

Address by Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra at the 'Grand Finale' of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Hansraj Morarji Public School at HMPS Compound, Munshi Nagar, D N Road, Andheri (W) Mumbai 400058

Justice Shri B N Shrikrishna, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Shri D D Udeshi, Chairman of Hansraj Morarji Public School Trust, other trustees, Captain B C Kumawat, Principal (Mrs) Anjana Prakash, educationists, alumni, teachers, past teachers, staff, students, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and greetings to all of you.

I am extremely happy to visit the Hansraj Morarji Public School & Junior College and to share your joy as you celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the School.

I was particularly pleased to know that persons of great eminence such as Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Shri C Rajagopalachari, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Shri Morarji Desai, Kulapati K M Munshi, Smt Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and others had visited this institution.

It was indeed gratifying to note that the School owes its existence to the munificence of great philanthropist Seth Hansraj Morarji and his generous wife Smt Kabibai.

Today there are more rich people in society today, but the spirit of philanthropy is slowly waning. The Platinum Jubilee is an occasion to remember with gratefulness the founding fathers and those who nurtured the institution to this day.

It is a matter of great pride that many of the alumni of this premier Boarding School have held, and are holding even today, important positions in various walks of life.

In a city which has perennial shortage of space, the Hansraj Morarji School is an honourable exception. I was impressed to know that the School has a huge campus of 28 acres having Tennis courts, cricket field, swimming pool, football field and a busy canteen providing lunch and snacks to nearly 4000 students !

Friends, today I really wish I were a student of your School !!

Institutions such as the Hansraj Morarji Public School are the real strength of a society and the nation.

Today, I have come here to tell you that, I am proud of this great institution.

I congratulate the Trustees, the Principal, Teachers, alumni, past teachers, staff, parents and students of the Hansraj Morarji Public School on this momentous occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

India stands at a critical juncture of emerging as a major power in the world. Youth are the strength of the nation. By 2020, the average age of an Indian will be 29 years, almost 8 years younger than an American or a Chinese.

Engaging this youth in the task of nation building is our biggest challenge. We not only have to provide the best education to the students, but we also have to equip them with skills and capacity so that they become productive citizens of the nation. The beginning of moulding the character of youths has to be made from schools.

I was pleased to know about the achievements of the School in the area of sports and extra-curricular activities. This is a major strength of the School.

Sports remains a largely neglected area in our country. A lot needs to be done to promote sports in our schools and colleges.

India's performance at the Asian Games, Olympics and in other World Events has remained poor compared to our potential and our resources.

We stood at 55th place in the London Olympics securing zero Gold medal, while the United States stood first with 146 Golds! Even in the Asian Games of 2014 held at Incheon in South Korea, India won only 11 Golds as against China's 151 and finished 8th in the final medals tally.

Most of the developed countries are equally developed sporting nations as is evident from their performance at the international events. As an emerging power in the world, India must claim its rightful place in the list of top sporting nations.

For this purpose, the attitude of our society towards sports will have to change. Most importantly, we will have to integrate sports into the academic system and encourage students to follow a career in sports.

I do feel that schools like the Hansraj Morarji Public School which have excellent sports infrastructure should develop dedicated sports institutions and groom talented sports persons for the country.

Dear teachers and students,

Late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru often said, **"If India is to be a great nation, it must begin in her classrooms."**

Today, I want to tell the teachers that technology is bringing about transformation in classrooms all over the world. Teachers in the new era will have to become facilitators in the process of learning. Teaching will have to be practical-oriented. Teaching will have to be interactive and participatory. I will appeal to the teachers to involve students in field work, field visits, community work and in programmes like tree plantation. It is through such activities that we can promote creativity and develop in children leadership qualities.

We also have to encourage our youths to become entrepreneurs. The country will need a new generation of young entrepreneurs to make the nation a leader in the manufacturing and services sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mere education, sports and skills will not make our children self-confident, patriotic and responsible citizens of the world. We will have to fill our students with a sense of patriotism and a commitment to serve the nation.

I urge the students in the audience to stride onto paths of life with a positive attitude and strong spirit. I would like to remind them that the knowledge they acquire should be always used in the service of the people and society.

With these words, I congratulate the Hansraj Morarji Public School on the joyous occasion of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and wish all of you, success in your future endeavours.

Jai Hind ! Jai Maharashtra !!