

# The coming decade will be India's: Modi

## Flags off Chennai Metro extension line; inaugurates a slew of other projects

### OUR BUREAU

Chennai, February 14

The world is looking at India with great enthusiasm and positivity and this is going to be India's decade because of the hard work and strength of 130 crore Indians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday.

Modi was in Chennai on Sunday to hand over the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) to the Army built at the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi, Chennai, and to flag off a couple of projects.

Speaking at a function to mark the occasion, Modi added that Tamil Nadu, which is the leading automobile manufacturing hub of India, is now evolving as the tank manufacturing hub of India.

'Made in Tamil Nadu' tanks will be used on the northern

border to keep the nation safe. This showcases the *Bharat Ekta Darshan* and *AatmaNirbhar India* in the defence sector. "I am proud to dedicate to the country one more warrior to protect our frontiers," said Modi.

The Battle Tank has been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by Combat Vehicles Research & Development; Defence Research and Development Organisation along with 15 academic institutions, eight labs and several MSMEs. Orders worth ₹8,500 crore for 118 tanks have been placed, which will support 200 industries and will generate 8,000 jobs.

"We will continue working to make our armed forces one of the most modern forces in the world. At the same time, the focus on making India self-reliant in the defence sector moves



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami (right) and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam during the inauguration of Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension, in Chennai on Sunday PTI

with full speed. Our armed forces significantly show India's ethos of courage," he said.

### Budget and reforms

"One of the two defence corridors is in Tamil Nadu. The corridor has received an invest-

ment of ₹8,100 crore," he added. Also inaugurating projects worth ₹4,487 crore and laying the foundation stones for projects worth ₹3,640 crore in Tamil Nadu in the presence of Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister Edappadi K

Palaniswami, and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, Modi said Budget 2021 has showcased the importance of reforms. Special importance has been given to the development of coastal areas.

### Railway projects

Modi also inaugurated the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-I extension project completed at a cost of ₹3,770 crore. This 9.05-km-long extension will link North Chennai with the airport and Central Railway Station. This project has been completed on schedule despite the effects of the pandemic. The civil construction activities were undertaken by Indian contractors. This is in line with *AatmaNirbhar Bharat*, the PM said.

In this year's Budget, over ₹63,000 crore has been set aside for Phase-II of the project spanning 119-km. This is one of the largest projects sanctioned for any city in one go, he said.