

MAKING OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

•Introduction

- The making of the Indian Constitution was a historic process.
- It involved multiple stages including demand for Constituent Assembly, framing of the Constitution, and adoption.
- Inspired by global constitutions and Indian political experience.

•**Historical Background**

- 1934: M.N. Roy first proposed the idea of a Constituent Assembly.
- 1940: Demand officially accepted in August Offer.
- 1946: Cabinet Mission Plan proposed the framework for the Assembly.
- Elections held; Muslim League boycotted.
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• **Composition of the Constituent Assembly**

- Total Members: 389 (later reduced to 299 after Partition)
- Indirectly elected by provincial assemblies.
- Included representatives from princely states, minorities, and political groups.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad: President
- B.N. Rau: Constitutional Advisor

• **Working of the Assembly**

- First meeting: December 9, 1946
- Objective Resolution by Nehru on December 13, 1946
- Committees formed for various tasks (e.g., Drafting Committee)
- Public debates and scrutiny were conducted.
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OBJECTIVE RESOLUTION

- CAME ON 13 DEC 1946
- ADOPTED BY CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON 22 JAN 1947
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- India to be an **independent sovereign republic**
- Guaranteed **justice – social, economic, and political** to all people
- Ensured **equality of status and opportunity**
- **Freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association, and action**
- Safeguards for **minorities, backward and tribal people**
- Integrity of the nation and its territories to be maintained
- India to contribute to **world peace and human welfare**

•**Drafting Committee**

- Formed on August 29, 1947
- Chairman: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- Other members: Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, K.M. Munshi, etc.
- Submitted the final draft on November 4, 1948

- **Adoption of the Constitution**

- Enacted: November 26, 1949

- Came into force: January 26, 1950 (chosen to honor 1930 Purna Swaraj Day)

It replaced the Government of India Act, 1935

•The **Constituent Assembly** completed the drafting of the Constitution on **November 26, 1949**, and adopted it on the same day. This date is now celebrated as **Constitution Day** (or *Samvidhan Divas*). However, the Constitution came into **full force on January 26, 1950**. This date was specifically chosen to honor the **Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930**, when Indian nationalists declared complete independence from British rule.

•Upon its commencement:

•The **Constituent Assembly became the Provisional Parliament** of India until the first general elections in 1952.

•The **Government of India Act, 1935** was repealed.

•India became a **Sovereign Democratic Republic**.

•**Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was sworn in as the **first President of India**.

•The office of **Governor-General** was abolished.

Thus, January 26, 1950, marks the **birth of the modern Republic of India** under its own sovereign Constitution

Criticism of constituent assembly

- Dominated by the Indian National Congress
- Formed under British Cabinet Mission Plan (not fully sovereign)
- Over-representation of lawyers and elites
- Lack of representation from common people and women
- Took too long to draft the Constitution (nearly 3 years)
- Limited participation from princely states and the Muslim League
- Not a directly elected body

•**Constitutional Advisor:**

☞ *B.N. Rau*

•**President of the Constituent Assembly:**

☞ *Dr. Rajendra Prasad*

•**Chairman of the Drafting Committee:**

☞ *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar*

•**Calligrapher of the Indian Constitution (Hindi & English):**

☞ *Prem Behari Narain Raizada*

•**Vice-President of the Assembly:**

☞ *H.C. Mookherjee*

•**Artist who decorated the original Constitution:**

☞ *Nandalal Bose*

•**Secretary to the Constituent Assembly:**

☞ *S.N. Mukherjee*

•**National Emblem adopted from:**

☞ *Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath (adopted on January 26, 1950)*

•**Original handwritten copies of the Constitution preserved in:**

☞ *Helium-filled cases in the Library of Parliament*

•**Final draft submitted to Assembly:**

☞ *November 4, 1948*

THANK YOU

