

English rendering of PM’s speech at the launch of multiple development projects in Chandigarh

DOI CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, 17 July : Mr. Gulab Chand Kataria ji, my colleague in the Union Cabinet J. P. Nadda ji, Ashwini Vaishnaw ji, my fellow parliamentarian Manish Tiwari ji, and here in the auditorium many legislators, ministers, and MPs are present. I also see many distinguished personalities today, familiar faces from long ago. Brothers and sisters, It is a special joy to be among you today. , Chandigarh is not just a city - it has been a model of development for India. Chandigarh is known for planned growth, for its identity as a city of better lifestyle and ease of living. It is recognized for advanced medical facilities, and above all, for the blessings of Maa Chandi. That is why the development of Chandigarh has always been a priority for the NDA government. You may recall, about a year and a half ago, the country made a major reform in its justice system. We replaced the Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita - a justice-based legal framework instead of punishment-based laws. And the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita began right here in Chandigarh. , In recent years, projects like the Integrated Command and Control Centre, smart traffic management, smart parking, and digital governance have been undertaken to make Chandigarh hi-tech. More than ₹2,500 crore has been spent on this mission. Even today, several new projects related to health, education, and infrastructure are being launched here. I congratulate all residents of Chandigarh for these initiatives. , coming here, I was in Jind, Haryana, and after this I will go to Jalandhar for Punjab’s development programs. Between these two, today’s program in Chandigarh is taking place. Because Chandigarh connects Haryana, Punjab, Himachal, and the entire region. The development of Chandigarh not only transforms the lives of its residents

57 Hearings And An Unanswered Call For Affordable Drugs: Court Seeks Reply

New Delhi, 17 July : In the case on access to life-saving medicines, the Supreme Court has issued a notice to the centre, seeking a reply regarding the delay in cases involving life-saving treatment. The order follows a petition, filed by a breast cancer patient, that has been adjourned 57 times.

In 2022, Saroja Radhakrishnan, breast cancer patient from Kerala filed a writ petition before the Kerala High Court, stating that one of the drugs prescribed for her condition, Ribociclib, was "too expensive and unavailable at an affordable price" because it was patented. Radhakrishnan argued that the "unaffordable price of the medicine" impacted her right to health, which is a fundamental right under Article 21.

India's generic drug makers, who routinely manufacture cheaper versions, were legally prohibited from making a version of Ribociclib, originally manufactured by the multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis.However, if the government determines that a drug is needed by a large section of the public and they are unable to access it, the Centre can issue a 'compulsory licence', allowing drug manufacturers to produce it at an affordable price. The provision applies to both patented and non-patented drugs.

The petitioner, Radhakrishnan, died while waiting for a final judgment. The Kerala High Court kept the matter alive in public interest, noting that over a lakh patients require similar relief.The case has been listed 57 times since January 21, 2023, but nothing conclusive has come out.

The Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment has written to the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court requesting him to expedite the final hearing involving access to breast cancer medicine Ribociclib.

The group's co-convenors, Jyotsna Singh and KM Gopakumar wrote that "every stakeholder has been heard. Every report sought by the court has been placed on record. Every scientific development has been brought before. The pleadings stand completed. Yet the constitutional questions on the obligations of the government under Article 21 with regard to access to medicines remain unaddressed".

The letter was also marked to the Chief Justice of India and the President following which the top court took suo motu cognisance of the issue. The Court said it would issue notice in the case and requested the Kerala High Court to decide its pending suo motu proceedings expeditiously.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lays foundation stone and dedicates to the nation various development projects worth around ₹14,700 crore in Jind, Haryana

Today, Jind and Haryana have permanently etched their names in the pages of history. From here today, the nation has been gifted its first Hydrogen Train: PM Besides being completely emission-free, India's Hydrogen Train, stands as a remarkably successful testament to MAKE IN INDIA: PM India has successfully demonstrated its prowess by running a

DOI CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, 17 July :Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects worth around ₹14,700 crore in Jind, Haryana. Expressing profound joy upon arrival at the site, the Prime Minister highlighted the region's rich historical, martial, and spiritual legacy, uniquely blessed by the Shakti Peeth Mata Jayanti. Recalling his initial visits to the city decades ago for organizational duties, he fondly recalled the unforgettable affection he received, intrinsically linked to local culinary staples like Murrah buffalo dairy, desi bura, and ghevar. "This is no ordinary land; it is a profound land of history, bravery, religion, and immense pride," observed Shri Modi.

Contrasting the timeless local flavors with the dramatically transformed developmental landscape of the region, the Prime Minister positioned the city as a shining reflection of the good governance model. Emphasizing that the entire state has firmly embarked on a new trajectory of progress over the past years, he noted that the day's events are actively infusing this mission with

but also benefits the people of Haryana, Himachal, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir. In terms of medical services, Chandigarh is a major hub for this entire region. , When I lived in Chandigarh, I often had to go to PGI. Why? Because someone from our colleagues or their families - whether from Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal, or Haryana - would come here for treatment, and it was natural for me to visit them. That is why I know how important PGI has been for the health needs of people across this region. Friends, Today, advanced healthcare facilities at Chandigarh PGI are being expanded. The Advanced Neurosciences Centre, Advanced Mother and Child Centre, and Critical Care Hospital Block will provide better treatment to lakhs of people. I remember attending PGI's convocation in 2015. I am glad that today I am virtually meeting many old colleagues there again. In this decade, PGI's capacity has expanded greatly. I appreciate the management, professors, and young doctors of PGI Chandigarh and extend my best wishes to them. , When we talk about health, we all know how important cleanliness is. That is why when our government was formed, we launched the Swachh Bharat Mission. Millions of toilets were built, India was freed from open defecation, campaigns were run for cleanliness in public places, and initiatives were started to make cleanliness a part of our lifestyle. The Swachh Bharat rankings of our cities are part of this effort, and Chandigarh has consistently worked to perform well in them. , I also want to appreciate retired IPS officer Inderjit Singh Sidhu ji of Chandigarh. He is known as the "Broom Warrior." He awakened a new consciousness about cleanliness in Chandigarh and inspired people. For this, our government honored him with the Padma award this year. , Cleanliness is not a one-day task - it is a way of life. I am happy that clean-

English rendering of PM’s address at the launch of multiple development projects in Jind, Haryana

DOI CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, 17 July : Bharat Mata ki Jai. Bharat Mata ki Jai. Governor of Haryana Shri Asim Ghosh ji, the popular and energetic Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini ji, my colleague in the Union Cabinet Ashwini Vaishnaw ji, other public representatives present, and through technology, all my dear brothers and sisters of Haryana connected from many places! These are some photos brought here - please collect them, otherwise those sitting behind won't be able to see. SPG personnel, kindly collect them. Thank you, brother, for bringing such beautiful drawings. Over there, a little girl has also brought something - please collect it. Here too, two gentlemen are visible. And now, everyone please sit comfortably. For your love, for your artistic devotion, I thank you all. , From this glorious land of Jind, I greet you all with my Ram-Ram! Coming to this sacred soil fills my heart with joy. This is no ordinary land - it is the land of history, valor, faith, and pride. The blessings of Shakti Peeth Mata Jayanti always remain upon this city. For me, coming to Jind is like opening a window to old memories. I see many familiar faces here today. Many people claim that I used to come here riding on their scooters. Decades ago, I first came to Jind for organizational work. The affection and love

hydrogen train with ten full coaches straightaway: PM Railways has taken a massive leap in this 21st-century technology, which holds immense potential for future expansion: PM Our government has formulated a new National Sports Policy, the Khelo Bharat policy as well; Ranging from the Khelo India campaign to the TOPS Scheme, athletes

powerful fresh momentum. "Today's program is filling this exact mission of the government with completely new energy," asserted Shri Modi.

Declaring that the region's name has now been permanently etched into the pages of history, the Prime Minister proudly announced the launch of the country's first hydrogen-powered train. Drawing a visionary parallel to the historic first train journey between Bombay and Thane, he stated that future generations will similarly immortalize this corridor whenever advanced green mobility is discussed. "I congratulate all of you and the entire country for this momentous step related to the deep modernization of Indian Railways," affirmed Shri Modi.

Detailing the massive infrastructural push, the Prime Minister listed over Rs 14,000 crore worth of new projects spanning railways, highways, and cultural heritage dedicated directly to the state's welfare. Highlighting a massive healthcare expansion, he announced the dedication of Pandit Neki Ram Sharma Medical College in Bhiwani and Maharishi Chyavan Medical College along with Rao Tularam Hospital in Narnaul, aimed at creating pristine new avenues for aspiring medical professionals. "These new institutions will make the health-

liness has been linked with today's program as well. Under the Swachhata Se Swagat initiative, a special cleanliness campaign was carried out. I saw on social media that leaders and citizens alike were engaged in cleaning. It created a joyful atmosphere across the country. I proudly congratulate all residents of Chandigarh for this initiative. , cleanliness campaigns have proven very helpful in preventing many diseases in the country. , There was a time when the world expressed concern about India's health sector. Whenever a major disaster was anticipated, people questioned what would happen in India. During the coronavirus pandemic, India was at the center of global concern. But our government changed India's capacity and also changed the world's perception. When the pandemic came, India was not a country asking for help - India was sending help to the world. Today, people from many countries come to India for treatment of serious illnesses. India is emerging as a major destination for medical tourism. This transformation is the result of 12 years of honest effort and policy. Twelve years ago, we resolved that our people would not live without healthcare services, that they would receive better treatment facilities at affordable prices. The success of the past 12 years is the outcome of that resolve. In recent years, India has rapidly expanded its healthcare infrastructure. Since 2014, approval has been given for 15 new AIIMS. Today, new AIIMS are functioning in different parts of the country. Hundreds of new medical colleges have been established across India. The number of specialty hospitals for treating serious diseases like cancer has also increased. Here in Chandigarh too, the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital was built nearby. In 2022, I had the opportunity to inaugurate it. Today, this hospital is serving thousands of patients.

in Narnaul, Maharshi Chyavan Medical College and Rao Tularam Hospital - these will strengthen Haryana's healthcare services. At the same time, they will open new paths for the youth here to become doctors and other medical professionals. For all these projects too, I congratulate all my brothers and sisters of Haryana. Friends, Today I must also appreciate the people of Jind and Haryana for another reason. The way you have taken the Swachhata Se Swagat initiative seriously, the way people here engaged in the cleanliness campaign with new energy before my arrival, is heartwarming. I saw that for the past week, your cleanliness campaign has been widely discussed on social media. Some people even said on social media - "Modi ji, please come again and again, so that our Jind remains clean." I thank the gentleman who expressed this sentiment, but today I have come to ask something from the people of Jind. Tell me, is Modi's coming necessary for cleanliness? If the people of Jind decide, if the people of Haryana decide, that we will not create filth anymore, will Jind ever become dirty? Will Haryana ever become dirty? The task is simple - there is no need for Modi to come. You only need to decide that cleanliness will become our nature, cleanliness will become our culture, and we will make it a part of our daily lives.

today are being provided with unprecedented facilities: PM We are making full preparations for the Olympic Games to be held in India in 2036. Every athlete must prepare with complete dedication: PM PM appreciate people of Haryana for 'Swachhta Se Swagat' initiative, exhorts them to make cleanliness a part of everyday lives

care services of Haryana even more empowered and highly accessible," noted Shri Modi.

Appreciating the immense civic dedication demonstrated by the local populace, the Prime Minister commended the profound seriousness with which they embraced the cleanliness welcome initiative prior to his arrival. Expressing great contentment at witnessing the community actively and freshly engaging in the sanitation campaign, he called for permanently sustaining this grassroots momentum. "We must systematically make cleanliness an integral part of our everyday lives in this exact manner," affirmed Shri Modi.

Tracing the technological evolution of the global railway sector, the Prime Minister recalled how the 19th century was fundamentally defined by steam engines while the 20th century was defined by electrical power. Looking toward the future, he emphasized that the 21st century will be driven by hydrogen mobility, officially starting with the newly inaugurated 90-kilometer route between Jind and Sonipat. "Today, Indian Railways has taken a massive leap in this 21st-century technology, which holds immense potential for future expansion," observed Shri Modi.



An ex gratia of ₹10 lakh each has been released today itself to the next of kin of all five deceased persons (three who died on the spot and two who later succumbed to their injuries at the hospital). In addition, ex gratia of ₹2.5 lakh each has been released to the seriously injured and ₹50,000 each to the persons who sustained simple injuries in today's unfortunate collision involving a school pool car at the level crossing.

Prime Minister Inaugurates Seven Redeveloped Railway Stations in Odisha Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

DOI CORRESPONDENT

Bhubaneswar, 17 July : In a significant step towards transforming railway infrastructure and enhancing passenger convenience, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated 75 redeveloped railway stations across the country under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). Among them, seven redeveloped railway stations in Odisha i.e. Balangir, Barpali, Paralakhemundi, Talcher, Kesinga, Baripada and Bimalgarh have been dedicated to the nation following their comprehensive modernization.

Redeveloped at a cumulative cost of approximately ₹109 crore, these stations reflect the Government of India's vision of developing modern, passenger centric railway stations while preserving the cultural identity and architectural heritage of their respective regions.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme envisages the holistic redevelopment of railway stations with improved passen-

ger amenities, including modern station buildings, better circulating areas, upgraded waiting halls, modern toilets, enhanced platform shelters, digital passenger information systems, improved lighting, standardized signage and multimodal integration. Based on operational requirements and station specific needs, facilities such as 12 metre wide Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) with lift provisions have also been provided at suitable stations to ensure barrier free accessibility. The station buildings also incorporate local art, culture and architectural elements, reflecting the unique heritage of their respective regions.

The redeveloped stations are expected to significantly enhance passenger convenience, strengthen regional connectivity and promote tourism, trade and local economic development, reaffirming Indian Railways' commitment to creating world class railway infrastructure in line with the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Official Language Award Distribution and All-India Hindi Kavi Sammelan

DOI CORRESPONDENT

17 July : A grand event comprising the Official Language Award distribution ceremony and a *Kavi Sammelan* (poets' gathering) was organized at the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) on July 16, 2026. Additionally, the Hindi magazine *Vidyut Veethika*, published by the Official Language Department, was released by the General Manager.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager/CORE, stated in his presidential address that Hindi is not merely a medium of communication but an integral part of our identity and culture. The efforts being made within our organization to promote the official language, Hindi, not only enhance the effectiveness of our work but also assist in powerfully expressing our emotions.

The poets present here today will not only delight us with their verses

Human Righst Body Orders Fresh Probe In Andhra Pradesh Missing Girls Cases

Hyderabad, 17 July : The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ordered a fresh investigation into the issue of missing girls in Andhra Pradesh and directed its Investigation Division to examine the police response, rehabilitation measures and standard operating procedures adopted in tracing missing children. The Commission's latest direction comes over two years after Hyderabad-based advocate and human rights activist Y. Balachander Reddy approached the NHRC through a public interest petition, urging intervention over the alarming number of missing girls in the State.

The complaint, filed in January 2024, relied on National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data and alleged that the continued disappearance of girl children reflected a serious violation of their fundamental human rights.According to the petition, over 3,000 girls went missing in Andhra Pradesh during 2022. Including unresolved cases from previous years, with 3,592 girls reported missing. While 3,221 girls were traced or recovered, 371 remained untraced, raising concerns over the effectiveness of the state's response.

The complaint also referred to data released by Child Rights and You (CRY) on National Girl Child Day,

which showed that 525 girls in Andhra Pradesh were victims of kidnapping and abduction in 2022. Of these, 100 cases involved forced marriages and 55 were linked to procurement.

The report further said that more than 1,000 minor girls were victims of rape under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, while another 1,000 girls were reported as victims of attempted rape or sexual assault. It also pointed out that a majority of POCSO offences were allegedly committed by persons known to the victims.

Alleging that the state's inability to effectively trace missing girls amounted to a violation of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution and the Protection of Human Rights Act, the petitioner urged the NHRC to take suo motu cognisance, seek a comprehensive status report from the Andhra Pradesh Government, direct the use of scientific technology for tracing operations and call for a time-bound Action Taken Report.Acting on the complaint, the NHRC had issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police and the Chief Secretary in March 2024 and subsequently sought additional information from the State government on multiple occasions.