

Find new technologies to boost infrastructure: PM

Stresses use of space technology for monitoring rural roads

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for exploring new technologies for boosting road construction and coal production, in a review meeting on infrastructure held on Tuesday. “The Prime Minister directed the use of new technologies in road construction also. He asked NITI Aayog to examine global standards in the application of technology for infrastructure creation, and their feasibility in India,” an official statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office

said on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister chaired the review meeting of infrastructure sectors including roads, railways, airports, ports, digital, and coal with PMO, NITI Aayog and all infrastructure ministry officials for about four-and-a-half-hours, the statement added.

Vigorous efforts

Noting the decline in coal imports last year, the Prime Minister asked for “even more vigorous efforts towards coal import substitution, and application of new coal techno-

logies including gasification technology.” Coal import declined 27.5% in April-December 2016 compared to the previous year.

The PM emphasised on use of space technology for “efficient and stringent” monitoring of rural roads construction and their quality. In 2016-17, the highest ever average daily construction rate of 130 km rural roads was achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.