

INDIAN POLITY

Framing of the Indian Constitution

- The idea to have a Constitution was given by **MN ROY** (political philosopher). The Constitution was framed by the **Constituent Assembly** of India, set up in December 1946, in accordance with the **Cabinet Mission Plan** under the chairmanship of **SachidanandSinha**, initially. On the demise of SachidanandSinha, **DrRajendra Prasad** was elected as the **President**. **BN Rao** was appointed as the Constitutional advisor.
- The total membership of constituent assembly was 389, where 93 were representatives from the Indian States and others from British India. The **Chairman** of the drafting committee was **Dr. BR Ambedkar**.

Enactment of the Constitution

- The Constitution, adopted on November 8, 1949, contained **395** Articles and **8** schedules. Presently, it has **444** Articles and **22** schedules. The constituent assembly took **2 years, 11 months and 18 days** to complete the Constitution.
- Some of the provisions as those related to citizenship, elections, provisional parliament etc, were given immediate effect. The Constitution came into force on **26 January 1950**, known as **Republic day of India**.
- The Constitution was delayed till 26 January because, in 1929, on this day Indian national congress demanded **Poorna Swaraj** in Lahore session under J L Nehru. The constituent assembly adopted our National flag on **July 22, 1947**. It was designed by **PingaliVenkiah**.

Preamble

- It is the preface or the introduction of the Constitution. It is not an integral part of the Constitution. The interpretation of the Constitution is based on the spirit of the preamble.
- The idea of the preamble was borrowed from the Constitution of USA. The words, **Socialist, Secular** and **Integrity** were added by the **42nd Amendment in 1976**.

The Preamble States

“WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC, and REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens. JUSTICE social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, this 26th day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.”

Main Features

- Bulkiest Constitution of the world
- Written Constitution
- Combination of Rigidity and Flexibility
- Parliamentary system of Government
- Federal system with a unitary bias
- Fundamental rights and duties
- Directive principles of state policy
- Independent judiciary
- Single citizenship

Sources of the Indian Constitution

UK	Nominal head – President (like queen) Cabinet systems of ministers Post of Prime Minister Parliamentary type of Government Bicameral parliament Lower house more powerful Council of ministers responsible to the lower house Speaker in Lok Sabha Single citizenship Law making procedures
USA	Written Constitution Vice president as the Ex officio chairman of upper house Fundamental rights Supreme Court Provision of States Independence of judiciary and judicial review Preamble