



English rendering of PM's speech during the launch of development works in Kolkata, West Bengal

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Governor Shri R. N. Ravi ji, my colleagues in the Union Cabinet Shantanu Thakur ji, Sukanta Majumdar ji, Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Shubhendu Adhikari ji, my fellow parliamentarian Shamik Bhattacharya ji, other public representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, from the soil of Kolkata, a new chapter of development for West Bengal and Eastern India is being written. Road, railway, and port infrastructure projects worth more than 18 thousand crore rupees have been inaugurated and foundation stones laid. These projects will give new momentum to West Bengal and Eastern India, promote trade and industry, make the lives of millions easier, and provide them with new opportunities. With the completion of the Kharagpur–Moregram Expressway, economic activities will accelerate in many parts of West Bengal. The Dubrajpur bypass, and the large bridges being built over the Kangshabati and Shilabati rivers, will further improve connectivity. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of West Bengal and Eastern India for these projects.

Friends,

Today, a rapid campaign is underway to modernize the railways in the country. Our resolve is that West Bengal should not lag behind in this campaign! Therefore, the central government is making strong efforts to expand West Bengal's railway infrastructure. Today, the automatic block signaling system in the Kalaikunda and Kanimahuli sections has been dedicated to the nation. This will increase the capacity of busy rail routes, make travel safer, and enhance speed and convenience for passengers.

Friends,

Today, six stations-Kamakhya Gudi, Anara, Tamluk, Haldia, Barabhum, and Siuri-have been inaugurated as Amrit Stations. The great culture of Bengal is now shining even more brightly at these stations. Many more stations are also being redeveloped here. A new express train service between Purulia and Anand Vihar Terminal has also been flagged off. This train service will benefit not only the people of West Bengal but also those in Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi.

Friends,

Just as road and rail connectivity are important, ports and water transport also play a crucial role. For decades, the potential of Eastern India in this regard was neglected. But today, waterways are opening new paths for trade and industrial progress. In this direction, important port infrastructure projects have been inaugurated and foundation stones laid today. Ports like Kolkata and Haldia have long been major centers of trade in Eastern India. The Haldia Dock Complex is being mechanized. This will speed up cargo operations, increase port capacity, and create new facilities for trade. Renovation of the bascule bridge in the Kolkata Dock System is also underway. We are also focusing on increasing cargo handling capacity at Khidderpore Dock. All these projects will strengthen the logistics system of Eastern India.

Friends,

These new projects related to roads, railways, and ports are opening new pathways for the modern future of West Bengal. Farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, students-everyone will benefit. New opportunities will also arise in sectors like tourism. Local industries and services will gain momentum. Our resolve is that Bengal, which has always guided India, should once again achieve that glory by becoming a 'Developed Bengal.' I am fully confident that strong connectivity and modern infrastructure will form the foundation of a developed Bengal. With this wish, I once again extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you for these development projects. Now, as soon as this official program concludes, I will go to the open grounds where the entire Bengal has gathered. I will have the privilege of meeting the people of Bengal and discussing very important issues among them. For this program, this much is enough.

Thank you very much!

Best wishes to all!

DISCLAIMER: This is the approximate translation of Prime Minister's address. Original address was delivered in Hindi.

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