

Congratulatory Message by
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On the Occasion of the
“Constitution Day of India”
26th November, 2019

Today, I would like to join the great Indian people in celebrating their Constitution Day, which was adopted on 26th November, 1949 and came into force on 26th January, 1950.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely extend my best wishes to the Government and all the people of India on the auspicious occasion of Constitution Day of the Republic of India.

At this juncture, it gives me great honor to pay tribute to the ideas and values that the Indian Constitution holds. I also would like to recognize the valuable attributions made by two distinguished individuals in the making of the supreme laws of India – Shri Prem Behari, a master in calligraphic who penned the original draft Constitution consisted of 395 articles, 8 schedules, and a preamble; and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the nation's first Law Minister and Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, charged by the Assembly to write India's new Constitution. The text prepared by Dr. Ambedkar provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual Indian citizens, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability, and the outlawing of all forms of discrimination.

As the world biggest democracy celebrate its Constitution Day, it is an opportune time to reflect upon the good bond of friendship between Cambodia and India.

From the earliest recorded history until present day, Cambodia and India enjoy remarkable relationship marks by great civilization and old aged tradition. The two sides share common values rich in cultural and civilizational heritages in the past centuries such as the impacts of Brahmanism and Buddhism. From the Sanskrit and Pali languages to soap operas and Bollywood films, Cambodian people are

receptive to India's soft power in the country. Cambodians do not regard India as imperialist but instead absorb Indian culture in shaping the Cambodian spirit through Indic philosophy, political ideas, religion, arts and language over a period of two millennia.

Diplomatic relations are warm and cordial in the present day context. Going forward, we can expect to see a more active program of cultural diplomacy by Delhi for Cambodia, highlighting its twin advantages as a heavily English speaking nation and as a center of global Buddhism. The two nations will be encouraging to see improvement in economic relations as well with anticipated growth in bilateral trade and investment.

Therefore, a "cordial continuity" in the relationship between the Cambodia and India is to be expected well into the future, enabling the two countries to collaborate together as responsible members of the international community to address the multifaceted regional and global challenges and geo-political concerns in the spirit of mutual respect and cordial understanding.
