



President of India lays foundation stone of Driver's Training Institute and Secondary School at village Dhaula under SMARTGRAM Initiative

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The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee laid the foundation stone of a Driver's Training Institute and a Secondary School under the SMARTGRAM Initiative at village Dhaula, Gurugram (Haryana) today (June 2, 2017). Three new Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) at Mahendragarh, Ambala and Palwal were also inaugurated.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that our villages not only have the capacity to develop but are also eager for development. If we keep moving ahead in this manner, the day is not far when our youth would not need to leave villages for cities in search of better avenues. It would also be possible to complete education of daughters in nearby villages. Good and affordable health services would be available for all and the youth would get training and employment in the vicinity of villages itself.

The President said that he believes that our country will develop only when our villages develop. Even today, 68 percent of our population lives in villages. If we want that our villages should prosper, we would have to improve the structure of our economy. The President said that when the SMARTGRAM Initiative was started on 2nd July 2016, he was sure that the work which has been done to make President's Estate a Smart Township can be replicated in villages as well. With the help of Haryana Government, Rashtrapati Bhavan selected five villages and many initiatives were taken for their development. Keeping in view the success achieved in the five villages, the program has now been extended to 100 villages. Success in SMARTGRAM initiative is possible only when the Government, private sector, academic institutions, NGOs and people in the villages come together for the development of villages.

Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Governor of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal, Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, MoS (IC) for Planning and Urban Development, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MoS (IC) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, MoS (IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas also addressed the gathering. Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal announced that 1000 villages would now be made SMARTGRAMS. Secretary to the President, Smt. Omita Paul gave a background of the SMARTGRAM initiative explaining how the programme has expanded since it was started last year. She said that she was convinced that if people work together, the SMARTGRAM initiative can be a tremendous success.

On the occasion, certificates were distributed to students/trainees under various initiatives. Besides, MoUs were exchanged between Gram Panchayat Dhaula and NSDC & ONGC. Commitment letters were also exchanged between Rashtrapati Bhavan and KVIC, Konark Energy Solutions & IFFCO.

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