full-fledged statehood, accompanied by the restoration of their



legislative assemblies, at an opportune moment.

Strategies are being implemented to foster development and isolate impediments. Efforts have been made to weaken the activities of organisations that are engaged in separatist causes. Additionally, joint operations with security agencies are being carried out to identify and prevent funding sources for terrorism.

Taking strict action against proscribed organisations is yielding results and public trust has dwindled against the separatists. Cooperation between the local police, Central Armed Police Forces and the Army has been crucial in this regard. Many prominent leaders from the Valley have been exposed for their involvement in terrorism and separatism. Networks involved in money laundering for terrorism and separatism have also been identified.

Provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, have been strengthened to break the funding backbone of terrorism. A Terror Funding and Fake Currency (TFFC) cell has been established in NIA to conduct investigation of terror funding and fake currency rackets. Border surveillance has been

Significant steps have been taken for the development of Jammu and Kashmir in the past decade. Now, people have got an opportunity to be a part of the mainstream.

intensified 24X7, with increased fencing and patrolling.

In December 2023, the Prime Minister shared his thoughts on Jammu and Kashmir with the nation through an article. He stated that over the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a marked improvement in grassroots-level democracy, characterised by new confidence in development, democracy and dignity, replacing disillusionment, despair and hopelessness. He said that earlier, women and marginalised sections of the society were not getting their due, while Ladakh's aspirations were overlooked. He said that August 5, 2019, changed everything for the better, referring to the significant decision to abrogate Article 370. He said, "All Central laws are now applicable in the region without any fear or bias." ■

Islands Named After War Heroes

Twenty-one islands in the Andaman and Nicobar have been named after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, in a profound gesture to honour these bravehearts. This initiative commemorates their valiant contributions and recognises the rich tradition of Indian history.

Bureau

Ever since assuming leadership at the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2019, Shri Amit Shah has been working on honouring the country's heroes. During his visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on October 15, 2021, he expressed his resolve to name islands after the War-heroes of the motherland. These islands were named by the British that did not have any resonance either with Indian freedom struggle or War-heroes of India.

Two years later, on January 23, 2023, commemorated as Parakram Diwas, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced renaming of 21 large islands of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees through video conferencing.

"From Major Somnath Sharma, Piru Singh, Major Shaitan Singh to Captain Manoj Pandey, Subedar Joginder Singh and Lance Naik Albert Ekka, from Veer Abdul Hameed and Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran to all 21 Param Virs, everyone had only one resolve - Nation First! India First! This resolution has now become immortal forever in the name of these islands," the Prime Minister said during his speech on the occasion.

Earlier, in 2018, Prime Minister Shri Modi had renamed Ross Island as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island. Similarly, Neil Island and Havelock Island were renamed as Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep.

A hill in Andaman was also dedicated in the name of Captain Vikram Batra who sent victory signal by using the words, 'Yeh Dil Maange More' during the Kargil War in 1999.

Highlighting the history of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, the Prime Minister mentioned



Islands in A&N renamed after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees

1. Major Somnath Sharma
2. Subedar & Hony Captain (then Lance Naik) Karam Singh
3. 2nd Lt. Rama Raghoba Rane
4. Nayak Jadunath Singh
5. Company Havildar Major Piru Singh
6. Capt GS Salaria
7. Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa
8. Subedar Joginder Singh
9. Major Shaitan Singh
10. CQMH. Abdul Hamid
11. Lt Col Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore
12. Lance Naik Albert Ekka
13. Major Hoshiar Singh
14. 2nd Lt. Arun Khetrapal
15. Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon
16. Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran
17. Naib Subedar Bana Singh
18. Captain Vikram Batra
19. Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey
20. Subedar Major (then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar
21. Subedar Major Retd. Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav

that this was the place where the Tricolour was hoisted for the first time. On December 30, 1943, Netaji hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at the Cellular Jail in Port Blair during his visit to Andaman and declared the island as free territory from British rule. ■

Delhi Revamps Development

Bureau

Delhi has a unique position on India's political map. It is a Union Territory and also hosts the Union Government as capital of the country. It possesses a distinctive federal status that blends elements of both a State and a Union Territory. While it has an elected Government, its powers are divided between the Union Government and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The Union Government has always intended to foster better development in the national capital. People from all over the world come here and those who do not get the opportunity to travel across India, view the entire country through the image of Delhi. Keeping this in mind, the Government of India has been working to make Delhi a world-class city. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), as a local body, operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs. This council encompasses the major areas of Delhi. In addition, several activities are carried out by the Delhi Government, which are also monitored by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In order to provide better governance in Delhi, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, introduced the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament, which was passed on August 7, 2023. During discussions in the Parliament, he clarified that Delhi's situation is different from other States.

Several discussions took place in the Parliament regarding the bill. During the deliberations, Shri Shah said that the purpose of the bill is to ensure a smooth and corruption-free governance in Delhi. He reassured both Houses of the Parliament that there was no change in the existing system due to the provisions of the bill. It was aimed at curbing corruption and its objectives are in accordance with the Constitution. The Union Home Minister emphasised that the bill was entirely constitutional and was introduced solely for the welfare of the people of Delhi without any political motive. He emphasised that laws are introduced for the nation's benefit and the good of the country.

While speaking on the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Rajya Sabha,



After Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, he took the initiative to develop every sector and created a comprehensive, result-oriented and integrated policy for urban development.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



the Home Minister mentioned that there may be a belief that the Union Government wants to centralise power. He stated that there is no need for the Union Government to do so, as the people of India have already entrusted them with power and authority.

Apart from the above, Shri Shah has taken measures to address the needs of the workforce on the ground, especially the employees and officers of the NDMC, which is significant in maintaining and improving the New Delhi area. On May 3, 2023, he distributed appointment letters for the regularisation of 4,400 employees of the NDMC, which boosted morale among

Governance

the people. The event was attended by prominent figures, including the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, and the Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, among others.

In his address, Shri Shah stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has successfully provided clarity in many areas due to his decisive leadership and the event to distribute appointment letters was a significant example of such achievements.

Shri Shah further noted that Prime Minister Shri Modi placed considerable emphasis on timely reforms in employment procedures and recruitment rules across all ministries of the Government of India, leading to enhanced facilities not only for the NDMC employees, but also for future government employees. He highlighted the critical importance of the NDMC area, noting that it is crucial because it hosts the Union Government, including the Parliament and embassies of over 150 countries. From here, national policies are shaped and the city hosts international guests and showcases India globally. He stated that providing basic amenities to millions of people within the 43 square kilometre area is the responsibility of the NDMC.

Efforts are continuously being undertaken to improve the living conditions for Government employees too. Shri Shah also mentioned the inauguration of 120 new flats in the Pushp Vihar Housing Complex and the upgrading and beautification of the Ranjit Singh Flyover



The Parliament has complete authority to legislate on any matter related to the Union Territory of Delhi.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

and Safdarjung Flyover. He praised Prime Minister Shri Modi as a pioneer of development in various sectors, who has taken the initiative to create a comprehensive, result-oriented and integrated urban development policy based on five pillars, including governance reform through e-governance, the Smart Cities Mission, Integrated Command and Control Centres and CCTV networks, along with significant infrastructure improvements under schemes such as AMRUT Mission, RERA, metro expansion and electric buses.

As the Chief Guest on the occasion of the 76th Raising Day celebrations of the Delhi Police, Shri Shah commended the force for maintaining security for common citizens as well as embassies and VIPs in New Delhi. He praised the Delhi Police for their commendable history from Independence to the present day. He highlighted that the Delhi Police had shown exemplary conduct and humanity during the COVID-19 pandemic by caring for the elderly and sick while steadfastly upholding their motto of 'Peace, Service, Justice'. ■



Decades-old Aspirations Fulfilled

Bureau

Ladakh, a distinctively colourful territory amidst India's cultural and geographical diversity, was earlier left out of the development spotlight due to its geographical distance from New Delhi. There was a lingering sense of neglect among the people of this region due to this. However, the past decade has seen a focused attention from the Union Government on Ladakh, turning long-held aspirations of its people into reality.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has executed several special projects for the region. After Ladakh was separated from Jammu and Kashmir and declared a new Union Territory in 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370, there has been accelerated pace of development everywhere in the region. With special support from the Union Government, Ladakh, known for its serene landscape, is now independently paving

The revocation of Article 370 marks a new dawn for the region of Ladakh. The Union Government is committed to integrating the people of Ladakh with the rest of the country.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

its path of development.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has assured the people of Ladakh of the Union Government's commitment to the development of the newly formed Union Territory. He said that Ladakh's land and culture would be preserved as per the wishes of the local people.

For comprehensive development in Ladakh, the



Fast-tracking Ladakh's Development

The Ministry of Home Affairs under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah is committed to accelerate the development of Ladakh. This commitment was evident at a high-powered committee (HPC) meeting for Ladakh held in New Delhi on December 4, 2023. Chaired by Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai, it saw participation from Apex Body Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA). Shri Rai highlighted the significant progress achieved since Ladakh's designation as a Union Territory in 2019, noting that the historic move has brought governance and development closer to its people. Key initiatives include increased budgetary allocations, enhanced funding for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, improved connectivity and accelerated infrastructure projects such as mobile networks, roads and new helipads. The meeting also addressed issues submitted by ABL and KDA, including the protection of residents' rights, fast-track recruitment processes and greater participation in decision-making. The Ministry of Home Affairs reiterated its commitment to regularly engage with local bodies for the holistic and sustainable development of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Prime Minister had announced a development package in 2015 for the then State of Jammu and Kashmir, totalling ₹80,068 crore, of which ₹21,441 crore was dedicated to nine projects specifically for Ladakh. Further, to ensure overall development, the budget allocation has been significantly increased to ₹5,958 crore annually for the years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The Ministry of Home Affairs regularly reviews the projects undertaken in Ladakh. A high-level committee meeting chaired by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, was held on December 4, 2023, in New Delhi. The Apex Body Leh (ABL) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) participated in this meeting. Shri Rai stated that the Union Home Ministry is

committed to accelerating the development of Ladakh and fulfilling the aspirations of its people. He noted that significant progress has been made in Ladakh since its designation as a Union Territory. This historic step has brought administration and development closer to the people of Ladakh.

He detailed that the budget allocation for the Union Territory has been increased, funding for the autonomous hill development councils has been enhanced and rapid development of infrastructure such as mobile networks, roads and helipads has been ensured. He emphasised that the Union Government will continue to work regularly with the ABL and KDA as well with the people of Ladakh to ensure sustainable development in the region.■

Development Work Gains Momentum



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Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, many developmental projects and reforms have been implemented in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. On December 22, 2023, during his visit to the city, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched several new schemes and projects. He also reviewed existing projects and provided directives for future actions.

At the Chandigarh College of Engineering and Technology (CCET) in Sector 26, the Union Home Minister handed over appointment letters to 44 newly recruited sub-inspectors and 700 constables of the Chandigarh Police. Additionally, Shri Shah presented 25 Tata Safari vehicles worth ₹3.75 crore to the police department, along with a bullet-proof command and control vehicle named 'Kavach', purchased for approximately ₹75 lakh, that will enhance police monitoring of the city.

The Union Home Minister stated that it is a joyous day for Chandigarh and the momentum of development will continue unabated. Shri Shah praised Chandigarh Police for effectively reviving the concept of the beat system, which is followed by many State police forces across the country.

Work on infrastructure, software development, training human resources personnel and complete computerisation of the courts will be done by December 2024 for the implementation of the three new criminal laws in the Union Territories.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Shah emphasised the importance of engaging youth through hackathon events to address various challenges faced by the police, especially those related to technology. He also inaugurated the Centre for Cyber Operations and Security (CenCOPS).

The Union Home Minister announced that infrastructure work, software development, training of human resources and complete computerisation of the courts will be done by December 2024 for the proper implementation of the three new criminal laws in the Union Territories.

A time-bound programme will be established to interpret terrorism, address organised crime, establish the Directorate of Prosecution, enhance the



The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, conducted a review for the implementation of the three new criminal laws at the Centre for Cyber Operations and Security (CenCOPS) in Chandigarh on December 22, 2023.

potential of forensics and eliminate loopholes in the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

Shri Shah announced the inauguration of nine projects worth ₹368 crore and laid the foundation stone for three projects worth ₹32 crore. He emphasised that Chandigarh, a city built with modern imagination, must continue to lead by example. “Due to the Union Government’s efforts under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, Chandigarh must work diligently to maintain its top position in this competitive environment”, the Union Home Minister said.

Chandigarh deserves praise for taking initiatives to protect the environment. Tree plantation campaigns have been organised to expand green zones across the Union Territory. Additionally, solar panels have been installed on Government and private buildings to encourage the use of solar energy. The city has also seen a number of new hospitals and medical facilities to enhance health services, which are complemented by health awareness campaigns.

The Union Home Minister stated that several projects focused on cleanliness, education, security, residential facilities and higher education have been



initiated at a cost of about ₹400 crore.

Dignitaries, including the Governor of Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh, Shri Banwarilal Purohit, and Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla were present on the occasion. ■

CAPF Exam in Regional Languages

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The implementation of the Common Entrance Test in 13 regional languages for recruiting constables in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) marks a significant milestone. This initiative not only promotes the preservation and appreciation of local languages and sensitivities, but also fosters greater integration and participation of youth.

The decision to include regional languages instils a sense of confidence and provides an avenue for young individuals to pursue their aspirations in their own languages bolstering their chances of employment in this public sector.

Furthermore, this measure serves as a catalyst for social inclusion, development and the enrichment of the nation's cultural fabric. Consequently, it represents a crucial stride towards fortifying national unity and fostering social cohesion.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, the Home Ministry has executed this visionary approach. The Union Government's decision to administer the Constable (General Duty) examination for recruitment in the CAPF in 13 regional languages, alongside Hindi and English, came into effect on January 1.

Question papers for the exam were meticulously crafted in regional languages, including Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani.

The historic decision enables millions of aspirants nationwide to take part in the examination in their mother tongue or regional language, thus enhancing their prospects of selection and ensuring equal employment opportunities for all.

The Union Government's initiative has provided a significant opportunity for youth across the nation to pursue a career in national service by participating in the Constable (General Duty) examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) in their respective languages. The Constable (GD) Selection Examination, a cornerstone of the Staff Selection Commission's assessment portfolio, draws participation from a vast number of aspirants from various corners of the country.



Conducting competitive examinations in regional languages will encourage aspirants, leading to positive outcomes. This initiative undertaken by the Union Government will not only pave the way for a brighter future for young individuals, but also contribute to the advancement of the nation.



The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Staff Selection Commission have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate the examinations in the 13 regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English. In line with this agreement, the Staff Selection Commission has released a notification announcing the Constable (GD) Examination, 2024 to be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from English and Hindi. With this landmark initiative by the Union Government, job seekers across the country now have the invaluable opportunity to take part in the Constable (GD) examination in their mother tongue, paving the way for a successful career. ■

Frontier Villages Transform into India's 'First Villages'

The progression towards a Developed India hinges on the development of its first villages. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working on the Vibrant Villages programme, aiming to diminish the distance between hearts. The initiative involves phased development of villages, curbing migration, preserving cultural heritage, improving connectivity and enhancing basic facilities.

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The act of bridging is the key to diminish the distance between hearts, much like the vast gap that existed between the border villages and New Delhi. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has undertaken the Vibrant Villages programme to effectively narrow these distances.

According to Prime Minister Shri Modi, the development of the first village in the country is imperative for the creation of a developed India. He asserts that the village situated on the border is not the last, but the first village in the country.

Historically, migration from these border villages was prevalent due to inadequate basic facilities. However, the Prime Minister, recognising the importance of addressing local needs, has actively worked to curb migration through the Vibrant Villages programme.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, conveyed these sentiments while engaging with special guests from the Vibrant Villages programme during an event in New Delhi on the eve of Republic Day on January 25.

Several dignitaries, including Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Minister of State for Home Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Nisith Pramanik were present.

The panchs and sarpanchs from Vibrant Villages, along with their families, were honoured as special guests by the Union Government and had the unique opportunity to witness the Republic Day parade on the Kartavya Path on January 26. Additionally, they visited the Prime Ministers' Museum and took part in 'Bharat Parv' on January 27. As special invitees, they also attended the National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally.



The distance between India's border villages and Delhi may be big, but Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has brought the hearts closer through the Vibrant Villages programme. Unless the first village of the country is developed, a developed India cannot be created.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

The Vibrant Villages Programme currently encompasses 3,000 villages across 19 border areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Ladakh, with a completion timeline of 10 years. The initial phase targets 662 villages, totalling a population of 142,000 and involves an expenditure of ₹4,800 crore. The programme operates with three primary objectives— the phased overall development of the country's first villages, curbing migration from border villages and preserving local culture.

It also aims to enhance all forms of connectivity, basic facilities and infrastructural development in these villages. Notably, a significant investment of ₹2,500 crore is dedicated to constructing roads in these areas, aiming to bolster connectivity and convenience for the local residents. ■

Strategic Initiatives in UTs Lead to Transformative Development

In the vast structure of India's governance landscape, Union Territories (UTs) have often found their unique challenges overlooked and overshadowed by those of the larger States. However, since 2014, a transformative shift has been underway and UTs have emerged as fertile grounds for innovation as well as progress, propelled by the vision and leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

There are 28 States and eight Union Territories (UTs) in the Indian Union. While States possess a complete governmental structure, the UTs have certain limitations in governance.

Additionally, the governance structure varies in UTs. For example, Delhi has an elected Government in place, but it does not have policing powers, while Puducherry also has an elected government with responsibility for Policing. In contrast, UTs such as Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Lakshadweep do not have elected governments.

Because of such diversities in their size and structure, many UTs lacked attention prior to 2014. Now, they are receiving significant attention and resources for fostering their development and growth. Prime Minister Shri Modi has innovatively used UTs as launch pads for pioneering and pilot projects, thus enabling the assessment of outcomes of new plans and initiatives before their wider implementation across States.

The Union government has also restructured some UTs to ensure effective governance. For example, Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two separate UTs — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were merged into a single entity.

The UTs are witnessing remarkable economic success and advancements in human development indicators, often surpassing those of States. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, there has been a concerted effort to enhance governance, autonomy and economic prosperity across the UTs. National initiatives, such as complete electrification, 100% LPG coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and ensuring transparent financial transactions through 100% electronic fund



Dinkar Gupta

transfers have been a success in the UTs.

The principle of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' has led to substantial administrative reforms. Moreover, each UT is being encouraged to adopt practices and initiatives which best meet its specific needs, such as the privatisation of electricity distribution in Daman and Diu and Chandigarh, enhancing both service quality

and operational efficiency.

Medical and educational infrastructure in the UTs have also undergone significant development. A Medical College has been established in Silvassa recently, while Chandigarh achieved Grade 1++ in the Performance Grading Index undertaken by the Union Education Ministry. As part of the Smart City Mission, Chandigarh developed over 200 km of bike lanes and walkways with a city-wide Public Bike-sharing (PBS) network, consisting of 5,000 bicycles across 617 stations.

Infrastructure enhancements continue with new Airport developments and projects such as the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Cable project to boost digital connectivity. Similarly, the Puducherry Port Development project, funded by the Sagarmala scheme, is also a key initiative. Through the Khelo India programme, Puducherry's youth are benefitting from state-of-the-art sports facilities.

Rapid economic growth in the UTs such as Chandigarh and Puducherry has led to rise in per capita income. Eco-tourism is being promoted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. With community-driven initiatives under the Jan Bhagidari model, tourist destinations are getting a facelift. In the last one decade, 52 tourism-related projects valued at over ₹1,400 crore under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) schemes have been launched in the UTs.

Thus, the UTs have proved to be successful models of growth and development through effective governance and planning and implementation of community-driven initiatives. With strategic efforts and endeavours, such as the one seen in Lakshadweep recently, with the visit of the Prime Minister, the UTs are ushering in a new era of development and progress. ■

(Former Director General, National Investigation Agency)



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the Cyber Security Operations Centre at the Assam Rifles Headquarters in Shillong on January 18. The Centre aims to bolster cyber security by conducting real-time monitoring of the Assam Rifles wide area network, thereby mitigating external threats and preventing cyber breaches.

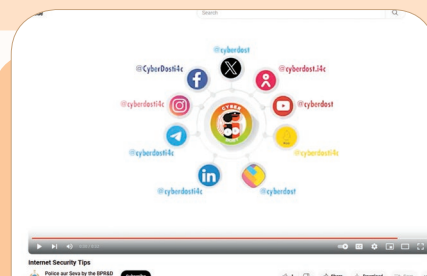
The Ministry of Home Affairs secured the 'Best Tableau-People's Choice Trophy' at the Republic Day celebrations on Kartavya Path in New Delhi where the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) showcased the Vibrant Villages theme. The Union Home Ministry and ITBP officials handed over the trophy to Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla.



The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) concluded its 8th capacity-building programme for 38 officers of Jammu & Kashmir on January 19. The Director General of NCGG, Shri V Srinivas, praised the digital practices adapted by Jammu and Kashmir for good governance. The two-week programme focused on knowledge sharing for innovative practices in citizen-centric governance.



Beware of scam calls requesting OTP or ATM PIN; refrain from disclosing such sensitive information. Responding to such calls may result in unauthorised debits from your account. Stay vigilant and ignore suspicious calls. This warning was issued on BPR&D's YouTube channel 'Police aur Seva'. Follow @cyberdost for awareness on cyber security.



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GUIDELINES

- ◆ You can donate directly to individual braveheart's account (upto max of ₹15 lakh) or may donate to the Bharat Ke Veer corpus.
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- ◆ 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 Union Territories are small in geographical size and have a relatively simple administrative set up, therefore they are ideal prototypes to experiment with pilot programmes. These experiments can be tested on a small scale in the Union Territories and then replicated in larger States.



Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



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