



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF GUJARAT



Prof. S. A. Bari, Vice Chancellor

15th August, 2017

Independence Day Message

Greetings on the 71st Independence day

The year 2017 is unique, in the sense that it commemorates the 100th year of Satyagrah, 75 years of Quit India Movement and 70 years of independence.

Just 7 days back on August 9th 2017, we took a pledge to free India from poverty, communalism, casteism and such other evils and to build a new India by 2022 when our country is 75.

We always think and speak of our rights and privileges but do we in the same spirit think of the rights and privileges of others, do we bother about the millions of under privileged amidst us, do we think of our duties and our commitments to our institutions our society and the nation, why are we always in a agitation mode, a anti- system and anti-establishment mode, whom are we opposing, whom are we fighting, our own people and brethren who are fellow Indians who are as proud to be Indians as any other, in doing so are we not fighting and defeating the very ethos and ideals that the freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for, and fought to make this nation a free country. We opposed the British, we fought against their oppression to free ourselves, but definitely not to oppress ourselves in different ways for different reasons, it was a struggle for a free nation free from oppression, free from atrocities of caste, community religion and social biases.

If we want to build a New India each of us will have to rise above narrow parochial and selfish attitudes and answer to oneself the questions raised above.

Not long ago just 70 years back we promised ourselves to build a nation free from poverty, free from hunger, free from fear and a just society with equal opportunity, inclusive development, equal distribution of economic resources, and today to fulfil this promise to the 125 crore Indians, it is we the few fortunate ones who got good opportunities and had access to good education, well paid jobs and all the privileges and luxuries that the country offered to us, and now we need to give back something to the society and the nation in one form or the other. For a change let us think of our duties also and not just our rights, it is our duty as the privileged ones that we are, to contribute to the upliftment of the downtrodden and for the millions out there who also had the ability and capability but not the opportunity and privileges that we had. In reality perhaps just not as lucky as we were.

It is easy to always say that it's the job of the government to provide, to facilitate opportunities to its people, but as responsible citizens enjoying the benefits of progress of the nation, it's a privilege to contribute to the efforts of the state and government in bringing about a just, equal and healthy society if we want to build a New India, its not beautiful to live in an un equal social order. Hence, I believe that its our duty to commit to work tirelessly to bring about a just and healthy society to fulfill the aspirations and hopes of millions of Indians looking for a New India by 2022, therefore to achieve this we have miles to go, promises to keep and a million dreams to fulfil.

Jai Hind.

Prof. S. A. Bari