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Government, civil society and the people at large must work together to stamp out corruption from India: Vice President

Says accountability, transparency & good governance essential for democracy

Unveils the statue of Babasaheb Dr. B R Ambedkar at premises of office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

CAG chooses the day to coincide with adoption of tricolour as National Flag

The Vice President today termed corruption as the major malaise affecting the growth and development of the country and called upon the government, civil society and the people at large to work together to stamp out the menace of corruption from the nation. He was addressing the gathering after unveiling the statue of Babasaheb Dr B R Ambedkar at premises of office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in New Delhi today.

Recalling the words of former President, A P J Abdul Kalam, Shri Naidu emphasized that teachers, apart from parents, play an important role in shaping students' characters and building a value-based society.

Paying rich tributes to Dr Ambedkar, the Vice President said that he was a multi-faceted genius—a visionary statesman, philosopher, towering intellectual, eminent jurist, economist, writer, social reformer and a humanist par excellence.

Observing that India had one of the most robust Constitutions in the world, Shri Naidu lauded the stellar contribution made by Dr Ambedkar in drafting the Constitution and the pioneering role he played in guiding the nation at a critical juncture.

The Vice President said that to this day, our constitution remains a sacred book and a guiding beacon on all matters and asked every citizen of the country to strive to ensure that the sanctity of our Constitution is upheld at all times and never violated.

Observing that Dr Ambedkar was the messiah of the oppressed, the Vice President said that all through his life, he strongly believed in gender equality and emancipation of women through education and strove to dismantle the caste barriers and ensure equality for all people.

“The purpose of installing his statue is to remind us the ideals of this great man and to see that present and future generations remember his teachings which are guiding principles for everyone of us”, he said.

Applauding the CAG for being a strong and credible institution, the Vice President credited the framers of our Constitution, particularly Dr Ambedkar for ensuring independence and wide mandate to the CAG. He added that the core values of the CAG—*independence, objectivity, integrity, reliability, professional excellence, transparency and positive approach*—drew

inspiration from the life and work of Dr Ambedkar. He called accountability, transparency & good governance as very essential for the democracy.

The Vice President credited the reports of the CAG and the consequent deliberations in the committees of the legislatures for having led to various changes in the regulatory framework, governance structures and delivery mechanism of the government, ensuring economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

Shri Naidu also complimented the CAG for acquiring an excellent reputation amongst the international community of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) and for its endeavour to become a fully paperless office by 2022.

The Vice President said, “Today, we are in the hallowed premises of the CAG, which has been mandated by the Constitution of India to promote accountability, transparency and good governance through high quality auditing and accounting and provide independent assurance to our stakeholders, the Legislature, the Executive and the Public, that public funds are being used efficiently and for the intended purposes.”

He further added, “During the deliberations of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, Babasaheb had very famously said; I am of the opinion that this dignitary or officer is probably the most important officer in the Constitution of India. He is the one man who is going to see that the expenses voted by Parliament are not exceeded, or varied from what has been laid down by Parliament in the Appropriation Act. If this functionary is to carry out the duties—and his duties, I submit, are far more important than the duties even of the Judiciary—he should have been certainly as independent as the Judiciary”.

Comptroller & Auditor General, Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi in his welcome address said “We originally wanted to unveil this statue on 14th April, Baba saheb’s birthday, but the circumstances, created by the pandemic, willed otherwise. Today has been chosen because it, too, was a special day for the Constituent Assembly; On this day, in 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted the tricolor as the national flag, which is the pride of every Indian today. Dr. Ambedkar was a member of the Flag Committee.”

Shri Mehrishi said that the enlightened and much-lauded Constitution that we have, which gives primacy to the rule of law, and independent institutions, such as the C&AG, is in no small measure, on account of Babasaheb’s lerned and wise thinking. In debate after debate in the Constituent Assembly one can see the impact and imprint of Dr. Ambedkar on the values of equity and justice in the Indian Constitution. He is rightly regarded as the Architect of the Constitution.

Deputy CAG, Ms Anita Pattanayak in her vote of thanks said that Dr. Ambedkar added steel frame of this institution through his provisions of the Constitution and his utterances in public.

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