

Transcription of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's speech on the inauguration of Gandhinagar Railway Station



Shri Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India

My colleagues in the Council of Ministers, the Parliamentarians of Gandhinagar, Shri Amit Shah Ji, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Ji, Gujarat Chief Minister Rupani Ji, Deputy Minister Nitin Bhai, Union Minister, Smt. Darshana Jardosh, other ministers in the Government of Gujarat, my colleagues in the Parliament, President of Bhartiya Janata Party, Gujarat, Shri C.R. Patil Ji, other members of Parliament, MLAs and my dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to all of you.

I hope all is well.

Today is the day of 21st century India's aspirations, a prominent symbol of Indian youth's feelings and possibilities, be it science and technology, better urban landscape. The modern infrastructure exemplifying connectivity is adding another chapter to the new identity of New India. I have inaugurated all the projects from Delhi here, but I am eager to come and see them myself. Brothers and sisters, today, the goal of the country is not only to build concrete structures but today, the infrastructure of such scale is being constructed in the country, which has a character of its own. Better public space is our need. It has reimagined urban planning like never thought before. In the urban planning of the past, it (better public space) was perceived as a luxury. The real estate and housing companies focus on park-facing houses, as most of the population has been deprived of quality public space and quality public life. Leaving behind this old mindset of urban development, we are moving towards modernisation.

Friends, who can say about the condition of Sabarmati in Ahmedabad! Today, facilities, including the water stream, riverfront, park, open gym, sea plan, are available in the service, which has transformed the whole ecosystem. The same change has been made in Kankaria. It was never imagined that a lake in old Ahmedabad would become such a vibrant centre of activity.

Friends, along with the natural development and entertainment of children, their learning and creativity should also get space. Science City is a project that connects recreation and creativity. The project features several recreation activities that will encourage the spirit of creativity among children. The games are fun in themselves, and at the same time, it is also a platform for the children to learn something new. We have seen that the children often demand big toys, robots, dinosaurs from parents; some demand lions as a pet. But how will we, as parents, bring them!

Children get this option in Science City. The new nature park that has been built is going to be especially liked by my little friends. Not only this, the Aquatics Gallery to be built in Science City will make their experience more enjoyable; it is one of the top aquariums not only in the country but in Asia. The display of marine biodiversity worldwide in one place is an immersive experience in itself. Talking with robots in the robotics gallery will not be only the centre of attraction; it will also inspire our youth to work in the field of robotics and instil curiosity among children.

How robots can be useful in many such fields—medicine, agriculture, space, defence—people will experience it here. Robo Café, wherein food cooked by robotic shapes and served by robo waiters, will be enjoyed and attract many visitors. Yesterday, when I posted their pictures on social media, I read such comments that we used to see such images in foreign countries; people can't believe that these pictures are of Gujarat, India. Today in this program, I urge more and more students to visit Science City. If the Science City keeps bustling with children, its significance and grandeur will increase further.

Friends, it is a matter of great happiness for me that many such works, which will increase the pride and glory of the people of Gujarat and the country, are being inaugurated this morning. Today, along with Ahmedabad city, the rail connectivity of Gujarat has also become more modernised and robust. The rejuvenation of Gandhinagar and Vadnagar stations, the widening and electrification of Mahesana-Varetha line, electrification of Surendranagar-Pipavav section, Gandhinagar Capital and Varetha MEMU service trains or the launch of the Gandhinagar Capital Varanasi Superfast Express, for all these facilities, I congratulate the people of Gujarat. This train between Gandhinagar and Varanasi will connect the land of Somnath with the land of Vishwanath.

Brothers and sisters, the needs of 21st century India cannot be met by the services of the 20th century, and hence the railways needed a new reform. We are working to develop railways not only as a service but as an asset, the results of which are being seen today. Today the identity of Indian Railways has changed. Today, convenience has also improved, cleanliness is also improved, safety is also improved, and speed is also improved in Indian Railways. Be it the modernisation of infrastructure or new modern trains, countless such efforts are being made to increase the speed of trains. In the coming days, as soon as the Dedicated Freight Corridor will start, the speed of trains will increase further. Trains like Tejas and Vande Bharat have already begun running on our tracks; today, these trains are giving a new and fascinating experience to passengers. You all must have seen the video of Mist Garden and maze that I have put on social media; those who have visited the Statue of Unity must have experienced it; this project will take the feel of the journey to new heights. All those boarding trains are also realising that our trains, platforms, and tracks have started to remain so clean due to a considerable contribution of more

than 2 lakh bio-toilets installed in the coaches. Similarly, today major railway stations across the country are being modernised, the Tier 2 and Tier 3 railway stations are also now being equipped with the WiFi facility. From the security perspective, the unmanned railway crossings on broad gauge have been eliminated across the country.

Indian Railways that once dominated the headlines in the media for incidents of horrific accidents today brings positivity. Today Indian Railways features in the discussion about the world's ultra-modern networks and mega projects. Today, both the experience and the perspective of looking at Indian Railways are changing, and I would proudly say that today's projects reflect this new avatar of Indian Railways. Friends, I have unanimously believed that for railways to reach every nook and corner of the country, not only horizontal expansion of railways is necessary, capacity building, resource building in railways, new technology and better service, vertical expansion is equally significant. Featuring better tracks, a modern station and a hotel over live railway tracks in the Gandhinagar railway station is the beginning of a meaningful change in the Indian Railways. It will provide the common citizens travelling by rail with facilities of an airport with superior amenities to fulfil the special needs of women and children. Today, the entire country and Gandhinagar is getting such a modern and convenient station.

Friends, the new railway station of Gandhinagar reflects the changing mindset in the country regarding the infrastructure. For a long time, infrastructure was the centre of differences among various sections of society. And I would like to tell you, you all know the face of Gujarat, we had done an experiment when I got a chance to serve it. We worked towards modernising the bus stations, where we worked on the Public-Private Partnership model. Today many bus stations in Gujarat have become modern, facilities like airport are visible at the bus station, and when I came to Delhi, I sent railway officials to see the bus station in Gujarat to motivate them to develop our railway station with optimum utilisation of railway resources, bustling economic activity, not merely centres for the movement of trains but the hub of activity on the lines of the development of airports and the bus stations in Gujarat.

Similarly, we are moving forward in the direction of the development of railway stations on Public-Private Partnership. Today Gandhinagar is just the beginning of the public facilities that should be

accessible to every section of the society. Friends, the modern railway station of Gandhinagar is also a great testament to the fact. It can also be made a centre of economic activities by utilising the resources of the railways. Using modern technology, a hotel has been built on the top of the railway tracks from where the train can be seen but not felt while moving. The land is the same, but its use has doubled, the facility is also the best, tourism and the business is also the best. What can be better than the prime location where the train passes, which gives a grand view of the Mahatma temple from this railway station! The view of Dandi Kutir is also mesmerising. The Dandi Kutir Museum will enthral the visitors to Gujarat or the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, and it will become the tourist spot for them.

Today, this makeover of railways is in the vicinity of Mahatma Mandir that has increased the 'Mahatma' of Mahatma Mandir Mahatma manifold. Now, people will also use this hotel to host conferences that will also enable the use of Mahatma Mandir for many events throughout the year for which a collaborative arrangement has been found here, at merely a 20-minute distance from the airport. You can imagine how much foreigners will be benefitted from it! Brothers and sisters, imagine how extensive is our railway network in the whole country, there are so many resources, such possibilities are hidden in it!

Friends, in a vast country like India, the role of railways has always been very significant; along with it, the railway is also adding new paradigms of development and convenience. It is the outcome of efforts of the past few years that today the railways have reached the corners of the North East for the first time. Very soon, Srinagar will also be connected to Kanyakumari via rail. Today Vadnagar has also become a part of this expansion, and my countless memories are attached to the Vadnagar station. The new station is indeed looking very attractive. Due to the construction of this new broad-gauge line, the Vadnagar-Modhera-Patan Heritage circuit will now be connected with better rail service. It has also got direct connectivity to the Ahmedabad, Jaipur Delhi main line. The commissioning of this line has opened new opportunities for convenience, employment and self-employment.

Friends, while the Mahesana-Varetha line connects us to our heritage, the Surendranagar- Pipavav Line connects us to the future of Indian Railways. This is one of the projects completed in the shortest

possible span in the history of Indian Railways. This rail line is a vital port connectivity route and a feeder route for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor. This rail line from Pipavav port to the northern parts of the country will ensure seamless and uninterrupted movement of double-stack container goods trains.

Whether it is the movement of passengers or goods, ensuring the journey in lesser time, lesser costs and better service is the priority of today's 21st century India. Today, the country is making rapid strides towards multi-modal connectivity, for which a detailed roadmap is being worked upon. I am confident that by connecting different modes of transport, the resulting last-mile connectivity will provide impetus to the campaign of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. The development of New India will run simultaneously two tracks-one of modernisation, the other for the welfare of the marginalised and middle-class section of society. Today, a lot of work is being done in the construction of next-generation infrastructure. On the other hand, it is being ensured that the middle-class sections and farmers are benefitted from it.

Brothers and sisters, amid the development works of Gujarat and the country, we also have to take care of the coronavirus pandemic. In the last one and a half years, this biggest pandemic for 100 years has tremendously affected the lives of all. The coronavirus infection has taken away many friends from us untimely, but as a nation, we are fighting it with all our might.

In Gujarat, too, the pace of infections has been arrested with tremendous efforts. We need to keep the infection rate low by the mantra of 'testing, tracking, treatment and vaccination.' Hence, we need to be extremely cautious and alert and continuously speed up the pace of vaccination; I am happy that Gujarat is about to reach the 3-crore vaccination mark. The information that the central government shared related to vaccination availability has helped Gujarat adopt a centre-level immunisation strategy.

With everyone's efforts, we will be able to achieve our goals related to vaccination swiftly. With this belief, I congratulate all of you on these new projects.

Thank You