

Use Disruption As Opportunity: Modi

UP TRADE SHOW: From Chips To Ships, Our Aim Is To Build Everything Here, Says PM

Ashni Dhaor
@timesofindia.com

Greater Noida: Linking tax reforms to economic performance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday outlined a 'swadeshi' path to a developed India, exhorting manufacturers to use disruption – a reference to challenges brought on by US President Donald Trump's 50% tariffs on India, without mentioning it – as an opportunity. "In 2017, we brought in GST and worked on economic strengthening. In 2025, we strengthened the economy once more (with the GST overhaul). As economic strengthening progresses, the burden of tax will gradually decrease," Modi said, speaking at the inauguration of Uttar Pradesh Industrial Trade Show (UPITS) at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida.

Calling GST changes "structural reforms that will give new wings to India's growth story," Modi added, "India today has reform willpower, democratic stability, political predictability, youthful energy, skilled manpower, and infrastructure. For global investors, this is the most at-

tractive destination. Investing in India, investing in Uttar Pradesh, is a win-win situation. Together, let us build a developed Uttar Pradesh, and a developed India."

The PM urged Indian manufacturers and entrepreneurs to cut dependence on foreign markets and anchor their business models in 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

"Despite disruption and uncertainty across the world, India's growth remains strong. Disruption does not weaken us, we turn it into opportunity," Modi said. "Every product that can be made in India must be made in India. Dependence on foreign nations only creates instability. In a changing world, the more dependent a country is on others, the more its growth is compromised. For India, such dependence is unacceptable. That is why I urge our entrepreneurs, our traders, and our manufacturers: reduce dependency on foreign nations. From chips to ships, our aim is to build everything here," he added.

Indian products, the PM reminded, should be of high quality so that they offer the



The PM urged Indian manufacturers and entrepreneurs to cut dependence on foreign markets and anchor their business models in 'Make in India'

same value for money that foreign-made goods do for people who buy them. "We have improved ease of doing business by decriminalising hundreds of minor violations. Govt is walking shoulder-to-shoulder with industry. But in return, we expect one commitment from you — no compromise with quality. For too long, people believed foreign goods were always better. Now, when customers want to buy swadeshi with pride, our traders

must also say with pride: "Yes, this is Made in India", he said.

The PM also underlined the need to build value chains. "Every part should bear the stamp of Made in India. We are creating such ecosystems and UP is playing a big role in this," he said.

Arguing the overhaul in GST slabs has delivered "massive savings" for families and created a stronger base for industry, he said since 2014, when he came to office, taxes

had been progressively simplified, unlike what he described as "tax loot" under Congress govts. "A Rs 1,000 shirt carried Rs 117 in taxes before 2014, which dropped to Rs 50 with GST in 2017 and has now come down to just Rs 35 after recent reforms. From toothpaste to tractors, from shampoo to scooters, families are saving thousands of rupees every year. Earlier, even incomes of Rs 2 lakh were taxed; today, incomes up to Rs 12 lakh get relief."

The PM was welcomed by chief minister Yogi Adityanath, who thanked Modi for taking a "very important and revolutionary step through GST reforms".

He described UPITS as a "festival of Brand UP", saying the presence of 80 countries, 520 overseas buyers, and around 2,250 exhibitors reflected the state's rising stature in exports. "For self-reliant and developed India, all sections of society including industry, academic institutions, research and development centers, will have to work together in an integrated manner. UPITS has emerged as an excellent platform for that," he said.

The CM said UP now manufactures more than half of India's mobile phones, is expanding rapidly into semiconductors and defence production, and has built the largest expressway network in the country. With improved law and order and new airports and freight corridors, he said, the state will emerge as a natural hub for investors.

Russia ties time-tested, trade fair making it stronger: PM

With Russia as its partner country, UPITS strengthens "time-tested" ties between Delhi and Moscow, PM Modi said on Thursday. He said production of AK 203 rifles will begin soon at a factory in Amethi established with Russian collaboration. As the partner country, Russia has the highest number of buyers at the trade fair, (29), from a single country. Officials from Russia's industry chambers are also attending UPITS, with meetings lined up for Indian exporters to stitch together more partnerships. The steep 50% US tariffs have particularly affected the apparel, which is UP's biggest export commodity.