

# Why are we even independent?

What is the definition of Independence for all of us? What signifies its importance? Does it mean that once in a year, all of us will take the Indian flag, buy it from the roads, purchase badges for just a day and then forget about our responsibilities?

When I was around five years old, that was the definition of Independence for me, to merely attach a badge on my uniform and watch the elders hoist the flag. Today, when someone asks me what Independence Day is, I have no words to explain it. I look at people changing their online statuses, hoisting the flag and finding themselves another display picture for the day. The most painful moment for me is when I cannot describe the remorse I feel when I experience these events.

Don't we have a responsibility towards our nation? Is it only our Prime Minister's duty or the governments' to start about with movements like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? Was it only the responsibility of the freedom fighters to make this country, independent? Even after seven decades of independence, what have we done as citizens of this nation, even if it is by the minutest detail? None of us would have really thrown the chocolate rappers, cans or any form of garbage in the dustbin if it wasn't for our Prime Minister's movement.

Citizens of this nation, the day all of us are given the liberty to express our thoughts and have the courage to bring about a change in our country and help it rise the steps of development; that is the day when all of us will truly feel the joy and exuberance of development! For centuries our country has been controlled and dominated over by foreign bodies, it is time to prove ourselves. It is time to prove that the YOUTH of India, when united, will make this country the most valiant one ever. It is time that we prove both, men and women can together, like the wheels in a car, develop this nation, and shall together make OUR country the most prosperous one ever.

This Independence Day, I hope all of us together realize it is high time now and that every action of ours shall contribute towards the development of this country, even if it is hardly recognized.

-Dimple Thanvi, TYBMS A