

CELEBRATING PATRIOTISM

Republic Day, celebrated every year on January 26th, is not just a national holiday but a day that resonates with deep patriotism, pride, and unity. It marks the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950, giving the nation its framework for governance and ensuring the promise of democracy, equality, and justice for all its citizens. Republic Day is a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters, the vision of India's founding leaders, and the ongoing journey of progress.

The day is celebrated with fervor across the nation, but the grandest event is the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath, New Delhi. Here, the President of India, as the chief guest, leads the nation in honoring the country's achievements. The parade showcases India's military strength, technological advancements, cultural heritage, and diverse traditions. Soldiers, cadets, and civilians participate, making the parade a visual spectacle of patriotism and unity. The impressive military displays, followed by colorful floats representing the various states of India, fill the atmosphere with pride and admiration for the nation's diversity and resilience.

The celebration of Republic Day, however, is not limited to the grand ceremonies in New Delhi. It is observed across the country in schools, colleges, government offices, and communities. Every year, children perform patriotic songs, dance performances, and dramas in schools to mark the occasion, emphasizing the importance of freedom, democracy, and the need to protect the values laid down by India's Constitution. The ceremonial flag hoisting, followed by the National Anthem, unites people in an expression of patriotism, no matter their background or language.

Republic Day also serves as an occasion to remember and honor the freedom fighters who struggled for India's independence. The day is a tribute to their sacrifices and a moment to reflect on the values of freedom, equality, and justice that they fought for. Their patriotism continues to inspire generations of Indians to strive for a better future, making it a day of reflection, pride, and unity.

Republic Day is a time to renew their commitment to building a nation that reflects the ideals laid out in the Constitution. The day encourages every individual to act with integrity, compassion, and responsibility towards the betterment of society. It is a reminder that patriotism is not just about national pride, but also about contributing to the unity of the nation.

India celebrates 75th Anniversary of Republic in 2025: Both voter & vote seeker must 'introspect' & Pledge for making the 'Best' still Better'

This day Pledge to undo the amendments made to Art-74 in 1976 and 1978 to strengthen safeguards for Protecting, Preserving & Defending COI

■ DAYA SAGAR
 Indians have already celebrated 77th anniversary of Independence (78th Independence Day 15-08-2024) & 75th anniversary of Constitution (26-11-2024) and are now to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Republic (76th Republic Day) on this 26th January. On this day Indians should first take a look at the good done by our elders for us in giving the generations to come a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic, the tasks they slated to be done, the tasks accomplished so far and must pledge for the accomplishment of left-overs without, at places, any more undue extensions in time.

Not only that we need to introspect what more needs to be done by us, may be even for securing / strengthening the provisions of the constitution which were incorporated as the basic spirits / basic structure of the constitution like the Institution of President of India (Art 52 to 63, Art-74) on oath as protector, preserver and defender of the Constitution who will devote self to the service and well-being of the people of India.

It will be most appropriate to mention here that those who framed the Constitution had said "in our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution" and so is observed 26th November as Constitution Day and take notice of Art-394 which says that Art-394 and articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 & 393 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1950, which day is referred to in this Constitution as the commencement of this

Constitution so that is why 26th January is celebrated/observed as Republic Day of India. Attention is particularly drawn here to the Art-60 (affirmation of oath of office of President) which became effective w.e.f 26-11-1949 i.e the constitution day itself in terms of Art-394. Over 105 amendments (even omitting some articles like Art -379 to Art-391) have been so far made to the constitution of India using Art-368 after 26-01-1950 for facilitating applications of various existing provisions or for better execution of the spirits underlying the constitution, some of the amendments done by Parliament have been reviewed by the Supreme Court of India and have been also held (Minerva Mills case in 1980) void being against the doctrine of basic structure of constitution of like amendment made to Art-368 to add Section-4 in Art-368 by 42nd Constitution amendment Act of 1976. So there is scope for review of some more amendments and in my opinion the amendments made to Art-74 (There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President) vide relevant sections of *42nd Constitution amendment Act or 1976 and **44th Constitution amendment Act of 1978 (amended Art-74 < There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President *who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice: **Provided that the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.>) which put absolute restrictions on President of



A Look through the Mist Part-I

India for performing duty as per oath taken in terms of Art-60 of the constitution are against the doctrine of basic structure of COI. On this republic day the political leadership must pledge to undo these amendments even through the parliamentary process. Even the amendments could be taken for judicial review by supreme court of India. Similarly Those who drafted constitution of India though did not have majority members from socially & educationally backward seats/castes / religious minorities/remotely located communities/ women but the constitution drafted and adopted in Constituency Assembly on 26th November 1949 had not only intimately & concernedly secured & supported the interests of all the citizens in terms of educational, administrative, political and economic requirements of weaker sections in the India Independent republic but had also laid down provisions and directions { principles } in constitution to materially & intellectually support the weaker sections / seats (Art- 46. Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections ,Art- 41. Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases; Art-39. Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State.- 339. Control of the Union over the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Art 340. Appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes, Art-341 Scheduled Castes, Art-342 Scheduled Tribes) so that they too not only become self sufficient but also capable supporting others

Target was set to minimize the needs for providing special props / supports to categories like socially and educationally backward classes as well as the administratively & politically backward Indian people with in a period of a decade or two { Art-334.Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after 10 years (now amended as after certain period ; Art -335. Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts.) in the legislature, Government services, education institutions (Art- 330 .: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People; Art- 332.: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States;).

Similarly WE need to pledge this day to truthfully evaluate and test the status on ground as regards the Indian communities / seats that had been identified as Schedule Caste (Who had socially and educationally fallen back over the centuries since they had suffered under the curse of even social discredits like untouchability in view of the trades /jobs they were to do for survival &and also had very low income from such jobs. The social discrimination was attributed to more to Hindu society only and only "Hindu" (and Sikh)) were included in SC in 1950 where as others like Christians/ Muslims did not accept any social discrimination in their society. No any backwardness worth providing support on the basis of mere economic weakness was identified although the economically very poor people were also there in other castes / religious communities .

To be Continued
 (The writer is a Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and Social Activist)

Republic Day 2025: Celebrating India's Journey from Purna Swaraj to Swarnim Bharat

■ PROF. (DR.) JAIPAL SINGH



26th January is one of the most significant date in the Indian History. On this day in 1950, India adopted its Constitution transforming the nation into a sovereign, democratic and republic state.

The Constitution provided a comprehensive legal framework that ensured justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for all its citizens. This marked the beginning of an era where leaders are elected by the people, and decisions are made by the majority of elected representatives. In a parliamentary democracy, the government which is of the people, by the people, and for the people, holds the responsibility of shaping the future of the nation.

The choice of 26th January as Republic Day is not random. It was on this day in 1930, at the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress, led by Jawaharlal Nehru, India declared Purna Swaraj (complete independence) from British rule. This momentous declaration marked a bold commitment to achieve absolute freedom, signalling India's intent to reject all forms of colonial dominance. From that day onward, the people of India began to observe 26th January as a day of pride, unity and commitment to the struggle for independence. After India finally gained independence on 15th August 1947, the leaders of the nation striving hard for

freedom struggle decided to honour this historic day by marking it as the day on which the Indian Constitution would come into effect.

The drafting of the Constitution was a monumental task that began well before India gained independence. In 1946, the British government, under the Cabinet Mission Plan, formed the Constituent Assembly of India, which was entrusted with the responsibility of drafting the Constitution for an independent India. This assembly consisted of prominent leaders and thinkers from across the country, and its task was not easy.

The constituent assembly met for the first time on December 9, 1946 with Dr.Sachchidananda Sinha presiding over the initial meeting as the interim Chairman. Dr.Rajendra Prasad, who later became India's first President, took over as the permanent chairman of the Constituent Assembly. The drafting process was carefully undertaken by the Drafting Committee, which was headed by Dr.Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who is widely regarded as the Father of the Indian Constitution. Among other leaders who played a pivotal role in Constituent Assembly were: H. C. Mookherjee- Vice-President of the Constituent Assembly, B.N.Rau - Constitutional Advisor and S.N. Mukherjee - Chief Draftsman.

The committee worked tirelessly over the next several years, with debates, discussions and deliberations taking place on every aspect of the Constitution. They aimed to create a document that would reflect India's unique cultural, social,

and political needs while ensuring that the country could function as a modern democracy. The members of the committee borrowed ideas from the constitutions of over 60 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Although India gained independence on August 15, 1947, the Constituent Assembly continued its work to finalize the Constitution.

After nearly three years (2 years 11 months and 18 days) of debates and discussions, the Constitution was finalized on November 26, 1949. The adoption of the Constitution was a historic moment, but it was decided that the Constitution would come into force on January 26, 1950, to honour the Purna Swaraj Declaration made on the same date in 1930. This decision reflected a deep sense of acknowledgment of the contributions made by every individual freedom fighter in the nation's historical struggle for freedom.

On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly held its final meeting, which symbolized the culmination of its remarkable work. During this meeting, the national symbols of independent India were formally adopted. The national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana," composed by the great poet Rabindranath Tagore, was officially recognized as the anthem of the Republic of India. Additionally, "Vande Mataram," written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, was declared the national song.

The Constituent Assembly also

expressed deep gratitude to the leadership of the assembly, to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and to all those who contributed to the creation of the Constitution. The Constitution came into force two days later on January 26, 1950 and Dr.Rajendra Prasad was sworn in as the first President of India. The event took place at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, marking the end of British colonial rule and the establishment of India as a republic.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's swearing in ceremony was a moment of profound significance, symbolizing the country's transition to self-rule and the dawn of a new chapter in Indian history. With the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the British Governor-General was replaced by the President of India as the head of state. Additionally, the Constitution replaced the Government of India Act of 1935, the final piece of legislation under British rule, thereby marking the beginning of a new era of democratic governance.

The celebration of Republic Day has evolved over the years into a grand national festival. The main event takes place in New Delhi at Rajpath (now Kartavya Path), where the President of India, as the head of the state and Commander in Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, presides over the Republic Day parade. This year President Draupadi Murmu, the 15th president of India, shall preside over the function, unfurl the national flag and takes the salute during the parade and

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest at India's 76th Republic Day celebration. This visit commemorates 75 years of India-Indonesia diplomatic ties.

Republic Day parade is a magnificent presentation of India's cultural diversity, military strength, and technological achievements. The parade highlights a variety of elements, including marching contingents from the Indian Armed Forces, Para Military Forces, and Police. Cultural displays from states and Union Territories, along with performances by school children from across the country, add vibrancy and completeness to the Republic Day parade. Brave soldiers and civilians are honored with prestigious awards, including the Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, and Kirti Chakra, for their exemplary contributions to the nation. Finally, the Beating Retreat ceremony occurs three days after Republic Day on 29th of January at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi marking the conclusion of the Republic Day celebrations.

Republic Day is also celebrated with great enthusiasm across schools, colleges, and public spaces all over the country. The day begins with the hoisting of the national flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Cultural programs, dances, speeches, and skits are performed by students, honouring the country's freedom struggle and the Constitution. These celebrations emphasize the unity and diversity of the nation and highlight the importance of upholding the values of justice, equality,

and liberty enshrined in the Constitution.

Every year, a different theme is selected for the Republic Day celebrations, and this year's theme, "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India: Heritage and Progress), reflects India's journey from struggle to success. It celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the nation while emphasizing its remarkable progress in development and innovation.

In gist, 26th January, celebrated as Republic Day, honours India's long and arduous/ tough struggle for freedom and establishment of self-governance. It is a day to reflect on the nation's journey and reaffirm its commitment to the principles of democracy and justice. The Constitution of India is a living document, and Republic Day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters who fought for India's independence and the creation of a free and just society.

Now, before I stop writing, I would like to say that to honour the sacrifices of our freedom fighters, Let us pledge together, "We, the citizens of India, shall sincerely honour India's struggle for freedom to sovereignty, shall contribute to nation-building and work together to strengthen the democratic foundations of our republic India for future generations. Definitely, this will be a sincere tribute to our freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to secure the bright future and comforts we cherish now.

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Indian Republic @76

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Indian republic is 75 years old and the nation is celebrating the 76th anniversary of its republic. During these 76 years of Indian republic, the nation has excelled in many walks of its life and India has matured as a dynamic and vibrant republic and the nation has to throw light on its achievements attained during the ups and downs of the country and its constitutional history. India had adopted its constitution on 26th January 1950 and we have embraced the principles of democracy, socialism, secularism, equity, fraternity and social justice. Constitution is the life line of our republic. The Constitution of India's preamble, as amended up to July 2024, reads as under-We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic & to secure to all its citizens -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 and unity and integrity of the Nation. The constitution was adopted, enacted and given on 26th day of November, 1949. The Thus the people of India have resolved to constitute India as a democratic socialist & secular republic and gave themselves the

constitution as the guiding force for its governance and all the basic and fundamental principles enshrined in the preamble of the constitution are the guidelines and blueprint for the India's destiny as a democratic and socialist republic and the people of India should at all costs uphold the basic principles, tenets and doctrines of the republic so that India continues its march on the glorious path charted by the founding fathers of its constitution and we as the proud citizens of the republic should maintain the pristine principles enshrined in the constitution so that our democratic republic will flourish and prosper and the political, social and cultural destiny of the people of India is strengthened. The preamble to the constitution declares India a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. The objectives of the preamble are to secure justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens and promote fraternity among the citizens. The preamble to the constitution is a reflection of the core constitutional values that embody the constitution. The preamble of the constitution acts like the introduction that presents the intention of the framers, the core values, principles, and the history behind the creation of the constitution. The preamble to the constitution was accepted by the constituent assembly on 22rd January 1947 and adopted by it on 26th November 1949 and came into

force on 26th January 1950, which is celebrated as the Republic Day of India. It is pertinent to mention that the words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were later added to the preamble during the Indian emergency that is in 1976 by Indira Gandhi. Thus the government of India and its states as well as UT's are making efforts to run on the path and as per the guidance and guidelines of the preamble of the constitution and are on the path of making India an egalitarian society. The government is implementing the ambitious and sacred values and principles as enshrined in the constitution. The goals, values and principles given in the preamble of the constitution are lofty and they should be made crafty to pursue them so that an egalitarian society is made possible and the centre government, state governments, UT's, political parties, NGO's and last but not the least the people who are sovereign and are the masters of their destiny should cooperate with the rulers so that the objectives and values as well as principles contained in the preamble of the constitution are implemented and all the policies and programmes and schemes of the government are an exercise in fulfilling the values and doctrines enshrined in the constitution. The preamble of the constitution of India sets out the guiding purposes and principles and the centre government and state govern-

ments are following the path shown by the founding fathers of the constitution and thus making concerted and persistent efforts to implement the objectives as per the guidelines delineated in the constitution. The preamble of the constitution is a reflection of the core constitutional values that embody the constitution. It is known as the soul and essence of the constitution. The march of Indian republic has seen many ups and downs during its 76 year long history and our democracy and Indian republic has emerged stronger with each passing year and we are very proud of our republic. Indian republic is on the march of economic, social and political development and it is making strenuous efforts to implement the principles and values as well as the purposes as given in the constitution. We have attained many advancements in our political, social and economic life. But we have not been able to reduce and bridge the widening gap between the haves and the poor and so our country should take steps in this direction so that the dreams of the profunder of the constitution are realized. It is India's biggest achievement that we have successfully conducted eighteen general elections and hundreds of state assembly elections more or less peacefully and it goes to the credit of the independent election commission of India and these elections were conducted freely

and fairly raising the status and image of Indian republics democratic destiny in the international community. Our republic and democracy has become resilient, stable, dynamic strong and robust day by day during all these 76 year history of our republic. The 76th Republic Day of India celebrates the country's transition to a republic and its democratic values. It also marks India's progress in various fields including economic development, technology and social reforms. Republic day celebrates India's democratic values and the people's power to govern them. The republic day parade in New Delhi showcases India's cultural richness and military prowess, reinforcing the idea of unity in diversity. Republic day serves as a reminder of India's journey towards self-governance and its core values of justice, equality and fraternity. India's growth story and progress during all these 76 years of republic are enviable and make us feel proud. India's Gross Domestic Product-GDP increased from 2,700 billion in 1947 to US dollar 3.53 trillion in 2021, making it the world's sixth largest economy and today in 2025, it has the distinction of being the fifth largest economy in the world and its march to become third largest economy in near future is no less ordinary. India has made significant technological advancements and it has become a technological giant. We are exporting technologists and engi-

neers to outside world. India has made significant social reforms. India has increased its global influence. During 10 years of Modi rule, India's status in the world got much impetus and boost and she is heard on international issues and matters and Modi has become a global leader as the popularity of India and Modi has increased thanks to the diplomatic virtues of Modi government. In the last seven -and-a-half decades, India achieved remarkable development in agriculture, heavy industry, irrigation, energy production, nuclear power capability, space technology, biotechnology, telecommunication, oceanology and science and research. Republic Day parade 2025 will showcase India's cultural diversity and military might. The special focus will be on 75 years of enactment of the constitution and Jan Bhagidari. This year, 31 tableaux from various states, UT's and central government Ministries / departments will participate, showcasing the theme "Swarnim Bharat-Virasat aur Vikas". In brief we the citizens of India should once again resolve to tread the path shown by the constitution and march to make Indian republic of the dreams of the founding architects of the constitution and this will be the befitting way to celebrate the 76th republic day. Long live Indian Republic & democracy. Tatha Astu.

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