

ADDRESS BY DR.K.ROSAIAH, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT THE
DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
AT CHENNAI ON 30.11.2012 AT 4.30 P.M.

It is a great honour and privilege to participate in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in the august presence of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, a great statesman and a Parliamentarian of our nation and address distinguished Members and Invitees here this evening.

At the outset, I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa and Shri P.Dhanapal, Hon'ble Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for inviting me to preside over this historical and momentous function.

We are the largest democracy with the finest written constitution in the world. The genesis of the Indian Legislature traces way back to the 18th century. The various Acts, Charters, Minto-Morely Reforms and the like, paved the way for the origin and growth of Indian Legislature.

Dr.Rajendra Prasad in his concluding address in the Constituent Assembly on 25th November, 1949 said,

"If the people who are elected are capable and are men of character and integrity, they would be able to make the best even of defective constitution. If they are lacking in these qualities the Constitution cannot help the country. India needs today, nothing more than self-honest men who will have the interest of the country before them".

To achieve this fully, more intensive participation in the democratic process with greater self-discipline is required.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rightly observed,

"India has become a great democracy, perhaps the largest democracy in the world. She has fashioned herself a constitutional structure fit for free peoples with the Parliament and responsible executives based on free elections and open debate".

"The working of the democracy does not depend wholly on the nature of the Constitution. The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of these organs of State depend is on the people and the political parties", said Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

The Constitution of India, which is one of the finely crafted charters of governance in the modern world, has clearly defined and demarcated the role of the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. These have to work in total harmony in order to achieve the dream envisioned by our forefathers who gave us our Constitution. They have by example, imbibed in us a spirit of service to the nation and nurtured communal harmony and universal brotherhood. Tolerance of opposite views and countering arguments through cultured debate without resorting to acrimony has been the hallmark of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly ever since its formation. Rising above party politics and ideologies, great leaders and stalwarts have joined hands to articulate their views on behalf of their constituents and had set themselves for emulation.

At this hour, I am reminded of eminent leaders who are not with us today, like Rajaji, K.Kamaraj, M.Bakthavatsalam, C.N. Annadurai, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran who have in their own inimitable ways, played a stellar role in shaping the destiny of the State. I congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa for providing good governance and for working with dedication and commitment towards making Tamil Nadu numero uno State in India.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has a great history. Being one of the oldest and early Legislative Houses in the country, several landmark legislations have been introduced. They include pioneering schemes in the areas of social justice, eradication of untouchability, women and child welfare, education, eradication of poverty, welfare of the marginalised including the transgenders, etc. are glittering as diamonds in the crown of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, which have well represented the hopes and aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Today India stands as a symbol of democracy. It enjoys a great prestige and is placed high among the comity of nations. We owe a lot to our founding fathers and the framers of our Indian Constitution who laid the foundation for a strong democracy. We have succeeded in establishing and functioning within our State Legislatures and Parliament showcasing our thinking, vision, National Character in our mission towards the Nation's progress and prosperity.

The true foundation, pillars and superstructure of democracy are constructed not by stone, mortar and steel but by powerful, constant and total commitment from every citizen and every representative.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said,

"Parliamentary Democracy is not something which can be created by some magic wand it demands many virtues. It demands a certain devotion to work. But it demands also a large measure of co-operation, of self discipline, of restraint.... The more the self – discipline, the high is the development of democracy".

We need discipline with debates. Democracy makes for debates. It precludes confrontation. While it makes for self expression, it renders agitations reluctant. Accommodation and consensus make a healthy democracy. Discipline and decorum form the basic foundation of Parliamentary and Legislative democracy.

Democracy is the voice of the people. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi while inaugurating the 21st Common Wealth Parliamentary Conference in 1975 said,

"We opted for this system not to emulate Britain or because the framers of the Indian Constitution were unaware of other forms of democracy, but because it was best suited to the Indian reality. It was a deliberate voice and was determined by the non-violent nature of our fight, by our preference for peaceful and orderly change and by our conviction that the people must have the deciding voice".

It is the faith and trust in the Parliament and Legislatures that our people have that has made India as a symbol of democracy.

It is said that,

"A good leader knows his people better than their mothers do and cares even more."

"Mother is the most precious gift of God. Mothers are the makers of a Nation's fortune or misfortune, for the shape and the sinews of the soul..."

It is the joint efforts put in by Selvi J Jayalithaa, the Hon'ble Chief Minister and by Members of the Legislative Assembly that will make Tamil Nadu a front ranking State.

Right from Thiru Sivashanmugam Pillai, the First Speaker of the Assembly since 1952, the successive Speakers of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly have kept the high democratic traditions and upheld the Sovereignty and independence of the Legislature.

I convey my warm felicitations to Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India, Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru P. Dhanapal, Hon'ble Speaker, the Hon'ble Members, past and present, of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, on the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

I conclude with the words of Sri Sri Prakasa, the then Governor of Tamil Nadu. In his Special Address on 6th May 1952 at the first session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly constituted after attaining independence, the then Governor said,

"A democratic Constitution like ours will be largely what the voters and Legislators make of it. The voters have done their part and it is upto you, the Legislators, to help in evolving sound traditions."

My greetings to all of you.

Jai Hind.
