

Press Release

15th August 2021

AIPSN Campaign on 75th Anniversary Year of Independence The Idea of India --- Road to Tomorrow

All India Peoples Science Network (AIPSN) has planned [a campaign on 75th Anniversary Year of Independence](#) based on the Idea of India by looking both to the past and more importantly at the road to the future. On 15th Aug 2021 [a web based event is being held](#) between 4pm to 6pm wherein there will be discussion around Constitutional Obligations: Scientific Temper and Democracy, Unity in Diversity, S&T and Self Reliance, Development and Welfare. The event can be viewed on the AIPSN Facebook or AIPSN YouTube.

Independent India was born on 15th August 1947 with the end of British colonial rule and unfurling of the tricolor by the new nation's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. India's journey over the next 75 years has been remarkable by any standards. Born out of the values forged during the independence struggle and the wholehearted participation of all sections of the people, a poor, developing and highly diverse country with low literacy and massive diversity, embarked on a path at that time rarely seen among newly-independent states. This path comprised universal suffrage; a secular state with equality of all citizens before the law and plurality of opinions; respectful of all religions, castes, languages, ethnicities and gender, expressly underlining the idea of unity in diversity; a democratic, popularly accountable and federated system of governance; a strong industrial base built around scientific and technological (S&T) self-reliance and public sector enterprises in core sectors; a commitment to build a modern welfare state with a citizenry imbued with scientific temper and critical thinking. India's Constitution adopted in 1950 cemented these values in the governance of the country, and provided an institutional framework for rights of citizens and for democratic governance, with an independent judiciary and autonomy from the executive of major governance institutions. The world watched in wonder as India progressed along this path, managing arguably the most socio-culturally complex and diverse country, undoubtedly with many hiccups along the way. The path after crossing several hurdles has been beset with more troubles especially over the last 7 years due to increasing inequality, crony capitalism, religious polarization and efforts to reduce the diversity and freedoms that were assured under the Constitution framed by Ambedkar and others.

India desperately needs to restore its post-independence identity as a forward looking country, building its autonomous self-reliant knowledge especially in science and technology for the global economy of tomorrow, promote its major public sector industries to achieve these goals along with those private entities with a commitment and dedication to achieve self-reliance in India. India desperately needs to re-establish Constitutional values of unity of diversity so that all States, cultures and people of all religions can move forward determinedly each in their own unique way. India needs to take forward its values of plurality, freedom of expression, autonomy of governance institutions, strong anti-discrimination laws, and a planned and well-regulated economy keeping in mind socio-economic equity, environmental sustainability and protection of historically underprivileged populations. None of this can happen without a robust public system of health, education involving public sector and the people of India. The future beckons India especially its youth. To achieve its due, India needs to re-generate and re-imagine the values and aspirations of its freedom movement which we are recalling and celebrating during 2021-22.

For clarifications contact:

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