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PRO FARMER POLICY

Modi's pitch for second green revolution



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing at the inauguration of the construction work of Agra Metro project via video conferencing, in New Delhi on December 07

LUCKNOW: Amid the row over laws meant to bring a major change in the agri-marketing sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said reforms are needed for development and some laws from the past century have become a burden now.

Launching the Agra metro rail project through videoconference, Modi said the reforms carried out by his government are also getting reflected in election results.

His pitch on the importance of reforms comes

ahead of 8 December Bharat Bandh over the three new farm laws enacted at the Centre. But during his brief address, the prime minister made no direct reference to the new laws or the farmers' protests.

"Reforms are needed for development. Reforms are very much needed for a new order and to give new facilities. We cannot build the next century with the laws of the previous century, he said.

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Narinder Singh Kapany

Eminent India-bom US scientist passes away

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Indian engineers communicate via human touch

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INDIA POST SURVEY
survey@indiapost.com
 This week's question
 Do you think Sonia or Rahul Gandhi will step down?
 Last week's result
 Will Biden support India's UNSC membership?
 YES 56% NO 44%

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"Reforms are needed for development. Reforms are very much needed for a new order and to give new facilities. We cannot build the next century with the laws of the previous century, he said.

Some laws that used to be good in the past century have become a burden in the present century. Reforms should be a continuous process," he said.

Modi said his government is carrying out holistic reforms. Earlier, reforms used to happen in a piecemeal manner, or keeping in mind some sectors and departments," the prime minister said.

He said the reforms carried out in recent past have infused self-confidence in the country, adding that people will be satisfied when they go through the finer details.

This confidence has been seen in every election in

the recent past. A glimpse of this confidence is seen in the election results in every part of the country, including UP," he said.

The PM said in recent years the poor and the middle class have showered their unprecedented blessings on the efforts of the government. He said their support and the small joys experienced by the countrymen gives me the courage to do new things and take new initiatives".

Modi said his government intends to solve the festering problems faced by people, make life easy, increase investment and ensure the maximum use of modern technology.

He said a major problem in the country's infrastructure sector was that new projects were announced but not much attention was given on how they will be funded.

His government ensures the availability of funds at the start of a new project itself, Modi said.

He said over Rs 100 lakh crore will be spent under the National Infrastructure Pipeline project and work is being done on the master plan for multi-modal connectivity. Efforts are also on to attract investment from all over the world to improve the country's infrastructure, he added. Work is being carried out on 1,000 km of new metro rail lines in 27 cities countrywide, Modi said, claiming big progress in this sector since his first government took charge in 2014.

The Rs 8,379.62-crore Agro Metro project has two corridors with a total length of 29.4 km and will connect major tourist attractions like Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sikandara with railway stations and bus stands.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 5

years. Agra has a population of 26 lakh and 60 lakh tourists visit the city every year.

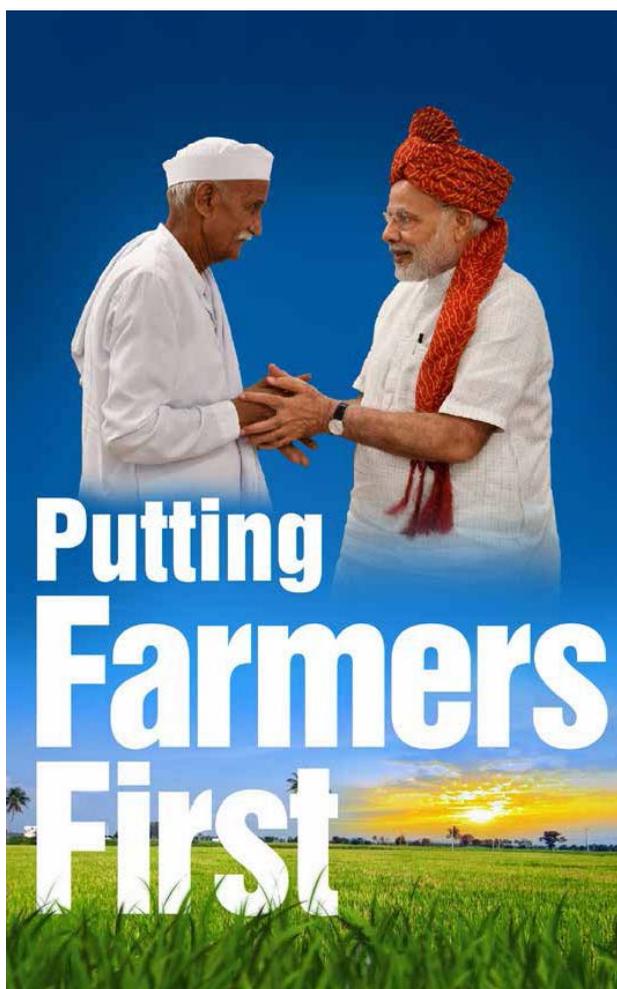
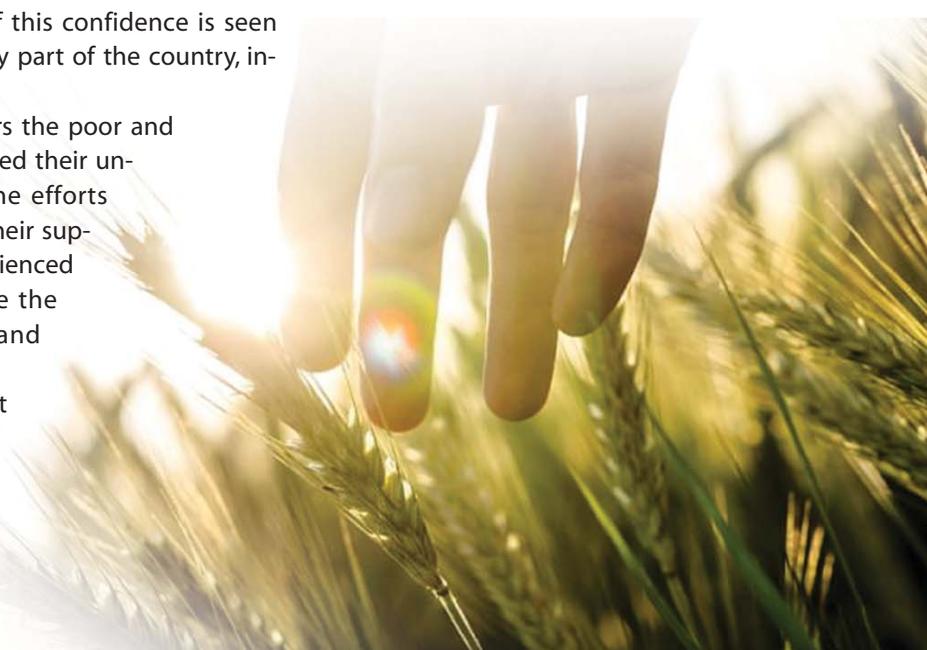
The prime minister said tourism sector benefits the most from better connectivity and infrastructure. Work is on to make "local tourism vocal", he added.

He said the government has not only increased the number of countries covered under the e-Visa scheme, it has also significantly reduced the tax on hotel room tariff.

"With the efforts of the government, India is now ranked at number 34 on Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index.

In 2013, India was ranked 65th on this index," he said, while hoping for a recovery in the sector as the coronavirus situation improves.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the event. PTI



Farm reforms and their background

India Post News Service

NEW DELHI: Disparity of incomes between agriculture and other sectors has been the underlying need for farm reforms. The difference in annual income of farmer and nonfarmer worker, which stood at Rs 25,398 in 1993-94 further widened to Rs 54,377 in 1999-2000 and in the next decade it further increased to more than Rs 1.42 lakh.

Fragmented markets, market taxes and commissions increased the final product price but reduced returns to farmers. Despite market taxes, infrastructure in markets remained underdeveloped and not in tune with modern supply chains. This inadequate infrastructure led to high postharvest losses, estimated at Rs 90,000 crore in 2014.

The reforms are aimed to bring the following benefits:

1. If farmers want to sell within the APMC markets, that will continue. MSPs also continue. So, the MSP acts as a safety net for farmers.

2. APMC market yards will be open for farmers to sell. This apart, they can also sell outside the mandis. There will be competition to buy from farmers which means farmers have greater bargaining power to decide their price.

3. For every product and for every producer, all of India is a single unified market. Only farmers were denied this benefit of a massive market.

With these reforms, Indian farmers will now finally have the freedom to sell their produce to who they want and where they want and at price of their choice, an option denied to them until now.