**Atmanirbhar - Viksit Bharat**  **SPEECH on 76 th Republic Day Function at Sanskardham, Ahmedabad - 26 January 2025**

Respected teachers, parents, and dear students,

Today, we gather to celebrate a momentous occasion in our nation's history - the 76th Republic Day of India! This day holds great significance for every Indian, and I'm honoured to share its importance with you all.

On January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India came into effect, marking the transition of our country from a British dominion to a sovereign Republic. This historic document, drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other visionary leaders, enshrines the fundamental rights and duties of every Indian citizen.

Today, we pay tribute to the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, who fought tirelessly for us and our leaders – Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose  who led us.  We are a proud Democratic Nation.  We have reduced our poverty from 90 per cent in Rural areas to below ten or seven per cent.  We have all round development .

Today is the Day, we have completed 75 years after becoming a Republic.  We have to look forward to years / decades ahead.  Our beloved Hon’ble Prime Minister has envisioned: VIKSIT BHARAT AND ATMA NIRBHAR CITIZENS. He has visualised.

"Future Bharat" as a thriving, self-reliant nation, built on the principles of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) and Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India). This future nation prioritizes sustainable development, inclusive growth, and technological advancement, while preserving its rich cultural heritage and eradication of poverty and equality and prosperity of all citizens.

Viksit Bharat focuses on transforming India into a developed nation, with a strong economy, excellent infrastructure, and high standard of education and living.

Atmanirbhar Bharat emphasizes self-reliance, encouraging domestic innovation, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship, while reducing dependence on external resources.

Together, these two visions converge to create a great Future Bharat that is prosperous, resilient, and a beacon of hope for the world.

 We all have a role to play individually as a family, as members of our society and of course as a Nation – we have to build ourselves – work together.

To become self-reliant and contribute to making India a strong and prosperous nation (Viksit Bharat), students, teachers, and parents and each one of us, wherever we are, have vital roles to play.

Students have a Pivotal Role in Making India a Strong and Prosperous Nation:

Students – you have to -

1. Acquire skills and knowledge: Focus on gaining relevant skills, especially in areas like technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

2. Develop problem-solving and critical thinking: Encourage curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking to tackle real-world problems.

3. Foster a growth mindset: Embrace challenges, learn from failures, and strive for continuous improvement.

4. Engage in community service: Participate in initiatives that promote social welfare, environmental sustainability, and national development.

5. Pursue Sports innovation and entrepreneurship: Explore opportunities to create innovative solutions, products, or services that can contribute to India's growth.

6 Most importantly learn to help others.

# Teachers – We have always held them in high esteem and they have to lead the way.

1. Impart relevant and quality education: Focus on teaching skills and knowledge that are relevant to the 21st century, such as STEM education, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

2. Encourage critical thinking and innovation: Foster a culture of curiosity, creativity, and innovation in the classroom.

3. Provide guidance and mentorship: Offer support and guidance to students in their academic and personal pursuits.

4. Stay updated with industry trends: Continuously update their knowledge and skills to stay relevant and provide industry-informed education.

5. Promote community engagement and social responsibility: Encourage students to participate in community service and social initiatives.

# Parents

1. Support and encourage children: Foster a supportive environment that encourages children to explore their interests, passions, and strengths.

2. Emphasize the importance of education: In still the value of education and its role in personal and national development.

3. Encourage skill development and extracurricular activities: Support children in developing skills and participating in extracurricular activities that promote holistic development.

4. Promote a growth mindset and resilience: Teach children to view failures as opportunities for growth and to develop resilience in the face of challenges.

5. Engage with teachers and the education system: Stay informed about their child's education and engage with teachers to support their child's development.

6 set an example to chidrun by working by themselves and helping one another.

7 Add spiritual content in daily life.

I am aware that what I have narrated – spoken just now  – many will have doubts how we are going to do this when there is so much disturbance in daily and routine life with overall deterioration in ethical standards– and rightly. s I will take four more minutes to for consideration of all of you

I am sharing  a dialogue between Rama & Vasishta as narrated in Holy scripture Yoga Vasishta.

Ram have had doubts before taking over the reins of Ayodhya   before his Rajya Abhishek. Please listen carefully.

Impediments on the Path

Discussion between Lord Rama and his Guru Vasishta – as narrated holy scripture Yoga Vasishta.

‘Rama Enquiries – “O Holy Sage – please guide me’ ‘All relationships in this world are bondage. All so-called enjoyments ultimately become diseases.

 Desire for happiness or to become successful is only a mirage. One’s own senses are one’s enemies. One’s own mind becomes one’s worst in effectiveness.

 Egoism is the foremost cause for evil. It makes wisdom weak. One’s intelligence is governed by effective egoism, instead of being the other way round. There is no peace or happiness in mind as a result correct action many times fails.

 Youth is fading. Company of holy ones is rare.

 No one is happy at the prosperity and happiness of others. People are getting baser and baser day by day. Weakness has overcome strength. Cowardice has overpowered courage. Evil company is easily around. Good company is hard to come by.

 I wonder where ‘Time’ is driving humanity. Holy one, all these leave a mysterious power to destroy even the most powerful leaders. It robs whatever is considered eternal, of its permanency. Is there then any hope for a simple person like me? This mysterious power is spreading into one and all and is a major hindrance for becoming successful in life.”

Vasishtha Replies:

“There is no power greater than action.  One should take recourse to self-effort.  By gritting one’s teeth, one should overcome evil by good and fate by persistent effort.

Obey should free oneself from likes and dislikes.  Engage oneself in righteous self-effort and reach the supreme truth.  It must be understood that self-effort alone is another name for divine will. One should divert the impure mind to pure Endeavour by persistent effort.

Self-effort is based on (a) knowledge of the scriptures (b) instructions of the Guru and (c) one’s own effort. Fate (or divine dispensation) does not enter here. Hence, one who desires to be successful must divert the impure mind to pure Endeavour by persistent efforts.

By doing this, the mind will be at peace, all disturbing thought waves will get subdued and truth will be realized and right action will follow and with this one would become successful in achieving his goals in life."

*Extracts from Vendant treatise in Sanskrit – the “Yoga Vishistha”, translated by Swami Venkatesananda of Divine  Life Society, Rishikesh*

What this tells us we have to be determined, focused to achieve individual goals – for students to excel in Education for parents to bring up successful children – for teachers to guide both on right path – and all of be self-reliant and of course and all of us stay together and join hands to strengthen ourselves and the country.

We have done very well so far and we have to excel together for our future.  We have strong and determined leadership led by Honourable Prime Minister – Shri Narendra Modi – and we need follow himand support his efforts to mke India VISIT BHARAT.

I conclude with slight modification of the famous words of  Pujnai  Poet  Shri RabindraNath Tagore ,

– " Where Mind is without Fear and Head is Held High.

Where mind is led forward by thee into ever widen thought and action and prosperity of all – into true Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat into that heaven, my father, let my country awake.

We are a proud nation.  We have all together achieved many milestones – and the next Century is of India – the Bharat.

Pranam…..!

Jai Hind….!

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