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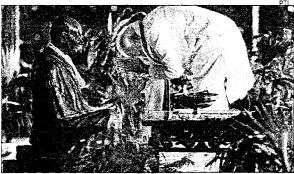
Modi: 2022 target to eradicate single-use plastic from India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday set 2022 as the year by when to achieve the target of freeing India of single-use plastic. The PM also declared India open defecation free (ODF).

"Cleanliness, environment protection and safety of living beings were close to the Mahatma. Plastic poses a major threat to all three," Modi said. He was addressing thousands of sarpanches and cleanliness champions at the launch of "Swachh Bharat Divas" to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Thus, we have to achieve the target of getting the country free of single-use plastic by 2022. In the past three weeks alone, 20,000 tons of plastic was collected as part of "Swachhata hi Sewa



PM Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

(Cleanliness is Service) initiative," the PM said. "The use of plastic carry bags is also decreasing rapidly."

The PM invoked Gandhi and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, who shares his birth anniversary with the Mahatma, to underline that change begins from the self.

Earlier, PM Narendra ModisaidIndia's clout on the world stage was growing.

The Prime Minister also said that after the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston, when he requested the United States President Donald Trump for a victory lap, without hesitating for a moment and without caring for security. Trump, hand-inhand with him, walked around the entire stadium.

At Gandhi event, Sonia attacks BJP

New Delhi: In a sharp take down of BJP and RSS, Congress president Sonia Gandhi said that those who are thirsty for power, who consider themselves supreme, and who indulge in the politics of falsehood will never understand Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of truth, Swaraj and selfless service. Sonia Gandhi was speaking at the culmination of Delhi Congress' Gandhi Yatra at Rajghat. Battling BJP as it attempts to appropriate Mahatma Gandhi as its own, Sonia told party workers and leaders at Rajgha. that Gandhi's soul would be pained to see how the India of his dreams had changed in the last five years. TNN