

RAS

Rajasthan Administrative Services

Rajasthan Public Service Commission

Volume - 8

Indian Political System



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VOLUME - 8

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

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Why we need an active civil society?
 Civil Society and Political movement in India

Constituent Assembly

- Cabinet Mission Plan provisioned to set up a Constituent Assembly of India:
- total strength = 389 partly elected and partly nominated
 - o 296 seats were allotted to British India
 - 292 members from the 11 governors' provinces
 - 4 from the 4 chief commissioners' provinces
 - o 93 seats to the Princely States.
- allotted seats in proportion to their respective population.
- Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among Muslims, Sikhs and General (others), in proportion to their population.
- representatives of each community → elected by members of that community by proportional representation using a single transferable vote.
- representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states
- members were **indirectly elected** by the members of the provincial assemblies.
- **did not present the sentiments of the masses** as the members of provincial assemblies themselves were elected on a limited franchise.
- election for British Indian Provinces was held in July-August 1946.
 - o Indian National Congress won 208 seats,
 - Muslim League won 73 seats
 - o Independent players held 15 seats
- seats of princely states were not filled as they refrained from the Assembly
- Assembly had representatives from every section of the society
- Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly.
- On April 28, 1947 representatives of the 6 states became part of the assembly
- after the Mountbatten Plan of June 3, 1947, most of the princely states entered the assembly.
- Later Muslim League from the Indian dominion also joined the assembly.

Working of the Constituent Assembly

- first meeting: December 9, 1946.
 - Muslim League boycotted and demanded a separate state of Pakistan
 - Only 21 members attended the first meeting.
 - Dr Sachchidananda Sinha was elected as the interim President of the Assembly, (French practice)
 - o Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly
 - lacktriangleq H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari ightarrow Vice-President

Objective Resolution:

- Presented on Dec 13, 1946, by JL Nehru in the Constituent Assembly, unanimously adopted by the assembly on January 22, 1947.
- Important provisions:
 - o proclaim India as the Independent Sovereign Republic
 - o India, shall be a Union of territories of British India that join it









- O Boundaries determined by the Constituent Assembly which shall possess residuary powers and exercise all powers and functions of the Government and administration implied in the Union
- o power and authority of Independent India derived from the people
- o shall guarantee to all the people of India
 - justice, social, economic and political;
 - equality of status of opportunity, and before the law;
 - freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, association and action
- adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas and depressed and other backward classes
- Maintain integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilized nations
- o attains its rightful and honoured place in the world and makes its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.

Changes after the Indian Independence Act, 1947

- Assembly → fully sovereign body to frame Constitution
- became the legislative body.
 - o **responsible to frame the Constitution** and **enact ordinary laws** for the country.
 - worked as the Constitutional body → chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad
 - as a legislative body → G.V. Mavlankar became chairman (till Nov 26, 1949).
- Muslim League withdrew from the assembly
 - o reduced the total strength of the assembly to 299 from 389.
 - o strength of Indian provinces reduced to 229 from 296
 - o princely states to 70 from 93.

Other Functions Performed by the Assembly

- Ratified India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949
- Adopted National Flag of India on July 22, 1947
- Adopted National Anthem on January 24, 1950
- Elected Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950
- On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly held its final session but continued as the
 provincial parliament from January 26, 1950, till the first general elections in 1951-52 were
 held.

Committees of the Constituent Assembly



| | Committee | Headed by |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| | J.L. Nehru | |
| | Union Constitution Committee | J.L. Nehru |
| | Provincial Constitution Committee | Sardar Patel |
| | Drafting Committee | Dr B.R. Ambedkar |
| Major | Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal | Sardar Patel |
| Committee | and Excluded Areas | |
| | Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee | J.B. Kriplani |
| | Minorities Sub-Committee | H.C. Mukherjee |
| | North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially | Gopinath Bardoloi |
| | Excluded Areas Sub-Committee | |





| | Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Other than those in Assam) | A.V. Thakkar |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Sub-Committee | |
| | North-West Frontier Tribal Areas Sub-Committee | |
| | Rules of Procedure Committee | Dr Rajendra Prasad |
| | States Committee (for Negotiation with states) | J.L. Nehru |
| | Steering Committee | Dr Rajendra Prasad |
| | Finance and Staff Committee | Dr Rajendra Prasad |
| | Credentials Committee | A.K. Ayyar |
| | House Committee | B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya |
| | Order of Business Committee | Dr K.M. Munshi |
| Ad-hoc Committee on National Flag | | Dr Rajendra Prasad |
| | Committee on Functions of the Constituent Assembly | G.V. Mavalankar |
| Minor | Ad-hoc Committee on the SC | S. Varadachari |
| Committee | Committee on Chief Commissioners' Provinces | B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya |
| | Expert Committee on the Financial Provisions of the Union | Nalini Ranjan Sarkar |
| | Constitution | |
| | Linguistic Provinces Commission | S.K. Dar |
| | Special Committee to Examine the Draft Constitution | J.L. Nehru |
| | Press Gallery Committee | Usha Nath Sen |
| | Ad-hoc Committee on Citizenship | S. Vallabhachari |

Drafting Committee

- On August 29, 1947, set up to prepare a draft of the new Constitution.
- seven-member committee with
 - o Dr B.R. Ambedkar → Chairman
 - N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar
 - Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar
 - o Dr K.M. Munshi
 - Sved Mohammad Saadullah
 - o N.M. Rau
 - O T.T. Krishnamachari
- First draft published in February 1948
- second draft published in October 1948.

Enactment of the Constitution

- Dr B.R. Ambedkar introduced the final draft on Nov 4, 1948, for first reading.
- Second reading held on November 15, 1948,
- third reading on November 14, 1949.
- draft was passed on November 26, 1949 (Constitution day).
- Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained
- o Preamble
- o 394 Articles
- o 8 Schedules.
- Provisions of citizenship, elections, provisional parliament, temporary and transitional provisions and short title contained in Article 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393 came into force on November 26, 1949. The remaining provisions came into force on January 26, 1950.
- With the adoption of the Constitution, all the provisions under the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935 were repealed.
- Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act (1949) continued.







Criticism to the Constituent Assembly

• **Not a Representative Body** - did not reflect the mass verdict due to election by the limited franchise.



- **Not a Sovereign body** as it was formed based on the proposals of the British Government and held its meeting with their permission.
- Took greater time in framing the Constitution as compared to the American constitution which took only 4
 months.
- Dominated by Congress
- Domination of Lawyers and Politicians
- Dominated by Hindus
 - S.N. Mukherjee = chief draftsman of the constitution
 - Prem Behari Narain Raizada = calligrapher
 - o handwritten the original text of the constitution in a flowing italic style.
 - beautified and decorated by artists from Shanti Niketan including Nand Lal Bose and Beohar Rammanohar Sinha.
- calligraphy of the Hindi version = Vasant Krishan Vaidya
 - o decorated and illuminated = Nand Lal Bose.
- elephant = symbol of the Constituent Assembly.
 - Elephant figurine carved on the seal of the assembly.
- Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision concerning an authoritative text of the Constitution in the Hindi Language.
 - o made by the 58th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1987 which inserted a new Article 394-A in the last part of the constitution.

Important Dates - From Constituent Assembly to Constitution

| First meeting of the | Objective | Constitution | Signed by the | Constitution came into force |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Constituent | motion | adopted | members | and the Constituent Assembly |
| Assembly | introduced | 110001 | | ceased to exist |
| 9 December 1946 | 13 December | 26 November | 24 January | 26 January 1950 |
| | 1946 | 1949 | 1950 | |

Salient Features of the Constitution



- Longest written constitution: it contains:
 - Separate provisions for states and centre and their inter-relationship.
 - o **borrowed provisions** from several sources and constitutions of the world.

| Countries | Borrowed Features of Indian Constitution |
|------------------|---|
| | Concurrent list |
| Australia | Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse |
| | Joint-sitting of the two Houses of Parliament |
| | Federation with a strong Centre |
| Canada | Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre |
| Callaua | Appointment of state Governors by the Centre |
| | Advisory jurisdiction of the SC |
| | Directive Principles of State Policy |
| Ireland | Nomination of members to RajyaSabha |
| | Method of election of the President |
| Japan | Procedure Established by law |
| USSR/Russia | Fundamental Duties |
| USSN/ NUSSIA | Ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble |
| | Parliamentary Government |
| | Rule of Law |
| 00-1 | Legislative procedure |
| | Single Citizenship |
| UK | Cabinet system |
| | Prerogative writs |
| | Parliamentary privileges |
| | Bicameralism |
| | Procedure Established by law |
| | Fundamental Rights |
| | Independence of judiciary |
| US | Judicial Review |
| | Impeachment of the President |
| | Removal of SC and HC Judges |
| | Post of vice-President |
| Germany (Weimar) | Suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency |
| South Africa | Procedure for Amendment in the Indian Constitution |
| Journ Allieu | Election of members of Rajya Sabha |
| France | Republic |
| Trance | Ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble |

- o separate provisions for SC, ST, women, children, and backward regions.
- o detailed list of rights, DPSPs and details of administration procedures
- Originally (1949), had a Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules.
- o Presently, it consists of a Preamble, 25 parts, 448 Articles, 12 Schedules, and 104 Amendments till date.
- Unique blend of rigidity and flexibility:



- Some parts can be amended by ordinary law making procedure while certain provisions can be amended by a majority of the total membership of that house and by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of that house present and voting.
- Some amendments are also required to be ratified by the legislatures of not less than one-half of the states before being presented to the President for assent.
- India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and republic: India is governed by its people through their elected representatives based on universal adult franchise.
- Parliamentary System of Government: Parliament controls the functioning of the CoM
 - **executive is responsible to the legislature** and remains in power as long as it enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
 - President of India, who remains in office for five years, is the nominal, titular or constitutional head (Executive).
 - PM is the real executive and head of the CoM who is collectively responsible to the lower house (Lok Sabha).
- Single Citizenship: single citizenship provided by the union and recognized by all the states across India.
- Universal Adult Franchise: establishes political equality in India through the method of universal adult franchise which functions on the basis of 'one person one vote'.
 - Every Indian who is **18 years of age or above is entitled to vote** in the elections, irrespective of caste, sex, race, religion or status.
- Independent and Integrated Judicial System: free from the influence of the executive and the legislature.
 - O SC as the apex court below which HCs and lower courts come
- Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and DPSPs:
 - Fundamental Rights are not absolute but are subject to the limitations defined by the constitution itself and are enforceable in the court of law.
 - O **DPSPs** are the guidelines to be followed by the states regarding governance and are not enforceable in the court of law.
 - Fundamental Duties, added by the 42nd Amendment are moral conscience which ought to be followed by the Citizens.
- Federation with a strong centralising tendency: India is an indestructible Union with destructible states means it acquires a unitary character during the time of emergency.
- Balancing Parliamentary supremacy with Judicial Review: An independent judiciary with the power of judicial review



Parts of Indian Constitution

| Parts | Subject Matter | Articles Covered |
|-------|--|--|
| ı | The Union and its territory | 1 to 4 |
| II | Citizenship | 5 to 11 |
| Ш | Fundamental Rights | 12 to 35 |
| IV | Directive Principles of State Policy | 36 to 51 |
| IV-A | Fundamental Duties | 51-A |
| v | The Union Government | 52 to 151 |
| | Chapter I - The Executive Chapter II - Parliament Chapter III - Legislative Powers of President Chapter IV - The Union Judiciary | 52 to 78 79 to 122 123 124 to 147 |



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|---------|--|--|
| | Chapter V - Comptroller and Auditor-General of India | 148 to 151 |
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| | Chapter I - General Chapter II - The Executive Chapter III - The State Legislature Chapter IV - Legislative Powers of Governor Chapter V - The High Courts Chapter VI - Subordinate Courts | 152 153 to 167 168 to 212 213 214 to 232 233 to 237 |
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| IX | The Panchayats | 243 to 243-O |
| IX-A | The Municipalities | 243-P to 243-ZG |
| IX-B | The Co-operative Societies | 243-ZH to 243-ZT |
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| XI | Relations between the Union and the States | 245 to 263 |
| | Chapter I - Legislative Relations Chapter II - Administrative Relations | 245 to 255 256 to 263 |
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| XIV | Services under the Union and the States | 308 to 323 |
| | Chapter I - Services Chapter II - Public Service Commissions | 308 to 314 315 to 323 |
| XIV-A | Tribunals | 323-A to 323-B |
| XV | Elections | 324 to 329-A |
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| XVII | Official Language | 343 to 351 |
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| XVIII | Emergency Provisions | 352 to 360 |
| XIX | Miscellaneous | 361 to 367 |
| хх | Amendment of the Constitution | 368 |
| XXI | Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions | 369 to 392 |
| XXII | Short title, Commencement, Authoritative Text in Hindi and Repeals | 393 to 395 |



Schedules of the Indian constitution

Schedules are the lists in the Constitution that categorize and tabulate bureaucratic activity and policy of Government.

| Numbers | Subject Matter | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| First | 1. Names of the States and their territorial jurisdiction. | | |
| Schedule | 2. Names of the Union Territories and their extent. | | |
| Second | Provisions relating to the emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of: | | |
| Schedule | 1. The President of India | | |
| | 2. The Governors of States | | |
| | 3. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the LokSabha | | |
| | 4. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the RajyaSabha | | |
| | 5. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the states | | |
| | 6. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council in the states | | |
| | 7. The Judges of the Supreme Court | | |
| | 8. The Judges of the High Courts | | |
| | 9. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India | | |
| Third | Forms of Oaths or Affirmations for: | | |
| Schedule | 1. The Union ministers | | |
| | 2. The candidates for election to the Parliament | | |
| | 3. The members of Parliament | | |
| | 4. The Judges of the Supreme Court | | |
| | 5. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India | | |
| | 6. The state ministers | | |
| | 7. The candidates for election to the state legislature | | |
| | 8. The members of the state legislature | | |
| | 9. The Judges of the High Courts | | |
| Fourth | Allocation of seats in the RajyaSabha to the states and the union territories. | | |
| Schedule | The state of the s | | |
| Fifth | Provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes. | | |
| Schedule | | | |
| Sixth | Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, | | |
| Schedule | Tripura and Mizoram. | | |
| Seventh | Division of powers between the Union and the States in terms of List I (Union List), List II (State | | |
| Schedule | List) and List III (Concurrent List). Presently, the Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97), | | |
| | the state list contains 61 subjects (originally 66) and the concurrent list contains 52 subjects | | |
| | (originally 47). | | |
| Eighth | Languages recognized by the Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are | | |
| Schedule | 22 languages. They are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, | | |
| | Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, | | |
| | Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act | | |
| | of 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71 st Amendment Act of 1992; and | | |
| | Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003. | | |
| Ninth | Acts and Regulations (originally 13 but presently 282) 19 of the state legislatures dealing with | | |
| Schedule | land reforms and abolition of the zamindari system and of the. Parliament dealing with other | | |
| | matters. This schedule was added by the 1st Amendment (1951) to protect the laws included in | | |
| | it 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, are now open | |
|----------|---|--|
| | to Judicial Review. | |
| Tenth | Provisions relating to disqualification of the members of Parliament and State Legislatures on | |
| Schedule | the ground of defection. This schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985, also | |
| | known as Anti-defection Law. | |
| Eleventh | Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats. It has 29 matters. This | |
| Schedule | schedule was added by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992. | |
| Twelfth | Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. It has 18 matters. This | |
| Schedule | schedule was added by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992. | |



Preamble



Introduction or preface to the Constitution

- Provides guidelines for the Constitution
- embodies basic philosophy and fundamental values as basis for the Constitution
- Reflects dreams and aspirations of founding fathers of the Constitution.
- enacted after the rest of the Constitution was already enacted.
- neither a source of power to the legislature nor a prohibition
- non justiciable not enforceable in Courts of law
- can be amended without altering the basic structure.

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PREAMBLE

BE BOUND TO THE BO

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a 'ISOVEREIGN 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.

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

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Ingredients of the Preamble

- Preamble makes people of India, the ultimate authority
- declares India as sovereign, socialist, secular democratic and republican polity.
- Objectives of the Constitution: justice, liberty, equality and fraternity
- Date of adoption of the Constitution: It stipulates November 26, 1949 as the date.

Key Terms related to Preamble

Sovereignty: absolute Independence that is a Government which is not controlled by any other
power: internal or external. A country cannot have its own Constitution without being
sovereign. India is a sovereign country. It is free from any external control.

D



- Socialist: not part of the original Constitution.
 - Added by 42nd Amendment act
 - used in the context of economic planning.
 - o commitment to attain ideals like removal of inequalities, provision of minimum basic necessities to all, equal pay for equal work.
- Secularism: added by 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976.
 - o India is neither religious nor irreligious nor anti-religious.
 - no state religion- the state does not support any particular religion
- Democratic Republic: Government is elected by the people and is responsible and accountable to the people.
 - o **democratic provisions**: Universal adult franchise, elections, Fundamental Rights and responsible Government.
 - Republic: the elected head of the state (President 2 indirectly elected) not a hereditary ruler as Britain.
- **Justice:** to give people what they are entitled to in terms of basic rights to food, clothing, housing, participation in decision making and living with dignity as human beings.
 - taken from the Russian Revolution (1917)
 - three dimensions of Justice- social, economic and political.





- **Social justice:** equal treatment of all citizens without any social distinction based on caste, colour, race, religion, sex and so on.
- **Economic justice:** non-discrimination on economic factors.

Social justice + economic justice = 'distributive justice'

- **Political justice:** all citizens should have equal political rights, equal access to all political offices and equal voice in the Government.
- **Liberty:** of thought and expression; **absence of restraints** on the activities of individuals, and at the same time, **providing opportunities** for the development of individual personalities.
 - o taken from the French Revolution (1789–1799).
- **Equality: absence of special privileges** to any section of the society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination.
 - o three dimensions of equality—civic, political and economic.
- Fraternity: sense of brotherhood; promotes the feeling of fraternity by a system of single citizenship and by article 51A (Fundamental Duties).

Preamble as a part of the Constitution

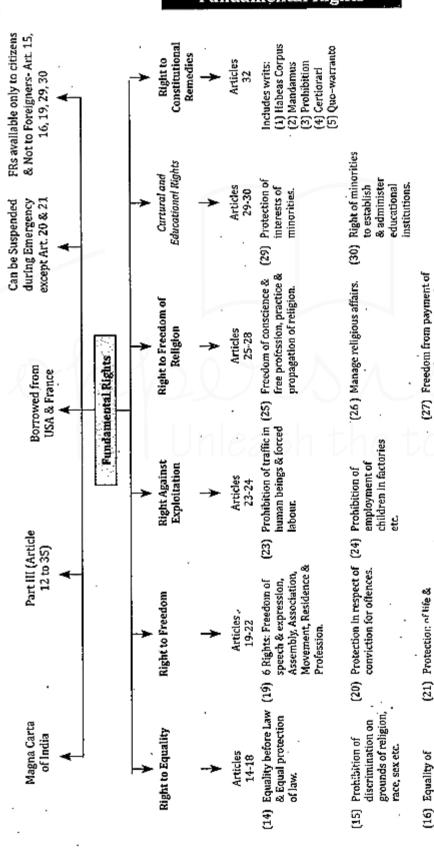
| Berubari Union v. Unknown Case, 1960 | Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala Case, 1973 | Union Government Vs LIC of India Case, 1995 |
|---|--|---|
| SC stated that 'Preamble is the key to open the mind of the makers' but it cannot be considered as part of the Constitution. Therefore it is not enforceable in a Court of law. | SC held that "Preamble of the Constitution will now be considered as part of the Constitution. The Preamble is not the supreme power or source of any restriction or prohibition but it plays an important role in the interpretation of statutes and provisions of the Constitution." | the integral part of the Constitution but is not directly enforceable in a Court of justice in India. |



Fundamental Rights



Fundamental Rights



taxes for promotion of any religion.

(28) Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain

educational institutions.

(18) Abolition of titles.

arrest & detention in

certain cases.

(22) Protection against

personal liberty.

public employment

 Abolition of untouchability.

opportunity in



Constitutional Provisions

- Articles 12 35 in Part III of the Indian Constitution
- Source: Constitution of USA (some provisions from French Constitution too)



| Articles | Provisions |
|---------------|--|
| Article 12 | Definition |
| Article 13 | Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights. |
| Article 14-18 | Right To Equality |
| Article 19-22 | Right To freedom |
| Article 23-24 | Right Against Exploitation |
| Article 25-28 | Freedom of Religion |
| Article 29-30 | Cultural and Educational Rights |
| Article 31 | Right to Property (Omitted) |
| Article 32-35 | Right to Constitutional Remedies |

Origin of Fundamental Rights

- 1st Demand: Constitution of India Bill, in 1895, aka Swaraj Bill
- Inspiration: England Bill of Rights (1689), the United States Bill of Rights and France's Declaration of the Rights of Man.



- 1st Proposal: Nehru Commission 1928
- Adoption: INC passed resolutions in 1931 pledging to defend fundamental civil rights as well as socioeconomic rights.
- Inclusion in Constitution: By Drafting Committee

Types of Rights

Natural Rights:

- Universal rights, part of human nature and inherent in every individual.
- Not conferred by law; rather, they are recognised and enforced by it.
- Eg: Right to life.

Human Rights:

- Same as Natural Rights as they are universal and inherent in human Nature.
- Necessary for a dignified human life and can be enjoyed regardless of social, political, or other factors.
- Retained by a person since he or she is a human being.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN in 1948.

Civil Rights:

- Rights that citizens of a country enjoy, conferred by the law of the country.
- May differ from one country to another

Fundamental Rights:

• Civil rights ensured by the Constitution and are defended by the SC directly.

Features of Fundamental Rights

- Integral Part of Constitution: Cannot be taken away by an ordinary law
- Comprehensive and Detailed: Are very elaborate, each article described with its scope and limitation



- Lack of Social and Economic Rights: Guarantees only civil rights, Rights like Right to work, right to health are missing.
- Rights are qualified: Not absolute except the right against untouchability, they are qualified and with limitations and reasonable restrictions.
- Enforceability of rights: Justiciable rights i.e. means if any of these rights are violated, an individual has the right to move to the SC.
- **Fundamental rights are amendable: Not sacrosanct or permanent**, they can be amended by the parliament.



- Provision for the suspension of Rights: Suspended during an emergency.
- Constitutional Superiority of Fundamental rights: Superior than the ordinary laws and DPSP.
- Special Rights For the minorities: Guarantee some special rights to minorities of various kinds.
- No natural rights: constitution does not recognize natural rights or unenumerated rights.
- Right to Property not a fundamental right: Due to hindrances posed by the right to property in the way of implementing socio- economic reforms it was deleted from fundamental rights.

Article 12: Definition of State

- Article 12 "The State" includes
 - The Government and Parliament of India
 - The Government and the Legislature of each of the **States**
 - All local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India

Article 13: Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights

- The term 'law' includes:
 - Permanent laws enacted by the Parliament or the state legislatures;
 - **Temporary laws** like **ordinances** issued by the president or the state governors;
 - o Statutory instruments in the nature of delegated legislation (executive legislation) like order, bye-law, rule, regulation or notification;
 - Non-legislative sources of law, that is, custom or usage having the force of law
- Not just a law, but any of the above can be challenged in court as infringing on a fundamental right, and therefore declared void.
- Article 13 specifies that a constitutional amendment is not a law and hence cannot be overturned.
 - Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) SC concluded that a constitutional amendment can be challenged on the grounds
 - o If it violates a fundamental right that is part of the Constitution's 'basic structure,' and so can be declared unconstitutional.

Six Fundamental Rights

Right to Equality (Articles 14-18)

Article 14: Equality Before law & Equal protection of laws

The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.



Equality before law

- Borrowed from the English Common Law.
- Forbids the state from arbitrarily discriminating between persons.
- Implies elimination of any special privileges to any individual
- Equal submission of all classes to the regular law of the land administered by ordinary law courts
- no one is above the law, and that everyone is subject to the same jurisdiction.
- Prof. Dicey developed the concept of 'Rule of Law,' which gave birth to the concept of equality before the law.

Rule of Law

The rule of law is the foundation for the development of peaceful, equitable and prosperous societies. We believe there are four key areas that form the umbrella protection of the rule of law.





Equality Under the law + Transparency of law + Independent Judiciary + Accessible Legal Remedy

= The Rule of Law

- SC held that the 'Rule of Law' as embodied in Art 14 is a 'basic feature' of the constitution.
 - O Cannot be destroyed even by an amendment.

Equal Protection of the laws

- Source- Constitution of USA.
- Implies right to equal treatment under same circumstances.
- Enables people to be treated differently depending on their socioeconomic level and educational attainment.
- Provides for 'affirmative action' for the most vulnerable members of society, as well as various tax rates for different income groups.

Exceptions to rule of equality

- Immunities to the President and Governors
 - while exercising powers and duties of their office
 - From any **criminal prosecutions** during his **term of office.**
 - o From civil proceedings during his term of office.
- foreign sovereign and ambassadors.

Article 15: Prohibition on discrimation on certain grounds.

Article 15(1): State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them

- Discrimination on other grounds is not prohibited.
 - **Article 15(2):** No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to
- Access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
- **use of** wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds.
- * This section prohibits discrimination by both the government and private persons, whereas the previous one solely prohibits discrimination only by the government.

Exceptions to rule of Non Discrimination

- special provision for women and children
 - o **Eg.** Reservation of seats for women in local bodies
- Provisions for the progress of socially and educationally deprived persons, as well as the SCs and STs.
 - Eg. Reservation of seats or fee concessions in public educational institutions.
- special provision for the advancement of any EWSs of citizens.
 - Provision for reservation of upto 10% of seats for such sections in admission to educational institutions

SOCIALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES

- not defined in the Constitution.
- "Backward Classes" Article 15(4), 16(4) and 29(2).
- Constitution empowers the State to give these classes of citizens special concessions in education, employment, etc. but it does not point out precisely who is backward.
- Responsibility to define the **term/criteria** is to the **commissions established under Art. 338 and 340,** as circumstances contributing to backwardness vary from State to State.