

GOA GARBAGE AND PLASTIC FREE BY 2019-GOVERNOR

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Governor Dr. (Smt.) Mridula Sinha today said that the State Government is committed to make Goa Garbage and Plastic Free by 2019.

The Governor was addressing the gathering after unfurling the national tricolor on the occasion of 69th Republic Day at a State level function held at Sports Authority of Goa Ground at Campal, Panaji today.

The Republic Day ceremony was attended by the Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar, Union Minister of State for AAYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Naik, Minister for Revenue Shri Rohan Khaute, Minister for Art and Culture Shri Govind Gaude and Chief Secretary Shri Dharmendra Sharma(IAS).

The Governor reviewed the Parade on the occasion and also presented Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Training for the year 2014-2015 to Head Constable Shri Suraj M. Patil.

The Governor while appealing to the people to support the endeavours of the State Government in 'Swacchata Abhiyan' said that despite all possible efforts initiated by the State Government to tackle garbage menace it is visible scattered on roads and at public places which she pointed out is disappointing . It is therefore felt necessary that each one of us should vow that "I will not make the place dirty and will not allow others to do so at public places". This small habit will help to make Goa number one State in the country in the area of cleanliness she said.

Highlighting the significance of Constitution of India the Governor said that the people of the country must be made aware about their rights and duties enshrined in the constitution. This will help to develop the nation and to achieve social, economic justice and uniformity. In this context, the Governor informed that in order to create greater awareness about the constitution Indian Constitution Week was celebrated in the State from January 19 to January 25, 2018.

The Governor said Republic Day Celebration is an appropriate occasion to rededicate ourselves for the development of the country in right perspective. The

Governor expressed concern over the fact that despite constant efforts our country is facing problems such as poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and unemployment and at the same time due to manmade problems such as terrorism, violence, extremist, communalism, nexalites, atrocities on women among others which causes danger to our national integration and economic development. It is our duty to strengthen democracy and secularism to get rid of these issues she added.

Stating that education play a pivotal role for social transformation and national development the Governor highlighted the contribution of teaching community not only to impart education and gain employment but also to face challenges ahead of them besides for creation of a better society and in nation building.

The Governor expressed happiness to note that as per the report published by the Union Ministry of Women and Child development Goa is the safest State in the country for Women. We should proud of the fact that Goa is amongst the first State in India on security aspects which is a big achievement and we all should maintain it, she added.

The Governor said that Goa is the only country to have Uniform Civil Code. In this context, she said that she had made a thorough study and found that the conditions of women in Goa is much better compared to the women from rest of the country. The Governor said out of the 100 cities selected under National Smart City Project, Panaji is one amongst them. She said the State Government is making efforts to make Panaji the capital of Goa 'Soak Pit' free by 2020 under the Smart City Project.

The Governor also touched upon various aspects and said though Goa is a small dot on the world map, it has maintained its unique identity in the world through its achievements. Let us re-dedicate ourselves for the development of the nation and protect our motherland she asserted.

The students from Bal Bhavan and other schools from Panaji and its surrounding areas presented mass dance and patriotic songs on the occasion.

Others who attended the Republic Day function included Secretaries to the Government, Heads of Government departments, Freedom Fighters, councilors, Social Workers and a large number of students.

Earlier, the Governor on her arrival at the venue was received by Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar, Chief Secretary Shri Dharmendra Sharma(IAS), Director General of Police, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Area.

Dr. Dayanand Rao compered the function.