



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

5th September, 2014

Dear Teachers of India,

My Greetings to the entire teaching community on Teachers' Day. I also offer my tributes to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary. I feel privileged to write to you on this auspicious occasion.

From time immemorial, ours is a society where the "Guru" or teacher has played a very important role in shaping Individuals in their formative years. In our culture, teaching is not just another profession. It is a divine responsibility to guide and enlighten. That is why it is said "गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुर्गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः". By according this high status to the Teaching community, India had once attained the status of **Vishwaguru**. We must once again accord such respect to the teachers and thereby regain that status where India becomes the beacon of Knowledge to the entire world.

Wheels of change have put India on the march towards Surajya. In this critical Journey, it is the Teachers who must play a role of crucial importance. Your determination and sincerity will shape the destiny of the nation! I want to see the day when every student is proud of his or her Teachers and every Teacher is proud of his or her students.

The influences and experiences you share with your students will remain with them for a lifetime. You are also laying the foundation and the building blocks of the society. This is a responsibility of great significance because on this depends how our present and future generations will thrive.

This Teachers' Day, I want to share one thought with all of you. In the present day, often learning is equated with either collection of information or mastery of skills for occupations and Jobs. Yes, that is important but I call upon you to widen the horizon of thinking of your students. Encourage them to think critically about broader issues concerning our Nation, society and the environment. Our goal must be to create good Citizens who are capable of preserving the past and creating the future.

Lessons in good citizenship inculcated at a young age will go a long way in creating a better society. This could be as simple as traffic rules, cleanliness, gender sensitization, concern for the weak and reverence for the elders. I hope I can count on your support to make a beginning this Teachers' Day. Let us re-dedicate ourselves to this task; this duty.

With lot of hope and confidence, I offer my salutations to all of you for the noble duty you discharge every day. तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः

Wishing you all the very best.

Yours,

Narendra Modi