

**Embassy of India  
Muscat**

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**Republic Day Event at Indian School Wadi Al-Kabir International  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Remarks by Ambassador Amit Narang**

**Chairman and Members of Board of Directors,  
President Indian School Wadi Kabir,  
Members of the School Management Committee,  
Principals of ISWK and ISWK International,  
Past Presidents and leadership of the Hindu Mahajan Samaj,  
Other dignitaries  
Parents,  
Students of Indian School Wadi Kabir and students of all other Indian schools in  
Muscat,**

सुप्रभात,

नमस्कार,

A very happy Republic Day!

Dear Children,

जब हम छोटे थे और आप लोगों की तरह स्कूल में थे तो गणतंत्र दिवस की एक ही याद, एक ही खास बात होती थी कि वो दिल्ली की गणतंत्र दिवस परेड जहां भी होती थी, सुबह उठके हर साल परेड देखते थे। दिल्ली में होते थे तो राजपथ जाकर परेड देखते थे वरना TV पे देखते थे।

That is the one memory that has always associated with Republic Day.

पर आज शायद पहली बार ऐसा हुआ कि दिल्ली की गणतंत्र दिवस की परेड की याद नहीं आई।

Because we witnessed such an elegant parade by the seniors of Indian Schools in Muscat and such an enchanting cultural performance by the tiny tots.

A big round of applause to all of you dear students for making this Republic Day so special for us.

As we enter the 75<sup>th</sup> year of our Republic, it is a privilege for me to spend this glorious morning with all of you, the custodians of the next 25 years of our Republic.

Dear Children,

If you remember just a few months ago in August last year, we celebrated 75 years of our independence – it was called *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* – many of you participated in programmes on that occasion as well.

Have you ever wondered why when we celebrated 75 years of our Independence, why we are celebrating only the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day? Why is there a gap between Independence Day and Republic Day? Why do we celebrate Independence Day first and Republic Day later?

This is the story of India that bears repetition.

In 1947, we evicted our colonial masters, the British and India became the master of its own destiny.

But it was in 1950, only three years later that we gave ourselves a new master. This new master was the Constitution of India.

A new master in the form of the pathway, the map and the guide for our national journey, all put together. This is what we celebrate on Republic Day.

It's one thing to be independent for foreign forces but it's quite another to make our own vision, our own path of what a nation wants to be. This is what our Constitution does for us.

It is a vision for where we want to go as a nation. It is a pathway to achieve that vision. It is also the most detailed rule book to facilitate the rise of our nation on that journey. That is why you will see that the Republic Day is just not celebrated it is arguably a bigger celebration than 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Another small point that some of you might have noticed that on today's day we don't hoist the flag, we unfurl the national flag.

आज सुबह राजदूतावास में मुझे राष्ट्र ध्वज लहराने को सौभाग्य मिला.

15 अगस्त को हम ध्वजारोहण करते हैं.

We *hoist* the flag on 15<sup>th</sup> August but we *unfurl* the flag on Republic Day. These are two symbolic but very important differences in which these two days are celebrated.

This is because on 15<sup>th</sup> of August, the British flag was brought down and the Indian flag was raised on the pole by our first Prime Minister. Therefore, on 15<sup>th</sup> August our Prime Minister hoists the tricolor on the Red Fort.

But on Republic day our flag is already raised so today we unfurl it and remember the birth of our nation, of our Republic.

Dear Children,

As we celebrate the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, how have we done as a Republic? Has the constitution stood by us or has it led to areas where there are shortcomings?

I think all Indians can justifiably feel pride in their hearts as we celebrate this day. Just last month, news came that India has already become the most populous country in the world. What does that mean? Of course, there are challenges in that aspect but the fact is that today the most populous country of the world is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual, diverse, liberal political democracy. This is an achievement that should not be underestimated.

The fact that such a diverse country which was a poor and illiterate country when we started our journey is today a united country, the largest country, the fastest growing country, is in itself considered by many people to be a victory. When we gained independence, many people thought that India is too difficult to be governed as one country and we will not survive. But we are proud that we have just not survived we have thrived as a democracy.

The fact that we have managed to preserve our democracy despite so many challenges is also a matter of pride. What makes this even more special is that our democracy and our diversity has not held back our potential but actually has given us the space to unleash the creative potential of every Indian to make India the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world. Today India stands tall and proud at the global stage. We bring to the world the 'Indian model' of governance, a polity that celebrates diversity, inclusion and tolerance and is based on dialogue as the fundamental edifice of cooperation.

What does India mean to the world? Today India is not dependent on anybody. We are the most populous country but we are also the largest producer of food and agricultural products in the world. We are the largest exporter of rice to the world. We are the largest producer of milk, spices, pulses, cotton and many other things. We are proud that we are not just looking after at our own food security but today India is contributing to global food security.

During Covid times we saw that a poor country which people thought will be devastated by the pandemic was not only able to take care of its own citizens by administering more than 2 billion vaccine doses to our own citizens but was also able export that vaccine to more than 100 countries. That is the India we are talking about.

Today a great Indian digital revolution is rewriting the digital future of the world. More than 7 billion transactions on our UPI only in one month in December showcases how India is progressing.

We are now start-up capital of the world with more than 70,000 start-ups and more importantly more than a 100 Unicorns.

Therefore, we can all take legitimate pride in what our nation has become.

But we cannot relax.

क्योंकि देश-निर्माण का काम हमें गौरवान्वित तो करता है लेकिन अभी सम्पूर्ण नहीं हुआ है। इसलिए प्रधानमंत्री जी ने कहा है कि अगले 25 साल हमारे लिए अमृत काल का समय है।

We are taking a pledge to transform our country into a developed country by 2047 and in that journey my little friends your role will be most important. We have brought the country to where we have but the next 25 years belong to you.

The nation counts on you to make the next 25 years of our Republic much more glorious than the last 75 years.

Today, let us feel the pride of India beating in our hearts.

A very happy Republic Day once again.

Jai Hind.

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