iDream Education

How we made our way to Rashtrapati Bhawan and met our Honourable PM and why did a gentleman ask me about my disability?

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A personal account of being invited to a Rashtrapati Bhawan Independence Day reception in August 2024, alongside notable achievers with disabilities, where the author met the President and Prime Minister of India. He reflects on the moment as recognition for iDream Education's work with last-mile learners and expresses gratitude to his team and partners.

Hi,

Today, I am taking a bit of a detour from talking about Digital Learning in Government schools. I am rather writing to share with you about an important moment in my life. A moment at which your parents, your team, and your friends feel very proud of you. Some of you may have read about this in one of LinkedIn post. For those who did not, please read on.

A month before 15th August 2024, I received an email from supposedly the President of Bharat's office. It mentioned that that we need to send them our postal address. I replied and sent them our office address. 2 weeks later, I received a physical invite to be a part of a home reception event on account of India's Independence Day on 15th August at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

On the day of 15th August, with a lot of excitement, I reached Rashtrapati Bhawan an hour earlier. The event was supposed to start at 6:00 pm in the evening. As I was standing in queue to enter the main hall, I was tapped on my shoulder by a gentleman standing just behind me. He asked me, "What's your disability?". I got confused and I thought perhaps I did not understand the question well. I asked him to repeat his question. He said again, "Just like I am blind, what's your disability?".

As I entered the main hall, I saw some recognisable faces from media and sports. I was seated at a table where there were several other individuals, each with unique abilities, like the one who tapped me on the shoulder from behind. As I started talking to them, I understood each of them is an achiever in their field of work. Despite the challenges they face physically, they have done exceptional things in their lives.

It also felt amazing that our work in iDream Education with the last mile learners is also being recognised on such a platform. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I am thankful to our team and all our partners and clients who made it possible for us.

It was also of course a fan-boy moment for me personally when I got to interact with our Honourable President and the Honourable Prime Minister of Bharat.