

Modi: Defence projects pending for decades have materialised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, January 28

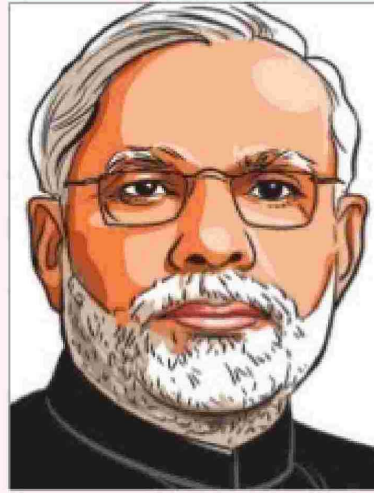
PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Monday said defence projects related to fighter jets and modernisation, pending for decades, have materialised on the ground under his government which will take all “big and tough” decisions that are necessary for the country's security.

Addressing the NCC cadets, Modi said India is a strong proponent of peace but it will not hesitate to take steps to ensure national security. The Prime Minister asserted that corruption cannot be a part of ‘New India’ and those indulging in graft will not be spared. The ‘New India’, he said, will give opportunities and respect to ‘karmayogi’ (the one who proves himself through his work). “I want to assure you that your family of birth, your economic situation... this will not determine your future. Your skills, hard work and self-confidence will give you results.”

At a time when he has been facing attacks from the Opposition over the Rafale fighter jet deal, Modi said, “Projects pending since decades related fighter aircraft and modernisation have materialised on the ground. Missiles, tanks and helicopters are being made. I want to assure the nation and the youth that in coming days all big and tough decisions will be taken that are necessary for the security of the country.”

He said a lot of important decisions have been taken for defence and security in the last four-and-a-half years and that India is now among the select few countries which have developed the nuclear triad.

The Prime Minister noted that whatever the government has been able to do, has been actively supported by the youth. You (the youth) took forward the cleanliness movement through the Swachh Bharat movement, you backed a tough decision like demonetisation aimed at fighting corruption, you played an important role in bringing in clean and transparent system through Digital India. You saved every programme from becoming just a govern-



ment initiative.”

Emphasising that there was no difference between girls and boys, Modi said the government has taken steps to ensure that girls are connected to every possible opportunity. He said women have donned the role of fighter pilots, an all-women crew of the Indian Navy circumnavigated the world, and now his government has taken steps to induct women in military police and take it to nearly 20% of the corp.

Modi appreciated the hard work put in by cadets, many of whom come from villages and small towns. He said many NCC cadets have gone on to make the country proud. In this context, he mentioned famous athlete Hima Das.

Modi urged the cadets to spread greater awareness about the government's welfare schemes and to motivate the youths to vote in large numbers in the upcoming elections.