

Shah flags off orbital rail link project, slams previous CMs for regional bias

Targets Hooda-Led Cong Regime For Running '3D' Govt, Lauds Progress Under Khattar

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Faridabad: In Haryana to launch projects worth more than Rs 6,000 crore, primarily among them the orbital rail corridor. Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday accused previous CMs of regional bias and took aim at Congress for running a "3D government" in the state before 2014 when the reins passed to BJP for the first time after it swept the assembly election.

Speaking a day after chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar marked the completion of eight years in office by underlining his government's fights against the 3Cs (crime, corruption and caste discrimination), Shah accused previous regimes of regional bias, corruption and goondaism. Specifically targeting former CM and Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, he said, "... one sees a 3D film, but in the entire country, only Hooda showed a 3D government. In this, there were 'darbaris' (courtiers), 'damaad' (a reference to Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra) and 'dealers'."

In Khattar, he said, the state had a CM after a long time who worked for all-round development. He cited Gurgaon's example, saying the city had grown to become one of the biggest business hubs in the Khattar years. "Eight years ago, before the BJP government was formed in Haryana, the chief ministers were either from Sirsa or Rohtak. But Manohar Lal Khattar is the chief minister of entire Haryana," said Shah.

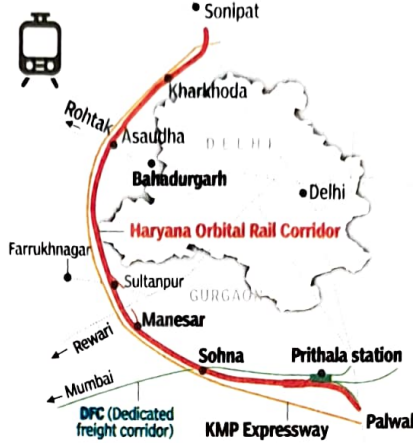
Hooda is from Rohtak while INLD chief OP Chautala is from Sirsa. "Earlier when one government was formed, corruption was rampant. In the other, there was hooliganism," Shah added, lashing out at both rival parties of BJP in the state.

Shah's comments came at a Jan Utthan rally in Faridabad, which was organised separately from the

RAIL LINK BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL HUBS

WHAT CHANGES WITH THE CORRIDOR?

- 1 Speed, capacity & features**
 - > Trains, both passenger and freight, can run at speed up to 160kmp/h
 - > They can carry 60 million tonnes of goods & 40 million passengers annually
 - > Double railway line will allow movement of stacked containers
- 2 Connectivity**
 - > Easier transport to and from three industrial and logistical hubs in Manesar, Sohna and Kharkoda
 - > Intersection with Delhi-Mumbai Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) at Prithala near Palwal railway station
 - > Direct access to Railways' radial routes like Delhi-Rohtak and Delhi-Ambala
- 3 Decongesting Delhi**
 - > Aligned with the KMP Expressway, it will divert goods and passengers trains from the capital



126km rail corridor from Palwal to Sonapat
Land acquisition for project complete
5 years estimated time of completion



Amit Shah at Jan Utthan rally in Faridabad on Thursday

two-day 'chintan shivir' of chief ministers and home ministers on internal security that got under way in the city the same day. Praising Khattar, the Union home minister sha-

red an anecdote. "After his first MLA election victory from Karnal in 2014, when he came to meet me as I was the party's national president at that time, I asked him who should be the chi-

ef minister? "He gave me a list of 15 names, which did not include his own name," Shah said.

Haryana has become the pace setter on several counts due to the joint efforts

of the CM and the Prime Minister, he added, citing the state's sporting achievements through its athletes in international competitions and the Olympics, literacy among village headmen and going kerosene-free. Lauding the state's manufacturing prowess, he added, "Also, every second vehicle in the country is made in Haryana."

The Gurgaon-Manesar industrial complex, home to the likes of Maruti and Hero, is one of India's largest automobile manufacturing hubs.

The 126km orbital rail line, connecting Palwal with Sonapat via Manesar and Kharkoda (where Maruti's new plant is coming up) will bring railway connectivity to this hub and connect local industrial hubs. Running along the Kundli-Manesar Palwal Expressway, it has been planned as a corridor for both freight and passenger operations that bypasses Delhi. The project cost is pegged at Rs 5,618 crore.

Shah also inaugurated a rail coach refurbishment factory, a Rs 590-crore project in Sonapat's Barhi. Addressing the crowd at Parade ground, he termed the projects Diwali gifts to the people of Haryana from PM Modi, adding coaches of the new Vande Bharat trains will be made in Sonapat.

Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav, who was also present at the rally, said Congress made big claims but allocated just Rs 315 crore annually for the state. After Modi became PM and BJP also took office in Haryana, the allocation was raised to a record Rs 1,400 crore a year for the development of railways in the state, he added.

"The master plan for construction of world-class railway stations in Gurgaon, Chandigarh, Ambala, Karnal, Kurukshetra and Panipat is being prepared," said Vaishnav, adding the tender for a world-class railway station in Faridabad had been finalised at a cost of Rs 262 crore