



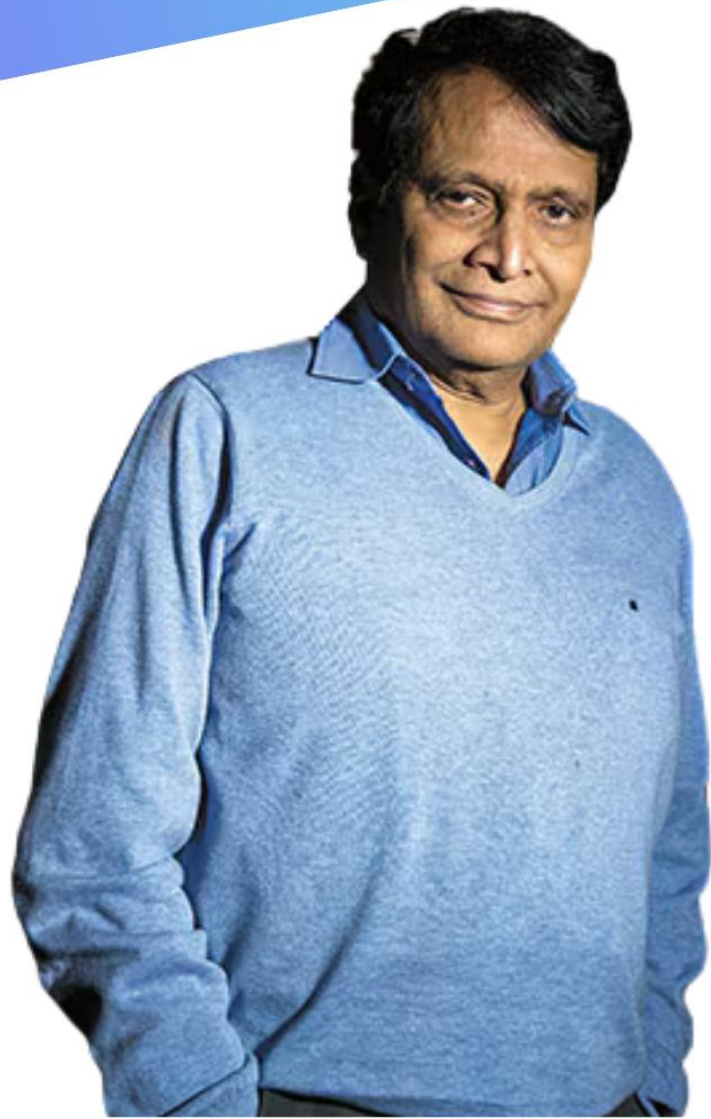
भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

SURESH PRABHU DIARY

Pages of Purpose:

Serving India,
Shaping the World

My Diary of Public Life



Former Union Minister
Chancellor, Rishihood University
Chairman, Indian Chamber of
Food and Agriculture (ICFA)

***This diary is more than words on paper—
it is a quiet record of a life devoted to the
service of people, policy, and progress.***

Every chapter within these pages holds a memory, a lesson, a heartbeat of my journey. From early days walking into Parliament with a sense of sacred responsibility, to drafting laws that would one day light up a child's home, to representing India on global stages where her voice needed to be heard—I have carried each moment with reverence and humility.

What you will find here are not just professional milestones, but deeply personal reflections. These are the moments that stirred my conscience, challenged my resolve, and shaped the man I am still becoming. The days when change seemed slow, and the days when hope felt heavier than words. The moments of gratitude, when I realized that even a small decision could change lives I may never meet.

I have never sought titles or recognition. What I have always sought is meaning. That each role I held—from Railway Bhavan to international forums—could touch lives, protect the vulnerable, and build something lasting.

This diary is a quiet offering. A way to remember, a way to remind, and above all—a way to continue.

***With gratitude to all who walked this path with me,
and to the country that continues to be my soul's greatest cause—
I remain, always, in her service.***

Chairman's Message



With increasing globalization, there are newer challenges emerging that need to be pro-actively addressed for India's food and agriculture sector to grow, engage, and compete globally and contribute towards global food and nutritional security. The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture is the apex policy think tank, trade facilitation body, and national resource center for the food and agriculture sector in India, serving as a global platform for partnerships. ICFA, through its outreach policy, business agenda, and global partnerships, is creating opportunities for growth, value addition, and trade to help improve the income of farmers. Through its various bodies and partnerships, ICFA seeks to represent the interests of all the stakeholders at the national level on the one hand and position India's food and agriculture sector globally on the other hand.

Besides trade and industry, ICFA focuses equally on farmers and agri-entrepreneurs, helping them connect with market opportunities while addressing their policy, technology, trade, marketing and financing related needs. One of the major issues facing the Indian food and agriculture sector is the issue of food safety, sustainability, and certification of GAP and quality standards of food, which impact Indian exports and consumer safety. ICFA has launched the Healthy Food Initiative, the Food and Nutrition Forum, and the Agriculture Sustainability Council to drive stewardship development. ICFA is also promoting investments, entrepreneurship, technologies, and farm services by forging partnerships with relevant institutions, and facilitating farmer producer organizations, and agri start-ups to accelerate growth and scale up, to help empower farmers.

As we witness the remarkable growth of agriculture worldwide, we are committed to expanding knowledge-sharing sessions and events in collaboration with governments and leading organizations across key countries. Our aim is to build stronger networks, particularly the ICFA District Agriculture Councils, and unlock further development potential in India's agricultural sector. The new leadership at ICFA is designed to cultivate productive partnerships with top stakeholders in agriculture across prominent nations. India stands to benefit significantly as we align our vision and goals in the months and years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Prabhu'.

Sh. Suresh Prabhu

Chairman, ICFA

Former Union Cabinet Minister

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Sh. Suresh Prabhu – Current Designations

Former Union Minister

Chancellor, Rishihood University

Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)

- **A Visionary Leader Bridging Policy, Education, and Agriculture**

Shri Suresh Prabhu is a distinguished Indian statesman whose career spans over three decades of transformative leadership. Renowned for his integrity, innovation, and commitment to inclusive growth, he has held ten key cabinet portfolios, including Railways, Commerce & Industry, Civil Aviation, Power, Environment & Forests, Chemicals & Fertilizers, and Industry.

As India's Sherpa to the G7 and G20 summits, Shri Prabhu has represented the nation on global platforms, contributing to shaping international economic policies.

- **Chancellor, Rishihood University**

In July 2020, Shri Prabhu took on the role of Founding Chancellor at Rishihood University, India's first impact-oriented university. Located in Sonapat, Haryana, the university aims to reimagine higher education by focusing on leadership, entrepreneurship, and societal impact. Under his guidance, Rishihood University emphasizes holistic development, encouraging students to become job creators and socially responsible citizens.

- **Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA)**

As Chairman of ICFA, Shri Prabhu leads initiatives to transform India's agricultural landscape. He advocates for policies that enhance farm income, productivity, and sustainability, addressing challenges posed by climate change and global market dynamics. His vision includes fostering innovation, stakeholder collaboration, and positioning India as a global leader in agriculture and food security.

Bloomberg Advisory Board: A New Platforms for Global Engagement

Date: 10 April, 2025

Location: New Delhi

Today marks a proud and humbling moment in my journey of public service. I have been appointed as a member of the Bloomberg New Economy Advisory Board, making me the only Indian representative on this esteemed global platform.

This board brings together some of the world's most influential minds—Gina Raimondo, Mario Draghi, Gita Gopinath, Kai-Fu Lee, and Joko Widodo—to shape the dialogue on pressing global economic challenges. To join them is both an honour and a responsibility.

Over the decades, I have had the privilege to serve India across multiple ministries—Commerce & Industry, Railways, Civil Aviation, and Environment—working toward sustainable growth, inclusive development, and a

globally connected India. This new role is a continuation of that mission, now with a wider canvas.

The board's focus on economic resilience, sustainability, inclusion, and global cooperation resonates deeply with my own values. I see this as a platform where Indian policy experience and vision can meaningfully contribute to the shaping of a better global future.

I'm particularly touched by the outpouring of support—from colleagues, friends, and fellow citizens. Vijay Darda's message reminded me how far we've come, and how much more we can do together.

I look forward to engaging in critical conversations at the upcoming Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Singapore this November, and to working collaboratively with thought leaders around the world.

This is not just a personal milestone—it is a step forward for India's voice in global policymaking.



Inauguration Ceremony of Center for Water Literacy

Date: May 2, 2025

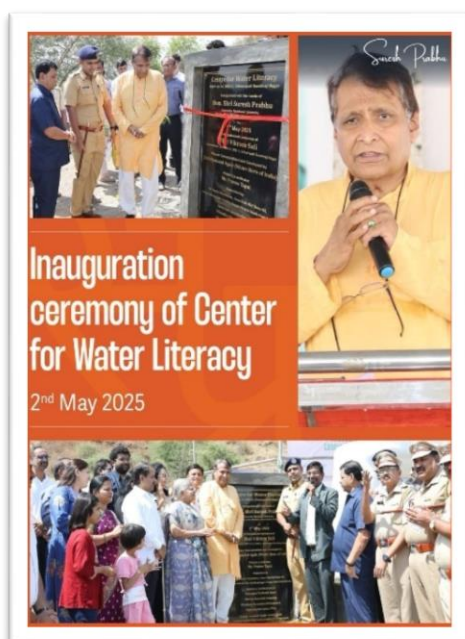
Location: SRPF Campus, Satara, Maharashtra

Today, on the observance of Vasundhara Day, I had the distinguished privilege of inaugurating the first Center for Water Literacy in India, an innovative endeavour conceptualized by Dr. Priyanand Agale under the aegis of the Eco Needs Foundation, in collaboration with the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) and Prayas Youth Foundation.

Water, the most elemental yet increasingly imperilled resource, has historically determined the fate of civilizations. Its scarcity today presents not just an ecological concern but a strategic imperative. The establishment of this center is a visionary response—one that seeks to institutionalize awareness and catalyse sustainable behaviour, particularly among our uniformed personnel who serve on the frontlines of both civic duty and climate vulnerability.

The initiative's gravitas was further accentuated by the solemn Vasundhara Oath undertaken by SRPF jawans—a symbolic yet powerful commitment to environmental custodianship. Their resolve underscored a crucial paradigm: that national security and ecological responsibility are not mutually exclusive but intrinsically interwoven.

I am profoundly moved by the collaborative spirit that brought this project to fruition. It is my earnest hope that this center becomes the progenitor of a nationwide movement, embedding water literacy into the fabric of civil and institutional consciousness.





Today's inauguration was not merely a ceremonial milestone—it was the commencement of an intellectual and ecological renaissance, rooted in responsibility, driven by foresight.

Empowering Future Leaders:

My Engagement with MNLU

Date: May 12, 2025

Location: Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai

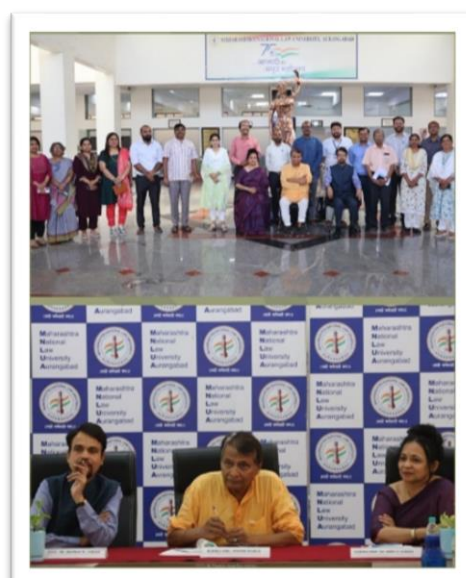
Today's visit to Maharashtra National Law University was both insightful and invigorating. The experience reaffirmed my belief in the transformative capacity of education to mould intellects and influence the course of our nation.

The reception extended by the esteemed faculty was heartwarming and reflective of the institution's ethos of intellectual openness and mutual respect. Our dialogues transcended the usual academic framework—delving into pertinent themes such as constitutional ethics, the jurisprudence surrounding emerging technologies, and the dynamic responsibilities of law in a digital era.

What impressed me most was the clarity of thought and earnest curiosity among the student community. Their ambitions are deeply intertwined with the vision of a progressive and equitable India. The inquiries they posed—thought-provoking yet grounded—gave me immense optimism for the future of our legal fraternity.

During my interaction, I emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary learning. Law cannot operate in silos—it must harmonize with economics, sustainability, governance, and innovation. India requires not merely legal practitioners, but legal architects who can envision and enable systemic change.

I convey my sincere appreciation to the university's leadership and academic members for their gracious hospitality and meaningful conversations. I left the campus feeling deeply inspired and more committed than ever to nurturing institutions that contribute to India's democratic and intellectual fabric



Old Age Homes are Need of an Hour:

Reviving Elder Homes

Date: May 3, 2025

Location: MIT Engineering College, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

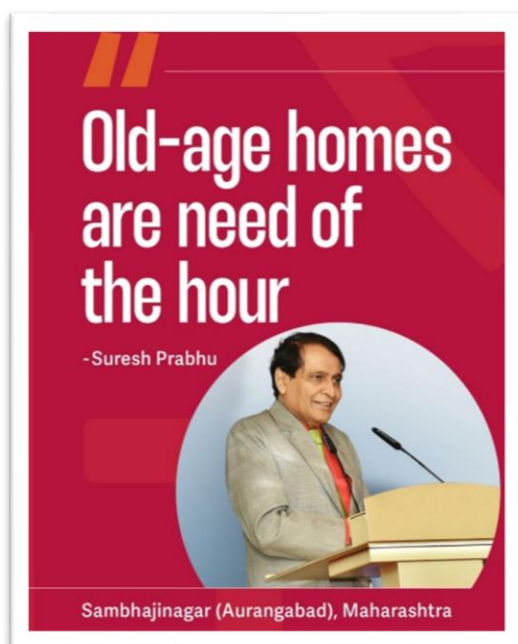
Another event, another podium—but this one left a deeper imprint.

The two-day national workshop on elderly care wasn't just another engagement. It touched a chord I've kept buried for too long. So many faces in that hall—professionals, caregivers, thinkers—each carrying a quiet urgency. We spoke of the elderly, but the real theme was dignity. Memory. Responsibility. Before the cameras rolled and the applause echoed, there were the hushed meetings backstage. I saw Dr. Narendra Vaidya pacing nervously with his notes, reciting under his breath. I recognized that look—it's the weight of wanting to do justice to the invisible struggles no one talks about. I've worn it myself.

The emotional heaviness surprised me. Talking about elder care always does. It brings back images of my own parents—how fiercely independent they were, how quietly they suffered the indignities of aging. I often wonder if I did enough.

Behind the curtain, there were hiccups. The AV system went down briefly right before the opening session. I saw a young volunteer nearly in tears as tech staff scrambled. We had to delay by 20 minutes. The audience was patient—but it shook the rhythm. I had to center myself again before walking out.

Interactions with the others were rich, if occasionally tense. Rajiv Natu's session on inheritance planning drew both praise and debate. Some thought it too clinical. Others, like Dr. Pandhare,



passionately argued that financial literacy must accompany empathy. I agreed with both—but stayed silent. Sometimes diplomacy means letting two truths coexist.

What wasn't visible to the audience was the slight disagreement during the panel planning. There was confusion about who would lead the dementia session. Some egos were bruised. I intervened quietly, suggested we let expertise—not hierarchy—guide the order. It worked, eventually.

Creatively, I felt restless. The speech I'd prepared felt too structured. I found myself veering off-script. Talking from the heart about how emotional well-being must be part of care, not just afterthought. I saw nods. Some eyes misted. Those moments remind me why I still do this.

But... it's never enough, **is it?**

The failure that won't make headlines: A proposed resolution—to create a cross-institutional support network for caregiver training—was quietly shelved. Not enough time. Not enough consensus. I'll take that burden with me. Someone has to. And yet, something shifted. I believe some minds were moved. Maybe some hearts opened.

It's not glamorous work, this. No spotlight, no breaking news. But it's the kind of work that matters when the lights go off and the world gets quiet.

I only hope the silence that awaits the elderly will be filled—with care, with memory, with love.



Save The Earth Conclave:

A Gathering for the Planet

Date: April 22, 2025

Location: Bharat Ratna Subramaniam Auditorium, NASA Complex PUSA I, New Delhi

The Save the Earth Conclave in New Delhi marked a powerful coming together of purpose and people. Organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), along with Phoenix



Foundation, Indian School of Business, and AARDO, the event brought together over 1400 delegates from 15 states — including policymakers, farmers, researchers, young minds, and changemakers — all united by a common resolve: to protect and preserve the planet we call home.

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari ji set the tone with a forward-looking message, highlighting bamboo as a nature-based solution to climate challenges. His call to integrate ecology and economy, and to mainstream bamboo in environmental policy, gave renewed direction to the climate dialogue in India.

The adoption of the 10-Point Delhi Declaration was a defining moment — an ambitious pledge to help green the Earth and collectively reduce global warming by 0.5% over the next decade. There was an atmosphere of sincerity in every panel, every conversation. It wasn't just about speeches; it was about shared vision and actionable steps.



For ICFA, this event was a moment of responsibility and pride. The Chamber's role in bringing together so many institutions, voices, and efforts into one national platform reaffirms our commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive future for agriculture and the environment.

Stepping into the conclave, I carried not just the responsibility of my role as Chairman of ICFA, but a deeper concern for the direction in which our world is headed. My remarks weren't from a position of title, but from conviction.

Bamboo has always held a special place in my vision for climate action. Its strength, speed of growth, low water need, and exceptional carbon sequestration ability make it a practical solution for modern sustainability challenges. But more than that, bamboo represents balance — it bends, it heals, it regenerates. It reflects the kind of relationship we must rebuild with nature.

The India Bamboo Forum, which I had the privilege to establish, wasn't formed for recognition. It was built from the belief that the bamboo sector needed clear direction, integration, and policy momentum. That vision is now beginning to take shape. I was proud to share that my home state, Maharashtra, has announced an investment of ₹74,300 crore toward bamboo development — a bold and necessary step that reflects true commitment.

As I looked around the hall — at young students full of curiosity, farmers with hopeful yet weathered expressions, and experienced leaders ready to act — I was reminded of the deeper meaning behind such events. This isn't about climate dialogue alone; it's about a moral choice, a civilizational turning point.

Sitting quietly at the end of the day, I felt a mixture of hope and weight. Not the weight of burden, but of purpose. If we continue walking this path together — informed by wisdom, grounded in nature, and united in intent — then this Earth Day will not remain a symbolic date. It will become the foundation of a better, more mindful future.



My BioAg Conversation

Date: March 29, 2025

Location: Delhi

Over the past three decades, I've been fortunate to serve India in different capacities—across ministries, regions, and sectors. Yet, what has remained constant through all those years is my deep commitment to rural development and agriculture.

This wasn't a decision—it was something I grew into. My earliest learnings came from home, from my mother, from watching how closely life was connected to nature, how human dignity often depended on the simplest of things—clean water, access to health care, the chance to learn a skill, or earn a living.

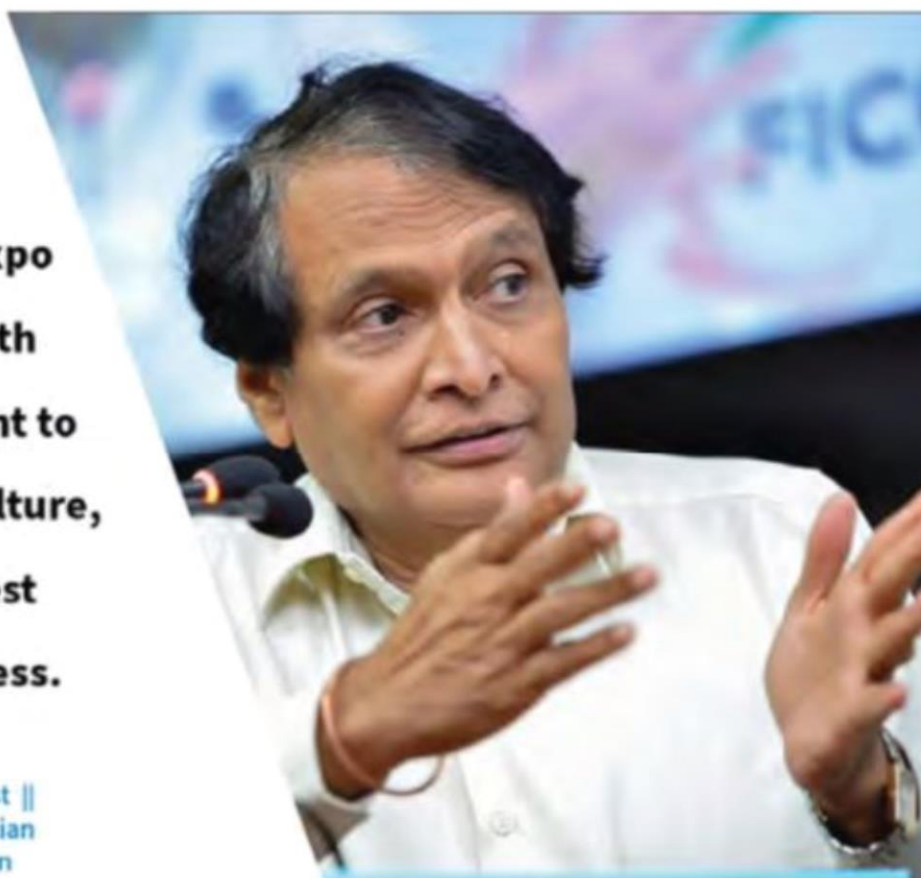
India still lives in its villages. And when the conditions in those villages improve, the entire nation

“

**BAW Congress & Expo
aligns perfectly with
India's commitment to
sustainable agriculture,
and I extend my best
wishes for its success.**

Suresh Prabhu

CA || Policy Maker || Strategist ||
Change Leader || Senior Politician
|| Former Senior Paliamentarian



moves forward. That's been my focus whether I was framing industrial policy to promote small industries in rural areas, or working with cooperatives and self-help groups to ensure they are not left behind in the global supply chain.

I often think about Ghar Ghar Jal, the mission that aims to provide safe drinking water to every household. Long before that, when I held the Water Resources portfolio in Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee's cabinet, I had seen how water shapes the lives of rural families—especially women and girls. It's more than a basic need. It determines health, education, livelihood. I'm proud that this



Dr.Suresh Prabhu urges bold action for sustainable farming and rural growth



“ India’s economy is deeply rooted in agriculture, and the prosperity of our rural areas is vital to the nation’s overall progress. To foster rural development, we must prioritize environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and the establishment of suitable industries, alongside strengthening rural entrepreneurship. ”

To Read the Full Article,
Please Visit

bioagworlddigest.com

mission has become one of India's most impactful programmes.

My work with Parivartan Kendras across 3,000+ villages in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, and my efforts in setting up skill centres in Andhra Pradesh, were always about creating access—to education, to jobs, to healthcare. Through Manav Sadhan Vikas Sansthan, and working with over 100 organisations, we've tried to build a model that supports self-reliance instead of dependency.

The challenges haven't gone away. In fact, they've taken new forms. Soil degradation, water stress, and climate change are now deeply affecting our agriculture. The answers will come not from a single solution, but from a collective shift in how we approach farming. I strongly believe in natural

and bio-based farming, not just because it's sustainable, but because it's practical. It keeps the soil alive, reduces input costs, and protects our food systems.

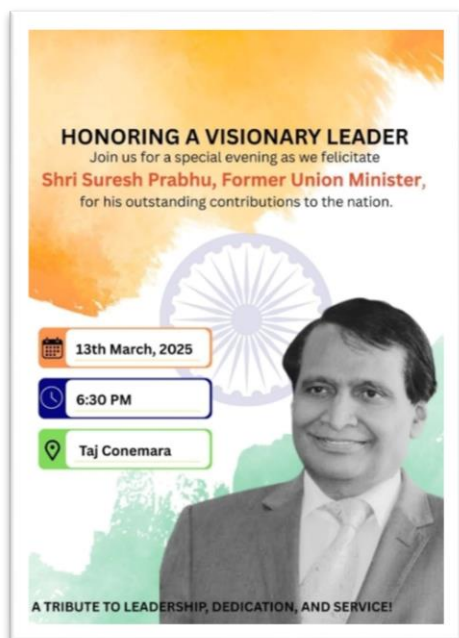
Digital tools—like Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)—will be key in giving farmers the data they need to make decisions. Accurate crop estimates, market signals, input advisories—these can change outcomes on the ground. Policies like the National Mission on Natural Farming can help transition India into a future that's both climate-resilient and economically strong.

None of this has been easy. But it's been meaningful. There's still much to do. And I remain committed, not to a position or a title, but to the people who wake up each morning in the villages of India, hoping for just a little more dignity, and a fairer chance.

Grace and Gratitude: A Night of Recognition at Taj Connemara

Date: March 13, 2025

Location: Taj Connemara



This evening at the majestic Taj Connemara—a place steeped in heritage and grace—was not just another public function. It became, for me, a mirror reflecting decades of duty, choices made in service to the people, and the unwavering commitment I have held to build a stronger, more resilient India.

Being felicitated alongside eminent legal minds like Mr. R. Sankaranarayanan, Additional Solicitor General of the Madras High Court, and Mr. Jayesh Dolia, a Senior Counsel of great repute, was an honor beyond words. Their presence reminded me how leadership manifests in different ways—through justice, through law, and through governance. I felt humbled to be in their company, yet proud of the journey that brought me here.

As I addressed the audience—comprising over 60 distinguished members of Chennai’s leading business families and professionals—I felt waves of gratitude wash over me. My mind retraced the early years of my public life. I remembered the time I was entrusted with resolving one of the nation’s gravest concerns—our crippling power shortage. We were a nation in the dark—literally and figuratively.

I recalled long hours in the ministry, drafting and redrafting power sector reforms, fighting institutional inertia, and battling skepticism. I remembered the strength I drew from alliances and friends like Jayalalithaa ji, who stood firm in her belief that Tamil Nadu deserved reliable power, and Chandrababu Naidu ji, who embraced reforms boldly. Their conviction gave mine wings.

Tonight, as Chennai’s warmth enveloped me, I wasn’t being celebrated for titles I’ve held, but for the principles I’ve lived by—sustainability, integrity, and people-first governance. The Srisrimal Balad Family’s gracious hospitality and the quiet respect I felt from every handshake and every kind word reminded me of the reason I entered public life in the first place—not for recognition, but to serve.

I spoke about mentoring the next generation—about how leadership isn’t only passed through institutions but also through values. A sustainable, equitable future isn’t a policy document—it is a belief, a commitment renewed every day in thought and in action.

I left the venue with more than a plaque or a bouquet—I left with a full heart, encouraged by the voices around me that still believe in progress, still invest in integrity, and still dream of a better India.

Turning points: Earth Day, Energy Reforms and the Road to NetZero



Date: April 22, 2025

Location: New Delhi

Today was a moment of quiet reaffirmation—one that bridged the past, present, and future of India's power sector.

As I joined the Earth Day virtual conference hosted by Dr. Rahul Walawalkar and the newly formed NetZero Energy Transition Alliance, I was deeply moved by the tribute paid to the Electricity Act of 2003 and my

role in shaping it. Rahul's words were not only generous, but a poignant reminder that policy, when drafted with conviction and implemented with clarity, can indeed shape the destiny of a nation.

The Electricity Act of 2003 was born out of a vision: to reform, restructure, and revitalize India's energy framework. It sought to create a transparent, competitive, and investor-friendly landscape while protecting the interests of consumers. To hear veterans still acknowledge its long-standing impact is not just humbling—it is a call to continue pushing forward.

Rahul's journey—from spearheading the India Energy Storage Alliance to now leading the NetZero initiative—embodies the very spirit of innovation we need to foster. His vision to unite global and cross-sectoral collaborations for clean energy deployment is both timely and urgent. The transition to net-zero is not merely an environmental imperative; it is an economic and ethical one.

I was honored to deliver the keynote today. I spoke of the need to empower new technologies, remove policy bottlenecks, and catalyze large-scale manufacturing and deployment—from grid decarbonization to sustainable mobility and industrial transformation. These efforts must be collective, consistent, and courageous.

As we mark Earth Day, I am reminded that our truest responsibility lies in what we bequeath to future generations. I remain committed to supporting such platforms of collaboration, and mentoring those who carry forward the mission of a clean, resilient, and just energy future.

Interacting with Prominent Indian Diaspora Members in San Francisco

Date: April 2, 2025

Place: San Francisco

Tonight, I had the pleasure of joining an intimate and thoughtful gathering at the residence of Dr. Srikar Reddy, our Consul General in San Francisco. It was a warm and gracious gesture — a dinner hosted in my honour, set in the calm elegance of his home on Jackson Street.

Dr. Reddy's hospitality was impeccable, as was his vision behind the evening. He had invited several influential and committed members of the Indian diaspora from the Bay Area — professionals, entrepreneurs, academics, and cultural voices — to engage in meaningful dialogue.

The evening opened not with formality, but with a genuine spirit of connection. As we shared dinner





— thoughtfully prepared and inclusive of everyone’s dietary preferences — what struck me most was the depth of pride and responsibility each person felt toward India, even while living oceans away.

From discussions on India’s transformation into a digital economy to reflections on climate policy, education reforms, and global diplomacy, the conversation was both energizing and reflective. A young fintech entrepreneur shared her plans to launch initiatives linking Indian startups with Silicon Valley accelerators. Another gentleman, a second-generation Indian-American, spoke movingly about reconnecting with his roots through social impact work in rural Maharashtra.

In these voices, I heard not just admiration for India’s progress, but a deep willingness to contribute — not out of nostalgia, but out of commitment. It reaffirmed what I have always believed: the Indian diaspora is not merely a community abroad; it is an extension of India’s soft power and intellectual capital.

As the evening came to a close, I offered my sincere thanks to Dr. Reddy for his thoughtful initiative. He has not only been a bridge between governments, but also between hearts — between India and her people overseas. This gathering reminded me of the shared dreams that connect us all, and of the critical role each member of the diaspora can play in shaping India’s journey forward.

A memorable evening, rich in conversation, warmth, and promise.

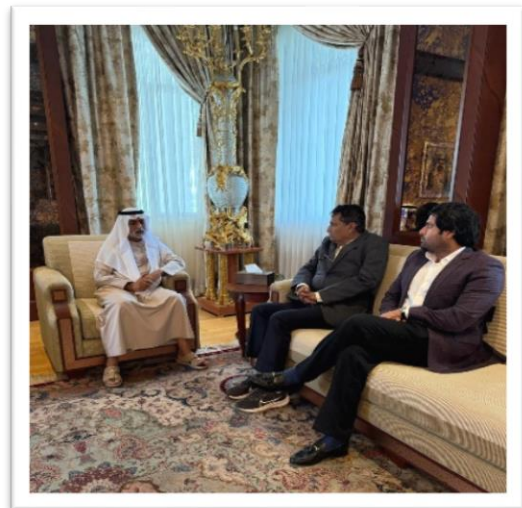
Strengthening India-UAE Relations: A Memorable Visit to Abu Dhabi

Date: April 14, 2025

Location: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Today, I had the honor of visiting Abu Dhabi, where I was graciously hosted by the royal family at their palace. The warmth and hospitality extended to me were truly remarkable, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to spend such meaningful time in their esteemed company.

During this visit, I also had the privilege of meeting several key ministers and founding members of



the United Arab Emirates. These discussions were particularly significant, taking place on the first working day following the long Ramadan and Eid holidays. I sincerely appreciate their commitment and the time they dedicated to our meetings.

Our conversations were fruitful, leading to the planning of several new initiatives aimed at enhancing collaboration on both global and regional levels. The shared vision and mutual respect between our nations were evident, and I am optimistic about the positive outcomes these initiatives will bring.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our great friends in the UAE for their unwavering support and the strong bonds of friendship that continue to grow between our countries.



Honouring Collaborative Efforts in Power, Railways, and Logistics

Today, I received a deeply moving message from a dear friend and well-wisher — a letter that not only humbled me but also reminded me of the responsibility public service brings with it. In his own words, he reflected upon the journey I've been privileged to undertake across various ministries and initiatives, with insights that carried both affection and a firm grasp of national vision.

He began with words that I will treasure:

“In my view, Suresh Prabhu ji is a transformational leader. He has the ability to see through across the tunnel.”

These generous words, though personal, spoke more to the shared efforts of many colleagues, institutions, and citizens with whom I have worked. Yet, it was his detailed reflection on key initiatives that gave me pause — and a sense of deep gratitude.

He thoughtfully recalled the Accelerated Power Reforms that we launched during my tenure as Power Minister. Drawing a powerful comparison, he remarked:

“His initiatives in the Power sector were as good as what Manmohan Singh ji did for reforms in the financial sector.”

That observation meant a lot, especially because the power sector reforms required a delicate balance of Centre-State cooperation. Unlike the centrally governed financial sector, electricity is a concurrent subject — and progress was possible only due to the spirit of cooperative federalism. We worked hand-in-hand with each state, building trust and shared vision.

He also mentioned the time when I served as Railway Minister, particularly pointing out the decision to introduce bio-toilets and the long-awaited electrification and double tracking of the Konkan Railway.

“This was a remarkable job not only for the Konkan region but for the entire Indian Railway, connecting western, southern, and northern India. The relevance of Konkan Railway goes beyond passenger movement — it's critical for defence and cargo as well.”

His observation reminded me of how critical infrastructure is not just about development — it's about national resilience and strategic depth.

What touched me equally was his appreciation of the efforts we undertook under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, where we created the Department of Logistics and for the first time in India's history, launched a National Logistics Policy.

“This most critical aspect of the Indian economy was grossly ignored in the past. It is going to transform India into a global hub and pave the way for India to become the world’s most powerful economic power.”

His words reinforced the idea that logistics is not just about movement — it's about economic freedom, accessibility, and national competitiveness.

Towards the end of his letter, he wrote with overwhelming kindness:

“He is a true visionary — a very learned intellectual and selfless person who always saw the larger good of the nation... We all should urge Hon. Prime Minister and the nation’s top decision-makers to confer our beloved Hon. Suresh ji with at least the Padma Vibhushan or beyond.”

These are words no public servant ever works for — but they touch the heart when said with such sincerity. I receive this not as a personal accolade, but as encouragement to stay the course, keep working harder, and always remain grounded in public good.

He concluded with heartfelt words on the presentation about Sindhudurg, calling it:

“Captivating, astute, and interesting. The project you have created will be an asset for Konkan’s development.”

To know that this work — rooted in regional heritage but with national ambition — is being seen and valued, is a reward in itself.

To my dear friend who sent this message: Thank you. I carry your words with deep humility and renewed commitment. May our shared dream for India continue to move forward with strength, wisdom, and compassion.

From Ideals to Action: My Experience with Amar Hind Mandal

Date: April, 16, 2025

Location: Dadar, Mumbai – Amar Hind Mandal

Today was a day of deep reflection and connection.

I had the honour of speaking at the 78th Vasant Vyakhyanmala hosted by Amar Hind Mandal in Dadar. My talk was titled "Bharat Mahasatta Bantanā" – India's journey toward becoming a global



superpower.

The hall was full. The energy in the room was palpable. I could feel the curiosity and conviction in every pair of eyes that looked back at me from the audience. What stood out was the quality of the questions asked—thoughtful, probing, grounded in a genuine concern for India's future. It was not just an audience; it was a dialogue with citizens who care deeply.

There was no need for embellishments or applause lines. This was a space for honest thinking and open hearts. I am deeply thankful to the Amar Hind Mandal team for inviting me as the keynote speaker and for their tireless work in keeping such an intellectual tradition alive.

We spoke not just of where India is going, but who we must become to get there. A stronger, inclusive, and self-reliant India isn't a distant dream—it's a collective effort we must continue to nurture, together.

Grateful for the moment. Encouraged by the minds in the room.



The Day I Met Balasaheb: A Guiding Flame

Remembered

Diary Entry: Looking Back on August 23, 2002

It's been years since that memorable day—August 23, 2002—but the image and emotions remain vivid in my mind. That was the day I met Balasaheb Thackeray at Matoshree, shortly after I stepped down as the Union Power Minister at his request.

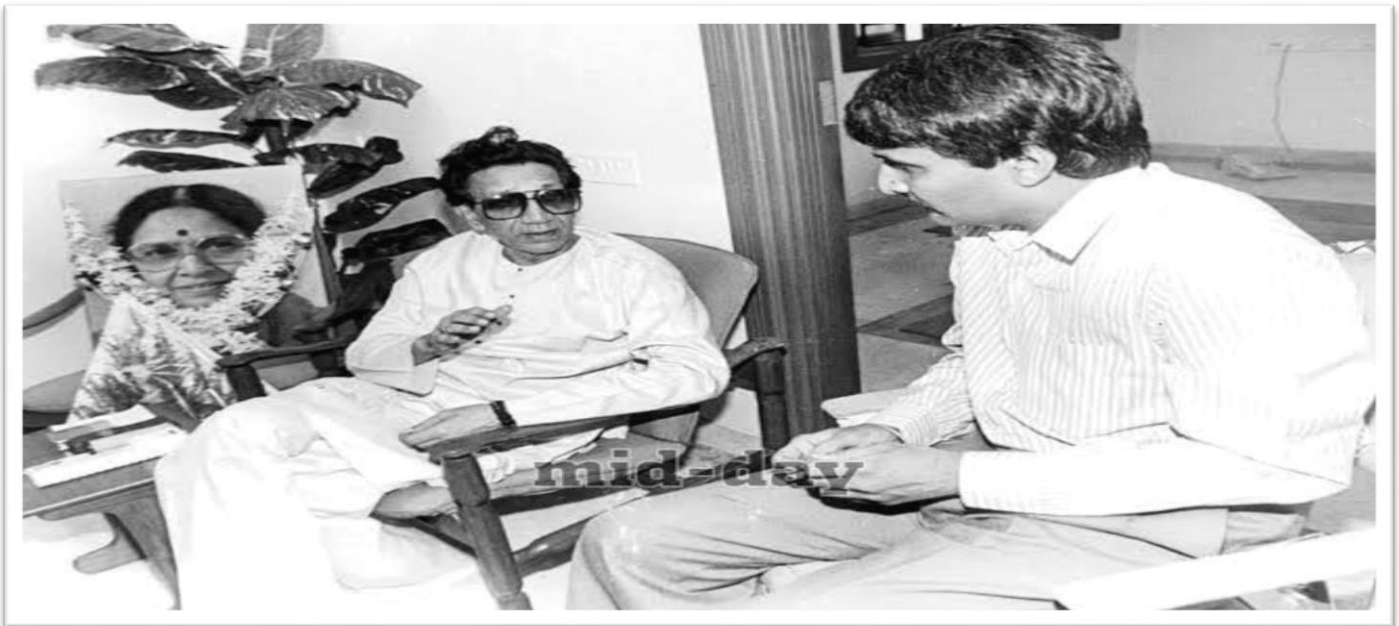
The conversation we had was deeply personal, respectful, and filled with clarity. There was no bitterness in the air; no misunderstandings to clear. Balasaheb was firm yet affectionate, and he made it clear that there was no ill will between us. He had his reasons, and I respected them. He believed that my skills could be put to better use in organizational work, especially in my home region of Konkan.

Though it was a difficult decision to resign, I understood the larger picture. Balasaheb was always a visionary, and his guidance came from a place of strategic thinking. I was grateful that he took the time to sit with me and explain his vision personally. That photograph—me sitting beside him, listening intently—captures more than a moment. It reflects trust, transition, and the unspoken strength of our bond.

Of course, not everyone understood the move at the time. There were whispers that I lacked the mass appeal required for the kind of populist politics our party was known for. But I've always believed in sincere governance over theatrics. My efforts were always directed at reform, sustainability, and long-term change.

Looking back now, I cherish that turning point. It taught me the essence of political adaptability. That meeting with Balasaheb didn't mark an end—it was a new beginning. It allowed me to serve in different capacities and continue contributing to the nation in ways I hadn't imagined then.

Time has moved on, but that conversation, that moment of mutual respect, remains etched in my heart.



WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11)

Reflections from a Defining Diplomatic Moment

Looking back, December 14, 2017, stands out as one of the more defining days in my tenure as India's Minister of Commerce and Industry.

It was during the sidelines of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires that I had the privilege of representing India in several high-level bilateral discussions. Among the most significant was my meeting with H.E. Mr. Jorge Faurie, then the Foreign Affairs Minister of Argentina. Minister Faurie welcomed me with warmth and deep respect, and our dialogue reflected a shared vision of how India and Argentina could collaborate beyond traditional diplomacy—particularly in the fields of trade, science, technology, and clean energy.

Later that same day, I was honoured to meet H.E. Mr. Mauricio Macri, the President of Argentina at the time. His Excellency was gracious, well-informed, and deeply passionate about strengthening Argentina's international partnerships. Our conversation centred around advancing India-Argentina bilateral ties, especially through the avenues of agro-industrial trade, renewable energy, and innovation-driven technology exchanges.

My role, as India's Commerce Minister, was to both defend India's trade interests in the multilateral platform and to open new doors for bilateral economic cooperation. In a world where trade negotiations can often

become contentious, these side meetings were refreshing—they offered a space for building strategic friendships, not just agreements.



Other key members from India's delegation and the Argentine leadership team were present, adding valuable insights and ensuring that the talks were rooted in realism and mutual benefit. It was a moment where diplomacy wasn't just about policy papers—it was about people, purpose, and partnership.

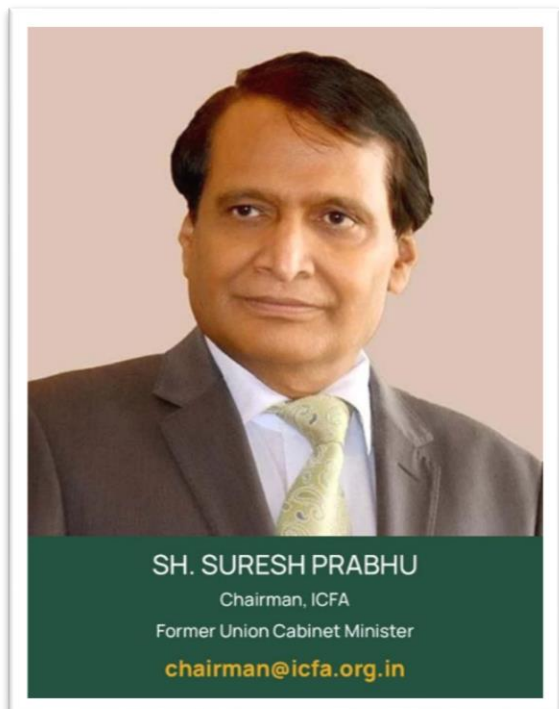
Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with world leaders and engaging in conversations that could shape the economic contours of our nations, I felt the deep responsibility that came with the office I held. More than that, I felt the hope—that India's rise as a responsible, forward-looking economic power was being acknowledged and welcomed on global platforms like the WTO.

Even now, I reflect on that day not only as a chapter of my public service but as a reminder of India's growing voice in shaping global trade narratives.



ICFA and My Role in Transforming Agriculture

Becoming the Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has been one of the most meaningful responsibilities of my journey in public service. At a time when agriculture is evolving rapidly in response to globalization, climate change, and growing food demands, ICFA



represents a timely and much-needed platform to shape the future of Indian agriculture. Taking on this role was not just an honour—it was a commitment to contribute to something far bigger than myself: the transformation of our nation's most vital sector.

ICFA, as the apex policy think tank and trade facilitation body, is uniquely positioned to bring together farmers, policymakers, scientists, business leaders, and global partners under one umbrella. From the very beginning, I saw the incredible potential in its vision—to make Indian agriculture not just self-reliant but a global force for good, contributing actively to global food and nutritional security.

My role as Chairman has been both strategic and deeply involved. I've worked with ICFA's dynamic team to guide its outreach and business agenda, bringing in a strong policy foundation and building bridges across ministries, institutions, and international platforms.

Our work has focused on creating real impact—not just reports and dialogue, but implementation on the ground.

One of the core aspects I've personally championed is the empowerment of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. It has always been my belief that for agriculture to truly grow, we must ensure that those who nurture the soil also share in the prosperity it creates. ICFA's initiatives in connecting farmers with market opportunities, modern technologies, financing models, and value chains are helping achieve exactly that.

I've also paid particular attention to critical concerns such as food safety, sustainability, and certification of global standards like GAP. These are often the invisible walls that prevent Indian produce from reaching international shelves or ensuring consumer trust. Through initiatives like the Healthy Food Initiative, the Food and Nutrition Forum, and the Agriculture Sustainability Council, we are addressing these barriers head-on and building a future where quality and safety go hand in hand with profitability.

Under my leadership, ICFA is also fostering innovation and investment. We've encouraged the growth of farmer producer organizations and Agri start-ups, providing them not just visibility but real support to scale their operations. I believe India's future lies in these innovations—from precision farming to AI-based solutions, and from sustainable packaging to smart logistics.

What excites me most is ICFA's global outreach. Agriculture is now a global conversation, and we are ensuring India is not just listening but speaking confidently. Our partnerships with governments, global institutions, and agri-tech leaders are opening doors to knowledge exchange, policy alignment, and collaborative growth. The idea of District Agriculture Councils, which ICFA is actively building, brings this global ambition right to the grassroots—empowering each district to grow with a vision and a voice of its own.

With the new leadership team at ICFA working with energy and purpose, I see us entering a powerful new phase. We are not just facilitating trade or drafting policy—we are cultivating a generation of empowered farmers, informed consumers, and future-ready agri-entrepreneurs.

Looking back on this journey, I feel a deep sense of purpose. From the very first meetings to where we stand today, this has never been about titles or position. For me, it is about service. It is about ensuring that India's food and agriculture sector—so rich in tradition, talent, and potential—rises to its rightful place in the world.

ICFA is not just an institution; it's a movement. A shared dream to make India a global leader in food and agriculture. And I am proud to play my part in turning that dream into reality.

A Heartfelt Note on Hanuman Jayanti: Fueling the Spirit of Dedication

Date: April 23, 2024

Today, on the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, I find myself immersed in reflection and gratitude. The day's serenity offers a moment to contemplate the journey I've undertaken in service to our nation.

This morning, I received a message that deeply touched my heart:

"Sir, I have always felt very proud of you & your work, right from the time when you had joined Vajpayee ji's Ministry!! My prayers on this auspicious Day of Shri Hanuman Jayanti that you keep serving our Nation and bring glory to it. With warm personal

regards."

— R. N. Choubey

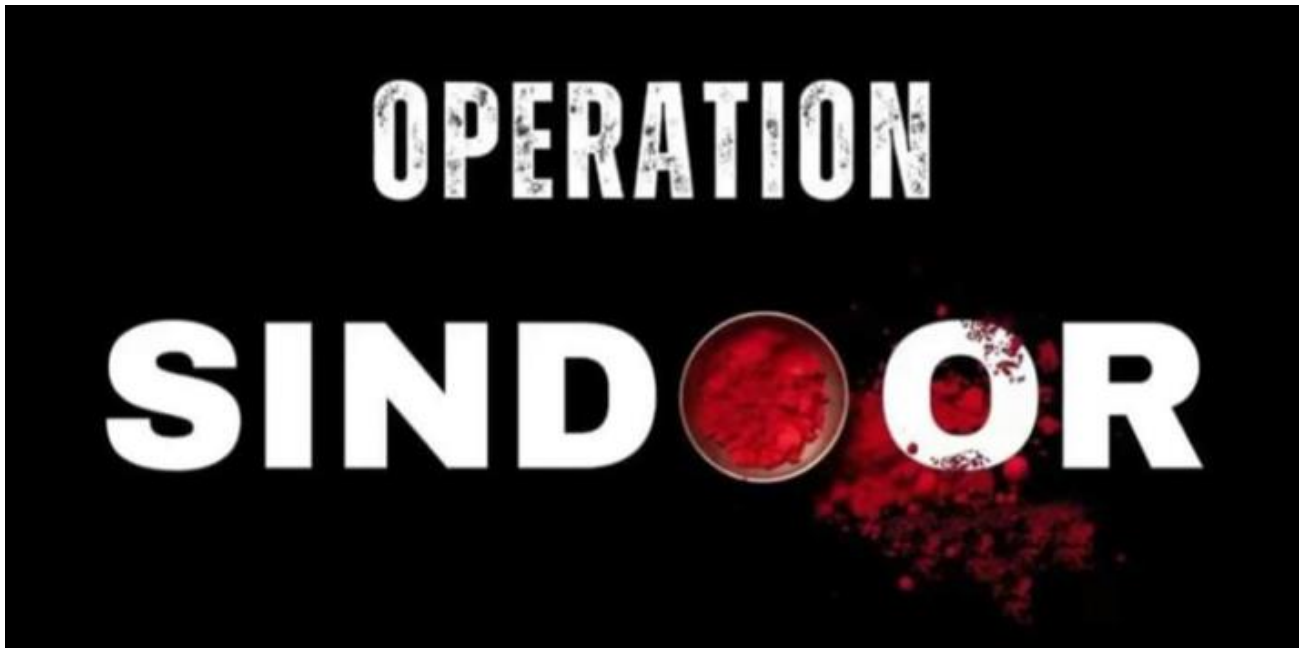
Such words of appreciation and encouragement are more than mere compliments; they are affirmations of purpose. They remind me of the responsibilities entrusted to me and the impact of dedicated service.

Reflecting on my tenure under the visionary leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, I recall the challenges we faced and the milestones we achieved. Those formative years instilled in me the values of integrity, commitment, and the relentless pursuit of progress.

As I continue my endeavours, be it in policy-making, education, or agriculture, messages like these reinforce my resolve. They serve as gentle reminders that the path of service, though demanding, is profoundly rewarding.

On this sacred day, I offer my prayers to Lord Hanuman, seeking strength, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to continue serving our beloved nation.

The Night India Hit Back



Date: May 7, 2025

In the darkest hours of night, Operation Sindoor lit up the spirit of India.

This wasn't merely a mission—it was a declaration to the world: India does not rest when her people are in danger.

Last night, I watched with bated breath as our brave men and women in uniform rose to an extraordinary challenge. Leadership, I have always believed, is about standing tall even when the ground beneath trembles. And our forces did just that. With hearts forged in courage and conviction, they stormed the enemy bastion—not with noise, but with the sharp silence of precision and purpose.

Operation Sindoor was not just executed—it was etched into the annals of India's valour. There was no waiting for dawn. We became the dawn.

To every officer, every soul involved—you bore the nation's trust with unflinching resolve, and you delivered with grace and honour.

India is proud. I am proud.

Words That Stay:

Some messages don't just reach you—they sit with you. They stay.

I came across a few such words recently. Not formal letters. Not ceremonial praise. Just quiet, powerful acknowledgments from people whose lives have been about duty, discipline, and deep commitment to India.

One came from **Brigadier Dr. Sanjeev Chopra**, a decorated soldier and a man of intellect. He wrote:

“Your contribution to Nation Building is Unparalleled. You are an Inspiration for all of us. Salute to You for Your incredible contributions.”

These aren't lines from a speech. They're a soldier's salute. And that means something far beyond words. When someone who has spent his life on the front lines says you've served the nation—there's no higher affirmation.

But then he went further. He said:

“May I request your blessings to serve under you now... post retirement from the Indian Army... to continue in nation-building.”

That stayed with me.

This is someone who has already given everything to the country. And now, even in retirement, he wants to keep serving. Wants to work under my guidance. That's not flattery—that's trust. That's belief in something larger than both of us. And it's a reminder that service has no expiry date.

Then came a deeply generous message from **A.R. Patil**, who has spent decades working with rural communities. His words weren't just reflective—they were a map of the journey so far:

“A visionary leader... from railways to energy, global diplomacy to environmental stewardship... shaping the nation's growth, defending its natural heritage...”

Reading that, I found myself remembering moments no one saw—late nights drafting policy, field visits in silence, decisions made with no certainty except conviction. His message made me realize that the work, though quiet, was not invisible. It reached people. It mattered.

Another note, simple and sincere, said this:

“You are truly a repository of knowledge and wisdom... Despite all your eminence, you continue to be so humble and unassuming.”

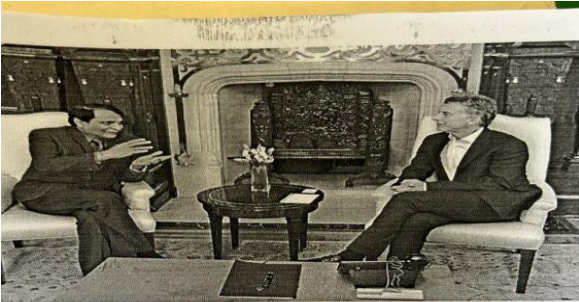
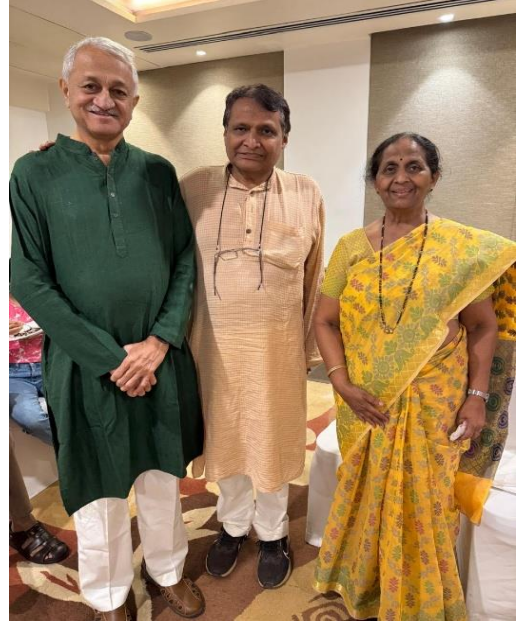
That humility—if I’ve held on to it—it’s because I’ve always believed public life is not about height, but about grounding. It’s not about how high you go, but how deeply you remain rooted.

These words I’ve received—they’re not compliments. They are responsibilities. They are reminders that leadership isn’t a position. It’s a quiet commitment, reaffirmed by the trust of those who’ve walked difficult paths themselves.

To inspire even one such person is a reward I do not take lightly.

I carry their words with me now—not as trophies, but as fuel. For the road ahead still needs walking.

Extra Frames, Eternal Moments:



अभिहित।

गीण विकासाचा जेव्हा आपण विचार करतो तेव्हा इतर
हिजे. स्वातंत्र्यापासून आतापर्यंत पाकिस्तानच्या आपल्या
न बदल झालेला नाही. भारतरत्न अटलजींनीही हे संबंध सु
वी यासाठी प्रयत्न केले होते. जो देश कट्टर धार्मिकतेवर
सर्वत्र वाटचाल करित असतो हा इतिहास
वाळगून कुरापती काढणारा शेजारील
शासमोरील आव्हान आहे. आयात -
निगडीत आंतरराष्ट्रीय करार यास
रते यासाठी इतर देशांनील



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Compiled by ICFA



सत्यशोधक दर्पण

संपादक : सनाधान तुकाराम वाणी 9588617695, 9881952510

राज्य राखीव दलाच्या परिसरात जलसाक्षरता केंद्राचे मोठ्या उत्साहात उद्घाटन

जलसाक्षरता केंद्राचे उद्घाटन. डावीक बाजूला जलसाक्षरता केंद्राचे उद्घाटन करत असलेल्या व्यक्तींचा फोटो. उजवीक बाजूला जलसाक्षरता केंद्राचे उद्घाटन करत असलेल्या व्यक्तींचा फोटो.

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CityFirst NEWS

SPREADING AWARENESS

Marathwada deserves a new perception: Prabhu

Water Literacy Centre to shift focus from... errors to solutions

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भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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