

## Republic Day Address By Director on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

A very good morning to the entire MITS family. We have all gathered here today to celebrate **the 68<sup>th</sup> Republic day** of our country—the day the Indian constitution was adopted as the most important guiding document of the nation.

Today, as we celebrate this historic occasion, I wish to take you all on a trip to the past, to a day two weeks after India had achieved independence, i.e **29<sup>th</sup> August 1947**. This was the day when the **Drafting Committee**, consisting of many great scholars and freedom fighters, was appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** as the Chairman. For more than two years, the committee laboured to provide the nation with a constitution that would become the guiding principle of our country. Their hard work is evident in the scope of the document; the Constitution of India is the longest written Constitution all over the world and cannot be read in a single day.

**On 26th January, 1950**, the Constitution of India came into force and India was proclaimed a **Democratic Republic**, completing the country's journey towards independence. This was the day when our rights and duties were given a concrete form. The date chosen for this purpose i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> January also had special significance because it was on this day in 1930 that the **Declaration of Indian Independence**, or **Purna Swaraj** was proclaimed by the **Indian National Congress** under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

The new Indian republic was based on diversity, respect and equal rights for all. The constitution of India was drafted after hours of hard work, careful thought and above all, by keeping in mind the interests of the poorest of poor sections of the society. It adopted the best features from many other constitutions of the world such as

- The **parliamentary form of government**, from the **British constitution**,
- the **Charter of Fundamental Rights & Federal structure** of government from the **United States**,

- the **Ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity** from the **French constitution**,
- the **Fundamental Duties & concept of a planning commission** from the Constitution of the **Soviet Union**,
- **Directive Principles of state policy** from the **Irish constitution**, AND
- Distribution of powers between the **central government and state governments**, from the **Canadian Constitution**.

The Constitution of India has the provision of need based amendments, a beautiful mechanism which makes it a **dynamic, accommodating and flexible document**.

Now what lessons do we get from our constitution? Our constitution teaches us to be **tolerant, cooperative, impartial, law abiding citizens** of a free country. It also teaches us to **respect the rights of others** and to carry out our jobs with full **dedication and loyalty**. It teaches us that rights and duties go hand in hand, and one cannot exist without the other. The constitution of India is the soul of our country, the spirit which binds this **diverse nation** with a multitude of **languages, religions, faiths and cultures** together.

We must remember that no external force can break us if we stand together, united under our national flag and the Constitution, as long as we break free from petty issues, trivial concerns and insignificant fights. We can achieve new heights, provided we concentrate on contemporary problems and the real issues of significance.

The dreams and aspirations of millions of Indians were realized on this day, 67 years ago, when India finally got the status of an Independent Sovereign Republic.

To the MITS fraternity, today, I will like to say that dare to dream big, and have the courage to go after those dreams. As Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam rightly said: **“Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts transform into actions”**.

Finally, With Freedom in our Minds, Faith in our words and Pride in our Souls..... Let us salute the great constitution of our nation.

**Jai Hind**