

Shri George Kurian Highlights 11 Years of Transformational Development in Lakshadweep Under PM Modi

Lakshadweep Witnesses Unprecedented Progress in Fisheries, Education, and Infrastructure: Shri George Kurian

From Islands to Nation-Building: Lakshadweep's Growth Reflects Modi Government's Sankalp Se Siddhi Vision

Posted On: 10 JUN 2025 8:05PM by PIB Thiruvananthpuram



Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri George Kurian** highlighted the transformative developmental strides made under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** over the past 11 years while addressing a press conference at Kavaratti Island, UT of Lakshadweep.

Shri Kurian said that the Modi Government's tenure is being written in golden letters in the annals of India's history, marking a golden era of "**Sankalp Se Siddhi**" towards a **Developed and Self-Reliant India**. He emphasised that this journey of transformation has been made possible through the collective efforts, dreams, and determination of 140 crore Indians, steered by the Prime Minister's resolute vision.

Fisheries: Backbone of Lakshadweep's Economy

Recognizing fisheries as a vital sector and lifeline for Lakshadweep, Shri Kurian shared that the UT's waters hold an **annual fish catch potential of 1 lakh MT**. Further, the Centre has approved Rs. 14.06 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep has been designated as a Seaweed Cluster also.

Education and Healthcare: Foundations of Social Welfare

The Minister commended the **91.65% literacy rate** in Lakshadweep and the **zero school dropout rate**. Eleven schools have been selected under the **PM SHRI** scheme, with high-speed internet, computer labs, and digital libraries enhancing learning experiences.

In the healthcare sector:

- **Three 30-bedded hospitals** are being constructed in Minicoy, Androth, and Kadmat at a cost of 231.96 crore.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has accorded in-principle approval for a **Nursing and Paramedical College** project worth 127 crore.

Modern Infrastructure: Ports, Jetties and Roads

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) has undertaken major infrastructure upgrades:

- Development of **eastern and western jetties** in Kadmat and Kalpeni, and new port facilities in Androth worth 1,664.88 crore.
- Proposals under examination for **Beachfront development including roads and protection walls** in Agatti, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, and Minicoy at a cost of 2,128.86 crore.

Eco-Tourism and Green Energy

Eco-tourism is getting a major boost with three **Water Villa Projects** being developed in Minicoy, Kadmat, and Suheli, in consultation with **NITI Aayog**, with a combined investment of 810 crore. Weekly **cruise liner operations** are also underway, connecting Mumbai, Kochi, Agatti, and Thinnakara.

To reduce dependence on diesel, Lakshadweep is transitioning to **renewable energy**:

- MoU signed with **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**.
- **Rooftop solar systems** installed in over 450 homes.
- **Solar plants commissioned** in Agatti (0.3 MW) and Kavaratti (1.4 MW).

Water Security and Basic Amenities

To ensure access to drinking water:

- **1.5 lakh litre/day Desalination Plants** have been established in six islands.
- Under **Jal Jeevan Mission**, 268.81 crore has been allocated to provide **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** across all islands.
- All households now have piped water connections.

National Achievements Under PM Modi's Leadership

Shri Kurian reiterated the national progress made during the **Amrit Kaal**, including:

- **Operation Sindoor** reflecting India's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism.
 - Defense modernization with **S-400 systems, BrahMos, Akash missiles, Tejas jets**, and **INS Vikrant**.
 - Defense exports surged **34-fold to 23,622 crore**.
 - Social schemes like **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM Awas Yojana** (4 crore houses), and **Jal Jeevan Mission** (15 crore households covered).
 - India is on track to become the **4th largest economy**.
 - **UPI** now accounts for **83% of digital payments**, contributing to 24 lakh crore in digital transactions in 2024.
 - **Ease of Doing Business** rank improved from **142 to 63** in
 - Over **1.8 lakh new companies** registered in 2023–24.
 - **MSMEs** received **2.39 lakh crore** in emergency credit.
 - **Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge**, symbolizes India's commitment to modern infrastructure.
 - **7,600 crore investment in the Vadhavan Port** and the development of vertical lift sea bridges.
- Empowering Women: Nari Shakti Rising**

The **Nari Shakti Vandan Act** guarantees **33% reservation for women** in legislatures. Other initiatives like **MUDRA Yojana, Maternity Benefit Scheme**, and 90 lakh self-help groups are transforming the lives of Indian women. Women are now permanently serving in the armed forces, including on the **Line of Control**, and leading in fields like **STEM and aviation**.

A New Era of Possibilities

Shri Kurian concluded:

“Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai is not just a slogan — it's a proven reality. Politics is no longer about promises, but performance.”

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(Release ID: 2135494)