

# India now working towards self-reliance in defence sector: PM Narendra Modi

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**JHANSI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India which became known as an importer of arms has now adopted the mantra of “Make in India, Make for the World” to turn the country self-reliant in the defence sector.

At an event in Jhansi in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh, the PM formally handed over the Light Combat Aircraft (LCH) designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to the Air Force chief, drones and UAVs built by Indian start-ups to the Army chief, and the DRDO-designed and Bharat Electronics Limited-manufactured advanced electronic warfare suite for naval ships to the Navy chief.

He said that a lion’s share of spending on procurement of weapons from the defence budget will be done on indigenously designed ones in time

to come in line with the country’s policy of self-reliance in the crucial defence sector.

The PM was here on the concluding day of the three-day Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv, ‘Jhansi Jalsa’, which coincided with the 193rd birth anniversary of Rani Laxmibai. He addressed a limited gathering of 750 people from the precincts of the historic Jhansi Fort with the backdrop of the fort contour from where the Rani had jumped with her horse Badal while fighting the British force.

He also laid foundation and inaugurated a number of projects worth Rs 3,425 crore, including a Rs 400 crore Bharat Dynamics plant to make propulsion system for anti-tank guided missiles, in Jhansi node of UP Defence Corridor.

Modi said that the defence ministry has already released a list of 200 such equipment and weapons which would be

purchased only from within the country. “The new warfare weapons and equipment manufactured in the Jhansi node of Defence Industrial Corridor (DIC) will not only help firm up the security of the country, but will lend a strong impetus to the ‘Atmanirbhar’ campaign envisioning self-reliance in the crucial defence sector,” he added.

“The corridor will sow fresh seeds of development in the region and turn it into a new investment destination. Bundelkhand region known for valour and courage will now be known for strategic growth,” the PM said.

Modi further said, “We were once famous as an arms buyer country. But with our new mantra ‘Make in India’ and ‘Make for the World’, India will now export defence equipment to the world and in this Jhansi node of UP Defence Corridor will play an important role. In this, MSMEs are also going to play an important role and also generate employment at the local level.”

Modi said that the history of India’s freedom struggle would have been different if the brave 19th century queen of Jhansi, Rani Laxmibai, had military logistics which matched those of the British.

The PM was cheered by the audience chanting ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’ slogans a number of times.

The entire programme was focused mainly on women as a number of girl cadets were present among the audiences as well as on the fort and even during conducting the programme. Notably, during her recent visit Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to Chitrakoot and Lalitpur, where she had announced a number of benefits for the women and girls if Congress party comes to power along with distributing tickets to 40% of women.

While starting his speech in the local Bundelkhandi dialect. Modi said that I bow to the land of valour of Rani Laxmibai and Jhalkaribai and said, “I congratulate all the people of this region as your ancestors too were part of the forces of Rani who fought against the British. He termed the region as ‘Kranti ki Kashi’.”

He further said, “I feel lucky that I represent the birthplace of Rani that is Kashi and have the opportunity to serve it. I bow to both the places from here.” While mentioning Chandelas, Bundelas, Ala Udal, Modi said that this region has produced a number of leaders in history.

He further said that already girls are being admitted in many of the sainik schools and very soon these schools will churn out

many Rani Laxmibais.

Praising defence minister Rajnath Singh and his team along with UP government under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for organising the event, Modi said, “This Utsav will go a long way in the development of defence corridor and Bundelkhand making it a fertile land for producing equipment for national defence.” He also praised the innovative ideas of Jhansi MP Anurag Sharma.

Before reaching the rally ground, Modi visited the Jhansi Fort where he unveiled a plaque of Rani Laxmibai and witnessed the ‘beating the retreat’ ceremony.

The PM was accompanied by UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Rajnath and Yogi. In addition, CDS Gen Bipin Rawat along with chiefs of Navy and Air force were also present.

PM lays foundation of solar park

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid down the foundation stone and dedicated a number of sops worth Rs 3,425 crores here on Friday including Rs 400 crore Bharat Dynamics plant. In addition, foundation was laid for 600MW solar power park spread in 3,023 acres of land in Garotha tehsil of Jhansi district. The PM also inaugurated the newly built Atal Ekta Park in the city which has a central library of 8 thousand books along with an ampi-theatre and an open gym.

The announcements included setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools, launch of NCC border and coastal scheme, NCC alumni association and national programme of simulation training for NCC cadets, in boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat. A digital kiosk at the national war memorial was also launched to pay tribute to fallen heroes and NWM mobile app. PM inaugurates Rs 3,240 projects in Mahoba

Before reaching Jhansi, PM Narendra Modi went to Mahoba where he inaugurated Rs 3,240 crore worth of projects including Arjun Sahayak Project, Bhawani Dam Project, Ratuli Dam Project and Bhargawn-Chilla Sprinkler project spread in Mahoba, Hamirpur, Banda and Lalitpur districts. All these projects are expected to help in solving the serious and persisting drought

situations causing irrigation problems for the farmers of Bundelkhand.

Addressing a rally in Mahoba, Modi said, “For the first time, the people of Bundelkhand are seeing the government working for their development. Previous governments did not get tired of looting UP but we do not get tired of working.”

The Prime Minister further said that the resources of the region were handed over to mafias by the previous governments. “Those who ruled Delhi and Uttar Pradesh for a long time left no stone unturned to ruin this region. It is no secret how jungles and resources of this region were handed over to mafias. Now that bulldozers are being used against these mafias, some people are making a hue and cry,” said Modi.