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In fight for cause, remain non-violent: Prez

ANAND MISHRA AF 11 >0

In the backdrop of violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday urged people, particularly the youth, to remain non-violent when fighting for a cause and invoked Mahatma Gandhi to stress on non-violence.

"When fighting for a cause, people, particularly the youth, should not forget the gift of ahimsa that Gandhiji gave to humanity. It should be part of our daily routine to introspect on

Gandhiji's message of truth and non-violence, which has become all the more necessary in our times," Kovind said in his customary address to the nation on the eve of 71st Republic Day.

Calling Republic Day a celebration of the Constitution, Kovind quoted from Babasaheb Ambedkar to say, "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgement we

must do is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives.

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In fight for cause...

PRESIDENT, FROM PAGE 1

The President, however, did not make mention of CAA protests in his speech.

"Government and Opposition both have important roles to play. While giving expression to their political ideas, both must move forward in tandem to ensure that development of the country and welfare of its people are promoted consistently,"he said at a time when the government and the Opposition are locked in a fierce political battle on CAA, NRC and Bhima Koregaon.

Kovind underlined that though the Constitution gave rights to all citizens, it also placed responsibility to always adhere to the central tenets of the democracy-justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Showering praise on the younggeneration, Kovind said with advances in technology, the young minds of today are better informed and more confident.

"The next generation remains strongly committed to the core values of our nation. For our youth, the nation always comes first. With them, we are witnessing the emergence of a New India," he said.

Maintaining that strong indernal security is essential for the development of the country, Kovind recorded his "unreserved praise" for the armed forces, paramilitary and internal security forces and the government's "concrete steps" to strengthen internal security.

Kovindalso spoke of several welfare schemes launched by his government and Isro's Gaganyaan mission.