

BJYM

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WOMEN DEVELOPMENT TO WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT



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PM Modi's remarks on Women-led Development

I

t is a matter of great delight for all of us that the nation has viewed this year's budget as a beginning to fulfil the goal of building a developed India by 2047. The budget has been seen and tested from the point of view of future 'Amritkaal'.

It is a good sign for the country that the citizens of the country are also looking at the next 25 years through the prism of these goals.

Friends,

In the last 9 years, the country has moved ahead with the vision of Women-led development. Looking at the experience of its past years, India has also tried to carry forward the efforts of 'Women Development to Women-led Development' on the global arena. This time, this topic also figured prominently in the G20 meetings being chaired by India. This year's budget will also give a new impetus to these efforts of Women-led development, and all of you are going to play a crucial role in it. I welcome all of you to this budget webinar.

Friends,

The power of conviction in women; their will power, their imaginative power, their decision-making power, their ability to take quick decisions, their perseverance to achieve their goals, the results of their hard work, is the identity and reflection of women power. When we say Women-



led development, its foundation is these very powers. In ensuring the bright future for Maa Bharti (India), this power of women is the priceless power of India. This power group is playing a massive role in increasing the scale and speed of India in this century.

Friends,

Today we are witnessing a great revolutionary change in the social life of India. The results of the ways with which India has worked for women empowerment in the last few years are visible today. Today we are witnessing the same in India; the number of women is increasing as compared to men. The number of girls studying in high school or beyond has tripled in the last 9-10 years. Enrolment of girls in science & technology, engineering and maths in India has reached 43% today, and it is the highest among all rich developed countries, be it America, UK or Germany. Similarly, be it medical field or sports field, business or political activity, women's participation in India has not only

increased, but they are leading from the front in every field. Today, there are many areas in India in which the potential of women power is visible. Out of the crores of people who were given Mudra loans, about 70 percent of the beneficiaries are women of the country. These crores of women are not only increasing the income of their families, but are also opening new dimensions of the economy. Through the PM Svanidhi Yojana, various incentives like financial assistance without guarantee, promotion of animal husbandry, promotion of fisheries, promotion of village industries, FPO's, sports are being given. Its maximum benefits are being reaped and the best results are coming from women. This year's budget is a reflection of how we can take the country forward with the help of half of the country's population and how we can increase the power of women. Under the Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Scheme, women will be given 7.5% interest rate. About Rs 80 thousand crore have been allocated for PM Awas Yojana in this budget. This amount will be used to build houses for lakhs of women in the country.

In the past years in India, most of the 3 crore+ houses built under

PM Awas has given women a new voice in the economic decisions of the household.

Friends,

Now we hear of 'unicorns' in the field of startups but is it possible to create unicorns in self help groups too? This budget has been brought with a supporting announcement to fulfil that dream. You can see the scope of this vision of the country from the growth story of the past years. Today, one out of five non-farm businesses in the country is being handled by a woman. In the last 9 years, more than seven crore women have joined Self Help Groups, and they are working in different fields. Just see how much value these crores of women are creating! And you can also estimate it from their capital requirement. In 9 years, these Self-help groups have taken a loan of Rs 6.25 lakh crore. These women are not only small entrepreneurs, but they are also working as resource persons on the ground. In the form of Bank sakhi, Krishi sakhi, Pashu sakhi, these women are creating new



the PM Awas Yojana, are in the names of women. You can imagine that there was also a time when women never had fields, barns, shops or houses in their names. Today, they have got such a huge support from this system.

dimensions of development in the village.

Friends,

Women have always played a crucial role in the cooperative sector. Today a radical change is taking place in the cooperative sector. More than 2 lakh multi-purpose cooperatives, dairy cooperatives and fisheries cooperatives are going to be formed in the coming years. A target has been set to connect 1 crore farmers with organic farming. Women farmers and producer groups can play a vital role in it. At present, not only in the country, but in the whole world, awareness is growing about Millets i.e. Sri Anna. Their demand is increasing. This is a big opportunity for India. You will have to work to further increase the role of women self-help groups in this. You have to remember one more thing. 1 crore tribal women work in Self-Help Groups in our country. They have traditional experience of 'Sri Anna' grown in tribal areas. We have to tap the opportunities related to marketing of 'Sri Anna' as well as processed foods made from it. In many places, government organizations are helping in processing the Minor Forest Produce and bringing it to the market. Today, several of such Self-Help Groups have been formed in remote areas, and we should take it to a wider level.

Friends,

The skill development of the youth and daughters will play a vital role in all these efforts. Vishwakarma Yojana will act as a strong bridge in the same. We have to recognize the special opportunities for women in Vishwakarma Yojana and take them forward. GEM portal and e-commerce are also becoming a major medium to expand the business of women. Today every sector is taking advantage of new technologies. We should emphasize the use of new technologies in the training given to Self-Help Groups.

Friends,

Today the country is moving ahead with the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'. When our daughters are seen protecting the country by joining the army, flying Rafale, then the perspective with respect to them also changes; when women become entrepreneurs, take decisions, take risks, then the perspective with respect to them changes. Just a few days back, for the first time in Nagaland, two women have become MLAs. One of them has also been made a Minister. India can move fast only by increasing the respect towards women and by raising the spirit of equality. I would appeal to all of you. All of you must move ahead

with the determination to remove every obstacle before women, sisters and daughters.

Friends,

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day. President Draupadi Murmu ji has written a very passionate article on women empowerment. Everyone should understand the spirit with which President Murmu ji has ended this article. I am quoting her from this article. She has said - "It is the responsibility of all of us, rather, each individual, to accelerate this progress." So today I would like to urge each and every one of you to dedicate yourself to make a difference in your family, neighbourhood or workplace. Any change that will put a smile on a daughter's face, any change that will increase her chances of getting ahead in life. This request of mine to you has come out from the depths of my heart. I end my speech with these words of the President. I wish you all the very best. Thank you very much!

Source: Post-budget webinar on 'Women Empowerment': narendramodi.in



Shri J.P. Nadda

on Women Led Development

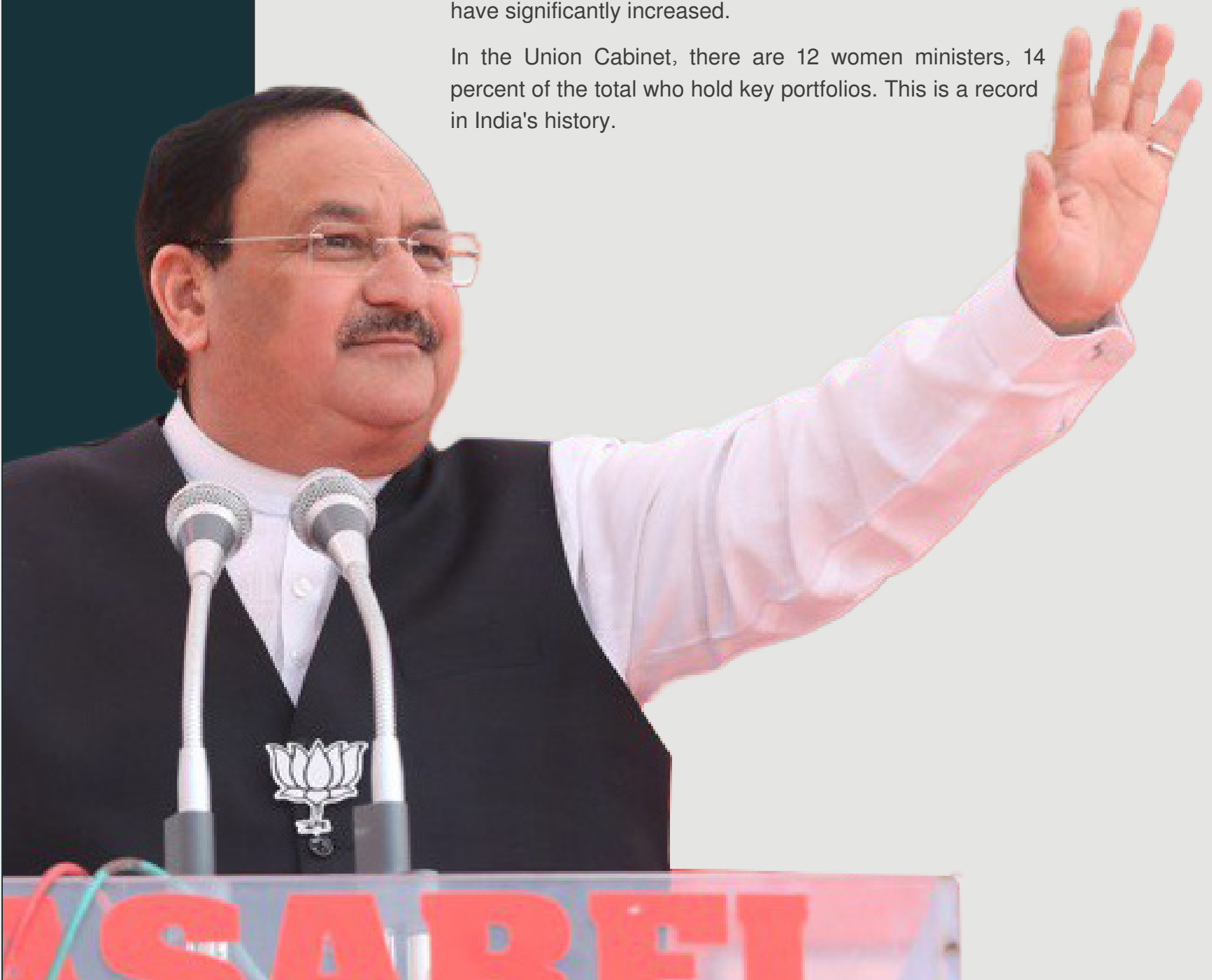
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mpowering women and respecting their talent for nation building has been central to the BJP's policy. More Indian women are now self-sufficient than they ever were. Empowering women is one of the biggest hallmark of Prime Minister Modi's government.

Women are now perceived as nation builders, as they are thriving across all sectors, be it defence, sports, or administration.

The efforts of women empowerment can be evidently seen in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's cabinet as the number and role of women have significantly increased.

In the Union Cabinet, there are 12 women ministers, 14 percent of the total who hold key portfolios. This is a record in India's history.





Message from the BJYM President Shri Tejasvi Surya

Namaskar!

I hope the March edition of the BJYM Magazine finds you in good health.

As we celebrate International Women's Day in March, it is important to recognise our government's efforts in promoting gender equality and women's rights. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been a strong advocate for women's participation in the workforce and has

taken several steps to increase their representation in various sectors.

A

s a young political activist, I am deeply inspired by PM Modi's vision and dedication to the cause of empowering women in our country. Under his leadership, our government has implemented a multitude of initiatives aimed at uplifting and empowering women, recognising their invaluable role in the progress and development of our great nation.

One of the flagship programs introduced by our government is the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign. This initiative has been instrumental in changing societal attitudes, raising awareness about the importance of the girl child, and improving their access to quality education. Today, we see an increased enrollment of girls in schools, and this is a testament to the effectiveness of our government's policies.

Another significant milestone achieved under PM Modi's guidance is the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.' This scheme has transformed the lives of millions of women by providing them with clean cooking gas connections, freeing them from the hazardous effects of indoor air pollution, and significantly improving their health and living conditions.

Under PM Modi's leadership, the government has also worked diligently to boost women's participation in the workforce. The amended Maternity Benefit Act is a prime example, extending paid maternity leave and ensuring that women do not have to

choose between their careers and motherhood.

Financial inclusion has been another focus area, with the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' aiming to ensure that women from economically weaker sections of society have access to banking services. Through this initiative, millions of women can open bank accounts, save money, and attain financial independence.

Today, the council of ministers has the highest number of women. And the country rejoiced at the election of a tribal woman Droupadi Murmu ji, as the President of India. These are just a few examples of the countless efforts made by PM Modi to empower women in our country. His unwavering commitment has paved the way for a brighter future for all Indian women, regardless of their caste, religion, or socioeconomic background.

As we continue to march forward under PM Modi's visionary leadership, remember his words, "When women are empowered, the entire society, the country, and the world benefits." Let us join hands to create an India where every woman is empowered and able to reach her full potential.

Vande Mataram!

Tejasvi Surya

National President
Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha

महिला सशक्तिकरण का 'अमृत काल'

स

शक्तिकरण एक प्रक्रिया है जिसके माध्यम से किसी व्यक्ति, वंचित समूह की राजनीतिक, सामाजिक, शैक्षिक, आर्थिक, विधिक आदि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में क्षमता बढ़ाई जा सके। महिला सशक्तिकरण का विमर्श भारतीय राजनीति का प्रमुख बिंदु रहा है। आजादी के बाद कई वर्षों तक महिलाओं के अधिकारों, उनके सशक्तिकरण की केवल बात की गई, कुछेक प्रयास भी हुए किन्तु उसका परिणाम आधी आबादी के लिए संतोषजनक नहीं रहा।

वर्ष 2014 के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने इस दिशा में ठोस पहल की शुरुआत की। उन्होंने नारी शक्ति की क्षमता और भारत के विकास में महिलाओं की अग्रणी भूमिका के विजन को सबके सामने रखा, जिसका सुखद परिणाम आज हमें हर क्षेत्र में देखने को मिल रहे हैं। गौरतलब है कि गत माह सदन में राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद देते हुए प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने कहा था कि "इस बजट सत्र के लिए तो गर्व की बात है कि बजट सत्र का प्रारंभ महिला राष्ट्रपति के द्वारा होता है और बजट सत्र का विधिवत प्रारंभ महिला वित्त मंत्री के भाषण में होता है। देश में ऐसा संयोग पहले कभी नहीं आया, जो आज आया है और हमारा तो प्रयास रहेगा की ऐसे शुभ अवसर आगे भी देखने को मिले।"

आजादी के अमृत काल से स्वर्णिम वर्ष की ओर बढ़ते भारत में नारी शक्ति अब नेतृत्व शक्ति के रूप में पहचानी जा रही है। आज महिलाएं आर्थिक दृष्टि से सशक्त होने के साथ ही उनका प्रतिनिधित्व भी लगातार बढ़ रहा है। नारी शक्ति के नेतृत्व को अपनी प्राथमिकता में रख भारत ने विश्व को एक नई दिशा देने का कार्य किया है।

इसके साथ ही नरेन्द्र मोदी सरकार ने अपनी नीतियों और योजनाओं के माध्यम से भी महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में उल्लेखनीय प्रयास किए हैं। बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ योजना हो, उज्ज्वला योजना हो, प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना, कोरोना की विषम परिस्थितियों में आर्थिक सहायता देने की बात हो, पीएम पोषण योजना हो, देश की बेटियों के लिए सुरक्षित वातावरण तैयार करना हो, आवास योजना हो, सुकन्या योजना हो, स्टैंड अप और स्टार्ट अप के साथ-साथ अब रक्षा क्षेत्र में भी महिलाओं के लिए निरंतर अवसर बढ़ाए जा रहे हैं।

सरकार की नीतियों और प्रयासों का ही नतीजा है कि महिलाओं



के लेकर समाज का नजरिया भी बदला है। अब किसी भी क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को कमतर आंकने की भूल कोई नहीं कर रहा। हर घर शौचालय और उज्ज्वला योजना ने महिलाओं के आत्मविश्वास को दोगुना किया है तो तीन तलाक से मुक्ति दिलाकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने मुस्लिम महिलाओं को सम्मान से जीने का अधिकार प्रदान किया।

महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में बदलते भारत की एक ऐतिहासिक तस्वीर पिछले वर्ष तैयार हुई जब राष्ट्रपति के रूप में द्रौपदी मुर्मू का निर्वाचन हुआ। यह नारी के नेतृत्व शक्ति का एक अद्वितीय उदाहरण है। भारत की महिलाएं आज आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त हैं, दृढ़ संकल्पित हैं। वे अब सिर्फ सपने देख ही नहीं रही बल्कि उसे साकार भी कर रही हैं तो इसकी एक बड़ी वजह प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में दृढ़ निश्चयी सरकार के ठोस प्रयास हैं।

Shakti over Mukti

Modi Mantra for Women Leadership

- Neha Joshi is the National Vice President of BJYM and is incharge of BJYM Rajasthan. She is also the national media Panelist for the BJP.

Shri Narendra Modi spoke about the need to make women equal partners in the decision-making process in his first speech in the Lok Sabha after being sworn in as the Prime Minister of India. The country could not wait any longer, he had said, further emphasising this point. It was in line with India's intellectual, historical context and way of thinking towards women, which wasn't reflected in the policies of subsequent governments post-independence. In this view, women need equality and 'shakti' (power), not 'mukti' (emancipation). From ancient Hindu texts to India's struggle for independence to become the world's fastest-growing economy, women have played a strong and decisive role. Still, we were nowhere close to harnessing the true potential of half our population. By placing women at the centre of India's policy paradigm, Prime Minister Modi has ushered in a new era of women's leadership.

Looking back at the past 9 years, the focus on giving women the opportunity to unleash their 'shakti' has been at the centre of all the Modi government's policies. Millions of toilets or izzat ghars were built under the Swacch Bharat Program, giving women the right to sanitation and hygiene. Jan Dhan Yojna was a game changer for the unbanked, the majority of whom were women. Out of the 464 million bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme, more than half, 258 million, belong to women. The average balance in these

bank accounts is upwards of INR 2300. Women can now receive pensions, subsidies and other benefits directly in these bank accounts. For a nation of women who have been asset-poor generation after generation, about 20 million homes sanctioned under the PM Awas Yojna are registered in the name of women alone or jointly with men.

Pre-2014, while there was a lot of talk about 'women empowerment', it did not reflect in the policy framework or the impact of welfare schemes on the condition of women. For instance, schemes such as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) aimed at financial inclusion and livelihood generation for women failed to consider the aspect of 'time poverty'. In the words of Narayani Shastri, an Ujjwala benefeciary from Chattisgarh who I met during my tenure as Consultant for Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas -

‘सब कहते हैं कि समय को ख़रीदा नहीं जा सकता लेकिन जब से हमें यह गैस सिलेंडर मिला है मानो हमने समय को ही ख़रीद लिया हो’.

It is the most revolutionary impact of the Modi government's policies which aim to unleash the power of women rather than emancipate them. With over 100 million households accessing LPG with the Ujjwala Yojna, women save up to 5 hours per day which was part of the unpaid, unrecognised and unaccounted work they were responsible for. The same goes for the “Har Ghar Jal” scheme, which has



delivered piped drinking water to over 40 million rural homes making a huge impact on women's dignity, health and livelihood. It allows girls to go to school instead of being burdened with carrying water for their families. Over 9 crore women constituting 74% of beneficiaries, have benefitted from Mudra and Stand up India, emerging as entrepreneurs of New India.

Now when we look at the cumulative impact of these policies and schemes from the aspect of women's involvement in leadership and governance, the results are



nothing short of outstanding. The 73rd Amendment was meant to pave the way for women to exercise their right to be involved in village governance. While this may have laid the foundation for a larger social change, it failed to consider the 'time poverty' of women, which kept them away from the actual decision-making process that continued to be dominated by men. An average elected PRI representative faced the same barriers and challenges as any other woman in the village, even after occupying the seat of power. Being elected did not reduce her drudgery of fetching water or collecting firewood, or cooking. Add to this the lack of access to financial institutions or safe sanitation, even which put these elected women representatives at a perpetual disadvantage compared to their male counterparts.

This is why Prime Minister Modi, through his policies, has heralded a new era for women in leadership. From Panchayat to Parliament, women can realise their

full potential as leaders. PM's push for increasing women's leadership can be seen in how the Central government, BJP-led State governments and even BJP as a party has evolved in the past few years. In 2019, BJP fielded more female candidates than any other party and appointed more female ministers than previous governments. The first full-time woman Defence Minister and Finance Minister, two members of the Cabinet Committee for Security (again a first for India), and the highest number of women Members of Parliament from the BJP and now 11 women in the Union Cabinet, which is the highest since independence.

Under the Prime Minister's leadership, the party has also revamped its organisational structure, brought in quotas for women and expanded its social base to fit in more women from rural and

poorer backgrounds. The BJP National team has 9 women officer bearers who are also in charge of several states. Even within the Morchas such as Yuva Morcha and SC Morcha, the representation of women has consistently increased.

In my home State of Uttarakhand, 10 of the 13 Zila Panchayat Presidents are women. BJP is the only party fielding women candidates from non-reserved seats in the local body and Panchayat elections. 2 out of 13 BJP District Presidents are women. For the first time, 22 Mandal Presidents are women. As I pen down this article sitting in a tent in a border village in Jaisalmer, where I have spent the past few days as part of BJYM's border village program, I am more hopeful than ever for women aspiring for a career in policy-making. As a woman and a BJP karyakarta, I do not doubt that this Amrit Kal for women results from the relentless pursuit of equality by PM Shri Narendra Modi. Women are finally entrusted with responsibilities they were always capable of shouldering.



NARI SHAKTI with PM MODI

- Arpita Aparajita Badajena, National Vice President, BJYM



capable of shouldering. Today, India is making plans and taking decisions whilst keeping in mind the needs and aspirations of women. From the armed forces to mines, this government has opened all doors for women to join the career of their liking. They espouse to motivate women to take up fresh challenges thereby inspiring them to chase their dreams in a secure environment.

As India catapults to a major global economic power, the need for women's participation in the nation's growth story is becoming critical day by day. No wonder the women of India are asserting themselves like never before and are placing their trust in the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, especially since this govt has created many new programs after carefully considering all the stages of a woman's life cycle. Thus, making the lives of women easier, reducing their troubles, and giving them opportunities to move ahead are some of the topmost priorities.

Women empowerment is the cornerstone of the Modi government's policy. Construction of toilets, supply of free cooking gas to poor households during the Covid-19 pandemic, direct benefit transfer to Jan Dhan accounts (with the Jan Dhan Yojana, the percentage of banked women has increased, giving a major fillip to female financial literacy and empowerment in India), pension to widows and many more were possible due to the women-centric approach of the Prime Minister. Women being the biggest beneficiaries of the Modi government's flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme have experienced freedom from financial dependency and day-to-day drudgery. The love and support the women have shown, in return, has been unprecedented. Efforts towards Beti Bachao Beti Padhao through an integrated approach encompassing advocacy, healthcare, and education are breaking the gender bias and resulting in improved numbers across all parameters.

May it be India's struggle for independence or its journey as the fastest-growing economy in the world, women have played a very strong and decisive role in shaping narratives across capacities. India is fastly moving from the paradigm of women's development to women-led development. Nari Shakti would play a significant role in India's socio-economic developmental journey in the upcoming 25 years which has already been started with the bold leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Women's economic empowerment remains at the heart of India's G20 agenda under the Presidency of India during Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

The rapid development of women, and their empowerment is important for the swift development of 21st-century India. India, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has taken that legacy forward and entrusted women with important responsibilities that they are more than

Schemes asserted by PM Narendra Modi in recent years to empower women on the path of self-reliance. The Indian female CEO of a unicorn startup hails from a common family. This is significant because young girls in India can chase their dreams with complete support from policy and lawmakers. As Prime Minister Modi says, "we cannot achieve success if 50 percent of our population being women are locked at home." A major thrust area of the Modi government has been to nurture women entrepreneurs through financial support, skilling, and training. From woman sarpanches to legislators, the role of women in public service is being encouraged like never before. Our honorable Prime Minister has acknowledged that the outcomes of social welfare programs tend to multiply with women's participation owing to their exceptional ability to care and provide not just for their immediate family but for society at large. Indian legislation provides for reserving one-third of the seats for women in gram panchayats, panchayat samitis, zilla parishads, municipalities, and municipal corporations which

have helped create local-level ecosystems for uplifting women and encouraging women's participation in economic activities as well. Whilst entrusting women with responsibilities, there have been concerted efforts to ensure meaningful representation across professions and empowerment of women at the lower rung of the social strata. These initiatives are beyond the realms of gender equality.

It has been well encapsulated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark at the G20 Summit in Bali that "global development is not possible without women's participation." Under India's G20 presidency, we aspire to manifest India's initiatives, measures, and on-ground action being implemented for women's economic empowerment by both the government and private sector for replicability by G20 nations. Notably, the Prime Minister's development has found unequivocal support from women. Nari Shakti is now the most critical prerequisite to economic growth. Prime Minister Modi has reached out to women to garner their full participation in realizing the New India Vision.

As our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi says

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The progress of humanity is incomplete without the empowerment of women.”



Women-led Development under Modi Government

-Neetu Dabas, Assistant Professor, Delhi University.
National Media Convenor, BJP Mahila Morcha

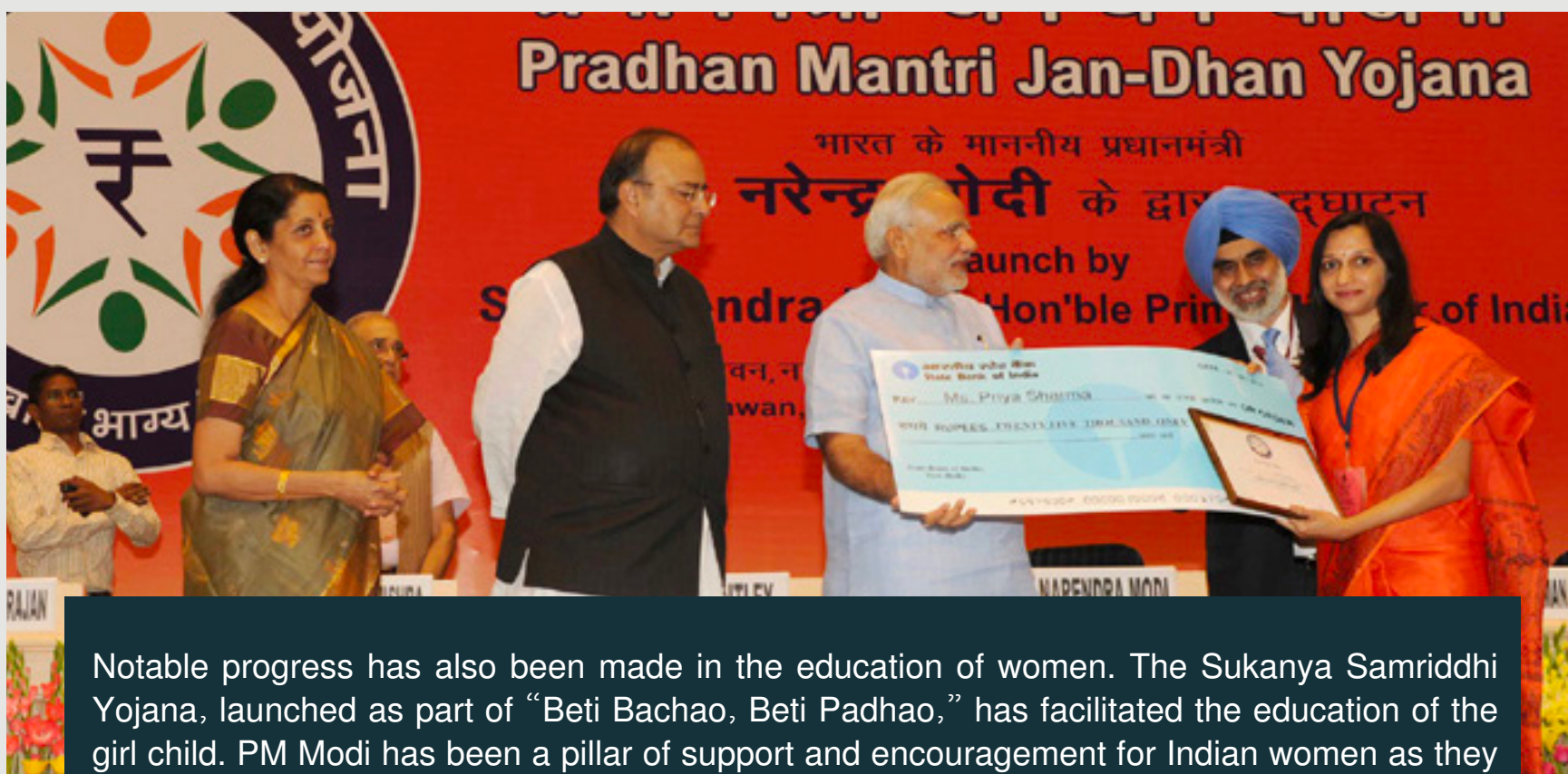


P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has pointed out that India is transitioning from women's development to "women-led development." Under the current government, women are architects of India's progress and development rather than passive recipients of development benefits. The current regime focuses on building nutrition, health, and education capacities.

Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our country is making great strides to give women more power. Women's empowerment has been a central pillar of the governance approach. "Nari Shakti" has been at the forefront of the Modi government's efforts to improve women's lives in many areas, including financial inclusion, social security, quality healthcare, housing, education, and entrepreneurship.

Health and hygiene are also priorities for the Modi government. To eradicate the malnutrition crises across the country, **Mission Poshan** was launched in 2018. Mission Poshan fulfils the nutritional requirements of children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The nationwide sanitation program, **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)**, was initiated in 2014. SBM has enabled women to access toilets at their convenience without fear of safety or violation of dignity. PM Modi wants to relieve women of domestic drudgery. Gas cylinders under the Ujjwala Yojana have saved crores of women from chronic respiratory disorders and saved their time from the daily ordeal of collecting firewood for cooking. Walking long distances to collect water for daily consumption has become a matter of the past as households across the country are getting private tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.





Notable progress has also been made in the education of women. The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, launched as part of “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,” has facilitated the education of the girl child. PM Modi has been a pillar of support and encouragement for Indian women as they have tried to overcome many obstacles and open new doors for themselves. To increase the representation of women in the police forces, 33 per cent reservation for women in police service has been ensured. It will also make the police more approachable to women. Also, in 2018, PM Modi announced a landmark decision to allow permanent commissions for women in the armed forces.

The efforts of the Modi government have benefited Muslim women equally. The law was introduced to free them from the social evil of triple talaq. The Modi government's efforts aim to develop all sections of society. Minority students have been given various scholarships, including about 60 per cent girls. Many Muslim women have been provided employment and employment opportunities through “Hunar Haat.” In 2018, the Modi government ensured Muslim women could perform Haj without a “Mehram” (male companion).

A wide range of government programs assists women at various stages—from childhood to adulthood and even during old age—ensuring their safety and empowerment. At every step, opportunities are opened up to help them. The **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** encourage women who are pregnant or who are breastfeeding to have their babies in hospitals and to get regular health checks. Improvement in the sex ratio at birth, a rise in institutional deliveries, declining infant mortality, and a lower maternal mortality rate tells the saga of women's empowerment.

The government has also taken decisive steps to ensure women workers have enough social security benefits. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill of 2017 is a landmark measure that has increased the maximum period of paid maternity leaves from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. Also, the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020, which just went into effect, allows women to

work in all kinds of places and jobs. Women are now entitled to work at night, subject to their consent, with provisions for safety, holidays, working hours, or any other condition as prescribed by the appropriate government. It promotes gender equality in a big way.

Women's financial inclusion has been a key focus area, and the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** has played a significant role in this regard. Currently, over 180 million women in rural and urban areas have access to formal banking for the first time. Through Mudra Yojna, women entrepreneurs get easy access to the business finance they need. The focus is also on the skill development of women, and many skill development centres have been opened up across the country. The government is also spending on the security of women. Categorized under the National Mission for Safety of Women in the Demand for Grant, the Budget 2022 stated an allocation of Rs 200 crore for the **Nirbhaya Fund** to set up fast-track courts to ensure the safety of women in the country.

The Modi government's initiatives to promote women-led development have strengthened women's agency. Women can now become leaders and essential parts of New India's growth story because they have more access to basic facilities, targeted investments in jobs and skill building, and progressive laws. In this regard, the Prime Minister's revolutionary vision has helped make women the pivotal force of our development trajectory.

Inclusion of Women in the Progress of New India

-Anima Sonkar, National Social Media in-charge, SC Morcha, BJP



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I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress women have achieved.

-Babasahab Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar

empowered women to take on leadership roles in their communities, organisations, and households. It is a

clear departure from the tokenism practised by the opposition parties. From ignoring issues related to the lack of women representation within the party to promoting daughters and wives of well-known politicians, there was little for self-made women. Women need not be restricted to issues related to women. We need to channel their capabilities beyond their gender, which the Modi Government, in spirit and action, has practised.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Standup India' scheme to promote entrepreneurship among women, scheduled castes, and tribes by enabling them to secure easier loans and said this could be an engine of job creation for the youth. Dedicated credit scheme for SC/ST and women

Women constitute an integral part of Indian history, culture, and society. The personification of Bharat, our beloved country, as mother Goddess bears testimony to the fact. From Hindu Vedic traditions to India's struggle for independence to be the fastest-growing economy in the world, women have played a decisive role in shaping India's destiny. India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has carried forward that legacy and entrusted women with profound responsibilities.

Accomplishing the dreams of Dr Ambedkar, Narendra Modi has

transformed millions of lives. Under him, the focus has shifted from women's development to women-led-development. Nari Shakti is now at the centre of India's growth story. Ambedkar stressed, “The underlying causes of gender inequality are related to social and economic structure and practices. Consequently, the access of women, particularly those belonging to weaker sections, including Scheduled Caste / Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities.....to education, health, and productive resources, among others, is inadequate. Therefore, they remain largely marginalised, poor, and socially excluded.”

The policy interventions by the government have equipped and

entrepreneurs 'Standup India, which facilitates bank credit between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore, has sanctioned 1,16,266 loan applications amounting to Rs 26204.49 crore since its inception, according to the data from the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

“Dalits and poor people, if given an opportunity, can bring various reforms in the country. That's my vision for Standup India' This scheme is going to transform the lives of Dalit and tribal communities,” PM Modi said while introducing the scheme in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It will help create 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs throughout the country as every bank branch will be required to provide two such loans ' to a Dalit or SC/ST person and a woman. It seeks to convert “job-seekers into job-creators.”

PM Modi also distributed 5,100 e-rickshaws under the scheme, and 151 women were among those who received the vehicles. “E-rickshaws will be given to those who do not own rickshaws. Beneficiaries of this will be the poor,” he said. It will also benefit the environment. India spends billions on importing oil while these rickshaws will run on batteries charged using solar power.

We need to channel women's potential beyond their caste and gender, and the Modi Government has practised this in both letter and spirit.

Representation for All

Out of the 78 ministers in the government, 11 are women. It is the highest number of women in the Union council of ministers in the last 17 years. Soon after coming to power in 2014, PM Modi inducted two women into the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) (a first for India), including the first full-time Defence Minister, enabling them to the glass ceiling for women by its actions.

In 2018, three women were inducted as fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force. It was a welcome departure for every young girl conditioned to believe she had gender-based constraints that prevented her from fighting for her

motherland.

On multiple occasions, it was observed that due to a lack of training, decision-making for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayats had continued to be driven by male family members. It defeated the purpose of 33% reservation for women in the panchayat bodies. The Ministry of Women & Child Development launched a nationwide training program for Elected Women representatives (EWRs) of Panchayats to enhance their capacity, capability, and skill in governance and administration of villages.

Empowerment for All

Over 9 crore women constituting over 74% of the beneficiaries, have benefitted jointly from Mudra & Standup India. These women entrepreneurs are India's social ambassadors of women empowerment. They are not only financially independent, but they are also in a position to support more women by creating livelihood opportunities for them.

A lot of girls would drop out of school, the depressed communities being the highest affected. A significant increase in enrollment of girls in secondary schools has been observed, primarily due to access to toilets at school. As per Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2015-16, the girl's enrolment in secondary education increased to 80.97% against 76% in 2013-14.

By giving access to a basic utility like cooking gas, we have empowered women with better health and additional time, which they can use at their own will. 75% of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) house-owners are women, of whom significant numbers belong to the scheduled category. This unprecedented level of social security has been conferred on women.

The task of the Narendra Modi-led NDA is not limited to social empowerment or financial independence for women. The mandate is to deliver both, in adequate proportions, depending on the beneficiary's educational, social, and economic position. For a woman who not only had to work her way through gender bias but often worked doubly hard to prove her mettle, times have changed significantly both on personal and professional fronts.

Empowerment is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, and multi-layered concept. And the government, under the leadership of PM Modi, is striving towards creating an enabling environment for women to realise their full potential.



Women's Healthcare: A Priority

-Dr R S Gayathri Priyadarshini, MD Pathology
National Executive Committee BJYM

P rime Minister Modi ji's government has introduced and modified many schemes to improve the quality of life of the general public, especially women. We can see the care that his govt has put into improving the physical, mental, and socio-economic status of the women population in our country.

After all the invasion and colonization of India, the once-strong Bharat turned into an underdeveloped nation with its subjects entrapped in a slave mentality. The female psyche suffered the most. But now we can see the changes happening all around us. Our government has covered all aspects of a female's life from birth to death.

Multiple schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Ladli scheme, CBSE Udhaan scheme, Balika Samridhi Yojana, and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, are some of the schemes helping our future female generation even before they are born by helping the parents financially and also encouraging women education. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat Programme, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Mahila Sahayta Kendra, and many other such schemes are promoted to improve the health status of females.

But one major problem that women face is maternal care. Even though there are many schemes like the INAP- Indian Newborn action plan, The maternity benefit act, 1961 with major amendments in 2017, and The Anemia Free India Programme (MoHFW, Government of India,

2018), they were not reaching the masses.

We can see that many females are anaemic, which causes many health issues during pregnancy, pre, and post-pregnancy complications, and can lead to newborns with low birth weight or pre-term deliveries, stillbirth, etc. To prevent such complications, monitoring the delivery of various schemes to common people in need is necessary. The government is taking several steps and campaigns to bridge this deficit. There are still several challenges which must be overcome.

Increase the trust of people in public health care facilities and their provisions. We must educate people regarding the importance of supplements and medications supplied during pregnancy. And they must understand that it should be taken regularly to have a healthy and full-term baby. The fear, suspicions, and wrong notions about these schemes should be removed from the minds of the female population.

Healthcare services must be available to them continuously, and people from all sections of society should have easy access to medical facilities. We must ensure they don't have to worry about basic medical care expenditures. We should educate them and increase awareness about preventive and promotive health care and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, including yoga, eating right, and healthy and safe food.

If we provide all these, we can increase the health-seeking behaviour of common people. ASHA and rural women health workers



can provide this basic education and health care knowledge. Also, we must integrate existing self-help groups that will provide support with income-generating practices such as tailoring, dairy communes, and handicraft works that secure women's financial autonomy and, in turn, help ensure health security. Women can only improve the circumstances of their families and health when they can exercise control over their financial resources.

There is a major improvement in prenatal care, decreased neonatal death and changing medical technologies are heard. We should



integrate appropriate biomedical and social approaches with everyday practices to address social and infrastructural issues in remote and rural parts of our country. The seemingly intractable reproductive health problems must be addressed properly, bringing incremental improvements to the village healthcare system.

We should work towards the principles of equity, integration, and empowerment. Our healthcare program should work towards overcoming the triple burden of caste, class, and gender inequity and thus transforming rural women into crucial stakeholders for steering India's changing health discourse.

Also, we should make sure that the money given by the government during maternity care should reach them regularly and not be misused. Higher post-natal assistance should be given in the case of a female child. Any health condition seen in the mother should be addressed and treated immediately, free of cost. The subsidies and other support cheques must be account payee in a bank or post office, and we should ensure

that the right people are getting these benefits, not the affluent sections of society.

We should also educate people on basic hygiene and self-care and encourage periodic medical check-ups. Every woman and child must be given basic education on hygiene, good health practices, healthy food habits, family planning, safe sex, and mental health issues. The Modi government has been investing heavily in these areas. State governments must also invest in frontline bureaucracy and capacity building to ensure the effective implementation of such schemes.

They must know that domestic violence, domestic abuse, and illegal abortions should be reported to the appropriate authorities for action. With the help of ASHA workers and rural women health workers, we can conduct family medical camps and educate them during the camps about the implications of various global healthcare policies for local problems faced by rural women.

Another latest problem we face is the declining fertility rate and increase in PCOD in many young women. We also find that many young couples are seeking help due to infertility. It has caused a lot of misuse of rural women for surrogacy and other related activities. The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill 2020 is a very important bill and move taken by the government of India. Even though surrogacy is a great selfless act, it is being converted into a business with brokers and agents having a hay day. We should make sure that further such illegal activities should be stopped.

Education and financial stability are the main elements that can help women have a healthy physical, mental, social, and spiritual life. When women of our country are strong and independent, there is no doubt that our country will show strong performance regarding health, wealth, and development in no time.

भारत को वैश्विक महाशक्ति बनाने में सक्षम नारी शक्ति

-भक्ति शर्मा, भाजयुमो राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्य



1 फरवरी को देशभर की नज़र एक ही व्यक्तित्व पर थी, मीडिया के कैमरे, पत्रकार, अर्थशास्त्री, नीति निर्माता सब उन्हीं को सुनने की प्रतीक्षा में थे, और जब उन्होंने बोलना शुरू किया तो भारत का भविष्य तय करने वाले उनके हर वाक्य के बाद संसद मेज की थापों से गूँज रही थी। अमृतकाल का पहला बजट प्रस्तुत करने वाली भारत की पहली पूर्णकालिक महिला वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमन के हर वाक्य में समृद्ध अर्थव्यवस्था के साथ एक गूँज और सुनाई दे रही थी, वह यह थी कि अब महिलाएं भारत भाग्य विधाता की भूमिका में हैं।

यह कितना अदभुत क्षण है कि आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव में आत्मनिर्भर भारत की दिशा तय करने वाला बजट सत्र जिसने शुरू किया वे राष्ट्रपति भी महिला हैं और इसे निर्मित कर देश को सौंपने वाली वित्त मंत्री भी महिला हैं।

स्टार्टअप से लेकर इंडस्ट्री तक, सर्विस सेक्टर से लेकर इनोवेशन तक, और राजनीति से लेकर ब्यूरोक्रेसी तक, महिलाएं लगातार आगे बढ़ रही हैं।

इन दिनों मैं जिस भी गांव में जाती हूँ वहाँ लोग अपनी बेटियों का परिचय देते हुए कहते हैं इसने बोर्ड परीक्षा में टॉप किया है, ये दौड़ में हमेशा अक्ल आती है, ये पेंटिंग में एक्सपर्ट है तब मन में एक ही भाव उपजता है कि बेटा घर से निकली तो घर को कितने अनूठे ढंग से संवार दिया। स्टेट बोर्ड की टॉपर लिस्ट से लेकर आईआईटी, मेडिकल कॉलेज, सिविल सर्विस परीणाम हो या अंतराष्ट्रीय खेल स्पर्धा, जो लिस्ट देखिए उसमें शीर्ष तक हमारी बेटियों का परिश्रम और उनकी ध्येय निष्ठा के स्वर्णिम अक्षर दिखाई देते हैं।

पिछले कुछ दशकों में हम बहुत बड़े सामाजिक परिवर्तन से गुजरे हैं। समाज की दृष्टि बदलने का परिणाम हुआ कि आज जब महिलाओं को

समान अवसर मिल रहे हैं तो ये अवसर राष्ट्र के विकास के लिए एक युगांतकारी संकेत बन गए हैं। दृष्टि बदलने से ही दृश्य बदला है, खेल के मैदान से युद्ध के मैदान तक महिलाओं ने अपना कौशल दिखा दिया है। 21 वीं सदी के भारत को महिलाओं के नेतृत्व की प्रतीक्षा अब और प्रतीक्षा नहीं करनी पड़ेगी।

किसी गांव में रुकना होता है तो देखती हूँ सुबह 4 बजे उठकर बेटियां खुले मैदान या खेतों में दौड़ रही हैं, पूछने पर पता चलता है पुलिस की तैयारी कर रही हैं। जब वे कहती हैं कि दीदी सपना तो एक ही है वर्दी पहनना है एक दिन तो मन जैसे एक शौर्य गाथा का साक्षी बन जाता है। हमारे मध्यप्रदेश की पद्मश्री भूरी बाई के बारे में जब सोचती हूँ तो लगता है हमारी यह लोक कला और लोक परंपरा की वाहक अनुपम लोक संस्कृति को सहेजे रखने का कठिन काम भी महिलाओं ने कितने समर्पण से किया है।

पद्मश्री अजिता श्रीवास्तव ने कितने संघर्ष और परिश्रम से लोककथा 'काजली' के संरक्षण और प्रचार-प्रसार किया, मणिपुर की पद्मश्री राधा देवी, मिथिला की दुलारी देवी ऐसी अनगिनत महिलाओं के नाम हैं जो राष्ट्र की संस्कृति, परंपरा, और विरासत की रक्षा कर हमारे वैभव को विश्व पटल पर स्थापित कर रही हैं।

आज महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में वर्तमान सरकार की भूमिका सकारात्मक परिवर्तन करने वाली रही है, तीन तलाक का उन्मूलन कर महिलाओं को सम्मान पूर्ण जीवन देना, 26 सप्ताह का सवैतनिक मातृत्व अवकाश प्रदान करने जैसा ऐतिहासिक निर्णय, मातृ वंदना योजना, मातृत्व अभियान हो या सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना हमारी सरकार, "महिला का सम्मान देश का सम्मान" के भाव से कार्य कर रही है।

वर्तमान बजट भी कौशल विकास, स्टार्ट अप और माइक्रो फाइनेंसिंग की अवधारणा के साथ राष्ट्र निर्माण में महिलाओं की भूमिका निर्धारित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। जब एक

महिला आत्मनिर्भर होती है तो निश्चित रूप से उस घर समाज के साथ राष्ट्र भी आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में बढ़ता जाता है। महिलाओं को गैर-पारंपरिक कौशल में प्रशिक्षण देना और महिलाओं के लिये सार्वजनिक एवं निजी क्षेत्र में वृहत रोज़गार सृजित करना उनके वित्तीय सशक्तीकरण के लिये महत्वपूर्ण है। हमें महिलाओं के आर्थिक सामाजिक और राजनीतिक हर क्षेत्र में नेतृत्व के प्रयास करने होंगे।

पिछले वर्ष हमारे यशस्वी प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने लाल किले की प्राचीर से कहा था कि "महिलाओं का सम्मान भारत के विकास का महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ है, हमें अपनी 'नारी शक्ति' का समर्थन करने की आवश्यकता है।" उन्होंने उस समय एक पीड़ा व्यक्त की थी, उन्होंने कहा था कि "किसी न किसी कारण से हमारे अंदर एक ऐसी विकृति आई है, हमारी बोल चाल, हमारे शब्दों में, हम नारी का अपमान कर बैठते हैं। क्या हम स्वभाव से, संस्कार से रोजमर्रा की जिंदगी में नारी को अपमानित करने वाली हर बात से मुक्ति का संकल्प ले सकते हैं। नारी का गौरव राष्ट्र के सपने पूरे करने में बहुत बड़ी पूंजी बनने वाला है।"

2015 के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी ने 'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' योजना की थी जिसका उद्देश्य बालिका लिंग अनुपात में गिरावट रोकना एवं महिला सशक्तिकरण को बढ़ावा देना है। इस योजना के कारण करोड़ों बेटियों की मां के गर्भ में सुरक्षा हुई है, और गर्भ से लेकर उनके पोषण, शिक्षा और नौकरी तक



का दायित्व सरकार ने अपने हाथों में ले लिया है।

इसी तरह से सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना हो या वन स्टाप सेंटर बेटियों की सुरक्षा और सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में पिछले एक दशक में अभिनव प्रयास हुए हैं। उज्ज्वला योजना के बाद जब मैं गांवों में जाती हूं तो देखती हूं, जिन महिलाओं को चूल्हे के धुएं में काम करना पड़ता था वे आज उनकी आंखों में सुविधा की चमक है। कौशल विकास और स्वयं सहायता समूह के माध्यम से आज करोड़ों महिलाएं

आत्मनिर्भर जीवन जी रही हैं।

हमें यह ध्यान रखना होगा कि बदलाव केवल सरकार के प्रयास से नहीं आएगा, सरकार अपनी दिशा में बेहद सकारात्मक प्रयास कर रही है लेकिन समाज को भी अब अपने पूर्वाग्रह तोड़कर महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में आगे आना होगा। अमृतकाल में 21 वीं सदी के भारत के स्वप्न नारी शक्ति की तेजस्वी आंखों में झिलमिला रहे हैं इन सपनों को एक उन्मुक्त आकाश देना हम सबकी जिम्मेदारी है।



Amrit Kaal for Women Entrepreneurs

-Maitreyee Kamble, CEO, Svara Sanitech
National Convenor, DICCI NextGen

In recent years, women's entrepreneurship has become an important topic of discussion globally. Women-led companies are proving themselves to be more efficient and productive. However, there are still many challenges that women entrepreneurs face, such as a lack of access to finance, networking opportunities, and mentorship. In India, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has taken several steps to encourage women's entrepreneurship and empower women economically. Recently, he quoted this statement which I can relate to the most;

“

“India has moved from women development to women-led development in the last nine years.”

India is a country with a large population of women, but unfortunately, they have been neglected in terms of economic opportunities for a long time. However, the situation is gradually changing, and women are now taking steps toward starting their businesses. According to a report by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), women entrepreneurs in India have increased by 18% in the last decade. However, the number is still low, and there is a long way to go.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been a vocal supporter of women's entrepreneurship and has been extending his efforts to encourage it. One of the key initiatives the government has taken is the **'Stand Up India'** scheme. Under this scheme, banks are required to provide loans from 10 lacs to 1 crore to at least one woman borrower and one borrower from a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe category to set up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services, or trading sectors. And the quota of women has shown the most success since the launch of the Policy.

Another initiative taken by the government is the **'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana' (PMMY)**. Under this scheme, loans are provided to micro and small enterprises, including those run by women, for setting up or expanding their business. The scheme has three categories of loans: Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,001 to Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun

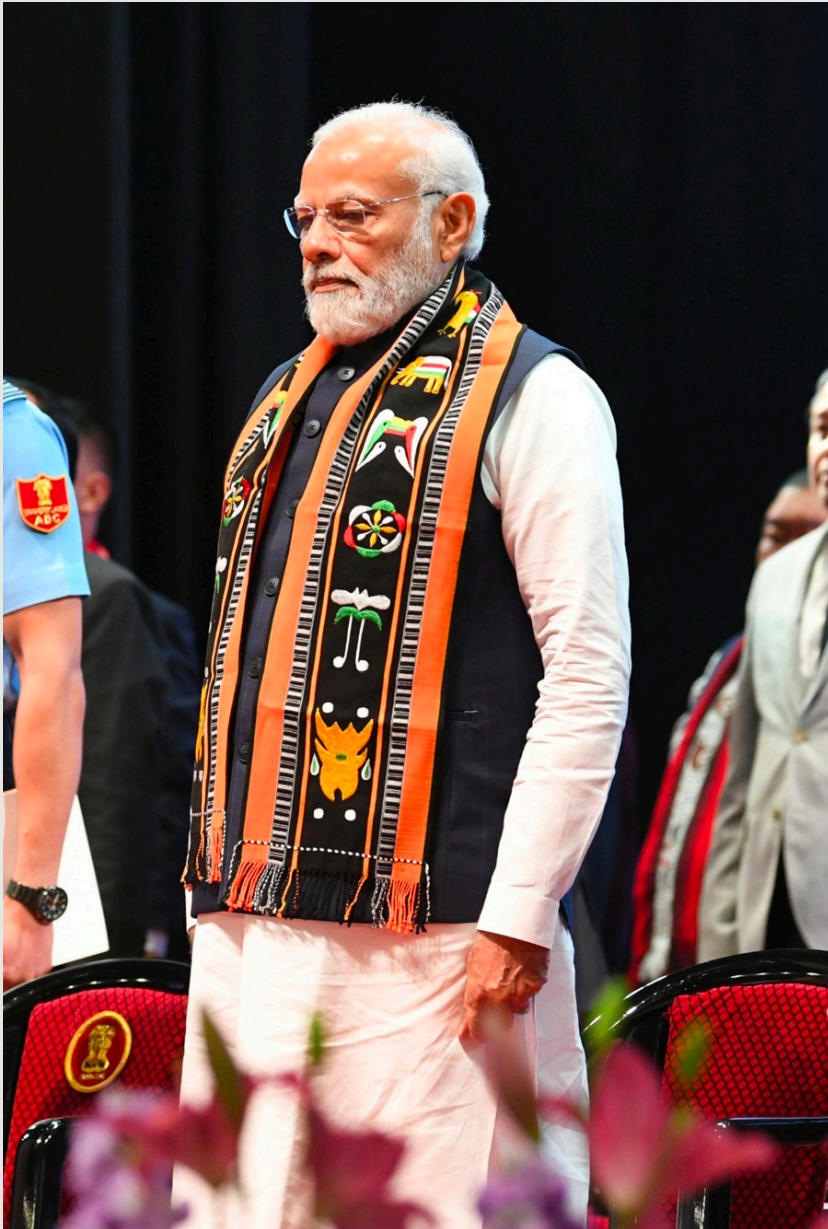
(Rs 5,00,001 to Rs 10 lakh) and even here, 75% of beneficiaries are women entrepreneurs

The government has also launched the **'Annapurna**



Scheme' to provide loans to women entrepreneurs engaged in food processing, catering, and related activities. Under this scheme, women entrepreneurs can get a loan of up to Rs 50,000 without collateral. In addition to these initiatives, the government has also launched the **'Udyogini Scheme,'** which aims to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from rural areas. The scheme provides training and counselling to women entrepreneurs and handholds them to start and run their businesses successfully.

Apart from these schemes, The government has set up a **'Women Entrepreneurship Platform'** to provide networking and mentoring opportunities to women entrepreneurs. The



platform aims to connect women entrepreneurs with a pool of investors, mentors, and other entrepreneurs to help them grow their businesses. The government has also launched the **'National Entrepreneurship Awards'** to recognize and reward outstanding women entrepreneurs. The awards are given to women entrepreneurs who have excelled in various sectors and contributed to the economy's growth.

PM Modi has also emphasized the need for skill development among women entrepreneurs through the **'Skill India'** initiative, which aims to provide training and skill development opportunities to women entrepreneurs to enhance their capabilities and make them more competitive. Another important step taken by Modi ji is the **'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'** (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign. The campaign aims to improve the status of the girl child in society and promote education among girls. The campaign also promotes girls' participation in various fields, including entrepreneurship.

Apart from these initiatives, I must include a great example set by PM Modi which is women-led governance, be it the Finance minister, women Chairing committees, or even the President of the country. It is an empowering statement, and this puts all young women in the position to have a dream and confidence that, Yes, We Can!





मोदी सरकार और आधी आबादी

लेखक – एडवोकेट नेहा धवन हांसी
प्रदेश मंत्री, भाजयुमो हरियाणा

प्रा

चीन काल से लेकर मध्ययुगीन काल या फिर आज का तेजी से विकसित होता अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मानक प्राप्त करता भारतीय परिवेश हो महिलाओं ने पुरुषों के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था, राजनीतिक, सामाजिक, विकासशील व विचारों को बल दिया और निर्णायक भूमिका निभाई। 21वीं सदी की महिलाओं के बदलते परिवेश में एक तरफ गांव में साधारण जीवन बिताती महिलाएं जो ऊंची उड़ान भरने के सपने संजोय बैठी है और एक तरफ शहर की पढ़ी-लिखी महिलाएं जो चांद तक पहुंचने, आसमान को छूने के करीब है, के फांसले को केंद्र की सरकार ने समझा और उनके कल्याण के लिए मिश्रित समायोजन से योजनाएं बनाई ताकि भारत की महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाया जा सकें।

उज्जवला योजना, सुकन्या योजना, ट्रिपल तलाक, बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ या बेटियों की सुरक्षा के लिए कानून में परिवर्तन मोदी सरकार के अनेक फैसलों से देश की आधी आबादी के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने में कई प्रयास किए हैं। यह तो हम जानते हैं कि 2014 की सरकार बनने के बाद से ही मोदी जी के

नेतृत्व को महिलाओं ने काफी समर्थन दिया। 2019 के लोकसभा चुनाव में बीजेपी की बड़ी जीत को भी देश की महिला वोटर्स ने संभव बनाया। अकेले भारत के उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य में ही जहां 44% पुरुषों ने 2019 के लोकसभा चुनाव में भारतीय जनता पार्टी को समर्थन दिया वहीं 48% महिलाओं ने भाजपा के प्रति अपना विश्वास दिखाया। यही ट्रेंड अन्य राज्यों में भी देखा गया जहां भाजपा पूर्ण बहुमत में थी या भाजपा समर्थित प्रतिनिधि थे।

आजादी के अमृत काल में आज केंद्र में सुसज्जित नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व की भाजपा

सरकार किस तरह से गुड गवर्नेंस के माध्यम से महिलाओं की भागीदारी को बढ़ाने और देश की आधी आबादी की तार्किक, बौद्धिक, सामाजिक क्षमता के अनुरूप न्याय कर रही हैं।

बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ

इस योजना की शुरुआत हरियाणा से 2015 में की गई। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकना और बेटियों की शिक्षा को लेकर आर्थिक सहायता करना था। टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया अखबार में 26 नवम्बर, 2021 को छपी नेशनल फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे NFHS-



5 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार आज भारत में प्रति 1000 पुरुषों पर महिलाओं की संख्या 1020 हो गई है। जन्म के समय बेटियों की संख्या बढ़कर 929 हुई है। हालांकि, यह अभी WHO के मानक 952 से कम है जिस तक पहुंचने के निरंतर प्रयास केंद्र व राज्य सरकारें मिलकर कर रही है। ये प्रयास भ्रूण हत्या करने के आरोपी हेल्थ कर्मचारियों, हेल्थ सेंटर्स, अभिभावकों पर उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही कर अंजाम दिया जा रहा है। समाज में बेटियों की रक्षा करने, कन्या भ्रूण हत्या रोकने, जच्चा- बच्चा की सुरक्षा के लिए आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर्स व आशा वर्कर्स के माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य लाभ व पौष्टिक आहार उपलब्ध कराकर सरकार द्वारा किये जा रहे हैं। बेटियों की शिक्षा के लिए सरकार ने स्कूलों में स्वच्छ शौचालय बनवा कर व महिलाओं व बेटियों के मासिक धर्म से जुड़ी समस्याओं को मध्य नजर रखते हुए मोदी जी द्वारा चलाई एक योजना जिसके माध्यम से देश भर के 6000 से ज्यादा जन औषधि केंद्रों के माध्यम से 2020 तक लगभग 50 मिलीयन महिलाओं को एक रुपए में सेनेटरी पैड उपलब्ध कराए गए हैं। इस योजना का व्यापक असर ये देखने को मिला कि स्कूल में ड्रॉप-आउट रेट या लड़कियों की अनुपस्थिति रेट घट गया है। साथ ही 40% बेटियां पहले की अपेक्षा अधिक स्कूली शिक्षा ग्रहण कर पाई है। वहीं ग्रामीण इलाकों में 33.7 % बेटियां 10 वीं के बाद अपनी शिक्षा जारी रख पाई हैं।

तीन तलाक

1 अगस्त; 2019 में मुस्लिम समाज की महिलाओं की गंभीर पीड़ा के खिलाफ तीन तलाक का कानून लाया गया। इस कानून को लागू करना भी अपने आप में एक साहस का कार्य था। 2021 के एक सर्वे से यह आंकड़ा सामने आया कि जहां उत्तर प्रदेश में तीन तलाक के 63000 से ज्यादा मामले दर्ज थे कानून लागू होने के बाद यह मामले घटकर केवल 221 ही दर्ज हुए। बिहार में भी इस एक्ट के लागू होने के बाद केवल 49 मामले सामने आए। यह बात सिद्ध करती है कि मुस्लिम महिलाओं की इतने लंबे समय से चली आ रही इस पीड़ा को निजात मोदी जी के फैसलों ने ही दिलवाया।

उज्ज्वला योजना से स्वास्थ्य लाभ

महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य को मध्यनजर रखते हुए

केंद्र की मोदी सरकार ने अब तक 8 करोड़ से ज्यादा महिलाओं को LPG के कनेक्शन और सिलिंडर वितरित किए। असर यह रहा कि जहां 5 लाख से ज्यादा लोगों की मौत प्रति वर्ष खाना पकाने के असुरक्षित ईंधनों के प्रयोग से होती थीं में कमी आई जिनमें अधिकांश महिलाएं होती थीं।

किसान सम्मान निधि

पीएम किसान समान निधि के तहत छोटे किसानों की मदद की गई जिनमें 3 करोड़ महिला किसानों को इसका लाभ पहुंचा। अभी तक 54000 करोड़ रुपये महिला किसानों के खातों में सीधे पहुंचाए गए।

मातृत्व अवकाश 60 दिन

2022 में सरकारी महिला कर्मचारियों के व नवजात बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य का ध्यान रखते हुए केंद्रीय सरकार ने स्पेशल मातृत्व अवकाश 60 दिन की घोषणा की गई। महिला सशक्तिकरण की तरफ उठाया ये एक सफल प्रयास है जिसमें लगभग 9 करोड़ से ज्यादा महिला उधमियों को मुद्रा लोन व स्टार्टअप योजना के तहत आर्थिक मदद सरकार द्वारा मुहैया कराई गई है। प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना की 75% लाभार्थी महिलाएं हैं। आज देश में 80 लाख से ज्यादा स्वयं सहायता समूह कार्य कर रहे हैं। जिनमें करीब 9 करोड़ महिलाएं हैं। कोरोना काल में देश की महिलाओं के खाते में 500 रुपये पहुंचा मोदी सरकार ने मुश्किल समय में भी महिलाओं की आर्थिक मदद की। निर्भया फंड से 'वन स्टॉप सेंटर

सखी' की शुरुआत कर ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जागरूकता और उनकी अनेक माध्यमों में सहायता का प्रयास भी सफल रहा है।

राजनीति के क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को बढ़ाने के लिए केंद्र की भाजपा सरकार ने अपनी पुरानी परंपरा को निभाते हुए महिला मंत्रियों की संख्या तो बढ़ाई साथ ही उन्हें प्रमुख मंत्रालय संभालने का अवसर भी दिया। पंचायत निकाय में महिलाओं को 33% का आरक्षण दे गांवों के शासन और प्रशासन में महिलाओं की नेतृत्व क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिनिधित्व का अवसर भी दिया। विजया राजे सिंधिया, सुषमा स्वराज, निर्मला सीता रमण, स्मृति ईरानी, आनन्दी बेन और माननीय द्रौपदी मुर्मू जी के उदारहण पेश कर अनूसूचित जनजातीय समूह की महिलाओं को राष्ट्रपति पद तक आसीन होने के सपने को साकार करने का साहस भी दिया है।

इन सबके अलावा स्वास्थ्य योजना के तहत आयुष्मान कार्ड, घरों में शौचालय निर्माण, पेयजल कनेक्शन उपलब्ध कराने से लेकर घरों में बिजली पहुंचाने तक के केंद्र सरकार के सफल प्रयासों में देश की आधी आबादी के लिए विशेष कार्य किए हैं। इसी के फलस्वरूप नरेंद्र मोदी को, भाजपा संगठन को देश की महिलाओं ने अपना समर्थन दिया है।

देखने में यह आ रहा है कि अब महिलाएं घर के पुरुषों का अनुसरण ना करके आज महिला मतदाता बन अपने घर के पुरुष सदस्यों से अलग जा कर भी राजनीतिक विकल्प चुन पाने में सक्षम हुई है।



Empowering Dalit women through Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

-Dr Pooja Paswan, Civil 20 India 2023 Ambassador, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

Scheduled Castes (SCs) in India, who constitute 16.6% of our population as per the 2011 Census, have historically suffered social and educational disabilities and economic deprivation. Women comprise the majority of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination. Therefore macro-economic policies and poverty eradication programs such as **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)** have become important for women.

To bring them into the social and economic mainstream, special provisions have been enshrined in the constitution to advance their interests. These provisions range from measures to remove any social disabilities imposed on them to ensure equality of opportunity in every sphere to measures of positive discrimination to bring them on par with the rest of the population.

Why is (PM-AJAY) crucial?

Securing “to all its citizens, Justice, Social, Economic, and Political” is the first goal mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. Article 46 of Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Constitution enjoins upon the state to promote with special care the educational

and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, particularly of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Article 38(2) in the same part also enjoins upon the state to minimize inequities in income and to endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities, and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

Since independence, the government has taken several initiatives for the development of SCs, which have yielded positive outcomes and narrowed the gap between the Scheduled Castes and the rest of the population. But, the focus of most welfare schemes for SCs had been mainly centred on individual beneficiaries rather than on the integrated development of SC pockets. It resulted in a development deficit in the SC-dominated pockets, particularly villages.

The government of India in 2009-10 started the implementation of the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) to enable an area-based developmental approach for integrated development of SC-dominated villages, i.e., villages having SC population more than 50%. The scheme was further expanded in 2014-15, and since 2018-19, it has been implemented continuously. The objectives and interventions of these existing schemes of SCA to SCSP (Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan), BJRCY (Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna), and PMAGY (Pradhan Mantri

Adarsh Gram Yojana) were similar. Also, a common implementing agency was implementing these schemes for



the most part. Therefore, from 2021-22 these three schemes have been merged into one scheme, namely Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), for better convergence of public money and optimal utilization of resources.

What are the Developmental Indicators?

The developmental indicators under this component have been selected with a view of ensuring the integrated development of SC-dominated villages by way of having:

A- Adequate Infrastructure: All requisite infrastructures necessary for socio-economic development are provided.

B- Improvement in socio-economic indicators: The identified indicators, known as Monitorable Indicators, are saturated, eradicating disparity between SCs and non-SC populations

The selected villages are to be saturated with the identified Socio-Economic developmental indicators selected under various domains to ensure the homogenous development of SC-dominated villages. There are 50 socio-economic developmental monitorable indicators identified/selected under 10 domains.

These 10 domains are as under:

1. Drinking water and sanitation
2. Education
3. Health and Nutrition
4. Social Security
5. Rural Roads and Housing
6. Electricity and Clean Fuel
7. Agricultural Practices etc.
8. Financial Inclusion
9. Digitization
10. Livelihood and Skill Development

How does it benefit marginalized (Dalit) women?

Women from marginalized communities face several challenges in the rural economy, including the lack of information on job availability, opportunities for training and education, and limited access to property, land, and financial and non-financial services. Rural women workers are less likely to engage in wage employment compared to men and women in urban areas, and when they do, they tend to earn less than their male counterparts. Rural women, on average, are paid 25 per cent less than men and typically

work longer hours. They are also often engaged in labour-intensive work in difficult conditions that lack occupational safety, health measures, and social protection.

One of the greatest barriers to the sustainable development of women is their lack of access to quality adult education and training. Adult education and training (education entrepreneurship) can be channelled to help rural women to be empowered. When women have access to quality holistic personal, emotional, and entrepreneurial development training opportunities, they will be empowered to speak for themselves. They become confident and can speak up against every abuse and violence. And will not wait for anyone to speak on their behalf but will rise and become voices of positive change and advocacy for equality, justice, and progress.

The above development indicators are essential for creating an environment where women can make independent decisions for their personal development. Through the PM AJAY scheme, the Modi government aims to provide much-needed access to basic resources such as drinking water, sanitation, clean fuel, financial inclusion, and skill development.





New India is a Women-driven Superpower

-Anushka Saraswat: Young Scholar at Vivekananda International Foundation. Law Student, Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University.

Women's Adhikar translated as rights, is an embryonic form of Dharma that emanates from being born as a human being. It can be summarised that ancient Indian culture upheld women's dignity and rights in a healthy and holistic environment.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is emerging as the leader of gender justice in the world, with women's empowerment and economic development complementing each other. As a land of democratic values and human dignity, India's concept of gender justice is unique. It emanates from the spiritual consciousness of its civilisation, long established on the bedrock of Dharma. Modi Government's vision of gender equality and women-led development reflects India's Dharmic traditions and cosmic laws that require the state to dispense equity among genders and provide the resources as the fulcrum of Raj Dharma equitably. Prime Minister Modi's commitment to women's empowerment has empowered India's journey toward gender justice. India's social structures and institutions are emerging and evolving into avenues for advancing gender equality as a model for others to follow.

Empowering Women by Revisiting India's Civilizational Heritage

Prime Minister Modi revisited the idea of Nari Shakti in ancient India and emphasised the strength of women by invoking the Vedic mantra, "नारी तू नारायणी" meaning the woman is the manifestation of the divine, in his address in Kutch, Gujarat. PM Modi has praised women and identified their struggle and contribution to society independent of their relation to men or attributes such as marital status. Additionally, he has dismissed the notion of women's subordination to men, which is still prevalent in various cultures worldwide.

Culture is the medium that predominantly defines women's position and role in society. Some cultural practices severely impede women's empowerment and gender equality due to monolithic and hermetically sealed structures. The concept of gender justice in Indian civilisation is commensurable regarding universality and flexibility and transcends the socially constructed ideas of gender relations. Gender justice in India is deeply rooted in a holistic and participatory form that women lead, own, and drive. For instance, women were routinely addressed as Aditi in ancient India, which etymologically translates as independent or free from dependency.

Modi Government has initiated several awareness campaigns advocating women's role as nation-builders by dismissing regressive practices that reduce their role to patriarchal norms. The intersection of India's civilisational heritage and advocacy for gender justice in a holistic manner is a sustainable and efficient way to empower women from all communities, especially the poor and marginalised.

Modi Government's holistic framework for gender equality and a constructive engagement with India's civilisational heritage is instrumental for various reasons. First, the Modi Government has redefined the state's role in gender justice and the nature of Indian society that facilitates women's civil and political empowerment. Second, it has redefined India's culture to enable women's leadership and participation in the public sphere. Third, the present government has adopted a comprehensive approach to gender justice by adopting national-level programs to strengthen women's socio-economic position in both public and private spheres.

Modi's Government's Mantra of Women-led Development

Gender justice is integral to the progress of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Empowering women through socio-economic innovation and market-friendly policies enables them to participate in their countries' workforce, national and global citizenry, and development journey. PM Modi's purpose of women empowerment and Nari Shakti is transtemporal with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). India's civilisational ethos and idea of human dignity resonate with the UDHR, which emphasises human and women's rights.

Socio-economic progress, driven by women, pulls India closer to a gender-just egalitarian country. History was created when India, under the leadership of PM Modi, chose Ms. Droupadi Murmu as the first tribal woman President of India. Since 2014, several policies have facilitated women's participation in key decision-making roles to achieve gender equality. Women are now head of state, politicians, armed forces officers, CEOs of unicorn startups, and Permanent Representation of India in the United Nations.

The Modi Government has prioritised the safety and security of women. It is committed to eliminating discrimination and removing barriers to their empowerment in the public sphere. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign facilitates girls' right to education on a pan-India scale. Complemented with Swachh Bharat: Swacch Vidyalaya, more than 450,000 separate toilet facilities for girls have been constructed to reduce the female dropout rate in Indian schools.

Through Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana: National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Modi Government has reached out to the most vulnerable sections of women and promoted community-based institutions, Self Help Groups (SHG) for capacity building, financing, skilling, and promotion of livelihoods. In 2017, Modi Government amended the

Maternity Benefits Act 1961 to increase maternity benefits for adopting and commissioning mothers. To add more, various other legal and policy interventions led by the Modi Government have significantly improved the socio-economic strength of Indian women.

Women's role in nation-building cannot be realised until the government and non-government actors holistically empower them. India has entered Amrit Kaal with a 25-year-long march to 100 years of its freedom from colonial rule. It is time for women to play the driving role in India's long march and establish themselves as role models for the world. In many parts of the world, women struggle to have their voices heard. Indian women's leadership in various walks of life can be their voice and hope.





Understanding the Socio-cultural Issues of Women in India

-Dr V Shirisha, Assistant Professor, JNU and
Prity Kumari, M.A, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning,
School of Social Sciences, JNU

Socio-cultural issues refer to problems or concerns that arise from the intersection of social and cultural factors. These can include issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, language, and other aspects of identity that shape individuals and societies. Socio-cultural issues can manifest in various ways, such as discrimination, inequality, stereotypes, cultural clashes, and identity politics. Addressing socio-cultural issues often requires social and cultural awareness, education, advocacy, and policy changes to promote greater inclusivity, respect, and understanding among individuals and groups. Some of the major issues faced by women are:

- **Gender inequality:** Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, gender discrimination continues to be a significant issue in India. Women often face discrimination in education, employment, and social participation.
- **Violence against women:** Violence against women is widespread in India. Domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, and dowry-related violence are common forms of violence against women.
- **Child marriage:** Child marriage is still prevalent in many parts of India. Girls are often married off at a young age, which affects their physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- **Female infanticide and foeticide:** The practice of female infanticide and foeticide is still prevalent in some parts of India, particularly in rural areas. This practice has resulted in a skewed sex ratio, which has further exacerbated the issue of gender inequality.

- **Limited access to education:** Women in India often have limited access to education, particularly in rural areas. It has resulted in a significant gender gap in literacy rates.
- **Limited access to healthcare:** Women in India also have limited access to healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. It has led to a high maternal mortality rate and other health issues.
- **Patriarchal societal norms:** Patriarchal societal norms continue to be a significant issue in India. Women are often expected to fulfil traditional gender roles, which can limit their opportunities and choices in life.
- **Dowry system:** The dowry system is still prevalent in many parts of India. This system puts pressure on the bride's family to provide a substantial dowry to the groom's family, which can lead to financial burdens and exploitation.
- **These issues are complex and deeply ingrained in Indian society.** Addressing them requires a multi-faceted approach, including legal reform, social awareness campaigns, and community engagement.

Some of the government initiatives for women in India :

The current situation of women in India is a mixed bag. While women have made significant strides in several areas, such as education and workforce participation, they still face gender-based violence, discrimination, and unequal access to resources. But the government has taken several commendable steps to address these issues:

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:

(Save daughters, educate daughters): This is a scheme launched by the Government of India in 2015 to address the declining child sex ratio in India and to promote the education of girls.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

This is a saving scheme for the girl child launched by the Government of India in 2015. It encourages parents to save for their daughter's education and marriage expenses.

Mahila E-Haat:

This is an online marketing platform for women entrepreneurs launched by the Government of India in 2016. It provides a platform for women to showcase and sell their products and services.

One Stop Centre (OSC):

OSC is a scheme launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2015. The scheme aims to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces, under one roof.

Conclusions -

Despite efforts by the government and civil society organizations to address these issues, progress has been slow and uneven. The root causes of these problems are deeply entrenched in cultural norms and beliefs, which perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination. To effectively address these issues, there needs to be a multi-pronged approach that involves changing societal attitudes towards women, strengthening

laws and policies to protect women's rights, improving access to education and economic opportunities, and empowering women to speak out against gender-based violence and discrimination. It is also important to recognize the diversity among women in India and the unique challenges faced by women from marginalized communities, such as Dalits and Adivasis.

Despite government initiatives, there is still a long way to go in ensuring gender equality and empowering women in India. It will take sustained efforts from both the government and civil society to overcome the challenges faced by women and promote their rights and well-being.



महिला सशक्तिकरण से ही सशक्त राष्ट्र का निर्माण संभव

-वृंदा काल्हेर, प्रदेश कार्यकारिणी सदस्य, भाजयुमो हरियाणा

म

हिला जननी है, सृजन करता है, मानव जाति का आधार है। मगर इसके बावजूद भी समाज ने सदियों से महिलाओं के साथ भेदभाव किया है। आंकड़े गवाही देते हैं कि 193 देशों में से केवल 22 देशों में सरकार

की मुखिया या राष्ट्राध्यक्ष महिला हैं। केवल 13 देशों के कैबिनेट में 50 प्रतिशत महिला की भागीदारी है। इतिहास के पन्नों को पलट कर देखें तो हम पाते हैं कि महिलाओं ने समस्त विश्व में अपने अधिकारों व सम्मान के लिए एक लंबी लड़ाई लड़ी है। विश्व के विभिन्न हिस्सों में महिलाओं को भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार के संघर्षों से जूझना पड़ा है। संसार के चाहे विकसित देश हों या विकाशील देश महिला के प्रति जन्म पूर्व से ही भेदभाव होता है। महिलाओं के खिलाफ भेदभाव दुनिया में हर जगह प्रचलित है। सभ्यताओं व संस्कृतियों के टकराव में भी कालकूट सदैव औरत के हिस्से में ही आया है। लेकिन इसके बावजूद महिलाओं ने संघर्ष

की एक ऐसी इबारत लिखी है कि वर्तमान सदी में ऐसा कोई भी क्षेत्र नहीं है, जहां महिलाओं ने खुद को साबित नहीं किया हो। लेकिन अभी भी बहुत सी चुनौतियाँ ऐसी हैं, जिनसे आज भी महिलाओं को जूझना पड़ रहा है। और ये चुनौतियाँ विभिन्न देशों में अलग-अलग हैं।

भारतीय महिलाएँ भी बदलते वक्त के साथ बदली समस्याओं से जूझ रही हैं।



महिला सुरक्षा : भारत में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा - घरों के अंदर और बाहर - दोनों एक प्रमुख चिंता का विषय है। विभिन्न संस्थानों द्वारा किए सर्वेक्षण कहते हैं कि लगभग 25% बच्चियाँ लिंग भेद के कारण 15 वर्ष की आयु से पहले मर जाती हैं। राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार लगभग 20 महिलाएं प्रतिदिन दहेज की वजह से मर जाती हैं। इसके अलावा राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (एनएफएचएस) के अनुसार 36% विवाहित महिलाओं ने अपने जीवन-साथी द्वारा धक्का दिया जाना, थप्पड़ मारा जाना, मारना, गला घोटना, जला देना या हथियार से डराना जैसे शारीरिक शोषण के कुछ प्रकारों का अनुभव किया है। इसके अलावा लगभग तीन चौथाई महिलाएं ऐसी हैं, जिन्होंने अपने खिलाफ हिंसा का अनुभव किया है परंतु उन्होंने कभी मदद नहीं मांगी है।

कार्यस्थलों पर भेदभाव और शोषण: यह एक बड़ी समस्या है जिसने कि महिलाओं की देश की अर्थव्यवस्था में योगदान

को सीमित किया है। कार्यस्थलों पर होने वाला भेदभाव महिलाओं के विकास में एक बड़ी बाधा रहा है, देश में सक्रिय सार्वजनिक (सेना, पुलिस आदि) और निजी क्षेत्र के अधिकांश संस्थानों में शीर्ष निर्णायक पदों पर महिला अधिकारियों की कमी इस भेदभाव का एक स्पष्ट प्रमाण है। कृषि क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की सक्रिय भूमिका अधिक होने के बावजूद भी समाज के साथ-साथ सरकार की योजनाओं में इसकी स्वीकार्यता की कमी रही है। कृषि क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की भागीदारी लगभग 60% है परंतु इनमें से अधिकांश भूमिहीन श्रमिक हैं जिन्हें अभी तक स्वास्थ्य, सामाजिक या आर्थिक सुरक्षा से संबंधित कोई भी सुविधा नहीं होती थी। मोदी सरकार की 2014 के बाद की जन-कल्याणकारी योजनाओं से पहली बार समाज के इस तबके की महिलाओं को लाभ पहुँचाना शुरू हुआ है। इसी प्रकार विनिर्माण क्षेत्र (लगभग पूरी तरह असंगठित) में महिला श्रमिकों की भागीदारी लगभग 14% ही है। सेवा क्षेत्र में भी अधिकांश महिलाएँ कम आय वाली नौकरियों तक ही सीमित हैं, 'राष्ट्रीय प्रतिदर्श सर्वेक्षण (NSS), 2005' के अनुसार,





4.75 मिलियन घरेलू कामगारों में से 60% से अधिक महिलाएँ हैं।

समान अवसर न मिलना: आज भी महिलाओं की सामाजिक, आर्थिक, राजनीतिक भागीदारी के अवसर समान नहीं हैं। शैक्षिक उपलब्धियों, स्वास्थ्य और जीवन प्रत्याशा तथा राजनीतिक सशक्तीकरण के सूचकांकों में भी आधी आबादी का प्रतिनिधित्व उचित तरीके से नहीं हुआ है। आज़ादी के अमृत महोत्सव के समय भी संसद में महिलाओं का अपर्याप्त प्रतिनिधित्व चिंतनीय है। लोकसभा में कुल सांसदों का केवल 14.4 फीसदी एवं राज्यसभा में 10.4 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी है। भारत महिला सांसद के प्रतिनिधित्व के मामले में 189 देशों के बीच 142वें पायदान पर है। 2014 से मोदी सरकार ने सरकार में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व बढ़ाने का कार्य किया है। भारत को महिला रक्षा मंत्री, महिला विदेश मंत्री और महिला वित्त मंत्री प्रदान करने का कार्य किया। आज भारत सरकार के मंत्रिमंडल में महिलाओं की भागीदारी आज़ादी के बाद सबसे उच्च स्तर पर हैं। लेकिन मोदी सरकार की इस पहल को सर्व-स्वीकार्य और सर्वव्यापी बनने में अभी समय लगेगा। भारत में कानूनन पंचायत चुनाव में करीब करीब सभी राज्यों में महिला आरक्षण लागू कर दिया गया है। किन्तु संसद एवं विधानसभा में अभी भी महिलाओं के 33% आरक्षण का विधेयक लटका पड़ा है।

आज भारत विश्व की एक महाशक्ति के रूप में उभर रहा है। और विश्व के समस्त देश

भारत को एक रोल मॉडल व आदर्श के रूप में देख रहे हैं। मगर देश की आधी आबादी (महिलाओं) के योगदान के बिना विश्व में उच्चतम मुकाम हासिल करना संभव नहीं है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यदि भारत में कार्यक्षेत्र में व्याप्त लैंगिक असमानता को 25% कम कर लिया जाता है तो इससे देश की जीडीपी में 1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर तक की वृद्धि हो सकती है।

इतिहास साक्षी है कि जब जब भी भारत की बेटियों को अवसर मिले हैं, उन्होंने खुद को साबित किया है। आज कोई भी क्षेत्र ऐसा नहीं है, जहां भारत की बेटियों ने अपने कौशल, साहस, विवेक और दूरदर्शिता से तमाम मुश्किलों को पार करते हुए अपनी गौरवमयी उपस्थिति दर्ज न कराई हो। महिलाओं को बराबर अवसर, अधिकार व अर्थव्यवस्था में भागीदारी से ही सशक्त भारत का निर्माण संभव है।



GENDER EQUALITY: A JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE

-Karabi Bharali, Office Secretary, BJYM Assam

Sustainable Development Goal number 5 of the United Nations talks about gender equality. But Gender Equality is more than a word in itself. It is a precondition for reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.

In ancient India, women were held in high esteem, and the position of a woman in Vedas and the Upanishads was that of a mother (maata) or goddess (devi). In the early Vedic age, women were allowed to attend sabhas and samities, but in the later Vedic period, the position of women started deteriorating. The practice of polygamy deteriorated the status of women, and in the medieval period, the practices of the purdah system, dowry, and sati came into being. With time, the status of women lowered. In modern times, the advancement in relevant science and technology led to the misuse by practising female

foeticide on a large scale. It led to a massive drop in the female ratio.

Over the past decade, gender equality and women's empowerment have been explicitly recognized as key to the social and economic development of the nation. Additionally, the promotion of gender equality and empowering of women was one of the eight Millenium Development Goals (MDG) to which India was a signatory.

The makers of the Constitution of India in Article 14, 19 and 21, guarantee equality and freedom from sexual discrimination to Indian women. Gender justice seeks to achieve a life of dignity and freedom for women as a fundamental human right. It includes sharing power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace and at wider national and international levels.

India is a signatory to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination. India was ranked 135th place in terms of gender parity



despite an improvement of five places since last year on better economic participation and opportunity performance. When it comes to the legal framework, the judiciary too has given several landmark judgements which have strengthened gender

- Addressing sexual harassment at the workplace: Supreme Court, in a landmark judgement in the Vishakha and others v State of Rajasthan 1997 case, laid down 'Vishakha guidelines' which formed the basis for The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (Sexual Harassment Act).
- Voluntary Health Association of Punjab vs Union of India, 2013: Supreme court issued guidelines for the effective implementation of Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of sex selection) Act, 1994.



- Shayara Bano v. Union of India & others. 2017: Supreme Court, in a 3:2 majority judgement, held the practice of triple talaq as unconditional.
- Recently, Supreme Court clubbed and referred four cases of contentious religious practices to a larger 7- judge bench. These are: Entry of women into the Sabarimala Temple, Muslim women's entry into mosques, Female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras, and Entry of Parsis women married to non-Parsis in the Agyari.

There is a need to remove the rigidities in traditions and beliefs, which can be achieved only at the societal level through awareness. There is an urgent need to address the problems of lack of education, development deficit, poverty, improper enforcement of the laws, lack of awareness among women, deep-rooted patriarchy etc., to achieve the goal of gender justice in India. Government interventions like "Sukanya Samridhi Yojna", 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' are steps in the right direction which could lead to a dignified life for every woman in the country.

For years, women have suffered the injustice and prejudice of society. But they have broken the shackles of gender stereotypes and stood to achieve their dreams and goals. We need to invest heavily in women education for women empowerment. Education to women means providing education to the whole family. Education enables and builds confidence to make decisions in a better way. The education policy needs to be more inclusive to ensure girl's right to education and their right to be free from discrimination within educational institutions. Also, education policy should target young men and boys to change their attitudes towards girls and women positively. Training women in non-traditional skills with market demand and creating more public and private sector jobs for women is essential for financial empowerment. India should shift its concern from 'Women development to Women-led development' as Prime Minister



Modi has called for. Women should be seen as architects of India's progress and development, rather than being passive recipients of the fruits of development. The ripple effects of Women-Led Development

are undeniable, as an educated and empowered woman will ensure education and empowerment for future generations.

“
नारी अस्य समाजस्य कुशलवास्तुकारा अस्ति।



Political Empowerment of Women in the era of new india led by BJP

- Priyanka Tamuli, Office Co In-Charge BJYM, Assam

Throughout its vast history and rich culture, India has produced some of the most prominent women leaders. Women during the Vedic period enjoyed high status with men in all aspects of life. If we consider modern Indian history, Great reformers and revolutionaries were women. Pandita Ramabai, Rani Laxmibai, Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar and many more inspirational women leaders are examples of the representation of women in politics as the primary decision maker. We have always understood that ensuring women's political participation and inclusiveness in leadership and decision-making is a vital mechanism for the social and economic development of the country.

Due to centuries of political instability and the practice of some unwanted customs, the status of women was degraded, and a more patriarchal form of society emerged. To combat that, In recent times, BJP has become a flag bearer of empowering women in the political arena and acknowledging the role of women in nation-building. BJP has its roots deeply embedded in Indian history and strongly advocates the political empowerment of women in India.

As we celebrate International women's day in the Amrit Kaal, the need of the hour is to increase women's participation in India's political system. There is also a need to acknowledge the countless steps the present BJP government took.

Whenever there is an election during recent times, it can easily be seen that there is a visible change in voter turnout as more and more women support BJP. BJP policies and schemes have provided them with a new sense of hope, trust and security. First time after India's Independence, there was a feeling among India's women citizens that positive politics with the right intention could transform their

lives, and they turned to BJP for that.

It is a matter of great delight that number of women MPs is currently the highest ever in both the lower and upper houses of parliament. BJP has the highest number of women MPs and the highest number of women in state legislative assemblies. There are the highest number of women in the council of ministers today since independence.

Recently our respected finance minister called this year's union budget the "first budget of Amrit Kaal" and stated that the vision for the Amrit Kaal includes a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy, with strong public finances and a strong, robust financial sector. To achieve this, 'Jan- bhaagidari' through 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas, Sabka prayas, Sabka vishwas' cannot be imagined without the active participation of Women in India's growth story for the next 25 years.

Across the globe, Women-led growth has been identified as the harbinger of progress. Prime Minister Modi has said, "We cannot achieve success if 50 per cent of our population being women are locked at home". The various schemes/ initiatives the government has launched recently that are transforming the lives of Indian women include Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Yojana, "Sambal" and "Samarthya" through Mission Shakti, Digital Shakti Campaign and many more.

BJP understand that the political empowerment of women is directly associated with the overall social empowerment of women in India. BJP, through the schemes Pradhan Mantri Ujjawal Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, has changed the lives of millions of women in India and shall continue to do so.

The BJP government shall continue to work relentlessly for women's empowerment through various effective schemes and programmes. The increase in women's political representation is indispensable for Aatmanirbhar Bharat's growth story, and BJP shall lead the way with great pride and humility.



Building a Strong Nation by Empowering Women

- Ronisha Datta, State Executive Member, BJYM Assam

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omen in India are a significant part of Indian history and culture. Looking into the past, many inspirational, strong women have actively made the country as we know it today.

Acknowledging women and their importance is deeply rooted in Indian culture.

The BJP government, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, believes in building a strong nation by empowering women. We understand that the country will develop only when the women of the country are strong and active individuals who contribute to this development.

There has been a constant effort to build an environment where women can dream and work towards realizing their dreams. Removing discrimination against women by establishing gender equality, providing proper health care and education, and creating social awareness to build a better society

for women, have been some of the major goals of the BJP. The BJP government has introduced several policies over the years to solidify these goals.

The famous “**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**” scheme launched in 2015 aimed to save the girl child and create social awareness to enhance opportunities for girls by educating them. Under “**Swachh Vidyalaya**”, many schools saw separate toilets being built for girls to reduce girls dropping out of school. Apart from this, more than six crore toilets have been built to make sanitation safer and more accessible, directly impacting the health and dignity of women. Another scheme for uplifting women was the “**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**” by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The government provided free LPG connections to women living below the poverty line. It has ensured that more than three crore women live smoke-free lives. The government also introduced a one-stop centre, ‘**Sakhi**’, using the ‘**Nirbhaya**’ fund. These centres are located across the country, and the

24x7 helpline offers legal, medical, and counselling services for victims of violence and abuse. These efforts by the BJP government have helped women temporarily and made a structure for the country where women's health and security are paramount.

Educating a girl is not enough. They must be empowered to be independent by securing a job and being financially stable. But job opportunities for women in India are often curtailed because they have to step outside the safe boundaries of their homes and villages and venture into different cities all on their own. Therefore, the government created working women hostels in different parts of the country to ensure the safety of ambitious women without costing them their protection. The centre developed a scheme for housing working women in different cities to empower Indian women. Widowed, single, separated, and physically disabled women are allowed inside the hostels. Sometimes, even children can stay with their mothers on the hostel premises.

Apart from the social upliftment, the BJP government has also tried to work on the political upliftment for women. PM Modi has often called for increased participation of women in politics from panchayat to parliament. He is practising this himself by bringing more women into his team. The 16th Lok Sabha had the privilege of having the highest-ever female MPs.

For the first time, India saw a woman become a full-time defence minister, after which she also

became the finance minister. PM Modi's government also has six female Cabinet ministers, perhaps the highest number of women in the Cabinet ever. It sends a powerful signal to millions of young women that there is no domain that a woman cannot enrich and no barriers can stop them.

For a little girl who is full of dreams, the new India is where she can turn these dreams into reality. She stands an equal chance to lead the

nation as much as other individuals. It is a matter of pride that women are increasingly playing a bigger role in the country's development and taking forward the legacy of strong women from our history. PM Modi says that this is not just women empowerment but women-led development.



Beyond Vulnerability: The road towards Gender Equality.

-Dimple Rabha, Study Cell Co-incharge, BJYM Assam



“ I am no bird, and no net ensnares me, I am a free human being with an independent will.”

- Charlotte Bronte

services like prenatal and antenatal care. ASHAs, or Accredited

Women have historically had a secondary position in every household due to the patriarchal nature of society. Women were considered second-class citizens and exploited through every possible means. It took a lot of effort and courage for them to break the shackles of patriarchy and make an important place for themselves in society. When it comes to self-empowerment, women often struggle greatly. Numerous factors prevent women from achieving their full potential and deprive them of fundamental human rights, including health, education, and others. Women's issues are fundamentally human issues. The empowerment

of women is largely associated with the development of their autonomy, power, status, and agency. Women's empowerment has a domino effect on a country's entire progress.

The Indian Constitution explicitly guarantees women an equal playing field and orders authorities to create rules and regulations to protect their rights. As a result, since independence, concerns for the welfare of women have been a top priority for policymakers. One of the main objectives of the policies and programs implemented by the government has been to protect the health of women and girls. Under the Janani Suraksha Program of the National Health Mission, numerous programs offer women's health

Social Health Activists, play a significant part. As part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the Indian government launched the ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) initiative in 2010. Its objectives were improving health outcomes, particularly for women and children, and reducing geographic and socioeconomic disparities. In a country like India, ASHA employees are critical in providing women with the necessary medical services to maintain their well-being. These trained female community health activists fight to improve and defend women's health. They offer essential medical services and specifically emphasise enhancing women's health.



Under the National Health Mission, significant and well-planned investments have been made to promote maternal health. Another important initiative the Assam government took is the drive against child marriage to safeguard women's reproductive health and rights. Child marriage is considered a societal scourge and a violation of human rights. In the context of political, financial, social, and administrative progress, child marriage is viewed as misconduct and a fundamental obstacle. Both males and females are impacted by child marriage; however, girls are more affected than boys. This practice's prevalence

is due to various factors, including financial difficulties, rigid cultural and customary beliefs, traditional values, and ignorance of people, particularly those who belong to the socioeconomically disadvantaged sections of society.

Child marriage is linked to several negative effects. It serves as a sign of much vulnerability. Early marriage puts people at risk for poor reproductive health because they are more likely to have poor access to healthcare and contraception. Child brides frequently encounter various real obstacles to

education, including domestic duties, stigma, being expelled from school, and gender stereotypes that keep them at home. Their offspring are then affected negatively by these repercussions, with daughters maybe also getting married early. Families become trapped in a bad circle of repercussions in this way. The BJP government of Assam has strictly enforced the Child Marriage Act of 2006, which would undoubtedly impact the state's mortality rate and reduce the number of school dropouts. The Assam government has significantly increased the number of girls enrolled in school. In rural areas, it can be difficult for girls to access education due to barriers like child marriage, poverty, transportation issues, superstitious beliefs, etc. However, there are many initiatives to support girls' education, including providing scholarships, three-wheelers, bicycles, and laptops for division holders. These are modest actions to promote the involvement of girls in all fields.

While talking about the initiative the Assam government took towards empowering women, one important scheme is 'Orunodoi'. It offers financial assistance of Rs. 1250 to women below the poverty line, widows, single mothers, separated women, single adults over 45, and physically or mentally disabled. The main aim of this scheme is to tackle the problem of poverty among women. Poverty affects men and women differently. It is also evident from various studies that women experience higher rates of poverty than men across almost all racial and ethnic groups. Here, the Orunodoi scheme has provided a helping hand to economically backward women. Many women have benefited from the programs in both urban and rural areas. A very important first step towards women's empowerment is to give them financial security. Many turning points have been reached in the fight of women for liberation, and society has advanced greatly. We, as responsible citizens, should ensure that women may effectively create their own identities despite their obstacles.

Rising Together: Women Empowerment for a Brighter Future

Tejaswini Kadam
General Secretary, BJYM Pimpri Chinchwad.



As per our Hindu tradition, this is believed that Maa Shakti is the Hindu Goddess who removes the ego and liberates the soul from the cycle of birth and death. This idea inspires the BJP, and since its inception, we want to instil every woman with the desired strength and courage, which makes them an active participant in national life.

Between 1990 and 2015, India's real GDP (gross domestic product) per capita grew, but its female labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell from 37% to 28%. It gives us an interesting puzzle to solve. Why isn't India following the same trajectory as most other countries at a similar level of growth, where female LFP rises with GDP? The answer isn't a lack of interest on the part of women. Though the Government of India has poured enormous

resources into girls' schooling, that hasn't translated into higher female LFP as in other countries. Initiatives such as 'Skill India' and 'Make in India' include quotas to ensure a certain proportion of trainees are women. Yet, programs struggle to recruit women, place them in jobs, and keep them in job once they are placed.

In this context, the current Government of India has initiated several strategic campaigns focused on strengthening our engagement with women of rural backgrounds, primarily to foster a sustained environment free of violence and suppression. Focussed campaigns are being initiated at the

backgrounds to voice their opinions and decisions voluntarily without any external influence of negativity on their decision-making process.

Several microfinancing initiatives are aimed at leveraging India's small-scale industries' footprint. One of the priorities is establishing employment opportunities for these women to empower them financially. Based on our demographic diversity, we firmly believe that these kinds of causal-specific vocational training amongst our women in India will have a positive impact. Initiatives like 'Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood' enable families at a grassroots level to generate self-employment and empower their families economically.

We are currently observing considerable traction in similar kinds of initiatives where the Indian government at a central level has already invested 57 crores INR funds for the financial year 2020-21. Also, a corpus of almost 315



grassroots level to enable especially underprivileged women from rural

crores has been allocated for this

financial year primarily to elevate the economic condition of women both at the centre and the state.

Also, according to the National Women Policy Draft 2016, the government of India has made special provisions for women's empowerment. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, under which rural women farmers are being effectively assisted by imparting them a skill set upgrade in the agricultural sector. Mandatory 26 weeks of maternity leave for working women and the relief given to eight and a half crore Muslim women in the country through the Triple Talaq Bill is a significant achievement of the government.

The Center has also implemented stringent punishable laws against the perpetrators for crimes like acid attacks on women, rehabilitation, cheating in NRI (Non-Resident Indian) marriages, etc. The change in the POCSO Act is a significant

protection for women to punish the perpetrators of violence against women and rapists directly.

Apart from these initiatives, we firmly believe that more focused niche campaigns are required to foster women's social networks. The larger behavioural reason behind this is that when women have little bargaining power in the household, they need to revert to their networks with other women to effect change. We also feel

there is a dire urgency to give women control over the money they earn.

As the youth wing of the BJP and future leaders of the society, we must take forward this mission by ensuring higher gender representation in all our activities and sensitivity to women's issues.





Modi Sarkar and Nari Shakti

-Prof. Shilpa Shaw, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal.

A woman's stride in leading the national transformation has been a defining feature under the Modi Government. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the focus has shifted from women's development to women-led-development. Prime Minister's development schemes have found unequivocal support from women. Nari Shakti is now the most critical prerequisite to economic growth. is a list of initiatives and schemes to empower 'Nari Shakti' under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), defined as the number of girls per 1000 boys between 0-6 years of age, has been unabated since 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011 was alarming. The decline in CSR is a significant indicator of women's disempowerment. CSR reflects pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender-biased sex selection and post-birth discrimination against

girls. Social constructs discriminating against girls, on the one hand, easy availability, affordability, and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools, on the other hand, have been critical in increasing the Sex Selective Elimination of girls leading to a low Child Sex Ratio. Since coordinated and convergent efforts are needed to ensure the girl child's survival, protection, and empowerment, the government has announced the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. It is being implemented through multi-sectoral intervention in all the country's districts. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education

Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is for girls up to 18 years of age. Earlier, this limit was 10 years. But, recently, the government has changed it to 18 years. Sukanya is currently getting 7.6 percent interest (Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Interest rate) annually. The Modi government has operated this scheme to save the future of the girl

child below the age of 10 years from the country's financial crisis.

Ladli Scheme

In 2008, the scheme was started by the Central Government. Under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided so that the birth of daughters will be encouraged to eradicate the increasing gender disparity.

Sainik Schools

To promote women's participation in the Army, this is the first time in the country's 75-year history that the doors of a Sainik School have been opened to girl students. It would facilitate and enhance the participation of women in the defence sector.

Ujjawala Scheme

A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The problem of trafficking women and children for commercial sexual exploitation is especially challenging due to its myriad complexities and variation. Poverty, low status of women, lack

of a protective environment, etc., are some causes of trafficking. The major objectives of this scheme are to prevent the trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programs, generating public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events, and any other innovative activity. It also aims to facilitate the rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.

Sakhi Niwas

One of the main difficulties working women face is the lack of safe and conveniently located accommodation. Therefore, the scheme's objective is to promote the availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with daycare facilities for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi-urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunities for women exist. The working women's hostel projects being assisted under this scheme shall be made available to all working women without any distinction with respect to caste, religion, marital status, etc., subject to norms prescribed under the scheme.

Nirbhaya Fund

Violence and abuse against women and girls are frequent on the streets and in public transportation, restricting women's right to mobility and discouraging their freedom to walk freely and move in public spaces of their choice. Such violence also limits access to essential services and adversely impacts their health and well-being. In this context, and following the tragedy of December 2012, the government has set up a dedicated fund -Nirbhaya Fund - which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women.

Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

The Government of India has approved a new scheme, Mahila Shakti Kendra, for implementation from 2017-18 up to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation and to create an environment where they realize their full potential. It will provide an interface for rural women

to approach the government to avail of their entitlements, also empowering them through training and capacity building.

Mahila Police Volunteers (MPVs)

A gender-responsive police service requires specific training, the increased presence of female personnel, and community outreach to integrate gender issues into policies, protocols, and operational procedures. MPVs are envisaged as empowered, responsible, socially aware women for fostering leadership in local settings to facilitate police outreach on gender

concerns. They will be an interface between society and the police. The broad mandate of MPVs is to report incidences of violence against women, such as domestic violence, child marriage, dowry harassment, and violence women face in public spaces. She will act as a role model for the community.

PM Modi has acknowledged that the outcomes of social welfare programs tend to multiply with women's participation owing to their exceptional ability to care and provide for their immediate family and society at large.



Women Empowerment: State and Society

- Akanksha Umashankar Singh, Consultant & Healthcare Policy Researcher

Women's issues in India are multifaceted and deeply rooted in cultural, social, and economic factors. The Narendra Modi government, which came into power in 2014, has undertaken several initiatives to address some of the challenges women face in India face. From laws enabling women to own property and safeguard their interests to being economically independent and leaving their mark in business, Indian women have seized the reins and developed a vision in tune with global developments.

The political empowerment of women in India has been a key focus area for the BJP-led government since it came to power in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of women's political participation and the need to increase their representation in decision-making bodies at all levels. The government has increased women's representation in decision-

making bodies at all levels. In 2019, the government introduced a bill in Parliament to increase the **reservation for women in local bodies** from 33% to 50%. The government has also increased the representation of women in the cabinet and other government bodies. The government has taken several steps to enhance women's political participation and representation. BJP-led government's efforts to empower women politically have been significant, but much work still needs to be done. It is vital to continue to support women's education and entrepreneurship and to increase their representation in decision-making bodies at all levels to ensure that women's voices are heard in India's political discourse.

One of the most significant initiatives has been the “**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**” (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign. It aims to improve the declining sex ratio and, promote the education of girls & provide financial assistance to

families with girl children. In addition, the government has launched several schemes to support women in politics, including the **Mahila E-Haat** initiative to promote women entrepreneurs, the **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** to encourage parents to save for their own daughters' education and marriage.

Gender-Based Violence:

Gender-based violence, including rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and acid attacks, is a pervasive problem. The government has taken several steps to address this issue, including strengthening laws related to sexual violence, setting up fast-track courts to handle cases of sexual assault, and increasing funding for programs to prevent violence against women. In 2015, the government launched the “**One Stop Centre**” scheme, which aims to provide support and assistance to women who are victims of violence. The scheme provides women with access to medical aid, legal aid,





police assistance, and counselling, all in one place.

Women's Health:

Women in India face several health issues, including high maternal mortality rates, malnutrition, and lack of access to healthcare. The government must take complete responsibility for maternal and infant mortality, which has improved drastically. In recent years, India has managed to curtail the risk of women dying in childbirth or related complications. Yet, many populous states like UP, MP, Rajasthan, Haryana, and West Bengal still have high maternal mortality. The government has taken several steps to improve women's health, including launching the “**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**” scheme, which provides financial assistance to pregnant and lactating women, and the “**National Nutrition Mission**,” aimed at addressing malnutrition in women and children. The government has also launched several programs to improve women's access to healthcare, including the “**Janani Suraksha Yojana**,” which provides financial assistance to women for institutional deliveries, and the “**Mission Indradhanush**,” aimed at increasing vaccination rates among women and children. Maternity Benefit Programme for mother this scheme was launched in 2017 to provide cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women from

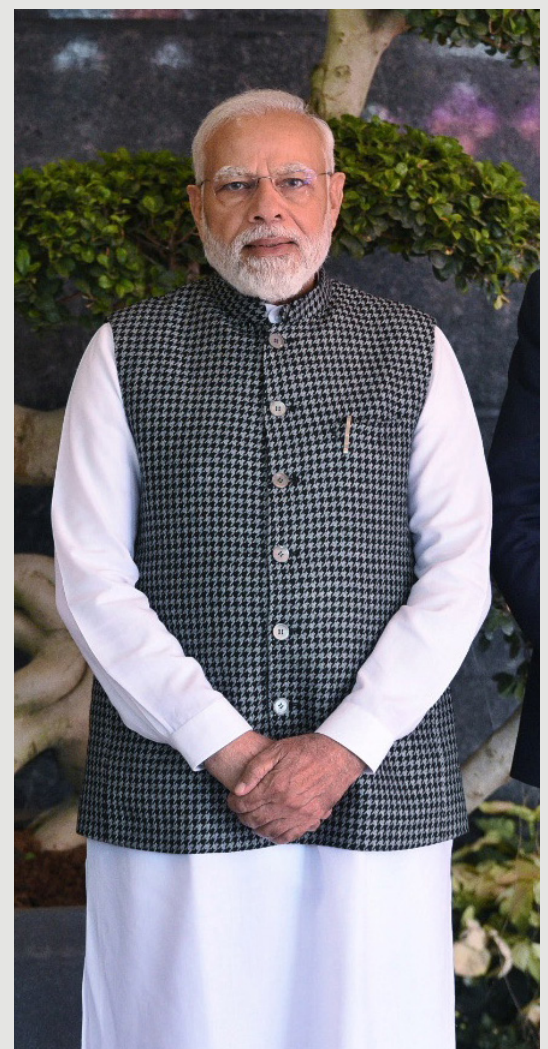
BPL families to compensate for the loss of wages during pregnancy and childbirth.

Women Empowerment:

Women in India face several economic and social empowerment challenges, including a lack of access to education, employment opportunities, and political representation. The government has launched several initiatives to address these issues, including the **Skill India** program, which provides women with training and employment opportunities, and the **Ujjwala Yojana**, which provides clean cooking fuel to women in rural areas. It is also important to ensure that education is inclusive and accessible to all women, including those from marginalised communities, such as Dalit and Adivasi women, who face additional barriers to accessing education. Investing in policies and programs prioritising girls' education, addressing the challenges women face in accessing education, and creating an environment that values and supports women's education and empowerment is essential.

As individuals, we can contribute to women's empowerment by supporting women-owned businesses, promoting gender equality in our personal and professional lives, and speaking out against gender-based discrimination and violence. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equal society where women can achieve

their goals and fulfil their potential. While there have been significant improvements in women's education, health, and economic empowerment, many challenges still need to be addressed. Women in India continue to face discrimination, violence, and unequal opportunities in various spheres of life. It is important to realise that society must support and complement the efforts of the government to empower women and improve their access to resources and opportunities.





TRIPLE TALAQ BAN: a pro-women adaptation

- Krithika Jamkhandi: Law Student and former fellow of 'Youth Can Lead', a Leadership Program by MP Tejasvi Surya

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 was passed by the BJP in response to the Supreme Court's comments. Its goal is to end the deeply sexist practice of Triple Talaq while keeping the "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas" ideal. During one of his rallies, the Prime Minister said, "In the name of religion or community, no wrong should be done to our mothers and sisters."

It is a common practice to evaluate personal laws and customs in light of Article 25 and toss them out if they conflict with the foundational tenets of the constitution. The court saw no reason not to remove the unfair threat to the lives of Muslim women and, in the end, bring women of all faiths together, ensuring gender equality. It was up to the government, led by Narendra Modi, to stop this practice from hurting Muslim women. After the bill came into being, the opposition attempted to stall the process and tarnish the image of the BJP.

But the foremost duty was to lay the facts bare for the public to discern the truth. After that, the news was shocking, there were many protests and counter-protests, and many Islamic theologians were very angry.

As a matter of course, the political turbulence was at its highest.

An old Congress leader, DP Mishra, said it best when he said, "And as far as Nehru was concerned, he seemed to think that only Hindus would practice secularism". In the name of secularism, Congress abandoned Muslim women to clerics and regressive practices. It was a huge problem for Muslim women, making it much less likely that they would join the country's socio-political and economic mainstream today. The random practice of getting a divorce before even trying to work things out in a friendly way has been shown to be bad for the social fabric of our country.

In the rare cases where the government got involved in personal matters, like with Shah Bano, the government under Rajiv Gandhi gave preferential treatment to men who abandoned their wives. As strange as it sounds, the government tried to save its political future by overturning the decision and passing a new law in Parliament called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. This law said that maintenance only had to be paid during the iddat and that if the woman or her children couldn't support themselves, the Waqf Board had to do so. The case's verdict, regarded as a turning

point, emphasized the necessity for a uniform civil code and gender equality.

Whether it's a war, a disruption of law and order, or a fight between a husband and wife, the women must mostly deal with the worst-case scenario. In modern India, the BJP may have eliminated the "ruling elite" mentality and stuck to the true meaning of sect-neutrality. Several Muslim religious leaders have praised PM Modi for eliminating triple talaq. It shows that there was never any intention to cause "communal discord," as the Left and Congress propagated. The problem of telling the difference between a religious practice that is important and one that is not important was solved. The supposed leaders of women's rights abandoned the Muslim women, but the Modi government stood with them in their fight for equality and justice.

The secularism and protection of minority rights do not imply that women's rights and constitutional ideas of equality and justice get eclipsed. It was a historic moment in the history of India which firmly settled the debate between secularism-enabled orthodoxy and the trajectory of modernity of New India.



Modi Sarkar: Governance for Gender Inclusivity

-Dr Neha Singh: Independent Columnist



The unique approach by PM Shri Narendra Modi of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas is enabling the common citizens to live with dignity and equal opportunity. This motto also aims at integrating streamlined women into mainstream society. Nari Shakti is the essential prerequisite of the vision of PM Modi of a New India. He said, "We cannot succeed if 50 per cent of our population, being women, are locked at home." His approach towards women empowerment is different from his predecessors as he believes in an all-inclusive approach to uplifting women in society. He emphasized that India is transitioning from women and development to women-led development. Now women are no longer the passive recipients of the fruits of development. Rather, they are the architects of the development. He envisions women leading from the front, be it the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or transforming India's power sector through solar power generation.

His vision recognizes that women-led development holds the potential to create positive outcomes across multiple sectors. It empowers women to participate actively and takes decision-making power into their hands. As such, it has also contributed to capacity building regarding health, education, nutrition, etc. One of the major initiatives taken by Modi toward women's empowerment is the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

The campaign aims to promote gender equality and improve the sex ratio in the country. It focuses on eradicating female foeticide and creating awareness about educating girls. The campaign has seen a lot of success, with sex ratios improving significantly in some states where it has been implemented.

Another initiative PM Modi took toward women's empowerment is the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana. The scheme encourages parents to save money for their girl child's future education and marriage expenses. It offers attractive interest rates and tax benefits, making it a popular choice among parents.

Modi government has also taken various measures to improve the



safety and security of women in the country. The Nirbhaya Fund was set up to provide financial assistance to states to implement schemes for women's safety. The government has also launched the One Stop Centre scheme, which assists women who have been victims of violence. The scheme aims to provide medical, legal, and psychological support to women who have suffered from domestic violence, sexual assault, or other forms of violence.

Modi has also encouraged women's entrepreneurship in the country. The Mudra Yojana scheme aims to provide financial assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs, including women entrepreneurs. The scheme has been a great success, and many women entrepreneurs have benefitted. Modi has also launched the Stand-Up India scheme, which provides loans to women entrepreneurs to start their businesses.

Another unique initiative PM Modi took toward women's empowerment is the Ujjwala Yojana. The scheme aims to provide free LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The scheme promotes clean cooking fuel and provides women with a sense of empowerment and independence.



Modi's government has also taken various steps to ensure women's participation in decision-making processes. The government has increased the reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies from 33% to 50%. The move has ensured women's representation in these institutions and provided them a platform to voice their opinions and make decisions.

In conclusion, the approach of PM Modi toward women's empowerment differs from his predecessors. He has taken various initiatives to ensure women's inclusion and participation in all walks of life. From promoting gender equality to providing financial assistance to women entrepreneurs, PM Modi has taken a comprehensive approach to women empowerment. His efforts have led to significant improvements in the status of women in the country, and he continues to work towards creating a more inclusive society.

On 10th March 2023, while speaking at a post-budget webinar on women's economic empowerment, PM Modi

said that in the last nine years, the country has moved with a vision of women-led development and that the budget for FY24 will give new momentum to efforts of women-led development. He said "India can move forward only by raising respect

for women and enhancing the sense of equality. I call upon all of you to move forward with the determination to remove every obstacle coming in the way of all women."



Mission Shakti: Empowering Women and Children in Fight Against Domestic Abuse

-Abhilasha Patter: Law student at Jindal Global Law School with interest in public policy and sociology.



Domestic abuse is a ubiquitous problem worldwide, and despite several laws and policies to protect women and children from domestic violence, the number of reported cases continues to rise. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Mission Shakti is a well-known program launched by the Government of India for the protection and empowerment of victims of domestic abuse. Launched in 2017, it is a part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) campaign initiated to address gender-based discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls in India. Mission Shakti aims to address this issue by creating a safe and secure environment for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. It aims to improve access to government services, raise awareness about government schemes and programs, promote gender equality, and prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination. It also seeks to reduce the care burden on women and increase their participation in the workforce by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, and access to microcredit.

The program's multi-pronged approach includes victims' prevention, protection, and rehabilitation under its two sub-schemes- **Sambal and Samarthya**. The Samarthya sub-scheme aims to empower women, while the sambal sub-scheme aims to prevent and protect the victims of such abuse. Sambal comprises components such as the **One Stop Centre (OSC)**, **Women Helpline (WHL)**, and a new addition called **Nari Adalats**- women's groups that promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice within society and families. The program focuses on creating awareness about domestic abuse and educating women and children about their rights as prevention. It also strengthens the legal framework to ensure the speedy delivery of justice to victims of domestic abuse as a form of protection.

One of the important undertakings of Mission Shakti is the establishment of One Stop Centres (OSCs) across the

country under this legal framework to protect the interest of these women. These centres provide a range of services to victims of domestic abuse, including medical aid, legal aid, counselling, and rehabilitation. The centres are equipped with trained professionals who offer support and assistance to victims of domestic abuse through each step of the legal process and also personally as companions. They have been instrumental in providing much-needed support and protection to victims of domestic abuse.

The Sambal facet of Mission Shakti emphasises rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of domestic abuse to recover from the trauma that such an event may have caused. And support victims to rebuild their lives, including vocational training and financial assistance to enable them to become, in Prime Minister Modi's words, Aatmanirbhar. The Sambal sub-scheme provides immediate assistance and comprehensive care to women affected by violence and distress. It includes emergency helplines, temporary shelters, legal aid, psycho-social counselling, medical assistance, police facilitation, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms through women's collectives. This approach recognises that victims of domestic abuse require holistic support to break the cycle of abuse and become self-reliant.



With its sub-scheme of Samarthya, Mission Shakti is also working towards strengthening the legal framework to provide more robust protection to victims of domestic abuse. It includes schemes such as Ujjwala Homes, Swadhar Greh, Working Women Hostel, National Creche Scheme, and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). It also involves establishing Hubs at national, state, and district levels for women's empowerment. The program has been instrumental in bringing about changes in the legal system, including introducing stricter laws and provisions for the protection of women and children and enhancing the capacity of the legal system to handle cases of domestic abuse effectively.

Since its inception, the program has assisted thousands of women and children nationwide. However, there are still several challenges that have come up in the quest for its effective implementation. One of the significant challenges is the inadequacy of protection officers to provide timely and effective protection to victims of domestic abuse. While the inadequacy of protection officers is a substantial challenge, it is essential to acknowledge the efforts made by the government to address this issue. The government has taken several steps to strengthen the protection officer system, including recruiting additional officers, providing training and capacity-building programs, and increasing the budgetary allocation for the program.

A social challenge that Mission Shakti faces is that despite the prevalence of domestic abuse, many cases go unreported due to social stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of awareness of available resources. According to the National Family Health Survey, only a fraction of women who experience domestic abuse seek help, with only 14% of women reporting abuse to the authorities. To address this challenge, Mission Shakti is working towards creating awareness and sensitising communities about the issue of domestic abuse. The program focuses on educating women and children about their rights and the available support systems, including the OSCs. The program also involves working with community leaders, NGOs, and other stakeholders to create awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on families and society.

Mission Shakti is a vital program that is making significant strides in the fight against domestic abuse in India. The program has provided much-needed support and assistance to victims of domestic abuse and has created awareness about the issue. While there are still several areas that the program covers which are sensitive and therefore need a higher degree of care, the government and stakeholders continue working together to address these challenges and ensure the effective implementation of the program. Such a level of care is commendable and is crucial to continue for the efficacy of its relief. Overall, Mission Shakti is making strides toward creating an enabling environment for public-private partnerships for the safety and empowerment of women across sectors.



Integrating Women in the Economy – The Modi Way.

-Apoorva Jha, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Women in India have always had a significant role in nation-building. Historically, the Indian political and social arena has been studded with stories of impeccable women like Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, Sarojini Naidu, and Savitribai Phule. These inspirational women undoubtedly have contributed greatly towards the improvement of Indian society. However, this contribution of Indian women has not risen proportionately with time. Even after more than seven decades of independence, only a handful of women could be seen excelling in the economic sphere. Often, this success could be attributed to political and familial power. The resultant situation was that women from middle- or lower-income groups were marginalized and separated from the mainstream economy. Recognizing this grave injustice, the Modi government, over the past eight years, has significantly worked towards improving the life of Indian women. This article aims to shed light on the Modi government's strategically formulated policies and initiatives for creating a truly inclusive economy for Indian women.

Addressing “Gharelu Samasyain”:- Resolving household issues for a dignified life.

The Modi government has enabled access to basic amenities through its pathbreaking Yojnas like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, The Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojna, The Jal Jeevan mission, The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and The Swach Bharat mission, etc. These multi-sectoral schemes complement each other and collectively create a notable butterfly effect on the lives of the poorest Indian women by significantly improving their standard of living.

Promoting Skill Development and Enabling Employment for Women

Prime Minister Modi famously said, “we cannot achieve success if 50 per cent of our population being women are locked at home.” To achieve this milestone, due attention must be given to developing skills in women, as per the evolving needs of the economy. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is another government initiative that



enables such standardization and the development of skills. The government has also launched the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme, which aims to provide skills that give employability to women. The Mahila Shakti Kendras aim to provide adequate skills to rural, backward, and marginalized women. Furthermore, the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code 2020 has been floated to ensure women can work in any establishment. The code allows women to work in all establishments concerning all types of work.

Pro-active Financial Inclusion and Access to Credit

The remarkable success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna has enabled the government to provide access to financial services at the grass root level. Out of all the scheme beneficiaries, 56% have been women. The government has strategically used the success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna and supplemented it with additional welfare schemes. The Sukanya Samridhi Yojna, launched as part of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', is one such pathbreaking scheme that encourages parents to build a fund for the education of their girl child.

Further, two other major schemes are the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna and Stand-Up India, which provide credit to promote entrepreneurship in the country. The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna helped in providing loans up to Rs. 10 Lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. And out of 34,420 Crore loans sanctioned as per the scheme till March 2022, 68% of the loans have been sanctioned to women entrepreneurs. Further, the Stand-Up India scheme is another step to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Schedule Caste, and Schedule Tribes categories to help them start greenfield enterprises. Of the 133,995 loan accounts (as of 21.02.2022) majority of the beneficiaries have been women. Apart from these schemes,

the government has proactively increased procurements from women-led MSMEs.

Changing Perceptions.

These visionary schemes and programs are foundation stones in advancing the Modi government's vision of integrating women into the economy. Today, India is witnessing a steep rise in female-led enterprises. Similarly, more females are entering the labour force than ever before. The advent of remote working jobs and the rise in e-commerce has made a new and safer work environment accessible to women. However, the biggest challenge that remains to be addressed is that - women are still expected to carry the additional baggage of gender roles, which generalizes their job as the primary caregiver. The evident reduction of female employees at the middle and upper managerial levels can directly be attributable to these biases, and the need to change these perceptions is paramount.

The government, aiming to promote 'NARI SHAKTI' in the Amrit Kaal, has undertaken numerous steps to decimate these perceptions individually. The Prime Minister has used his popularity and messaging to address the everyday challenges of women. The variety of schemes, programs, and policy decisions showcase that the government is aware of the inability of 'single dimensional' decisions to transform a woman's life in India. The government has provided a multi-dimensional approach to improve the entire ecosystem around an Indian woman.

Initiatives like increasing maternity leaves for women, allowing the long-denied entry of women in the Indian Army and constantly pushing for women's reservation in the Parliament are some long-pending reforms and evident steps taken by the government in this regard. These initiatives systematically integrate and empower women to build, hold and sustain their contributions toward the country's economic development.



How the BJP Government Gave Women A Fighting Chance

- Sakshi Bansal, Graduate Teaching Assistant and PhD Scholar Amity Institute of English Studies and Research Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AAUP)



Women have historically contributed towards building India's traditional and cultural foundation, attracting global visibility to our country. When the Narendra Modi-led BJP government came to power in 2014, it recognised the role women played in the cultural ethos of India and decided to carry forward the legacy of their contributions.

But an imminent hurdle had to be removed as women were increasingly feeling unsafe, ironically, in the developed metropolitan cities. These liminal spaces with immense economic contributions had a dark side. Although they provided ample opportunities to women, they failed to recognise the shortfalls in their infrastructure and development methods that led to their creation of vulnerable places.

On 16th December 2012, a neighbourhood in South West Delhi witnessed a fatal gang rape and assault of a 22-year-old girl travelling in a bus with her male friend, who was also beaten brutally. It was an incident that shook not just Delhi but the entire nation. Following this, a dedicated Nirbhaya Fund was announced in 2013. The BJP government launched the 'Sakhi' scheme in 2015 that established several centres across the country to ensure that the victims of abuse, rape, and violence have a safe refuge

to look forward to. The stimulus of this scheme was the recognition of the fact that safety is the bare minimum that every woman deserves. Optimally utilising the Nirbhaya Fund was the first prominent step taken by the government towards ensuring that women who have access to freedom are not afraid to be free.

Women in India always imagined that the privilege of freedom and empowerment was accessible only to the privileged. But now, it is being extended to the sections of our society that elites did not even know existed. The system of Panchayat Raj in rural areas was always a male-dominated patriarchal discourse that disseminated values which solidified men's position as the natural leader. The Modi government shifted the focus to such small but important areas, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development worked towards training the Women Representatives in these Panchayats. It was necessary because earlier, women were untrained and mere puppets with strings in the hands of the men in the family. It was done not just to talk about empowering women on the surface but to strengthen its roots on the ground. By focusing on women in rural areas, the government of India acknowledged the double marginalisation of these women for being both poor and non-man, an issue previously ignored by almost all.

When it came to a woman's social security, the Pradhan Mantri Awas

Yojana (PMAY) provided women with homes. When it came to a woman's time, giving them gas for cooking gave them the liberty to utilise their time to their benefit. When it came to a woman's sanitary choices, the availability of accessible washrooms in institutions like a school increased the number of female enrolments. Today we see Indian women entrepreneurs sharing their experiences on the world stage, inspiring all young girls to be like them, to fight like them. The Narendra Modi government gave them that fighting chance, a right to raise their voice, and a passage to prove it.

What once seemed impossible in India happened in 2018 when the Indian Air Force formally admitted 3 women as fighter pilots, and when in 2019, the previously accepted practice of triple talaq by Muslims in our country was declared illegal.

Lastly, and most importantly, the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign is the most significant stance of the BJP in favour of two very basic rights of the female sex - the right to live and the consequent right to education. This campaign has altered the basic sensibility of the people at the grass root level and improved the female mortality rates across the country.

Now the woman is visible. She exists, breathes, holds value, and is allowed to be an individual. For the women in this country, the meaning of empowerment is significant in contemporary times because it is now that they truly know it.



यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते, रमन्ते तत्र देवता

लेखिका- अमृता राय

सिद्धार्थ विश्वविद्यालय कपिलवस्तु के शिक्षा एवं राजनीति शास्त्र विभाग में अध्ययनरत

भा

रतीय संस्कृति, सभ्यता और परम्परा में काफी प्रमुखता से इस बात का उल्लेख होता रहा है 'यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते, रमन्ते तत्र देवता:' अर्थात् जहां नारी की पूजा की जाती है, उसका सम्मान किया जाता है वहां देवताओं

का वास होता है। यदि इस मूलमंत्र को अगर मौजूदा लोकतंत्र में लागू कर दिया जाए तो बहुत यश और कीर्ति की प्राप्ति होती है जैसे वर्तमान में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को प्राप्त हो रही है।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी महिलाओं का सम्मान कर रहे हैं। जिसके कारण भारतीय लोकतंत्र में उनकी जयजयकार हो रही और देश भी गौरवान्वित हो रहा है। भारत सरकार के मंत्रिमंडल में आज 11 महिला सांसदों को मोदी जी ने अपने साथ काम करने का अवसर प्रदान किया है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी बराबर महिलाओं को सम्मान दे रहे हैं। अपने कैबिनेट में उन्होंने कभी श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज को विदेश मंत्री के रूप में जगह दी थी तो उन्होंने देश का नाम रोशन किया था। अगर 2014 से मोदी सरकार का कार्यकाल आरंभ किया जाये तो आनंदी बेन पटेल अगर गुजरात की सीएम रही तो नजमाहेप तुल्ला

उपसभापति रही। इस कड़ी में अगर हम राज्यपालों की बात करें तो बेबी रानी मौर्या, श्रीमती अनसुईया उइके, तमिलशाही सौंदर्या, मृदुला सिन्हा और किरण बेदी का नाम झट से याद आता है। अगर थोड़ा और पीछे चलें तो हमारी राष्ट्रपति महामहिम द्रोपदी मुर्मू जी भी पहले राज्यपाल के पद को सुशोभित किया फिर अब देश के प्रथम नागरिक के रूप में अपना दायित्व निभा रहीं हैं। तात्पर्य यह है कि मोदी जी ने महिलाओं को और उनकी योग्यताओं को न्यायोचित सम्मान दिया और इसे पूरी दुनिया के समक्ष एक आदर्श के रूप में स्थापित किया। सभी बातों का सार ये है कि महिला सशक्तिकरण के मामले में इस सरकार ने जितना कार्य और प्रयास किया है उतना पहले की किसी सरकार ने नहीं किया है। बाकी सरकारों के समय जो एक सपने की तरह लगता था अब महिलाओं के वो सब सपने साकार होने लगे हैं। उम्मीद की जानी चाहिए कि आगे भी महिलाओं का जब-जब लोकतंत्र में स्थान बढ़ेगा तो महिला सशक्तिकरण की नई नई इबारत लिखी जाएगी।

किसी भी बड़े बदलाव की शुरूआत धीरे-धीरे होती है। हमारा विश्वास है कि मोदी सरकार के सत्ता में रहते महिलाओं की स्थिति और परिस्थितियों में क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन आएगा। जो आने वाली पीढ़ी को एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण

प्रस्तुत करेगा। स्त्रियों ने आम जन जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में सड़क से लेकर संसद तक, ऑटो रिक्शा, कार, बस, मेट्रो, ट्रेन, हवाई जहाज, फाइटर जेट से लेकर अंतरिक्ष तक और भारतीय सेना के तीनों अंगों में एवं आईएस और आईपीएस और फिर देश के सर्वोच्च पद राष्ट्रपति पद पर भी अपने हस्ताक्षर किये हैं। भारत की नारी शक्ति क्या नहीं कर सकती। आप की कल्पना से परे हैं भारत की नारियां, और प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी इस बात को बखूबी समझते हैं।

यह हमेशा कहा जाता है कि महिलायें घर से ही प्रबंधन सीख कर चलती हैं। घर को चलाना, रिश्तों को संतुलित करके चलना। एक मां, बहन, पत्नी, बेटी के रूप में उससे अधिक भावना, सेवा, त्याग, सहयोग, संस्कार की कोई परिभाषा नहीं है। महिलाओं को बराबर साथ लेकर चलना, उनको सम्मान देना सदैव उनका साथ देना यह देश के लिए गौरव की बात है और इसके लिए मोदी जी को बहुत-बहुत साधुवाद। आप हमारे हितों की रक्षा करें हम महिलाएं अपने पूरे सामर्थ्य के साथ आपके कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर भारत को मजबूत बनाएंगे। आप ही ने कहा था देश नहीं झुकने देंगे। अतएव भारत की नारी शक्ति अब जागृत है।

Legal Framework and Live-in Relationships

- Trisha Shreyashi: Advocate & Columnist. Member of Advisory Council of Harvard Business Review and Academic Panel of Cambridge University Press.

Megha Thorvi, Nikki Yadav, and Shraddha Walker, three independent women who earned their money and identity, chose their partner in anticipation of a happy ending. Instead, they met a tragic end, leaving the younger women scared and worried about balancing their safety and freedom of choice.

In February 2023, a PIL was filed before the SC seeking mandatory registration and codified guidelines for live-in relationships. The petition underscores the macabre killings of Walker and Yadav to underscore the issues in a walk-in and walk-out relationship, the common thread that binds the two horrendous incidents. Both women had found their respective partners via dating applications. Their families weren't aware of their live-in and that their respective partners were regularly abusing them.

The petitioner contends that registration and codification would help the live-in partners get accurate information about each other's history, important details, and status. Additionally, the registration would work as vital evidence in proving the existence of live-in and keep a check on ulterior motives.

Conservatives and liberals have enough pointers to debate whether or not it is virtuous for women to

make such bold choices without their parent's consent. But these incidents have catapulted several underlying issues to the forefront of socio-legal fault lines, including the legal recognition of live-in and abuse in these companionships.

It is a common apprehension that live-in relationships are not legal in India, which is not the case. It is thus pertinent for the sake of prudence of women, in particular, to understand their rights to enter a live-in relationship and their rights in the said alliance.

Legal validity:

Live-in relationships, however, are not expressly recognized in the legislation. The courts have stepped up to bridge this gap in law and practice as early as 2001. It recognized that one's desire to reside with the partner of choice falls under Article 21, thereby upholding the legal validity of live-in relationships.

It may be interesting to note that the Supreme Court of India made the landmark ruling to recognize live-in relationships in 2010 in the case of **S.Khushboo V Kanniammal**. It relied upon its 2006 decision in **Lata Singh V State of UP** and upheld that two consenting adults of the opposite sex living together are not doing anything illegal.

Before these decisions, several rulings had already conferred

recognition to live-in relationships. The Supreme Court in **Badri Prasad V Dy. Director of Consolidation (1978)** had validated the legality of live-in relationships. However, the ruling subjected the legitimacy test to a number of caveats, like the span of cohabitation, consent, soundness of mind, legal age, pooled resources, children, sexual relationships, and social behaviour.

However, despite the consistent evolutionary jurisprudence witnessed in this domain, the decision of the legitimacy of live-in relationships has not been as arduous as ascertaining the rights of live-in women partners.

Rights of Partners in Live-ins:

The Supreme Court recognized live-in relationships as 'domestic relationships' in 2013. It brought live-ins under the scope of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. However, the live-in murders suggest that the female partners do not voice their sufferings.

It is pertinent to mention that the partners in live-in are not entitled to any property under succession laws. Personal laws do not recognize live-ins. In 2010, the Supreme Court observed that couples would have the right to inherit their partner's acquired property. Although, it precludes women from inheriting their partner's ancestral property. The children born out of long-lasting cohabitation can be recognized as legitimate children and shall inherit their parent's property in the same fashion.

In the case of separation, the Supreme Court had also expanded the scope of maintenance to include women in live-in relationships following the recommendations of the **Malimath Committee on Criminal Justice Reforms**. However, the scope of the timeline for a live-in to be interpreted as a domestic relationship or equated with marriage is still unclear.

There is still a long way to go in determining the socio-economic rights of the live-in partners, as these are not statutory rights. After all, the premise of the informal alliance is to evade the constraints of law and society. It is not out of place to opine that the law is in sync with the demands of the evolving society, marching forward while protecting self-interests. While

marital rights to a partner in a live-in are desirable, the partners do not seem to have a penchant for their duties and obligations.

Let's not miss the forest for the trees. The shocker series of live-in murders are a reminder to reassess our conventional approach and focus on the sitting duck - the abuse and toxicity against women in domestic setups. And whether it can be prevented in the first instance, the question is not who burned the town but who handed them the matches.

As educated and independent women must show pragmatism and weigh the consequences of choices. More importantly, we must raise our voices in exercising our right to free speech against abuse, whether a marriage

or live-in, rather than succumbing to the loneliness of being in love with could-be assailants. The law helps those who help themselves and does not come to the rescue of those who sleep over their rights.



Women for BJP

- Poorva Datar, Independent columnist, Pune



Women empowerment refers to women's liberation from the socio-economic restraints of reliance. The BJP distinguishes between western notions of feminism and the Indian notion of empowered women. Western feminism stresses women's individual agency-outside of familial relationships such as the mother, wife, and sister. However, Indian tradition, on the other hand, emphasised their agency as career women but equally their role in families and as upholders of culture. It valorises women achievers and career women as well as homemakers and mothers. It sees the degradation of the status of women in the country as the result of centuries of political instability. Working women in India, it argues, are only regaining 'their ancient respected status'.

Indian Women and Politics

In the last few years, women have been increasingly seen taking a stand and voicing their opinions regarding several political issues. Not only this, since 2014, women's voter registration and their turnout at polling booths have been seen to be greatly increased. One must agree that this is a pleasant change.

To the surprise of many, data indicates that more women voters have recently voted for BJP than men. Though BJP Government never tried to show off its work using media tactics, empowering women and

harnessing their talent for nation-building has always been central to the party's policy. Accordingly, the BJP government in power has made great efforts to uplift the status of women in India.

Welfare and Safety Policies for Women Empowerment

Since 2014, the government has developed many well-drafted policies for women. The most popular scheme of the Modi government was “**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**”. Its main aim was to create social awareness and enhance opportunities for women, with a special aim to curb the declining sex ratio in the country. The scheme was divided into three segments -pregnant women and parents, medical staff and adolescents and society in general, i.e. media, NGOs and religious leaders. The policy was so peculiarly drafted that it created a huge impact by reaching every segment of society.

The number of girls studying up to high school and beyond has tripled in the last nine to ten years. Girls' enrolment in science, technology, engineering and maths is 43% today, more than in countries like the US, the UK and Germany. Further, in Indian traditional society, where women have fewer property rights, about 68% of over 1.7 million homes for the poor sanctioned between 2014 and 2019 were registered in the name of women alone or jointly with men. The government also built tens of millions of household toilets and helped millions of women open bank accounts to directly receive pensions, subsidies and other benefits.

According to WHO estimates, dirty cooking fuels are responsible for many fatalities among women in India. To answer this, through another successful scheme, “**Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**” (PMUY), the government shifted its focus on uplifting working conditions of below-poverty-line women in urban and semi-urban areas. The government provided around 9 crores of free LPG connections to deprived homes through this scheme.

It is well known that true woman empowerment cannot be achieved without creating a safe working environment for women. Therefore, the Modi government developed a scheme for “housing working women in different cities. The government worked to establish working women's hostels in many parts of the country to ensure the safety of working women. Unmarried, separated, widowed and physically disabled women are allowed inside the hostels with their children.

As a part of its safety and welfare policies, the union government introduced a one-stop centre, ‘**Sakhi**’, through the ‘Nirbhaya’ fund. These centres are located across the country, and they provide

refuge to victims of violence and abuse with legal, medical and counselling services under one roof. The helpline offers 24x7 services to victims.

Through its Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government launched a scheme named “**Mahila-e-Haat**” to assist small women entrepreneurs. The internet marketing platform for direct sale



was to be established to help micro-business owners, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to showcase their products and services. Similarly, the Centre sponsored the “**Mahila Shakti Kendra scheme**” to empower rural women through community participation.

Connection with Women

Over the last decade, the BJP has achieved credibility and reliability among women through welfare and safety policies and by directly communicating and connecting with

them. Prime Minister Modi's bold advice to parents to bring up better sons, appealing public against female foeticide, publicly condemning rapes, appreciating women voters through his speech, and sharing the hashtag '**Nari Shakti for New India**' on his Twitter handle went a long way in winning the trust of women. He has publically stated that 'India can move forward only by respecting, empowering and making women feel equal'.

BJP understands that women

empowerment is critical for the well-being of individuals, communities, and societies. It is a multifaceted issue requiring action on many fronts, including education, economic empowerment, societal attitudes, and government policies. Though critics of the BJP blame it for being a patriarchal party, BJP has remained true to its ideology of respecting women and giving them equal opportunities. Its work for women empowerment has been reflected in voting statistics, giving hope to the vision of women-led development in India.

Charting the Rise of Women's Empowerment in the 21st Century

- Meenakshi Pant, UPSC aspirant Uttarakhand



The empowerment of women has been a crucial issue in India since the dawn of its independence. Women in India have been fighting for their rights and equality for decades. However, with the new wave of change with the PM Shri Narendra Modi government, women's empowerment has taken a significant turn for the better. From promoting entrepreneurship and supporting working women to setting up various schemes and projects to promote girl child education, the Modi government has taken several initiatives to empower women in India. Here are the key highlights of the Modi government's efforts toward women's empowerment in India.

The Modi government has taken several initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and support the growth of women-owned businesses in India. One of these is the Mudra Yojana, which finances women who want to start their businesses. The Startup India initiative has greatly boosted the Indian entrepreneurship

ecosystem. Through this initiative, the government has pledged to provide funding, incubation, mentorship, and other benefits to startups nationwide. In addition, the Modi government has taken significant steps to promote financial inclusion among women. The Jan Dhan Yojana has been a game-changer in this regard, as it has provided access to banking and financial services to millions of women in India.

The Modi government has been taking several steps to promote women's employment in the workforce. Under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, the government has pledged to provide 100 days of employment per year to women in rural areas. Additionally, the government has set up several departments and institutions dedicated to promoting women's welfare and employment in India. The government has also taken measures to promote the work-life balance of women. For example, it has extended maternity leave to up to 26 weeks, a significant increase from the previous limit of 12 weeks.

Additionally, several companies

have been incentivized to provide employees with daycare facilities to make it easier for mothers to return to work after having children. Education for Girls Education has always been crucial to women's empowerment. The Modi government has taken several steps to promote education for girls across India. For example, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has been a critical initiative. The campaign aims to reduce the rate of female feticide and increase the enrollment of girls in schools. The government has also set up several schemes and programs designed to provide specific support to girls and young women. The Udaan scheme, for example, provides vocational training to girls and young women from Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is a savings scheme aimed at promoting the education of the girl child. Safety and Security Safety and security have always been major concerns for women in India.

The Modi government has taken several steps to address these issues. For example, the government has set up several helplines nationwide that can be used to report crimes against women. The government has also taken steps to make public spaces safer for women. For example, it has set up several all-women police stations across the country. It has also implemented harsher penalties for offenders convicted of crimes against women. While the Modi government has taken several significant steps toward women's empowerment, there is still a long way to go. Gender inequality and discrimination continue to be widespread in India, and it will take several more years of a concerted effort to eliminate them. However, the initiatives the Modi government took have provided a solid foundation upon which further progress can be made. The key now is to continue building upon this foundation and ensure that these initiatives benefits are spread far and wide across the country. By doing so, we can ensure that women in India have the tools and resources they need to realize their full potential and make a meaningful contribution to the development and progress of the country.



BHARATIYA JANATA YUVA MORCHA