

GAZETTE

A word from the NSS unit

'Light beyond the tunnel', this is the hope with which every individual has entered 2021 after a difficult year. There is hope, not just for a better year, but better conditions of those who have suffered, for those who looked at the shooting star and wished for a miracle and a hope that India will rise as the saviour of the world in this time of distress. This gives one, an immense pride. India is celebrating its 72nd Republic Day, a festival of our democracy and sovereignty.

On 26th January, 1950, our Constitution came into force while also heralding India's complete transition into an Independent country, finally free. The past year was marked with uncertainty and fear. It locked us into a confined space - both mentally and physically. Just like the Vaccine acts as a beacon of hope to end this pandemic, the Youth acts as a beacon of hope to end the problems our country faces. A youth's opinion must evolve into questions, questioning gives rise to action, and action results in growth. This is how India as a country will strengthen.

On this special occasion, The NSS Unit of SIES GST wishes everyone a safe and happy Republic Day. Let every individual find and fulfil their role in the growth of our nation and may our community service increase exponentially as a way of contributing to the growth of the society.

Jai Hind.

Dr. Ambedkar's Journey with the Constitution

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was an Indian jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer. He was independent India's first Minister of Law and Justice and considered as the chief architect of the Constitution of India.

Ambedkar was born in a family of Mahar caste of Hindu household, which at the time was considered untouchables. They weren't even allowed near public water sources. So school, education, was a big leap for a kid born in a Mahar household. But his father, Ramji Sakpal faced the opposition of the whole village to educate him. Sakpal was helped by a teacher in admitting Bhimrao in the school. From dropping some portion of his meal in Bhim's plate to giving Bhim his own surname, Ambedkar, this teacher left a solid impression in his student's life.

Babasaheb was an ambitious leader, strong-willed, determined, hardworking, and courageous. He always used his knowledge for the welfare of the people.

When the Drafting Committee was appointed, Mahatma Gandhi reasoned that they don't need foreign experts when they have promising and deserving talent like Dr Ambedkar to lead the committee. There were seven members in the committee working under the leadership of Babasaheb. Being a democratic socialist, he propagated that fundamental rights have little meaning to people in the absence of social democracy. He was the first and foremost leader of the depressed classes and

the struggle of the depressed classes for Human Rights and socio-political equality.

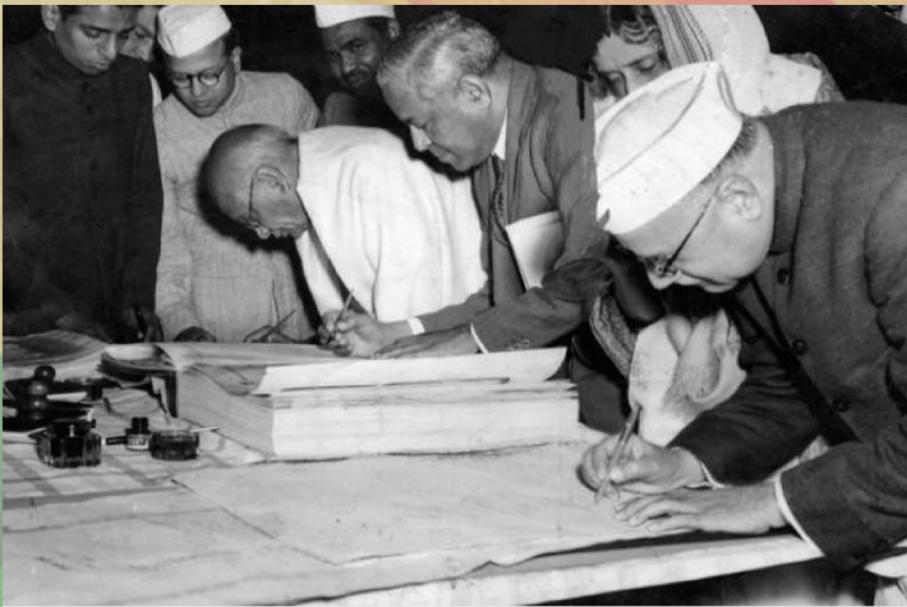
The Round Table Conference marked as a crucial step in the history of the Constitution of India. He advocated for a government which was a responsible government formed by the representatives of the people.

As regards to the character of the Constitution, it was Federal in form and Unitary in Spirit". It established a dual polity with the Union at the Centre and the States at the periphery, each endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution. Indian Constitution is known as a bag of borrowings. The concepts of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity were taken from the French Constitution. The concept of five-year plans was taken from the USSR. The Directive Principles were taken from Ireland. The laws on which the Supreme Court functions were taken from Japan. It is the longest written constitution of an independent country in the world. The Constitution of India contains 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules, 5 appendices, and 98 amendments.

The contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in Indian Democracy is not to be forgotten. He was not only the man of age and builder of the Constitution but also the creator of social justice and the betterment of the downtrodden.

Pradnya Talekar

Significance of the Date



The date 26th January was especially selected since it was the anniversary of Purna Swaraj Day (26th January 1930).

Indian Economy

India is the world's fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP and third-largest by purchasing power parity. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on a per capita income basis, India ranked 142nd by GDP (nominal) and 124th by GDP (PPP) in 2020. The economy slowed in 2017, due to shocks of "demonetisation" in 2016 and introduction of Goods and Services Tax in 2017. Nearly 60% of India's GDP is driven by domestic private consumption and continues to remain the world's sixth-largest consumer market.

Private sector investment, the mainstay of sustainable growth in any economy, is at a 15-year low. India's largest import is oil and the fortuitous decline in oil prices between 2014 and 2016 added a full percentage point to headline GDP growth, masking the real problems. To make matters worse, Mr Modi embarked on a quixotic move in 2016 to withdraw all high-value banknotes from circulation overnight. This effectively removed 85% of all currency notes from the economy and eventually resulted in destruction of supply chains and impacted agriculture, construction and manufacturing that accounts for three-quarter of employment in the country. Before the economy could recover from the currency ban shock, the government enacted a transition to a new indirect taxation system of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017. Such massive external shocks to the economy, coupled with a reversal in low oil prices, dealt the final blow to the economy.

Chetana Jade

The earth might be healing now, but what happens when daily routines start again? Our skies are clearer thanks to plummeting CO2 and pollution levels, congested tourist spots are breathing easier, and closer home, we are finally noticing and appreciating that tree along the driveway that has several feathered visitors through the day.

If there could ever be a silver lining to the dark and unforgiving cloud that is the coronavirus, it is this: the earth is finally healing. There are no flights emitting chemicals into the sky, no factories releasing chemicals into the sea, no vehicles emitting gases into the streets.... The silver lining has made one thing quite clear: it is we humans who are responsible for today's state of affairs. And if decades of pillaging the planet wasn't enough, we have somehow managed to unleash a pandemic upon ourselves.

A quick glance at China's wildlife trade reveals how the country is putting global health at risk. The many wet markets (including the one in Wuhan where the coronavirus is suspected to have originated) pose countless health risks and have been under the global radar for years. Policy interventions should be non-negotiable, as must lifestyle changes at the individual level. The pandemic and the ongoing lockdown have not only brought about a significant change in our day-to-day lives, but also made us conscious of the resources we have, the privilege they bestow, and the learning that we can do without many things we once thought were indispensable.

Only time will tell if we will take back lessons from this period or treat it like an unusual experience. In India, there are many who are still taking the situation lightly: several people are asking domestic help to come to work, crowds take to the streets to play drums and burst crackers even when all that was asked of you was to stay indoors and give thanks.

As and when the lockdown nears an end, factories will resume production, traffic will hit the roads again, and airlines will resume operations. While one can't control these factors, what we can control is how much they impact the environment. For starters, the government has to look into energy-efficient vehicles, control what comes out of our factories, and not brazenly pass laws that involve forests being razed for more projects. As citizens, the least we can do is use resources prudently, travel mindfully, understand the implications of our actions on society and, most importantly, follow the laws in place.

Madhuri Ramakrishnan

Silver lining to the lockdown cloud