

Editor's Note



Sixty five years ago, we became a Republic and the people of this nation gave themselves a Constitution inspired by democratic, secular and socialist ideals. India became independent from the British rule on 15th August 1947 but became a Republic from British dominion on 26th of January 1950. The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on the 26th of November, 1949; in the following year on 26th January 1950, our Constitution came into force. As we commemorate this achievement we recall the valor and sacrifice of our freedom fighters who liberated our country from colonial rule and gave us the freedom to carve our destiny. I salute the founding father of our Republic who gave us a written Constitution which has not only stood the test of time but also preserved individual liberty and ensured social justice.

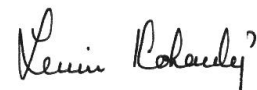
The Constitution of India laid down a set of rules to which the ordinary laws of the country confirmed. It provided a framework for a democratic and parliamentary form of Government. The basic philosophy of the Constitution, its moving spirit, is to be found in the Preamble. The Preamble states that the people of India in the Constituent Assembly made a solemn resolve to secure to all its citizens “Justice, Social, Economic and Political, Liberty of thought, expression, belief and worship, equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individuals and the unity of the Nation”. The order of the words indicates that the concept of social and economic justice was perhaps considered the most fundamental norm of the Constitution of India.

Odisha with its abundant natural resources and rich human skill has joined the national mainstream in the effort to improve the standard of living as well as the quality of life of about 4.19 crore Odias and attempt has been made to create irrigation potential for additional 10 lakh hectares of agriculture land within next five years. Biju Bal Bikash Yojana has been

implemented to rehabilitate the orphans and helpless children. The innovative 'Mamata Yojana' with wage compensation of Rs.5,000/- for pregnant and nursing mothers has covered more than 11 lakh mothers. Skill up-gradation training is being imparted through State Employment Mission. The State Government has expanded its public distribution system ensuring food security by providing rice @ Re.1 per kg. All farmers and agricultural labourer families are to be covered under Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana. Besides this, educational assistance is provided to the children of construction workers and fishermen. As a step forward towards women empowerment, a novel and comprehensive State Girls' and Women Policy has been framed with provision of inheritance, equal land rights, allotment of 4 decimal of homestead land to lower income group homesteadless women.

Hon'ble Chief Minister while attending a Students' Meet advised the students to raise voice against gender discrimination and inequality. As we count the achievements of the State Government we are shocked at the Ordinance Route being taken by the Central Government. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment 2015 is a conspiracy to deprive the State of revenue from its natural resources. Hon'ble President of India has rightly proclaimed that "Ordinance is a suboptimal way of legislation. They undermine the Parliamentary Process which is meant to represent the interest of disparate groups." In a federal country like ours it hurts when even after a huge cyclone causing unprecedented devastation the genuine demands of the State are overlooked. The people of Odisha are shocked and dismayed at this apathetic attitude.

I personally feel that every citizen should have the obligation to protect and promote the ideals of liberty, equality, democracy and secularism enshrined in our Constitution because the rich diversity of the country's tradition can only be preserved by this unity of purpose.



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