

**DRAVIDIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**KUPPAM – 517426**



**67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations – 2016 (26.01.2016)**







**Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor's Message**  
**on 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations – 2016 (26.01.2016)**

Friends,

I feel deeply honoured for celebrating 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, a momentous occasion along with you. It was on this day 67 years ago India adopted its constitution. On this august occasion we should recall the invaluable services of the members of the constituent assembly in general and Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar in particular for bringing out the magnum-opus the Constitution of India which ensures people in its preamble right to **Justice** (social, economic and political); **Liberty** (of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship); **Equality** (of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all) and **Fraternity** (assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation).

We should all feel proud to be Indians. We have adopted democracy as the form of Government which enables us to participate in the election process and elect our representatives to guide the destiny of the nation.

We have achieved several mile stones in Communications, Science and Technology since Independence. We have successfully launched several satellites into the orbit to enhance quality of life of our people. We have made many breakthroughs in the field of medical sciences. Research and development have brought in marked changes in our lives. Our scientists and technocrats have attained global recognition for their contributions. These achievements shall not make us complacent. There is much remains to be done and the sky is the limit.

Despite the visible progress in some areas of human endeavour, the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are growing richer. The gap is ever widening despite several measures taken by the Governments to alleviate poverty, which is ever increasing. The trend in inequality has accelerated and as revealed by a recent survey the richest 1% Indians owned 53% of the country's wealth, while the share of the top 10% was 76.30%. To put it differently, 90% of the Indians own less than a quarter (25%) of the country's wealth; as revealed recently by Credit Suisse report and the National Sample Survey in 2011-12.

The problem with inequality in India is that it manifests itself in various forms. It is not just income inequality, but there is something equally **attendant-inequality of opportunity**. And this manifests itself in various myriad forms, defined by health, class, caste, religion and literacy. These imbalances have not received adequate and serious attention of the Governments so far. As long as a major section of the people remain poor and illiterate, the benefits of economic development cannot be equitably distributed. Added to these anomalies, absence of probity in public life has become a stumbling block in alleviating the poor living below the poverty line. As revealed by a leader of national stature, only 18 paise per

every rupee spent by the Government is reaching the poor and the target group in the name of welfare schemes and 82 paise is misappropriated by the middle men and the vested interests. We should resolve to evolve methods to eliminate corruption from public life and formulate programmes for the welfare of the poor and the unemployed.

We should all remember the adage – “Poverty anywhere is a potential threat to prosperity everywhere”. Hence, on this solemn occasion all of us should resolve to work for a society which is free from poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and corruption.