

SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF CONSTITUTION DAY ON NOVEMBER 26, 2021

Namaskar,

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you here this morning on the occasion of celebration of Constitution Day which marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. November 26, 1949, heralded a new beginning in the annals of governance of our country. This was the day which marked the adoption of our Constitution which laid down a framework of political codes, structures, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions, fundamental rights, directive principles and most importantly fundamental duties of our citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, 26th November is a day on which we should recall and rejoice the monumental contributions of the men and women who toiled hard, day in and day out to complete a mammoth task of drafting a Constitution for free India. Their hard-earned efforts manifested in a document which continues to be the guiding light for all of us.

An important role played in this mammoth exercise was Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, who was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously. In 2015, in honour of Dr. Babasaheb's 125th Birth Anniversary, Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji decided to observe November 26 every year as the Constitution Day. Raj Bhavan, Assam started celebrating Constitution day since 2018.

Ladies and gentlemen India is a Union of States. It is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government in power. Our country is governed as per the Constitution of India which came into force on 26th January, 1950.

Our Constitution is supreme and over and above everything and everyone else. It is something that we worship in democracy. Constitution is meant for the well being of the public. It is such an important document that everybody should have fair knowledge of it. Constitution should be taught right from the school. The school students, public and everyone in general should read the constitution and thereby should know the duties for it.

Constitution is not a secret book only meant for the advocates or the top bureaucrats. The common masses should be enlightened. The last man should know about it. The social organizations, schools and colleges should observe constitution day and a message should be passed on to all about the rights and duties that are enshrined in our constitution.

The most remarkable feature of the Constitution of India is its unique philosophy which is everlasting. The framers of our constitution were very intelligent and farsighted who had made the provision to give future generations the power to amend the Constitution in accordance with the exigencies of time. Our Constitution is not static but a living document. The framers of the Constitution perhaps thought that in a dynamic world, the best way to fulfil the aspirations of the people is to amend the Constitution.

Ladies and gentlemen, the adoption of the Constitution was a milestone in Indian democratic journey. Over the past seven decades, as the democratic values have deepened, so has the demand for fundamental rights. But I sincerely believe as the demands for fundamental rights are increasing, we should be in a position to forge a right balance between fundamental rights and duties. I believe every person should contribute towards nation building, do his or her responsibilities sincerely to pay respect to our fundamental duties in the right earnest.

Ladies and gentlemen time has come for us to focus on duties. As all of us know fundamental rights are legally enforceable, there is no adequate instrument by which fundamental duties can be enforced. It is my ardent request to everybody to reflect on how we can reflect on fundamental duties enshrined in the Constitution.

In my opinion, people of our country should be united to mobilize the public and generate massive awareness for fundamental duties. People's movement is the strongest tool in a democracy. So, in Indian democracy also there should be large scale public mobilisation for generating awareness and moulding public opinion for rendering fundamental duties.

Ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude, I would like to drive home an important point and that is this year we are celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. Let us all, join hands to make this year's celebrations an epoch making and worth remembering- by not just organising events and commemorations, but

by giving constitutional ethics a wider prominence in our thinking and actions.

At the same time, we must strive to generate greater awareness about the Constitution and the rights and duties it rests on us. We must always believe that the Constitution has been framed for us and we must use this as the guiding light for our forward march.

With these words, I convey my heartfelt greetings to all on this occasion.

Thank you.

Jai Hind