

WELCOME 2025: How 2024 Proved to be a Year of Civilisational Awakening

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is time to reflect on the journey of the past and embrace the opportunities that the future holds. Welcome, 2025! A year that promises new beginnings, challenges, and growth, it is an invitation to write a fresh chapter in the story of our lives.

The year 2024, with all its ups and downs, has been a learning experience for all of us. It has brought triumphs, trials, lessons, and a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

But now, as we bid farewell to the past year, we look forward with renewed energy and hope to the possibilities that 2025 brings.

This new year offers us a chance to set new goals, pursue dreams, and make a difference in our communities and the world at large.

Whether it's personal growth, career advancement, or contributing to society, 2025 provides a blank slate for each of us to leave our mark.

It's an opportunity to strengthen relationships, pursue passions, and embrace change.

One of the most exciting aspects of a new year is the opportunity for transformation. We are never bound by the mistakes or challenges of the past.

Each new year is a fresh start, a moment to redefine ourselves and our aspirations.

In 2025, we can choose to leave behind negativity, embrace optimism, and adopt a mindset of resilience and determination.

For those who are part of a larger community, whether it's at work, with family, or in society, the new year is also a time to foster unity, collaboration, and understanding.

In these challenging times, it is more important than ever to come together to support one another, encourage growth, and build a more harmonious and inclusive future.

As we step into 2025, let us embrace it with open hearts and minds. Let's make it a year filled with kindness, hope, and success.

Let's work towards a world where we not only achieve our personal goals but also contribute to the well-being of others and the planet.

So, here's to 2025 - a year of endless opportunities, growth, and transformation. May it bring happiness, health, and prosperity to all.

In the ten years of the Modi government, India has witnessed a remarkable cultural revival, rekindling pride in its rich heritage. From restoring ancient temples in Jammu and Kashmir to revamping spiritual corridors like the grand Kashi Vishwanath Dham and rebuilding temples across the country, these efforts have reconnected us with our roots. Forgotten saints like Meera Bai and tribal heroes like Bhagwan Birsa Munda have been honoured, while traditions such as the Mahakumbh have been promoted globally, showcasing India's spiritual grandeur. Record-breaking celebrations like Diwali in Ayodhya and the placement of the sacred Sengol in Parliament reflect a deep respect for our civilizational values. This year continues the decade-long journey of efforts to ensure that India's legacy inspires future generations to cherish and uphold its timeless spirit.

This year began with the historic consecration of Shri Ram Lala in Ayodhya, fulfilling a centuries-old dream cherished by millions, & the inauguration of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, which symbolizes India's spiritual legacy crossing borders. Add to this the UNESCO recognition of Moidams and the return of 297 stolen antiquities.

Shri Ram Returns to His Birthplace
PM Modi's leadership in 2024 spearheaded a remarkable rejuvenation of India's civilizational heritage and cultural pride. The consecration of Shri Ram Lala at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir marked a significant spiritual and cultural moment, fulfilling a centuries-old aspiration of Hindus all over the world.

This event underscored Ayodhya's enduring significance in India's civilizational narrative.

The inauguration of the BAPS Mandir by PM Modi, the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, was a landmark moment in India's cultural diplomacy. The temple is the first traditional Hindu stone mandir in the Middle East and is designed according to ancient

Hindu architectural principles known as Shilpa Shastras.

It not only celebrated the Indian diaspora's contributions but also symbolized global interfaith harmony. Domestically, the foundation stone for the Maa Kamakhya Divya Pariyojana, an ambitious corridor project, was laid to enhance accessibility to the revered Maa Kamakhya Temple in Assam, while preserving its sacred heritage. These initiatives are a testament to PM Modi's unwavering commitment to reviving India's heritage and instilling pride in its glorious past.

Reinvigoration of Cultural Heritage

In 2024, under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, India made remarkable strides in preserving and celebrating its civilizational heritage. The Modi government's efforts led to the recognition of Moidams in Assam as India's 43rd UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcasing the global significance of India's cultural legacy. The inauguration of the "Anubhav Kendra" in Kurukshetra brought ancient scriptures like the Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita to life, reflecting the government's commitment to making India's heritage accessible and experiential.

Further, the redevelopment of the historic Kochrab Ashram in Gujarat reaffirmed the government's dedication to preserving Gandhian values, while the foundation stone for Shri Kalki Dham in Sambhal demonstrated its focus on fostering spiritual and cultural hubs. These efforts reflect the Modi government's focus on preserving India's ancient wisdom while charting a progressive course for the future.

In FY24, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) crossed ₹1.5 lakh crore in turnover and created 10 lakh jobs, embodying Atmanirbhar Bharat. This growth highlights khadi's global rise as an eco-fashion statement, powered by vocal for local, blending tradition with sustainability and modern

innovation.

Celebrating Linguistic and Spiritual Heritage

2024 also saw India celebrating its linguistic diversity with the granting of Classical Language status to Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali, and Prakrit. This recognition not only honours the nation's rich linguistic heritage but also strengthens cultural preservation across generations. Additionally, the reopening of all four gates of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri on June 13, 2024, marked the fulfillment of a long-standing demand from devotees and restored access to this revered spiritual site.

The renaming of Port Blair to 'Sri Vijaya Puram' on September 13, 2024, further emphasized India's dedication to honouring its history, particularly the region's significance in the freedom struggle.

Cultural Diplomacy and Global Recognition

2024 saw India make significant strides in cultural diplomacy, cementing its position on the global stage. India and the USA signed their first-ever 'Cultural Property Agreement,' aimed at protecting India's invaluable cultural treasures from illicit trafficking. On November 15, 2024, the U.S. returned more than 1,400 looted artifacts valued at approximately \$10 million to India. In September 2024, during a ceremonial event involving Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden, 297 antiquities were returned to India. In another historic move, 100 women artists led the Republic Day Parade for the first time, underscoring the government's commitment to women's empowerment and

gender equality.

These efforts exemplify India's growing cultural influence, with PM Modi's vision driving the nation towards greater global recognition while honouring its rich traditions.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth Linked to Cultural Projects

In 2024, under PM Modi's leadership, India embarked on transformative initiatives that seamlessly connected cultural projects with infrastructure and economic growth. The announcement of the corridor development for the Vishnupad Temple in Bihar and the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhi Gaya is set to elevate spiritual tourism and provide a much-needed economic boost to these regions. By improving accessibility to two of India's most sacred sites, these projects will bridge the gap between India's spiritual heritage and modern infrastructure.

The foundation stone for the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat, was also laid, a significant move to preserve India's ancient maritime history. Lothal will be developed as the world's oldest dockyards and a historic site of the Indus Valley Civilization showcasing our rich maritime history that spans over 4,500 years. The implementation of this project is expected to create around 22,000 jobs, 15,000 direct and 7,000 indirect, boosting local economies and fostering sustainable development for communities.

Cultural Celebrations and Initiatives

PM Modi inaugurated the 1st Bodoland Mahotsav in Delhi, a celebration of the unique culture, traditions, and history of the Bodoland region. He also inaugurated Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav which showcased North East's rich cultural heritage. These cultural celebrations reinforce PM Modi's vision to preserve and promote India's diverse cultural identity while uniting people from all walks of life.

New Horizons: A Year of Possibilities-2025

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The New Year had arrived, sweeping away the remnants of yesterday like the tide receding from the shore. There's something magical about this moment—a universal pause, where time itself feels soft and forgiving, offering the chance to begin anew. The New Year marks the transition from one calendar year to the next, symbolizing renewal and the passage of time. It is a globally recognized event, celebrated on different dates depending on cultural and religious traditions. Most modern societies follow the Gregorian calendar, where January 1 is designated as New Year's Day. New Year's celebrations are as varied as the cultures that honor them, yet they share common themes of renewal and optimism. Western traditions often center on grand parties, fireworks, and midnight countdowns. Iconic events, such as the ball drop in New York's Times Square or the fireworks over Sydney Harbour, capture the world's attention. In contrast, the Chinese New Year, marked by dragon dances, lanterns and family feasts, adheres to the lunar calendar and symbolizes prosperity and good fortune. Other cultures celebrate with unique rituals, from Nowruz in Persia, which welcomes the spring equinox with symbolic tables and family gatherings, to the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, which emphasizes prayer and introspection.

The Year of 2024 has been especially notable for remarkable achievements across various fields, highlighting humanity's capacity for progress and innovation. Technology has advanced at an unprecedented pace, with artificial intelligence (AI) playing a transformative role in everyday life. AI-powered medical tools have revolutionized healthcare, enabling early disease detection and personalized treatment plans. The space exploration has also reached new heights, including the successful landing of an international mission on Europa, Jupiter's icy moon, to explore the potential for extraterrestrial life. These milestones underscore humanity's relentless pursuit of knowledge and the possibilities of scientific collaboration. The environmental progress has been another hallmark of 2024. Renewable energy sources,



such as solar and wind, have become mainstream in many countries, aided by groundbreaking advancements in energy storage. These developments have significantly reduced carbon emissions, providing hope in the global fight against climate change. Meanwhile, global conservation efforts have focused on restoring ecosystems like mangroves and rainforests, critical to biodiversity and climate resilience. The widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) has further contributed to this shift, marking a significant step toward a more sustainable future. In the realm of medicine, advancements in gene therapy and CRISPR technology have opened doors to curing genetic disorders, bringing hope to millions. Mental health care has also

gained prominence, with governments and organizations investing in accessible support systems and digital platforms to provide therapy, reducing stigma and barriers to treatment. Renewable energy technologies have advanced significantly, with solar and wind power becoming more efficient and affordable, heralding a greener future. Climate change initiatives, while still a work in progress, have seen nations come together to commit to reducing emissions and protecting the environment.

As we celebrate the New Year, we are reminded of the resilience and ingenuity that drive progress. While 2024's achievements are worth celebrating, they also highlight ongoing challenges, such as addressing inequality and combating the effects of climate change. The New Year presents an opportunity for individuals, communities and nations to reconnect to these causes, working together to create a brighter and more equitable future.

The New Year is more than just a calendar milestone; it symbolizes renewal, reflection and possibility. Each turn of the calendar offers a chance to reflect on past achievements and challenges while setting new goals for the year ahead. For many, 2025 feels especially significant—a time to build on the resilience, growth, and lessons learned in recent years. From its ancient origins to its modern global expressions, the New Year serves as a reminder of humanity's capacity to grow and thrive. As we step into the future, let us celebrate our collective progress, embrace the challenges ahead and move forward with optimism and determination. In this shared journey, the New Year remains a beacon of hope, guiding us toward a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous world.

We extend heartfelt wishes for the year ahead, may 2025 be a tapestry of vibrant moments, a journey of growth and a story worth cherishing. Let us embrace this New Year with open hearts, daring dreams and unwavering hope. Here's to the adventures that await us, the connections that will enrich us and the triumphs that will define us. Happy New Year 2025!

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World Famed Valley of Flowers

GL KHAJURIA

Thou art the lustre in the moon and effulgence in the sun, thou art the taste in water and warmth in the flame; bereft of thou, the world would be devoid of substance (Panchastavi). And the mother earth and all her manifestation of charming natural gifts like lush green forests of higher and lower strata intermingled with blooming flowers and with them the mother earth smiles. This is an unutterable truth and is the greatest strength-(Mahabharata).

The enchanting and thrilling upper Bhyunder valley was brought into limelight far back in 1931 by Frank Symthe, member of the successful Kamet expedition who gave the name 'valley of flowers' and made it world famous. Frank Symthe was so enamored by its charming and enchanting valley that he visited it six years later, explored it extensively with utmost curiosity. As a consequence, therefore, he wrote a fascinating description in his famous travelogue- 'The Valley of flowers'. He also collected more than 250 varieties of seeds and plants for the botanical garden of Edinburgh.

The valley of Flowers lies between the main land of Alknanda and Dhuli Ganga, in the Zanskar ranges of Garhwal Himalayas. The river Puhpavati which flows through this valley has its source in the huge Tripta glacier which extends upto the most famous Ghorri Parvat peak which is a flattish valley about 5kms long and 2 kms wide stretching East-West. The most convenient entrance to the valley is from South Where Pushavati flows through a very deep gorge. Besides, two more routes preferred by the shepherds and trekkers branch off or offshoot from the valley. The one from the western side leading to Hanuman Chhatti via kant khal pass and the other from the eastern side leading to Ghamsali village via Lakshman pass and both these places cover three days trekking distance from the valley itself.

The river Puhpavati is joined by river Lakshman Ganga which flows down from Hamkund lokpal lake at Ganghariawhereafter it takes the name Bhyunder Ganga which joins Alaknanda at Govindghat.

Govindghat is situated on the main 'Rishikesh - Badrinath 'Pilgrims route at the right bank of Alaknanda and is at an elevation of a rounding 1800- 2000mits from Mean sea level(MSL). Around 278 kms road journey through the river one reaches Govindghat from Rishikesh - The foothill town which is as wall the main rail/motor head to the valley of flowers together with other enchanting and pilgrimage spots for the religious and tourists alike.

At Govindghat, the road leads to the Bhyunder valley which further branches off the main road. Gangharia, the last human outpost and the main base camp for the valley of flowers are the Hamkund Shrine. It is around 2- 3 kms from Govindghat and can be trekked on foot or by ponies. This track runs along Bhyunder Ganga. One has to cross over through suspension bridge at Alknanda- Govindghat. Ahead, one has to trek through bridle-path which takes a steep and continuous climb which de facto is tiring.

The view around the vicinity of this spot has a disappointed introduction to the beauty of nature's bounty ahead. It is after a weary plodding around 3kms or so that the valley widens and one comes across some bewildering and breath-taking landscape. The gradient of river is very steep whereas the flow of water is fast. The fog generated by the churned water beating



against perpendicular rocks and massive boulders is wafted far and wide riding on the breeze produced by the down rushing water of the river. Its cool touch mops the sweet beads and drains away the fatigue caused by the uphill journey.

On the right side, a water fall more than 150 meters high descend down the granite rock to meet Bhyunder Ganga. And all the time, one is passing through one of the most beautiful forests full of alpine intermingled with maple, walnut mulberry, elm, oak, bird-cherry, horse-chestnut, honeybea, Alder, rhododendron etc. The foaming river cascades its way till one cross over to the left bank, a little beyond the Bhyunder village. The route to Hathi Parvat and Ghorri Parvat emanates from this village. The vegetation changes all of sudden. One is completely surrounded by tall centuries old massive trees of silver fir at Gangharia.

Ghangharia, a hamlet having a Forest Rest House(FRIH) Tourist Rest House(TRIH) a sacred shrine(Gurudwara) and few shops. This spot is located at an elevation arounding 3,200 meters from mean sea level (MSL) and beyond Ghangharia exist the unspoiled beauty of nature, the valley of Flowers which is barely 4-5 kms trek on foot or on pony. And from here onwards, Hemkund is hardly 4.5 to 5kms trek. Thence onwards, the valley of Flowers veers sharply to the left from the main trail which climbs steeply to the sacred and famous lake. Hamkund, situated at an altitude arounding 4,200 meters from mean sea level (MSL).

The ascent to the valley of Flowers is almost gradual till the valley narrows down into a deep gorge and the forest is compressed between narrow walls of rock. The awesome cliffs guarding this southern entrance of valley are almost rising to more than 1000 meters on either side which block the view of the valley.

The valley of Flowers is having a wide space. Beginning at an elevation of 3,500 meters, it gradually slopes down up like a winding corridor, to a little more than 3,700 meters till it meets the snout of the glacier. The valley is snow-bound from mid-November to mid-may during which period this area remains frozen and thereby it is impossible and desolate. But as soon as snow starts melting, the rains commence, and that is the miracle which has made this valley famous world over.

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Ministry of Home Affairs: Year End Review 2024

The year 2024 was a year of historic reforms initiated by the Union Home Ministry to ensure 'ease of justice for all' and to build a secure Bharat as envisioned by PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The ministry made several game-changing decisions, making way for epoch-making reforms and unprecedented achievements in securing citizens' rights enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Social Equity for Jammu and Kashmir

Peace in Jammu and Kashmir has been a priority of the Modi government. Under the vision of PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the MHA undertook a slew of measures to enshrine peace, equality, and justice at the center of Jammu and Kashmir's governance and society.

Under the aegis of this broad vision, the Parliament passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, a historic bill aimed at empowering the Pahari Ethnic Group, Padari Tribes, Koli, and Gadda Brahmin.

The bill directly pivots the essence of social equity to the hills and valleys of Jammu and Kashmir by providing for reservations for deserving communities.

The bill heralds a new sense of belonging and unity among the people

Zero Terror, 100% Progress: Empowering J&K with Inclusion Development and Vigil

The Modi government is building a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir through a multi-pronged approach. While the security forces are waging a full-blown war against terror on the ground, the MHA is empowering them by banning individuals and organizations involved in terror and anti-India activities.

Unprecedented participation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections shows that they have full faith in democracy.

In the 2024, Lok Sabha election J&K secured 35-year-high voter turnout at 58.46%.

In 2024 assembly election, J&K witnessed a meteoric 63.88% voter turnout.

Due to the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Union Government, the eco-system of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has

almost ended.

The Parliament also passed the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024, a historic bill aimed at empowering Pahari Ethnic Group, Padari Tribes, Koli, and Gadda Brahmin in this direction.

Three New Criminal Laws (Azaad Bharat Ke Naye Kanoon)

Three new criminal laws-Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam-came into force on July 1, 2024.

The three new criminal laws were introduced following PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's appeal to erase all the vestiges of colonialism in our legal system. These laws enshrine our criminal justice system on the pillars of our age-old principles of jurisprudence. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji dedicated the complete implementation of these laws to the people of Chandigarh. The state of Haryana is committed to the full implementation of these laws before the 31st of March 2025. In the same direction, Uttarakhand and the rest of the states and union territories will also fully implement them as early as possible.

The new laws are justice-oriented and victim-centric. In the new laws, priority is given to justice instead of punishment. It makes delays redundant by ensuring speedy trials and speedy justice. These new laws will prove to be the biggest reform in the world. They will make the nation's criminal justice system the most modern and increase conviction rates substantially.

The priority in the new laws is to tackle crimes against women and children. They were made more sensitive by adding a new chapter on crimes against children and women.

The protection of the rights of the victims has also been ensured by new laws. New laws have not only adopted technology but also incorporated it in such a way that they can keep up with technological changes that may sway humankind in the next 50 years.

To ensure seamless implementation of these laws, the MHA launched e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon App for three new criminal laws in Chandigarh.