



Speech of
Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
at
The 'Constitution Day' programme organized at Acharya
Nagarjuna University at 4 PM on November 26, 2019

Guests on the dias, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good evening to you all.

I deem it a privilege to be amongst you all on this important occasion to celebrate the 'Constitution Day' also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', marking the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution on 26th November, 1949, which came into effect from 26th January, 1950.

The Constitution Day also gives us an opportunity to honor and pay tributes 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. Befitting the occasion, a special session of the Parliament is also going to be held in the Central Hall.

To commemorate this important event in the history of Indian democracy, 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, Father of the Constitution, which is also celebrated as Rashtriya Samrasta Diwas.

The process of drafting of the Indian Constitution began in 1946, 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 and is distinct from Constitutions of other countries, 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 spirit behind the Indian Constitution can be best summarized in the words of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who said -

"Our Constitution is a ray of Hope – H for harmony, O for opportunity, P for people's participation and E for equality."

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.

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

"It is not enough to have just a politically independent India. What is also needed is to have an Indian nation where every citizen will have religious

and political rights, so that every person will have equal opportunity to develop."

Jai Hind