REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE

The Constitution of India which effectively defined and empowered us, the people of India, and gave us a set of rules for the country's governance came into effect on this day in 1950.

72 years have elapsed and the face, nature and countenance of our beloved country have changed to an unrecognisable extent during this period with substantial and significant advancements and certain regressions.

The Constitution is our Conscience and by extension it delineates our Character.

The nub of the Constitution is in its Preamble, which resolved:

- (i) to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, and
- (ii) to secure for all its citizens, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Today, therefore, let us take the pledge to defend our Constitution, to honour and respect it and to abide by it, not just in the spoken or written word but by our actions and our deeds. I feel it would be remiss of us if we do not correct those that may deviate from it, for any aberration compromises the nation's conscience. We should also promise to focus on our duties and responsibilities, which will enhance us as individuals and contribute to the real growth and development of our nation. Rights shall automatically follow.

I pray that the sagacious wisdom, clear-sighted vision, mature moral reasoning and acute perspicacity enshrined in our Constitution, continues to embolden and bind and inspire the people of this great nation. And may we live and grow within its folds; in essence and in spirit.

I cannot think of a better way of celebrating this momentous day.

I wish you all a very happy and meaningful 73rd Republic Day.

May God bless you all!

Syed Samar Hamid Secretary, HES