

CHANGING CLIMATE CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY 2025: A PATH TO NAYA BHARAT

The reality of climate change is no longer a distant threat-it is a pressing crisis unfolding before our eyes. From record-breaking heatwaves and flash floods to prolonged droughts and rising sea levels, the world is witnessing the devastating consequences of a changing climate. What was once a scientific forecast is now an undeniable daily reality, affecting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems across the globe.

India, with its vast and diverse geography, is especially vulnerable. This year alone, states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, J&K and Assam have seen unprecedented rainfall leading to landslides and floods, while other parts of the country, such as Rajasthan and Maharashtra, continue to battle water scarcity and scorching heat. The impacts are not only environmental but deeply socio-economic. Farmers face crop losses, urban dwellers endure poor air quality, and millions live under the constant threat of displacement due to extreme weather events.

The causes of this crisis are well-known: excessive dependence on fossil fuels, deforestation, industrial pollution, and unsustainable lifestyles. Despite numerous international agreements-from the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement-progress has been slow and, at times, superficial. While governments talk about green transitions and carbon neutrality, emissions continue to rise, and natural resources are exploited at alarming rates.

The time for symbolic gestures is over. Mitigating climate change demands transformative action on multiple fronts. Policymakers must enforce stricter environmental regulations and incentivize renewable energy. Urban planning must prioritize green spaces, efficient public transport, and sustainable waste management.

On an individual level, citizens need to embrace low-carbon lifestyles-reducing plastic use, conserving energy, supporting local produce, and advocating for climate justice.

Equally important is climate education. Our younger generations must be equipped not only with awareness but also with the tools to innovate and adapt. Schools, colleges, and community organizations must integrate climate literacy into their programs, fostering a sense of responsibility and action.

The climate crisis is not just an environmental issue-it is a humanitarian, economic, and moral challenge. It disproportionately affects the poor, the elderly, and the marginalized. As temperatures rise, so must our collective resolve to act decisively. Let this be a wake-up call-not just to prepare for the worst, but to build a future that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

If we fail to act today, tomorrow's generations will inherit not just a warmer planet, but a legacy of inaction and indifference. The time to act is now.

■ PROF (DR.) JAIPAL SINGH



India is celebrating its 79th year of independence, a moment of pride for every Indian. August 15 is not just a date, it is a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who gave their lives so that we could live in a free and independent nation. It is a day to remember our past, celebrate our present, and commit ourselves to building a better future - a Naya Bharat.

Before 1947, India was under British rule for nearly 200 years. Our people suffered the loss of their rights, freedom, and identity. But they did not give up. Brave men and women across the country, the then Bharat, stood up and fought for justice. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Rani Lakshmibai, Sardar Patel, and Jawaharlal Nehru played key roles in the freedom struggle.

They had different ways of fighting, but the goal was one to set India free from the clutches of Britishers. Their courage, dedication, and sacrifice inspire us even today. Because of them, India became independent on August 15, 1947. This day marked a new beginning, where Indians could decide their own future.

Independence Day is celebrated with great joy and patriotism across the country. At the Red Fort in New Delhi, the Prime Minister hoists the national flag and addresses the nation. This important ceremony is watched by millions of people and shows the strength and unity of India. In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, a mission to make India a developed country by the 100th year of Independence. This day is also celebrated with full enthusiasm in schools, colleges, government offices and public places. The national flag is unfurled, the national anthem is sung and patriotic songs fill the air. Students take part in march pasts, dances, skits, speeches and cultural programs. They dress up as freedom fighters and remember their sacrifices through performances and presentations.

Teachers and principals speak about the importance of freedom and the responsibilities of citizens. Local leaders hoist flags in villages, towns and cities. Special programs are organized in community centers, marketplaces, railway stations and even at housing societies. The spirit of unity and pride shines through every corner of the country.

One of the most beautiful campaigns in recent years is the



"HarGhar Tiranga" Abhiyan, where people are encouraged to hoist the national flag at their homes. From cities to small villages, the tricolour is seen flying proudly on rooftops, balconies, vehicles, and even in the hands of children walking down the streets. This campaign has brought a new wave of patriotism and unity. It reminds us that every citizen is a part of the nation, and the flag belongs to all. It also sends a strong message to the world that India is united, proud, and ready to move forward.

On August 15, 2023, Prime Minister Modi shared a bold vision called Viksit Bharat @2047. This mission is about making India a fully developed, self-reliant, inclusive, and strong country by the year 2047 - when we celebrate 100 years of independence.

This idea of Naya Bharat (New India) is not just about better roads, buildings, or technology. It is about a country where:

- ▶ No one is left behind - every person, rich or poor, has equal opportunities.
- ▶ Every child gets education, and every woman feels safe.
- ▶ Jobs and resources are shared fairly.
- ▶ There is respect for diversity, and people of all religions and communities live in peace.

▶ Nature is protected, and progress is balanced with sustainability.

Naya Bharat is about building a cleaner, stronger, fairer, and more united India. It means a country that leads in technology, science, and innovation, but also keeps its rich culture, traditions, and values alive.

Since independence, India has made great progress in many areas. We are now one of the largest economies in the world. Our scientists are exploring the moon and Mars. Our doctors and nurses are saving lives. Our farmers feed over a billion people. Our engineers, teachers, and entrepreneurs are building a better tomorrow.

India has also been a strong supporter of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. Since January 2016, India has worked with 193 other countries to achieve these goals by 2030. Today, India ranks among the top 100 countries in SDG performance, with a score of 67 out of 100 - a sign of steady growth and commitment.

But there is still a long way to go. Poverty, inequality, pollution, and misinformation are some challenges we still face. That is why the role of students and young citizens is more important than ever.

As young citizens, students are the future builders of Naya Bharat. What we learn today, the values we follow, and the actions we take will shape tomorrow's India.

Freedom gives us the right to dream, express, and choose, but it also gives us the duty to be honest, kind, and responsible. We must:

- ▶ Study with dedication and use education to bring change.
- ▶ Respect others and stand up against injustice.
- ▶ Help the poor and protect the environment.
- ▶ Stay away from fake news and promote truth.

Be proud of our culture but open to new ideas.

By doing these small things, we contribute to the larger dream of a better India.

Independence Day is not just about celebrations - it is about remembering our duties. As we hoist the flag, sing the national anthem, and watch colourful programs, let us also make a promise to be better citizens and to give back to the country that has given us so much.

As Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam once rightly said, "Freedom is not just a right; it is a responsibility." Let us honour that responsibility, not just on August 15, but every on single day. Let us stand together, work hard, and write the next chapter of India's story, a chapter of peace, progress, and pride. Vande Mataram! Jai Hind!

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Transforming Rural Areas through Agri-entrepreneurship

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Agri-entrepreneurship refers to an individual's characteristic by virtue of which he/she has an intense desire and will power to achieve the goal of earning most of the benefits by undertaking innovative activities of agricultural and allied sectors enterprises such as dairy, poultry, fishery, bee-keeping, horticulture, floriculture etc. together in symbiosis including the work of agri-value addition in order to improve one's livelihood by dint of actively engaging oneself in profitable and innovative agricultural enterprises by consistent hard work and adequate risk bearing ability. Entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector offers significant potential for rural development and economic growth. Over the last few decades, the industry has evolved from a subsistence farming system to one of the long-term growth and value addition to agricultural produce, fostering the rise of agri-entrepreneurship. Engaging in agri-entrepreneurship is not just an opportunity but a crucial requirement for enhancing production and profitability in agriculture and allied sectors.

About 89.4 per cent of the Indian farmers are classified as small and marginal and yet they rarely engage in agri-entrepreneurship due to perceived risks, despite their inherent entrepreneurial potential. Agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy. India has a very large agricultural sector. It is the third largest producer of commodities such as paddy, wheat, pulses, groundnut, rapeseed, sugarcane, jute etc. Rural areas are the home of about 67 per cent of the population, who work in agriculture or related fields. Agriculture accounts for 18 per cent of India's GDP. India's agricultural sector is a crucial pillar of its economy, employing over 58 per cent of the rural population. Traditional farming

methods, market inefficiencies and limited access to technologies have hindered productivity and rural economic growth. In response, agricultural business and rural entrepreneurship have emerged as the transformative forces, driving innovations, employment and sustainable development. Farmers are said to be prosperous only when they have enough amount of money in their accounts and this is possible only when their main occupation i.e. agriculture becomes more profitable. It has been observed at various fora that occupation of traditional agriculture is not so profitable without any charm. Thus, many farmers especially the rural youths are not being attracted to undertake agriculture as an occupation rather they are disenchanted with this occupation. Agricultural profitability can be enhanced by the adoption of modern agricultural technologies which are directly or indirectly supported by the Government, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other concerned agencies in various ways with the objective to improve the socio-economic conditions of the farmers. There are various types of constraints including those of labour, capital, risks, uncertainties confronted by farmers in food production and sale processes etc. compelling them to leave this occupation and migrate to some other places in search of economically attractive avenues yielding greater returns needed to satisfy their increasingly growing needs. This raises a very pertinent question how working in agriculture sector can be made more attractive, profitable and employment augmenting so as to mitigate the rising aspirations of the farmers and sustain them in agricultural occupation of food production for their families and also for the increasing population of the country. The answer

lies in the adoption of multipronged approaches to deal with this problem of low agricultural profitability. These approaches can be adopted by the farmers and government and both the sides should consider it equally important. It is not a unilateral process rather it is always a bilateral phenomenon, developer (government) and developee (farmer) being two parties, working together in symbiosis. Indifference from either side is detrimental to solution of the problems of low agricultural productivity/profitability. Farmers should not think that it is only the government's responsibility to make agriculture more profitable, but it is also their responsibility to make it more profitable.

Agricultural entrepreneurship offers significant opportunities for income and employment, economic growth and development. Agri-entrepreneurship can enhance productivity, reduce poverty and improve overall living standards. Adoption of agri-entrepreneurship in agriculture by farmers can be effective in development of agricultural economy and farmers' prosperity. The farmers, especially the rural youths, must imbibe the basics of agri-entrepreneurship and factors affecting its development. After that they must think of acquisition of gainful skill according to their resources, needs and interest in agriculture. For this, they should gear up themselves to attend some focused need-based agricultural and allied sectors trainings programmes.

There are various ways to bring agri-entrepreneurship in agriculture such as by changing the method (how to do) of agriculture. The method of agriculture can be changed by having strong will/commitment, learning of modern agricultural technologies by attending the farmers' fairs, awareness/training

camp, Kisan Ghosties, agricultural extension literature of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Indian Council of Agricultural (ICAR) institutions, radio, TV talks, consulting progressive farmers, input dealers, line department officials etc., by growing High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of crops, crop and soil management, input management, plant protection technologies, modern agronomic practices, farm mechanization, by undertaking market led agriculture such as growing such types of crops which can be sold easily at remunerative prices, i.e., the crops which have adequate demand in the market, entirely different crop suitable to the agro-climatic conditions of the farm may be taken, provided it is remunerative, borrowing from institutional sources for necessary capital requirement to take up and continue the enterprise in a scientific way, followed by timely repayment, learning to maintain farm records and calculating economics of various enterprises for self-appraisal and introspection so as to chalk out ameliorative strategies in future. It can also be done by changing the dimension of agriculture such as crop diversification. Crop diversification refers to the addition of new crops or cropping systems to agricultural production on a particular farm taking into account the different returns from value added crops with complementary marketing opportunities. This gives individuals and households more security to improve livelihood and to raise living standards.

It can also be done by farm diversification. Farm diversification consists of taking up of multiple agricultural production enterprises together, such as agricultural, horticulture, livestock, poultry, floriculture, fishery, bee keeping etc., on a piece of land, allocating

suitable separate area for each enterprise, so that the output of one enterprise acts as input for the other one. Such type of symbiotic combination of agricultural production enterprises is not a new practice, but the same has already been practiced by our farming community since time immemorial depending upon their need, interest, culture, sources and capability. The farmer thinks about the enterprises combination to be taken according to the natural resources such as types of soil, topography, rainfall, source of irrigation, climate etc. he is blessed with. He also introspects his strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), which vary from farmer to farmer. There are many researches advocating Integrated Farming System (IFS) as an agricultural technology capable to significantly enhancing farm income in general.

Occupational diversification: Presently, most of farmers in India are normally confined to one role, i.e., producer only. They sell their produce to middlemen reportedly at remunerative prices resulting in low or no profit. Undertaking different diversified roles by farmers, such as producer, processor, value adder and marketer may be referred to as occupational diversification. Farmers are the real producers of the farm produce, it is the middlemen who take away the maximum benefit in the process of movement of farm produce from point of production to that of consumption, and they are left with only little benefit. By involving themselves in various roles of value addition and marketing of the farm produce or value added products to the nearest point of final consumers as far as possible, employment opportunities can be created for the farmers and increase their and others income. For this purpose,

farmers should learn skill sets of farm production, processing, marketing and practice them gainfully, either locally or outside. They should sell farm produce not at harvest time when there is glut in the market, but at times of relative scarcity to obtain a maximum price. The farm produce should be sold at a place where a premium price can be obtained. They should process the farm produce into different products of consumer preference to obtain maximum price. They should advertise their processed product to gain the product popularity and trustworthiness to obtain maximum price. It can also be done by changing the attitude of farmers. It is a very difficult task to change the attitude of the farmers. Farmers generally resist to change. Attitude of farmers can be changed by creating an intense urge to earn more and more money by dint of consistent hard work. Very minute observations should be made of successful activities in their lives and learn and emulate them and also learn factors of failures despite their endeavours. Attitude can also be changed by breaking one's socio-psychological and personal barrier to undertake any profitable enterprise, by learning and inculcating the characteristics of entrepreneurship in oneself, by formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) for a common cause and by inculcating belief in participatory development rather than individual development. However, there are certain barriers in agri-entrepreneurship development, such as physical, personal, family, social, economic, religious, cultural, educational, etc., which can be overcome to bring prosperity among the farmers.

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From Kurukshetra to Classrooms: Krishna's Message for Today's Youth

■ RUCHI CHABRA

If Lord Krishna were to walk among us today, he wouldn't be seen riding a royal chariot or dressed in glowing celestial robes. Instead, we might find him sitting quietly under a tree on a college campus, gently listening to a student breaking under pressure, guiding a teenager battling self-doubt, or consoling a young adult trapped between expectations and exhaustion.

His words, once spoken to a troubled warrior on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, now speak to another kind of war-the silent battle raging inside our youth. India today is facing a crisis that is far deeper than just academic or economic.

The rising wave of student suicides, cases of depression and anxiety, and even violent crimes involving youth are all signs of a collective distress. According to recent data, India records one student suicide every 42 minutes. Each one is a life lost not due to incapability, but due to invisible emotional pain, unrealistic pressures, and a lack of support.

If Krishna were here, he wouldn't blame them. He wouldn't shame them for their mistakes or failures. He would sit beside them, remind them of their inner worth, and say, "You are not your marks. You are not your fears. You are much more than what the world tells you to be." Today's youth live in a world of constant comparison and digital overload. Dopamine-driven addictions-social media highs, gaming obsessions, vaping, and drug use-promise quick relief but lead to deeper despair. The pressure to "be someone" often replaces the joy of simply being. The mind becomes a noisy battlefield-of overthinking,



peer pressure, body image issues, and the fear of not being enough.

This is where Krishna's teachings become not ancient philosophy, but urgent medicine. His message of karma yoga-focus-

ing on action without the anxiety of results-could ease the exam fear that steals sleep from lakhs of students. His lesson of swa-dharma-being true to one's own path-could help young people choose careers and lifestyles aligned with their values, not societal pressure. Perhaps the biggest gift Krishna gives is the idea that you are not alone. Just as he stood by Arjuna when no one else could understand his turmoil, today's youth too need someone who truly listens without judgment. They need schools that focus not only on marks but on mental well-being.

They need families that prioritise conversations over criticism. They need leaders who speak of values, not just victories. If Krishna were to walk among us today, he wouldn't be distant or divine-he would be deeply human. He'd ask us not to worship him, but to walk with him-with clarity in our minds, strength in our actions, and peace in our hearts. As we prepare to celebrate Janmashtami, marking Krishna's birth, let us remember that his true significance lies not just in midnight prayers, fasting, or decorating temples, but in bringing his wisdom into our daily lives.

Janmashtami is a reminder that Krishna was born in dark times to bring light-not only to the world, but to the minds and hearts of people lost in fear and confusion. If we can live even a fraction of his message-balancing action with peace, ambition with humility, and success with compassion-we will honour the God in the truest way.

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