

BUILD INDIA OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS' DREAMS: MODI

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In the 91st episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, his monthly radio address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the people of the country to build an India of the dreams of the freedom fighters during the 75th Independence Day celebrations.

Mr. Modi said the biggest message that emerged from the events being organised for the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* is that all countrymen should follow their duty with full devotion.

“Only then will we be able to fulfil the dream of those countless freedom fighters... and to build the India of their dreams. That is why this *amrit kaal* of our next 25 years is *kartavyakaal*, a period of duty for every countryman. To liberate the country, our brave fighters had given us this responsibility, and we have to fulfil it fully,” Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that all were going to be witness to a splendid and historic moment during this Independence Day.

Mass movement

He said he was happy to see that the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* was taking the form of a mass movement.

“People from all walks of life and from every section of society are participating in different programmes connected with it. One such event took place in Meghalaya earlier this month. People remembered the brave warrior of Meghalaya U. Tirot Singh on his death anniversary. Tirot Singh *ji* fiercely opposed the British conspiracy to control the Khasi Hills and destroy the culture there. Many artists gave beautiful performances in this programme,” Mr. Modi said.

He said the Centre had undertaken *Azadi Ki Railgadi Aur* Railway Station, a programme with the objective to make people aware of the role of the Indian Railways in the freedom struggle.

“There are many such railway stations in the country which are associated with the history of the freedom movement,” he said, and added that Vanchi Maniyachchi Junction in Thoothukudi district is named after Tamil freedom fighter Vanchinathan.

“This is the same place where Vanchi, 25 years of age then, had punished one British Collector for his actions,” he said.

The Prime Minister said 75 such railway stations had been identified, spread over 24 States across the country. “These 75 stations are being decorated very ornately. Many types of programmes are also being organised in these,” Mr. Modi said.

Citing the example of honey farmers across the country, he said the export of honey from the country had increased.

“The country started campaigns like National Beekeeping and Honey Mission, farmers worked hard, and the sweetness of our honey started reaching across the world. There are still huge possibilities in this field. I would like our youth to join these opportunities and take advantage of them and realise new possibilities,” Mr. Modi said.

Toy imports fall

Mr. Modi said the number of toys coming from abroad to India was continuously decreasing.

“Earlier, where toys worth more than Rs. 3,000 crore used to come from outside, now their import has reduced by 70% and it is a matter of joy that during this period, India has exported toys worth more than Rs. 2,600 crore to foreign countries, whereas earlier, only toys worth Rs. 300 crore-Rs. 400 crore used to go out of India. And you already know that all this happened during the corona [COVID-19 pandemic] period,” Mr. Modi said, adding that India’s toy sector has proven its mettle by transforming itself.

“Indian manufacturers are now making toys based on Indian mythology, history and culture. Toy clusters that are there everywhere in the country, small entrepreneurs who make toys, are getting a lot of benefit from it. The toys made by these small entrepreneurs are now going around the world. Toy manufacturers from India are also working closely with the world’s leading global toy brands,” he added.

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