

## Director's Message on Republic Day

Dear faculty members, staff, students, special invitees, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all a happy republic day. Today we have gathered here to celebrate 71<sup>st</sup> Republic day of our country.

We all know that it is on this day in the year 1950 the country has obtained a complete autonomy-a freedom of self-governance, where supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives than a monarch – PURNA SWARAJ. India had achieved independence from Britain on August 15, 1947, but for its first two and a half years the country remained governed largely by the colonial Government of India Act of 1935.

Standing here today, before the national flag, we need to realise many things. That this was a nation, with defined boundaries and established culture, coexisted with many ethnic groups for centuries. The historic evidence goes back to more than 2000 years. Lived as “**Akhand Bharath**” and lived in prosperity. We still remember the era of “**Golden Age of India**” from the Indian history.

Further going into the history, it throws light on the invasions the country suffered. And the fundamental rights we are enjoying today did not exist, and people were made to bow down into slavery for more than six long centuries. In the process we Lost identity; we Lost national character-the character that is defined by integrity, honesty, refined culture and kindness; we Lost the goals and purpose. It was reduced to an era of **struggle for existence**.

It is from this struggle came the hymn - *The nation – “mera apna mulk”*, reverberating in the ears, minds and hearts of the people, with an emotion and a willingness to die for the nation, to gain the lost identity. The nation as we defined, is made of us - the people of India, for India, to India. There were movements for freeing the nation from these shackles. In the Pre-independent era, we had only one objective and that became the **nationalistic** call, a “**pukaar**”. The 90 long years of relentless fight, a fight against many odds, got us what we are enjoying today. We got the Independence, but got split on the east and on the west.

The resurrection of New India started. Post independent India, got stuck badly with **poverty, malnutrition, ill-literacy**.

After the 70 years of **sovereignty**, we still have a few daunting challenges of **poverty, malnutrition, ill-literacy**.

### What You Need to Know being a sovereign, democratic, Republic:

1. We are enjoying the **Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression**. And the document ensuring this is **The Constitution of India**.
2. We have political, economic and social opportunities, and it is due to the **Constitution**. It is ensuring basic human rights to every citizen of this country.

3. Can we imagine what if we did not have a constitution. In short, we would be living under the dictatorship. We would not have the option to exercise our basic rights because they don't exist!
4. We cannot afford to forget and we need to remember the struggle with which we got the independence and make sure that the mistakes of foreign invasion are never committed at all.

We are growing restless about the fundamental rights, but we never got restless about the fundamental duties bestowed on us.

There are 11 fundamental duties, a few **relevant and very important duties** of each of us-the citizens of the country.

- To abide by the Constitution and respect national flag & National Anthem;
- Protect sovereignty & integrity of India
- Spirit of common brotherhood
- Preserve composite culture
- Preserve natural environment,
- Safeguard public property;
- Strive for excellence

Today standing before our national flag, we have a goal, and it needs to be a common goal, and that becomes the **nationalistic pukar**. And the **pukaar** is to build the nation, back to its riches, to its glory, with its culture, with its character. A nation, where there is no one sleeping on an empty stomach, sick and groaning. We need to build a society that is free of crime. Let's choose wisely and not only make the change, but be the change.

**My dear Students:** 7 decades later, we once again look up at the youth, to build the nation. A nation, we are proud of. It is therefore my appeal to each of you, the students, to understand yourself first, understand your potential, understand your purpose of being at NITK, try to live knowing yourself rather than trying to live for others. I wish you to grow into responsible, and sensitive human beings of integrity and morality.

**My dear teachers, it is time to strive for excellence:** NITK since its inception has been striving hard to achieve excellence in technology & science research and teaching. The benchmarks are changing and as faculty and staff, we are expected to raise our bars high, and strive continuously to teach better, supervise better PhDs, and produce research results that rank among the best in the country.

At NITK, we are privileged to live in a beautiful campus, surrounded by natural beauty. It is a fundamental duty once again, in particular, to keep our surroundings clean and tidy. I have faith in the students, staff and faculty and the residents that we are committed to **Swacch Bharath, Swasth Bharath**, to make it a **Shrest Bharath**.

To live without fear and to live in dignity, and work for the unity and integrity of the country. Striving hard for excellence, and work with conviction and have a desire to grow.

**SAARE JAHAA SEE ACHHA HISDUSTAN HAMARA**

**JAI HIND**