

Reflections on 70th Republic Day of India

As Nation Rewrites Destiny, Individual Looks for Divinity

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The world revolves around me and I am at the center. The world outside me is turbulent, stirring everything from sensibility to space, as it strives to find its destiny.

I have been living in a lively locality in Mumbai. A locality that enthuses you for work, for business, for civility, for cosmopolitanism and for egalitarianism. A place where large contingent of children's movement throughout the day brings out freshness, aspiration, energy and hope. The same place, bubbling with enterprising adults display sobriety and moderation in opulence.

Since morning, there is display of nationalistic fervor in the air. Schools, housing societies and business complexes are engaged in celebrating the day. Hoisting of tricolor and singing of national anthem bring out a solemn sense of love for the motherland. The diversity seamlessly gets merged with a proud feeling of unity. After seventy plus years of nationhood, and passing through the specter of terrorism and hostility from across the border, people do realize the overarching need for maintaining peace and brotherhood. Passing through existential struggle for generations, people feel the need for state's contribution in making life easy and resourceful. After witnessing sever intercommunity hatred at pockets in the country at regular intervals, people feel the need for universal brotherhood. Therefore, they respect the sovereignty of state, the supremacy of state authority and obedience to rule of law. The framework of constitution and democratic institutions are looked with reverence.

Every celebration is welcome, as it buoys the spirit and brings out joy. The republic day celebration held at capital cities, seen on television, displaying military pageantry and cultural features from various states, present spectacular color, smile, spirit, jubilation, bravery and art. Sports activities particularly amongst children brings value in shaping physical and mental agility and breeds discipline amongst them. Commercial activities behind the celebrations creates values at every chain of transactions and service delivery. Being a national holiday with celebration mood, republic day, combined with weekend, provides occasion for high commercial transactions, particularly for e-commerce, entertainment, advertisement and media. Everything put together, republic day becomes a day loaded with values that keep the nation charged.

The celebrators, deep down in their heart, are looking for security and sustainability. They are also looking for peace and prosperity. Each one of them is engaged in his or her own way to shape up their destiny. They surely are looking for support. They know for certain that real support comes from above. At the heart of heart, there is a deity, to which each one submits. Each one also longs for love and shelter.

No one knows this better than the man from Baral Bungalow. Each one out there is no stranger to him. He loves each one and serves his or her need. Sri Sri Thakur, as he is popularly known, lived his life only to give wing to people's aspiration, to ward off evil from their path and give them taste of love and lore. He hardly occupied stage, as he prevailed in everyone's mind and heart. Celebration, for him, lies in directing everyone to his or her source and making existence meaningful and blooming. With Sri Sri Thakur comes an ideological package that makes life progressive and propitious, without making sectarian and superstitious. The external world remains very much part of us, without making life distractive. With Sri Sri Thakur, life becoming concentric. The turbulence outside is tempered with tranquility inside; complexities come with clarity.

With celebration around, we celebrate life with divine support. As the nation celebrates, one gets focused on life and gets into the rhythms of progress. Sri Sri Thakur leads life. With heavenly smile on his face, he dispenses love and divinity that helps each one to rewrite destiny.

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