



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Government of India

## Lighting Up Kashi

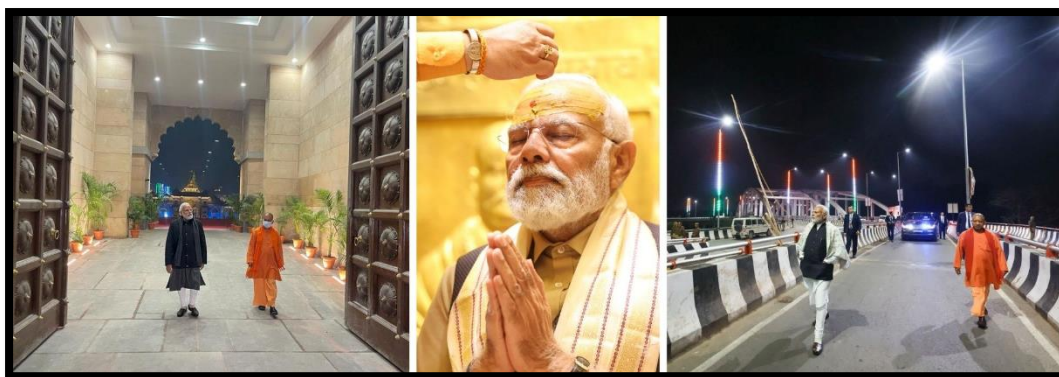
### Sacred City, Smart Future

13<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

*“India today is carrying forward both development and heritage together, Our Kashi is becoming the best model for this.”*

~Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Kashi isn't just a city—it's a living soul.** It breathes through the ripples of the Ganga and the quiet strength of its people. Here, ancient stones whisper stories of the past while glass-fronted buildings reflect the promise of tomorrow. The city where life and death meet at Manikarnika Ghat, now welcomes wide roads, smart lighting and modern corridors. This is Kashi's journey—where the sacred and the smart co-exist, not in conflict, but in harmony. A place where every street holds a story and every step leads to a blend of soul and structure.



On April 11, the ancient city of Kashi witnessed a moment of progress. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth over **₹3,880 crore in Varanasi**. It was a celebration of growth—what PM Modi called a true “festival of development.”



Ten years ago, a trip through Varanasi meant endless traffic and dusty detours. Today, the city is rewriting that story. Projects like the **Phulwariya flyover and the Ring Road** are easing traffic woes, saving precious time for daily commuters and lakhs of pilgrims. Travel between districts like Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Ballia and Mau has become faster and more connected than ever before.

PM Modi also laid foundation stone for—a **road bridge connecting Varanasi Ring Road and Sarnath**, long-awaited flyovers at Bhikharipur and Manduadih, and a highway underpass road tunnel on NH-31 at the Varanasi International Airport worth over **Rs 980 crore**. These projects aren't just concrete and steel; they're the backbone of a growing city opening up to the world.



To brighten up lives and lighten up the city, Prime Minister Modi gave a major push to Kashi's power network. He inaugurated **two 400 KV and one 220 KV substations—projects worth over ₹1,045 crore**. Add to that a ₹775 crore boost with new substations in Chaukaghat and Ghazipur.

But real power lies not just in wires, but in wisdom. Staying true to his vision of “education for all,” the Prime Minister opened new doors of learning. Rural education got a lift **with 356 libraries and 100 Anganwadi centres**. He also laid the foundation for revamping 77 primary schools under the Smart City Mission.



One of the most heartwarming transformations in Purvanchal has come through Banas Dairy. It has helped turn thousands of small dairy farmers into confident entrepreneurs. **Over ₹105 crore** in bonuses were distributed to livestock-rearing families—most of them women. These women, now proudly known as “Lakhpatri Didis”, are a shining symbol of real empowerment.

PM Modi also highlighted how schemes like the Kisan Credit Card, free vaccinations for livestock, and the Rashtriya Gokul Mission are helping farmers. They're raising healthier animals and finding better markets for their produce.

Once, people from Purvanchal had to travel far for good medical care. Through the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, lakhs of families in Uttar Pradesh have received free treatment and saving lives. PM Modi personally handed out **Ayushman Vay Vandana cards** to elderly citizens—ensuring free medical care for all above 70, regardless of income.



Development in Kashi is not just about roads and hospitals—it's about dreams too. With **new stadiums and a world-class sports complex**, young athletes from Varanasi are now getting the platform they need to shine. PM Modi reminded everyone that if India wants to host the 2036 Olympics, our youth need to begin their journey now—and Kashi is making sure they're ready.

From the rhythmic beats of the tabla to the intricate designs of zardozi, Varanasi's rich culture is gaining international fame. Over **30 local products** from Varanasi and surrounding districts now carry the prestigious GI (Geographical Indication) tag, including the famous thandai, red stuffed chilli, tiranga barfi and even Jaunpur's imarti and Pilibhit's flute.



PM Modi also announced the creation of an **Ekta Mall**, a space where the diverse crafts and products from across India will be showcased under one roof—right here in Kashi.

As Varanasi stands at the crossroads of tradition and transformation, the city proves one simple truth: development is most meaningful when it touches lives and preserves the soul of a place. With folded hands and firm resolve, Kashi moves forward—proud of its past, and prepared for its future.

## References

- <https://x.com/narendramodi/status/1766504020967879025> (Images)
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2120875&reg=3&lang=1>

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