

Dignitaries, Distinguished Members of the Vidyalankar Group, Ladies and Gentlemen, and my dear student Friends, Suprabhat and Namaskar!

Democracy is one of our sacred and shared values. It has evolved over a long time and taken various forms and systems. Throughout history, however, one thing has been clear, that Democracy is the spirit that supports equality and dignity. Democracy is the idea that welcomes debate and discourse. Democracy is the culture that gives wings to thought and expression.

Millennia ago, our oldest scriptures said, the truth is one but the wise express it in different ways.

Bharat is celebrating its 75th Republic Day today. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950.

Today, Bharat is the fifth largest economy, and Bharat will be the third largest economy soon. We are not only growing bigger, but we are also growing faster. When Bharat grows, the whole world grows. After all, we are one sixth of the world's population! In the last century, when Bharat won its freedom, it inspired many other countries to free themselves from colonial rule. In this century, when Bharat sets benchmarks in growth, it will inspire many other countries to do the same. As our Hon. Prime Minister envisages, our vision is sabka Saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka pryas. It means: Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust and everyone's efforts.

But how is this vision translating into action, with speed and scale? We are focusing on infrastructure development. We have given nearly forty million homes to provide shelter to over hundred and fifty million people. That is nearly six times the population of Australia! We run a national health insurance programme that ensures free medical treatment for about five hundred million people. That is greater than the population of South America! We took banking to the unbanked with the world's largest financial inclusion drive. Nearly five hundred million people benefited. This is close to the population of North America! We have worked on building Digital India. Today, there are more than eight hundred and fifty million smart phones and internet users in the country. This is more than the population of Europe! We protected our people with two point two billion doses of made in Bharat COVID vaccines, and that too free of cost.

Bharat is an ancient nation with a youthful population. Bharat is known for its traditions. But the younger generation is also making it a hub of technology. Be it creative reels on Insta or real time payments, coding or quantum computing, machine learning or mobile apps, FinTech or data science, the youth of Bharat are a great example of how a society can embrace latest technology. In Bharat, technology is not only about innovation but also about inclusion. Today, digital platforms are empowering the rights and dignity of people, while protecting privacy. In the last nine years, over a billion people got a unique digital biometric identity connected with their bank accounts and mobile phones. This digital public infrastructure helps us reach citizens within seconds with financial assistance. Eight hundred and fifty million people receive direct benefit financial transfers into their accounts. Three times a year, over hundred million farmers receive assistance in their bank accounts at the click of a button. The value of such transfers has crossed three hundred and twenty billion dollars, and we have saved over twenty-five billion dollars in the process.

Everyone is using phones for payments, including street vendors. Last year, out of every 100 real time digital payments in the world, 46 happened in Bharat. Nearly four hundred thousand miles of optical fibre cables, and cheap data have ushered in a revolution of opportunities. Farmers check weather updates, the elderly get social security payments, students access scholarships, doctors deliver tele-medicine, fishermen check fishing grounds and small businesses get loans, with just a tap on their phones. While becoming the fastest growing economy, we grew our solar capacity by Two Thousand Three Hundred Percent. We became the only G20 country to meet its Paris commitment. We made renewables account for over forty percent of our energy sources, nine years ahead of the target of 2030.

Viksit Bharat @2047 is the vision to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100th year of independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance.

Prime Minister Modiji highlighted the role of educational institutions in the personality development of an individual and said that a nation becomes developed only with the development of its people, underlining the importance of personality development in the present era. For Bharat, this Amrit Kaal is ongoing, and this is the period in the history of Bharat when the country is going to take a quantum leap. Today, every educational institution and every individual should move with a resolution that every effort and act will be for

Viksit Bharat. As per the vision of Hon. Prime, the aim of your goals, your resolutions should be only one – “Developed Bharat”. The Prime Minister emphasized that teachers and universities should ponder about finding ways to make Bharat a developed country at a faster pace and identify specific sectors for improvement towards becoming a developed nation.

When citizens, in whatever role, start doing their duty, the country moves forward. The educationist fraternity should suggest ways of giving new energy to Swachhta Abhiyan, combating lifestyle issues and exploration of the world beyond mobile phones by the youth. The Educationist should be role models for the students. The social thinking should reflect in the governance too and the degree holders should have at least one vocational skill. The teachers should carry forward a comprehensive process of brainstorming on these topics at every point in the institution.

We have 25 years of Amrit Kaal in front of us. We must work 24 hours a day for the goal of Viksit Bharat. This is the environment we must create as a family. Noting that the rapidly increasing population of the country is empowered by youth, Bharat is going to be the leader in terms of the working-age population for the coming 25-30 years and the world recognizes this. Youth power is both the agent of change and the beneficiaries of change. The next 25 years are going to be decisive for the careers of the youth in colleges and universities of today. Noting that it is the youth who are going to create new families and a new society in the future, they who have the right to decide how a developed India should be.

This is the period in the history of Bharat when the country is going to take a quantum leap. Idea starts with an ‘I’ just like ‘India’ begins with an ‘I’, development efforts begin from self.

Every citizen of the country will have input and active participation in the growth of the nation. Viksit Bharat has to be built only through Sabka Prayas. Motivation may wane sometimes, but it is the discipline that keeps you on the right path. I would like to conclude by reiterating Modiji’s words to my young Friends, Yahi Samay hai, Sahi Samay hai, Ye Aapka Samay Hai - This is the right time, this is your time.

Jai Hind. Dhanyavaad.