

Constitution



Making of Indian constitution



- In 1934, **M N Roy** gave the idea of a constituent assembly for framing the Indian constitution.
- In 1935, This idea of forming a constituent assembly was supported by leaders of the Indian National Congress, and demand was put forward.
- In 1938, Jawaharlal Nehru, on behalf the INC declared that ‘the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference, by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise’.



- The demand was finally accepted in principle by the British Government in what is known as the 'August Offer' of 1940.
- In 1942, sir Stafford Cripps, a member of the cabinet, came to India with a draft proposal of the British government on the framing of an independent constitution to be adopted after the world war II [1939-1945]



- **In 1946, Cabinet Mission** was sent to India. While it rejected the idea of two Constituent Assemblies, it put forth a scheme for the Constituent Assembly.

Composition of the constituent assembly

- The Indian Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946



- **The total strength** of the Constituent Assembly was to be **389**.
- Of these, 296 seats were to be allotted to British India and 93 seats to the princely states.
- The Indian National **Congress won 208 seats**, the Muslim League 73 seats and the small groups and independents got the remaining 15 seats



Working of the constituent assembly

- The Constituent Assembly held its **first meeting on December 9, 1946**
- Muslim League boycotted the meeting
- The meeting was, thus, attended by only 211 members. **Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha**, the oldest member, was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly.



- On Dec 11, 1946 **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was elected as the **President** of the Assembly.
- Similarly, both **H.C. Mukherjee** and **V.T. Krishnamachari** were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly.
- **Objectives Resolution**: On December 13, 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic 'Objectives Resolution' in the Assembly. It laid down the fundamentals and philosophy of the constitutional structure



COMMITTEES OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

➤ The Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Out of these, eight were major committees and the others were minor committees

1. Union Powers Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
2. Union Constitution Committee -Jawaharlal Nehru
3. Provincial Constitution Committee -Sardar Patel
4. Drafting Committee - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



5. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas - Sardar Patel.
6. Rules of Procedure Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad
7. States Committee - Jawaharlal Nehru
8. **Steering Committee - Dr. Rajendra Prasad**



Drafting Committee

- ❖ Among all the committees of the Constituent Assembly, the most important committee was the Drafting Committee set up on **August 29, 1947**
- ❖ It consisted of seven members. They were:
 1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman)



2. N. Gopaldaswamy Ayyangar
3. Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar
4. Dr. K.M. Munshi
5. Syed Mohammad Saadullah
6. N. Madhava Rau (He replaced B.L. Mitter who resigned due to ill-health)
7. T.T. Krishnamachari (He replaced D.P. Khaitan who died in 1948)



- The motion on Draft Constitution was declared as **passed on November 26, 1949**, and received the signatures of the members and the president.
- Out of a total 299 members of the Assembly, only 284 were actually present on that day and signed the Constitution. This is also the date mentioned in the Preamble as the date on which the people of India in the Constituent Assembly adopted, enacted and gave to themselves this Constitution.



- Constitution as adopted on nov 26, 1949 contained a preamble, 22 parts, 395 articles and 8 schedules.
- Some provisions of the Constitution came into force on November 26, 1949, itself.
- The remaining provisions (the major part) of the Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950.
- January 26 was specifically chosen as the 'date of commencement' of the Constitution because of its historical importance. It was on this day in 1930 that Purna Swaraj day was celebrated, following the resolution of the Lahore Session (December 1929) of the INC.



Salient Features Of The Indian Constitution



1. Lengthiest Written Constitution:

The Indian Constitution is comprehensive, originally contained 395 articles, 22 parts, and 8 schedules. This extensive document reflects India's vastness, diversity, and historical context.

2. Drawn from Various Sources:

It incorporates elements from different constitutions around the world, as well as the Government of India Act of 1935. For example, fundamental rights are inspired by the US Constitution, while directive principles of state policy are drawn from the Irish Constitution.



3. Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility

The Constitution allows for amendments, but the process is neither too easy (like the UK) nor too difficult (like the US). This balance ensures it can adapt to changing needs while remaining stable.

4. Federal System with Unitary Bias

While India has a federal structure with a division of powers between the center and states, it also has several unitary features, such as a strong center, single citizenship, and emergency provisions.



5. Parliamentary Form of Government

India adopted a parliamentary system where the executive (Prime Minister and Council of Ministers) is responsible to the legislature (Parliament).

6. Fundamental Rights:

These are justiciable rights guaranteed to citizens, ensuring individual freedoms and liberties.



7. Directive Principles of State Policy

These are non-justiciable principles that guide the state in promoting social and economic welfare.

8. Fundamental Duties:

These are a set of duties for citizens, emphasizing their responsibilities towards the nation.

9. Single Citizenship:

Unlike some federal systems, India offers single citizenship, promoting national unity.

10. Adult Suffrage:

All adult citizens (above 18 years) have the right to vote, ensuring democratic participation.



11.Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy:

The Supreme Court, on the one hand, can declare parliamentary laws as unconstitutional through its power of judicial review.

On the other hand, the Parliament can amend the major portion of the constitution through its constituent power

12.Integrated and Independent Judiciary:

The Supreme Court stands at the top of the integrated judicial system in the country. Below it, there are high courts at the state level. Under a high court, there is a hierarchy of subordinate courts, that is, district courts and other lower courts.



13. A Secular state:

It does not uphold any particular religion as the official religion of the Indian State.

14. Independent Bodies:

The Indian Constitution establishes independent bodies as key pillars safeguarding the democratic system of government in India. Election Commission to ensure free and fair elections, Comptroller and Auditor-General of India to audit the accounts of the central and state governments



15. Emergency Provisions:

The Indian Constitution contains elaborate emergency provisions to enable the President to meet any extraordinary situation effectively.

16. Three-tier Government:

Originally, the Indian Constitution provided for a dual polity and contained provisions with regard to the organisation and powers of the Centre and the states. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992 have added a third-tier of Government (i.e., local) which is not found in any other Constitution of the world.



Current Affairs



1. Tral Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state/UT?

Jammu Kashmir

- For the protection of endangered Hangul deer in the region.

- 2. Which country recently reported an outbreak of the Cholera disease?

Sudan



3. Where was the Mahila Sashaktikaran Maha Sammelan event held on the occasion of 300th birth anniversary of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar?

Bhopal

4. Luis Montenegro has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?

Portugal



5. What is the name of the Ukrainian operation that involved a major drone strike on Russian air bases?

Operation Spider Web

6. Ice Breaker Missile was developed by which country?

Israel

7. Which region scored the highest in the PGI 2.0 report for 2023-24?

chandigarh



8. Where is the World Expo 2025 being held?

Osaka, Japan

9. Shongtong-Karcham hydroelectric project is located in which state?

Himachal Pradesh

10. Which city has been selected as the national host for the 11th International Day of Yoga ?

Vishaakhapatnam

