

Highlights of the President's Address, 2025

The President of India, Ms. Droupadi Murmu, addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on January 31, 2025. She outlined the major policy achievements and objectives of the government in her address. Key highlights of the address include:

Governance

- Government has repealed more than 1,500 obsolete laws. Over 40,000 regulations have been simplified or reduced and 3,500 provisions have been decriminalised.
- In the past two years, the government has provided 10 lakh permanent government jobs.
- The Eighth Pay Commission has been constituted. It will substantially increase salary for government employees in the coming years.
- Under the Unified Pension Scheme, 50% assured pension will be provided to lakhs of employees.
- Tax-related processes have been simplified. Faceless assessment is increasing transparency and reducing tax disputes.

Agriculture

- Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, Rs 41,000 crore has been disbursed to crores of farmers in recent months.
- MSPs for Kharif and Rabi crops have increased. Over the past decade, procurement of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains has tripled.
- In 2023-24, India achieved a record production of 332 million tons of foodgrains. India is now the largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices.
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme has been expanded to strengthen agricultural infrastructure.
- To enhance oilseed production and achieve self-reliance in edible oils, National Mission on Oilseeds has been approved.

Industry and Commerce

- The loan limit under the MUDRA scheme has been increased from Rs 10 lakh to 20 lakhs. India now has over 1.5 lakh start-ups.
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs and e-commerce export hubs will promote industries.
- Rs 28,000 crore will be invested to establish 12 industrial nodes and build 100 industrial parks near cities across the country.
- Initiatives like Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Startup India, Stand-Up India, and Digital India have created numerous employment opportunities for the youth.

- More than 50% of the world's real-time digital transactions now take place in India.

Education and Sports

- The PM Vidyalakshmi scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance to meritorious students for higher education.
- One crore youth will be given internship opportunities in the top 500 companies.
- To promote research in educational institutions, the National Research Foundation has been established with an outlay of Rs 50,000 crore.
- The One Nation-One Subscription Scheme has been introduced to strengthen ease of doing research. It offers free access to international research material.
- The Khelo India Scheme, the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the National Sports University are contributing to creating a world-class sports ecosystem.
- To enhance skills and create new opportunities for the youth, government has approved a two lakh crore rupees package.

Health

- Maternal and infant mortality rates have improved. Cases of TB have reduced.
- Under Ayushman Bharat, six crore senior citizens aged 70 years and above will receive health insurance cover of five lakh rupees annually.
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras, offering medicines at 80% concessional rates, have led to savings of over Rs 30,000 crore.
- 1,75,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country, to ensure that better healthcare services reach citizens.
- Due to the rising number of cancer patients and high cost of treatment, several cancer drugs have been exempted from customs duty.
- 75,000 new seats in medical colleges will be created over the next five years.

Social Justice

- Provision of toilets, water connections and ration has led to 25 crore people overcoming poverty.
- PM-Suraj Yojana has been expanded to provide easy loans to the backward sections of society and sanitation workers.
- Over one crore Divyang ID cards have been issued, to ensure better access of government schemes to differently abled individuals.

- The Aspirational Districts Programme will improve health, agriculture, nutrition, and education in the country's most backward areas.
- The Dharti Aaba Tribal Village Utkarsh campaign has been launched with an outlay of Rs 80,000 crore to uplift five crore people from tribal communities.
- Nearly 1.25 lakh tribal children are receiving quality education at more than 470 Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- Around five crore tribal persons have been screened for sickle-cell anaemia.

Women empowerment

- Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, more than 91 lakh self-help groups are being empowered, connecting over 10 crore women. They have received over nine lakh crore rupees through bank linkages.
- Krishi Sakhis are promoting natural farming, and Pashu Sakhis are strengthening our livestock resources. About one crore Lakhpati didis are supporting their families as entrepreneurs.

Rural and Urban Development

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been extended to provide homes to three crore more families.
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV will provide road connectivity to 25,000 habitations.
- Under the SVAMITVA scheme, two crore property cards have been issued.

Infrastructure and Transport

- The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan has accelerated pace of project completion.
- The country's airline companies have placed orders for more than 1,700 new aircrafts. Government is expanding airports to operate this fleet. Over the past decade, the number of airports in the country has doubled.
- Government plans to deploy 52,000 electric buses in the country, at an estimated cost of 8,000 crore rupees, to provide clean urban transportation.
- India's metro network covers more than 1,000 km and is the third largest in the world.

Water, Environment and Energy

- Ongoing river linking projects will address irrigation and drinking water needs in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Government has taken several steps towards achieving the target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030.
- Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, rooftop solar systems are being installed at a cost of Rs 75,000 crore.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission will have an investment of eight lakh crore rupees and generate over six lakh jobs.
- Government has introduced the Vehicle Scrapping Policy to ensure scientific disposal of old vehicles.

Science and Technology

- A venture capital fund of Rs 1,000 crore has been launched to boost the space sector.
- India has risen to second place in the QS World Future Skills Index. Its rank in the Global Innovation Index has improved from 76 to 39.
- Rs 10,000 crore is being invested to foster innovation in science and technology under the Vigyan Dhara Yojana.
- The BioE3 Policy has been introduced to boost bio-manufacturing. The bio-economy will focus on efficient use of natural resources.
- The National Quantum Mission aims to position India among the leading nations in the field of frontier technology.
- The National AI mission has elevated India's contribution to the field of artificial intelligence.

Defence and Home Affairs

- Self-reliance in defence is being strengthened by establishing the Defence Industrial Corridor and promoting defence start-ups.
- Roads and tunnel connecting border areas are enhancing defence capabilities.
- The number of districts affected by Left-wing Extremism has reduced from 126 to 38.
- A comprehensive development plan is being created for the eastern states. This will create new employment opportunities.

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