

Dear Students, Faculty/Staff and their families, BITS alumni and their Families:

On the happy occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of India's Independence on August 15, I would like to wish you a very Happy Independence Day. As you celebrate this day, I encourage you to spare a few moments to reflect upon the great sacrifices our forefathers made to achieve our country's independence. You may also wish to think about what independence has meant for you, your family, and your community. While the country has made huge progress in many different sectors, a lot remains to be done before we can claim to have found our place under the sun. Malnutrition, illiteracy, poor health, corruption, regional or religious divide are just a few areas where we as a nation need to focus upon. And clearly, the youth in our country, and that includes the BITSians, must think hard as to how they can channelize their intellect and energies to mitigate these afflictions. In our own ways, we must think hard on how we can re-dedicate ourselves to selflessly work towards these goals. Among other things, we must maintain harmony, goodwill and unity within our campuses and, more importantly, reach out to communities around our campuses, homes and work places so that their lives are a tad healthier and happier.

Again, a very Happy Independence Day to all our Students, Faculty/Staff and their families, BITS alumni and their Families.

Bijendra Jain, Vice Chancellor