

PLEDGE TO PROTECT GIRL CHILD: MODI

50TH YEAR OF HARYANA STATEHOOD; PM ANNOUNCES HOUSING SCHEME

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To loud cheers of 'Modi-Modi', Prime Minister Narendra Modi today addressed the people of Haryana with a message of protecting the girl child while announcing a slew of measures that his party and the Central government hold dear.

On Haryana's Swarna Jayanti or 50th year of statehood, the Prime Minister showed the green signal to a pet project of the BJP, namely housing for the poor; and asked the people of eight districts to switch quickly from using kerosene as a fuel. He also extolled the virtues of the controversial Aadhaar card based biometric identification, which is to be used in order to access the public distribution scheme for food grains and weed away corruption from the system. The housing scheme announced today has been named after right wing icon, Deendayal Upadhyay. It is a critical component of the government's election time assurance of housing for all by 2022.

The Deendayal Jan Awas Yojana promises to check unauthorised development by bringing small-home buyers within the scope of private developers. It is being launched in all districts of Haryana.

The Prime Minister also spoke against female foeticide prevalent in the state, which falls at the bottom of the sex ratiolist among the states whereas in a decade Haryana has improved its sex ratio that is now 903.

"The daughters of Haryana have brought laurels and pride in every sector. They have repeatedly made all of India proud. Let every citizen of Haryana pledge to protect the girl child," he said, while praising the Haryana



PM Narendra Modi inaugurating the Haryana Swarna Utsav in Gurugram on Tuesday. Governor of Haryana Kaptan Singh Solanki and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar are also seen. ■ Sns

government for taking steps against the social evil.

On the occasion, Mr Modi declared eight districts of Ambala, Gurugram, Jhajjar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Panchkula and Yamuna Nagar "kerosene free" from 1 November 2016.

He also praised efforts to phase out the use of kerosene stoves in rural areas. "Whatever money you think you are saving by using kerosene, I will ensure

you get that money. But please stop using kerosene," the PM appealed, inviting laughter from the gathered crowd.

Modi declared seven rural districts of the state as Open Defecation Free and also released a commemorative postage stamp of Haryana.

He steered clear of controversy, by not referring to the Jat agitation which rocked Manoharlal Khattar government this year.