

78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

15th August, 2024

From the Desk of Vice-Chancellor:

Prof. Saket Kushwaha

"स्वतंत्रता का मतलब सिर्फ अधिकार नहीं, जिम्मेदारी भी है।"

-Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



My Warm Greetings to one and All on this Auspicious Day,

Friends! It is with great pride and a profound sense of honor that I extend my heartiest and warm greetings to all of us as 'WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA' on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of our beloved nation, Bharat. This day is not just a reminder of the dawn of freedom after centuries of struggle, but it is also a testament to the resilience, courage, and undying spirit of our people.

On this historic day in 1947, India broke free from the chains of colonial rule and embarked on a journey as a sovereign nation, embracing the values of democracy, justice, and equality among others. The supreme sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters, whose names are etched in golden letters in our history, paved the way for this freedom. Their courage

and determination continues to inspire us, urging us to uphold the ideals they so valiantly fought for.

The globe today respects India and Indians for our number of contributions for the cause of humanity. World over we are recognized today as the Fastest Growing Economy, The Land of Youth, Land of Spices, Rich Cultural Heritage, and the Land of Values to mention a few. Nonetheless, One Contribution to the World for which we are recognized and respected the most world over today is being the Land of values especially that of Truth and Non-Violence.

Friends! This day is also a reminder to all of us that Freedom is to be earned with sacrifices and love towards nation, rising beyond personal interests. As we celebrate this day, let us not only remember the past but also look to the future with a sense of purpose and responsibility. We, as a central educational institution, have a significant role to play in shaping the destiny of our nation. The youth of today, are the leaders, thinkers, and visionaries of tomorrow. It is through education that we can empower them to carry forward the legacy of our forefathers and build a nation that is strong, prosperous, and inclusive.

The path to independence was not easy, and neither is the path to development. But just as our ancestors faced adversity with unyielding resolve, we too must confront the challenges of our time with determination and innovation. Today, India stands at the cusp of greatness, with advancements in science, technology, and education propelling us towards a brighter future. However, with this progress comes the responsibility to ensure that it benefits all sections of society, leaving no one behind.

Friends! I take this opportunity to gently remind our learned teachers that as educators, our duty extends beyond the classroom. We must instil in our students the values of empathy, integrity, and civic responsibility. We must encourage them to think constructively, to challenge the status quo, and to be agents of positive change. Our vision for Bharat should be one where every citizen has the opportunity to reach their full potential, where diversity is celebrated, and where the spirit of unity prevails over division.

On this auspicious day, let us pledge to contribute to this vision in every way we can. Let us commit to nurturing the minds that will shape the future of our nation, to fostering an environment of learning that is inclusive and empowering, and to upholding the values that our great nation was built upon.

My humble reminder to my dear students on this day would be that freedom comes at a cost and that cost is rising above

immediate considerations and acquiring education with value and character formation. As Swami Vivekanandaji had once stated - **राष्ट्र हमें देता है सब कुछ हम भी तो कुछ देना सीखे ।**

Friends! On this special day I would like to draw your attention towards few achievements that our University has earned in recent past. Our team of learned faculties and committed staff as well as administration have set new and cherishable milestones for Rajiv Gandhi University including unprecedented Grade 'A' by NAAC in recently concluded 3rd cycle of Assessments. RGU has also secured the 13th rank (overall) among the central universities across the nation in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2024. Innovative and socially significant Research Projects and related associations like those on 'Unsung Heroes: The Tribal Resistance Movement in Arunachal Pradesh' to 'Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE)' and Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN) are few to mention in the long list.

Dedicated Hostel for EWS students, Seven (07) projects under HEFA as completed by CPWD which includes the construction of four hostels and staff quarters, administrative buildings are among our valuable recent achievements. It is also worth mentioning that nearly 80% of buildings in the campus are friendly to Divyangjans.

Friends! While RGU continues its commitment to be fully green campus, Six (06) artificial water harvesting systems, with bricks and RCC foundation, were installed in the university campus with a capacity of 1.5 lakh litres each. Mountain Water Harvesting Facilities of the University have been contributing immensely to the campus development activities. Moreover, the Ordinances and Policy Documents have been streamlined over these six years.

RGU continues to stand tall on its standards of accountability and transparency with suo moto disclosure of information under Transparency Audit. RGU has further augmented its records in this regard. Like past few years, this year too, RGU has secured over 95% marks in its Third-Party Transparency Audit by an independent reviewer.

It is equally a matter of pride for entire RGU fraternity to acknowledge that state government of Arunachal Pradesh has provided free of cost Land of 500 Acres across three different locations in Arunachal Pradesh for the campus expansion of Rajiv Gandhi University. It is all set to contribute to NEP-2020 vision of Campus Aapke Dwar. Moreover, Water Plant, Student Activity Centre, Rostrum, Auditorium Furniture, High Mast Buses have been provided by State Government of Arunachal Pradesh through a 50 crore of support money.

Friends! Over 70 new positions have been filled over past 6 years and RGU has successfully completed recruitment of qualified faculty members under mission mode of recruitments who have all been distributed offer letters by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji during Rozgar Mela. Over 1000 conferences, webinars and capacity building activities (in both online & offline mode) for key stakeholders have been organised by the university benefiting thousands of students and scholars across boundaries over last six years. The total number of doctoral degree awardees have crossed 123 landmark this year which is nearly double to previous year and approximately 400% higher to its tally five years ago. Timely award of Ph.D. Degrees are not just a matter of pride but as one of our evolving best practices which further empower our scholars to better compete in academics with much higher APIs. Our University also takes pride in sending forth a remarkably higher proportion of students from socio-educationally backward classes and especially female students being both the medalists as well as graduating each year. Our total courses and intake capacity have more than doubled i.e. 100% growth over the last 6 years.

The campus is fully free from open Defecation. Every building on the campus has toilet, running water and sanitation facilities. RGU has secured Green Education Campus Certification, ISO 50001 Certification, and ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management System Certification which certify that it has established and maintains Environment Management System of international standards.

Friends! RGU has established Centre for Buddhist Studies with a corpus of Rs 5 Crore supported by the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh. International Centre of Excellence in Millets Research has been established in the campus. 2nd rank among Central Universities in Tri Partite MoU and Best among Central Universities in Himalayan Region 2020 are long to be cherished achievements of our University during recent past.

In our endeavours to implement the path breaking and revolutionary features of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, we have generated Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) enabled IDs for nearly all (99%) of our learners. RGU has implemented Four Year Integrated B.A. B.Ed. after being selected by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Four Year Under Graduate Programmes (FYUP) in Commerce, Sciences and Social Sciences with Multiple Entry and Exit System have been implemented in the University. In order to facilitate the quality implementation of FYUP under NEP-2020 Institute of Under Graduate Studies has been established in the campus.

Friends! All 18 key mandates for Higher Educational Institutions under NEP -2020 have been implemented at RGU with students' portability across institutions within the state of Arunachal Pradesh being a rare feat across country. All the Forty-Five Affiliated Colleges of University have been enabled with the Course Curriculum and have been subsequently mandated with Four Year Under Graduate Programmes (FYUP) since academic year 2023-24 under the vision, Credit Framework and guidelines of NEP-2020.

Mahatma Gandhi had once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." This profound truth reminds us that our freedom is intertwined with our commitment to serve and uplift each other. As members of this esteemed university, let us strive to serve our society by fostering knowledge, compassion, and innovation.

Friends! I wish, believe and hope that all the stakeholders of Rajiv Gandhi University will be introspective and be taking ownership to the duties and responsibilities entrusted upon them by the institution, society and nation at large.

In conclusion, I would like to once again remind you all the lines of Chief architect of Indian Constitution **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar** that "स्वतंत्रता का मतलब सिर्फ अधिकार नहीं, जिम्मेदारी भी है।" (Freedom does not only mean rights, it also means responsibilities). It is up to us to ensure that the sacrifices of those who came before us are honoured through our actions, our words, and our deeds. Let us work together to build an India that is not only free but also fair, just, and prosperous. In the visionary leadership of our current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji – it is time to actualize the golden words of 1st Independence Day in 1947, "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." Today, that freedom calls us to awaken to new challenges and opportunities. It urges us to contribute to the nation's growth and to build an India where equality, justice, and progress prevail.

Being privileged to be a part of 'Amrit Kaal' in the modern history of our glorious nation, I call upon each one of us to shed away the habit of blaming each other and instead take responsibility to contribute our bit with full honesty in making India a Developed Nation by 2047 which will also be our true homage to all the freedom fighters for their supreme sacrifices towards securing our freedom and enabling us to breathe in a free nation.

On this note, once again Happy 78th Independence Day to all the fellow citizens!

अंत में सभी को साकेत कुशवाहा का विनम्र नमस्कार।

Thank You! Jai Hind! Jai Arunachal!


(Prof. Saket Kushwaha)