



Item Code:

945

Participant Code:

109

TO THE SKIES AND BEYOND -

AN ACCOUNT OF MY DREAMS AND
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE INDIA OF TOMORROW

As India, a ~~land~~ land which is home to many a pages in history awaits its 76th ~~down~~ ^{Spring} following independence, we cannot but reflect on the multiple scenarios our land has witnessed, all through these 75 years and before. We've seen cities rise and fall, we've heard the voices which had long been suppressed, we've seen new leaders, new possibilities, new horizons. The idea of novelty, of something new and of something better, has always been the force which pulled us in for new endeavours, and has built in us the strength for overcoming our shortcomings. As we stand on the

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threshold of exciting prospects, it is my pride to say, that I too have a picture of India, neatly framed in my dreams.

When I think of what our land calls for, the first thing that crosses my mind is the matter of basic necessities. As we ace one game in every field possible, it has become the need of the hour to get to the grassroot level of our social hierarchy and help uplift the poor, who find it difficult to make both ends meet, to have a stomach that does not ache of hunger. In this initiative, the first step would be to provide basic education and opportunities for quality-higher education for those in the marginalised sections of the society, so

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that the poor is not eternally poor.

With the idea of basic necessities settled, my next vision for India would be that of better educational facilities, with respect to higher education in India. While our school systems function brilliantly, these days, our land witnesses large scale fleeing of students to western nations in pursuit of better degrees and employment opportunities with institutions that meet world-class standards right in our nation, we could solve this issue to a great extent and measures to create more employment opportunities in India could actually make our educated brains stay here in the nation. India has human resources. The task of the day is to make our youth stay.

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An arena which requires our diligent attention is the matter of women's safety. Once upon a time, we started a civilization that named our places and rivers after women, for they used to be revered the way goddesses were. And now, the scenario could not be far ~~than~~ ^{from} that. Exploitation of girls and women make one news papers on a daily basis. We cannot sit with our hands crossed, in blissful indifference, any longer. It is high time that our nation wakes up to realise that its daughters ~~co~~ must be protected, educated, and empowered. We once had a man in India, a half-naked fakir, who envisioned an India which ensured women's safety. His ideas and visions for such an India remains to be of utmost

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priority, even after 75 springs of liberation from colonial ditches, even after the man himself has gone down the pages of history.

Indian rivers, such as the Ganga, the Yamuna etc. has their place in the history of our culture, and in our day-to-day lives. Our abundant natural resources, the streams, the hills, the fields, are all plundered, mismanaged and is at the threat of loss beyond recovery. A collective effort with massive participation and commitment alone can help renew our resources. If the practice of foolish, selfish exploitation goes on forever, neither I, nor the babies born on this day will have an India to dream upon. Our environment must be protected - at any cost.

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The most greatest villain of our times, so far, is not a giant creature or an alien twice our size. It comes as small pills, in syringes, unnoticed, and is exchanged under the desks, in the dark corridors of coaching institutes and sometimes out in the open air. The menace of drug abuse, is one that eats one nation, sucks its life-blood from inside and leaves us petrified at its consequences. ~~The~~ The India of tomorrow cannot have this villain in our pockets. I dream of an India which is free of intoxicants, an India whose youth has better things to rejoice about than succumb to the synthetic euphoria and drug-induced dopamine burst.

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The novel corona virus ^{disease} was a pandemic that seized our safe-zones, that robbed us of our sense of togetherness, for a short while atleast. However, the pandemic has taught us lessons, especially with special concern for the healthcare sector. The mass vaccination and testing facilities forced us to look more in to the need of better infrastructure facilities in hospitals, of the urban as well as rural India. The India of my dreams, sure has well equipped hospitals and healthcare ^{facilities} needs for all.

In today's world, if one were to ask me, I'd say the most crucial currency around is knowledge. Not just the school / university based system of education, but the

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knowledge that encompasses each and every thing that goes around in our world. In contributing to this broad domain, our media plays a much crucial role. With the advent of online medias and free journalism, the threat of 'fake news' being circulated, is just so high. It has come to the point that an average reader needs to do a sort of 'filtering' while processing the digital content he/she is exposed to. In my view, Indian journalism will be free of false content and all our citizens ^{could} ~~can~~ readily enjoy the most truthful version of things, without second thoughts.

It is always a joy to visit a land one has never set foot on before. And there begins my dreams.

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of India as a possible hub of tourism. It is true, that India has a wide range of tourist ^{attractions}, even now. But then, things could always get better. In the years to come, India could emerge as world's most preferred ^{tourist} ~~tourist~~ destinations, with its diversity and wonder. It is also in my dreams, that one day, our land will grow much in sports that we could host an event as popular as the recent Fifa World Cup.

India, whose past has many complex layers of ~~one~~ cultures blending on to another, many invasions, highs and lows, sure can ^{call} the diversity it holds, as pride. It is my vision that all the people in India, irrespective of the place they were born

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into, the religion they practice, or the language they utter, live harmoniously in this land - our collective home. The sense of togetherness, of common brotherhood will be the mantra of the India of my dreams.

Thinking of India, the land I proudly call home, many a thoughts, many a pictures, flash through my mind. Cleaner cities, fresher air, trees, the warmth, the feeling of no hurry case. My visions and dreams for India if put to paper will reflect in these pictures, an India sans - all things corrupt. As I trudge through the streets, see India as it currently is, I can also, some where far, see India as it can be. And that, is the hope every Indian

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goes to sleep with. Our developing nation, could one day be at the centre of world politics, of education, a powerful role-model to all fellow nations. Our science and space-tech could one day dominate all others. We could one-day be completely ^{self-}independent in manufacturing sectors.

Here, I have tried to express my dreams, my aspirations and visions for a better India - the India of tomorrow. Spheres such as food and nutrition, ~~the~~ education, women's safety and empowerment, the menace of drug abuse, better disaster management and healthcare facilities, authenticity in journalism, betterment in tourism and sports, and that of communal harmony

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need to be looked into, for India to embrace its most-superior self. Active participation of youth and the elders alike could act as an effective catalyst, in accelerating our journey towards self-reliance, self sufficiency and transparency in ~~best~~ administration. We need an India so full of life and vigour, filled to the brim with prosperity that nourishes it's citizens to their full full calibre. We need to build this India, with our hands, our minds and our actions, brick by brick, stone by stone. I see in my visions a land whose soil has the immense capacity of perseverance, rise to its full heights. I see India, my home, my mother, my teacher, spread wings and takes her flight towards the highest of

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highs. I see the India of my
visions, blend into and take the
form of the India of tomorrow.

JAI HIND.

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