

Modi unveils, lays foundation for projects in Tamil Nadu

FE BUREAU

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PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA

Modi on Sunday landed in Chennai, marking his presence in the poll-bound state by inaugurating projects, laying foundation for some more key projects and handing over the Arjun main battle tank (MK-1A) to the Army, during his brief stay in the state capital.

Among the projects he inaugurated include Chennai Metro Rail phase-I extension, a fourth railway line between Chennai Beach and Attipattu and railway electrification of single line section in Villupuram - Cuddalore - Mayiladuthurai - Thanjavur and Mayiladuthurai-Thiruvavur.

The prime minister has also laid foundation stone for the extension, renovation and modernisation of the Grand Anicut canal system and Discovery Campus of IIT-Madras.

Modi said these projects are symbols of innovation and indigenous development which will further the growth of Tamil Nadu.

Speaking about the ₹3,770 crore Chennai Metro Rail phase I extension, he said the project has been completed on schedule despite the pandemic. The project was in line with the boost to Aatm Nirbhar Bharat as the rolling stock has been procured locally and civil construction activities were done by Indian contractors. A sum of ₹63,000 crore has been set aside for a 109 km of phase-II of the project.

He said there was a need to ensure faster freight movement between Chennai Port and Kamarajar Port, and expressed the confidence that the fourth line between Chennai Beach and Attipattu will help in this respect. He also noted that the electrification of Villupuram-Thanjavur -

Thiruvavur project will be a great boon to the delta districts.

The prime minister said India has undertaken a massive effort to become self-reliant in the defence sector. One of the two defence corridors is in Tamil Nadu which has already received investment commitments over ₹8,100 crore.

Tamil Nadu is already the leading automobile manufacturing hub of India and now the prime minister sees Tamil Nadu evolving as the tank manufacturing hub of India.

On Arjun Mark 1A, the prime minister declared: "I am proud to handover the indigenously designed and manufactured main battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A". It also uses indigenous ammunition. A tank made in Tamil Nadu will be used in our northern borders to keep the nation safe. This showcases India's united spirit - Bharat's Ekta Darshan."