

76th Republic Day Speech of Prof. Krishnan Baskar,
Director, IIIT Senapati, Manipur on 26th January
2025

Respected Registrar, Heads of the Departments, faculty members, nonteaching staff faculty members, Non-teaching staff, invitees, my dear students and all the members of IIIT Manipur, Good morning to all, Namaskar, Kurumcheri!

It is a matter of great pride for me to address you on this momentous occasion of 76th Republic Day as we come together to celebrate the remarkable journey of our nation. Today, as we hoist the Tricolor high and sing the National Anthem with pride, let us reflect on what makes this day so special and how it reminds us of our responsibility as citizens of this great nation.

Republic Day is not just a day of celebration; it is a day of reflection. It takes us back to the incredible sacrifices made by our forefathers during the long and arduous freedom struggle. Their determination

and courage were unparalleled. From **Mahatma Gandhiji's** path of non-violence to **Subhas Chandra Bose ji**'s call for armed resistance, from the valour of **Bhagat Singh ji** to the unwavering resilience of countless unnamed heroes, our freedom fighters gave everything so that we could live as free citizens in a free nation. Their sacrifices remind us of the true value of freedom and the responsibility it places upon each of us to safeguard it.

On this day in 1950, our nation adopted the Constitution, turning the vision of an independent India into the reality of a republic. The Constitution of India, drafted under the guidance of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and other visionary leaders, is not just a legal document; it is the soul of our democracy. It enshrines the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity and ensures that every citizen, regardless of background, has the right to live with dignity and freedom. The adoption of the Constitution marked

the beginning of a new chapter in our history, and today we celebrate not just the document but the ideals it represents.

As we reflect on our journey since 1950, we have every reason to feel proud of how far we have come. India, once a land struggling with colonial exploitation and economic hardships, has emerged as a global leader in various fields. Our progress in information technology, for instance, has been phenomenal. India is home to one of the largest digital economies in the world. Initiatives like Digital India have transformed the way we live, connect, and work, placing us at the forefront of technological innovation. In 2023-24, the total number of digital transactions in India was 18,737 crore. In 2023, the majority of digital transactions were made using UPI for online retail, food delivery, mobility, and e-health. The use of debit cards has declined as consumers increasingly prefer UPI. The use of QR codes has increased significantly,

with a growth of over 30% in 2023-24. India accounts for 46% of all digital payments in the world. As of recent data, India averages around 44.3 crore digital transactions per day with a significant portion coming from UPI payments, highlighting the country's rapid adoption of digital transactions. The average daily digital transaction amount in India is around ₹66,590 crores (about 466 million US\$).

In the field of space exploration, we have made strides that once seemed impossible. ISRO's remarkable missions, such as Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan, have placed India on the global map as a leader in space technology. Chandrayaan-3 has proved India's capability for cost-effective Space missions". Chandrayaan-3 has made history by landing on the South pole of the Moon. Vikram Lander, soft-landed on 23 August 2023 at the southern high latitudes on the Moon. The budget for India's ambitious lunar mission costs less than a

Hollywood film. These achievements inspire us to believe that no dream is too big when pursued with dedication and hard work.

Our advancements in nuclear technology are equally commendable. While strengthening our national security, we have also utilized nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, such as energy production and medical research, showcasing India's commitment to progress and peace.

In agriculture, the Green Revolution transformed India from a food-deficient nation into one of the largest producers of grains. Today, we are not only self-sufficient in food production but also capable of feeding millions across the globe. India exports many food grains, including rice, wheat, barley, corn, millet, and sorghum. India is one of the world's largest agricultural exporters. Likewise, the White Revolution, led by the visionary **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, made India the largest producer of milk, empowering rural communities and transforming

the dairy industry. India's dairy product exports include milk, ghee, butter, and cheese. The main destinations for India's milk exports are United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, USA, Singapore, and Bhutan. In 2023–2024, India's dairy product exports were worth \$272.64 million. India's milk production in 2023 was 230.58 million tons, which is 24% of the world's milk production. India's dairy industry is expected to grow at a rate of 13% from 2024 to 2032.

As we look towards the future, our focus on green energy stands as a beacon of hope. India is rapidly emerging as a global leader in renewable energy, with solar and wind power initiatives driving our commitment to sustainability. As of October 2024, India has a significantly installed renewable energy capacity of 203.18 GW, representing over 46.3% of the country's total electricity generation capacity, making it the world's third largest producer of renewable energy; with solar power (92.12 GW)

and wind power (47.72 GW), followed by hydropower, contributing significantly to India's green energy generation mix. Our country aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. Important initiatives for green energy in India: are: **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** Aims to boost green hydrogen production. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme:** Promotes solar power adoption by farmers. **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:** Enhances solar rooftop penetration. We are not just addressing the energy needs of today but are also ensuring a greener, cleaner future for generations to come.

Today our Bharat is the 5th Largest Economy in the world, surpassed the UK to secure this position. Many analysts predict India will soon become the fourth largest economy. We will become the world's third largest economy by 2030, \$5 trillion in the next three years and touch \$7 trillion by 2030. India's

growth story will take the country's USD 3.5 trillion economy now to USD 35 trillion in the next 25 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightfully said the 21st century is India's century.

India's youth represent the country's greatest strength, with a vibrant and dynamic generation driving the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. The path to this ambitious goal is not without challenges. Prime Minister had made call for greater youth involvement in shaping the nation's future, to harness the collective potential of India's youth, empowering them to contribute holistically to the country's development. The Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative envisions India as a developed nation by the centenary of its independence in 2047. This transformative roadmap emphasizes inclusive development, sustainable progress, and effective governance through active participation of India's youth, regarded as the key drivers of this change.

My dear students, as we celebrate these remarkable achievements, I want you to know that the future of our nation lies in your hands. You are the torchbearers of tomorrow, the ones who will continue to build on this foundation and take India to even greater heights. I urge you to dream big, work hard, and never stop believing in the potential of this great nation.

At the same time, let us also take a moment to remember and wish for peace in every corner of our beloved land. We extend our hopes for peace, harmony, and prosperity in Manipur. May we, as a united nation, work towards healing wounds, fostering understanding, and building a future based on love and respect for one another, where every citizen and every community can bloom and shine to its fullest.

Today, as we celebrate Republic Day, let us pledge to honour the sacrifices of our past, uphold the ideals of our Constitution, and contribute to building

a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable India. Let us strive to reduce inequality, protect our environment, and ensure that the progress we make benefits every citizen of our nation.

As I conclude, I urge each one of you to carry the pride of being an Indian in your hearts and contribute in whatever way you can to make our country even stronger and brighter. Together, we can achieve the impossibles as possible, just as our history has shown us time and again.

Wishing you all a very happy 76th Republic Day, and may the spirit of peace, love, and prosperity guide us towards a brighter future.

Jai Hind! Jai Bharat.

Bharat Mata ki Jai, Vande Mataram!

Thank you! Takatcheri!