

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR ON

26th JANUARY, 2024.

- Distinguished Sister and Brother Judges,
- Shri Praphulla Kumar Bharat, Learned Advocate General,
- Shri Ramakant Mishra, Learned Deputy Solicitor General of India,
- Shri Umakant Singh Chandel, President, High Court Bar Association,
- Registrar General, Officers of the Registry,
- Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary, Bilaspur,
- Employees of the High Court,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
- Persons from Print & Electronic Media,

Sadar Naman and Good Morning to all.

It is a great pleasure for me to extend my heartiest greetings and warm wishes to all of you for the 75th Republic Day.

We will now enter the 76th year as a Republic. Since the day, the Constitution came into effect to the present day, it has been an amazing journey that has not only inspired us as a citizen but also has changed the outlook of the whole world. Every citizen has reason to be proud of the Story of India. When we celebrate the Republic Day, we celebrate what we have achieved, together, as a Nation.

We became free on 15th August, 1947. A dream was realized but aspirations were yet unfulfilled. Freedom was won but sovereignty was yet to be achieved. Our visionary leaders got down to the task of giving real freedom to people by vesting sovereignty in them. What was accomplished in the process was a beautiful document, called “The Constitution of India”. 26th January, 1950 was chosen to dedicate this gem of jurisprudence to the people. The Republic of India was thus, born.

Today, we come together not only to celebrate the day on which our Constitution came into effect but also to mark a significant moment in the history of our High Court – the unveiling of the statue of one of the architects of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, also known as “ Father of Indian Constitution”.

The formation of the Republic on 26th January 1950 was the first milestone in our march towards fulfilling the dreams of our people in the aftermath of Independence. The Constitution gave expression to the goals, ideals and values that guided our freedom struggle. It laid the structural foundations for governance and committed to secure for all citizens - justice, liberty and equality as well as dignity. The Constitution, since its adoption, has been our astute guide.

Today, on this pious occasion, we have witnessed a historic moment in the legacy of this esteemed Institution by unveiling the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as a tribute to the Chief Architect of the Constitution of India. The Nation will always remain grateful to Dr. Ambedkar, who headed the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, and thus had a critical role in giving it the final shape. We should be proud of the fact that the members of that Assembly represented all regions and communities of India and that they included 15 women too.

Dr. Ambedkar's legacy is a guiding light for our judicial system and a reminder of the values we uphold. His tireless efforts towards eradicating social discrimination and ensuring equality for all is the very basis of our Constitution.

The statue of Dr. Ambedkar that we unveil today is not merely a stone carved statue, but is a symbol of our commitment to create a society where every individual, regardless of caste, creed or gender has equal access to justice. It serves as the constant reminder that the judiciary stands as a guardian of the Constitution, ensuring that its principles are not just words on paper, but a live reality for every citizen.

While Babasaheb Ambedkar and others gave us a map and a moral framework, the task of walking on that path remains our responsibility. On this Republic Day, let us renew our pledge to uphold the ideals that our Constitution embodies. Let us draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's wisdom as we continue to uphold the values of our Constitution.

May this Republic Day be a reminder of our collective responsibility to safeguard the principles of justice, liberty and equality.

Let us strive to make our judicial system more accessible, transparent and responsive to the needs of the people. Together, let us work to build a Nation where every citizen's rights are protected and the flame of democracy burns bright.

Jai Hind

**(Justice Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice**