



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation, highlights youth's potential and India's sporting ambitions, announces nationwide talent hunt for 2036 Olympics

“Bharat's performance is steadily improving, and we are moving forward as strong contenders to host the 2036 Olympics,” said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“A Nasha Mukh Bharat must be a collective responsibility for all of us,” PM Modi

Bharat to launch talent-hunt campaign for children aged 5-15 to identify future Olympic stars, says PM Modi.

“The greatest beneficiary of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ will be the youth of my country,” said PM Modi.

“We have decided to provide free online coaching for young people preparing for various examinations,” PM Modi

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 15 AUG 2026 4:22PM by PIB Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 80th Independence Day and underscored the central role of sports and youth in India's journey towards a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

The Prime Minister pointed to advances across the sporting ecosystem, stating: "The TOPS scheme has achieved tremendous success. Khelo India Games, University Games, Winter Games, Beach Games, sports infrastructure, coaching for sports, sports medicine and sports nutrition, Bharat is moving forward towards achieving excellence in all these areas. For young people, even if they are unable to become athletes themselves, a vast new field of opportunities is opening up within the support system around sports."

A memorable Independence Day at the Red Fort! This day reminds us of the courage and sacrifice of those who gave us freedom. At the same time, it is a day to renew our commitment to building a Viksit Bharat.

May the Tricolour always inspire us to rise above every challenge,... pic.twitter.com/GMNW6nc1YD

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) August 15, 2026

Turning to jobs, the Prime Minister announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana, a scheme he said would benefit young people for years to come: "Today, on August 15th, we are launching and implementing a scheme worth Rs 1 lakh crore for the youth of my country. The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana is being implemented today on August 15th... Under this scheme, the government will give Rs. 15,000 to the youth, to every son or daughter who gets a job in the private sector. Companies which generate more opportunities for providing new employment will also be given incentives. Pradhan Mantri Vikas Bharat Rojgar Yojana will create new employment opportunities for approximately 3.5 crore youth."

The Prime Minister also outlined India's growing sporting ambitions on the world stage: "Bharat's performance in the world of sports is steadily improving, and we are moving forward as strong contenders to host the 2036 Olympics. Bharat is also going to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030."

'MY Bharat' द्वारा आयोजित 100 सप्ताह के नशामुक्त भारत अभियान का हिस्सा बनें और युवा पीढ़ी का भविष्य सुरक्षित करें।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी#IndependenceDay pic.twitter.com/8ZphshSeWp

— Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (@mansukhmandviya) August 15, 2026

He noted that the Olympic Games encompass roughly 40 sports and 325–350 events, and stressed the need for India to broaden its participation: "In nearly two-thirds of these 325 events, Bharat does not even participate. We are not present; we do not qualify. We have decided that we want the 2036 Olympics to be held in Bharat. Bharat must focus on these areas. We also want to launch a talent-hunt campaign."

"ओलंपिक के जिन खेलों में आज हमारी मौजूदगी नहीं है, 2036 तक हमें उनमें भी अपनी जगह बनानी है। इसके लिए देश भर में 'टैलेंट हंट' चलाकर नए खिलाड़ी तैयार किए जाएंगे।"

- माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी#IndependenceDay pic.twitter.com/mHC5HG5jy4

— Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (@mansukhmandviya) August 15, 2026

Prime Minister Modi linked this ambition to a long-term talent identification drive: "If we need athletes for 2036, we must focus today on these young boys and girls who are 5, 10 or 15 years old. We must pay attention to our daughters as well. A talent-hunt campaign will be conducted in villages, cities and schools across the country to identify sporting talent among children aged between 5 and 15."

Children identified through this campaign, he said, would have their abilities assessed and be given specialised training to help them develop into athletes capable of representing the country.

The Prime Minister also addressed the growing challenge of substance abuse among young people, calling for a united national response: "Drug abuse is becoming a major crisis for the country and its young people. A 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' must be a collective responsibility for all of us. For the sake of our bright future, our younger generation must be strong, and the strength of our youth must be harnessed for the progress of our country."

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji highlighted India's growing stature on the global sporting stage, in his #IndependenceDay speech to the Nation, today.#IndiaIndependenceDay pic.twitter.com/3LdUCanDqO

— Dept of Sports, Govt of India (@IndiaSports) August 15, 2026

Emphasising the importance of young people to India's development, the Prime Minister said: "If there is one, it is the youth of my country, the youth power of the country. The youth have a very important role to play in the journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat'."

He added: "Therefore, we must take forward the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by connecting it with the aspirations and participation of our youth. We must move forward with our youth as our highest priority."

"हम 2036 में ओलंपिक के मज़बूत दावेदार बनकर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं और 2030 में कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स को भारत होस्ट करने वाला है।"

- माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी#IndependenceDay pic.twitter.com/WP2xa09GM4

— Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (@mansukhmandviya) August 15, 2026

Highlighting the expansion of India's entrepreneurial landscape, the Prime Minister said: "Under the Startup India initiative, there are now more than 2.5 lakh registered startups across the country." Pointing to the Government's ₹1 lakh crore Innovation Fund, he encouraged young entrepreneurs, saying: "Come forward with your dreams; we will ensure that there is no shortage of resources."

Acknowledging the financial strain that coaching classes place on families, the Prime Minister announced a new initiative to provide free online coaching for students preparing for various examinations: "The pressure of coaching classes has become a major burden for our middle-class families." He added: "Therefore, we have decided to provide free online coaching for young people preparing for various examinations."

"विकसित भारत की यात्रा में युवाओं की बहुत बड़ी भूमिका है... विकसित भारत का सबसे बड़ा लाभार्थी भी मेरे देश का युवा है।"

- माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी#IndependenceDay pic.twitter.com/wApV4rE6BZ

— Dr Mansukh Mandaviya (@mansukhmandviya) August 15, 2026

Explaining how this would be implemented, he said: "We have the digital public infrastructure, we have excellent talent, and we have teachers. By bringing these resources together, we are going to build an extensive network to provide free coaching to the young people of the country."

Pawan Singh Faujdar/ Ayushman Kumar

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