



Speech of
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

At

**The Programme organized on the occasion of 'Constitution Day' on November 26, 2019 at 9 AM At Raj Bhavan,
Vijayawada**

good morning to you all.

It gives me immense pleasure to be here amidst you all on the occasion of celebration of the 70th Constitution Day.'

As you all are aware 'Constitution Day', also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated on 26th November every year, to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to also to honor and pay tribute to the invaluable contribution of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and other founding fathers of the Constitution. We should always remember and be grateful to the makers of the Constitution for giving us the principles on which we derive our freedom and equality to ensure harmony in the society. The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India on 26th November 1949 and it came into effect from 26th January, 1950.

Today is an important day as a special session of the Parliament is also going to be held in the Central Hall, to mark 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. It has also been decided to initiate an awareness campaign across the country.

The awareness campaign will continue till 14th April, the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the 'Father of the Indian Constitution.'

The process of drafting of the Indian Constitution began in 1946, in anticipation of the country's Independence, when the country was passing through a great turmoil. The Constituent Assembly went about its task to create a Constitution — not just for a nation but virtually for a civilization. A task, which was herculean and was an act of high responsibility as it had to balance out the aspirations of a hugely complex and heterogeneous Indian populace. India's Constitution was considered by many as a miracle. The

Indian Constitution is the cornerstone of the nation as it lays the foundation of the governance of our nation.

The Indian Constitution is remarkable for many outstanding features which make it different from the other constitutions, even though many of its provisions are borrowed from Constitutional framework of other nations. The framers of the constitution deserve the credit for gathering the best features of Constitutions followed by other Nations and modifying the provisions to suite our needs by eliminating inherent flaws in those provisions.

The Indian Constitution is the most lengthy and detailed handwritten constitution of any sovereign country in the world. The original constitution of India was handwritten by PremBehariNarainRaizada in a flowing italic style. Originally, it consisted of 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules, but it has been amended from time to time. Currently, it has a Preamble, 25 Parts with 12 Schedules, 448 Articles and 103 Amendments.

The Indian Constitution is known to be more flexible than rigid as it gives the power to the Parliament to modify many of the provisions by a simple majority for general legislation.

The Indian Constitution guarantees Fundamental Rights to its citizens, which are not absolute but are subject to reasonable restrictions. Fundamental duties are incorporated through the 42nd Amendment, which imposes a moral obligation on the citizens to perform these duties, even though they cannot be enforced legally. Another important feature of the Constitution is the Directive Principles of State Policy which are principle fundamentals for the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the states to apply

these principles in making laws and imposes a moral obligation on the states for their adherence.

Another important feature of the Constitution is the Rule of Law, which implies that no man is above the law and all individuals are subject to the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts. Absence of arbitrary power is the first essential feature of Rule of Law, upon which our whole constitutional system is based. Governance must be by rule, and not arbitrary, vague and discretionary.

Granville Austin, an American scholar said about the Indian Constitution that *"the Indian Constitution is first and foremost a social document."*

The Constitution lays down the National goals of our country – Democracy, Secularism, Socialism and National Integration. The Constitution spells out rights and duties of the citizens. The Constitution empowers the citizens by protecting their rights and the citizens empower the Constitution by adhering to their duties.

To commemorate this important event in the life of Indian democracy the Government of India has proposed to launch a campaign focusing on creating awareness on one of the most important aspect of the Constitution – The Fundamental duties in a befitting manner throughout the country, which begins from today and culminates on 14th April 2020, Babasaheb Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary which is celebrated as Samarasta Diwas.

Fundamental Duties enjoins upon the citizens of India to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India and ideals and institutions included into the constitution. Citizens should live in a spirit of common brotherhood, transcending religious, linguistic and regional diversities, to

renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women, develop scientific temper and preserve our rich cultural heritage.

Government of India has requested all State Governments, Educational Institutions, private organizations to participate in this campaign. I have also sent communications to all universities to widely participate and spread awareness about high ideals and principles enshrined in our Constitution and the spirit behind Fundamental Duties.

I conclude by recalling the words of the Father of the Constitution Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who said -

"However a good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it happen to be a good lot."

Jai Hind