



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.

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India's Republic Day 2025: 76 Years On

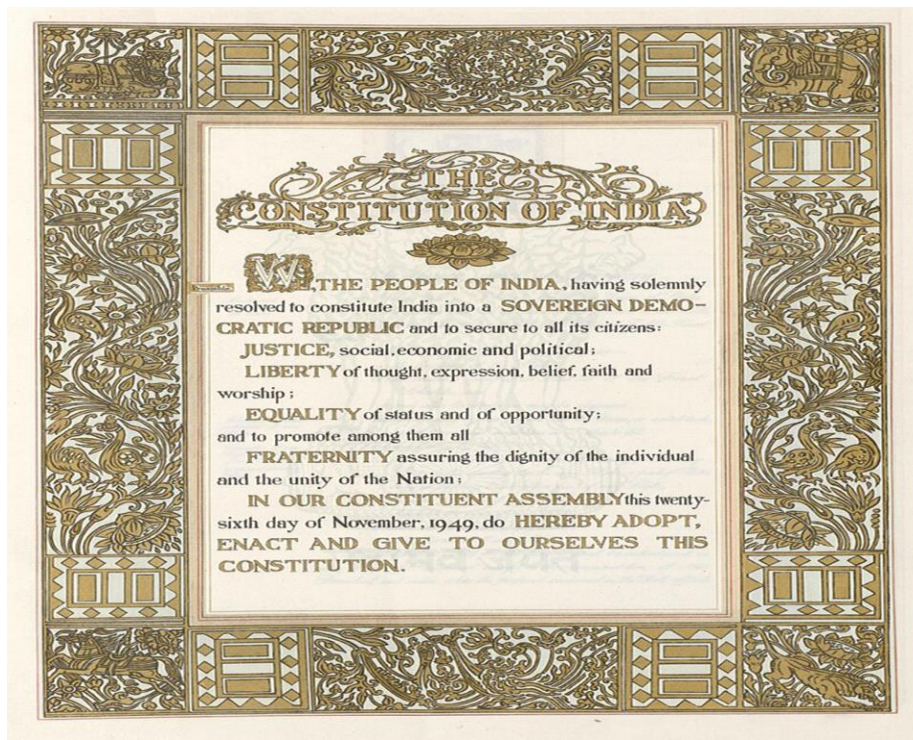


Figure 1: The Preamble to the Constitution of India

India rejoices on its 76th Republic Day on January 26, 2025. The word “Republic” is enshrined in the [Preamble to the Constitution of India](#) , and the Preamble is called the “Soul of the Indian Constitution” as it encapsulates the fundamental values that the Indian Constitution aims to achieve. The Republic Day is celebrated in India’s capital, New Delhi, at Kartavya Path (Path of Duty), it was named King’s Way, then Rajpath. It stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan (President’s House) to India Gate. The President of India addresses the nation on the occasion. The first President of India, [Dr. Rajendra Prasad](#), who was the head of the [Constituent Assembly](#), delivered his speech on August 14, 1947, on the eve of Independence Day. On this day in 2025, President Draupadi Murmu delivered her speech.

What Does It Mean by Republic

The process for electing the head of state in India involves a system where citizens play a crucial role, either directly or indirectly, in choosing their leader. This ensures the position is not filled through monarchy or hereditary succession, unlike its colonial power, Great Britain. The individual who assumes this important role is the President of India. The Constitution of India, which serves as the supreme legal document outlining the governance of the country, was implemented on January 26, 1950. This day is celebrated annually as Republic Day in India, marking the transition from British rule to an independent republic. Before the establishment of the Constitution, India was governed by the Government of India Act of 1935, a piece of legislation

enacted during the British Raj that provided a framework for governance but fell short of true self-determination for the Indian populace. The adoption of the Constitution marked a significant turning point in India's history, establishing democratic principles and a framework for governance that remains in effect today. [Read More](#)

Symbolizes History, Culture, Military Capabilities, and Diplomacy

The celebration and triumph of the Republic Day reconnects Indians to the history of the freedom movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and other prominent leaders who sacrificed their lives to liberate India from the British rule, the working of constituent assembly, people who worked tirelessly to compile and build a composite Bharat. It also reconnects the people of India about the journey of adoption of India's National Anthem- Jana Gana Mana by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950, that was written by Sir Ravindranath Tagore in Bengali language originally. It also reminds that it is pious document that inherits the values and philosophical teachings of the ancient Indian civilization viz-a viz modern history of the word. [Read More](#).

Japan-Laos Summit Held in Tokyo

Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, paid an official working visit to Japan and held a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba. The event marked the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Following the meeting, the two leaders signed a Japan-Laos Joint Statement and agreed to

cooperate on clean power supply, rehabilitation of the East-West Economic Corridor, improvement of education quality, and disaster prevention efforts. They also reaffirmed their commitment to working closely on regional issues, including the situations in the East and South China Seas and North Korea, as well as nuclear and missile issues. Furthermore, they also discussed the situations in Myanmar, Ukraine, and the Middle East and agreed to cooperate on international affairs. The two leaders concurred in elevating Japan-Laos bilateral relations to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" for deepening partnership in various field. [Read More](#)

Act East to Indo-Pacific Initiatives: India and Indonesia Bolster Ties

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's recent visit to Delhi and grace the occasion of India's Republic Day as the Chief Guest is a key moment in the regional strategic dynamics. Both countries strengthened bilateral relations and touted expanding partnerships in ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific region. Both leaders have inked a wide range of agreements ranging from infrastructure, connectivity, defense, economic engagement, food security, energy security, and health. It is worth mentioning that both countries had elevated their partnership to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" in 2018.

Additionally, India and Indonesia reaffirmed their commitment to support the ASEAN-India joint statement. Prabowo appreciated India's support for ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture to establish a free,

open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. India's Look East Policy (in 2024 named Act East Policy) since 1991 is a strategy to enhance its relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN). Furthermore, both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in trilateral and multilateral forums like India-Indonesia-Australia, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the G-20. Also, India supported Indonesia joining BRICS this month. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Who is confirmed for the Defense Secretary of the United States

- a. Pete Hegseth
- b. Elise Stefanik
- c. Kash Patel
- d. Tulsi Gabbard

Where is Osan Air Base located?

- a. Philippines
 - b. Japan
 - c. South Korea
 - d. Australia
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ India's Republic Day 2025: Reflections of History, Culture, Military Strength, and Diplomacy, Indu Saxena blogs on India's 76th Republic Day, [Read Here](#).
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