

Session 1: Introduction to Indian Constitution

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Indian Constitution

Constitution is a document containing rules and regulations to govern a nation.

Functions of a constitution

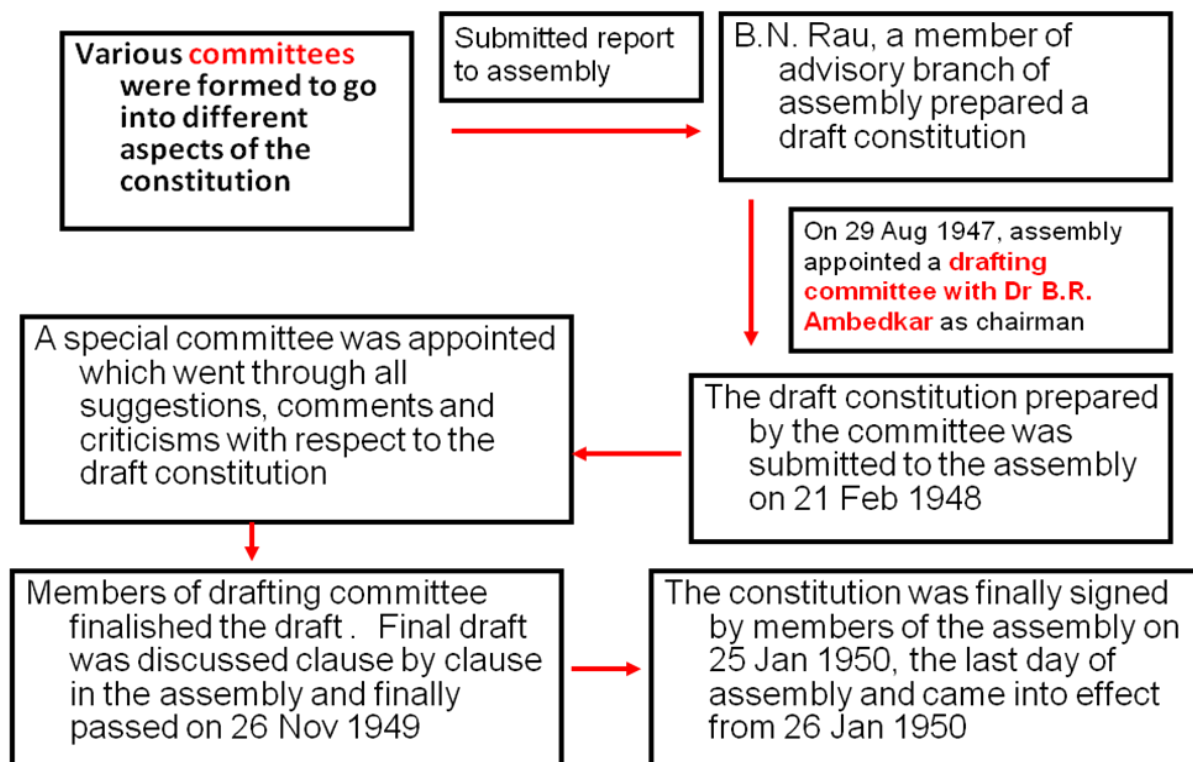
1. It provides the basic structure of the political system.
2. It reflects the aspirations of the people.
3. It reflects the vision of the founding fathers.
4. It is the link between the people and the government.
5. It provides guidance to govern the state.

The constituent assembly

A constituent assembly is a body or assembly of representatives composed for the purpose of drafting or adopting a constitution. A constituent assembly is usually set up for its specific purpose, which it carries out in a relatively short time, after which the assembly is dissolved. A constituent assembly is a form of representative democracy.

The Constituent Assembly of India was elected to write the Constitution of India, and served as its first Parliament as an independent nation. It was set up as a result of negotiations between the leaders of the Indian independence movement and members of the British Cabinet Mission. The constituent assembly was elected indirectly by the members of the Provincial legislative assembly, which existed under the British Raj. It first met on December 9, 1946, in Delhi. On August 15, 1947, India became an independent nation, and the Constituent Assembly started functioning as India's Parliament. Dr. Ambedkar drafted the Constitution of India in conjunction with the requisite deliberations and debates in the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly approved the Constitution on November 26, 1949 and it took effect on January 26, 1950 — a day now commemorated as Republic Day in India. Once the Constitution took effect, the Constituent Assembly became the Provisional Parliament of India. (It was "provisional" until the first elections under the new Constitution took place, in 1952.)

Framing of the constitution by the constituent assembly



Points to remember.

- The constituent assembly was elected indirectly by the members of the Provincial legislative assembly, which existed under the [British Raj](#). Originally, 389 members were there. Afterwards, partition was (389 → 299)
- **On August 15, 1947**, India became an independent nation, The constituent assembly **first met on December 9, 1946**, in [Delhi](#).
- **Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha** was the first chairman (temporary) of Constituent Assembly. Later **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was elected as the president
- **Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (B N Rau)** was the advisor to the Constituent Assembly
- [Dr. Ambedkar](#) drafted the **Constitution of India** in conjunction with the requisite deliberations and debates in the Constituent Assembly.
- The Assembly approved the Constitution on **November 26, 1949** and it took effect on **January 26, 1950** — a day now commemorated as [Republic Day in India](#).
- Once the Constitution took effect, the Constituent Assembly became the **Provisional Parliament** of India. (It was "provisional" until the **first elections** under the new Constitution took place, in **1952**.)
- The Assembly met for the first time in New Delhi on 9 December 1946, and its last session was held on 24 January 1950.
- During this period (two years, eleven months and eighteen days) the Assembly held eleven sessions, sitting for a total of 166 days.

Various Committees of Constituent assembly

1. Drafting Committee – [Bhimrao Ambedkar](#)
2. Union Power Committee – [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)
3. Union Constitution Committee – [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)
4. Provincial Constitution Committee – [Vallabhbhai Patel](#)
5. Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas – [Vallabhbhai Patel](#). This committee had the following subcommittees:
 - I. Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee – [J. B. Kripalani](#)
 - II. Minorities Sub-Committee – [Harendra Coomar Mookerjee](#),
 - III. North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee – [Gopinath Bordoloi](#)
 - IV. Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Apart from those in Assam) Sub-Committee – [A V Thakkar](#)
6. Rules of Procedure Committee – [Rajendra Prasad](#)
7. States Committee (Committee for negotiating with states) – [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)
8. Steering Committee – [Rajendra Prasad](#)
9. Ad hoc Committee on the National Flag – [Rajendra Prasad](#)
10. Committee for the function of the Constitution Assembly – [G V Mavlankar](#)
11. House Committee – [B Pattabhi Sitaramayya](#)
12. Language Committee – [Moturi Satyanarayana](#)
13. Order of Business Committee – [K M Munshi](#)

Different Schedules in the Constitution

Original 8 schedules at the time of adoption of the constitution

- **SCHEDULE 1:** States and Union Territories - 28 & 7 (Originally 28+7, after Telangana 29+7, After J&K change, 28+8)
- **SCHEDULE II:** Salary allowances of President, VP, Speaker, Judges, CAG etc.
- **SCHEDULE III:** Various forms of oaths and affirmations
- **SCHEDULE IV:** Seats allotted to states in Rajya Sabha
- **SCHEDULE V:** Administration and control of scheduled areas
- **SCHEDULE VI:** Administration of Tribal area in Assam, Meghalaya & Mizoram
- **SCHEDULE VII:** Subjects in three lists
- **SCHEDULE VIII:** List of 22 Official languages

Schedules which were added through amendments.

- **SCHEDULE IX: (1st amendment 1951)** Protect certain laws from Judicial scrutiny on the ground of violation of fundamental rights. However, In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the laws included in this Schedule after April 24, 1973
- **SCHEDULE X: (52nd Amendment 1985)** Disqualification of members on the ground of defection
- **SCHEDULE XI: (73rd amendment 1992)** Powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayaths
- **SCHEDULE XII:** Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities

Official languages in Schedule VIII of the Constitution

1. Assamese	9. Konkani	17. Sanskrit
2. Bengali	10. Malayalam	18. Santhali
3. Bodo	11. Manipuri	19. Sindhi
4. Dogri	12. Marathi	20. Tamil
5. Gujarati	13. Maithili	21. Telugu
6. Hindi	14. Nepali	22. Urdu
7. Kannada	15. Oriya	
8. Kashmiri	16. Punjabi	

- At the time of constitution formation, **14 languages** were there.
- **Sindhi** language was added in 1967.
- Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992.
- Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

Parts of the Indian constitution

Part	Articles	Area
I	1-4	Union and its territories
II	5-11	Citizenship
III	12-35	Fundamental rights
IV	36-51	Directive Principles of State Policy
IV A	51A	Fundamental duties (42 nd Amendment)
VI	52-151	Union Government
IX	243 A-O	Panchayaths
IX A	243 P-ZG	Municipalities