

Independence Day Message

15th Aug. 2019

Respected Principal, revered fellow teachers and my beloved student community, I am no orator who can do justice to this historic day. I resort to the power of poetry to present to you the Voice of India.

My call of life being 'unity in diversity'

***My wings spreading from Gujrat to Bengal
and Kashmir to Kanyakumari,***

With a sense of pride I celebrate my 73rd birthday.

Born of me, are the sons that toiled

The sons that gave not just me but the whole world

A taste of true evolution –

Do I sound haughty,

When I say I gave the world a taste of evolution?

Well my experience of life

From being the richest,

To becoming the most sought after,

To being subject to oppressive colonialism,

And rising from the ashes

To the phoenix I am today

Permits me to say

I gave the world the taste of evolution.

For Born of me are sons

Who've been beacons of hope, peace and collective prosperity

Not just to me but to the world entire

How can I not recall the sons that toiled –?

From the Mahatma to the millions

With the spirit of non violence and universal brotherhood

Governing my path,

I walked the talk

I am India your mother land.

Stepping out from the voice of India to being an Indian I want to recall and rejoice along with all of you our firsts that we offered to the world.

We Indians have set foot almost everywhere across the globe.

One among the largest military powers, we've been the only country in the world to bestow all its citizens the right to vote at the stroke of independence.

The unification of princely states after India was free from the British clocked zero violence and we introduced to the world the power of Ahimsa.

India nestled the earliest of civilizations. Today's PHDs and Sabbaticals abroad are only an offshoot of the Gurukula System of education. The Nalanda and the Taksila universities date back to the 4th and 7th century BC much ahead of times.

The value of Pi known as the Pythagorean theorem was first calculated by Bhudhayana in the 6th century BC

Our contributions in algebra, trigonometry and calculus date back to the 11th century

It was Jagdeesh Bose and Marcony who pioneered the wireless communication

To the field of sports we gave Chess

To the field of medicine the ayurvedha was the earliest gift not leaving behind the option of surgery

And to man's well being it was the art of yoga

We've come a long way in areas of satellite communications-remote sensing and other space programs including the Lunar and Mars missions

In terms of sharing our resources we top the world. Indians rule the world as CEOs of giant companies, Sundar Pichai of Google and Rajiv Gupta of HP stand tall

38% of Doctors

12% of Scientists

36% of Nasa Scientists

34% Microsoft employees

28% of IBMs employees and 17% of Intel employees across the globe are Indians.

No statistics can ever be right in calculating India's continual offering to the growth and development of other countries.

However let me not create the all is well picture. Deep rooted in India are a few obstacles to progress.

Terrorism, Communal disharmony and the crisis of insufficiency do hinder our progress.

How do we overcome and traverse the path shown by the great?

How do we continue to soar high and sustain the greatness of our nation?

The answers to these questions are well within us.

- *unfold the mind to think beyond set boundaries*
- *question the norms and routines*
- *add to it your own perspectives*
- *AND always keep in mind that you share the world with other co travelers*

On the 5th of August 2019 (just 10 days ago) the President of the country Shri Ram Nath Kovind issued a constitutional order revoking the 1954 Presidential order and Article 370 today stands inoperative.

Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are to be born as union territories. This stands as an astounding outcome of the power of questioning. It shows us what collective energy can together achieve. The world is by India in its mission to unify and progress.

As the future of our country, dear children raise your questions to discover the answers.

Life is as simple as these three questions:

What do I want?

Why do I want it?

And, how will I achieve it?

How we live each day and how we respond to life's experiences is the key to building a strong foundation both individually and collectively.

Be bold ask questions and be an earnest part of the solution to finding common good for all.

At this juncture I only stand to reiterate the responsibility of the adults more so our teaching community in fostering young

minds to go beyond set bounds and find purpose. May all our endeavors continue to strive towards creating experiences that are truly engaging in nature.

Let's remember that we can only collectively grow into a developed nation.

Together the young and the experienced shall strive to create the India that we will feel proud of in the years to come.

Back into the Voice of India

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Who will be beacons of hope, peace and collective prosperity

Not just to me but to the world entire

From the Mahatma to the millions that continue to toil

With the spirit of non violence and universal brotherhood

Governing our path,

May we co travel to create peace abode.

Jai Hind