

Speech by N. Ravi at the inauguration of The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, January 31, 2013

Honourable *Rashtrapati*ji, Mrs.Gandhi, Mr.Advani, Mr. Deve Gowda, distinguished leaders and guests; We at The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy could not have hoped for a better start with the highest office of the land being associated with the inauguration of a fledging centre. And with the participation of leaders, whose actions could shape the future and make a difference to the lives of the people. Together with this heady start comes the burden of expectations even as we take small steps which we hope can contribute to the political discourse. With all your cooperation, we expect to explore solutions to long-standing problems to turn the power of ideas into the utility of practice.

We are most thankful to the honourable *Rashtrapati*ji for not just his presence and inspiring words but for the gracious hospitality in this auditorium as well. The presence of the distinguished guest Mrs. Gandhi, Mr.Advani, Mr. Deve Gowda, leaders in politics, industry, diplomats, leaders of culture and the media, will be a source of inspiration for us as we begin this journey. We hope all our distinguished guests, the academics and others would continue to be generous with their time and involvement in our quest for contributing to the political discourse.

We are most thankful to the staff of the Rashtrapati Bhawan Secretariat, Ms. Omita Paul, Mr.Venu Rajamony, Mr.Rajneesh, Group CaptainVidhate, and other officials; and the staff of the Hindu Centre, in particular Dr.V.S.Sambandan, Ms.Mandira Moddie, Ramanujam and C.V.Balasubramaniam; to designer Vivek Sahni and his team; film-maker Chetan Shah who has produced a film for The Hindu Centre; the eminent Carnatic musician Vidwan Shri T.M. Krishna, whose fortuitous presence in Delhi and generosity were tapped by us for the invocatory song; and all of whom have helped turn the Honourable President's generous hospitality into a most memorable event.