THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a [1]**[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC 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 [2][unity and integrity of the Nation];

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

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1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)
2. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)

भारत का संविधान

उद्देशिका

हम, भारत के लोग, भारत को एक [1][**संपूर्ण प्रभुत्व-संपन्न समाजवादी पंथनिरपेक्ष लोकतंत्रात्मक गणराज्य**] बनाने के लिए, तथा उसके समस्त नागरिकों को :

सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनैतिक **न्याय**,

विचार, अभिव्यक्ति, विश्वास, धर्म और उपासना की **स्वतंत्रता**,

प्रतिष्ठा और अवसर की **समता**

प्राप्त कराने के लिए,

तथा उन **सब में**

व्यक्ति की गरिमा और [2][**राष्ट्र की एकता और अखंडता**] सुनिश्चित करने वाली **बंधुता**

बढ़ाने के लिए

दृढ़संकल्प होकर **अपनी इस संविधान सभा में** आज तारीख 26 नवंबर, 1949 ई. (मिति मार्गशीर्ष शुक्ला सप्तमी, संवत् दो हजार छह विक्रमी) को **एतद्द्वारा इस संविधान को अंगीकृत, अधिनियमित और आत्मार्पित करते हैं।**

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1. संविधान (बयालीसवां संशोधन) अधिनियम, 1976 की धारा 2 द्वारा (3.1.1977 से) "प्रभुत्व-संपन्न लोकतंत्रात्मक गणराज्य" के स्थान पर प्रतिस्थापित।
2. संविधान (बयालीसवां संशोधन) अधिनियम, 1976 की धारा 2 द्वारा (3.1.1977 से) "राष्ट्र की एकता" के स्थान पर प्रतिस्थापित।

Some of the main personalities who shaped the Constitution:

Dr Rajendra Prasad played the central coordinating role as the President of the Constituent Assembly during 1946–1949. He ensured orderly and fair debates among members with diverse views. With his great learning and knowledge, he handled procedural and constitutional questions with tact and resolved disputes among members. He was respected for maintaining impartiality and decorum, without imposing his own opinions. Thus, he had a decisive role in fostering consensus during the making of the Constitution. At the end, he signed the final Constitution on 26 January 1950, as President of the Assembly and gave it legal authenticity.

Jawaharlal Nehru was the Vice President of the Constituent Assembly. He played a visionary role in the making of the Constitution. He introduced the Objectives Resolution laying down the guiding principles of the Constitution. As a result, sovereignty, democracy, equality, justice, and fraternity formed its foundation. Nehru provided the overall political direction of the Constitution. He presented the core democratic vision in his interventions and leadership role during the Assembly debates. He ensured that the Constitution embodied the national aspirations and progressive ideals.

Dr B. R. Ambedkar played a crucial role in making the Constitution. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He prepared and finalized the draft Constitution. It included translating the Assembly's resolutions and committee reports into a precise legal language. He integrated various constitutional and legal sources into a coherent framework. It included British parliamentary practices, American federalism, and British Indian constitutional traditions. It was a technical work which Dr Ambedkar fulfilled with his great intellectual ability.

In the Constitution, he ensured inclusion of fundamental rights, social justice, and safeguards for minorities and weaker sections. He also reconciled differing ideological views, producing a practical and enduring document. However, he warned the countrymen that merely a good document is not sufficient for running the country. The persons occupying the responsible positions must also be good. In the Constituent Assembly (25 November 1949) he said:

"However good a constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot."

Vallabhbhai Patel had a decisive organizational role as Chairman of several key committees of the Constituent Assembly. He headed the Provincial Constitution Committee and the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Tribal Areas. He ensured a strong yet balanced federal structure, and helped define the Centre-states relations. In fact, Patel proved, both in theory and practice, to be the chief

Historical evolution of the Constitution of India

The Constitutional development of India is generally traced back to the **Indian Councils Act of 1892**. Although at the time it was not imagined as such, the Act first introduced the principle of representation of Indians in the administration. It was limited but expanded the legislative councils to include Indians as nominated members. Indian members got the right to ask questions and discuss the issues before the council.

The next important development was the **Morley-Minto Reforms in 1909**. It introduced the system of elected members.

Then in **1919, the Government of India Act** introduced dyarchy in provinces. It ensured greater Indian participation in the governance. A system of election for the legislatures was introduced formally. Some subjects were 'transferred' to be handled by Indian ministers. These were education, health, agriculture, and local-self-government. Many notable Indians, such as Vithalbhai Patel, S. Srinivasa Iyenger, Sir Surendranath Banerjee, Fazlul Haq, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Chotu Ram, and others came to hold executive powers as ministers in different provinces.

Next, the **Government of India Act, 1935** laid the foundation of a federal and administrative structure in the country. It gave the provinces full autonomy. Now the Indians were given the responsibility to run the provincial administration, with all subjects under their purview. However, the overall sovereignty of the country as a whole was in the hands of the British.

Finally, in **1946**, when the British government in London decided to leave India, an announcement was made to form a Constituent Assembly to make a new constitution for the forthcoming government. To elect its members an election was held in India during July-August 1946. The Constituent Assembly began its work on 9 December 1946.

At the end, the **Indian Independence Act**, passed by British Parliament in **July 1947**, granted sovereignty to the Indians. The Constituent Assembly completed its task and adopted the new Constitution on 26 November 1949. It came into force on 26 January 1950.

Since then, the Constitution has served the country through various trials. More than a hundred amendments in it are also a part of the constitutional development. As the constitution makers had envisaged, the Constitution is a dynamic document. It has the capacity to improve and change according to the needs of the time. The leaders of the country in the Parliament represent the improvement and change.

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organizer and unifier of the constitutional process. He promoted unity and consensus, reconciling differing provincial and communal interests.

Mrs. Hansa Mehta played an important role as a thoughtful woman in making the Constitution. As a member of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, she ensured that women's rights were protected in the Constitution. She asked to use gender-even language, to replace the then prevalent wordings like 'any man' to 'any person' in the draft of fundamental rights. She emphasized equal civic and political rights for women, including equality in marriage, employment, and education. Thus, Hansa Mehta was a key voice of women's wisdom and human rights, shaping the humane and just character of the Constitution.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad -

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad contributed as a political-intellectual voice of minorities, especially the Muslims. He was a voice of national unity and inclusive nationalism. His interventions in the Constituent Assembly were influential in ensuring fundamental rights for all citizens, without religious distinctions. His views also helped to make education a constitutional commitment, which reflected in Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution. Thus, his contribution was more of an ideological nature. He helped to guide the Assembly toward making a secular and unified constitutional system.

Gopinath Bordoloi-

Gopinath Bordoloi was the Chairman of the North-East Frontier (Assam) Tribal & Excluded Areas Sub-Committee in the Constituent Assembly. He emphasized to obtain cooperation of tribal people rather than imposing integration by force. In his leadership the committee studied the conditions of tribal communities of the North-East and made recommendations for safeguards to improve their status in independent India. The recommendations contributed to the formulation of Part X of the Constitution, 'The Scheduled and Tribal Areas'. Bordoloi highlighted that many tribal institutions, like their panchayats, were valuable and should be preserved in the new constitutional arrangement. His contribution was valuable in creating regional autonomy with protection of national interests.

K. T. Krishnamachari -

K. T. Krishnamachari was one of the important members of the Drafting Committee headed by Dr Ambedkar. He argued that with Partition, refugee crisis, and threats of secession the new Constitution required a powerful Centre, administrative unity, and a sound fiscal arrangement. His speeches helped the logic of having a strong centre after Partition. He was Ambedkar's most articulate supporter during the final debates, when the draft constitution was criticised for being too long and legalistic. His arguments helped the Assembly to accept a federal system with more unitary characteristics.

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir was elected to the Constituent Assembly from East Punjab. He advocated for a rational citizenship provision. He raised concerns about the issue of citizenship by domicile. It took final shape as 'Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution' (Article 5). Giani ji argued that non-Muslims migrating from Pakistan should be able to acquire Indian citizenship, and that the law should distinguish between non-Muslim refugees and others. He strongly opposed separate electorates for religious communities. Thus, he supported a unitary electoral framework and communal harmony for India. Later he also became the Chief Minister of Punjab.