

Prime Minister's Speech

(08 Sep 2020)

(English rendering)

Namaskar.

Shree Kalraj Mishra Ji, Governor of Rajasthan, my friend Shri Ashok Gehlot Ji, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Gulab Kothari Ji, Chief Editor of Rajasthan Patrika, other employees of Rajasthan Patrika, friends from media, ladies and gentleman...

My heartiest wishes to Gulab Kothari Ji and Patrika Group for the two books – Samvad Upnishad and Akshar Yatra. These books are peerless gifts for both literature and culture. Today I have also got an opportunity to dedicate 'Patrika Gate' which reflects the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan. In fact Rajasthan Patrika as a newspaper reaches the doors of the houses of the people every day and the doors of their hearts open up after they read it. This gate will be a centre of attraction for locals as well tourists coming here. Many-many congratulations to all of you for this endeavour as well.

Friends !

For any society, intellectuals, writers or literary persons are like beacons. In fact they are social educators. At a certain point of time school education ends but the process of learning continues throughout life. In it books and writers play an important role. In our country writing has evolved continuously with Indianness and nationalism.

During freedom struggle, every prominent name was associated with writing. All our great saints and scientists were also writers and litterateurs. I am happy to see that all of you are incessantly striving to for the continuation of this lofty tradition. This is also important to mention here that Rajasthan Patrika Group has the courage to say that they are not in the race for imitating the West blindly. You not only give priority to Indian culture, Indian civilization, preservation of values but also to their promotion.

These two books of Gulab Kothari Ji titled Samvad Upnishad and Akshar Yatra, are the living examples. Gulab Kothari Ji ! Patrika itself began its journey with these very formative influences of the tradition that you are now nurturing. Shri Karpur Chandra Ji Kulish started the tradition of Patrika with the pledge of service to India and Indianness. We all remember his contribution to journalism but the way Kulishji tried to take the Vedic wisdom to society was really unparalleled. I myself met Kulishji many times. He had great affection for me. He often used to say that journalism succeeds via positivity only.

Friends !

It is not necessary that only writers and journalists should develop this thinking which lends positivity to society. It is also imperative for us as individuals and for our personality. It satisfies me to know that Patrika Group and Gulab Kothari Ji are taking forward Kulish Ji's resolve and his way of thinking forward continuously. Gulabji ! I wonder if you remember I had said that your

suggestions reminded me of your revered father at my recent meeting with the friends of Print Media. After glimpsing through the two books SamvadUpnishad and AksharYatra, it only strengthens my belief that you are taking forward the Vedic legacy with resolute determination.

Friends !

When I was going through the books of Gulabji, I also recalled one of his editorials. After the results of the 2019 general elections when I first addressed the nation Kothari Ji wrote a special editorial entitled 'stutyasankalp' (commendable resolution). He wrote that after listening to me he felt as though I had conveyed his own views to 130 crore people. Kothari Ji !When I discover Upnishidac knowledge and Vedic insights in your books. I also feel as if I am reading my own thoughts. In reality the words for the welfare of the entire mankind and service of ordinary humans may have been uttered by anyone but they always relate to everyone's heart. Therefore, our Vedas and Vedic thoughts have been described as timeless. Our Vedic mantras may have been perceived by any rishi but their message, their philosophy is meant for the entire humanity. That is why our Vedas, our culture is for the whole world. I hope that UpnishadSamvad and AksharaYatra too will reach the people as a link of that very Indian thinking and I am confident that in today's digital world the generations that live by relying on google guru will someday touch these books and will get nectar from them. In these times of text messages and tweets it is more necessary that our young generation do not move away from profound knowledge. When you build a house you also create a temple at a small place. You also leave a space for shoes. I urge every family to ask their architect to reserve an area in the house where good books can be placed. I wish that every member of the family may go near these books, touch them and do form a habit to read a page or so.

Friends,

This profound knowledge embodied in our Upnishads and the Vedic reflections are not merely the realm of spiritual and philosophical attraction but our Veda and Vedanta are also the repositories of our creation and science which have attracted many scientists and many of them have shown deep interest in it. We have all heard the name of Nicola Tesla. Without him the modern world would not have been the same as we see it today. When Swami Vivekananda went to America a century ago he happened to meet Nicola Tesla. When Swami Vivekananda told him about the knowledge of Upnishads and the Vedantic exposition of the cosmos he was astonished.

Upnishads use the Sanskrit words like prana and akasha to explain the enigma of the cosmos and Tesla said he would try to put it all into scientific language and mathematic equations. He felt that he could decode the complex riddles of the modern science with the help of this knowledge. Although many researches were carried out later, the discussion held between Swami Vivekananda and Tesla brought forth the concepts in a different manner. Research is being conducted even today but this incident inspires us to rethink our knowledge. Today our youths need to think and understand from this perspective as well. Therefore, the book like UpnishadSamvad and such deep reflection on the journey of Akshara (letter) will open up a new dimension for the youths and will give them the depth of thought.

Friends,

Akshar (letter) is the first unit of our language, our expression. In Sanskrit Akshar means that which never wears out or perishes. It means that which is eternal. This alone is the power of the thought, its ability. The thought that a rishi or seer scientist or a philosopher gave us thousands of years ago continues to illuminate the path of the world even today. That is why our Upnishads and scriptures have talked about AksharBrahm, and have given us the doctrine of *aksharambrahmparman*. In our scriptures it is stated '*shabdabrahmanishnantaparambrahmadhigachhati*. It means word itself is Brahm. He who is able to know this *shabdabrahm* in its entirety attains the state of Brahma, godhood.

We do not come across the example of the greatness of shabd (word), calling it Ishwara anywhere else. Therefore, it is a natural trait of the Indian mind to have the courage to say the truth through words, give the power of positivity and creativity through words. It is our inborn gift. When we feel this power we realize our importance as litteraterus, as writers. We are able to feel our responsibility towards society.

You see the media has increased awareness in society whether it was a clean Indian campaign to prevent people from falling sick or Ujjwala gas plan to save women from the smoke of burning wood or JalJivan mission which aims at providing every household with clean water. In this critical period of the epidemic the Indian media has rendered unprecedented service to the people in the campaign to awaken them against the perils of Corona. Our media also carries out its responsibility very well in analyzing the performance of the Govt, bringing to light our weaknesses at the grassroots level and criticizing the lapses. Yes !many times it so happens that media itself comes under fire. In this phase of social media it has become more natural. But it is also equally natural for us to learn from our criticism. That is why our democracy has become so strong, so powerful.

Friends !

Just as we are moving ahead with our legacy, science, culture and ability and are endorsing them we have also to enhance our self-confidence. I feel happy when I see that the media is giving our resolve to make India self-reliant and be more vocal for local a form of a big movement. Friends we still need to widen this vision.

The local products of India are already becoming global but now the voice of India is becoming more global. The world listens to India with greater attention today. At almost every international forum India makes its strong presence felt. Similarly India media also needs to become global. It is imperative that our newspapers and magazines earn global reputation and in this digital era we reach the whole world digitally. It is the demand of the time that as in other countries the institutions of India should also start giving literary awards. It is also essential for our country.

I have the information that Patrika Group has started an International Award in journalism in memory of ShriKarpoor Chandra JiKulish. I congratulate Patrika Group for this initiative. I believe that these efforts of youths will give India a new identity on the world media forum. I

once again congratulate you for the way Patrika has spearheaded a campaign to create awareness among the people against Corona menace. This campaign also needs to be more intensified. The first priority of the nation is that the people of India remain healthy and our economy too gets momentum. I am confident that the country will win this battle soon and the journey of the country will also become an AksharYatra (an eternal journey).