



Like India, this book too is a collective effort. Some of the people who contributed to this work are:

Arunim Prakash Meenakshi Natarajan Sachin Rao

Atanu Roy Nikhil Mathur Sagar Arankalle

Birender Negi Nilesh Gehlot Shashi Sablok

Deepak Chandra Panini Anand Sheetal Soni

Devendra Soni Prashant Pathak Neelu Shivi Chauhan

Durga Bai Participants of the Sunil Panwar
Habib Ali Ahimsa Ke Raste camps Sunny Malik

Jay Krishna Palya
Priya Kurian
Suraj Hegde
R. S. Bali

Karunya Baskar Sushil Shukl
Khushboo Garg Rajesh Joshi Varsha Ayyar

Kiran Mugabasav Rajkumar Kataria Velu Shankar

Lakshya Chaudhary Ram Prakash Tripathi Virma Ram

Sachin Naik

WE THE PEOPLE Version 1, October 2, 2018 Email: ahimsakeraste@gmail.com Website: www.humhaibharat.in

Mahendra Dubey

The Constitution, like India itself, is vast and complex. This is not an academic work. Our intent is not to explain the details of the Constitution but to give the reader a sense of the deeply human and awe-inspiring vision that underlies the Constitution. Our hope is that we can collectively preserve this vision so that it continues to guide future generations of Indians.

This book is an open work that will evolve, improve and adapt based upon the contributions of those committed to the path of the Constitution. Please feel free to write to us at ahimsakeraste@gmail.com if you would like to share comments, suggestions or corrections, translate the book into regional languages or use the content in any form.

We acknowledge our special debt to Late Justice Leila Seth's book, 'We the Children of India', which inspired this work. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the estate of Justice Seth for allowing us to draw inspiration and ideas from the work.

Any errors or shortcomings of this work are attributable solely to Sachin Rao (sachinrao.email@gmail.com).

This edition: January 30, 2020

This edition published by:

Alka Joshi, Lokayat, 129 B/2, Opp. Syndicate Bank, Law College Road, Near Nal Stop, Pune – 411 004 Contact: 9067003838

Printed at:

R.S. Printers, 455, Shanivar Peth, Pune – 411 030

Contribution: ₹ 30/-

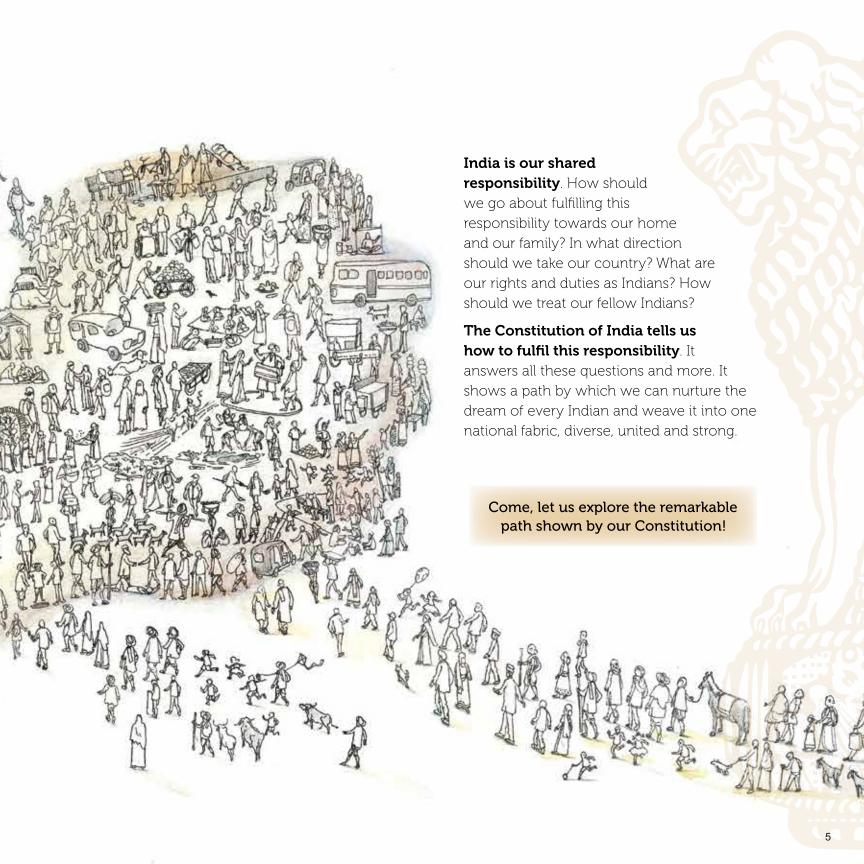
We the People...

The India Imagined by the Constitution

Dedicated to the 1,21,08,54,977 Indians from 35 states and union territories, living in 5,97,608 villages and 7,933 towns, practising over 90 religions and speaking 270 mother-tongues* working to build an India that is united, free and strong.

*All figures are from the Census of India, 2011.







After a long struggle against colonial rule, 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 not only 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.



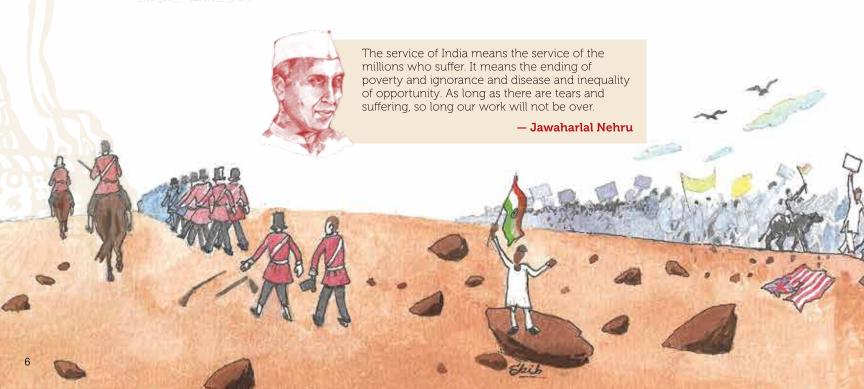
I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel it is their country, in whose making they have an

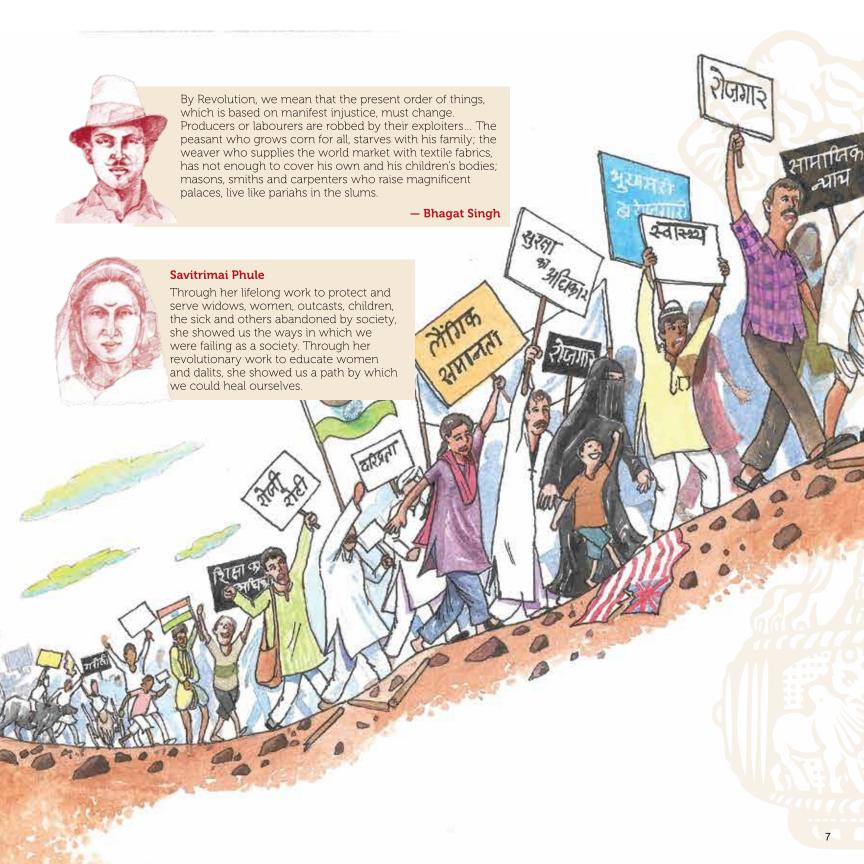
- Mahatma Gandhi



Unless you change your social order, you can achieve little by way of progress... You cannot build 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



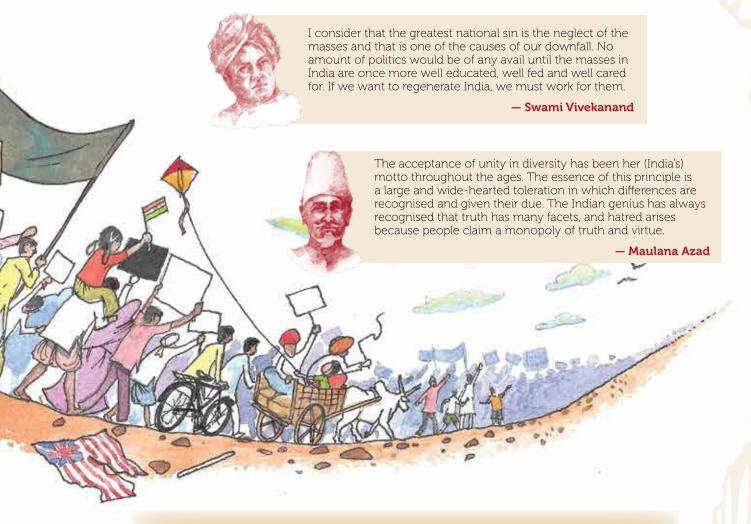




These leaders realised that Indians were enslaved not just by the British, but also by

- poverty that brought starvation, illiteracy and helplessness;
- discrimination that reduced women, oppressed castes, tribals and other sections of society to second-class citizens;
- inequality that concentrated wealth, status and power in the hands of a privileged few;
- a dictatorship that gave no voice to the common people.

They realised that achieving 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.

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.

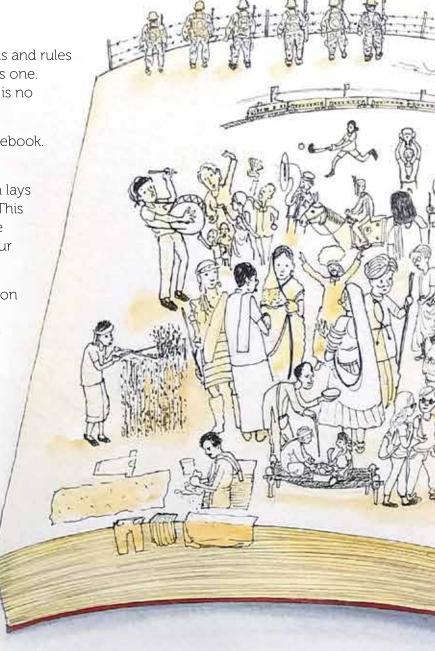
But the Constitution is not simply a rulebook. It is ...

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.

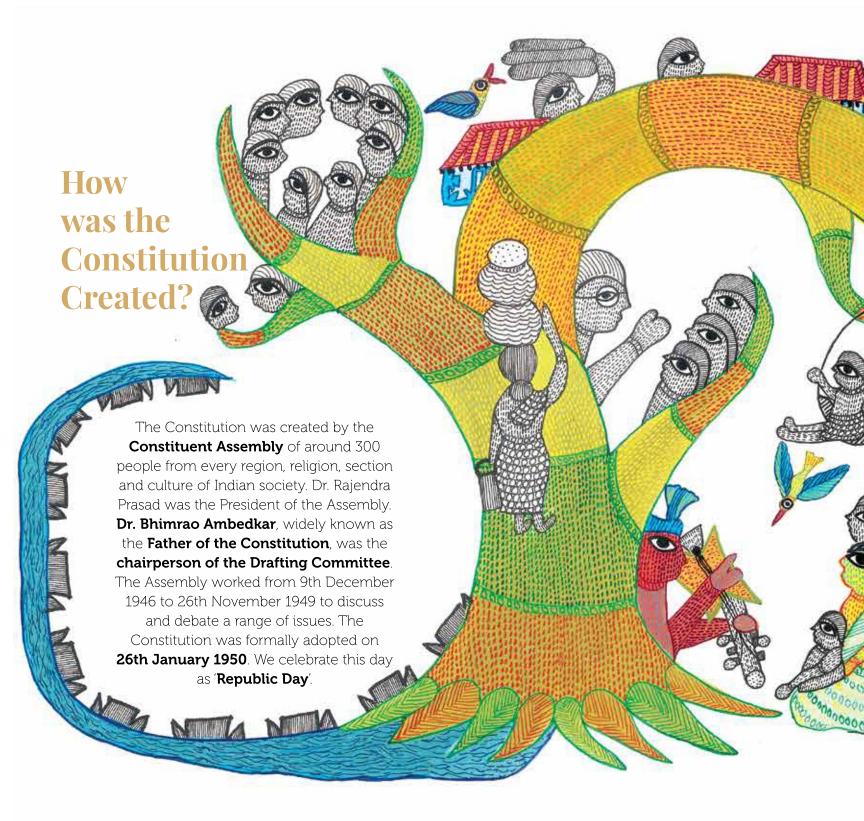
A mutual promise. The Constitution promises every Indian the rights, protections and powers needed to build a life of dignity. It defines the responsibilities that we promise to undertake in return.

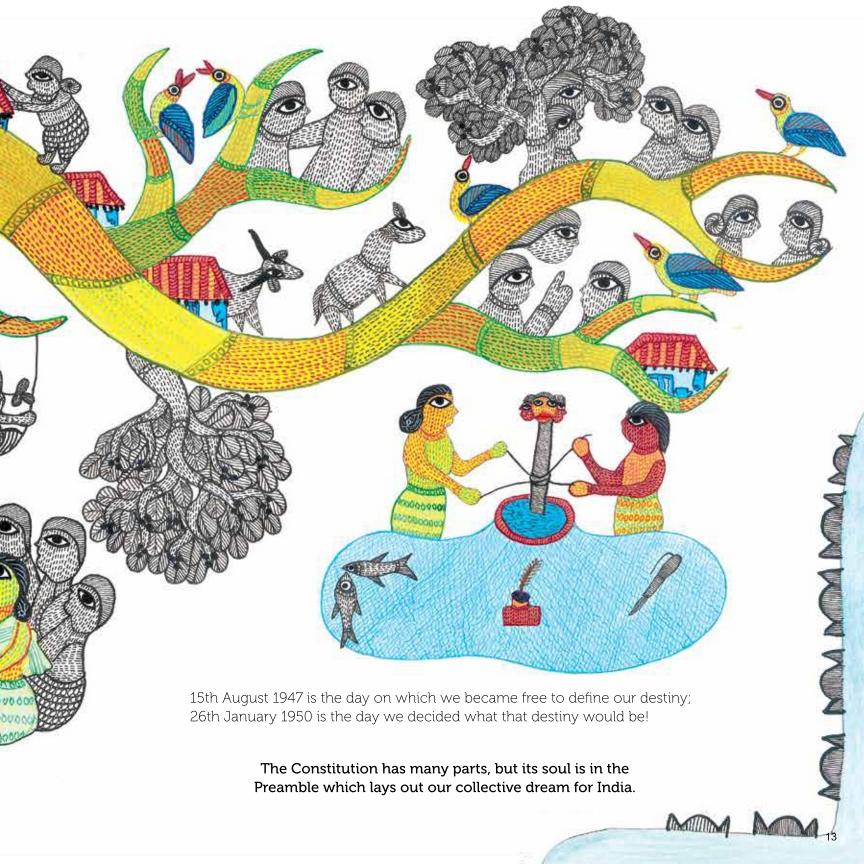
The blueprint of our country.

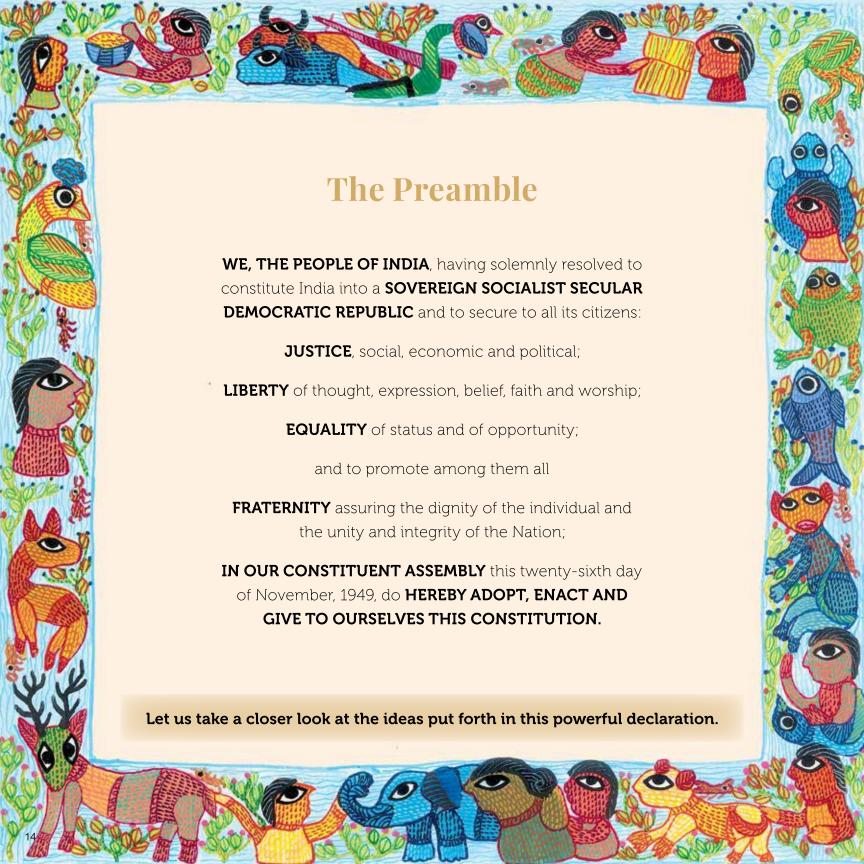
The Constitution tells us how our country should function. It defines institutions such as the States, the Parliament, the Courts and the Cabinet; and processes such as elections, budgets and law-making—that allow the country to work in the service of the people.

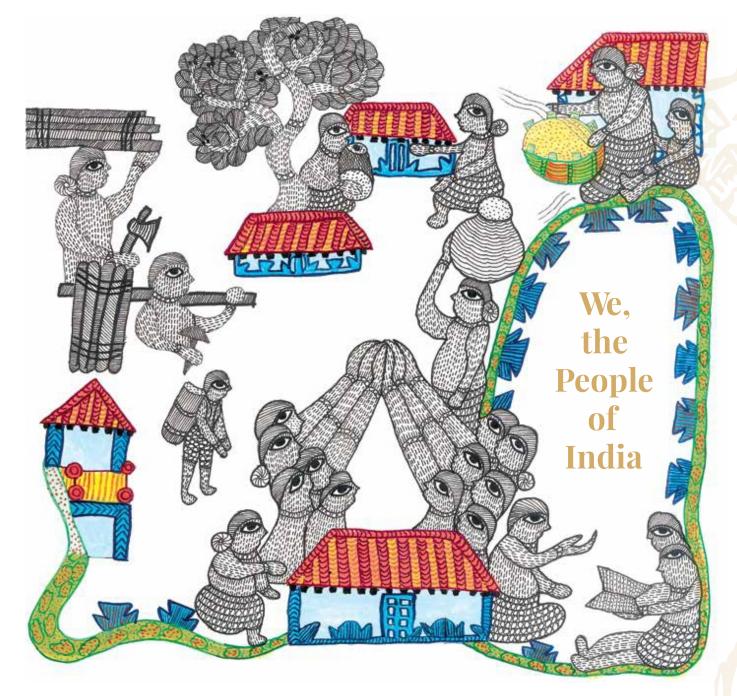












We give ourselves this Constitution. It is not a gift, a grant or revelation from some external power but instead the product of the wisdom and aspirations of the people of India.

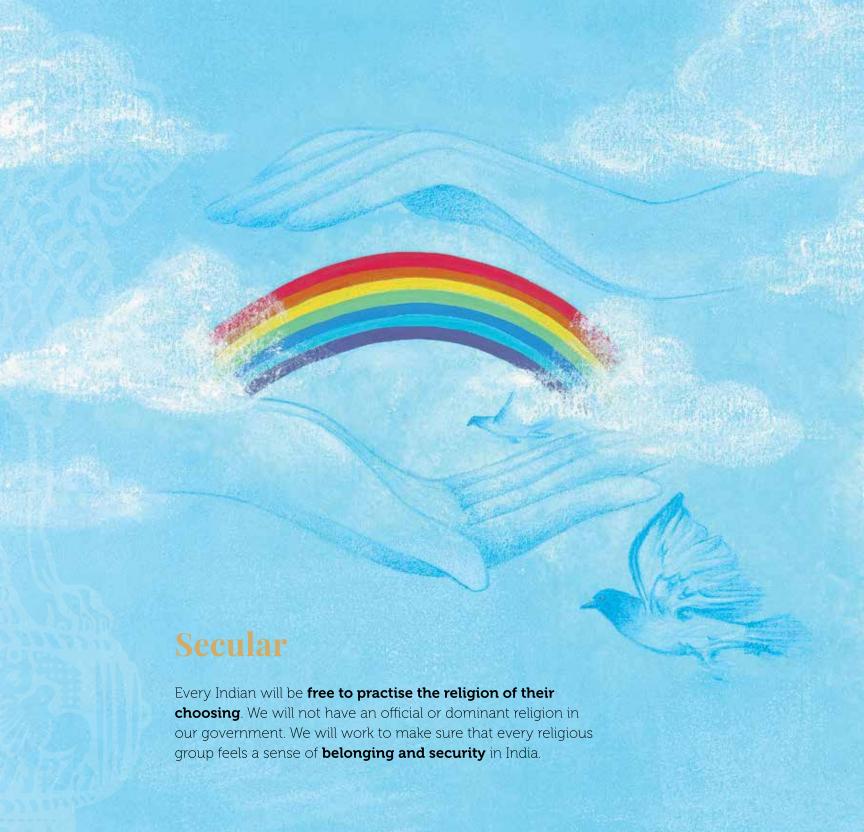
The Constitution does not come from any one section of India. It has been created by and **belongs equally to every Indian**, irrespective of

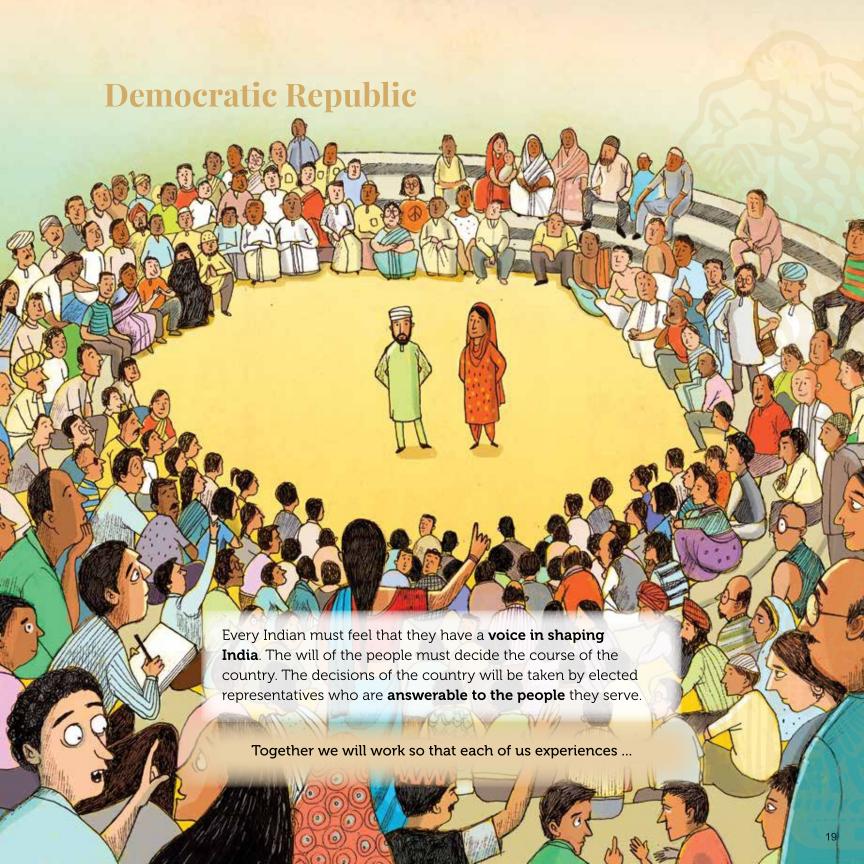
age, wealth, religion, caste, gender, region, language, education or any other parameter.

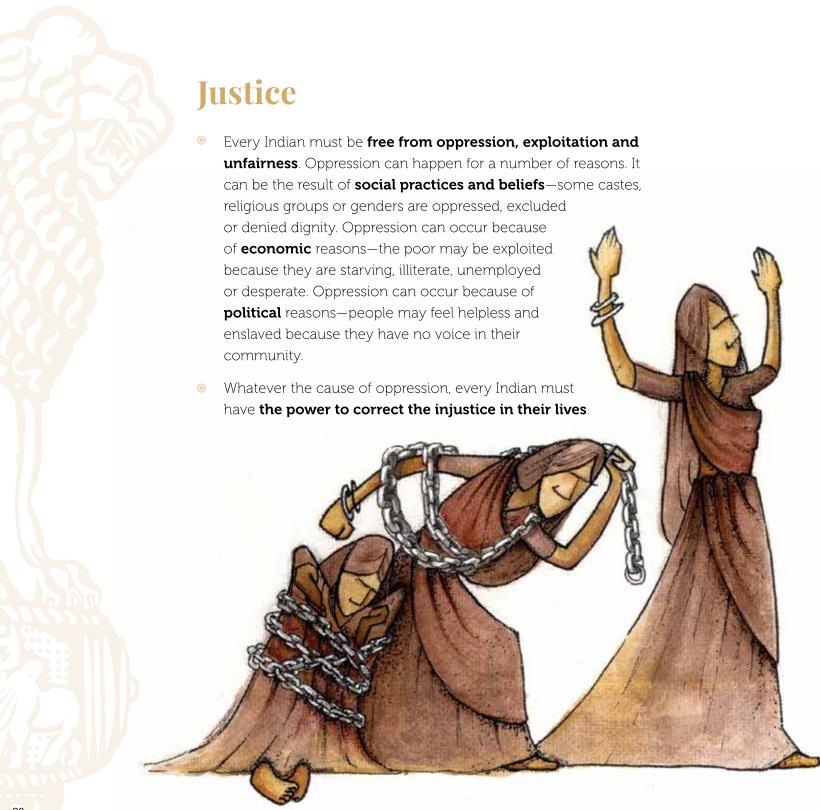
We will build an India which is ...







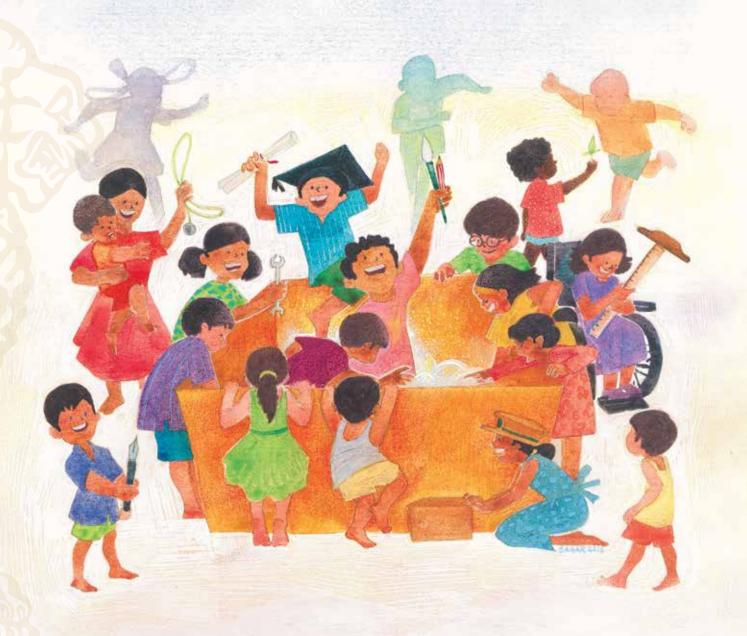






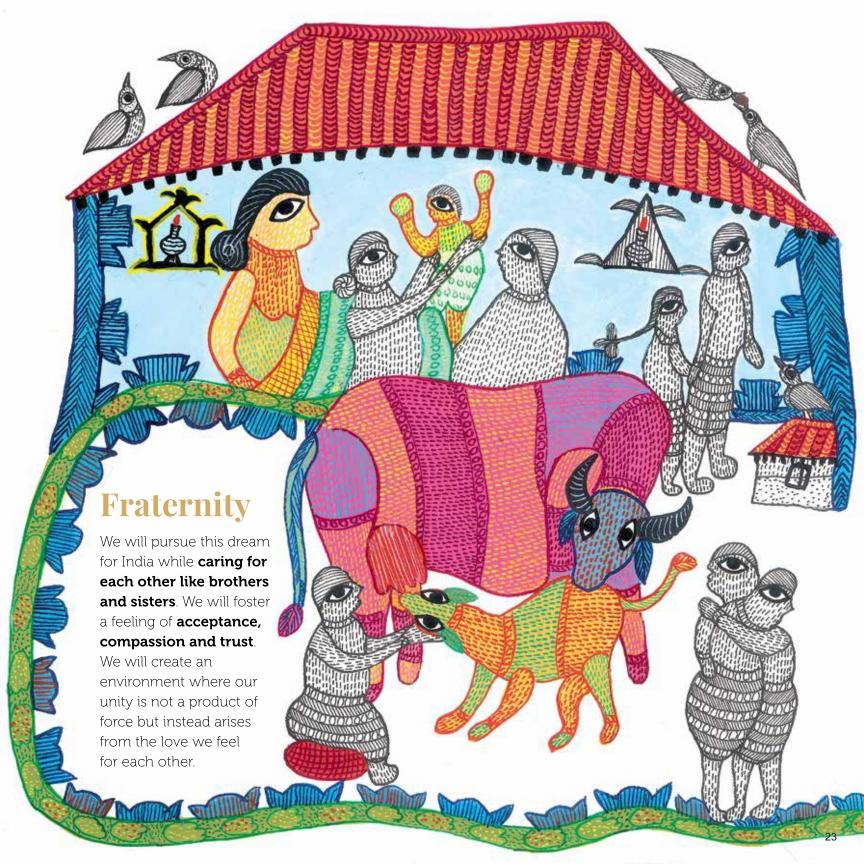
We must have **the freedom to be ourselves** in India. The freedom to live, think, love, pray, speak, eat, dress and work as we please so long as we do not harm others. India is a rainbow made up of crores of colours, **every colour unique and every colour irreplaceable**. For India to be free and reach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

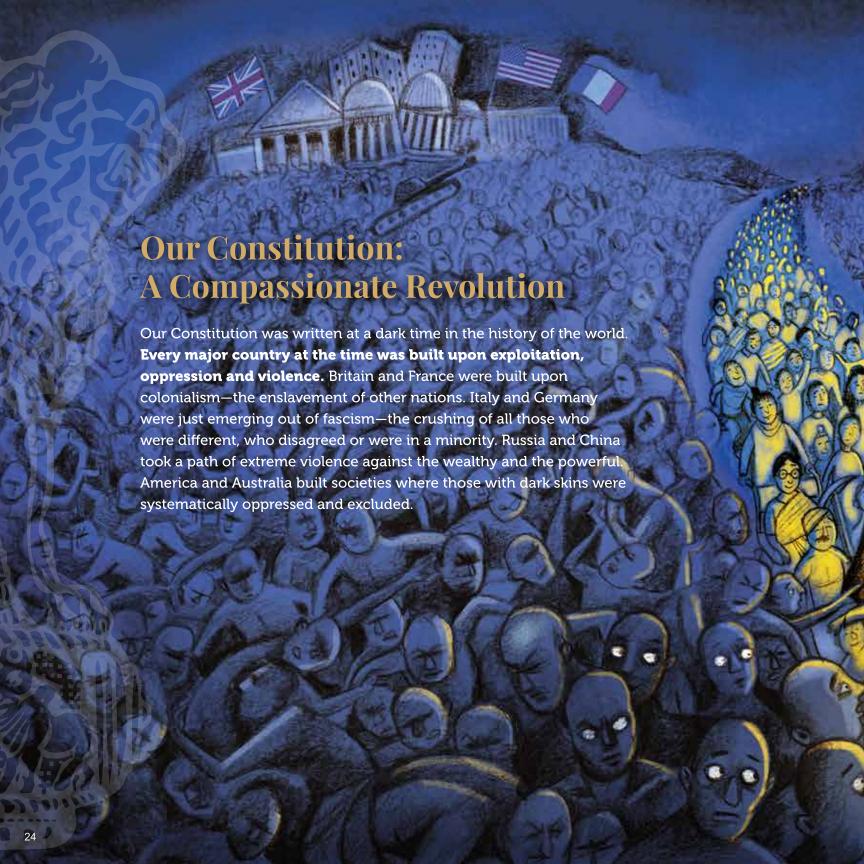




Equality of status and opportunity

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 has an equal chance to better their lives**.







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

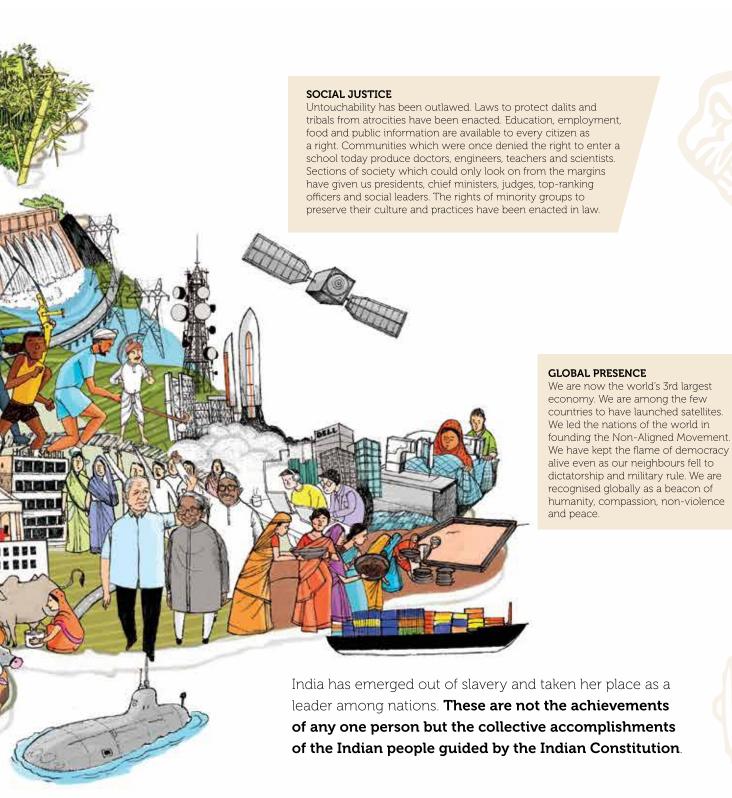
Average lifespan has risen from 32 years in 1947 to 70 years today. Literacy has risen from 16% to 74%. The wealth we produce every year per person has risen from around Rs 1,700 in 1960 to over Rs 1.14 lakh today. Foodgrain production has risen from around 59.2 million tons in 1952–53 to 281 million tons today.

INSTITUTIONS

We now have systems for administration, justice, development, education, healthcare, agriculture, finance, defence 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 network has grown from 4 lakh km to over 56 lakh km. 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.





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 practise.
- 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 Ambedkar 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 fulfil 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 \dots

- never see people as 'high' or 'low';
- never discriminate based upon wealth, religion, caste, gender, education, profession, language, physical characteristics, 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.





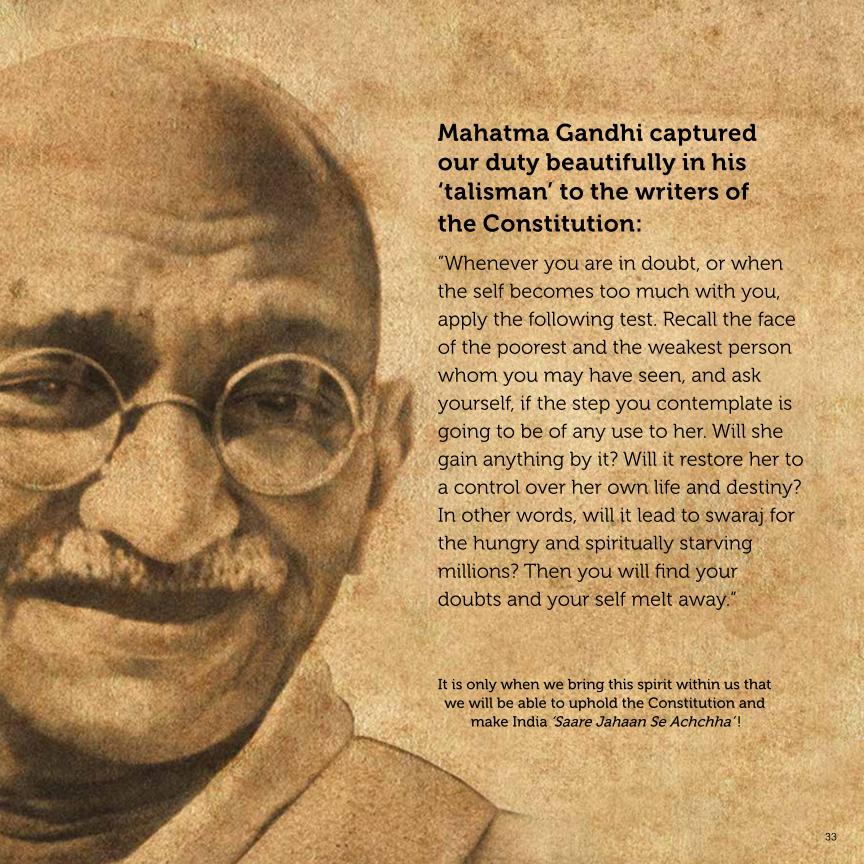
We will be wise with our privilege. Our position of privilege may be because we belong to a dominant religion, caste or gender. It may be because we are wealthy or more educated. **Whatever be the source of our privilege, we will ...**

- 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.



- 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;
- ocrrect the unfairness in society that arises because of differences in religion, class, caste and gender.





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

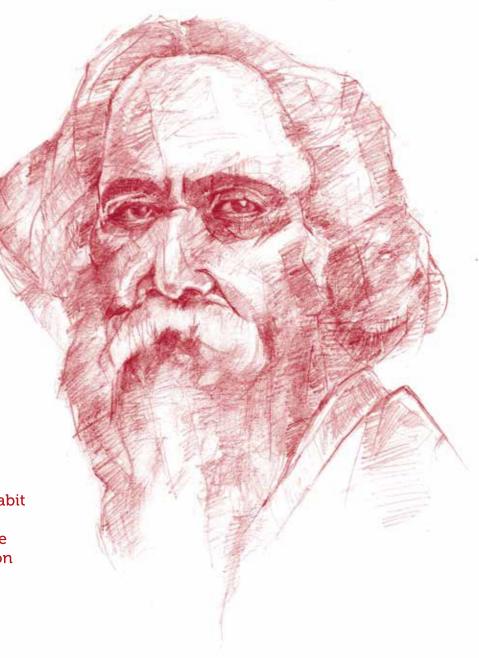
Where words come out from the depth of truth

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.



Rabindranath Tagore



About Us: Lokayat

- Lokayat is a group of social activists in Pune. We organise seminars, talks, film screenings, music concerts, street campaigns, street plays, rallies-protests, etc. to spread awareness amongst the people, especially students and youth, about their rights and duties as outlined in the Indian Constitution.
- We work on voluntary basis. We believe that in order to be a better human being, it is our responsibility to give some time from our routine to think and act for the betterment of the society.
- Abhivyakti is the women's wing of Lokayat, which organises campaigns and programs on various aspects of gender inequality and social roots of violence against women.
- Kafila is Lokayat's cultural wing, which makes use of a wide variety of cultural forms-including songs, rock concerts, street plays, dramas, dance and traditional folk art—to reach out to people and raise their cultural consciousness.

Dear friends, if you would like to know more about us, or participate in our activities, you may contact us at any of the following addresses.

Contact Address: Lokayat, 129 B/2, Opp. Syndicate Bank, Law College Road, Near Nal Stop, Erandwane, Pune - 411004

We meet every Sunday from 5 to 7:30 pm at this address. You are welcome.

- Alka 9067003838
 Rishikesh 9423507864
- # www.lokayat.org.in

- f lokayat.india
- O lokayat.india
- **M** @lokayat
- lokayatpune

- ≥ lokayat.india@gmail.com
- f abhivyakti.pune





