

We are all here on this cold January morning to commemorate the **70th Republic** day of our Nation; It marks the day the Indian Constitution came into force 69 years ago, on 26th January, 1950.

A republic is a place where the supreme power rests with the people & their elected representatives; and, the head of state is either elected or nominated. The word republic comes from the Latin language words "res publica", which means a "public thing". It is a beautiful concept based on the principle of equality, brotherhood, justice, and liberty,

In a republic, a **constitution** or charter of rights protects certain **inalienable** rights that cannot be taken away by the government, even if it has been elected by a majority of voters. India is blessed to have a wonderful written constitution which is the supreme law of the country.

The constitution lays down a framework which clearly demarcates fundamental political code, structure, procedures, powers, and duties of government institutions and sets out **fundamental rights**, **directive principles**, and the **duties of citizens preceded by a powerful preamble.**

The **Fundamental Rights** are the basic rights of all citizens irrespective of race, place of birth, religion, caste, creed, or gender.

The constitution defines the **Directive Principles of State Policy**, which are guidelines given to the government for **framing policies and passing laws**.

The **Fundamental Duties** are defined as the moral obligations of all citizens to help promote a spirit of patriotism and to uphold the unity of India.

I salute the great minds and personalities of the Constituent Assembly and the Drafting Committee who worked for about 3 years to prepare this document.

Haile Seleste has said "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"

The spirit of the republic day **inspires** all Indians, **instills** them with a sense of pride and **empowers** them with freedom of expression. It teaches us to have faith in democracy and people power. But we must never forget that with power comes accountability, responsibility towards the under privileged, duty towards society and obligation to **uphold ethics & morals** and abide by the constitution. Negative and disruptive forces are always acting just below the surface in every system. Let's pledge to put forward our best efforts to uproot such elements and build an atmosphere around us which is conducive to **growth & development**, **harmony & peace**, **approval & accord**, **invention & innovation**, **passion & commitment**, **happiness and contentment** and last but not the least, a culture of **quality & excellence**.

I once again wish all MITIANS a very happy Republic Day and wish many many ...happy returns of the day.

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

Jai Hind!!!

Jai Bharat !!!