

It's *Sankalp Parva* on August 15: PM

The five years from 2017 will be decisive role for India's future, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

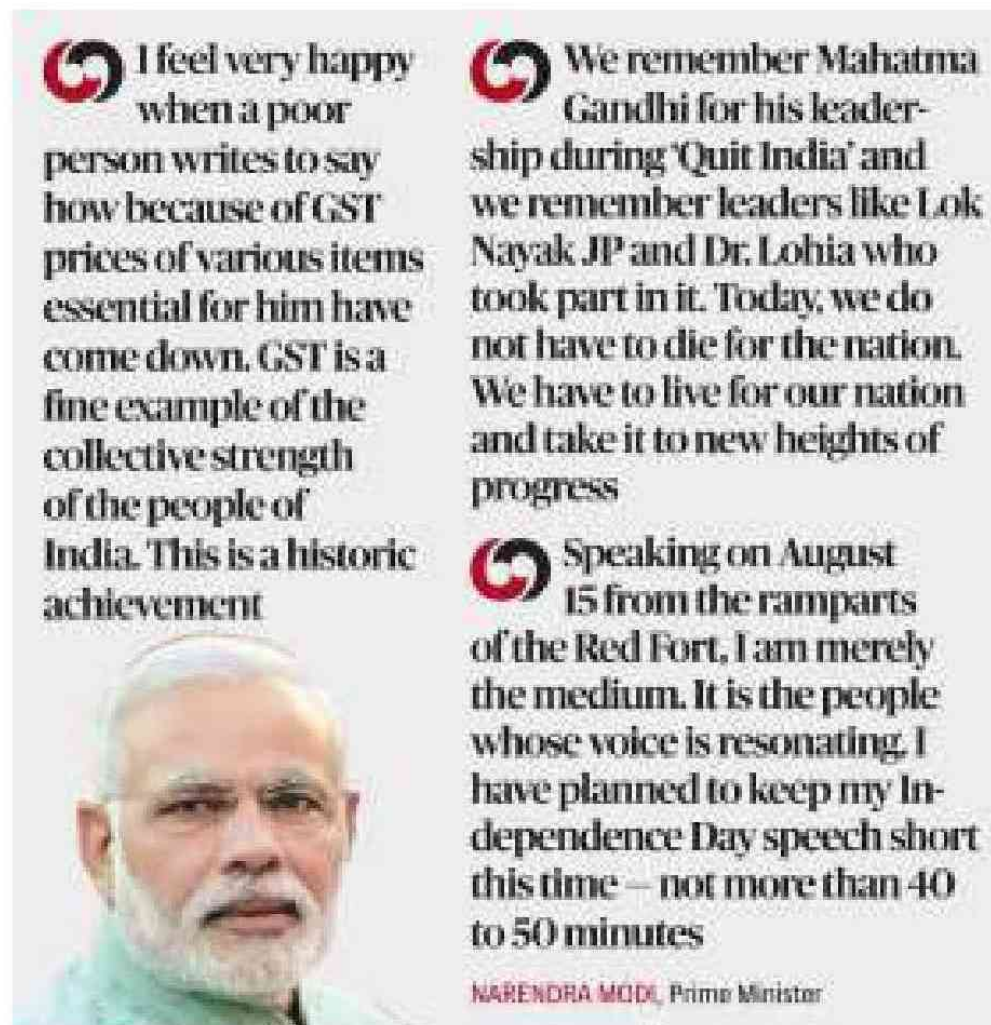
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged Indians to celebrate August 15 this year as *Sankalp Parva*, or Day of Resolve, to do something constructive for the country, with a deadline of August 2022 as the time of *Siddhi*, or attainment of that ideal.

In his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann ki Baat*, Mr. Modi termed August the "month of revolutions", given its association with important events in India's struggle for Independence.

Nation's future

"If 1.25 billion Indians commemorate August Kranti Day of August 9, and each person resolves on August 15, that he or she will do for the country this much as an individual, as a citizen, this much as a family, this much as a society, this much as a village, this much as a city, this much as a government department, and this much as the government, [then] just as the five years from 1942 to 1947 were decisive



I feel very happy when a poor person writes to say how because of GST prices of various items essential for him have come down. GST is a fine example of the collective strength of the people of India. This is a historic achievement

We remember Mahatma Gandhi for his leadership during 'Quit India' and we remember leaders like Lok Nayak JP and Dr. Lohia who took part in it. Today, we do not have to die for the nation. We have to live for our nation and take it to new heights of progress

Speaking on August 15 from the ramparts of the Red Fort, I am merely the medium. It is the people whose voice is resonating. I have planned to keep my Independence Day speech short this time – not more than 40 to 50 minutes

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

for the country's Independence, these five years from 2017 to 2022 can and must play a decisive role for the future of India," Mr. Modi said.

Pointing out that five years from now, India will celebrate 75 years of Independence, the Prime Minister said, "We must make

2017 our Year of Resolve. In this month of August, we have to come together and resolve: Filth – Quit India; Poverty – Quit India; Corruption – Quit India; Terrorism – Quit India; Casteism – Quit India; Communalism – Quit India. The need for today is not 'Do or Die', instead it is to resolve, to come

together."

Referring to the floods in various parts of the country, Mr. Modi said the situation in flood-affected States, including Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal, was being monitored and several agencies like the Army, the IAF, the National Disaster Response Force and paramilitary forces were engaged in rescue and relief operations.

"To deal with the flood situation, a 24x7 control room is working with the helpline number 1078," Mr. Modi said. He added that crop insurance companies had been asked to be proactive so that claim settlements could be done at the earliest.

GST as transformation

Speaking at length about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, Mr. Modi said it has had a transformative effect not just on the economy but on levels of trust in transactions. "The biggest thing is that the trust of customers in traders has started going up," Prime Minister Modi said.