



Prime Ministers' first radio address to the nation: An advanced dimension of exploring and enlarging the potential of Indians for achieving nation's growth

With a call for public participation in India's development and an aim to reach out to more and more people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made his first radio address to the nation. Giving a pep talk to listeners about how to shed dependency and use their skills for betterment and prosperity of the country, Modi said, "A lot of us think that it is the government's responsibility to do everything...if we want to develop, then 1.2 billion will have to work towards it." The All India Radio show titled "Mann ki Baat", or "Talking from the Heart" was also telecast by Doordarshan with visuals of Modi to go with the audio clip. In his 15-minute address, Modi advocated the need for use of khadi products — "even a handkerchief or bedsheet" — as a homage to Mahatma Gandhi and impressed upon the people to gener-

ate confidence among themselves, including specially-abled children.

In an attempt to motivate people, Modi said, "You know, our scientists have undertaken the Mars mission successfully at minimum expenses. There is nothing lacking in our capabilities. We only

have forgotten our strengths. We have forgotten ourselves as if we have become despondent. My brothers and sisters, this cannot be. We need to recognize our internal strengths." To buttress his argument he also narrated a short story of Swami Vivekananda about how a lion brought up by sheep redis-

covered his prowess after coming in touch with another lion. "If we move

ahead with self-respect and right identity, we will emerge victorious," he said.



Promising to make the radio broadcast a regular

he noted that he had been receiving a number of suggestions since it was announced that he would be addressing the nation over radio. Modi also cited some suggestions received by him through emails, which included that skill development should start from 5th Standard, special programmes for specially-abled children to motivate them, more dustbins, ban on polythene and making the registration of small scale industries easier. "If you have ideas and actual incidents which are constructive, do share with me. Together let us serve India and take our nation to newer heights," Modi said. Referring to specially-abled children, he said they should be a part of the development journey as the nation belongs to everyone. "They are the

responsibility of not only their families but the entire society," he said. Modi stressed on the message of the 'Swachh Bharat' campaign launched on Thursday. "Let us pledge to affirm to remove dirt. Yesterday we began the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and I want you all to join this Abhiyaan," he said. To illustrate why public participation was important to ensure development, Modi narrated a story regarding a person who sat on the wayside and kept asking several people the way to his destination, but was told the correct path only when he got up to walk. "Till we don't decide to get up and walk, we won't find guides to show us the way," he added. Explaining his decision to address the nation over radio, he said it is such a simple medium and through the broadcast he would be able to reach far and wide and the homes of the poor.



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affair (once or twice a month), Modi invited ideas from the citizens even as