THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

The Union of India covers an area of about 3.3 million square kilometres having a population of some 550 million people. The people of this sub-continent which has a rich history and culture of over 5,000 years, belong to diverse faiths - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jews, Parsis, Jains and others. They speak a variety of languages and have variegated customs and ways of living. But in all this diversity there is an underlying unity which keeps the people together as a nation.

Free India has progressed steadily adding to the prosperity of its people. Since India became a Republic, five general elections based on adult franchise have been held and four Five-year Plans launched. The Plans have helped to step up agricultural output and build up heavy and basic industries. The production of electric power has been accelerated, transport and communications have been expanded and small scale industries have received high priority. The progress has been significant also in the fields of social reforms, education and scientific research. These are only a few of the notable accomplishments which are progressively converting India into an industrially
advanced and agriculturally self-sufficient nation with a socialistic pattern of society.

The Preamble To Our Constitution

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual, and the unity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

January 26

January 26 is a memorable day in the history of India. This day was, for the first time, celebrated as Independence Day in 1930. The struggle for freedom continued and each year on January 26, the pledge for Independence was renewed till India became free on August 15, 1947. Again, January 26 was the day when the
Constitution of free India came into force in 1950. Since then, January 26 has been celebrated as Republic Day throughout the country with nation-wide rejoicing. There is a week-long festivity in the Capital which draws large crowds.

Beating Retreat

This is the last function of the week-long Republic Day celebrations in the Capital. Massed bands of the Army Navy and Air Force in all their splash and glitter, come marching down the hump at the crest of Rajpath, and swirl round in the Vijay Chowk, filling the air with musical notes, strident and soft. Slow and fast marches in perfect patterns accompanied by stirring music provide a thrilling spectacle. The climax is reached when the drums beat fast and as the sun sets behind the Rashtrapati Bahavan bugles sound the "Retreat". On the last note, the National flag is hauled down and instantly there are illuminations all over. The day has ended; the Republic Day celebrations are over.

"Beating Retreat" is an ancient military custom dating from the days when troops disengaged from battle at sun-down or soon-after - as soon as the bugles sounded.

"Retreat". Drum beats were used to call back troops, billeted in towns or villages, to their garrison at sunset. Over the years the bugle and the drum were joined together to produce the colourful ceremony known as "Beating Retreat."

Drawing upon the rich martial and musical traditions of the country the defence forces have in recent years composed and orchestrated some very fine pieces of Indian martial music, a few dedicated to the Indian Tricolour and some paying homage to the brave and the gallantry of our fighting men. Massed bands provide a solemn and colourful musical finale to the celebrations. It is a spectacle which draws large crowds of music lovers.
NATIONAL SYMBOLS

National Flag

The National Flag was adopted by a resolution of the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947 which laid down

"the National Flag of India shall be horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band, there shall be a Wheel in navy blue to represent the Chakra. The design of the wheel shall be that of the wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka.

Saffron stands for courage and sacrifice, White for truth and peace, Green for faith and chivalry. The wheel is the "Dharma Chakra."

The diameter of the wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band.

The ratio of the width to the Flag shall ordinarily be 2:3.

Use of the Flag

The Government of India have issued a Code on the
proper use and display of the Flag. The salient feature of
the Code are:
1. No Flag or emblem should be placed above the
   National Flag or to its right. All flags are placed to the
   left of the National Flag if they are hung in a line. When
   other flags are raised, the National Flag must be highest.
   No other flag shall be flown from the same halyard from
   which the National flag is flown. Where a mast has more
   than one halyard all of which do not reach the top of
   the mast, then the National Flag should be displayed at
   the highest point of the mast.
2. When the Flag is carried in a procession or a
   parade, it shall be either on the marching right, that is
   the Flag's own right, or if there is a line of other flags,
   in front of the centre of the line.
3. The use of the Flag is, however, unrestricted on
   certain special occasions, such as Republic Day,
   Independence Day, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, during the
   National Week and on any other days of national rejoicing.
   The display of the National Flag on motor cars, even on
   such occasions, is restricted only to those entitled to the
   privilege.
4. The use of the National Flag on any colourable
   imitationthereof for the purpose of any trade, business,
calling or profession or in the title of any patent, or in any trade-mark or design, without the prior permission of the Central Government is an offence.

State Emblem

The State Emblem of India is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka. In the original are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels (Chakra) over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital was crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).

In the State Emblem adopted by the Government of India on January 26 1950 only three lions are visible, the fourth being hidden from view. The wheel appears in relief in the centre of the abacus with a bull on the right and a horse on the left and the outlines of the other wheels on the extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus has been omitted. The words "Satyameva Jayate," from the Mundaka Upanishad meaning "Truth alone triumphs" are inscribed below the Emblem in the Devanagari script.
The National Anthem

The first stanza of Rabindranath Tagore's song "Jana-gana-mana" given below was adopted by the Constituent Assembly as India's National Anthem:

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata
Panjaba-Sindhu-Gujarata-Martha
Dravida-Utkala-Banga
Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
Uchchhala-jaladhi-taranga
Tava subha name jage, tava subha asisa mage
Gahe tava jaya-gatha.
Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jay he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Jaya he, Jaya he, Jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he.

("Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people, dispenser of India's destiny. Thy name rouses the hearts of the Punjab, Sind, Gujarat and Maratha, of the Dravid and Orissa and Bengal; it echoes in the hills of the..."
Vindhyas and Himalayas, mingles in the music of the Jamuna and Ganges and is chanted by the waves of the India Sea. They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise. The saving of all people waits in thy hand, thou dispenser of India's destiny. Victory, Victory, Victory to thee".

National Song

At the same time as the National Anthem was adopted, it was decided that Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's Vande Mataram, which was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom shall have an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. Vande Mataram occurs in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel Ananda Math, published in 1881. The first political occasion on which it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress. The following is the text of its first stanza:

Vande Mataram!
Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja-shitalam,
Shasyashyamalam, Mataram!
Subhrajyotsna-uplakitayaminim,
Phullakusumita-drumadala-shobhinim,
Suhasinim sumadhura-bhasinim,
Sukhadam, vardam, Mataram!

The following is Sri Aurobindo's Translation of the

stanza:

Mother, I bow to thee!
Rich with thy hurrying streams,
bright with thy orchard gleams
Cool with thy winds to delight,
THE OATH

"I Promise that I will honestly and faithfully Serve my country and abide by the rules and regulations of the NATIONAL CADET CORPS and that I will, to the best of my ability, attend all Parades and Camps which I am required to attend by my Commanding officer,"
फन सी सी गान

हम सब भारतीय हैं, हम सब भारतीय हैं।
अपनी मंथल एक हैं, हा हा हा एक है, हो हो हो एक है,
हम सब भारतीय हैं।
कश्मीर की घरती रानी है, सरलाज हिमालय है,
मीठे से हमने इसको अपने चुन से पाला है,
देश की रत्न की साँतर हम शामिल हुड़ा लेंगे,
हम शामिल हुड़ा लेंगे।

बिसरे बिसरे तारे हैं हम लेकिन खिलाल्ल एक हैं,
हा हा हा एक हैं, हम सब भारतीय हैं,
मन्दर, गुमरेरे भी हैं यहाँ, और मस्जिद भी है यहाँ,
गिरजा का पहियाल कही मुल्ला की कही है अजान,
एक ही अपना राम है, एक ही अल्ला तलाल है,
एक ही अल्ला तलाल है।

रंग - बिरंगे दीपक है हम, लेकिन महसूल एक हैं,
हा हा हा एक है, हो हो हो एक है,
हम सब साँगिल एक हैं,
हम सब हिंदी है!