

## From our Chief Executive



Lt. Gen. Arjun Ray, PVSM,  
VSM, (Retd.)

**“As we look at the future, leaders will be those who empower others.”**

**Bill Gates.**

Dear Friends,

During recent Independence Day celebrations at Indus and elsewhere, I had the opportunity to reflect on the concept of freedom, and its connotations to me. Sharing them with you, as I did with a number of young people of varied ages, is a privilege and pleasure.

Freedom in its inert, passive state is like a wad of currency notes hidden in a hole in the wall, -of no use to anyone, unless it is used or invested. However, Freedom which spells Empowerment is a state of life that is desirable, worth guarding and fighting for. Ultimately, freedom must mean the power to exercise **Choice** in one's life. School years are meant to facilitate this by providing the basis and skills for making an informed choice. The power to become may sometimes encounter threats and setbacks, but it is a positive force and will not stay subdued for long.

Moreover, this choice comes with freedom **to stand up against injustice** of any kind, against any one or any living being, human or animal. This freedom is the foundation of the value of courage, concern and every altruistic idea within human beings. Again, like idle money, this freedom is wasted by the over cautious, wary non-risk- takers. To hoard freedom is to lose it.

With freedom comes **Power**. Not the power to subjugate or dominate, but the power to empower others. One of the greatest contradictions in history has been that love and power are polar opposites, i.e., to exercise power one must deny love. What we need to understand is that power without love is tyranny, is mindless, is dangerous, and is violent. Ultimately, it is the power to love which is the solution and antidote for the imminence of continued acts of extreme hatred, whether it is crime or terrorism.

The more power one gives, the more powerful one becomes. Giving power to people is giving them a purpose and the freedom to change themselves. In this rests the power of the Indian polity --the power of self-determination and the power to change. In spite of the vicissitudes of everyday life, this is what feeds the pride of Indians, the power that was given to them 59 years ago, and that manifests itself from time to time.

Those who are empowered by their personal success, as people, as students as professionals or as parents, I would enjoin them to reach out to those who are not as advantaged as you. Love unconditionally, those who have known only hate and indifference. Use the Power of love to empower others. Use the power of your love to stick your neck out for those who need your support and encouragement. This cannot diminish what you have, only enhance and augment it.

Test frequently, your power to give love. Empower yourself, by empowering others. That is success. That is strength.

“Better to fail in something or someone you love, than to succeed in something you hate.”

**Benjamin Mays**

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)  
Chief Executive**