

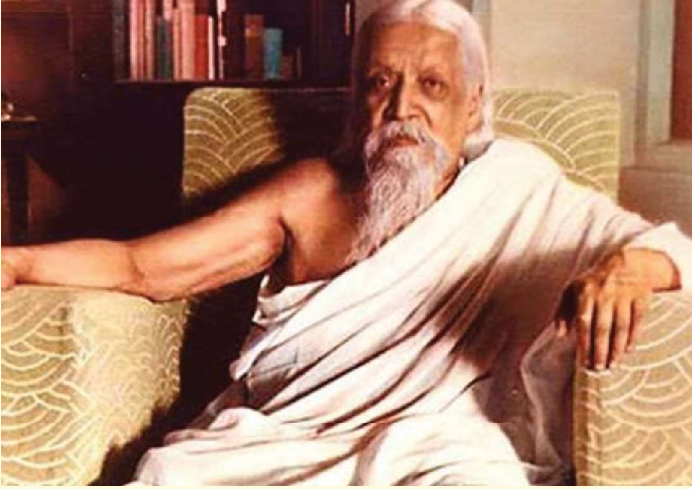
Dakshinapatha Vaartha (Monthly Bulletin)

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DakshinApatha (also known as Dakshināvarta) refers to the southern part of India, traditionally understood as the region lying south of the Vindhya ranges. DakshinApatha Varthavani Bulletin documents and presents the rich political history, culture, traditions, people and inspirational personalities of this region, while reflecting the changing times and society. In terms of present-day political boundaries, DakshinApatha covers Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, along with parts of Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Through this bulletin, we bring together historical, cultural, political and social narratives from these regions, preserving and sharing the diverse heritage of the southern part of India.

Sri Aurobindo's Spiritual Journey (Birth Anniversary of Rishi Aurobindo, 15th August)

In the spiritual history of India, the name of Sri Aurobindo will remain like a lofty summit. His life was not merely the life of a yogi; it was a symbol of the great resolve to take human consciousness to a higher level. A patriot, philosopher, poet, writer, and yogi, Sri Aurobindo transformed his own life into a laboratory and gave the world the conviction that human beings can evolve towards divinity.



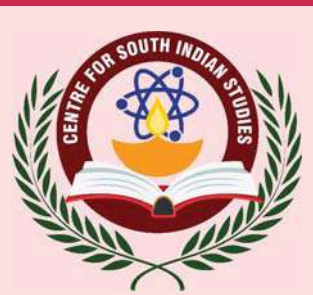
Sri Aurobindo was born in Calcutta in 1872. At a young age, he went to England and pursued Western education. After returning to India, he actively participated in the freedom movement. His writings and speeches ignited the flame of patriotism among the youth. However, in the midst of the political struggle, a great inward turning point began in his life.

He realized that not only the freedom of the nation, but also the inner liberation of human beings was necessary.

Certain spiritual experiences lead his firm steps towards Yoga. Through the practice of Yoga, making the mind still, experiencing inner peace, and touching higher consciousness became direct experiences for him. His life in Alipore Jail in 1908 turned into a crucial milestone in his spiritual evolution. Even within the walls of the prison, his spiritual vision blossomed. He later described that he experienced the presence of the Divine in every being and in every object. That experience completely changed the direction of his life.

Later, he went to Puducherry and continued his Yogic practice more deeply. There, the Integral Yoga he proposed took shape as a unique spiritual path. In contrast to the view that Yoga generally means renouncing the world and attaining spiritual liberation, Sri Aurobindo proposed different approach to Yoga that transforms life. He taught that the mind, life-force, and body—all levels of human existence—should be transformed by the Divine Consciousness.

In his view, spirituality does not mean running away; it means transforming life into something sacred, elevated, and meaningful. The goal of Yogic practice is to overcome limitations such as ignorance, fear, selfishness, and jealousy within a person, and to develop higher qualities such as love, knowledge, peace, and power. He believed that human evolution was not yet complete, and that in the future human consciousness could rise to a still higher level.



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Sri Aurobindo's Yogic journey gives us a great message: a human being does not have to stop at their present limitations. By awakening the higher power within, one can transform one's own life into a spiritual practice. To change the external world, one must first change the inner self. With self-confidence, a still mind, continuous practice, and faith in the Divine, a person can bring forth their immense potential.

Therefore, Sri Aurobindo's Yogic journey is not merely a history that speaks of the past; it is a living message that serves as a guide for every generation; the journey from a human being to a great human being, and from human consciousness towards Divine Consciousness—that is the true inspiration of Sri Aurobindo's Yogic journey.

Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (Birth Anniversary, 15th August)

In the history of India's freedom struggle, many heroes sacrificed their lives and wrote everlasting words of patriotism. Sangolli Rayanna was one such great hero. He was a brave son of the Kannada land who fought courageously against the rule of British East India Company. His life is a remarkable symbol of courage, patriotism, self-respect, and sacrifice.

Sangolli Rayanna was born on August 15, 1798, in the Belagavi region of Karnataka. He was a warrior loyal to the Kittur kingdom. At that time, the British were attempting to expand their dominance over the Indian princely states. When Queen Chennamma of Kittur courageously opposed British rule, Rayanna was one of the principal military leaders who stood by her.



In 1824, when Kittur rebelled against British authority, Rayanna demonstrated his unparalleled courage. He stood by Queen Chennamma's army and fought against the British forces. Not only did he fight valiantly in battle, but he also acted strategically despite having fewer resources than the enemy.

Even after the British captured Queen Chennamma, Rayanna did not retreat. He continued his struggle for the independence of Kittur. Although he did not have a large regular army, he built a guerrilla force with the support of the people. Using forests and hills to his advantage, he carried out surprise attacks on the British army. He targeted the treasuries and arms stores of British officials and attempted to weaken their administrative system.

The greatest aspect of Rayanna's struggle was not merely his personal courage; it was his unwavering faith in freedom. Although he had the opportunity to accept British rule and live comfortably, he rejected the life of slavery. He believed that fighting for the self-respect of the people was his duty.

His struggle greatly troubled the British authorities. Eventually, Rayanna was captured through conspiracies and betrayals. In 1831, he was hanged in the Nandagad region. Even before his death, he did not lose his patriotism or courage. He wished that even if his life was lost, the spirit of freedom would remain alive among the people.

Although the life of a hero came to an end with Rayanna's death, his heroic story did not end. He remained forever in the memories of the people of Karnataka as a folk hero and freedom fighter. Whenever we hear his name, we are reminded of courage, self-respect, and sacrifice.

The great lesson that Sangolli Rayanna teaches us is this: A person who knows the value of freedom will never bow down to injustice under any circumstances. Standing for righteousness, opposing injustice, and making sacrifices for the country—not victory or defeat—is true heroism.

The flame of freedom that was lit on the land of Kittur became an inspiration for future generations. The resistance shown by Rayanna along with Queen Chennamma stands as an important chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle.

The message of Sangolli Rayanna's life is this: a life lived for the country is unforgettable; a sacrifice made for freedom can never be in vain. His bravery will continue to inspire generations and will remain an immortal chapter in the story of Mother India's freedom.

Onam Festival (A Symbol of Kerala's Culture, 16th August)

India is a sacred land that flourishes with many languages, cultures, and traditions. Every region has its own unique festivals and customs. Among them, Onam is the most important festival of the state of Kerala. It is not merely a festival; it is a grand celebration that stands as a symbol of the traditions, agricultural way of life, family bonds, brotherhood, and happiness of the people of Kerala.

Onam is primarily celebrated in remembrance of Bali Chakravarthy (emperor). According to our mythology, Bali was a highly righteous and great king who loved his people and under his rule, the people lived in happiness and prosperity. In his kingdom, where everyone was treated equally, poverty and injustice were very rare. Therefore, the people remember the reign of Bali Chakravarthy as an ideal kingdom.

The Puranic legend says that in order to test Bali Chakravarthy's devotion and generosity, Vishnu took the form of Vamana and came to him. When Vamana asked for three paces (steps) of land, King Mahabali agreed. Vamana assumed his cosmic form and measured the



earth and the heavens in two steps. For the third step, Bali Chakravarthy offered his own head and thus kept his promise. Pleased with his devotion and generosity, Vamana granted Bali Chakravarthy permission to visit his people once a year. It is believed that Onam is celebrated to welcome his arrival.

Onam is generally celebrated for ten days with various traditions. During the festival days, homes are cleaned and beautifully decorated. The beautiful floral design made in front of the house, known as a Pookalam, is a special feature of Onam. Artistic patterns are created using flowers of different colors. Family members share happiness by creating the Pookalam together.

The tradition of wearing new clothes on the occasion of Onam is called Onakkodi. Family members and relatives wear new clothes together and celebrate the festival joyfully. Children and elders alike participate in games and cultural programs.

One of the most attractive aspects of the Onam festival is the Onam Sadya. Many varieties of traditional Kerala dishes are served on a banana leaf. Along with rice, dal, curries, pickles, and payasam, many other dishes are prepared, with Aviyal being a special one. Having a meal together with family members, relatives, and friends reflects the communal spirit of the festival.

The Vallam Kali, or boat races, held in Kerala are also a special attraction of the Onam celebrations. The sight of many people rowing long traditional boats together in perfect coordination creates great excitement. Traditional dances, songs, and games also add further beauty to the festival.

Onam gives us a great message. We should practice values such as good governance, equality, generosity, love, unity, and mutual cooperation in our lives. The welfare of the people in the story of Bali Chakravarthy and the teaching of righteousness in the story of Vamana remind us of the values found in mythological tradition of Bharat.

Although Onam is a festival of the people of Kerala, its message is inspiring to all the people of the country. This festival teaches us to share happiness by coming together as families, preserve our traditions, respect nature, and promote brotherhood in society.

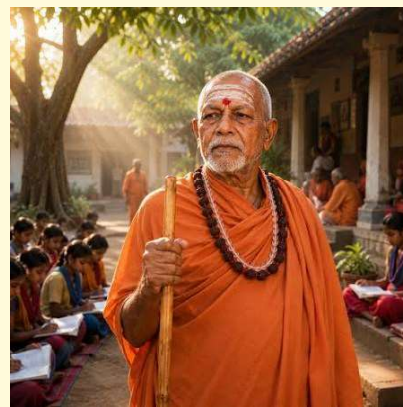
Onam, illuminated by the fragrance of flowers, the beauty of Pookalams, the flavors of Onam Sadya, and the grandeur of traditional arts, is a beautiful symbol of the diversity of Indian culture. May this festival, which fills people's hearts with joy through the cherished memory of the time of "Maveli's reign," always remain a symbol of brotherhood, happiness, and peace.

Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati — An Everlasting Light of Devotion to Dharma

(Swami Lakshmanananda Balidan Diwas, August 23)

In the spiritual and social history of India, some great individuals dedicated their lives to the service of society. Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati was one such great personality. Throughout his life, he worked in the Kandhamal region of Odisha to spread education, service, culture, and spiritual awareness among tribal communities, the poor and underprivileged children. His life stood as a symbol of sacrifice, service, and devotion to Dharma.

Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati gave great importance not only to spiritual practice but also to the upliftment of the underprivileged sections of society. He encouraged many initiatives such as providing education to people living in remote areas, creating residential and educational opportunities for children, and providing healthcare services. He did not view service merely as an act of charity. He believed that seeing the Divine in every



person in society and serving them was true Dharma.

He closely observed the problems faced by tribal communities in regions such as Kandhamal. He believed that education was the most important means of overcoming problems such as poverty, illiteracy, and

social backwardness. Therefore, he worked towards establishing educational institutions and service centers. In particular, he tried to build self-confidence among the youth and instill in them respect for their culture, traditions, and values.

In his view, Hindu Dharma was not merely about worship and rituals. Practicing values such as truth, service, compassion, discipline, sacrifice, courage, and mutual respect in life was Dharma. He worked to strengthen these values of Indian culture in the lives of the people.

Along with his spiritual message, he also advanced social service equally. This became a source of resentment for missionaries.

On August 23, 2008, Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati was brutally murdered at his ashram in Kandhamal district. Along with him, several others also lost their lives. This incident caused deep sorrow across the country.

Swamiji's sacrifice awakens a great question within us: "What are we doing for our society?" The feeling that what the nation has given us should be given back to society must grow in every young person. Providing education to poor children, helping those in need, protecting nature, learning about our culture, and promoting brotherhood in society—all these are parts of serving the nation.

The youth must learn about Indian culture and introduce its finest values to the world. We must develop a sense of responsibility towards the nation, society, and culture.

Although Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati is no longer physically among us, the service he rendered and the inspiration he kindled through his life will continue. His sacrifice gives us an important message: although an individual's life is limited, service performed for society is eternal.

The sacrifice of Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati should remain an everlasting light that awakens within our hearts a resolve to serve, devotion to Dharma, patriotism, and a spirit of humanity. Walking on the path of service that he showed us is the true tribute we can offer him.

National Space Day (August 23)

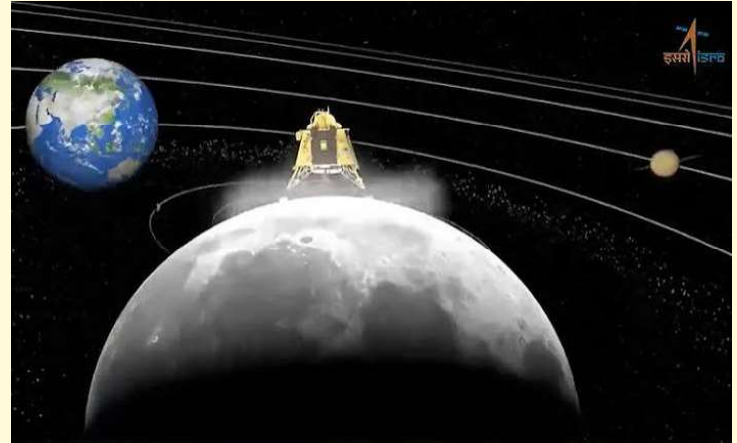
Looking at the sky with wonder is a natural human tendency. The desire to learn about the stars, planets, and mysteries of the universe led to the development of space science. Once, space research was considered a field that was possible only for a few developed countries. But today, through its talent, scientific outlook, and continuous efforts, India has earned a respected position in the global space sector.

On August 23, 2023, a remarkable milestone was achieved in the history of India. The Chandrayaan-3 mission undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully achieved a soft landing near the Moon's South Polar Region. With this achievement, India joined the group of countries that have successfully accomplished a soft landing on the Moon. To commemorate this achievement, August 23 was declared National Space Day.

India's space journey began under very modest circumstances. The Indian space programme, which began in the 1960s with limited resources, was founded by visionary scientists such as Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. The idea of

using space technology not merely for prestige but for the development of the people of the country gave the Indian space programme its distinctive character.

Today, Indian satellites provide services to many sectors such as weather forecasting, agriculture, disaster management, telecommunications, navigation, television broadcasting, and groundwater studies. Programmes such as INSAT, IRS, Cartosat, and NavIC have enhanced the country's ability to use space technology according to its needs.



Through Chandrayaan-1, India played an important role in finding crucial evidence related to the presence of water molecules on the Moon. In the next phase, India reached Mars through the Mangalyaan mission. Successfully carrying out a complex space mission at a limited cost brought worldwide appreciation for the capabilities of Indian scientists.

The success of Chandrayaan-3 gave new momentum to India's space capabilities. Experiments such as studying the lunar surface through the Lander and rover and collecting information about the lunar soil and atmospheric conditions further strengthened India's scientific capabilities. With this success, interest in science, technology, and space research increased further among Indian youth.

India's progress in space is not limited to ISRO alone. The private space sector in the country is also developing rapidly. New startups are bringing innovative ideas to areas such as rockets, satellites, space data, and experimental technologies. This is opening up new opportunities for India's space economy.

In the future, India has set more ambitious goals. The Gaganyaan programme to send humans into space, further research on the Moon, the study of the Sun, and long-term plans related to establishing a space station are all set to take India's space journey to an even higher level.

National Space Day is not merely a day to commemorate an achievement. It is a day that instills the confidence of "We too can achieve it" in the youth of the nation. It proves that when the efforts of scientists, the talent of engineers, the perseverance of technical experts, and the

support of the people of the country come together, even goals that appear impossible can be accomplished.

India's achievements in space give us a great message: we must dream, turn those dreams into goals, and work continuously towards those goals. India, which reached the Moon yesterday, must develop the capability to reach even more distant planets tomorrow.

On the occasion of National Space Day, heartfelt congratulations to all Indian scientists. Inspired by them, the youth of India should understand science and, through knowledge, take the country to even greater heights.

Kanaka Durga Shakambari Utsavams (Ashadha Month)

Sri Kanaka Durga Devi, who is seated on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada and blesses her devotees, is the embodiment of power, devotion, and compassion. Among the many distinctive festivals conducted at the temple of the Goddess, the Shakambari Utsavams are particularly special. The speciality of these celebrations is adorning and worshipping the Goddess with vegetables, leafy greens, fruits, grains, and other produce bestowed by nature. This celebration not only represents devotion but also reminds us of the inter-connect between nature, food, agriculture, and all living beings.



According to Puranic tradition, Goddess Shakambari is a distinctive form of the Universal Mother. It is said in the Puranic legend that when drought and food scarcity occurred in the world, the Mother, out of her compassion, provided various kinds of greens, fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants and nourished all living beings. Therefore, devotees worship her as the em-

bodiment of Annapurna, the nurturer of nature, and the Mother of the Universe.

During the Shakambari Utsavams, the very items that are commonly seen in our kitchens become part of the Goddess's decoration and take on a wondrous divine form. To devotees who witness this decoration, the Goddess appears as the embodiment of nature and as the Mother who nourishes all living beings.

This festival emphasizes how deeply human life depends on nature. The farmer who provides us with food, the land that produces the crops, water, sunlight, and seeds—all are considered divine gifts. The Shakambari Utsavam

instills in us the thought that these are blessings of the Divine. Therefore, it is our responsibility to respect nature, conserve water, protect crops, and avoid wasting food.

Large numbers of devotees flock to Vijayawada to have the darshan of Mother Kanaka Durga in her Shakambari Alankaram. The temple premises are filled with a devotional atmosphere. With auspicious musical instruments, Vedic chants, the chanting of the Goddess's name, and the prayers of devotees, Indrakeeladri takes on a spiritual splendour. Devotees have darshan of the Goddess and pray for family happiness and peace, good health, prosperity, and abundant crops.

The form of Goddess Shakambari also reminds us of the Indian cultural belief that "food is the embodiment of the Supreme Divine." We should respect every grain of food available to us. We should recognize the hard work of farmers. We should protect natural resources. We should share food with others and give importance to service activities such as providing food to those who are hungry.

This festival conveys a great spiritual message to devotees. It develops the vision of believing that the Goddess is not only present in the idol within the temple, but also in every living form in nature. Trees, plants, crops, animals, and water—all are parts of Divine creation. Therefore, protecting nature is also a form of worship of the Divine.

The Kanaka Durga Shakambari Utsavams are a grand celebration that brings together devotion, nature, agriculture, food donation, and human values on a single platform in our tradition. Devotees pray that, through the grace of the Goddess, everyone may be blessed with good health, happiness and peace, abundant crops, and food security.

"O Mother Kanaka Durga, the Universal Mother in the form of Shakambari! By your compassionate and gracious gaze, may the earth flourish in green, may the lives of farmers be prosperous, and may every home be filled with the blessings of Annapurna," the Shakambari Utsavams fill our hearts with spiritual joy.

Balkampet Yellamma Temple

The Balkampet Renuka Yellamma Temple in Hyderabad is renowned as a center of devotion, history, and spiritual beliefs. Unlike ordinary temples, a special feature here is that the Goddess is self-manifested in the water. Devotees regard the sacred stream of water flowing from the head of the Goddess as a Mahatirtha, or highly sacred water. With many special occasions such as Bonalu, Kalyanotsavams, and the temple's legends, this sacred site has gained a distinctive identity.

Generally, in temples, the Goddess gives darshan to devotees either standing or seated. But in this sacred place in Hyderabad, the Goddess is uniquely enshrined within

the waters. As the Mother who protects the world and as the self-manifested Goddess who appeared in the water, she draws thousands of devotees every day who come to have her darshan. Devotees receive the sacred water that continuously flows from the head of the Goddess as a Mahatirtha. They have a deep faith that drinking this sacred water, or taking it home and worshipping it, will remove illnesses.

When the month of Ashadha arrives, all of Telangana comes alive with the festivities of Bonalu. The celebrations held particularly at the Balkampet Renuka Yellamma Temple in Hyderabad have a special place. At this temple, devotees arrive from across the country and abroad, and the annual Kalyanotsavams of Mother Yellamma are celebrated with great splendour. These celebrations are renowned as the divine wedding of Shiva and Shakti, and devotees believe that participating in them brings the blessings of the Goddess.



According to the temple legend, several centuries ago, the entire Balkampet region was covered with green fields. One day, while a farmer was digging a well in his field for water, an idol of the Goddess emerged from the ground. However much the farmer tried to remove the idol, he could not do so. Even when all the villagers joined together and tried, the form of the Goddess did not move. Considering this to be the will of the Goddess, the villagers installed and began worshipping her in the same well. Although a temple was later constructed there, they continued to keep the self-manifested Goddess in the well and worship her. Another idol of the Goddess was installed above it, where daily worship is performed.

According to history, this area was formerly known as "Behlukhan Guda." During the time of Raja Shivraj Bahadur, the area developed and later became known as "Balkampet." Subsequently, the Goddess also came to have a special place in the hearts of devotees as "Balkampet Yellamma Thalli." History says that the present temple structure was constructed in 1919.

The Kalyanotsavam of Balkampet Yellamma Thalli is celebrated with great splendour on the first Tuesday of the month of Ashadha. On this occasion, the divine wedding of the Goddess and Mahadeva is performed according to scriptural traditions. Devotees believe that witnessing the Goddess's wedding brings auspiciousness and that unmarried people who receive the sacred akshintalu (blessed rice) will soon get married.

Balkampet Yellamma is renowned as the gentle Mother who responds when called upon. Devotees believe that even a single darshan of Balkampet Yellamma Thalli brings peace of mind and auspiciousness to life.

How to Awaken Nationalism among Gen Z Youth

India is not merely a geographical region. It is the home of a civilization that has existed for thousands of years. It is a sacred land that has brought together within itself many languages, traditions, beliefs, arts, and systems of knowledge, and has given the world the great message of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" — the world is one family. The future of this country is in the hands of today's youth. In particular, it is extremely important to awaken patriotism, values, responsibility, and constructive national consciousness among today's youth, nowadays known as Gen Z.

Nationalism does not simply mean raising slogans. Loving the country, learning about its history, respecting its culture, upholding constitutional values, working for society, and playing one's part in the development of the nation constitute true nationalism. Patriotism should live in the heart; service to the nation should be visible through our actions.



Today's youth have the world of information at their fingertips. They have the opportunity to learn about the world through a mobile phone. At the same time, misinformation, misconceptions about history, and hateful propaganda also spread rapidly. Therefore, along with critical thinking, young people should be given opportunities to learn about the history of India based on evidence and in a comprehensive manner. They should be introduced to the sacrifices of freedom fighters, the service of soldiers protecting the borders, the achievements of scientists, the efforts of farmers, and the contributions of social reformers.

Pride in being Indian should be strengthened among the youth. They should be introduced to traditions of knowledge such as our Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Buddhist and Jain traditions, Bhakti movements, Indian arts, music, Yoga, Ayurveda, mathematics, and astronomy. However, merely speaking about

the glory of the past is not enough. Young people should be inspired by that heritage and develop the resolve to build modern India.

The greatest form of patriotism is service. From removing garbage in a village to protecting the environment, from providing education to poor children to helping the elderly, every act of service is service to the nation. If young people begin by identifying a small problem in their surroundings and finding a solution to it, these small efforts can become the foundation for great national reconstruction.

Discipline, honesty, courage, and a sense of duty should be cultivated among the youth. Punctuality, protecting public property, respecting the law, environmental responsibility, and responsible behaviour in the digital world are all characteristics of modern patriotism. The thought, "If I change, my family will change; if my family changes, society will change; if society changes, the nation will change," should grow among the youth.

At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that intense nationalism does not turn into hatred. Protecting the dignity of every citizen while strengthening the unity and integrity of the nation, its sovereignty, and democratic values is powerful nationalism.

Gen Z youth should be shaped not merely as an audience that listens to speeches about patriotism, but as partners in nation-building. Whether they are in scientific research, technology, startups, defence, agriculture, sports, the arts, or education, they should have the goal of establishing India at the global level in whatever field they pursue.

If our soldier stands at the border, our young scientist should work for the country in the laboratory. If a farmer provides food for the nation from the fields, a young entrepreneur should create employment. If a teacher imparts knowledge, a student should use that knowledge for the development of the nation.

Instead of asking, "What has the country given me?" the question, "What can I give to my country?" should awaken in the heart of every young person.

Then nationalism will not remain merely a slogan; it will become a way of life. Patriotism will not remain a one-day activity; it will become a duty practiced every day.

The glory of Bharat Mata is our resolve. The progress of India is our goal. Unity, service, truth, valour, and discipline are our weapons. Taking India to the highest peaks in the world through knowledge, hard work, sacrifice, and patriotism is the great responsibility of today's Gen Z youth.

Other Important Days of This Month:

- Indian Independence Day — August 15
- Varalakshmi Vratam — August 21
- Shravan Purnima, Raksha Bandhan — August 28
- National Sports Day — August 29



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