

# With eye on \$5-trillion club, PM throws 'growth challenge'

## Asks Commerce Ministry to target 10%-plus GDP growth, doubling of exports

### OUR BUREAU

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday India should target double-digit GDP growth to break into the \$5-trillion economy club.

The nation's share in world trade has to more than double to 3.4 per cent from the current 1.6, he said, adding that to create more jobs and increase the per capita income, the dependence on imports should be trimmed by at least 10 per cent.

"This is a time for making pledges and accepting challenges. The Commerce Ministry should pledge to make all efforts to double India's share in world exports from today's 1.6 per cent to at least 3.4 per cent.

"It will lead to more employment opportunities and our per capita income will increase," Modi said at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Commerce Ministry's Vanijya Bhawan.

All government departments



**Going green** Prime Minister Narendra Modi plants a sapling during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Commerce Department's new office complex, a green building, in New Delhi on Friday. Among those watching him is Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu (centre) PTI

and export promotion councils have to work together to achieve this target, he added without spelling out a timeframe to achieve it.

The PM also urged the industry and government departments to work towards reducing imports in sectors such as energy, electronic goods, defence manufacturing and medical devices. Modi said the electronic goods industry should take inspiration from the mobile phone industry, where Indian manufac-

turers are thriving. Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said his ministry will start work on the PM's suggestions.

### Paperless office

Located near India Gate, the Vanijya Bhawan, a green building, is being developed on a plot of 4.33 acres, belonging to the erstwhile Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals. It will accommodate about 1,000 officers and staff and is being planned as a completely paperless office.