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# THE REPUBLIC DAY CHRONICLE

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TIME WE INVEST IN SOUL CONNECT WITH THE NATION



*The year like never before. The days of ups and downs, where life seemed to be on a roller-coaster and the lessons learnt by heart.....2020 had been a journey of serious questions to humanity, eyes could not adapt glittery skies and the feet waited to walk the sweaty noon but that remained a grandiloquent wish. But no remonstrance as life should go on despite of what may come and what may it have to unfold to humanity. And that is the zeal of my INDIA.....our INDIA.*

*---A.K.SHARMA, PRINCIPAL, BVM, NAINITAL*

We are all aware that India got its Independence on August 15, 1947, yet the country didn't have its very own Constitution. Rather it was represented under the laws executed by the British. Nonetheless, after numerous consultations and revisions, an advisory group headed by Dr. B.R Ambedkar presented a draft of the Indian Constitution, which was adjusted on 26 November 1949 and authoritatively became effective on 26 January 1950. 'Republic' signifies the power, which is supreme. A resident living in the

Republic country appreciates the right to choose their delegates/political pioneer to lead the nation. In this way, in the Republic of India, each resident appreciates equivalent rights independent of status.

The transition of India from a British colony to a sovereign, secular, and democratic nation was indeed historical. It was a long journey of around two decades that started with the conceptualization of the dream in 1930 to its actual realization in 1950. A look into the journey that led to

the birth of Indian Republic will make our celebrations more meaningful. The seeds of a republican nation were sowed at the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress at the midnight of 31st December 1929. The session was held under the presidency of Pt. Jawaharlal Lal Nehru. Those present in the meeting took a pledge to mark January 26 as "Independence Day" in order to march towards realizing the dream of complete independence from the British.

The Lahore Session paved way to the Civil Disobedience movement. It was decided that January 26, 1930 would be observed as the Purna Swaraj (complete Independence) Day. Many Indian political parties and Indian revolutionaries from all over the country united to observe the day with honor and pride. The Indian Constituent Assembly, which was constituted as a result of the negotiations between the Indian leaders and members of the British Cabinet Mission, had its first meeting on December 9, 1946.



The Objective of the Assembly was to give India a constitution, which would serve a lasting purpose and hence appointed a number of committees to thoroughly research the various aspects of the proposed constitution. The recommendations were discussed, debated and revised many times

before the Indian Constitution was finalized and officially adopted three years later on November 26, 1949. Though India became a free nation on August 15, 1947, it enjoyed the true spirit of Independence on January 26, 1950 when the Constitution of India finally came into force.



The Constitution gave the citizens of India the power to govern themselves by choosing their own government. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, took oath as the first President of India at the Durbar Hall in the Government House and this was followed by the Presidential drive along a five-mile route to the Irwin Stadium, where he unfurled the National Flag. Ever since the historic day, January 26 is celebrated with festivities and patriotic fervor all around the country.

The day owes its importance to the constitution of India that was adopted on this day. On this Republic Day, read what the great Constitution of India, that propounds liberal democracy, has in its store. Let's also feel proud in pronouncing what the Preamble to our Constitution says.



Years of being socialist, secular, democratic, world's largest republic. Kudos to those warriors, statesman, politicians who held India's integrity and sovereignty high in the face of world. With Industrial Revolution, economic crippling, the world questioning our base; we need to buckle ourselves and strive hard to keep the integrity of this tricolor flag holding the respect of every INDIAN high and above everything.

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the first President of Independent India, in his special message to his countrymen, on the birth of the Indian Republic, said:

*"We must re-dedicate ourselves on this day to the peaceful but sure realization of the dream that had inspired the Father of our Nation and the other captains and soldiers of our freedom struggle, the dream of establishing a classless, co-operative, free and happy society in 'his country'. We must remember that this is more a day of dedications than of rejoicing - dedication to the glorious task of making the peasants and workers the toilers and the thinkers fully free, happy and cultured."*



**मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ**

कौन सी कलम, वो कौन सी स्याही,  
किस मार्ग पे प्रशस्ति, किस मोड़ पे है राही,  
मैं विधि, विस्तार भी, मैं विरलनिश्चल,  
आदि-अनादी काल भी,  
हर शय पे, हर कण कणपे, हिन्दुस्तान लिखता हूँ

**मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ**

गंगा के ज्वार सा, मौलिक अधिकार सा,  
सूर्य में जितना तपन शेष, स्वातन्त्र समर की वेदी अशेष,  
हर धाम धाम, हर ग्राम ग्राम पर  
हिन्दुस्तान लिखता हूँ  
मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ  
मंत्र कहो उदेशिका या न्याय की नीति  
लोकतंत्र, गणतंत्र है ये अखंडता की रीति



**C. Rajagopalachari**, His Excellency the Governor-General in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of All-India Radio on Jan 26, 1950 said:

*"On the eve of my laying down office, with the inauguration of the Republic, I should like to tender my greetings and best wishes to the men and women of India who will henceforth be a citizen of a republic. I feel deeply thankful for the affection showered on me by all sections of the people, which alone enabled me to bear the burden of an office to the duties and conventions of which I had been an utter stranger."*



कर्तव्य में, अधिकार में बस  
सम्मान लिखता हूँ

बहती बयार में, बरसती फुहार में,  
हर जीत में, हर हार में  
हिन्दुस्तान लिखता हूँ

**मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ**

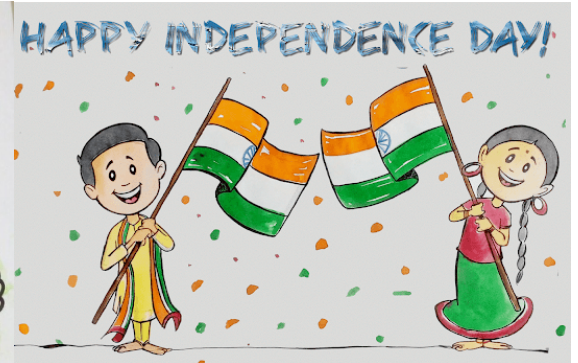
हर भाषा, उपभाषा पे, निधान और विधान पे  
असीमित पर जो एक है, अरुणोदय के गान पे  
हर दिशा, हर शय, हर कण कण पे  
हिन्दुस्तान लिखता हूँ

**मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ.....**

**मैं संविधान लिखता हूँ...**



EYES WITH THE DASH OF PAINT.....





# REMINISCENCES OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC DAY

January 26, 1950. The day when the Constitution of India came into effect and India became a republic. Kerala, then the state of Travancore-Cochin, was formed by the merger of two princely states, the kingdoms of Travancore and Cochin, with Travancore as the capital. Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, the then ruler of Travancore, was appointed Raj Pramukh or Governor of the state. He read out the proclamation of the formation of the republic at the chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

**LET'S GO DOWN THE MEMORY LANE.....71 YEARS AND MORE.....**



T.K. Narayana Pillai (Parur TK) took oath as the first Chief Minister of the Travancore-Cochin state. C. Kunhiraman was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Travancore-Cochin High Court. The Raj Pramukh hoisted the Indian flag at a function at Central Stadium. T.K. Narayana Pillai was also present. The Raj Pramukh took the salute at the Review Parade of the Travancore-Cochin armed forces.

In his address at the flag hoisting ceremony and the parade, the Raj Pramukh said:

*I have just now hoisted the flag of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. Today we have become a Republic under a Constitution which we have given to ourselves and this day marks the commencement of a new chapter in the history of our ancient land with its heritage of culture and tolerance. This is a red letter day in our lives which we should cherish in our hearts forever. Let us rally round and salute this National Flag which is the symbol of our unity and our independent status and make a firm resolve to sink all our differences and banish from our hearts all feelings of territorial and sectarian rivalry and march forward hand in hand towards the common goal of a greater and more prosperous India.*

(Taken from *Travancore — Cochin Information and Listener*, February 1950)



***Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, who was the Raj Pramukh taking salute at the review parade of the Travancore-Cochin Armed Forces on January 26, 1950. Chief Minister T. K. Narayana Pillai is also seen | Photo Credit: Special arrangement***

## MOMENT OF GLORY

The formation of the Indian Republic brought in a spate of changes at the political and administrative level. However, the common people were more or less not immediately affected by the changes and so were quite removed from the events happening around them, remembers K. Ayyappan Pillai, veteran lawyer and politician. ***“The Maharaja was still there, even though he was known by Raj Pramukh. Much of the paraphernalia associated with him remained the same. For example, he had his daily darshan at the Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple in the morning like his predecessors, a sight that people in the city were used to,”*** he says.



***K. Ayyappan Pillai | Photo  
Credit: Special arrangement***

A centenarian, he remembers attending the event at Central Stadium in 1950 in connection with the first Republic Day. “I was working in Ernakulam then since the High Court of Travancore-Cochin was

established there after the unification of the two states. I used to come home during holidays and that’s how I happened to attend the first Republic Day parade,” he says.

It was after several rounds of discussions that Chithira Thirunal agreed to make Travancore state a part of the Indian union in 1949. “In fact he was reluctant to take the post of Raj Pramukh because he could not take oath to the Indian government as he had already taken the oath in front of his family deity, Sree Padmanabha. The problem was solved by Rajaji (C. Rajagopalachari, the then Governor General). He said that Chithira Thirunal needn’t take the oath and instead directed the then Chief Justice Puthupally Krishna Pillai to read out a letter which said that the Raj Pramukh would bear allegiance to the Constitution,” he says.

The parade had the participation of the State Forces (it was not a part of the Indian Army then). “I think it mostly had cavalry. And there wasn’t any cultural procession. You needed passes to get seats,” he says.

The first Republic Day ceremonial parade after the formation of Kerala in 1956 was at University Stadium, where the then Governor B. Ramakrishna Rao, addressed officers and men of the Armed Forces, Police department and the NCC. Later, the parade was shifted to Central Stadium, which continues to host the parade.





# GLIMPSES OF THE PAST CELEBRATIONS



Our constitution opens with the words that India is both a republic and a democracy...We are making an important claim: is it true?

The true meaning of a republic is not only about the expression of thoughts via freedom of speech but also about saving the sovereignty of the nation and to make it a 'republic' in its true sense. In its seventh decade of independence, India stands on the cusp of a significant change; a transformation that could lead to unprecedented economic growth paired with radical improvements in the nation's education system. And it will be possible only through the corridors of education to achieve the real republic. Education that would not only be the eradication of illiteracy but an education that would shape the posterity to be the ambidextrous leaders. The Republic of Weimar drew up an admirable Constitution which became waste paper because the Republic had no fire in its belly. It is that fire, that energy of life that must be roused in the dormant consciousness of the people if India is to build up a fair, equitable and viable polity and a full life for her millions. For it to achieve we must be together, for united we

stand, divided we fall. It is apt to give a deep thought to Pablo Neruda's lines:

*If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.  
Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.*

**[NEELU JAWLA - TEAM EDITORIAL, BIRLA VIDYA MANDIR]**