

PRESERVE DEMOCRACY

*Justice K. L. Sharma,
Former Judge,
Allahabad High Court*

The people of India realized their dream and aspiration of independence in 1947 after several decades of struggle, sacrifices of man and material and sufferings of all kinds but followed the path of Ahinsa for about a century. They liberated themselves from the British colonial Rule of about 300 years on 15th August, 1947, as a result of their unique unity, integrity, brotherhood and a high character and moral conduct. The Independence Act, 1947 made British India an independent country by carving out the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan out of the territories of British India. It was a great blow to the people of India that the unity and integrity of their nation was broken and put to challenge. The framers of the Constitution for the governance of an independent India laboured hard and studied not only the Constitutions of various countries of the world where democracies were functioning in one form or the other but also took into account seriously the background of the people of India, the diversities of religions, beliefs, faiths, modes of worship, languages, literacy, social and economic backwardness. After about two years of studies, consideration and debates in the constituent Assembly, the Constitution of India was drafted, adopted and enacted and given to the people of India on November 26, 1949. Consequently the people of India resolved to constitute India into a sovereign democratic republic on 26th January 1950.

The ideals, aspirations and the objects which the Constitution makers intended to be realized were contained in the preamble of the Constitution. It was resolved by the people of India for self governance 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. By Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976, the words, "Socialist and secular" were inserted between the words, "sovereign

and democratic republic” and the word, “integrity” was also inserted between the words, “unity”, and the nation.” The ideals, aspirations and the objects were the guiding factors for self-governance and enabled the Constitution makers to draft the various provisions in the Constitution. A great emphasis as it was the need of the people who lived in the state of slavery under British Rule was given to the fundamental rights and the directive principles of state policy. The people of India cherished freedom of speech. Equality, Personal liberty, protection of life, freedom of speech, religion and profession as the summum bonum of their life. In the course of last 52 years since the commencement of the Constitution of India the people of India became conscious and conscious of their fundamental rights only without reciprocal duties and forgot the great sacrifices of their forefathers, freedom fighters and the noble and selfless leaders who achieved for them independence and adopted a democratic system of governance. The people of India became the rulers themselves of their India i.e. Bharat and acquired the power to govern themselves through their elected representatives as per their own wishes, Constitution and their own laws.

What we have lost during last 52 years after such achievements is very much agonising and frustrating in every sphere and walk of life. The high spirit of unity and brotherhood amongst the various communities of the country which was on top level during the long period of struggle for freedom has disappeared. Smallest incidence is creating tension, trouble and strife and leads to communal riots frequently. The mutual faith and belief is decreasing so as to take away the peace of every body and is creating insecurities. Such an atmosphere of stress and strain, distrust apprehensions is leading to chaos and confusion and is seriously affecting the developments of the individual and the progress of the society as a whole. The dignity of the individual has been adversely affected and the mutual respect for each other is painfully missing. The youngsters do not respect the elders and even thwart their own parents. The subordinates do not respect and obey the superiors. Discipline is such a great casualty. Work culture is also dis-appearing. The authorities and the heads of the public institutions are in a great dilemma and have been subjected to considerable stresses and strains and have also become tools in the hands of miscreants. Vested interests of the individuals have been trying to promote only selfish ends to the great detriment of public good. Even some of the Constitutional functionaries are drifting away from their objectives, ideals and policies and have been failing in the discharge of their Constitutional duties and

