

TARGET 2022 TO UPROOT GRAFT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort as part of annual tradition to commemorate freedom from British Raj. This was his fourth address on the occasion and as always, the PM minced no words in appreciation as well as admonishment. Launching a bid to create a New India by 2022, when the country turns 75, he dared those staring at the nation with covetous eyes and touched upon every burning topic the nation is dealing with at present:

INFANT DEATHS: Sometimes, natural calamities become a big challenge. Good rains contribute hugely to the prosperity of a nation. But due to climate change, sometimes, these natural calamities bring distress. A few days back, in many parts of the country, natural disasters took place. A few days back, at a hospital, innocent children died. In this entire time of distress and sadness, sympathies of 125 crore people of the country are with them.

CHINA: India can defend itself from anyone who seeks to act against our country. Security is our top priority. Be it the seas or our borders, cyber or space, in all spheres, India is capable and we are strong enough to overcome those who try to act against us.

KASHMIR: *Na gaali se samasya sulajhne wali hai, na goli se, samasya suljhegi har Kashmiri ko gale lagane se* (Kashmir problem cannot be resolved by abuses or bullets. It can be resolved by embracing all Kashmiris), Modi said, adding only a handful of separatists are resorting to creating problems. He asserted that there will be no soft approach towards terrorism and the government is committed to make Kashmir a paradise again.

BLACK MONEY: Those who have looted the nation and looted the poor are not able to sleep peacefully today. Demonetisation of old ₹500



The Prime Minister broke away from his security cover to meet children, many of whom were dressed as Krishna.

and ₹1,000 notes last November helped bring over ₹3 lakh crore of unaccounted wealth into the banking system. More than ₹2 lakh crore in black money has reached banks and now people depositing such money are being made to answer questions on their origin. More than 18 lakh people have been identified whose income is more than their declared wealth. Black money of over ₹1.25 lakh crore has been detected in last three years which people

were compelled to surrender.

GST: GST has shown the spirit of cooperative federalism. The nation has come together to support GST and the role of technology has also helped. Removal of check posts after implementation of GST has cut time for transporting goods by 30 per cent.

COMMUNALISM AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM: Violence in the name of faith is not acceptable, Modi said.

PARVEEN NEGI

Modi greets the audience from the ramparts of Red Fort on Tuesday.



ON THE SIDELINES

■ After his speech, Modi moved to his motorcade to depart. But on his way out, he broke away from the security cover to interact with children.

■ The protocol was slightly changed. The GOC, who escorted the PM to the ramparts, was given a seat near the platform. Earlier, the GOC used to stand.

■ When the guards dispersed to the tune of *saare jahan se achcha*, Modi was seen tapping the lectern in rhythm.

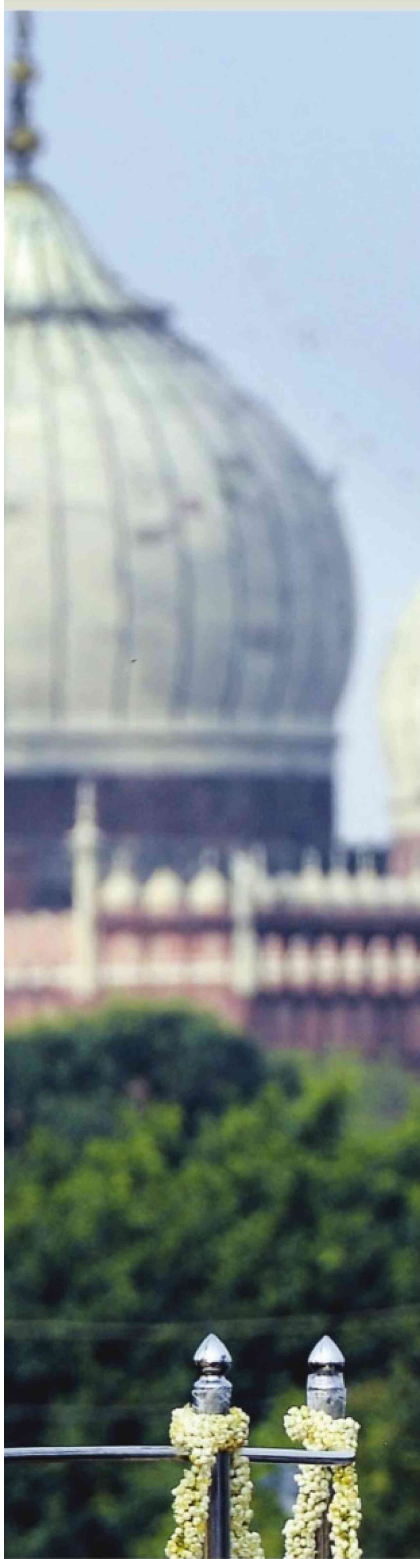
■ Modi's 57-minute long speech is his shortest so far.



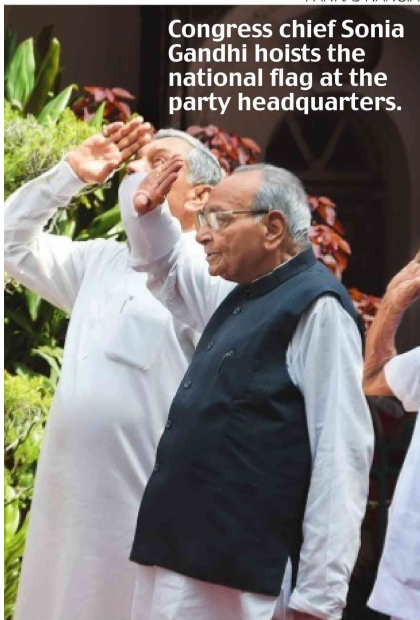
WEBSITE FOR GALLANTRY AWARDEES:

In a tribute to gallantry awardees since Independence, Modi launched a new website that will tell stories of the bravest men and women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel. "In remembrance of our heroes who have been awarded gallantry awards since Independence, launched the site," Modi tweeted.

Pitching for harmony and peace, he said *Bharat jodo* (connect India) should be the slogan like *Bharat chhodo* (Quit India) was during the freedom struggle. Describing casteism and communalism as poison in the society, Modi said such problems cannot benefit the country in any way. Underlining that India is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Buddha, he said the culture of the country is to take everyone along on the path of development.



PANKAJ NANGIA



Congress chief Sonia Gandhi hoists the national flag at the party headquarters.

TRIPLE TALAQ: Modi hailed women fighting triple talaq and said the entire country stands with them in their endeavour to get their rights. "I pay my regards to women who had to lead pitiable lives due to triple talaq and have started a movement that has created an environment in the entire country against the practice," Modi said.

NEW INDIA: Modi also asked countrymen to shed 'chalta hai' attitude and instead adopt an approach of 'badal sakta hai' (can change) for positive change. Invoking Bal Gangadhar Tilak's slogan of swaraj (self-rule), he said now their motto should be 'suraj' as he underlined his vision for a



Raisina Hill is all decked up on the occasion of Independence Day on Tuesday.



College girls in Chennai paint their faces with tricolour as they celebrate the day.

New India by 2022. "Tantra se lok nahin, lok se tantra chalega (people would be the driving force behind the establishment rather than the other way around)," he said, lamenting that democracy has been confined to ballots. "The nation had shown its collective strength between 1942 and 1947 culminating in India's Independence," he said.

FOR THE YOUTH: Modi said changing demand and technology are altering the nature of jobs and his government wants to nurture youngsters to be job creators and not job seekers. He said the government is devoting significant attention to eastern and Northeastern states.

NATIONAL SECURITY: Modi referred to last year's surgical strikes on terror launch pads across LoC and said the world has realised the mettle of India's security forces. "It is clear that security of our country is our priority. Internal security is our priority. Our army, our bravehearts, every personnel in uniform and not only the Army, Navy, the IAF have shown their capability and grit whenever there was a situation. Our heroes never shied away from sacrifices," he said. "Be it Left-wing extremism, terrorism, infiltration or tackling forces trying to foment trouble inside, our people in uniform have always given sacrifices. We are not alone in the fight against terrorism. So many countries have been actively helping us. If there is hawala transaction, the world is giving us information," he added.



College students draped in tricolour take selfies; the Gateway of India is illuminated on the occasion.