

# Violence reduced by 20% in Naxal-hit areas: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said violence in Naxal-affected areas has reduced by around 20 per cent in the last 4 years even as around 3,500 Naxals surrendered between 2014-2017 due to the impact of Government's policies and development.

In an interaction with BJP workers from 5 Lok Sabha seats of Bilaspur, Basti, Dhanbad, Chittorgarh and Mandasaur Lok Sabha seats, Modi also took on Congress for its "disconnect" with the people, alleged falsehood and corruption during its last tenure at the Centre. The Congress has failed as Opposition as it has remained disconnected with the people on the ground, the Prime Minister said while addressing the booth-level BJP workers via NaMoApp.

Responding to a question on Naxalism, the Prime Minister said violence in Naxal-affected areas has reduced by around 20 per cent in the last four years. On February 17, 2017, Modi had said in Rajya Sabha that around 700 Maoists have surrendered post-demonetisation and funds to terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir have been choked. He claimed the note ban has had a direct impact on Naxalism and terrorism.

He alleged that the Congress' sole agenda is to level false charges and spread canards against the Government while the party itself remained neck-deep in the acts of corruption during its tenure at the Centre.



**Congress' sole agenda is to level false charges and spread canards against the Government while the party itself remained neck-deep in the acts of corruption during its tenure at the Centre**

—PM Modi

"In past four years Congress has been disconnected with people and has failed as Opposition. Their sole agenda is to level false allegation on others and to spread fake news to divert people's attention," Modi said.

He urged the party workers to reach out to maximum number of people through various media platforms and counter Congress' "propaganda of false allegations" with facts.

"People with no vision today have become television, which always keeps on playing a comedy," Modi said targeting the Congress leadership.

Replying to questions from workers, the Prime Minister said that after demonetization, black money is no longer there in the property market.

Prices of property have also fallen. Home loan interest rate, which was more

than 10 per cent under the UPA, has now come down, Modi said.

He also underlined that Government has taken various initiatives for middle class as rebate on income tax and returns on savings have increased in last four years.

In the past four years, the Government has focused on development of all classes as part of its 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' Modi said, adding, "you can recall that people were facing price rise and inflation under the previous Government".

Modi expressed happiness over his interaction with the grass-roots workers of the party who know the ground realities the best.

"I think political parties rarely get a chance to interact with booth-level workers, who know the ground reality, with the medium of technology", the Prime Minister said.