Constitution

* [Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Bhimrao_Ramji_Ambedkar) is widely regarded as the architect of the Indian Constitution.
* The Constitution was adopted by the India [Constituent Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituent_Assembly_of_India) on 26 November 1949, and came into effect on 26 January 1950.
* The date of 26 January was chosen to commemorate the [Purna Swaraj declaration of independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purna_Swaraj" \o "Purna Swaraj) of 1930.
* Before it India was governed by the [Government of India Act 1935](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India_Act_1935) which was considered as the as the country's fundamental governing document.

**Constituent Assembly**

* The Constitution was drafted by the Constituent Assembly, which was elected by the elected members of the provincial assemblies.
* Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Sanjay Phakey, Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Kanaiyalal Munshi, Purushottam Mavalankar, Sandipkumar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Nalini Ranjan Ghosh, and Balwantrai Mehta were some important figures in the Assembly.
* Frank Anthony represented the Anglo-Indian community, and the Parsis were represented by H. P. Modi. The Chairman of the Minorities Committee was Harendra Coomar Mookerjee, a distinguished Christian who represented all Christians other than Anglo-Indians. Ari Bahadur Gururng represented the Gorkha Community. Prominent jurists like Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, Benegal Narsing Rau and K. M. Munshi, Ganesh Mavlankar were also members of the Assembly. Sarojini Naidu, Hansa Mehta, Durgabai Deshmukh, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Vijayalakshmi Pandit were important women members.
* The members of the Constituent Assembly met for the first time on 9 December 1946.
* The Constitution of India is the supreme law of [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India).
* It is a living document, an instrument which makes the government system work
* It lays down the framework, defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions.
* It also sets out fundamental rights, [directive principles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directive_Principles_in_India) and the duties of citizens.
* It is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world,
* It contains 12 schedules, 25 parts, 448 articles and 5 appendices.
* Besides the English version, there is an official Hindi translation.
* The Constitution follows [parliamentary system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) of government and the [executive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government)) is directly accountable to the [legislature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature).
* It also states that there shall be a [President of India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_India) and a [Vice-President of India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice-President_of_India) under Articles 52 and 63.
* Unlike the Prime Minister, the President largely performs ceremonial roles.
* The Constitution of India is [federal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism) in nature but [unitary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) in spirit.
* The common features of a federation are  *written*[*Constitution*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution)*, supremacy of Constitution, rigidity of Constitution, two government,*[*division of powers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers)*,*[*bicameralism*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism)*and independent*[*judiciary*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary_of_India).
* The unitary features like *single Constitution, single*[*citizenship*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_nationality_law)*, integrated judiciary, flexible Constitution, a strong* [*Centre*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India)*, appointment of*[*state governor*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governors_of_states_of_India)*by the Centre,*[*All-India Services*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_India_Services)*,*[*Emergency Provisions*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_provisions_of_the_Constitution_of_India)*etc* can be seen in Indian Constitution.
* This unique combination makes it Quasi-Federal in form.
* Each state and each [Union territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_territory) of India has its own government.
* Analogues to President and Prime Minister, each has a [Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governors_of_states_of_India) (in case of states) or [Lieutenant Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant_governor) (in the case of Union territories) and a [Chief Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Minister_(India)).
* The 73rd and 74th Amendment Act also introduced the system of [Panchayati Raj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panchayati_raj" \o "Panchayati raj) in rural areas and [Municipality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagar_Palika) in urban areas.
* Also, [Article 370](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_370) of the Constitution gives special status to the State of [Jammu and Kashmir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir).
* The Constitution declares India to be a [sovereign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign), [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist), [secular](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular), [democratic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic), assuring its citizens of [justice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice), [equality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_before_the_law), and [liberty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty), and endeavors to promote [fraternity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraternity) among them.
* The words "socialist" and "secular" were added to the definition in 1976 by the 42nd constitutional amendment (mini constitution).
* India celebrates the adoption of the constitution on 26 January each year as [Republic Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_Day_(India)).
* The major portion of the [Indian subcontinent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) was under [British rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj) from 1857 to 1947. The impact of economic, political and social development during this period helped the gradual rise of the [Indian independence movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_independence_movement) to gain independence from foreign rule. After the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Rebellion_of_1857), the direct rule of [the British crown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Crown) was established. When the Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950, it repealed the [Indian Independence Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Independence_Act_1947). India ceased to be a dominion of the [British Crown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Crown) and became a sovereign democratic republic. 26 November 1949 is also known as National Law Day.
* The Indian constitution is the world's longest constitution.
* It consists of almost 80,000 words and took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to build.

**Previous Legislations as Source**

* The Constitution of India is drawn from many sources. Keeping in mind the needs and conditions of India the framers of the Constitution of India borrowed different features freely from previous legislation.