

With the Sun shining bright upon us today, I welcome you all on this illustrious day to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a day filled with great patriotic fervour.

I feel privileged to have been born in a free India; Freedom which came to us at a great cost, the cost of having lost many precious lives. We never forget to reminisce about our heroes but let us also not forget those Unsung Heroes whose name may not be etched in our history books but whose sacrifice cannot be undermined.

We must also be proud of our country which is unique in the whole world; unique in the diversity of culture and religions followed by Indians. India is a home to 15 major languages and 844 different dialects. Our land, therefore, enjoys vibrant and rich cultures and traditions. Most importantly, despite these diversities, we, Indians stand united and we celebrate harmoniously. Our Honourable Prime Minister has started a campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga'... but why should we do it? We should do it because each color in our tricolor represents something of immense value– Saffron colour, indicating the strength and courage of the country, the white middle band indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra and the last band is green in colour which shows the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land. So we must all hoist our Indian tricolor which is a testament of India's peace, prosperity and valour.

Each year, songs to invoke patriotism, are sung in every corner of the country. But singing and dancing on patriotic songs for one day does not make us patriotic. Our actions will define our love for our country. We must all value the resources that this country bestows on each one of us and harness these resources to take our Country to its zenith.

With this message, I rest my words and once again wish each and every Indian, a Very Happy Independence Day.