

BOOK OF PLEDGE

BIRAJA MAHAPATRA





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PLEDGE

Biraja Mahapatra

Book of Pledge

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Promoting Good Citizenship

Dear Friends,

The Preamble to our Constitution serves as an ownership document for every Indian citizen. This ownership was conferred upon the people—who were previously subjects of their respective kingdoms—through the adoption of the Preamble by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949.



For the first time, ordinary citizens gained the opportunity to become authors of their own destiny. The Constitution provided equality of status and opportunity, bridging long-standing divides between the rich and poor, upper and lower classes, and across religious and gender lines.



India—also known as Bharat—was born as a nation on August 15, 1947. It emerged with more than 1,500 languages, multiple religions and faiths including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, as well as diverse food habits and numerous cultural traditions.

Because of this diversity, people's identities continue to be shaped by region, religion, and culture. The nationalist spirit is often weakened by linguistic chauvinism, religious intolerance, and cultural differences. Yet, these very diversities can be transformed into strength when national identity is upheld as the prime goal—when every citizen,





with pride, says, “I am an Indian first.” Such a mindset can transform a country into a truly united nation.

The opportunity to cultivate a shared national identity among citizens emerged only when India became a democratic republic and the Constitution came into force.

A nation excels when its citizens consistently demonstrate an attitude of excellence in all fields, always keeping the country’s interests paramount. Such an approach enables a nation to produce great scientists, philosophers, physicians, economists, statesmen, artisans, and exemplary citizens in every sphere of life.



With this aim in mind, the Build India Group (BIG) has sought to develop an instrument of unity — a national pledge that encourages citizens to commit themselves to the nation through their words, thoughts, and actions, with uniformity of content across all official Indian languages. This pledge inspires commitment to the country’s collective excellence.



The pledge, translated into all 22 official Indian languages, calls upon every citizen to dedicate themselves to ensuring India’s excellence in every sphere. While it is intended for all Indians, the Build India Group began by encouraging thousands of students across the country to take the pledge. The response has been overwhelming, and we now aim to reach every school in the country.

Reciting the pledge in one’s mother tongue is intended to kindle a deep sense of passion for excellence. If students



across India were to simultaneously write and recite this pledge in their native languages—taking a solemn vow to contribute their efforts toward nation-building—it would mark the largest collective expression of commitment to the nation ever undertaken.

To make the event even more meaningful, students should obtain the signatures of their parents on their handwritten copies of the pledge. In the absence of parents, the document may be signed by two witnesses or friends and submitted to the respective educational institution. This exercise may also be extended to lawyers, government officials, private-sector employees, residents' associations, and citizens from all walks of life.

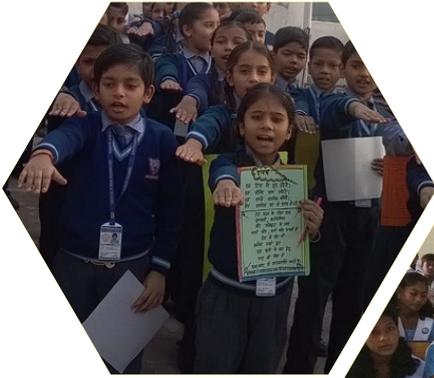
Such an initiative will lay a new foundation for strengthening our country. This booklet, containing the pledge in all Indian languages, is dedicated to all of us—for posterity. The Build India Group proposes to integrate this solemn pledge into the celebrations of Constitution Day on November 26. Let this day become an annual occasion for reaffirming our collective commitment to India's excellence.

Let us take a vow to build an ever-glorious nation.

For and on behalf of the Build India Group,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Biraja Mahapatra', written in a cursive style.

Biraja Mahapatra





The Pledge

*We the people of India today
Do solemnly pledge ourselves
To the service of our nation
With honesty, sincerity and commitment;
Always keeping our nation's
Interests paramount
In all that we think, do or say,
For the greater glory of this land.*

ENGLISH



*Hum Bharat Ke Log Aaj
Imaandari, Kartavyanishta Aur
Pratibadhata Ke Saath*

*Apni Soch, Karm Aur Kathni Me Desh Ke
Hit Ko
Sarbohari Rakhte Hue Iis Bhumi Ke Yash
Hetu*

*Rashtra Ke Seva Me Antah Karanse
Atmarpit Karte Hein.*



हम भारत के लोभ आज
ईमानदारी, कर्तव्यनिष्ठा
और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ

अपनी शोच कर्म और कथनी में
देश के हित को
सर्वोपरि रक्षते हुए

इस भूमि के यश हेतु
राष्ट्र की सेवा में
अन्तःकरण से आत्मार्पित करते हैं।

HINDI



*Aami Xakalo Bharatiyai Aaji
Xatata, Kartavyanishta Aaru
Pratibadhatare*

*Amar Chinta, Karma Aaru Kathanat
Dexar Hit Xarbopari Rakhi Ehi Dexar
Yaxar Hetu
Rasthrar Xewat Nijake
Uxargita Karibalai*

Antarara Pura Pratigyabadha Haicho



আমি সকলো ভাৰতীয়ই আজি
সততা, কৰ্তব্যনিষ্ঠা
আৰু প্ৰতিবন্ধতাৰে
আমাৰ চিন্তা, কৰ্ম আৰু কথনত
দেশৰ হিত সৰ্বোপৰি ৰাখি
এই দেশৰ যশৰ হেতু
ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ সেৱাত নিজকে উৎসৰ্গিত কৰিবলৈ
অন্তৰৰ পৰা প্ৰতিজ্ঞাবদ্ধ হৈছো।

ASSAMESE



*Aamra Bharater Janagana Aaj
Satata, Ekonishthota
Evam Pratibadhatara Sange
Amader Chintai, Kaaje-o-kathae
Desher Gaurab Ke Mohottar Karar Jonyo*

*Ei Desher Shebai Attoniyoger Sapath
Graham Kari*



আমরা ভারতের জনগণ আজ
সততা, একনিষ্ঠতা এবং প্রতিবন্ধতার সঙ্গে
আমাদের চিন্তায়, কাজে ও কথায়
দেশের গৌরবকে মহত্তর করার জন্য
এই দেশের সেবায় আত্মনিয়োগের
শপথ গ্রহণ করি।

BENGALI



*Jwng dinwi Bharatni subungfwra thar
swithwjwng gaokhwonw gws
gwtharwi, sangrangthiywi hadwr sabinaini
thakhai satbanga layw di –
Jwngni gaswibw sannai maonai aba
bungnai thirangthaywi
hadwrni thangkikhwo jwosinao lakhinw
oraibw hadwrni dersin gwggathaini
thakhai man lakhinw haba maolangwn.*



“जॉ दिनें भारतनि सुबुंफोरा थार सैथोजॉ गावखौनो गोसो गोथारे, सांयांथियै हादोरनि सिबिनायनि थाखाय सतबांसा लायो दि -

जॉनि गासैबो सान्नाय मावनाय एबा बूनाय थिरांथायै हादोरनि थाखिखौं जॉसिनाव लाखिनो अरायबो हादोरनि देरसिन गोम्गाथायनि थाखाय मान लाखिनो हाबा मावलांगोन ।”

BODO



***Us Bharat De Naagrik Ajj Poorie Vidhi
Kanne Sagandh Laine Aan, Je Apne
Mulkha Di Sewa Us Imaandaari, Nishtha Te
Jimmedaari Kanne Karge.
Us Apni Dharti Da Gaurav Banaie Rakhne
Aaste, Apni Soch, Karam Te Waani-Ch
Apne Mulkha De Hiten Gi Mahesha Opper
Rakhge.***



अस, भारत दे नागरिक अज्ज पूरी विधी कन्ने सगंध लैने' आं, जे अपने मुल्खा दी सेवा, अस इमानदारी, निष्ठा ते जिम्मेदारी कन्ने करगे। अस अपनी धरती दा गौरव बनाई रखने आस्ते, अपनी सोच, कर्म ते वाणी' च अपने मुल्खा दे हितें गी म्हेशा उपर रखगे।

DOGRI



*Ame Badha Bharaityo
Aajne
Pramanikta. Kartavyanishtha Ane
Laganpoorvak
Potana Vichar, Karma And Vaaniman
Desina Hitne
Sarvopari Rakhine
Aabhumina Gaurav Kaaje
Rashtraani Sevaman
Antahkaranpoorvak
Aatmarpita Karie Chhie*



અમે બધા ભારતીયો
આજના દિવસે
પ્રામાણિકતા કર્તવ્યનિષ્ઠા
અને લગનપૂર્વક
પોતાના વિચાર, કર્મ અને
વાણીમાં દેશના હિતને
સર્વોપરી રાખીને
આ લૂમિના ગૌરવ કાળે
રાષ્ટ્રની સેવામાં
અંતઃ કરાણપૂર્વક
આત્માર્થિત કરીએ છીએ

GUJARATI



Nabhu Ella Bharateeyaru Ei Dina

*Pramanikate, Kartavyanishthate Haagu
Baddhategalondige*

*Naama Vichara. Nade Nudryalli Deshada
Hitavanu Sarvashrestha Endu Tilidu*

*Ee Nelada Hirimegagi
Rashtra Sevege
Santoshadinda Aatma Samarpane
Madutteve Endu P
ratijne Madutteve*



ನಾವು ಎಲ್ಲ ಭಾರತೀಯರು ಈ ದಿನ
ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆ, ಕರ್ತವ್ಯನಿಷ್ಠೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಬದ್ಧತೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಚಾರ,
ನಡೆನುಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೇಶದ ಹಿತವನ್ನು
ಸರ್ವಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿದು
ಈ ನೆಲದ ಹಿರಿಮೆಗಾಗಿ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಸಂತೋಷದಿಂದ
ಆತ್ಮಸಮರ್ಪಣೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದು
ಪ್ರತಿಜ್ಞೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.

KANNADA



*Aasi Bhartik Luck Chay
Aaj Ahad Karan*

*Ze Asi Karo Mulkech Khadmad
Imandari, Saaf Dilli Te
Chike Saam*

*Te Pranth Koni, Kami
Sochas Te Katha Maanj
Thavov Hamesh Mulki Mafadat
Sare Firist*

*Yeme Seethe Yeme Sarzaminikis Bajras
Menz Huvayar Sarp De*



اَسُو جبارتھر لَوَکھ چھ
اَز ہبہ کران
زِ اَسُو کَرُو مَلِکِ خدمت
ایمانداری ، صاف دہلی تہ
پڑیکہ سان
تہ پرتھ کورن کاٹھو
سو جس تہ کتیمہ مننر
خفا دہ ، ہمیشہ ملکی عفا دات
میر فرہت
تہ ہم تہ تہی سر زمین کس
بھر رس مننر تہو ریر سپر تہ

KASHMIRI



*Aaiz aami Bharatiya Naagrik aplea dexachi
seva
pramaanikponnan, uzu cholnuuken aani
lagnnuken
korpa hetan oso spout ghetat ki amchem
chintop, kruti
ani ulovp he vorvim amchea dexachea
hitsombondhaank sogleant unchelem
pradhanya divn
he maaibhuyechea mhaan mahime khatir
vavurtele.*



आयज आमी भारतीय नागरीक आपल्या देशाची
सेवा प्रामाणीकपण , उजू चलणुकेन आनी
लागणुकेन करपा हेतान असो सोपूत घेतात की
आमचें चिंतप, कृती आनी उलोवप हेवरवीं
आमच्या देशाच्या हितसंबंदाक सगल्यांत उंचेलें
प्राधान्य दिवन ह्या मायभुंयेच्या म्हान महिमे
खातीर वावुरतले.

KONKANI



***India Rajyathe Janangalaya Njangal
Rashtra Sevenathinai Atmarthatayodum***

Satyasandatayodum, Pratibeddathayodum

***Nilakollumenne Innu Drida Prainja
Cheyyunnu Njangalude Chinthaayilum***

***Vakillum Pravartiyilum Rajyatapariya
Thinum Rajyathinte Unnmanathinum***

Pradahannyam Nalkum



ഇന്ത്യാ രാജ്യത്തെ
ജനങ്ങളായ ഞങ്ങൾ
രാഷ്ട്രസേവനത്തിനായി
ആത്മാർഥതയോടും
സത്യസന്ധതയോടും
പ്രതിബദ്ധതയോടുംകൂടി
നിലകൊള്ളുമെന്ന്
ദൃഢപ്രതിജ്ഞ ചെയ്യുന്നു.
ഞങ്ങളുടെ ചിന്തയിലും
വാക്കിലും
പ്രവർത്തിയിലും
രാജ്യതാത്പര്യത്തിനും
രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ
ഉന്നമനത്തിനും
പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകും.

MALAYALAM



*Ngasi,
Bharat macha eikhoina
Pukchel shengna
Ithou mashak khangna*

*Amasung,
Lipun amaga loinana
Isagee pukning, thabak
Amasung waheida,
Leibakkee aphaba haibasina*

*Athoiba oina
Thamduna
Leibakkee mingchatkkeedamakta
Sebada pukning-hakchang
Pumnamak katchari.*

NB : Manipuri has two scripts meitei and Bengali.



গুসি,

ভারত মচা ঐখোয়না
পুকচেল শেংনা
ইথৌ মশক খঙনা
অমসুং,
লিপুন অমগা লোইননা
ইশাগী পুক্ৰিং, থবক
অমসুং রাইদা,
লৈবাক্কী অফবা হায়বসিনা
অথোয়বা ওইনা
থমদুনা
লৈবাক্কী মীংচৎকীদমন্তা
সেবাদা পুক্ৰিং-হকচাং
পুন্নমক কৎচরি।

MANIPURI



*Ngasi,
Bharat macha eikhoina
Pukchel shengna
Ithou mashak khangna*

*Amasung,
Lipun amaga loinana
Isagee pukning, thabak
Amasung waheida,
Leibakkee aphaba haibasina*

*Athoiba oina
Thamduna
Leibakkee mingchatkkeedamakta
Sebada pukning-hakchang
Pumnamak katchari.*

NB : Manipuri has two scripts meitei and Bengali.

*Aamhi Sare Bharatiya Aaj
Pramanik Pana, Karthavyanishta
Ani Katibadhatesaha*

*Aapne Vichar, Karya Ani
Vaani Madhye
Rashtra Hitala Agrabhagi Theoon
Ya Bhumichya Utkarshasathi*

*Rashtrasevet Swatahla Samarpit Karat
Aahot*



आम्ही सारे भारतीय आज
प्रामाणिकपणा. कर्तव्यनिष्ठा आणि
कटिबद्धतेसह
आपले विचार. कार्य आणि वाणिमध्ये
राष्ट्रहिताला अगभागी ठेवून
या भूमिच्या उत्कर्षासाठी
राष्ट्रसेवेत श्रमतःला
समर्पित करत आहोत ।

MARATHI



BOOK OF PLEDGE



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*Hum Bharatak Lok Aai
Imaandari, Kartavyanistha
Aa Pratibatdhtakein Sung*

*Apan Soch Karm aur Kathani Mein
Desak Hitakein Sarvopari Rakhait*

*Ehi Bhoomik Yash Hetu
Rashtrak Sevamein
Antahkaransaan Atmarpit Karait Chi*



हम भारतक लोक आइ
इमानदारी, कर्तव्यनिष्ठा
आ प्रतिबद्धताकेँ संग
अपन सोच, कर्म आ कथनीमे
देशक हितकेँ सर्वोपरि राखैत
एहि भूमिक यश हेतु
राष्ट्रक सेवामे
अन्तःकरणसँ आत्मार्पित करैत छी

MAITHILI



BOOK OF PLEDGE



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*Hami Bharatka manisaharule aaj
rashtrahitalai sarvopari rakhde
yas deshko bruhatyash-kirtika lagi
satyanisth, imaandar ani pratibadh raheer
aapno pratyek man, bachan, wa karmale
rashtra sevama samarpit rahane
sankalp gardhchon*



हामी भारतका मानिसहरूले आज,
राष्ट्रहितलाई सर्वोपरी राख्दै,
यस देशको वृहद यश-कीर्तिका लागि,
सत्यनिष्ठ, इमानदार, अनि प्रतिबद्ध रहेर,
आफ्नो प्रत्येक मन, वचन वा कर्मले,
राष्ट्र सेवामा समर्पित रहने संकल्प गर्द छौं ।

NEPALI



*Ame Sabu Bharatiya Aji Sachotapania,
Kartavyanishtha*

*O Pratibadhata Sahita
Bhabana, Karma O Bachanare
Deshara Hitaku
Sabutharu Urdhware Rakhi Ehi Bhumira*

*Seva O Jasha Pain
Nijaku Arpana Karuchu*



ଆମେ ସବୁ ଭାରତୀୟ ଆଜି
ସଜ୍ଜାତପଣିଆ, କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟନିଷ୍ଠ
ଓ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧତା ସହିତ
ଭାବନା, କର୍ମ ଓ ବଚନରେ
ଦେଶର ହିତକୁ
ସବୁଠାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱରେ ରଖି
ଏହି ଭୂମିର ସେବା ଓ ସମ୍ମାନ
ନିଜକୁ ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛୁ ।

ODIA



*Aseen Sarey Bharatiya
Aj Dey Din
Emandari, Ashe Dil
Atey Vachanbadhta Naal
Aapni Soch, Karam Ate Kathani
Vich
Desh De Hit Nu
Sarabuch Rakhde Hoyey
Iis Dharati Di Mahima Layee
Rashtra De Seve Vich
Aatam Arpit Kardey Haan*



ਅਸੀਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਭਾਰਤੀਏ
ਅਜ ਦੇ ਦਿਨ
ਈਮਾਨਦਾਰੀ, ਸੱਚੇ ਦਿਲ
ਅਤੇ ਵਚਨਬੱਧਤਾ ਨਾਲ
ਆਪਣੀ ਸੋਚ, ਕਰਮ ਅਤੇ ਕਥਨੀ ਵਿੱਚ
ਦੇਸ਼ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਤ ਨੂੰ
ਸਰਬਓਚ ਰਖਦੇ ਹੋਏ
ਇਸ ਧਰਤੀ ਦੀ ਮਹਿਮਾ ਲਈ
ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿੱਚ
ਆਤਮਾ ਅਰਪਿਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

PUNJABI



*Vayam Bharaityah Adya
Satyanisthaya, Kartavyanisthaya
Pratibadhataya Cha*

*Manasa, Bacha, Karmana Cha
Rashtrahitam Sarvopari Sthapayantah*

*Ashya Bhumeh Yashashi
Rashtra Sevaye Cha
Antakaranena
Atmanam Arpayamah*



वयम् भारतीयाः अद्य
सत्यनिष्ठया, कर्तव्यनिष्ठया
प्रतिबद्धतया च
मनसा, वाचा, कर्मणा च
राष्ट्रहितं सर्वोपरि स्थापयन्तः
अस्याः भ्रूमेः यशसे
राष्ट्रसेवाय च अन्तः करणेन
आत्मान अर्पयामः

SANSKRIT



*iñ bharot rinic' teheñ
sot monot dāika ṭhauka
ar mukrut' salak'
apnar uihar, kami ar katha re
disom renak' suluk nirai ko
bochok' re dohoy tuluc'
nōa ot hasa reyak'
man mohot lagit'
jati ari muluk renak seware
ridoy gar reñ apnaret' kana*



ଗଦା ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀରାଜୀ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଓଢ଼ିଆ
 ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀରାଜୀ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଓଢ଼ିଆ
 ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀରାଜୀ ଶ୍ରୀକୃଷ୍ଣ ଓଢ଼ିଆ

SANTHALI



*A Jee Asan Bharatvasi Aseen Paan Saan
Jansidah vaido tha karyoon
Ta Aseen Asan Desh Ji Sewa Imandari,
Sachai ain Sordigi Saan Kardaseen.*

*Asan Jeko wateh sochindaseen, Kardaseen
ya chavandaseen, Tahan mehen je faidan
lehe Aalah Darje te Rakhande.*

*Dehen je shaan maan khe
mathe Rakhandsa seen.*



اڄ اسان ڀارتواسي پاڻ سان سنڃيده وعدو ٿا
ڪيون ته اسان ديش جي سيوا ايمانداري، سچائي
۽ سپردگي سان ڪنداسين - اسان جيڪو ڪجه
سوچينداسين ، ڪنداسين يا چونداسين، تنهنمي
ديش جي فائيدن کي اعليٰ درجي تي رکندي ، ديش
جي شان مان ڪي مٿي رکنداسين -

SINDHI



*Bharat Desha
Makalana Naam Indru*

*Indha Urudi Mojhiai Yerkiram
Deshasevayiyai Unmaiudandum
Nermaiyanum Matrum
Visvasa Thudandum*

*Eppozhudum Desha Nalanai
Munvaithum*

*Ninaipathe Llam Solvathellam
Indha Desha Menmaikke*



பாரத தேச மக்களாகிய நாம் இன்று இந்த உறுதி
மொழியை ஏற்கிறோம்:

தேச சேவையை உண்மையுடனும், நேர்மையுடனும்
மற்றும் விகவாசத்துடனும் எப்பொழுதும் தேச
நலனை முன்வைத்தும் நினைப்பதெல்லாம்,
செய்வதெல்லாம், சொல்வதெல்லாம் இந்த தேச
மேன்மைக்கே.

TAMIL



*Bharateeyulamaina Manamu
Desham Patla Nijayati,
Pratibadhata Mariyu*

*Ankitabhabam Kaligi Vuntamani
Kartavyanisthato, Shuddha Antakaranato*

*Desha Gauravani Samagratanu
Kapadatamani*

Ei Rojuna Pratigna Chestunnamu



భారతీయులమైన మనము
దేశంపట్ల నిజాయితీ,
ప్రతిబద్ధత మరియు
అంకిత భావం కలిగి ఉంటామని,
కర్తవ్యనిష్ఠతో, శుద్ధ అంతఃకరణతో
దేశ గౌరవాన్ని
సమగ్రతను కాపాడుతామని
ఈ రోజున ప్రతిజ్ఞ చేస్తున్నాము

TELUGU



*Hum Bharatiya Awam Aaj
Yeh Ahad Karte Hain
Imandari, Khaloos Aur Lagan Sey Karenge
Aur*

*Aapne Har Soch, Amal Aur Quol Mein
Mulki Mufadat Ko
Aalah Darjay Par Rakhte Huway*

*Es Sar-e-zameen Ke Azmat Key
Bulandi Key Liyay Waqf Ho Jayen*



ہم بھارتیہ عوام آج
یہ عہدہ کرتے ہیں
کہ ہم اپنے وطن کی خدمت
ایمانداری، اخلاص اور لگن
سے کریں گے اور
اپنی ہر سوج، عمل اور قول میں
ملک مفادات کو اعلیٰ درجہ دیتے ہوئے
اس سرزمین کی عظمت کی
جلندی کیلئے وقف ہو جائیں۔

URDU



Festival of Fundamental Duties

Transitioning from a monarchy of 549 kingdoms to a democracy called India, that is Bharat was indeed a thrilling experience for the country's 350 million people. Overnight, this vast multitude of subjects, an overwhelming majority of whom were illiterate, became citizens empowered to shape their country's future. But even before the country was born on August 15, 1947, its objectives were clearly envisioned. On December 13, 1946, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru moved the Objective Resolution in the Constituent Assembly. It was unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947. The Preamble in the draft constitution was taken up by the Constituent Assembly only a month before the final adoption of all the articles of the Constitution in order to ensure that it was in conformity with the draft articles already debated and adopted.



The Preamble reads,

“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 twenty sixth day of November, 1949 do HERE BY ADOPT, ENACT, AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

The words SOCIALIST AND SECULAR were not there in the Preamble when it was enacted. These were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

When the Preamble envisions goals to be realised by the people of India, it means the people of this country owe it to themselves to uphold the constitutional values and abide by them. Thus, came the Fundamental Duties in the 42nd Amendment Act, and Article 51A was added to the Constitution.



51A. Fundamental duties

[After Part IV of the Constitution, the following Part shall be inserted Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976] It shall be the duty of every citizen of India-

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem;

(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

(c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

(d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

(f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

(g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;

(h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the

spirit of inquiry and reform;

(i) to safeguard public properly and to abjure violence;

(j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.

(k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years.

In 2016, the Government of India officially announced celebration of November 26 as Constitution Day with Fundamental Duties as the theme. We must remember that November 26, 1949 is the most significant day in the history of the country as people collectively became its owners. Such a paradigm shift was unprecedented in the history of this country.

However, this ownership to the people comes with a huge responsibility, and that responsibility is to **CULTIVATE GOOD CITIZENRY FOR A HEALTHY COUNTRY**. This because the health of any country primarily depends upon the quality of its citizens.



About Build India Group

Like the river Ganga, which begins as a small stream formed by melting glacier drops and grows as it is joined by many tributaries, the Build India Group (BIG) too began as a modest idea that gained strength through collaboration.

It started with two lawyers—Biraja Mahapatra and Nishant Datta—of the Delhi High Court, who, along with a group of journalists and professionals, began discussing national issues between 2006 and 2008. The organization was formally registered as a society in 2008. During this time, Mahapatra, the group’s founder, authored *My Call: For the greater glory of this land*, which included the first version of the Citizen’s Pledge.

The pledge was initially tested in a private school in East Delhi by Principal Pradosh K. Debi, where students wrote and recited it during their Republic Day celebrations. Encouraged by the remarkable impact of this exercise, the group decided to translate the pledge into all official Indian languages and to introduce it in other educational institutions nationwide. Institutional leaders across the country welcomed the idea and many implemented it enthusiastically.

The pledge was soon available in fourteen official languages apart from English—Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu—ensuring uniformity in

content. This monumental task was accomplished with the support of numerous dedicated citizens and language experts.

Eventually, the pledge was adopted by a large number of educational institutions across the country in the form of a “Pledge Festival,” held on the third Saturday of January each year. Due to the harsh winter conditions in northern and northeastern India, the date was later moved to November 26—the day when, in 1949, the people of India became the rightful owners of their country. The festival’s format evolved over time: students would write the pledge in their mother tongue, recite it together in unison, and preserve the document as a symbol of their personal commitment to the nation.

In the last week of November 2015, while Parliament was paying tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as part of the Constitution Day programme, former Rajya Sabha MP A. V. Swamy drew the government’s attention to the initiative undertaken by the Build India Group. Subsequently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi constituted a cabinet committee comprising three ministers—HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar, Social Justice Minister T. S. Gehlot, and Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram—to consider formal recognition of the festival.

As an advisor to the organization, Mr. Swamy wrote to the HRD Minister on October 13, 2016, outlining an action plan for Constitution Day celebrations on November 26.



The plan and supporting documents were also shared with the other two ministers.

The letter stated: “I am forwarding herewith a brochure and a timeline prepared by the civil society organization Build India Group, which has been successfully conducting activities to instil a sense of belonging to the nation among students for the past eight years. The proposed timeline, if implemented, could have a nationwide impact. I request you to kindly review it in the context of the upcoming Constitution Day programme.”

On October 30, 2016, Minister Prakash Javadekar responded, confirming that educational institutions had been directed to celebrate Constitution Day by focusing on the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Constitution of India. He noted that the pledge’s emphasis on rejecting violence and maintaining environmental cleanliness aligned naturally with these duties and would find expression in essays, debates, and speeches organized by schools and colleges nationwide.

Thus, the official celebration of Constitution Day with “Fundamental Duties” as its theme began in 2016. However, the exercise of writing, reciting, and committing oneself to the nation’s well-being remains to be expanded on a larger scale. The process is simple: students across India should write the pledge—preferably in their mother tongue—have it signed by their parents (or, in residential schools, by two friends or faculty members), and bring it to their education-

al institutions on November 26. They should then recite the pledge together as part of Constitution Day celebrations, which may also include essays, debates, and cultural programmes based on the theme of Fundamental Duties.

Such a national exercise would naturally encourage reflection and dialogue on the meaning of Indianness and its spirit of unity.

The pledge has now been translated into all 22 official languages of India, including Bodo, Dogri, Konkani, Maithili, Manipuri, Sindhi, and Santhali. Each version has been carefully transliterated into English, symbolizing both the country's linguistic diversity and its underlying unity. Today, the Citizen's Pledge stands as a unifying instrument, bringing together Indians from every region, language, and background into one indivisible nation.





This initiative was made possible through the support of distinguished individuals from across the country, including Dr. Umakanta Mishra (former spokesperson, Government of India), writers Dash Benhur, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Ambika Nanda, P. S. Bindra, Utpal Borpujari, and journalists V. Mohan Rao, Abhijit Lele, Vivek Varshney, R. Suryamurthy, R. Venkatraman, Ameer Sahul, A. K. Roy, G. V. M. Ramanna, the late V. K. Sharma, the late Ranjan Mahapatra, Anant Trivedi, Anuma Acharya, Pramod Chawla, Pankaj Sukhija, Jai Keshwarwani, the late P. J. Naidu, Senior Advocates Rajeev Saxena, Rakesh Khanna, A. K. Behera, Sukumar Patjoshi, and advocates Dr. Surat Singh, S. K. Malhotra, H. R. Khan Suhel, Ashwini Kumar Sood, Ashwini Kumar Dubey, Rakesh Chitkara, D. R. Rao, Rajeev Kumar, the late V. K. Sharma, Subhro Roy, Ramakant Gaur, S. K. Raut, Pratap Kumar Dash, Panchajanya Batra Singh, Soumya Singh, Soumyajit Pani, Sri Sridev Nanda, Dwijendra Kumar, Vandana Hingorani, Parthasarathi Satapathy, Vedavyas Kundu, and Dipesh Kumar Satpathy

Together, they have contributed to shaping a living tradition of national unity and civic responsibility through the Citizen's Pledge.



About the Author



Biraja Mahapatra is an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court of India and the founder of the Delhi-based civil society, Build India Group. After a stint in journalism in various capacities with Odisha's Odia newspaper Sambad, the English

newspaper Sun Times, and news agencies PTI and Reuters between 1987 and 2001, Mahapatra entered the legal profession as a lawyer in 2001. He founded Build India Group in 2006, when he shared his idea of the Pledge as a tool to promote citizen consciousness in the country.

Mahapatra, hailing from Sarangadharpur in Odisha's Nayagarh district, has authored the English books "*My Call: For the greater glory of this land*" and "*Audacity of Dreams*." He has also written the popular Odia novel "*Saria Nani*," the story collection "*Saathi*," the Odia non-fiction "*Atanka Ku Uttara*," and the poetry collection "*Dinalipira Gitalipi*."

"*Book of Pledge*" is his latest work, in which the English Pledge, originally part of "*My Call: For the greater glory of this land*," has been translated into all official languages with consistent content, so that on Constitution Day, students across the country can write the Pledge in their mother tongue and involve their parents in the exercise.