


NaMo 25 · #25YearsofSeva

FROM THE RAMPARTS OF THE RED FORT · 15 AUGUST 2018

72nd Independence Day

“We are not given to drawing lines on butter; we are people whose nature is to draw lines on stone.” — Prime Minister, Red Fort, 15 August 2018

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ACCOUNT FROM THE RED FORT India, the world's sixth-largest economy; direct taxpayers up from 4 crore to six and three-quarters crore; Common Service Centres in 3 lakh villages.

- **Ayushman Bharat — Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** — from 25 September 2018 (Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary) — health cover of ₹5 lakh per year for 10 crore families.
TODAY More than 60 crore beneficiaries; 12.69 crore hospital admissions; more than ₹1.25 lakh crore saved in out-of-pocket expenditure by families.
- **Permanent Commission for Women Officers** — permanent commission for women officers of the Short Service Commission, on a par with their male counterparts — “I announce today”.
TODAY Implemented in all ten branches of the Army from 2020 (order of 23 July 2020); Sainik Schools open to girls from 2021 and the National Defence Academy from 2022.
- **First Agriculture Export Policy** — “Let the country's farmers stand strong in the world market” — policy approved in December 2018.
TODAY Account in the 15 August 2025 address: exports of agricultural products at ₹4 lakh crore.
- **Gaganyaan** — “Before 75 years of Independence”, a child of India in space carrying the Tricolour.
TODAY 25 June – 15 July 2025: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla ji, the first Indian on the space station; Gaganyaan and our own space station — the next resolve in the 2025 address.
- **One and a Half Times the Cost as the Minimum Support Price (MSP)** — “The decision was taken with courage” — a demand pending for years.
TODAY Wheat from ₹1,400 to ₹2,585 and paddy from ₹1,310 to ₹2,441 per quintal (2026-27).
- **Constitutional Status for the Backward Classes Commission** — 102nd Constitutional Amendment, August 2018 — “a constitutional arrangement for the protection of rights”.
TODAY The National Commission for Backward Classes is a constitutional body; 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections has also been in force since 2019.