

**Draft Speech of Hon'ble Governor Sri Jishnu Dev Varma
on the occasion of Independence Day at 8:00 am on
15.08.2024**

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On this momentous day, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to every Indian, especially to the people of Telangana, as we celebrate our nation's Independence Day.

Independence Day is a sacred occasion—a time to both solemnly remember and proudly celebrate our hard-won freedom. The story of our independence is forever inscribed in history, a tale of the unwavering resolve and selfless sacrifices made by countless patriots who fought tirelessly to free our motherland.

Today, we bow our heads in deep respect and gratitude to those valiant souls whose sacrifices have bestowed upon us the priceless gift of freedom. This is a fitting moment to honour the supreme sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters, whose courage and determination liberated us from British colonial rule, allowing us to enjoy the fruits of independence today.

India's struggle for freedom was unique, as we faced the might of the British Empire with the powerful weapons of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satyagraha (truth force). Under the visionary leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, these principles became the foundation of a mass movement that ultimately overthrew British rule.

Our freedom movement was also shaped by numerous leaders of great values and ideals, each playing a vital role in their own way. The powerful slogans of our struggle—"Quit India," "Do or Die," "Give Me Blood, and I Will Give You Freedom," "Swarajya is My Birth Right," and "Vande Mataram"—galvanized the nation and continue to inspire us today.

In the seven decades since independence, India has embarked on an incredible journey of development and self-reliance. Despite the scepticism of many who doubted our ability to maintain unity and integrity in the face of our vast diversity, we have proven that our diversity is our strength.

With 29 major languages and over 1,600 languages and dialects, India is a testament to the beauty of unity in diversity. We are committed to building a strong and vibrant Viksit Bharat while protecting and promoting our regional languages and diverse cultures.

India has come a long way from being labelled a poor country to now being recognized as an emerging global power and marching towards the third-largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$5 trillion.

I am especially proud that Telangana, our youngest state, is on the right path of development, showing impressive results in areas such as irrigation, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology.

I call upon every Indian to take pride in this great nation and to work tirelessly for the rapid development of both our Bharat Matha and our beloved Telangana state.

Wishing you all a very happy Independence Day.

Jai Telangana!

Jai Bharat!!