

# Be vocal for local, must make India self-reliant: PM Modi

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AHMEDABAD/RAJKOT: India can't afford to remain stagnant at this juncture and has to become self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday while urging people to buy locally-made products only. He said if people use local goods for the next 25 years, then India will not have to face unemployment. The PM was speaking after unveiling a 108-foot tall statue of Lord Hanuman in Morbi, Gujarat, via video link on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti.

"India cannot afford to remain stagnant today. Whether we are awake or asleep, we can't continue to remain where we are. The global situation is such that the world is thinking on how to become 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant)," Modi said.

"I would request the saints of the country to teach people to buy local products only. 'Vocal for local' is the in thing. At our homes, we should only use things made by our people. Imagine the number of people who will get employment due to this," he said.

"We may like foreign-made goods but these things don't have the feel of the hard work of our people, the scent of our mother Earth," he said, adding, "In the next 25 years, if we just use local products, there won't be unemployment for our people."

Modi inaugurated the statue at the ashram of 'param puja Keshvanand ji' at Morbi. This is the second of four statues being set up in four directions across India, as part of Hanumanji Char Dham project.

Calling Lord Hanuman an inspiration for all and the one who ensured the right to respect of all forest-dwelling species and tribals, the Prime Minister said that it is an important thread of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'.