

Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George on the occasion of the Constitution Day of India celebrations in Kuwait, Nov 26, 2020

Distinguished guests, children, teachers, ladies and gentlemen,

Today we celebrate the constitution day of India. It was on this day, November 26, 1949, 299 members of the Constituent Assembly of India met and formally adopted the Constitution of India in New Delhi.

We all heard the following words of the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru many times in the history of independent India. Addressing the Constituent Assembly on the midnight of August 14, 1947 he said, I quote “Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny; and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.

A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new -- when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India, and her people, and to the still larger cause of humanity.”

It is with the objective to realize this destiny that the Constituent Assembly went about framing the constitution of India. 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. What came out of these long deliberations by some of the best minds of the world is 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.

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. As we read in the preamble it established 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. It guaranteed and the unity and integrity of the nation of India. A short preamble that summarizes the document that guarantees the freedom and protects the life and dignity of 1/6th of the population of the world. Each word of the preamble has great meaning, great message, a message that enshrines the values of our history and our freedom struggle.

This constitution has also provided India the necessary framework to make notable achievements in diverse fields, including atomic energy, space science, agriculture, bio-technology and, of course, 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.

India today is a land of billion opportunities. India will soon overtake China as the most populous country in the world. But we are proud that we govern ourselves as a sovereign democratic republic. 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. Every day it is the constitution of India that gets celebrated when a democratic election takes place in some part of India. You would recall that in May last year we celebrated the largest festival of democracy in the world when 600 million people exercised their sovereign right to vote.

Addressing the Members of Indian Parliament last year on the constitution day, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi said, "The Constitution, can be simplified in two mantras as "dignity for Indian" and "unity for India". "The constitution encompasses our life, our society, our traditions and beliefs and also solutions to new challenges", Prime Minister Modi said.

For India, Nov 26 is an occasion to remember and honour the framers of our constitution, particularly Dr. Ambedkar, who is called the Father of the Constitution of India. I started the day with floral tributes at the Gandhi Statue. I am happy to announce the opening of a weeklong photo exhibition on the making of the constitution of India.

Dear Friends,

While November 26 is a happy occasion as India celebrates Constitution Day but it also is a sad reminder of the Mumbai terror attacks, which had taken place on this day in 2008. It is the anniversary of gruesome terrorist attacks in Mumbai that lasted three days in November 2008. 166 innocent people lost their life and 300 innocent people were injured.

We feel the pain of those who lost their loved ones in this terrorist attacks from across the border. Today a grateful nation bows to its security personnel who valiantly fought the terrorists. We continue to face the menace of cross border terrorism. It is a day to rededicate ourselves in the fight against terrorism. It is a day declare to ourselves and to the world that our constitution, our democracy and our country will continue to flourish and progress.

Thank you.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and 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 the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this 26th day of November 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.