

ROZGAR MELA: A POSITIVE STEP

India's demographic dividend is one of its greatest strengths, with a large and aspirational youth population seeking opportunities for meaningful employment. In this context, the Rozgar Mela initiative has emerged as a timely and impactful step towards addressing unemployment while strengthening the nation's administrative and security framework. By directly handing over appointment letters to selected candidates, the Rozgar Mela symbolizes not just job creation, but hope, dignity, and inclusion for thousands of young Indians.

One of the most significant aspects of the Rozgar Mela is its transparent and mission-driven approach. Unlike conventional recruitment processes that often appear distant and impersonal, the Rozgar Mela brings the government face-to-face with the youth. The presence of senior leaders and officials at these events sends a strong message that employment generation is a national priority. It also reassures young recruits that their contribution to public service is valued and respected.

The nationwide scale of the Rozgar Mela reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development. By organizing the programme simultaneously at multiple locations, including remote and strategically important regions such as Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, and the North-East, the initiative ensures that opportunities are not limited to urban centers alone. This geographical outreach strengthens national integration and reinforces the idea that development must reach the last mile.

Equally important is the diversity of sectors covered under the Rozgar Mela. Appointments span central ministries, departments, and security forces such as the ITBP, CRPF, BSF, and others. This balanced focus not only strengthens governance and internal security but also provides youth with stable careers and a sense of purpose. For many families, especially in rural and border areas, these appointments represent economic stability and social upliftment.

By aligning recruitment with skill-building efforts, the Rozgar Mela can help ensure that employment is sustainable, productive, and future-ready.

However, the long-term success of the Rozgar Mela will depend on consistent implementation and continuous evaluation. Employment generation must keep pace with population growth and changing economic realities. There is also a need to focus on quality of employment, workplace efficiency, and career progression for newly recruited youth, so that public institutions benefit fully from their talent and energy.

The Rozgar Mela is more than a recruitment drive-it is a statement of intent. It reflects a governance model that places youth at the center of national development. By providing jobs, boosting confidence, and reinforcing the spirit of service, the Rozgar Mela contributes meaningfully to nation-building. With sustained focus, transparency, and integration with wider economic reforms, it has the potential to become a cornerstone of India's employment and development strategy.

Daughters of Bharat: A Deprived Section of the Society

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

Increasing Gender-based problems affect girls in every aspect of social and cultural environment. To grow into active, efficient and confident women, girls must be raised in an environment that provides them with respect, dignity and fair opportunities. But in Bharat, the deprivation and suffering caused by poverty for most girls is further aggravated by customs and beliefs. These beliefs often define the role of women and make them inferior to men.

The status of women in the society can be easily judged from the status of girls. It is a well-known fact that thousands of girls grow up in very difficult circumstances. Education is considered unnecessary for them; they remain unhealthy due to malnutrition and a large number of them die premature deaths. They have to do hard labour and are married at an early age. They live in a very discriminatory environment at the physical, mental and sexual levels. Education is the only panacea through which girls and women can initiate the process of social change. Education has the power to play such a mediating role that can eliminate gender discrimination and awaken sociality among girls and boys.

Childhood development is important

Keeping in mind the distortions caused due to gender discrimination in childhood, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) declared the year 1990 as the "Year of the Girl Child" and 1991-2000 as the "Decade of the Girl Child". The Government of India has also developed a national plan to improve the current status of girls and adolescent women. The most important development period for any person is childhood. The pace at which physical, mental, personal and social development occurs in childhood is not possible in the later years of life. The rapid development and flexibility of childhood also makes this period largely vulnerable. This neglected situation can also be affected by prejudice and neglect. As a result, the girl trapped in the cycle of deprivation throughout her life continues to sink and is unable to become a part of the mainstream of society. On the other hand, this feeling of tenderness provides a wonderful opportunity to eradicate deficiency from its roots. If the health, educational and social needs of girls are taken care of, the foundation of an educated progressive woman can be laid. UNICEF declared during the "Inter Regional Consultation on Girl Child" held in 1994 that the life-cycle perspective is the most progressive policy for women's development.

More than 1,20,00,000 girls are born every year in Bharat. About 25 per cent of these girls die before their fifteenth birthday and one third of them die in the first year of infancy. Age-specific mortality rates show that at every age level up to the age of 35, more women die than men. Girls are more likely to die than boys in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Region, religion, caste and poverty affect mortality rates. The more vulnerable



the position of women, the higher will be the deaths at birth. A girl born in Uttar Pradesh can expect to live up to 54 years, while a girl born in Kerala is likely to live up to 74 years.

In most countries, the sex ratio is in favour of women, but in Bharat the sex ratio has been declining decade after decade. Except Kerala, the sex ratio remains pathetic in other states. In the 2001 census, the sex ratio (per thousand males) among the total population was 933, among the Scheduled Castes it was 922, and in the Scheduled Tribes it was 972. According to the 2011 census, the sex ratio in the total population is 940.

One of the main reasons for the skewed sex ratio is the large number of deaths at a very young age due to malnutrition. Levinson's study of malnourished children in Punjab in 1974 also revealed that there is gender-based bias in nutrition and health care. Stunted growth due to nutrition and undernutrition result in the body structure not developing fully in adulthood. In both cases, there is a possibility of having low birth weight babies. Malnourished girls grow up to become malnourished women and this cycle of malnutrition continues from generation to generation. Girls are breastfed for a shorter period of time than boys. Also, due to low purchasing power, girls are fed a low-calorie diet as well as fewer supplements and solid food.

According to a study, the number of malnourished girls is 2 to 3 times that of boys. In category 2 and 3 of Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai metropolises, malnutrition was higher

among girls than boys. When there is a severe shortage of food grains, it has a more negative impact on the situation of girls.

According to the "All India Market Survey" conducted in 21 states and union territories in 1990, there is no gender difference in terms of diseases, but inequalities are clearly visible in their duration and care. Girls are also discriminated against within family across demographic group. Fewer girls are found in state health centre in most of the states of the country and less money is spent on their health. Across all classes of families, girls are treated by less qualified doctors than boys. This difference is more prominent in Odisha, Haryana and Punjab. According to the Khanna study, the first son and the first daughter have equal chances of survival. Mothers in the age group of 15 to 29 have a 70 percent chance of their second or third daughter dying before the age of 5.

Girl literacy is an indicator of social development. Girl literacy is an important indicator of social development. Female literacy has many beneficial effects on development. Universalization of primary education requires reducing the gap in participation between boys and girls. Although social prejudice against women will not be eliminated through the educational system alone, positive steps can be taken to raise their status through education. School is the only institution where girls acquire qualities like self-esteem, self-confidence, decision-making ability and skills.

However, after independence, there has been a gradual increase in enrolment of girls in schools. In 1950-51, this number was 54 lakh and 5 lakh respectively at primary and upper primary level, which increased to 500.81416 Lakh and 308.21906 Lakh respectively in 2024-25. The percentage of girls in total enrollment at the primary level (class 1 to 5) increased from 28.1 percent in 1950-51 to 47.98 percent in 2024-25, while at the upper primary level (class 6 to 8) it increased from 16.1 percent in 1950-51 to 48.39 percent in 2024-25. Gender Parity Index in terms of enrollment increased to 1.0 both at primary and upper primary level in 2024-25. In 1951, 91.14 percent of the female population aged seven years and above was illiterate, which decreased to 45.84 percent in 2001 and 34.54 percent in 2011, of which about two-thirds live in rural areas. The transition rate from class V (primary level) to class VI (upper primary level) is 89.2 percent among girls and 88.4 percent among boys. However, inequalities still persist. There is a considerable difference between the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) of boys and girls. The GER ratio is different in every state. In 2024-25, the average dropout rate at the primary level was 0.0 percent for girls and 0.8 percent for boys, while the retention rate was 92.4 percent with minimal gender difference. Rural girls have to leave studies earlier than urban girls.

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Daksh Kisan: Transforming Smartphones into Classrooms for Farmers

171 courses, 3.47 lakh registrations, 4.15 lakh enrolments reflect the platform's strong impact on ground

In 2023, smartphone penetration among farmers in Jammu & Kashmir crossed more than 70 per cent, as was learned during a survey conducted under the dedicated farmer outreach campaign Kisan Sampark Abhiyan. While the digital shift was clearly visible, its potential remained largely untapped.

Recognising this opportunity, the J&K Administration took a forward-looking decision to reposition the smartphone from being merely a communication device to a powerful instrument of learning for the farming community. This vision culminated in the creation of Daksh Kisan, a Learning Management System (LMS) that today stands as the first initiative of its kind in India, and possibly in Asia, dedicated to the knowledge upgradation of farmers.

Launched amid cautious expectations, Daksh Kisan has, within just two years, emerged as one of the most successful digital capacity-building platforms for farmers in the country. The initiative marked a significant departure from conventional extension approaches by embedding structured, measurable learning into a digital ecosystem tailored specifically for farmers.

The conceptual foundation of Daksh Kisan rested on a simple yet powerful insight that if farmers are already digitally connected, learning must follow the same path. With smartphones becoming commonplace even in remote villages, the Agriculture Production Department, in collaboration with the two agricultural universities-SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir-designed an LMS keeping usability, low-bandwidth access, language diversity and local relevance at its core.



A defining feature of the platform is its agro-climatic customisation. Courses are curated according to specific agro-climatic zones, ensuring that knowledge disseminated is not generic but tailored to local crops, soil conditions and weather patterns, ranging from temperate orchard systems to subtropical agricultural plains.

Recognising that effective learning happens best in one's own language, Daksh Kisan offers multi-lingual course content in four local languages-Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and Urdu. This

emphasis on inclusivity has enabled farmers from diverse linguistic backgrounds to participate with confidence and has played a decisive role in the platform's widespread adoption, particularly among first-time digital learners.

At present, Daksh Kisan hosts 171 structured courses across the agriculture and allied sectors, including 97 courses in agriculture, 28 courses in horticulture, and 46 courses in the livestock sector. In addition, the platform offers cross-sectoral courses covering integrated pest control, post-harvest practices, value addition,

agribusiness development and farm economics.

Each course follows a modular structure combining expert video lectures, practical demonstration videos and short questionnaires designed to assess learning outcomes. Farmers also have the option to interact digitally with concerned faculty members to seek clarifications, effectively extending mentorship and expert guidance into the digital space.

A notable feature of Daksh Kisan is the inclusion of inbuilt business and financial planning modules, which encourage farmers to transition from subsistence-oriented practices towards enterprise-driven agriculture, fostering entrepreneurship and economic sustainability at the farm level.

Like most pioneering initiatives, Daksh Kisan initially faced scepticism, particularly around issues of digital literacy, participation and retention. However, within two years, the response from the farming community has decisively addressed these concerns. Official data indicates that over 3.47 lakh farmers have registered on the platform, with 2.59 lakh farmers enrolling in courses.

The platform has recorded more than 4.15 lakh course enrolments, reflecting a strong tendency among farmers to pursue multiple courses to diversify their skills. Completion levels have also been encouraging, with nearly 2.98 lakh courses completed and over 2.11 lakh farmers successfully passing course assessments, signalling sustained engagement and meaningful learning outcomes.

The impact of Daksh Kisan has extended beyond the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. According to officers from APD, ran-

domised verification calls conducted through call centres associated with the portal revealed that faculty members from Lucknow and Kerala, along with agripreneurs and farmers from Rajasthan, have enrolled in and completed courses on the platform, an uncommon validation for a region-specific government initiative.

This cross-regional participation underscores the academic credibility, scalability and national relevance of Daksh Kisan as a digital learning model. Rather than replacing traditional agricultural extension mechanisms, the platform complements them by offering round-the-clock, on-demand learning that reinforces field-based interventions with structured digital education.

At a time when agriculture faces mounting challenges from climate change, market volatility and rising input costs, Daksh Kisan equips farmers not only with improved techniques but also with enhanced decision-making confidence grounded in scientific knowledge and economic understanding.

Officials associated with the initiative describe Daksh Kisan as only the beginning. With new courses under development, advanced modules being planned and growing interest from outside the region, the platform is steadily positioning itself as a national reference point for digital agricultural education.

In a sector where adaptability defines survival, Daksh Kisan demonstrates how technology, when aligned with trust, inclusivity and local relevance, can truly take root in the field and reshape the future of farm learning in India.

BJP Appoints Youngest President Ever

BAIRAJ CHAWALGAMI

Departing from its old practice of giving control of the organisational matters to senior most leaders, this time BJP has given the command of its organisational matters to young leader Nitin Nabin from Bihar. Thus, the BJP has given the organisational key to young man who is 45 years young. In fact, a new era for the saffron party has begun. Nitin Nabin will bring young blood in the BJP and will energise and activate the party and make it ready to face the challenges of five state assembly polls which are not so far. BJP is aiming to infuse new and young blood and energy in its organisation and thus has it given command of the organisational affairs to young Nabin from Bihar. Nabin is the 16 national president of the BJP and he will steer the saffron party to new heights of political efficiency and energise the party to face the coming state assembly elections. He is the youngest president in the party's history and is considered a grass-root leader with strong organisational acumen. Following his role as National Working President

[appointed Dec 2025], Nitin Nabin was elected unopposed as the National President of the BJP on January 20, 2026. He succeeds J.P. Nadda, who served as party president since 2020. Nabin took charge at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of PM Modi and HM Amit Shah. Rajnath Singh, and Nitin Gadkari. Born in 1980, Nabin is considered a "millennial leader" intended to bridge the gap with Generation Z AND FIRST-TIME VOTERS. Nitin Nabin's elevation as BJP president marks a strategic shift away from RSS influence and caste calibration in Bihar, and tighter Modi-Shah grip over the party. Nitin Nabin's anointment to the top organisational post of the BJP is not shocking. It not only reflects the present compulsions, but also drops hints at its future plans. Besides it reveals the working conditions of the saffron party and its desire to return to the realpolitik, while safeguarding its own ideological contours at the same time. It may make the Hindutva fountainhead RSS jittery, but it also shows the saffron party's willingness and political courage to break the shackles it is attached

to. The youngest BJP president has not been a "Swayamsevak" as some of the functionaries claim proudly about themselves. He has never attended regular 'Shakha' of the Hindutva party nor even been given any responsibility in the organisation. He was, instead, associated with the party's youth wing, BJVM and served it as its national general secretary and state president. The first important assignment out of his home state Bihar came to him when Home Minister Amit Shah made him a part of the BJP's Delhi campaign. Besides, the young and ambitious Bihar leader of the party served as the BJP in-charge of Sikkim and as co-in-charge of Chhattisgarh, the duties that helped him hone organisational skills that proved an important factor. Nitin Nabin proved his organisational skills and ability of political manoeuvring during Bihar state assembly polls held in 2025. One may call it his luck or strength that the Bihar BJP got the number of seats more than expected, which helped him consolidate his position in the party and move closer to the most important leader in the party after Narendra Modi. Earlier he

also exhibited his organisational skill in the Chhattisgarh campaign, where he served as the election co-charge along with Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya. His rise in the party became evident when Amit Shah visited his residence during the election campaign in the recently held election, as it was seen as recognition of his work and his growing political stature within the party. Nitin Nabin's elevation has come at a time when the saffron party is struggling to come out of the shadows of the RSS. Rather, he was in the RJD and his father, Shakuni Chaudhary, was close to Lalu Prasad Yadav. The BJP has asserted itself in Bihar and moved a few more inches away from the Hindutva organisation. Nitin Nabin's rise to the top organisational post in BJP also hints at the future strategy of the BJP. After giving the maximum number of tickets and allocating ministries to those belonging to the OBC, particularly non-Yadav castes, the saffron party wants to strike a balance in the caste dynamic of the state. Rahul Gandhi vociferously advocated the caste survey and demanded that the reservation sys-

tem should be implemented in the private sector also, but the people from these communities did not vote for the Congress party in the way the leader might have thought. Analysts believe this provoked the so called upper castes [called 'savarn' or 'agadi jati'] voters to consolidate against his party. It is believed that BJP took cue from this development and made a leader from an upper caste its working president. Immediately after taking over charge, Nabin cleared organisational appointments, including naming in-charges for the Kerala Assembly elections and Greater Bengaluru civic polls, signalling a focus on election preparedness. He, emphasized strengthening the booth level machinery and maintaining the party's 'Nation First' mantra. He is a five-time MLA from Bankipur assembly constituency in Bihar. Nabin has deep roots in the RSS. He is credited with playing a crucial role in the BJP's organisational turnaround and victory in the Chhattisgarh assembly elections. He is the son of the late Navin Kishore Prasad Sinha, a respected senior BJP leader. In a highly publi-

cised move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the felicitation ceremony, "In party matters, Nitin is my boss and I am a worker." His appointment indicates a move away from the traditional, older leadership structure towards a younger, grassroots-driven team. Nabin's responsibility includes strengthening the BJP-NDA alliance, particularly in preparation for 2026 state elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. Nabin took over following successful tenures by Amit Shah and JP Nadda, leaving him with "big shoes to fill." He will need to balance ties between the party organisation and the RSS, while managing factionalism within state units. Transitioning from state-level leader to a national leader responsible for nationwide, high-stakes elections. Nitin Nabin's elevation is viewed as a calculated, long-term strategic decision by the BJP high command to overhaul the party's machinery for future electoral challenges. At the end one hopes that new National President of the BJP will prove his mettle and will sail the organisational ship of the BJP to safe shores.