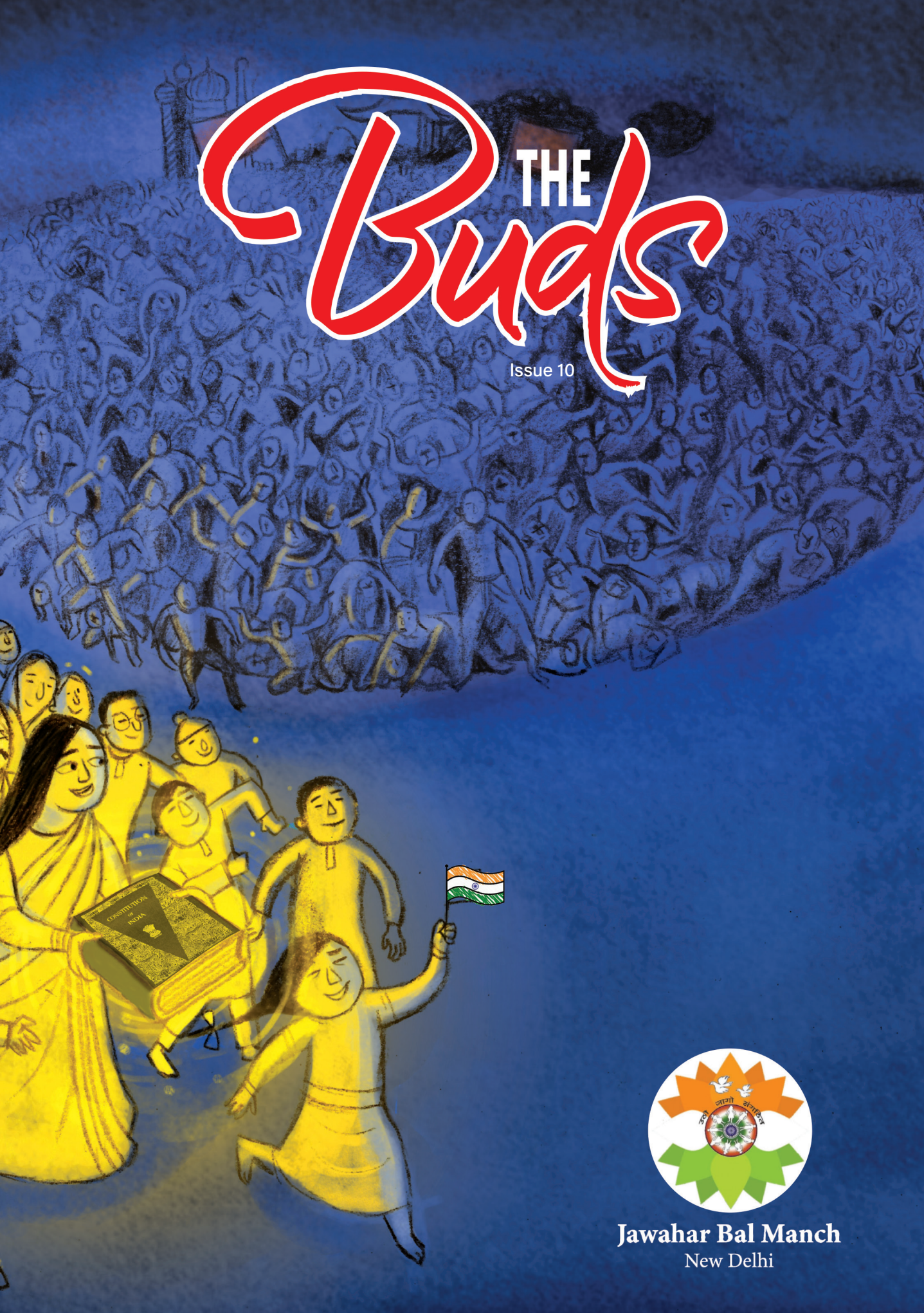
THE Buds

Issue 10



Jawahar Bal Manch
New Delhi

Our Constitution

THE Buds

Issue 10



Jawahar Bal Manch
Publication

THE Buds
Issue 10

Dear friends,

The Indian Constitution holds the reputation of being the longest written constitution that any sovereign country in the world has. It delineates the fundamental political code, structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the government institutions. It also extensively explains the fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens.

The original text of the Constitution contained 395 articles in 22 parts and eight schedules which was hand drafted in both Hindi and English language. It took the members of the Constituent Assembly two years, 11 months, and 17 days to draft the Constitution. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and signed by 284 members of the Constituent Assembly two days before it came into effect on 26th Jan 1950. The number of articles has since increased to 448 due to over 100 amendments. They original written copies are currently kept in helium-filled cases in the library of the Parliament House.

When addressing the Constituent Assembly after being elected as Permanent Chairman, Dr Rajendra Prasad delivered a noteworthy address, "The work of this Constituent Assembly is most arduous and comes at a critical time…If we are sincere, if we respect each other's opinion, we shall develop so much insight that we will not only be able to understand each other's thoughts but also be able to go deep to the root and understand each other's real troubles… We have been fighting for the freedom of our country for a long time. The Constituent Assembly has been brought into existence by three forces."

Dr Rajendra Prasad explained these three forces - the sacrifice of patriots, the history of the British nation and the present world conditions and serious situation and the forces that are raging in the world. In Dr Rajendra Prasad's words, "All these combined together to bring into our Constituent Assembly." We hope this edition of BUDS will give you a general idea about the process of the making of the constitution and its unique features. We are greatly indebted to Sachin Raoji for precious inputs and illustrations used for this special issue.

Warmly
Yours truly

G. V. Hari



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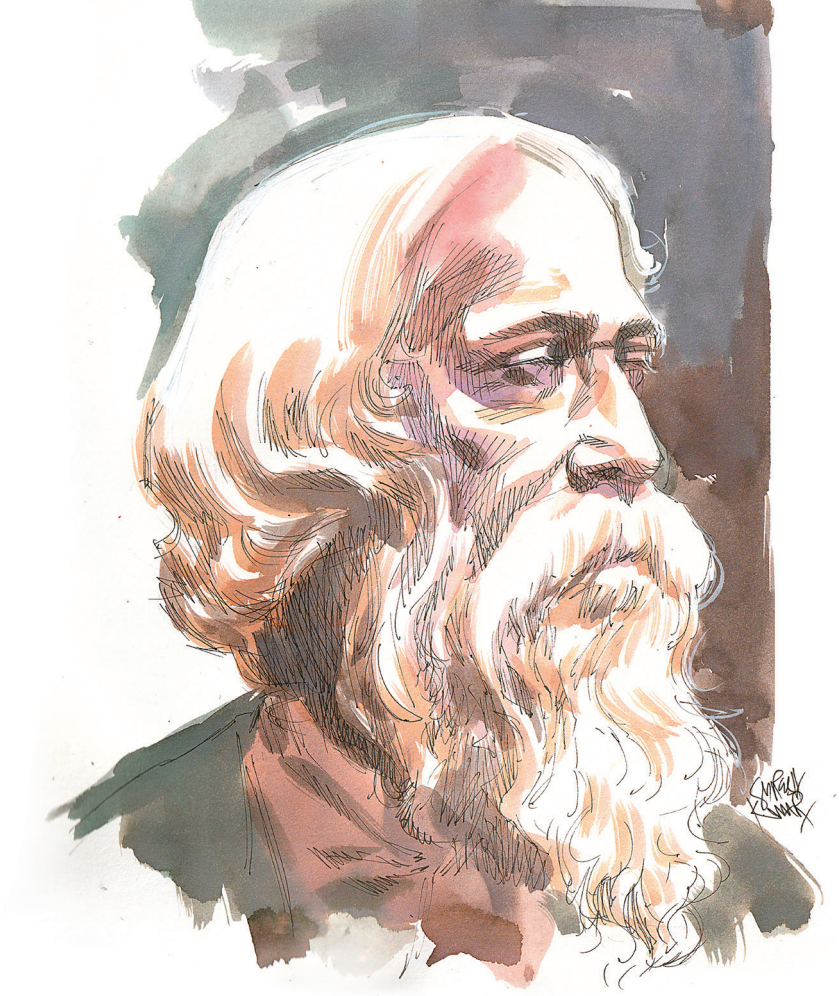
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Where The Mind Is Without Fear

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

We are India

India is our home

We live and grow here. We study, work and play here. The people, places and things we love are here. India is where we build our lives and pursue our dreams.

Indians are one family

We share a common home. We are deeply inter-connected with each other. We depend upon each other and we must care for and nurture each other.

We are building our shared home together

Every single Indian, old or young, seen or unseen, famous or unknown, rich or poor, educated or illiterate, is an invaluable and irreplaceable part of India. As farmers, soldiers and teachers; as laborers, drivers and cleaners; as parents, neighbors and friends; as doctors, engineers and officers; as thinkers, writers and students; as migrants, refugees and activists; each of us is creating India with our thoughts, words and deeds.



India is also our shared responsibility

How should we go about fulfilling this responsibility towards our home and our family? In what direction should we take the Country? What are our rights and duties as Indians? How should we treat our fellow Indians?

The Constitution of India tells us how to fulfill this responsibility

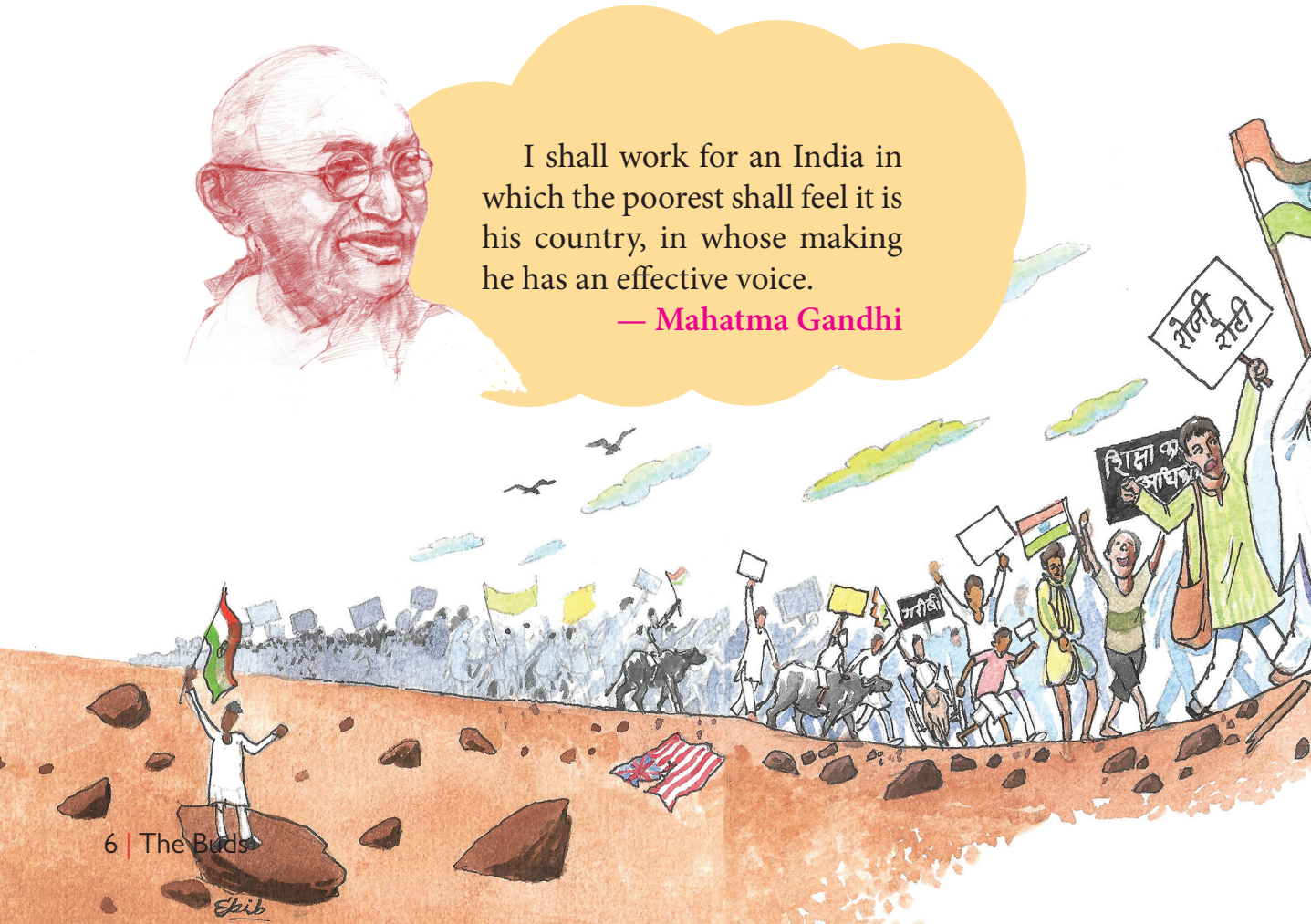
It answers all these questions and more. It shows a path by which we can nurture the dream of every Indian and weave it into one National fabric, diverse, united and strong.

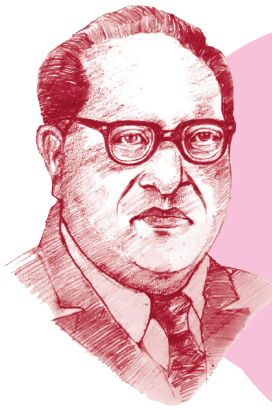
Come let us explore the remarkable path shown by our Constitution!



The Spirit Behind our Struggle for Freedom

After a long struggle against oppression, India finally became free on 15th August, 1947. Many leaders and millions of Indians participated in this movement. They all made incredible sacrifices and understood India and its problems very deeply. **They struggled against the British but also against the many forms of slavery that imprisoned our society**. The leaders of this movement had different approaches to the struggle but they all shared a similar vision for the kind of Country that India should be.





Unless you change your social order you can achieve little by way of progress…You cannot built anything on the foundations of caste. You cannot build up a nation, you cannot build up a morality. Anything you will build on the foundations of caste will crack and will never be a whole.

— Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar



The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity…as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over.

— Jawaharlal Nehru

By Revolution we mean that the present order of things, which is based on manifest injustice must change. Producers or labourers…are robbed by their exploiters… The peasant who grows corn for all, starves with his family; the weaver who supplies the world market with textile fabrics, has not enough to cover his own and his children's bodies; masons, smiths and carpenters who raise magnificent palaces, live like pariahs in the slums.

— Bhagat Singh



These leaders realized that Indians were not just enslaved by the British.

- We were also enslaved by **poverty** that brought starvation, illiteracy and helplessness.
- We were enslaved by **discrimination** that reduced women, oppressed castes, tribal and other sections of society to second-class citizens.
- We were enslaved by **inequality** that concentrated wealth, status and power in the hands of the privileged few.
- We were enslaved by **dictatorship** that gave no voice to the common people.

They realized that to achieve true freedom would require a revolution. **A social revolution** that transforms society by protecting, empowering and emancipating the oppressed. **A peaceful revolution** that brings about change without anger, violence or hate. **A collective revolution** that includes every section of society and which brings with it the strength and wisdom of a Nation standing united.

The makers of the Constitution were guided by this dream of bringing about a social revolution through peaceful and democratic means



"I consider that the great national sin is the neglect of the masses, and that is one of the causes of our downfall. No amount of politics would be of any avail until the masses in India are once more well educated, well fed, and well cared for. If we want to regenerate India, we must work for them. "

— Swami Vivekanand



What is the Constitution?

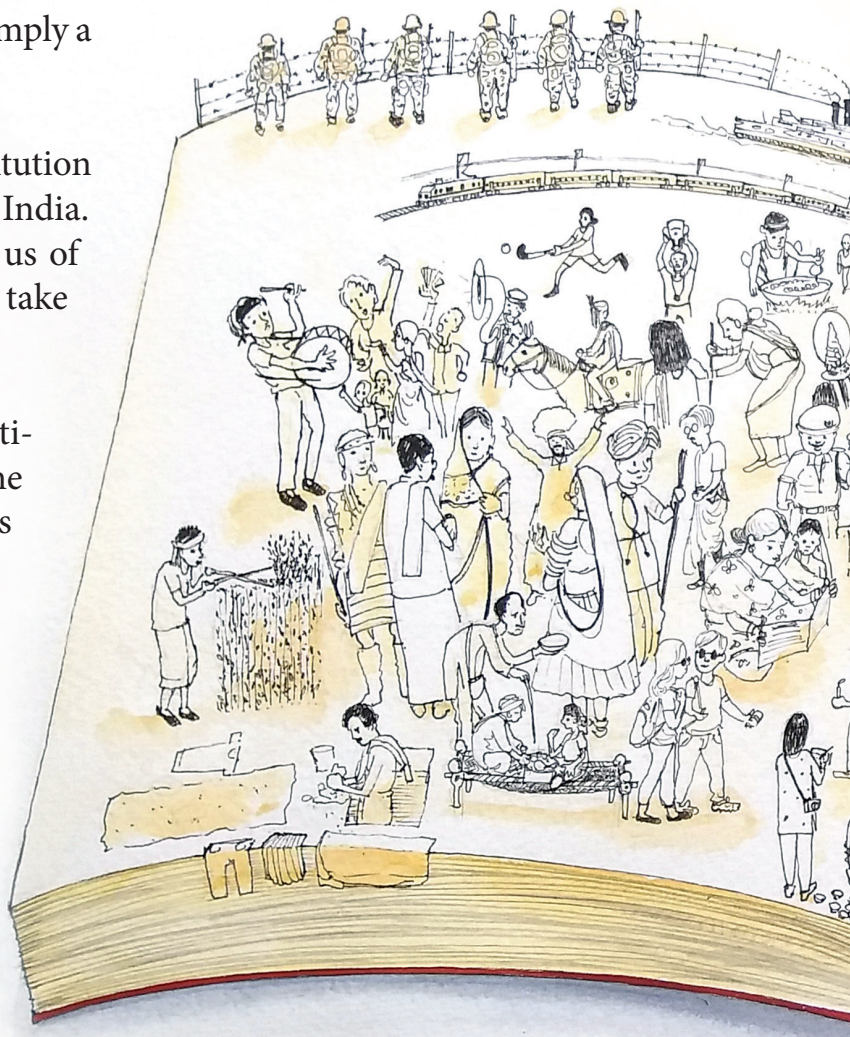
The Constitution is a collection of ideas and rules that enables Indians to live and work as one. It is the Supreme Law of India. There is no authority higher than the Constitution.

But the Constitution is not simply a rulebook. It is…

A shared dream. The Constitution lays out our collective vision for India. This vision constantly reminds us of the direction in which we must take our Country.

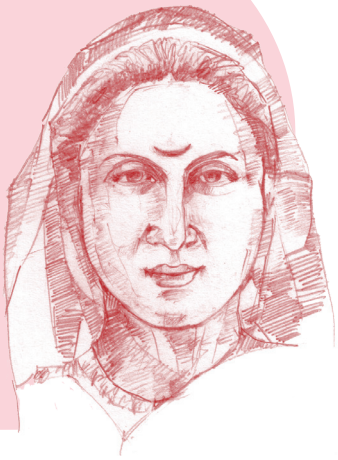
A mutual Promise. The Constitution promises every Indian the rights, protections and powers needed to build a life of dignity. It defines the responsibilities that we promise to undertake in return.

The blueprint of our Country The Constitution tells us how our Country should function. It defines institutions such as the States, the Parliament, Courts and the Cabinet and processes such as elections, budgets and law-making that allow the Country to work in the service of the people.



Through her lifelong work to protect and serve widows, women, outcasts, children, the sick and other others abandoned by society she showed us the ways in which we were failing as a society. Through her revolutionary work to educate women and dalits, she showed us a path by which we could heal ourselves.

— Savitrimai Phule



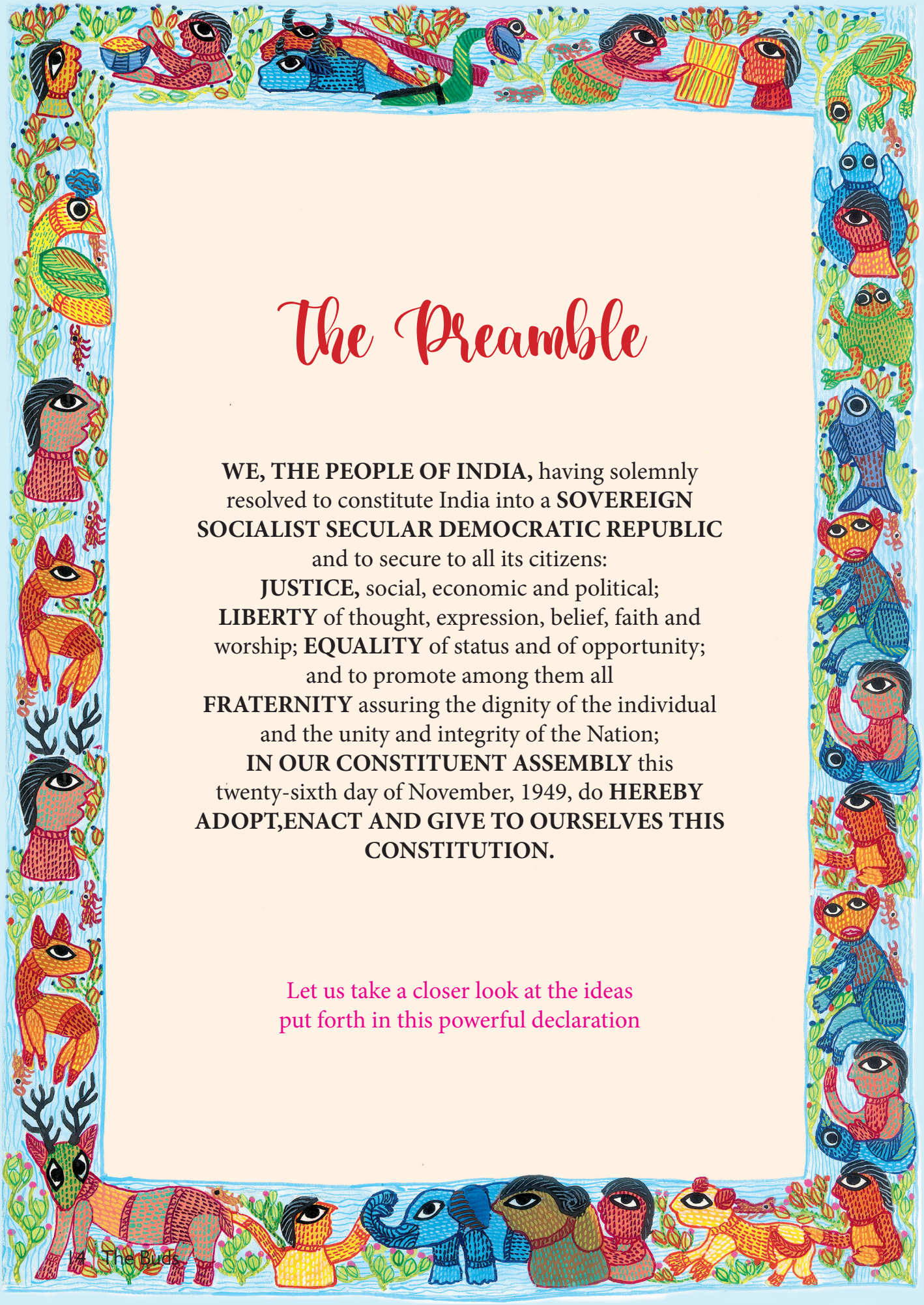


How was the Constitution Created?



The Constitution was created by the **Constituent Assembly** of around 300 people from every region, religion, section and culture of Indian society. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the President of the Assembly. **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar**, widely known as the **Father of the Constitution**, was the **chairperson of the Drafting Committee.** The Assembly worked from 9th December 1946 to 26th November 1949 to discuss and debate a range of issues. The Constitution was formally adopted on **26th January, 1950.** We celebrate this day as **'Republic Day'.**





The Preamble

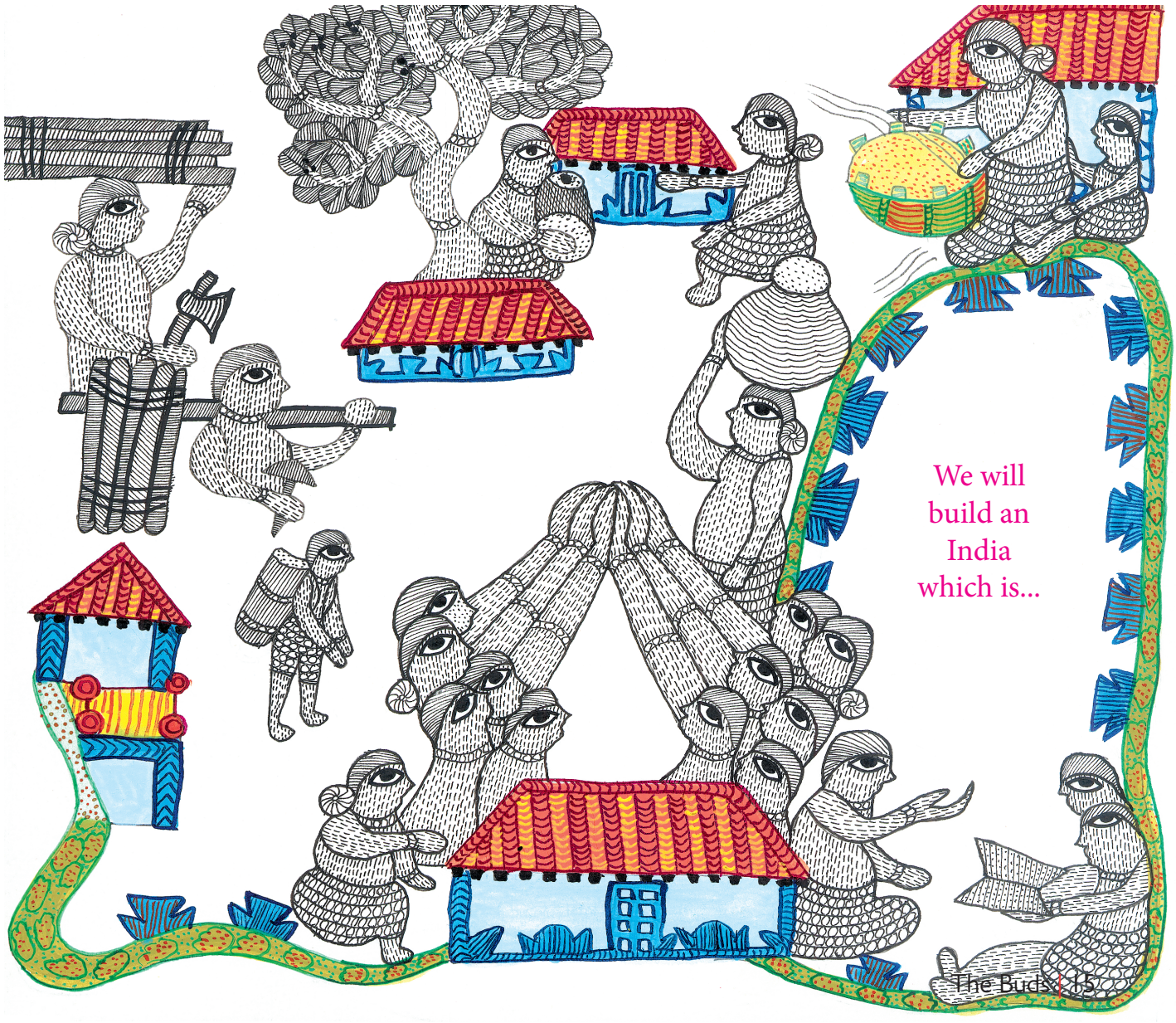
WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; **EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity;
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 **HEREBY ADOPT,ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

Let us take a closer look at the ideas
put forth in this powerful declaration

We, the People of India

We give ourselves this Constitution. It is not a gift, a grant or revelation from some external power but instead the product of our wisdom and aspirations of the people of India.

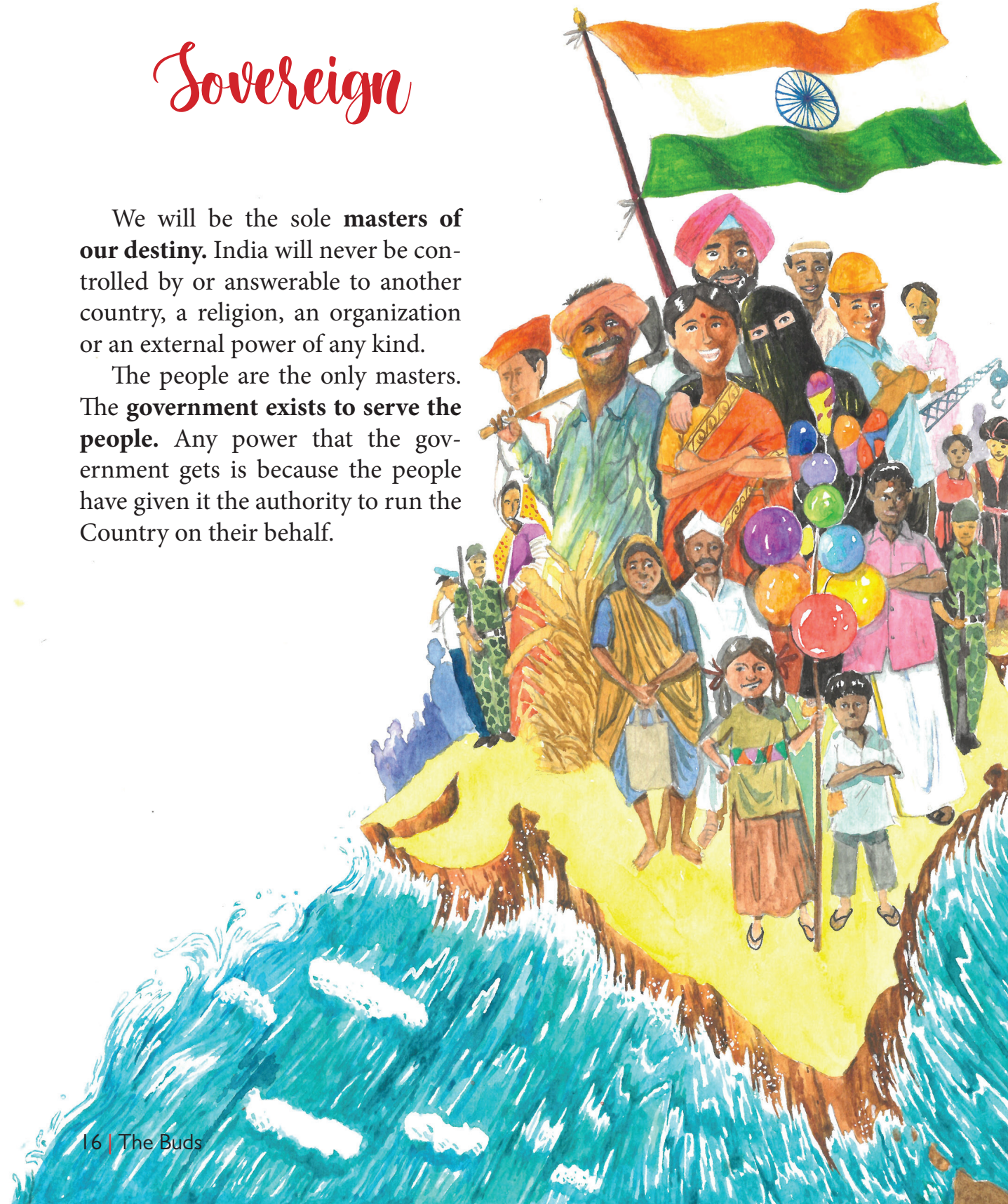
The Constitution does not come from any one section of India. It has been created by and **belongs equally to every Indian** irrespective of age, wealth, religion, caste, gender, region, language, education or any other parameter.



Sovereign

We will be the sole **masters of our destiny.** India will never be controlled by or answerable to another country, a religion, an organization or an external power of any kind.

The people are the only masters. The **government exists to serve the people.** Any power that the government gets is because the people have given it the authority to run the Country on their behalf.

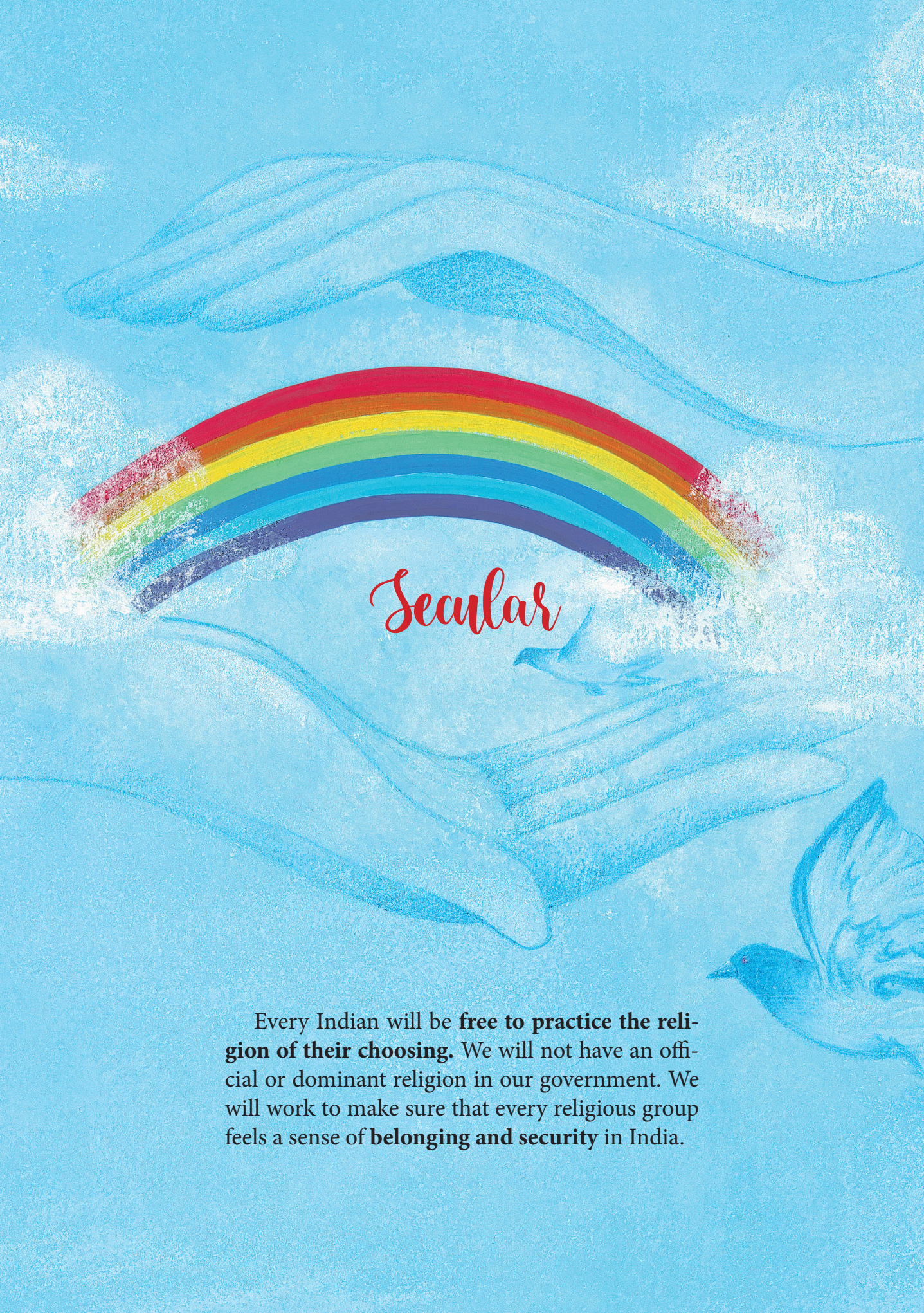


Socialist

India's wealth will belong to all Indians, not just the privileged few.

We will share this wealth and apply it towards **the welfare of all, especially the poorest and most marginalized.** We will build a Nation where education, healthcare, employment and other basic needs of life are the fundamental rights of every citizen





Every Indian will be **free to practice the religion of their choosing.** We will not have an official or dominant religion in our government. We will work to make sure that every religious group feels a sense of **belonging and security** in India.

Democratic Republic

Every Indian must feel that they have a **voice in shaping India.** The will of the people must decide the course of the Country. The decisions of the Country will be taken by elected representatives who are **answerable to the people** they serve.

Together we will work so that each of us experiences ...





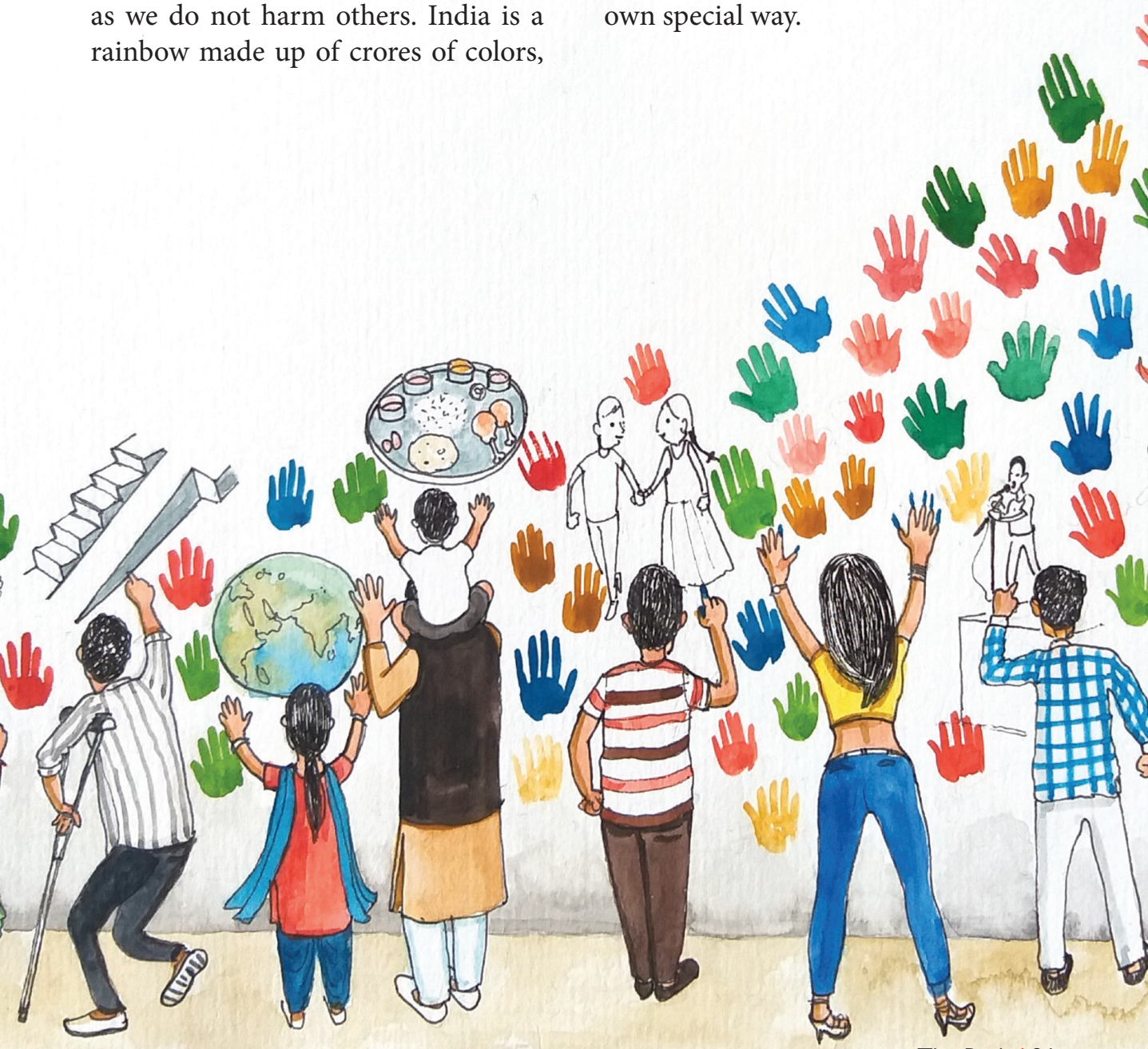
Justice

Every Indian must **be free from oppression, exploitation and unfairness.** Oppression can happen for a number of reasons. It can be the result of **social practices and beliefs** – some castes, religious groups or genders are oppressed, excluded or denied dignity. Oppression can occur because of **economic** reasons – the poor may be exploited because they are starving, illiterate, unemployed or desperate. Oppression can occur because of **political** reasons – People may feel helpless and enslaved because they have no voice in their community.

Whatever the cause of oppression, every Indian must have **the power to correct the injustice in their lives.**

Liberty

We must have **the freedom to be ourselves** in India. The freedom to live, think, love, pray, speak, eat, dress, speak and work as we please so long as we do not harm others. India is a rainbow made up of crores of colors, **every color unique and every color irreplaceable**. For India to be free and reach its full potential each of these colors must be allowed to bloom in its own special way.



Equality

of status and opportunity



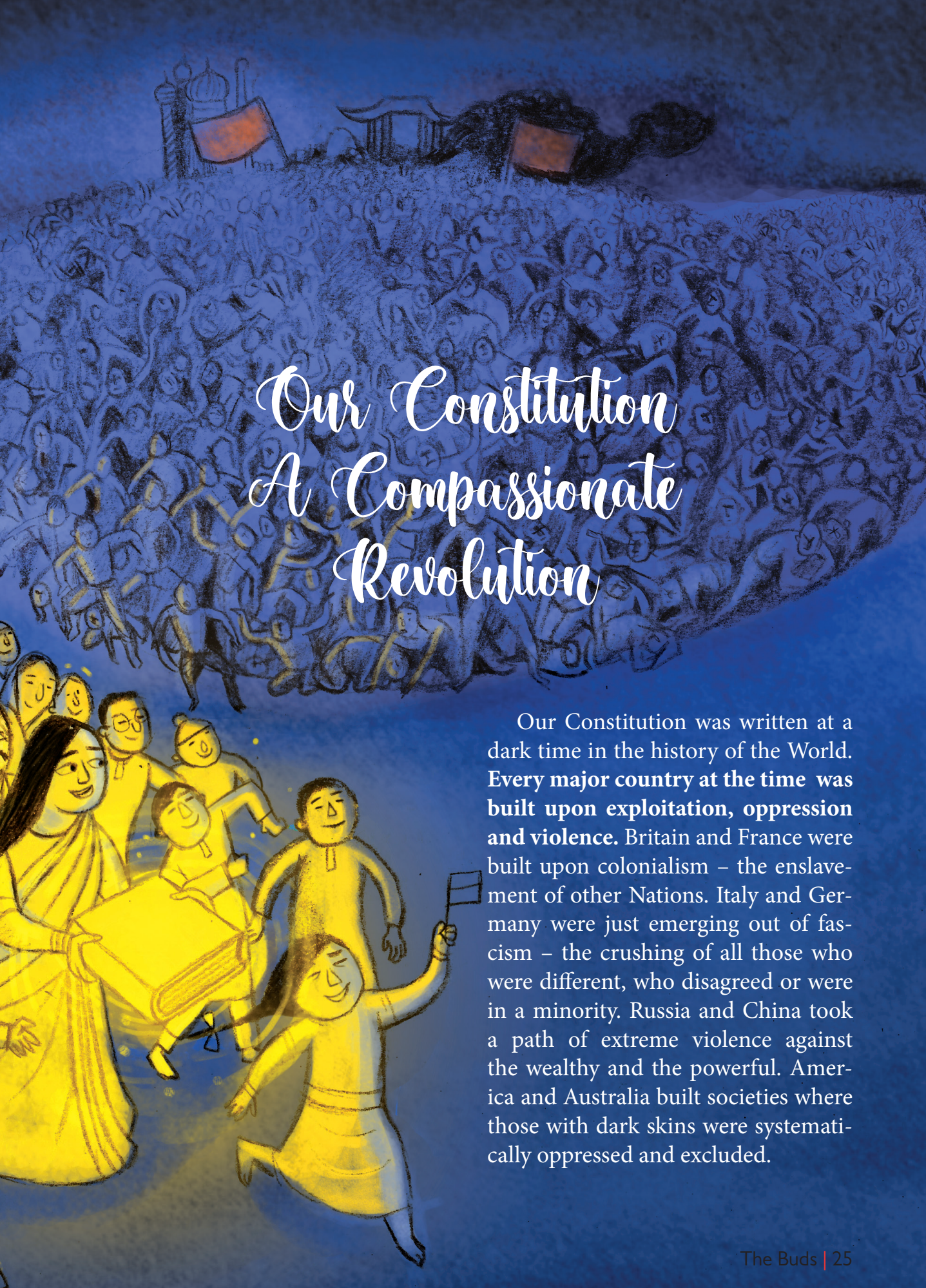
Every Indian should have **the same opportunities to pursue their dreams.** We are born with differences in wealth, power, education and social standing but these differences should not determine our destiny. India will do all that is necessary to assure **that every Indian experiences dignity and an equal chance to better their lives.**



Fraternity

We will pursue this dream for India while **care for each other like brothers and sisters.** We will foster a feeling of **acceptance, compassion and trust.** We will create an environment where our unity is not a product of force but instead arises from the love we feel for each other.





Our Constitution A Compassionate Revolution

Our Constitution was written at a dark time in the history of the World. **Every major country at the time was built upon exploitation, oppression and violence.** Britain and France were built upon colonialism – the enslavement of other Nations. Italy and Germany were just emerging out of fascism – the crushing of all those who were different, who disagreed or were in a minority. Russia and China took a path of extreme violence against the wealthy and the powerful. America and Australia built societies where those with dark skins were systematically oppressed and excluded.

The Constitution has Allowed us to Travel Far

The path of the Constitution has allowed India to come a long way in 70 years. It has brought the **peace, stability and unity** needed for the Nation to grow. It has **brought a large mass of previously excluded people into the mainstream.** This path has liberated minds and **set us free to dream, create and innovate.**

Human Development

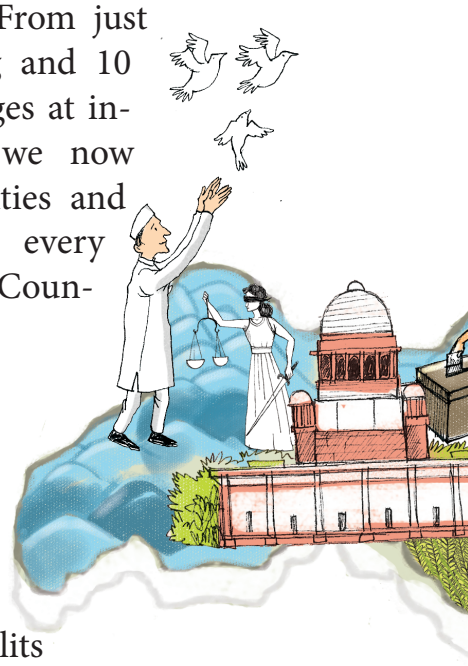
Average lifespan has risen from 32 years in 1947 to 70 years today. Literacy has risen from 16% to 74%. The wealth we produce every year per person has risen from around Rs 1,700 in 1960 to over Rs 1.14 lacs today. Food grain production has risen from around 59.2 million tons to 253.16 million tons.

Institutions

We now have systems for administration, justice, development, education, healthcare, agriculture, finance, defense and many other tasks needed for a Nation to operate.

Infrastructure

From 1,500 villages electrified in 1947 we have now illuminated nearly every village. Road networks have grown from 4 lac kms to over 56 lac kms. From 84,000 telephone lines at independence we now have over 120 crore mobile and wired connections. From just 7 engineering and 10 medical colleges at independence, we now have Universities and Colleges in every corner of the Country.



Social Justice

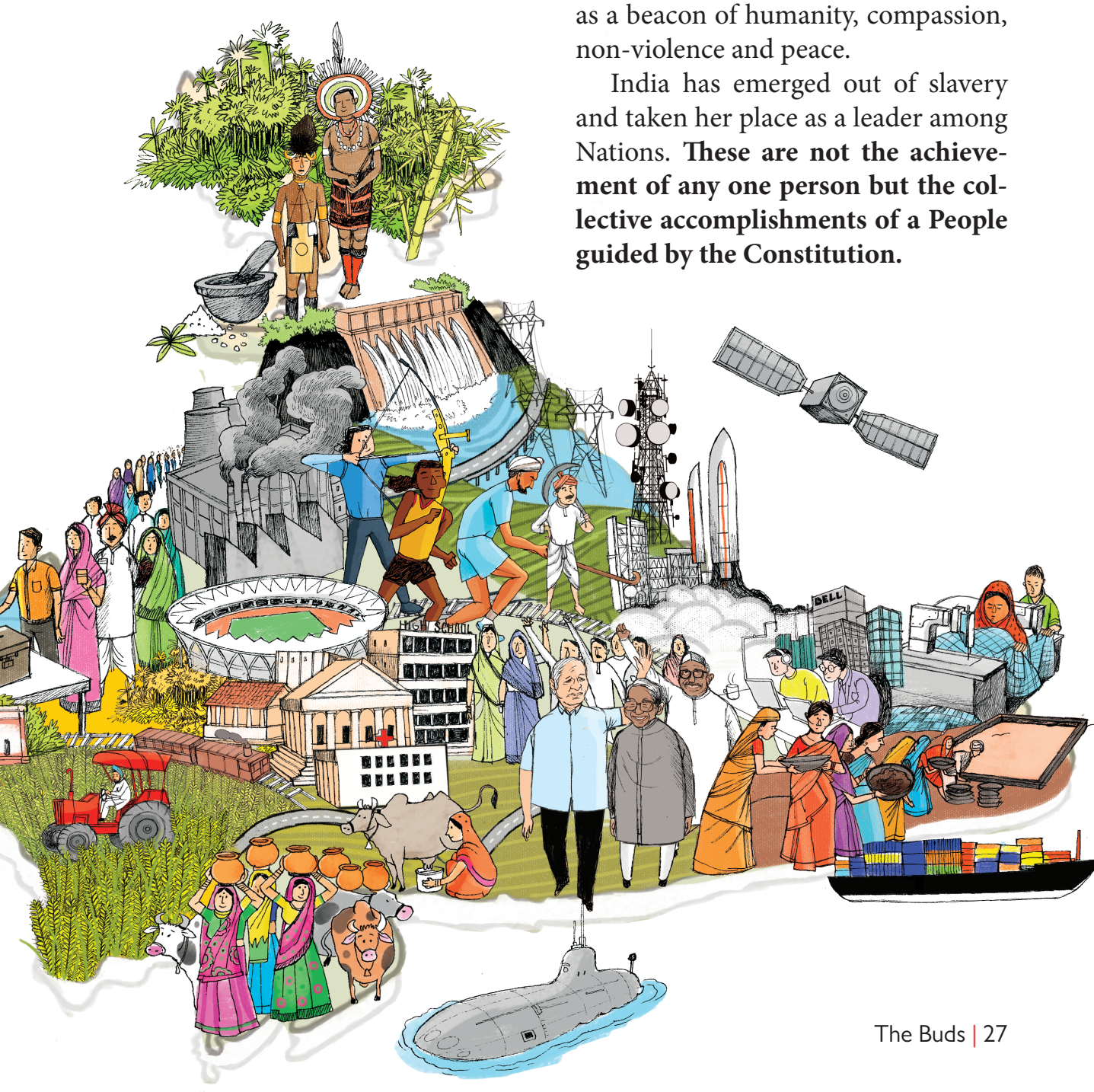
Untouchability has been outlawed. Laws to protect dalits and tribals from atrocities have been enacted. Education, employment, food and public information are every citizens as a right. Communities who

were once denied the right to enter a school today produce doctors, engineers, teachers and scientists.Sections of society which could only look on from the margins have given us Presidents, Chief Ministers, Judges, top-ranking officers and social leaders. The rights of minority groups to preserve their culture and practices have been enacted in law.

Global Presence

We are now the world's 3rd largest economy. We are among the few Countries to have launched satellites and harnessed nuclear power. We led the Nations of the World to form the Non-aligned Movement. We kept the flame of democracy alive even as our neighbors fell to dictatorship and military rule. We are recognized globally as a beacon of humanity, compassion, non-violence and peace.

India has emerged out of slavery and taken her place as a leader among Nations. **These are not the achievement of any one person but the collective accomplishments of a People guided by the Constitution.**



What of the Future?

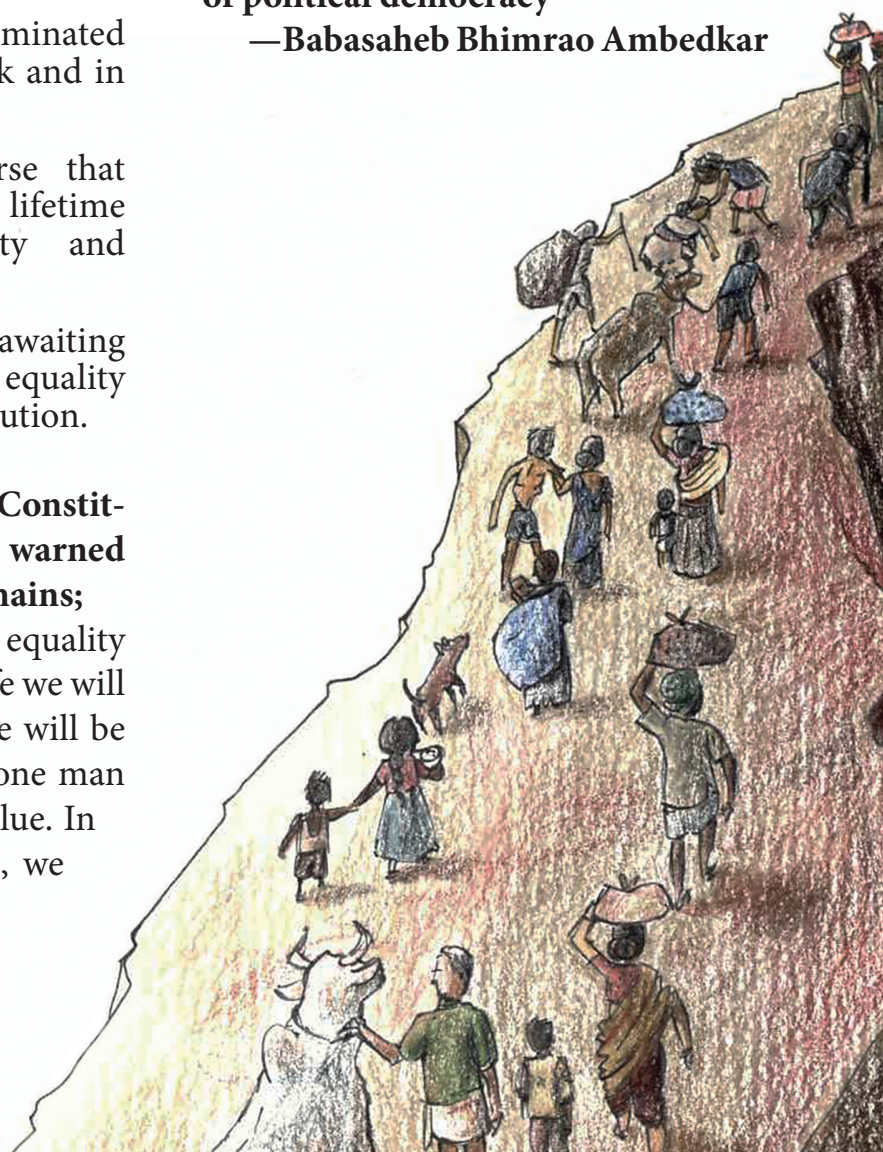
India has come a long way but our journey is far from over.

- Children still sleep hungry.
- People still suffer indignity and oppression because of their caste.
- People still feel insecure and threatened because of the religion they practice.
- Women are still discriminated against at home, at work and in society.
- Poverty is still a curse that condemns people to a lifetime of suffering, indignity and inequality.
- Many Indians are still awaiting the justice, liberty and equality promised by the Constitution.

In his final speech to the Constituent Assembly, Babasaheb warned us about leaving people in chains;

In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall…continue to deny the principle of one man one value….If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. **We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy**

—Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar





A Promise to our Country

Mahatma Gandhi taught us that we must be the change that we want to see in the World. Thus if we are to fulfill our responsibility of keeping India on the path of the Constitution, the first step must be for us to bring the values of the Constitution into own lives.

Let us promise to ourselves and our fellow Indians that;

We will be guided by love not fear. We will…

- Take pride in bringing joy and freedom to others, not in dominating them
- Celebrate embrace and learn from diversity rather than fear and attack it
- Treat everyone as family –with affection, patience, understanding and acceptance



We will cherish and defend the dignity of every human being. We will…

- Never see people as 'high' or 'low'.
- Never discriminate based upon wealth, religion, caste, gender, education, profession, language, physical characteristic, belief or any other criteria.
- Not judge others and instead understand and accept them.
- Defend the right of everyone including those with whom we disagree to explore and express any idea they see fit.





Be wise with our privilege. Our position of privilege may be because we belong to a dominant religion, caste or gender. It may be because we are wealthy or more educated. Whatever the source of our privilege. We will…

- Protect and defend those who are weak in numbers, social position or wealth.
- Never use our position to violate, crush or impose our belief upon others.
- Let go of our positions of power and use our privilege to create a more equal society.

We will resist injustice without fear, anger or violence. We will…

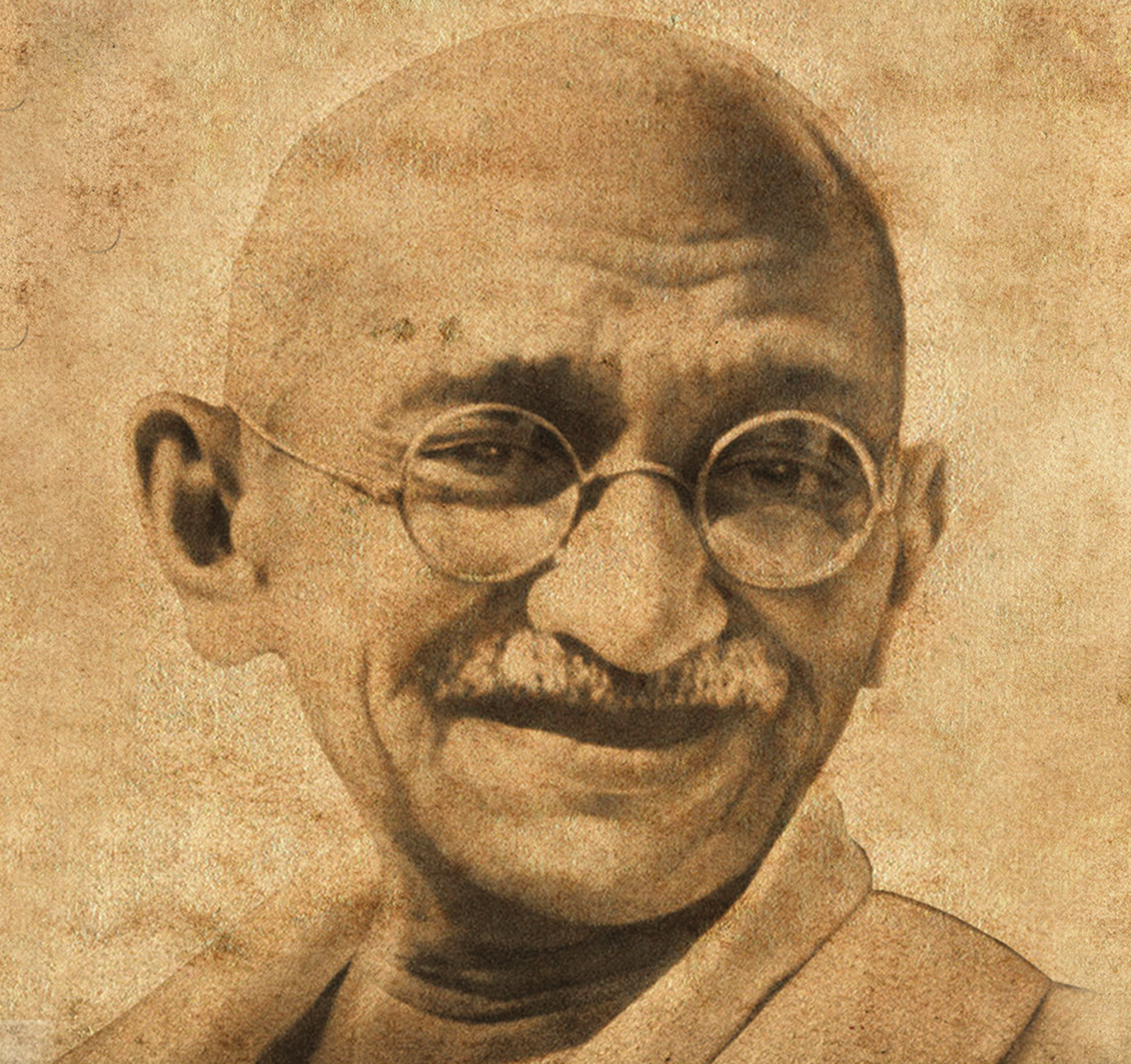
- Believe in our right to be free and never accept that it is our fate to be oppressed.
- Take strength from the ideas of the Constitution and use the path of the Constitution to bring change.
- Correct the unfairness in society that arises because of differences in religion, class, caste and gender.

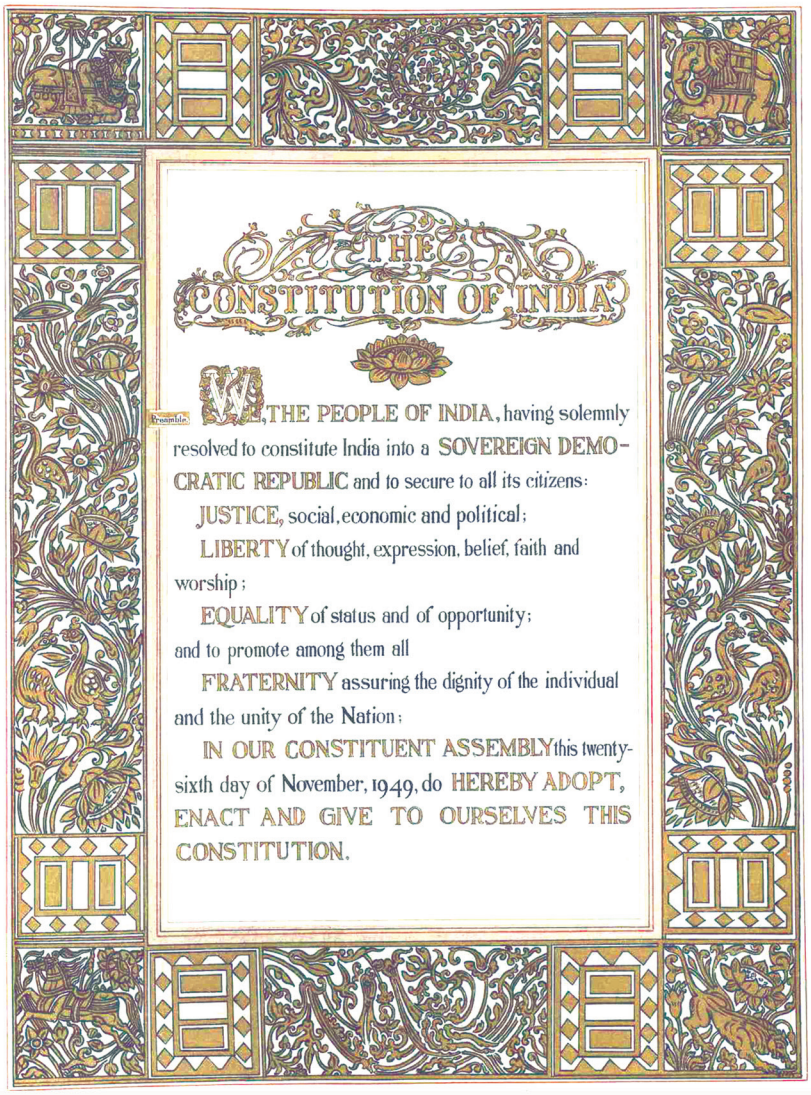


Mahatma Gandhi captured our duty beautifully in his 'talisman' to the writers of the Constitution;

"…Whenever you are in doubt… apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest person whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to her. Will she gain anything by it? Will it restore her to a control over her own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

It is only when we bring this spirit within us that we will be able to uphold the Constitution and make India Sare Jahan Se Achchha!





The original Constitution of India is not a printed document but a hand written one. The government of India, headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, entrusted Nandalal Bose of Shantiniketan to decorate the pages with artwork depicting ancient Indian culture and texts. The calligraphy was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizada (Saxena) of Delhi.

This decorated hand written text is preserved at the Parliament Library in a helium filled glass case.

They carry signatures of all 284 members, out of a total of 299, of the constituent assembly who had signed the constitution after the completion. The first to put his signature on the document was Jawharlal Nehru while at the end of page 10 we can see Feroze Gandhi as the last man to sign. Being the president of the assembly, we can see, Rajendra Prasad's signature was assigned a place at the top.

(Heritage Times)

WE, THE WOMEN OF INDIA...

This Republic Day, remembering the women who helped draft the Indian Constitution



HANSA JIVRAJ MEHTA

(Served in the constituent assembly from 1946-1949)



DAKSHAYANI VELAYUDHAN

(First and only Dalit woman in the constituent assembly)



AMMU SWAMINATHAN

(Social worker & political activist)



ANNIE MASCARENE

(Freedom fighter and member of the constituent assembly)



LEELA ROY

(Feminist, freedom fighter and social worker



BEGUM AIZAZ RASUL

(The only Muslim woman to be a member of the constituent assembly)



DURGABAI DESHMUKH

(Freedom fighter, lawyer, social worker and politician)



RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR

(Social activist and co-founder of All India Women's Conference)



RENUKA RAY

(Freedom fighter, social activist and politician)



MALATI CHOUDHURY

(Freedom fighter and constituent assembly member from Odisha)



PURNIMA BANERJI

(Freedom fighter)



SUCHETA KRIPLANI

(First woman chief minister, freedom fighter)



VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT

(First woman cabinet minister, freedom fighter, politician and Indian diplomat)



SAROJINI NAIDU

(Freedom fighter, noted poetess; known as the Nightingale of India for her lyrical poetry)

Notes

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