



Good morning, MITS!!! A very happy REPUBLIC

DAY to all of you who are here today on this cold winter morning to commemorate and celebrate that memorable day in the history of our great nation, when our constitution came into existence 71 long years ago, when India was proclaimed a **Democratic Republic**, completing the country's journey towards independence.

All Indians are proud of their constitution; the constitution which gives citizens their fundamental rights, defines their duties and presents a code of conduct for the operation, governance and administration of the Indian Union.

The Constitution of India has the provision of need based amendments, a beautiful mechanism which makes it a **dynamic, accommodating and flexible document**. It also has the distinction of being the longest written constitution in the world.

The constitution has a unique preamble; it states that the constitution derives its authority from the people of India.

Therefore even the Parliament cannot override the **basic structure** of the constitution.

The Preamble goes on to declare that India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republican polity.

Lastly, the preamble promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all Indian citizens.

My fellow MITIANS, the word democracy comes from the Greek words "demos", meaning people, and "kratos" meaning power; so democracy can be thought of as "power of the people.

Democracy is a system of government in which the power is vested in the people and exercised by them either directly or through their elected representatives.

But remember, power is always associated with responsibility and accountability.

Therefore, the Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw has rightly quoted "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it", are afraid of it.

To build a nation or for that matter an institution, people must be always consciously aware of their duties; duties towards different stakeholders, towards society, towards environment, towards culture, towards their brothers & sisters, and finally towards the image and brand that they are representing. When this happens, only then a nation or an institution becomes a strong vibrant force, a place filled with positivity, growth and well being of one and all.

I will once again repeat the famous Ethiopian quote by Haile Selassie (Hele Salasi) *“History teaches us that unity is strength, and cautions us to submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength, to reach the zenith”*.

Gautam Budha has said: No one saves us but ourselves. No one can, and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path!!

Learning from history and imbibing wisdom from great personalities and saints has always been in Indian culture.

ON THE OCCASSION OF THE 71ST REPUBLIC DAY, LETS ALL PLEDGE, THAT WE WILL ACTIVELY, FULL HEARTEDLY PARTICIPATE IN NATION BUILDING WITH DETERMINATION AND COMMITTMENT. WHATEVER ROLE THE ALMIGHTY HAS BESTOWED ON US, WE WILL PLAY TO OUR BEST ABILITY & CAPACITY.

Rise above petty issues, Rejoice and feel proud of your country, your surroundings, your alma mater and in the freedom and democracy which has come at a heavy price and which needs to be ‘deserved’ rather that ‘demanded’.

Finally, With Freedom in our Minds, Faith in our words, Pride in our Souls.....

Let us salute our great nation.

Jai Hind ! Jai Bharat!!