

# MAKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

## 1 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY



The idea of a Constituent Assembly was proposed by **M.N. Roy** in 1934. It was implemented under the **Cabinet Mission Plan, 1946**.

### FORMATION

| Point                    | Details                    |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Formation                | Cabinet Mission Plan, 1946 |
| Initial strength         | <b>389 members</b>         |
| British Indian Provinces | 296                        |
| Princely States          | 93                         |
| Election                 | Indirect election          |
| First meeting            | <b>9 December 1946</b>     |
| Temporary Chairman       | Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha   |
| President                | Dr. Rajendra Prasad        |
| Vice-President           | H.C. Mukherjee             |
| Constitutional Adviser   | B.N. Rau                   |



Members of the Constituent Assembly



**After Partition:** Strength reduced from **389** to **299**.



### IMPORTANT MILESTONES

|             |                                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 9 Dec 1946  | First meeting of Constituent Assembly             |
| 13 Dec 1946 | Nehru introduced the <b>Objectives Resolution</b> |
| 22 Jan 1947 | Objectives Resolution adopted                     |
| 29 Aug 1947 | Drafting Committee formed                         |
| 4 Nov 1948  | Draft Constitution introduced                     |
| 26 Nov 1949 | Constitution adopted                              |
| 24 Jan 1950 | Constitution signed                               |
| 26 Jan 1950 | Constitution came into force                      |



### WHY 26 JANUARY?

To honour the **Purna Swaraj Declaration** of **26 January 1930**.

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## IMPORTANT COMMITTEES OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

| Committee                                                                        | Chairman                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Drafting Committee                                                               | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar        |
| Union Powers Committee                                                           | Jawaharlal Nehru         |
| Union Constitution Committee                                                     | Jawaharlal Nehru         |
| Provincial Constitution Committee                                                | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel |
| Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal & Excluded Areas | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel |
| Rules of Procedure Committee                                                     | Dr. Rajendra Prasad      |
| Steering Committee                                                               | Dr. Rajendra Prasad      |
| Finance and Staff Committee                                                      | Dr. Rajendra Prasad      |

### DRAFTING COMMITTEE



**Formed:** 29 August 1947



**Chairman:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



**Main role:** Prepared and presented the **Draft Constitution**.

### KEY PERSONALITIES

**M.N. Roy** → Idea of Constituent Assembly

**Jawaharlal Nehru** → Objectives Resolution

**Dr. Rajendra Prasad** → President of Constituent Assembly

**B.R. Ambedkar** → Chairman of Drafting Committee

**B.N. Rau** → Constitutional Adviser

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## SOURCES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

| Source                               | Major Features                                             |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Government of India Act, 1935</b> | Federal scheme, Governor, Public Service Commissions       |
| <b>UK</b>                            | Parliamentary system, Rule of Law, Single Citizenship      |
| <b>USA</b>                           | Fundamental Rights, Judicial Review, Independent Judiciary |
| <b>Ireland</b>                       | Directive Principles of State Policy                       |
| <b>Canada</b>                        | Strong Centre, Residuary Powers                            |
| <b>Australia</b>                     | Concurrent List, Joint Sitting                             |
| <b>Germany</b>                       | Emergency Provisions                                       |
| <b>USSR/Russia</b>                   | Fundamental Duties                                         |
| <b>France</b>                        | Liberty, Equality, Fraternity                              |
| <b>South Africa</b>                  | Constitutional Amendment procedure                         |
| <b>Japan</b>                         | Procedure Established by Law                               |



### EXAM POINT

The **Government of India Act, 1935** was the major source of several administrative and constitutional provisions.

# 4. SALIENT FEATURES



- Written and detailed Constitution
- Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic
- Parliamentary form of government
- Federal system with a strong Centre
- Fundamental Rights
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Fundamental Duties
- Independent Judiciary
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Rule of Law
- Independent Constitutional Bodies
- Blend of rigidity and flexibility
- Secularism and equality before law



सत्यमेव जयते

*Constitution  
of  
India*



## QUICK REVISION



**1934**



**M.N. Roy**

**1946**



**Constituent  
Assembly**

**1947**



**Drafting  
Committee**

**B.R. Ambedkar**



**Drafting Committee  
Chairman**

**26 November  
1949**



**Constitution  
adopted**

**26 January  
1950**



**Constitution  
enforced**