

PM Modi transformed anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency in electoral landscape: Nadda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AGARTALA: BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency in the electoral landscape.



Nadda, addressing a rally here, also pointed to the increasing vote share in favour of the BJP during the past three Lok Sabha elections. "Now, Modi has changed the country's political culture by transforming anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency. Pro-incumbency means that people are happy and want Modi to win again and again," he said. "The BJP polled 17 crore votes (31.30 per cent) in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, while it shot up to 22 crore votes (36.7 per cent) in the 2019 polls. The figure was

left no stone unturned for the development of Tripura, Nadda said tax devolution increased five-fold during the Modi era compared to the UPA regime.

"Tripura used to get Rs 9,000 crore as share of tax during the UPA regime, which has risen to Rs 46,500 crore. Likewise, the grant-in-aid, which was Rs 31,000 crore during the UPA time increased to Rs 54,000 crore," he said.

Nadda also announced the modernisation of four railway stations in Tripura - Agartala, Udaipur, Dharmnagar and Kumarghat - over the next two years.

He hailed the BJP-led government for its "big push" in digitisation in the administration.

"Tripura has embraced digitisation with 29 lakh government files being digitised," Nadda said.

Noting that the PM has

Govt determined to remove every barrier in progress of youths: Yogi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MEERUT: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday asserted that the government is determined to remove every barrier in the progress of youths.

he said, adding a new Uttar Pradesh is becoming the base of a New India.

He said the young population's youthful energy will provide strength to make Uttar Pradesh a USD 1 trillion economy. This will also pave the way for India to become a USD 5 trillion economy, he said.

Adityanath said that in the first phase of the scheme, interest-free loan up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided, the interest for which will be borne by the government. Special provisions have been made in the scheme for Scheduled Castes, Tribal people and women.

He said Western Uttar Pradesh will not be allowed to lag behind in the state's journey to development, and assured the youths that the government will remove every barrier that impedes their progress.

Referring to the recently concluded Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, the chief minister said 66.30 crore devotees experienced the festival with safety and devotion.

Talking about the plan to extend the Ganga Expressway to Haridwar, he said that it will connect the two Kumbh cities.

Travel has become easier with the launch of the country's first rapid rail between Delhi and Meerut, he said, and claimed that now there is no law and order problem in the state

and every daughter, businessman and youth are safe.

The chief minister also listed the achievements of the "double engine" government in its eight-year-term.

He said that by reviving the MSME sector, Uttar Pradesh has become the number one state in the country with 96 lakh units. Products worth Rs 2.25 lakh crores are being exported. As a result, unemployment rate has come down and 6 crore people have come out of the poverty line, according to the statement.

Before the programme, the chief minister visited an exhibition by the youths who have started their businesses under the scheme. Youths from Meerut, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Saharanpur and Shamli participated in the exhibition.

State ministers Rakesh Sachan, Somendra Tomar, Dinesh Khatik, Rajya Sabha MP Laxmikant Bajpai, Lok Sabha MPs Arun Govil (Meerut) and Rajkumar Sangwan (Baghpat) and others participated in the programme, the Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement.

Earlier, the chief minister inspected the construction work of Major Dhyanchand Sports University and said it will be dedicated to the nation by October-November.

In ChatGPT era, a 100-page handwritten Budget by Chhattisgarh FM OP Choudhary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAIPUR: In an age where even court rulings are drafted using AI-powered chatbots, Chhattisgarh's Finance Minister OP Choudhary showcased his personal dedication by presenting a 100-page handwritten budget in Hindi, reflecting his hands-on approach and commitment to the budget preparation process.

Asked how long it took to write the entire document, he said the Budget had been in the works for 5-6 months but the actual writing on the components of the Budget started about a week or 10 days before the presentation.

"I literally didn't sleep for four nights (prior to the Budget presentation). I hardly slept 1-1.5 hours in those four nights. And this is when I wrote the Budget," he said.

The act, he said, about his personal involvement and commitment to the state's finances.

This is perhaps the first time a finance minister has presented a handwritten annual budget in the assembly.

His act is being seen as an expression of care and attention to detail in crafting the budget. The personal touch added a special significance to the financial planning for the state and emphasised the transparency and the minister's approach to handling the state's finances with direct engagement.

"The handwritten budget symbolises authenticity and transparency in governance," the minister said.

The Rs 1,65,100 crore budget lays a roadmap for the rapid economic advancement of the state, with a special focus on the development of Leftwing extremism-hit Bastar.

Over 60 initiatives taken by cooperation ministry so far: Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the future of cooperatives is bright under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and more than 60 initiatives have been rolled out by his ministry since its formation.

Addressing the 'Swarnim Shatabdi Samapan Mahotsav' (golden centenary closing ceremony) of the Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank, Shah called ADC a big bank for small people that has worked to bring prosperity in the lives of lakhs of farmers and cattle rearers for generations.

"Since (Modi set up the Cooperation Ministry), it has taken more than 60 initiatives. We have ensured the registration of 2 lakh primary cooperative societies in 5 years, including the service cooperative societies and primary milk producers cooperative societies, which are the foundations of the cooperative movement," Shah said. The future of cooperatives is bright under PM Modi's leadership, he said. There should not be a single panchayat in the country without a primary service cooperative society or primary milk-producing society.

By introducing many model by-laws into society constitutions, they have been associated with several new works, he said.



Shah said such a cooperative society can also open an affordable medicine shop, and a quota has been given to them for petrol pumps and gas distribution services. They also get priority in the distribution of subsidised grains, said the minister. "They can also build godowns and undertake water supply projects. Until the cooperative society is strong, the (cooperative) bank cannot be strong. And until the bank is strong, the dairy sector of the district or state cannot thrive..." he said.

Three national cooperative societies, one each for quality seeds, exports and organic farming, have been registered and the mandals (local cooperatives) are now linked with them, he said.

Out of the country's 260 district cooperative banks, ADC Bank is the only one with 100 per cent e-banking facility as per the RBI guidelines,

Shah said. "The bank has earned the trust of numerous account holders. It has passed through difficult times, but whoever led it worked to run it in the best manner, which is why we can dream of another 100 years of the bank," he said.

Shah recalled that when he was elected as the bank's chairman 25 years ago, doubts were raised over its survival. He had assured that within one year the bank would make profits and distribute dividends. The then chairman had doubts, but the bank started making profits in just one year and even distributed dividends, he said.

"The bank did not look back and reported Rs 100 crore profit last year. Today it has zero NPA (non-performing assets). It's a matter of pride for all of us," Shah said.

Earlier in the day, the Union minister released 24 books reprinted by Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at the 'Akhand Anandotsav' organised by the trust in Ahmedabad.

He said it is the responsibility of the fans and linguists of the Gujarati language to preserve and enhance the literary heritage given by many Gujarati writers like Govardhanram Tripathi, Mahatma Gandhi, Narmad, Kakasaheb

Kalelkar, Narsinh Mehta, and Sundaram.

The Union minister said that to promote reading in Gujarat, Modi as the then chief minister of the state had launched the 'Vanche Gujarat' campaign.

He said reading can direct thoughts on the right path. If a child or student develops the habit of reading from a young age and maintains it even amid the attraction of the internet, he will survive in any difficult situation or overcome any obstacle that comes in life, Shah said. "The Sastu Sahitya Mudranalaya Trust is not only a printing press but also an institution that keeps our education and literature alive and is our unique heritage," said CM Patel.

He said that the institution, established in 1907, has been guiding and inspiring society for more than a century through the light of language, literature and education.

He said the government has ensured that reading enthusiasts get excellent library facilities in every taluka of the state. In this year's budget, Rs 16 crore has been earmarked to start new libraries in 71 taluka headquarters and to develop e-library facilities in 53 tribal area libraries, he said. Shah also unveiled a commemorative coin to honour the 150th birth anniversary of the revered Jain Acharya, Shrimad Buddhisagar Surishwarji Maharaj.

I remember 2017 very closely, couldn't finish that time: Hardik after 2025 triumph

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DUBAI: As his teammates basked in the glory of India's success in the Champions Trophy here on Sunday, star all-rounder Hardik Pandya remembered the heartbreak in the 2017 edition of the tournament.

Back then India had lost to traditional rivals Pakistan in the final in England, where Hardik was part of the team.

"Always amazing to win an ICC event. I remember 2017 very closely, couldn't finish that time. Very pleased to have done it here," Hardik, who contributed significantly to India's title triumph on Sunday, told the official broadcaster.

Hardik was the lone ranger for India in the 2017 final as he smashed a 43-ball 76, but the knock could not prevent his team from suffering a heavy defeat.

Set a target of 252 by New Zealand, India completed the task with four wickets and six balls to spare to win their third Champions Trophy title, after 2002 and 2013.

The all-rounder was also full of praise for KL Rahul, another contributor to the team's triumphal march and who made an unbeaten 34 in the final.

"KL was calm, he took his chances at the right time. He has immense talent, no one can time it as well as him."

India pegged as No 1 source market for London's ambitious new 'Growth Plan'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LONDON: The UK's capital city has unveiled an ambitious new 'Growth Plan' to provide an estimated 27 billion pounds extra tax revenue to fund vital public services in London and across the country, with India pegged as its number one source market in terms of foreign direct investment.

The plan, unveiled recently by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan along with growth agency London & Partners, aims to restore productivity growth to an average of 2 per cent a year in the next decade, which is hoped would make London's economy 107 billion pounds larger by 2035.

India has been on a growth curve for the last three years, overtaking the US as London's single-largest FDI source market in 2022-23 and continuing through 2023-24.

"Foreign direct investment from India has been the fastest growing and has been our number one market for the last two years," said Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners.

"So, it's Indian tech companies setting up operations in London. Equally, if we look at it as a student

market, post-Brexit, India has really rapidly grown as a student market. It's now the number two source market for London after China. It's also a fast-growing tourism market for London; India is just a really critical, top market for London," she said.

According to official data for 2023-24, London played host to 38,625 Indian students, reflecting a steep growth curve over the past 10 years with the country's share of all international students in London increasing from under 5 per cent to over 20 per cent.

"It is positive that London's quantity of Indian students has increased in the past decade, with Indian students now accounting for over 20 per cent of international students enrolled at a London university," said Mark Hertliem, Head of Global Engagement at City St George's University and Chair of the International Network at London Higher, the city's advocate for higher education.

"At City St George's the number of Indian students joining us has doubled over recent years... They become lifelong ambassadors of our capital city and create lasting and powerful

bridges between our nations," he said.

Ashish Devalekar, Executive Vice President and Head of Europe at Indian IT major Mphasis, hailed London's attractiveness as an innovation powerhouse and a global hub for world-leading businesses and talent.

"At Mphasis, we have steadily expanded our presence in the region over the past years, and we are now on the trajectory to double the headcount through our London Innovation Hub which we opened late last year," said Devalekar.

"This centre is a testimony to our commitment to the UK and its vibrant tech scene and will be a focal point for developing next-generation solutions in AI, quantum computing, and beyond," he said.

Developed with London & Partners in collaboration with businesses, trade unions and London's communities, the London 'Growth Plan' sets out a blueprint to kickstart the capital's productivity, which has flatlined since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Key drivers to deliver the plan's growth ambitions include a renewed focus on nurturing world-class talent, helping Londoners get

the skills they need for productive careers, backing business innovation with new investment and technology, taking a bolder approach to housing and infrastructure, and reinvigorating the city's local high streets.

"This growth plan provides a golden opportunity to turbocharge growth and unlock London's full potential - for the benefit of all Londoners and the whole country," said Sadiq Khan.

"It's a blueprint for how we can help to create 150,000 good jobs, build more affordable homes, deliver major new transport upgrades and skill up Londoners for the well-paid jobs of tomorrow. From AI, life sciences and climate tech to our financial and creative industries, London is home to many of the best businesses in the world, which we want to back to grow and thrive over the next decade," he said. The plan aims to achieve a 20 per cent rise in the household weekly income of the lowest earning 20 per cent of Londoners - which would mean more than a million London households would have an extra 50 pounds to spend each week, on average, after paying for housing costs.

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For Any Query Contact :

01912566108, 01912543633. Timings: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.