

To my beloved citizens of our great country India.

As we celebrate our 80th Independence Day, let us remember with gratitude the freedom that our forefathers fought for and earned through immense sacrifice. After more than seven decades of independence, this freedom must not merely be remembered—it must be respected, protected and preserved for every citizen.

India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. Therefore, the question before us is not, “Which religion is greater?” or “Which religion should prevail?” Our concern must be much greater: How can we uphold the dignity of every human person and build a nation where no one is left behind?

Our freedom must translate into humanity, justice, equality and the upliftment of the poor, the marginalized and the downtrodden.

At the same time, we must express our deep concern for the Christian community, which in different parts of our country has faced incidents of violence, atrocities, intimidation and mob lynching. Every citizen has the right to live, worship and serve without fear. We appeal to the Government and all authorities to protect this constitutional freedom and ensure justice wherever it is violated.

The Christian community has served India for generations through education, healthcare, social service and humanitarian assistance, reaching especially those who are poor and vulnerable. We therefore respectfully appeal to the Government to repeal the proposed FCRA Amendment Bill, whose provisions could seriously hinder genuine charitable institutions from continuing this humanitarian service to the people of India.

On this Independence Day, let us renew our commitment to India where freedom is respected, diversity is celebrated, justice is upheld, and every human being is treated with dignity.

May God bless India.

May God bless every citizen.

Jai Hind!.

+ Anthony Cardinal Poola

President of CBCI