

⚽ Why Do We Need Rules?

Just like every game has rules (e.g., no touching the ball with hands in football), societies also need rules that define how they function. These rules help distinguish one society from another. In modern countries, such rules are written in a document called a Constitution.

📖 **Constitution** – A written set of rules that defines the principles and laws by which a country is governed.

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📖 Why Does a Country Need a Constitution?

A Constitution serves many purposes:

- It lays down the basic ideals and principles we believe in.
- It defines the type of government the country will have.
- It ensures all citizens follow common rules and rights.
- It protects people from the misuse of power by leaders.
- It protects minority communities from domination by the majority.
- It prevents emotional decisions that could harm democratic values.



📷 Fig. – Nehru addressing the Constituent Assembly

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🚩 Example: Nepal's New Constitution

Nepal used to be ruled by a king (monarchy). After a long people's movement, it became a democracy in 2006. The old Constitution was based on monarchy, so people demanded a new Constitution that reflected democratic values.


📖 **Constitutive Rules** – Rules that define the nature or identity of something (like rules in a game or rules of governance).



 Fig. – Protest scenes from Nepal's 2006 democracy movement

Limiting Misuse of Power

The Constitution includes checks so that leaders don't misuse their power. For example, in India, Fundamental Rights (like the Right to Equality) ensure all citizens are treated fairly regardless of caste, religion, or gender.

 Example – A class monitor wrongly punishing a student shows what happens when power is misused. The Constitution helps prevent this in real life.

Protecting Minorities

In a democracy, decisions by the majority can hurt the interests of minorities. For example, if only boys choose games every time, girls may never get to play what they want. The Constitution ensures that everyone, including minorities, is treated equally.

 Tyranny of Majority – When a large group dominates and suppresses smaller groups unfairly.

Saving Us from Ourselves

Sometimes people want things that seem right short-term but harm society in the long run – like asking for a dictator to fix problems. The Constitution guards against such harmful decisions and keeps democratic values safe.

📖 **Example** – A girl avoids watching TV before a test because her friends agreed not to watch it either.

🔧 **How Was the Indian Constitution Made?**

- In 1934, the Indian National Congress demanded a Constituent Assembly.
- The Assembly was formed in 1946 and worked till 1949 to draft the Constitution.
- It included about 300 members from different regions, religions, and backgrounds.
- Despite Partition and political challenges, they created a strong, democratic framework.



📷 *Fig. – Members signing the Constitution in 1950*

Dr B.R. Ambedkar played a major role in drafting the Constitution. He is called the Father of the Indian Constitution.

🌟 **Key Features of the Indian Constitution**

Let's look at five major features:

1 **Federalism**

India has multiple levels of government: central, state, and local (Panchayati Raj). Each level has its own powers, responsibilities, and sources of income. Laws are made for both national and regional issues.

📖 **Federalism** – A system where power is shared between a central and multiple state governments.

2 **Parliamentary Form of Government**

Citizens elect leaders through voting. These representatives form the government and are accountable to the people.

Every citizen can vote and also contest elections, regardless of caste or background.

Universal Adult Franchise – The right of all adults to vote in elections.



 Fig. – People voting in an Indian election

3 Separation of Powers

Power is divided among three organs:

- **Legislature: Makes laws (Parliament)**
- **Executive: Implements laws (Government)**
- **Judiciary: Interprets laws (Courts)**

This prevents any one branch from becoming too powerful.

Separation of Powers – Dividing government power into three parts so that no branch becomes too strong.


4 Fundamental Rights

These are the basic rights every Indian citizen has. They protect people from government misuse and promote equality.

Fundamental Rights include:

- **Right to Equality – Equal treatment for all**
- **Right to Freedom – Speech, movement, occupation**
- **Right Against Exploitation – No forced labour or child labour**
- **Right to Freedom of Religion – Practice any religion**
- **Cultural & Educational Rights – Rights of minorities**
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies – Right to approach court if rights are denied**



 Fig. – Example scenes showing violation of rights (e.g., child labour, discrimination)

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5 Secularism

India does not promote any one religion as a state religion. Citizens are free to practise any religion.

 Secularism – A system where the government stays neutral in matters of religion.

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Summary Table – Why a Constitution Is Needed

Situation	Role of the Constitution
Nepal adopting new rules	Sets ideals and reflects people's aspirations
Class monitor wrongly punishing	Prevents misuse of power
Boys dominating game choices	Protects minority voices
Girl tempted to watch TV before exam	Guards long-term democratic interest

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Constitution	Set of rules that guides how a country works
Polity	Organised political structure (e.g., democratic polity)
Sovereign	Independent and self-ruling
Fundamental Rights	Basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution
Arbitrary	Based on personal choice, not fixed rule
Universal Franchise	Voting right for all adult citizens
Secularism	No official religion; freedom to practise any