

PM launches rly projects worth ₹8.2K cr in Odisha

State gets its first Vande Bharat

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched railway projects worth ₹8,200 crore in Odisha on Thursday and flagged off the state's first Vande Bharat Express that will connect Puri to West Bengal's Howrah.

Addressing the function through video-conferencing, Modi said new India is building its own technologies and reaching those to the different corners of the country.

"The Vande Bharat Express will further strengthen the religious, cultural and spiritual connection between Howrah and Puri," he said.

"There was a time when new technologies and facilities used to remain limited to Delhi or the big cities. But now, India has chosen a new path. This new India is making tech-



The Puri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express cover the 500-km distance in 6.5 hours

nologies on its own and reaching those to different corners of the country," he said, referring to the indigenously developed semi-highspeed train.

He said that as the country celebrates the 'Amrit Kaal' of its Independence, it's time to further strengthen its unity.

"The more India's unity is strengthened, the more its collective capacity will increase," he said. He also lauded the state for continuing India's developmental streak.