

## **Inaugural Address by Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi,**

### **Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India**

Mr. Kamath, Chairman of Prasar Bharati, Mr. Arora, Secretary of the Ministry of I & B, Mr. Sarma, CEO, Prasar Bharati, Secretary General Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, distinguished participants of this Association in this conference today, other officials, friends. Indeed, I am very happy this morning to be with you. In this historic and auspicious movement of your conference when actually it was born I read it was in 1945, the same year I was born and therefore, it has some association and emotional link with me. I don't know why I was born in India, obviously who was supporting the peace against the war, initiative launched by the forces known to all of you and therefore, in this meeting today, In this conference and I want to say a few things in the light of your growth and development. This association is grown, grown to share the common wisdom. In my course of graduation, I have my special subject Political Science and when I used to study before post-graduation, my teacher used to explain a lot on Commonwealth when I was a student of the school. I thought Commonwealth means, we have to share the wealth between all the nations, who is mostly surplus in category one or surplus in category B. Later when I grew up, I understood that is not correct. That's understood only in terms of Commonwealth but the real wealth is never shared. It is sharing the common wisdom. And I think sharing the common wisdom during the horror of war, you came together and provide this platform and I must say, it has helped enormously to increase the knowledge and information, which I share again. Commonwealth and therefore, the broadcasting association of yours, have a very rich contribution today throughout the world. It's knowledge, which is the power. It is information which ultimately determine the shape of a nation in terms of its development, difference between disparity and sexes and I must say, the role played by the broadcasters. They have also taken a very great path in strengthening the pluralistic society, in strengthening the democratic character and also the very roots and foundation of the democratic process to function. Therefore, we the politicians, be in govt. and outside the govt., respect your contribution in this matter. But today, I cannot avoid to say that within this conference when you will start debating issues and to say that the time has also come in the growing economic development scenario, super power tensions, conflict and understanding within WTO and many other forums. The basic approach once again should be, how much information can prevail over the disinformation. The campaign of disinformation is dangerous. But ultimately the campaign

of information establishing the truth is helpful, helpful for United Nations, helpful for Commonwealth, helpful for all the forums including the respective nations' parliament. I congratulated once one of my friends in London, who was in BBC, I was there in London during the controversy of whether the report of mass destruction weapon. Iraq is there or not and whether the statement of the British govt. some quarter was justified or not. Later on, I found throughout the world I do not like to talk diplomacy here, not to mention a nation, in the heart and heart of the people the information prevailed and when information prevailed and disinformation cannot dominate, obviously those who tried to uphold this information with all the tacts got isolated and therefore, it is one of the most important role to be played these days. Now of course, the global tensions are reduced in many norms and forms, yet the content in the global family, pursuing the economic role to be played by respective nations and there by share of the wealth, share of the fruits, in the system that prevails in the respective nations. How it is right, how it is wrong, should definitely be articulated in the network system that is available to us. Your technology is so good, I must say, the information reached to the humanity throughout the globe in such a shortest possible time and the response from the heart of the people of the globe come in such a short of time, that gives feeling, it is a loss to one's family members, I am not alone, I am with the fraternity of the world civilization and there you play the most constructive role for humanity. This forum and this association have been playing a constructive role and must continue to play it for years and years to come. The global family identified at the end of the day. May be language is different, may be culture is different, may be the costumes are different, but in real words of our ancient Rig Veda, we are one amongst all and we embrace together our civilization in search of truth, peace and humanity. This was taught by Lord Buddha, in this vast horizon. This was taught by Mahatma Gandhi in our national struggle and we continue to follow that in all forums. I don't like to take much of your time. There are a lot of other important issues to be dealt today. I wish your stay in India a very warm and I know the host organization shall make all possible efforts to make your stay enjoyable when you reach to Delhi. Tomorrow is our Budget session of Parliament and I am confident, this Budget Session, during its stay shall bring economic approach of our govt. and the success of our govt. We shall no more identify India as a nation of average growth rate of 5%. economic growth. It will show you we have crossed 8% and therefore, in the right words of Tony Blair, the PM of UK, in European Parliament, in Asia, China is not the destination alone, it is India and China and therefore, that moment you are in India, I desire you see everything which are right for India, see everything but still there are shortcomings, share every thing with our broadcasters, how they perform with dignity, the

right that they enjoy through the constitution and in support the democratic and political system of this country, which is a living one. I am not jealous to anyone but I can say our democracy is giving us a lot. Our democracy is so powerful, so respected, so understanding that nobody can feel anything out of the system. This system is only respected come what may. And, therefore, with these words I thank you very much for inviting me to inaugurate and once again, I request our officials who are hosting it, to see that if there is any shortcomings, any lapses to conduct the conference are taken care of. I wish you good luck. I wish your organization to grow and grow, to contribute more, not only for the Commonwealth family but also for the global civilization.

Thank you