

In the past 75 years of our history, very little has been discussed about this particular day. November 26, 1949 was, collectively, the greatest day of transformation for the people of India. Its significance is greater than even Independence Day, Republic Day, or any other national celebration.

How?

Because on this day, we became the owners of India. Before this day, the people of this land were subjects—subjects of kings and princely states.

The Constituent Assembly, on behalf of the nation, adopted along with the Constitution the Preamble for the people of this nation. Meaning: irrespective of religion, caste, or class, the previously divided population of this country was declared the collective owner of India.

We gained the right to equality and social justice. We gained the right to govern our own nation. The campaign to end the heinous practice of untouchability entered judicial enforcement.

A Constitution was secured to provide philosophy, structure, skill, and unity to a deeply fragmented and hunger-stricken India.

Fifteen Articles of the Constitution (such as Articles 5–9 on Citizenship; Article 60 on the Presidency; Article 324 on the Election Commission; Article 366 defining constitutional terms;

Article 367 on interpretation of terms; and Article 394 naming the Constitution) came into effect on November 26, 1949. Articles 379, 380, 388, 391, 392, and 393 also came into force on this day, but they were later removed through the Seventh Constitutional Amendment of 1956, as these were related to the transfer of authority from British rule to constitutional governance, and were temporary provisions.

When the people of India became the owners of their own home, it also became essential that they take responsibility for governing such a vast home.

This is what November 26 reminds us of. We are now the owners of the Indian boat. We are the helmsmen. We shall steer India. This is our rightful authority and our duty.

That is why the Preamble is a document of ownership— of Indians, by Indians, and for Indians.

Just as Raksha Bandhan is a festival of sacred responsibility, so too is today's Constitution Day a festival of our moral responsibility toward the nation.

Let us together take this 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 nations interest paramount in all that we think, do or say for the greater glory of this land“.**

Jay Bharat.