

Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George on the occasion of the Constitution Day of India celebrations in Japan, Nov 25, 2023

My dear children, teachers, ladies and gentlemen,

My Greetings on the occasion of the Constitution Day of India.

It was on November 26, 1949, 299 members of the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution of India in New Delhi. Since its first meeting in December 1946, the Constituent Assembly took two years, eleven months and seventeen days to complete the task of finalizing the constitution.

Let's for a moment think about the many challenges that generation of India faced. They were determined to take India out of several centuries of oppression and colonial rule. They were determined to establish a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens, all generations to come JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual.

The future of 1/6th of the total population of the world and several generations to come were in their hands. And they delivered. What came out of their long deliberations in the Constituent Assembly by was one of the most unique constitution which provided a frame work for peaceful governance of our motherland and its emergence as beacon of hope in the comity of nations. It emerged as a model format to many new independent nations, all across the world. That makes November 26, our Constitution Day a very important day in our nation's history and in the history of the world.

It is the framework within which India re-emerged as a major power overcoming the suppression and slavery imposed on 1/6th of the humanity that spanned over hundreds of years. This constitution has also provided India the necessary framework to which contributed to India's achievements in diverse fields, including atomic energy, space science, agriculture, bio-technology and information technology, for which India is well-known the world over.

It is a matter of pride for an Ambassador to say with confidence that the economic and scientific transformation India achieved was under a constitution

which guarantees liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity.

Dear Friends,

India today is a land of billion opportunities. India will soon overtake China as the most populous country in the world. In India, we speak different languages, we worship different gods, we eat different foods, we wear different clothes, but there is a feeling of oneness and common consciousness that keeps us together, make us proud of our nation India. We need to take a deep look at day to day life in India to understand the importance and influence of our constitution. Every day it is the constitution of India that gets celebrated when a democratic election takes place in some part of India. Every day it is the constitution of India that gets celebrated when we conduct our day to day life in peaceful and orderly manner. Every day it is the constitution of India that gets celebrated when we conduct our examinations all across the country to select people on the basis of merit. Its influence and impact is so deep at everything in India.

Today we remember the members of the Constituent Assembly, its President Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and many others who gave us this Constitution.

We will now together read the preamble of our constitution to join hands with our 1.4 billion brothers and sisters to celebrate our constitution. Each word of the preamble has great meaning, great message, a message that enshrines the values of our history and our freedom struggle.

May I request you to rise and join me in reading the preamble.

Thank you.

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