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INDIAN POLITY

MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Demand for a Constituent Assembly:

A Constituent Assembly is a body of popularly elected people who undertakes the task of drafting and adopting a Constitution. It was in 1934 that the idea of constituent assembly was struck in the mind of M.N.ROY, a pioneer of communistmovement in India. In 1935, INC for the first time demanded a constituent assembly to frame the Constitution ofIndia. In 1938, J.L. Nehru declared that the Constitution of Free India must be framed, without any externalinterference on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise, The Demand was accepted however kept hanging due toconflicts between Muslim League and INC. The Constituent Assembly of India was to have proportional representation from existing provincial legislatures and from various princely states. Bulk of these elections was completed by the end of July 1946, under the supervision of Reforms Office under Governor General (Viceroy). In 1946, The Constituent Assembly was formed under Cabinet Mission Plan which held its first meeting on December 9, 1946. The Muslim league boycotted and insisted on creating a separate state of Pakistan. Themeeting was chaired by temporary president Dr. Sachidananda Sinha. Later, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as President of assembly on December 11, 1946. HC Mookerjiwas elected as the Vice Chairman of the Assemblywhile B.N. Rau was elected as the Constitutional Legal Advisor. On December 13, 1946, J.L. Nehru moved 'Objective Resolution' in the assembly to frame the fundamental andphilosophy of The Constitution, which was unanimously adopted on January 22, 1947.

Composition

- 1. Total strength=389
- 2. Every province and Princely state was allotted seats in proportion to their population.

The elections were held in July-August, 1946 and Constituent Assembly came into being in November 1946.

- > INC won 208 seats.
- Muslim league won 73 seats.
- The first meeting was held on December 9, 1946 with only 211 members as Muslim league boycotted inorder to press the demand of separate country of Pakistan. Princely states decided to stay away so theirseats remained vacant, although a majority of them joined after the acceptance of Mountbatten plan on June 3, 1947.

The Assembly was declared to be a fully sovereign body and also a legislative body.

Functions

The constituent assembly drafted the constitution and also:

- 1. Ratified India's membership of the commonwealth in May 1949.
- 2. Adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
- 3. Adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
- 4. Adopted the national anthem January 24, 1950.
- 5. Elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950.
- 6. Undertook various legislative tasks which were done under the Chairmanship of G. C. Mavlankar who also got elected as India's first Lok Sabha speaker.

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Drafting committee

- It was setup on August 29, 1947 and was tasked with preparing a draft of the new constitution.
- > The seven members of the committee were:
- 1. Dr. B R Ambedkar (Chairman)
- 2. N GopalaswamyAyyangar
- 3. Dr. K M Munshi
- 4. T TKrishnamachari
- 5. Syed MohammadSadullah
- 6. N Madhay Rau
- 7. AlladiKrishnaswamyAyyar

Committees of The Constituent Assembly

Major Committees that were formed for the purpose of Drafting the Constitution were

- 1. Drafting Committee B. R. 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 VallabhbhaiPatel. This committee had the following subcommittees:
- 6. Rules of Procedure Committee Rajendra Prasad
- 7. States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) Jawaharlal Nehru
- 8. Steering Committee Rajendra Prasad
- 9. National flag ad hoc committee Rajendra Prasad
- 10. Committee for the function of the consistution assembley G V Mavlankar
- 11. House committee B PattabhiSitaramayya
- 12. Language committee MoturiSatyanarayana

Drafting the Constitution

- The first draft of the constitution was published in February, 1948. tabled. The second draft was published in October, 1948. DR. Ambedkar introduced the final draft inNovember, 1948. During the third reading of the draft, the Constitution was settled and passed.
- The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November, 1949 and the hon'ble members appended their signatures to it on 24 January, 1950. In all, 284 members actually signed the Constitution.
- November 26, 1949 is celebrated as _The Constitution Day' in India.
- The Constitution adopted originally contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. The Preamblewas enacted after the entire Constitution was already enacted.
- > Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the then law minister is said to be the 'Father of Indian Constitution', 'the chiefarchitect of constitution' and 'Modern Manu'.
- The Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950, the date chosen specifically as it was on this dayin the year 1930 that PuranSwarajwas celebrated following the resolution of Lahore session (December1929) of the INC.
- > On 26 January, 1950, the Assembly ceased to exist, transforming itself into the Provisional Parliament ofIndia until a new Parliament was constituted in 1952.

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➤ Enactment and enforcement of the constitution took place on November 26, 1949 and January 26, 1950,.

However, some parts had come into force on 26 November, 1949 itself with the passing of the motion _the constitution as settled by the assembly be passed.

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Salient Features of Indian Constitution

Longest WrittenConstitution

The constitution of India is the longest written constitution in the world as it is contains special provisions for states and centre and their inter-relationship. It has separate provisions for SC/STs, women, children, and backward regions along with detailed list of individual rights, directive principles of state policy and administration procedures.

Drawn from Various Sources

The constitution of India has borrowed most its provisions from the various othercountries as well as from the government of India Act 1935.

Parliamentaryform of Government

The constitution provides for a parliamentary system of government under which thereal executive power rests with the council of ministers and the President is only anominal head.

Federal Systemwith Unitary Bias

The Indian constitution provides for a federation with a strong centre. The Indian federal structure acquired a unitary character during an emergency, where the normal distribution of powers between the centre and the states undergoes vital changes.

FundamentalRights

The constitution contains an elaborate list of Fundamental Right. The state cannot makelass which take away or abridge any of the fundamental rights of the citizens. If it doesso, the courts can declare such a law as unconstitutional.

Fundamental Duties

The constitution also contains a list of fundamental duties of the citizens added by the 42nd amendment. These duties serve as constant reminders to the citizen that they have to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct.

DirectivePrinciples ofState Policy

The constitution outlines Directive Principles of State Policy which the government hasto keep in mind while formulating any policy. These principles seek to provide a social and economic basis for democracy and the establishment of a welfare state.

Secular State The constitution makes India a secular state is, there is no state religion and state is completely detached from religious dogmas. Citizens are free to profess, practice and propagate any religion.

IndependentJudiciary

The constitution provides an independent judiciary which ensures that the government is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. It acts as theguardian of the liberties and Fundamental Rights of the citizen.

Universal AdultFranchise

The constitution introduces universal adult franchise and accords the right to vote to allcitizens above 18 years of age without discrimination. However, it makes reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to provide them adequaterepresentation

EmergencyPower

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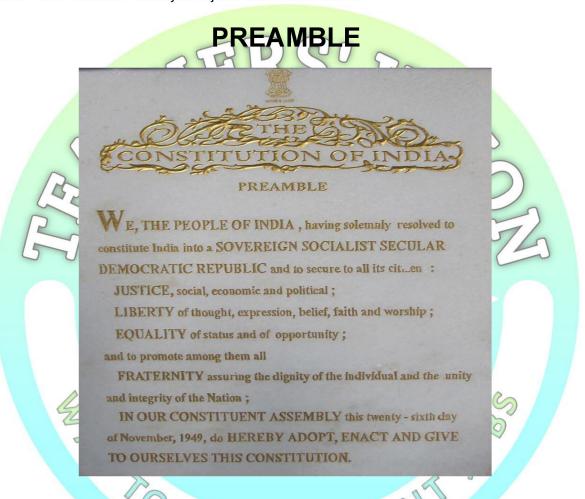
The constitution empowers the President during emergencies arising out of armedrebellion or external aggression, emergency due to the breakdown of constitutionalmachinery in the state and financial emergency.

SingleCitizenship

It provides single citizenship. All persons residing in different parts of the country aretreated as Indian citizens and are entitled to the same rights of citizenship. There is noseparate citizenship of different States.

Three-tierGovernment

The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts added third tier of government as aninstrument of local selfgovernance which includes Panchayati Raj and Urban LocalBodies.



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MajorSourcesofIndianConstitution	
Provisions	Source/country
ConstitutionoftheUnitedStates	Preamble
	FundamentalRights
	Federalstructureofgovernment
	ElectoralCollege
	Independence of the judiciary and separation
	ofpowersamongthethreebranchesofthe
CS.	government Judicialreview PresidentasSupremeCommanderofArmedForces Equalprotectionunder law
Britishconstitution	Parliamentaryformofgovernment
	Theideaofsinglecitizenship
Rock	TheideaoftheRule oflaw
	• Writs
	InstitutionofSpeakerandhisrole
5	Lawmakingprocedure
	ProcedureestablishedbyLaw
Canadianconstitution	Aquasi-federal formofgovernment—
	afederalsystemwithastrongcentralgovernment
	Distributionofpowersbetweenthecentralgovernmentand
	stategovernments
Lyigh a grafit, they (Maland)	Residualpowersretainedbythecentralgovernment
Irishconstitution(Ireland)	DirectivePrinciplesofStatePolicy NegativeStatePolicy
7	NominationofmemberstoRajyaSabha MathadafElastianafBrasidant
Franchagnetitution	MethodofElectionofPresident Parablicand theids also file but Found
Frenchconstitution	Republicand theidealsofLiberty,Equalityand FraternityinthePreamble
Australianconstitution	Freedomoftradeandcommercewithinthecountryandbetweenthesta
Australianconstitution	tes
	Powerofthenationallegislaturetomakelaws
	forimplementingtreaties, evenon
	mattersoutsidenormalFederaljurisdiction
	ConcurrentList
ConstitutionofSovietUnion(USSR)	FundamentalDutiesunderArticle51-A
	AConstitutionallymandated
	PlanningCommissiontooverseethedevelopmentofthe economy
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ConstitutionofSouthAfrica	Procedureforamendment
	ElectionofRajyaSabhamembers
ConstitutionofGermany	Emergencypowerstobeenjoyed bytheUnion
	SuspensionofFundamentalRightsduringemergency.
ConstitutionofRussia	FundamentalDuties
	IdeaofSocial,Economic,andPoliticalJusticeinPreamble
ConstitutionofJapan	ProcedureEstablishedbyLaw
	FederalScheme
	EmergencyProvisions
GovernmentofIndia Act1935	PublicServiceCommissions
35	• OfficeofGovernor
	Judiciary
	AdministrativeDetails

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