

Disabled happy to see their 'Modi uncle'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Some of the loudest cheers during the PM's 80-minute speech came from the 'divyang enclosure' or the enclosure for the differently abled that was just beside the defence ministry enclosure facing the guard of honour site.

While many of the children here couldn't hear the PM speak, their teachers interpreted the speech to them in sign language. Tanu Tomar, a counsellor from SAI Swayam Society, said she was leading a contingent of 28 hearing and speech impaired children. "They were all very excited. We started preparing late in the night and left the institute at 1am. Nobody slept, but they

are still very cheerful," Tomar said.

Nearly 120 differently abled children were at the event. This separate enclosure was set up by the Union ministry of social justice and empowerment in continuation of last year's initiative.

Sanskriti Bhatia, another interpreter from Sai Swayam Society, was among the four people who interpreted the PM's speech. Bhatia said she "meaningfully interpreted" Modi's address and not literally to make the visitors understand it better.

Children liked it that "Modi uncle" also spoke about disability. Tanya, a wheelchair-bound girl, said it was one of her best days as the PM had waved towards her.