



Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge... At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom – Jawaharlal Nehru

Dear Members

Vande Mataram!

As most of you will know, this weekend India celebrates the 69th anniversary of its birth as an independent nation.

On 15 August 1947 the country of our forefathers, and the birthplace of our identity as Lohanas, went from being the jewel in the crown of the British Empire to a fledgling independent state. In the years since, India has seen many struggles and has endured many difficulties in re-establishing itself following years of colonial rule, to regain her rightful place upon the world map. Perhaps it is both fitting and telling that the Indian National Anthem has been voted the best in the world by UNESCO!

Having been granted freedom from British rule, India has sent some enviable exports and migrants to UK shores: doctors, engineers, and other highly skilled professionals; Britain's most popular food; henna and bindis; fashion - including this year's fashionable full skirts with crop tops (aka ghagra cholis), or the "man bun" (previously worn by Indian sages for hundreds of years); art, music, holi, meditation, yoga and so much more – you name it, India has sent it all!

Indeed considering the presence of India in the UK, in light of the history of colonial rule until just 69 years ago, it is both impressive and amusing that brands such as Tetley tea and Land Rover, both so very British, are now owned by Indian companies.

Today India sits upon the world stage as a nation which has much to be proud of - a growing economy, a emerging destination of choice for business opportunity, a country filled with cultural diversity, and spirituality – the list is endless.

We, as Lohanas in the UK ought to be proud not only of our Motherland in its achievements, but also of the fact that we have brought much of India's vibrant culture here to the UK. We

have settled, and we have shown that hard work and perseverance leads to success. Yet, we continue to celebrate our roots, and rightly so!

LCEL is committed to seeing that our community continues to flourish whilst celebrating our Lohana /Indian roots. Let us continue in this endeavour together so that we can achieve this aim. *“Let us be the change we want to see in the world”- Mohandas Gandhi.*

We on the LCEL Committee hope to facilitate this by engendering a strong community spirit among local Lohanas – we all have a lot to be proud of as a community, and there is a lot more we can achieve together. We count on our members to let us know how we can serve you better.

We look forward to your continued support this year and sincerely hope that you can all join us for the Janmastami Utsav on 5 September, to kick off our events for 2015/2016.

We take this opportunity once again to wish you all a very Happy Indian Independence Day!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Jai Shri Krishna! Jai Hind!



“One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself into a thousand lives. That is how the wheel of evolution moves on, and the ideas and dreams of one nation are bequeathed to the next. Thousands laid down their lives so that our country is breathing this day. Never forget this day. Never forget their sacrifice”- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose