Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■

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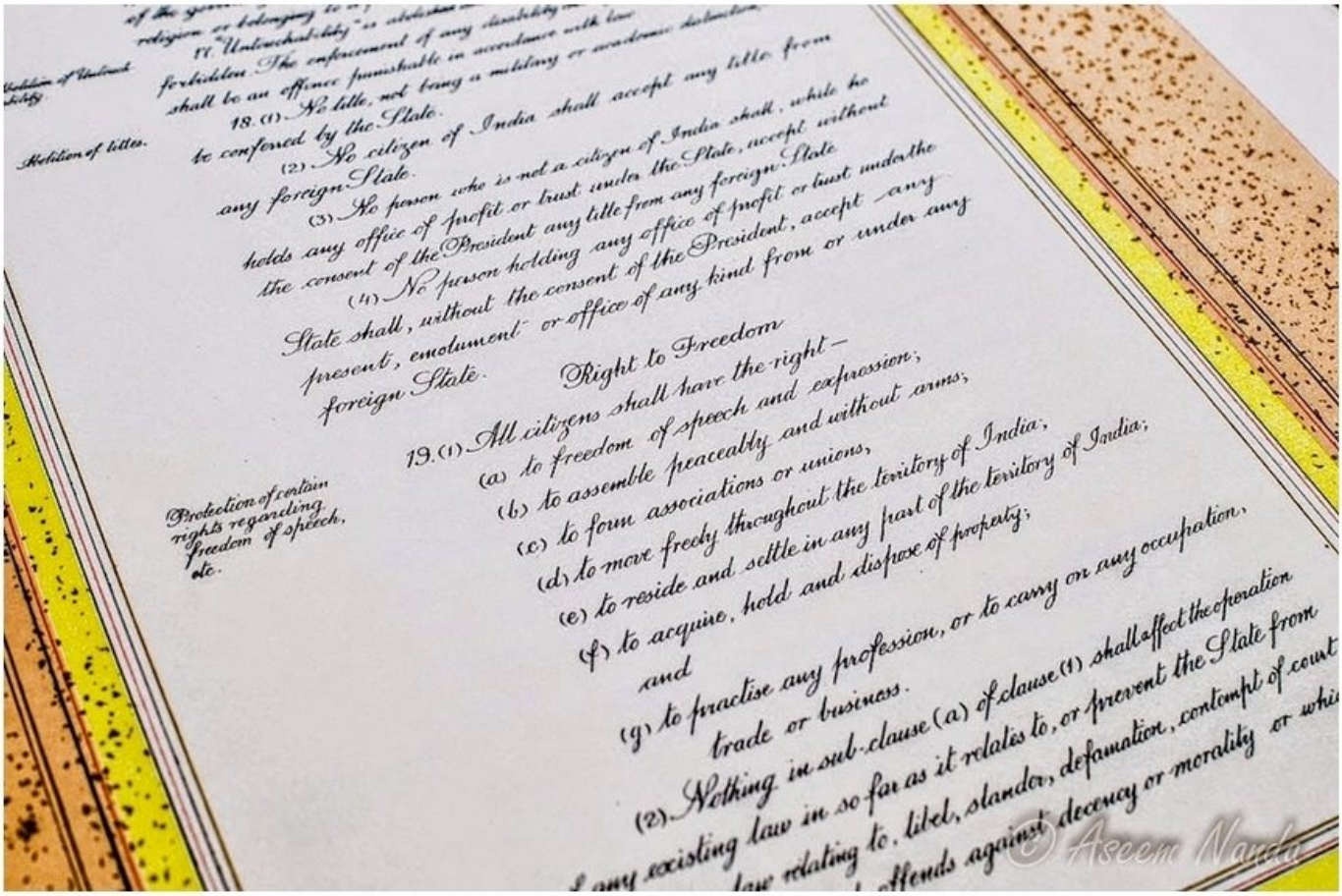
Do you know?

The constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world and it was written by a man named Prem Behari Narain Raizada in his own handwriting.

Prem Behari writing the Constitution. Source.

The constitution has always been associated with Dr Ambedkar,chairman of the drafting committee,who was its architect,but very little is known about the man who penned it down.

The first draft of Indian Constitution was completed on 26th Nov 1949 is no less than a masterpiece.



A page from the Constitution written by Shri Prem Behari. Source.

While Nandalal Bose and his students designed the borders of every page and adorned it with beautiful art pieces, it was the singlehanded effort of Prem Behari Narain Raizada (Saxena) that brought the primary contents and the preamble to the Constitution, to life.

Shri Prem Behari was born on 17 December 1901, in a family of traditional calligraphists. He lost his parents when he was very young and was brought up by his grandfather Master Ram Parshadji Saxena and uncle Mahashya Chatur Behari Narayan Saxena.

Prem Behari’s grandfather was a scholar in Persian & English. He even taught Persian to British officials.
When the draft of the Constitution was ready to be printed,the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru approached Shri Behari with the proposal of handwriting it in a flowing italic style.

He asked him how much he would charge for the job. To which he replied "Not a single penny. By the grace of God I have all the things, and am quite happy with my life".

However,he made a request that on every page of Constitution he will write his name and on the last page he will write his name along with his grandfather's name.
Granting tge request, Government of India entrusted with Prem Behari the prestigious job of penning the Constitution.

He was allotted a room in the Constitution Hall that later came to be known as Constitution Club. At this point, the draft consisted of a total of 395 articles, 8 schedules, and a preamble. Prem Behari took six months to complete the task.

According to Prem Foundation, 432 pen-holder nibs were used throughout the process, and he used No. 303 nibs for this calligraphy.
The original manuscript of the Constitution was written on parchment sheets measuring 16X22 inches which have a lifespan of a thousand years.

Examples of nibs used by Shri Prem Behari to hand-write the constitution. Source.

The finished manuscript consisted of 251 pages and weighed 3.75 kg.

This manuscript was signed by the members of the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950.

Shri Behari shows the first manuscript to Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Source.