

Modi, Hasina launch projects in Bangladesh via video link

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said leaders from neighbouring countries should have relations like neighbours who are not bound by protocol.

He made these remarks at the joint inauguration of three infrastructure projects in Bangladesh via video conferencing.

The three projects were jointly inaugurated by Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and chief ministers of West Bengal and Tripura, Mamata Banerjee and Biplab Deb respectively. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Bangladesh counterpart were also present on the occasion.

The projects are 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh

through the existing Bheramara (Bangladesh)-Baharampur (India) interconnection; Akhaura-Agartala rail link; and rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

Modi recalled that he had met Hasina several times in the recent past, including at the BIMSTEC meeting in Kathmandu, in Shanti Niketan, and during the Commonwealth Summit in London.

He said leaders of neighbouring countries should have a relationship like neighbours, talking and visiting frequently, without getting bogged down by protocol. He said this closeness is evident in the frequent interactions between him and the Bangladesh PM. **PTI**