

# **Bharatiya Janata Party**

**(Central Office)**

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## **Salient Points of Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah's Address at the Massive Public Gathering in Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra**

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- \* From space to cooperatives and from farmers to startups, Modi Ji's 12 years have ushered in new achievements in every sphere.**
- \* These 12 years of Modi Ji are only the beginning; the BJP and NDA alone will fulfill the resolve of a Viksit Bharat.**
- \* Congress waived farm loans worth ₹60,000 crore in 10 years, while Modi Ji transferred ₹4.28 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts in 12 years.**
  - \* Abrogation of Article 370, construction of the Ram Temple, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, Mahakal Lok, and the rejuvenation of Somnath — Modi Ji has completed one after another the tasks that had remained pending for decades.**
  - \* Modi Ji has studded India with infrastructural marvels by building the Sela Tunnel at 13,000 feet, the Atal Tunnel at 10,000 feet, Atal Setu Mumbai, the Ganga Expressway, the Bullet Train, and the Vadhavan Port**
- \* Sugarcane farmers had been demanding relief since 2016; Modi Ji revitalized the sugar cooperative sector by granting tax relief worth ₹46,000 crore in a single decision.**
- \* New cooperative industrial projects in Maharashtra are set to integrate sugar mills with the value-added economy.**
  - \* When sugar mills faced severe challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, Modi Ji protected the cooperative sector by providing ₹10,000 crore through NCDC exclusively to mills in Maharashtra.**

Union Home Minister & Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, while addressing a massive public gathering in Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra, on Saturday, stated that the twelve-year tenure of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji would be recorded as a golden chapter in India's democratic history. Modi Government has taken decisive steps against terrorism through measures such as surgical strikes, air strikes, and Operation Sindoor, modernized the armed forces, abrogated Article 370, and accomplished major initiatives including the construction of the Ram Mandir, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, Mahakal Lok, and several large-scale infrastructure projects. Shri Shah also highlighted major decisions taken by the government in the fields of cooperation, farmer welfare, sugar mills, and the strengthening of Maharashtra's cooperative industry. Union Home Minister accused the Congress Party of neglecting farmers and the cooperative sector and asserted that BJP alone would fulfil the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The event was attended by Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde, Maharashtra BJP State President Shri Ravindra Chavan, Cabinet Ministers Shri Chandrakant Dada Patil, Shri Ashish Shelar, and Shri Hasan Mushrif, along with several other senior leaders.

Shri Amit Shah stated that a major event in the democratic history of India has taken place recently. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has surpassed the record for the longest tenure as Prime Minister of the country. In the history of democratically elected Prime Ministers, Shri Narendra Modi ji has set a new record by serving for more than twelve years, the longest tenure held by any Prime Minister. Whenever the history of independent India is written, the past twelve years will be remembered for several landmark developments and historic achievements. Twelve years ago, India had a government during whose tenure the country witnessed repeated bomb blasts and terrorist attacks, yet the then Prime Minister remained silent and did not utter a word. In 2014, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji assumed office and a BJP government was formed. Subsequently, there were terrorist attacks in Uri, Pulwama, and Pahalgam. In response, India carried out surgical strikes, air strikes, and ultimately launched Operation Sindoor, taking decisive action against terrorism by striking inside Pakistan. India demonstrated before the entire world its Himalayan Pledge to protect its citizens and safeguard its borders.

The Union Home Minister noted that it was during the tenure of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that India's armed forces underwent significant modernization. There was a time when the country was unable to manufacture even a single bullet, but today India stands before the world as an Atmanirbhar Bharat, producing advanced missiles and defence equipment. It was under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that India's security agencies established complete dominance over terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, peace was restored in the North-East, and the five-decade-old challenge of Naxalism has gradually become a thing of the past, making the country virtually free from Naxal violence. Peace has been established from Ladakh to Lakshadweep and from the North-East to Punjab. A new era of innovation and research has emerged, spanning from agriculture to science. Efforts have been made to expand opportunities ranging from Self-Help Groups and women's committees in villages to start-ups. Shri Narendra Modi ji is the only Prime Minister who has focused equally on strengthening the cooperative sector and achieving milestones in space exploration. Through the cooperative movement, he addressed the concerns of farmers and livestock rearers, while in the field of space, where India had once lagged behind, Chandrayaan reached the Moon's south pole during his tenure.

Shri Shah asserted that it was under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that Article 370, which had remained a long-pending and contentious issue for decades, was abrogated. The construction of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, was also accomplished. The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, which had been destroyed by Aurangzeb, was rebuilt; the Mahakal Lok Corridor project was developed; and efforts have also been undertaken to adorn the Somnath Temple in gold. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji established India's position on the global platform making the world listen to India. Today, in the field of infrastructure, engineering marvels such as the Sela Tunnel at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the Atal Tunnel at 10,000 feet, the

Atal Setu in Mumbai, the country's longest sea bridge and the Bhupen Hazarika Setu over the Lohit River in Assam stand as remarkable achievements. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, major infrastructure projects such as the 594-kilometre-long Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, the 700-kilometre-long Bundelkhand and Purvanchal Expressways, the Mumbai Coastal Road, the Bullet Train project, Greenfield Airports, and the development of the Vadhvan Port, one of the largest ports in the country, have been undertaken and advanced.

The senior BJP leader mentioned that without the sugar mills of Kolhapur and Western Maharashtra, the entire country would not be able to enjoy sugar as it does today. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has undertaken numerous initiatives for cooperative sugar mills during his tenure, and that Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis had extended full support to these efforts. However, he questioned what the Congress Party had done for the sector and asked what contribution had been made by those leaders from the region who had long been associated with the cooperative movement. The Congress Party would have to answer these questions. Shri Shah further stated that since 2016, sugarcane farmers across the country had been demanding that the profits earned by sugarcane and sugar factories should not be subjected to taxation. No previous government had acted on this demand, but Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, in a single decision, waived income tax liabilities amounting to ₹46,000 crore, thereby giving a new lease of life to sugar mills. When sugar mills across the country were facing severe financial difficulties in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji took a decisive step and facilitated loans exceeding ₹10,000 crore exclusively for Maharashtra's sugar mills through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Shri Amit Shah stated that among Maharashtra's cooperative sugar mills, there are several that are not in a position to produce Compressed Biogas, or undertake advanced chemical processing to manufacture products such as citric acid. Keeping this challenge in mind, the Government of India has decided to establish a cooperative processing plant in Kolhapur district of Western Maharashtra at a cost of ₹1,500 crore. The facility will manufacture all these value-added products on behalf of cooperative sugar mills and channel the resulting profits back to the sugar mills themselves. As soon as his proposal reached Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, approval was granted through a single phone call. As a result, the plant is scheduled to be established in Kolhapur within the next three months. Similarly, the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative in Pune will also be revived through an investment of ₹1,500 crore. This facility will supply equipment and services to sugar mills across India and around the world. It will manufacture dairy-processing plants, and facilities for producing citric acid and CBG gas from cattle dung or molasses. Shri Shah emphasized that the entire profit generated from the manufacture of these plants and facilities will also be redirected back to Maharashtra's sugar mills. Both of these projects are expected to provide tremendous strength to Maharashtra's cooperative industry in the years to come and significantly enhance the capabilities and sustainability of the cooperative sector.

The Union Home Minister noted that the Congress Party had never genuinely cared about farmers. Referring to statements often made by Rahul Gandhi, Shri Shah remarked that even today Rahul Gandhi claims, "We waived farmers' loans." Shri Shah challenged Rahul Gandhi to

tell the farmers of the country exactly how much farm debt was waived during the Congress-led government's tenure. Congress government waived loans worth ₹60,000 crore over a period of ten years, whereas under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, a total of ₹4,28,000 crore has been directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers through 22 installments over the past twelve years. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji deposits ₹6,000 annually into the accounts of farmers, irrespective of whether they have taken a loan or not. By establishing the Ministry of Cooperation and giving renewed impetus to the dairy sector, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has once again firmly reinforced the role of the cooperative movement in India's rural development. BJP's message to the people is simple: they should elect governments that genuinely care for them and continue working tirelessly for their development throughout their five-year term. Referring to Ichalkaranji, he noted that the people of the region have given opportunities to the NDA at every level, whether in the Legislative Assembly, Parliament, or local corporations. Therefore, the people of Ichalkaranji have a rightful claim on both the Maharashtra Government and the Government of India.

Shri Shah asserted that the twelve years of the Modi Government is only the beginning, and that BJP and NDA will continue to govern for many years to come. The vision put forward by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji of transforming India into a fully developed nation by 2047 will be realized only by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Shri Shah further noted that Shri Dada Awhad has set a strong example before the entire nation through his long-standing service to the cooperative sector, and therefore deserves the highest respect and gratitude. He assured the gathering that when Dada completes 100 years of age, he would certainly be present to participate in the celebrations. Shri Shah once again expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people of Ichalkaranji. Although the event was intended to be a relatively small programme marking the fresh beginning of a cooperative factory in Dada's name, an exceptionally large number of people had attended, demonstrating their affection, enthusiasm, and commitment to the cooperative movement.

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