

◆ What is a Constitution?

📖 **Constitution:** A set of fundamental written rules that determines how a country is governed.

It defines:

- Powers and responsibilities of the government
- Rights and duties of citizens
- Limits on the powers of those who govern
- Structure of democratic institutions

🧠 It's like a rulebook for both citizens and the government.

◆ Why Do We Need a Constitution?

India is diverse — different religions, languages, communities. A constitution:

- ✓ Provides rules to resolve conflicts
- ✓ Gives rights and freedoms equally
- ✓ Makes sure everyone is treated fairly
- ✓ Prevents misuse of power
- ✓ Ensures that elected rulers follow the law

📖 In short, a Constitution builds trust, ensures justice, and holds everyone accountable.

◆ South Africa's Story – A Powerful Example



📌 **Apartheid** = Legal racial discrimination in South Africa (whites ruled, blacks oppressed)

📖 Nelson Mandela & African National Congress (ANC) led peaceful struggle

- Blacks had no voting rights
- Were segregated in transport, schools, toilets (📷 Fig: Durban beach board)

🔥 **Mandela jailed for 28 years**

- But no revenge after freedom
- Blacks & whites together drafted one of the world's most progressive constitutions

📖 Lesson: Constitution helps build peace & equality after long conflict.

◆ What Does a Constitution Do?

1. Sets basic rules of power — who rules, how they are elected
2. Limits the powers of the government
3. Grants rights to citizens
4. Shows vision of an ideal society

🧠 **Important:** All democracies have constitutions, but not all countries with constitutions are democracies.

◆ Making of the Indian Constitution 🇮🇳

📅 Time: 1946–1949

👤 **Institution:** Constituent Assembly (elected representatives)

📌 **Context:**

- Partition violence & refugee crisis
- 500+ princely states had to be merged
- India was moving from subjects to citizens

📖 **Path already paved:**

- 1928: Motilal Nehru Report
- 1931: Karachi Resolution – talked of freedom, equality, minority rights

👥 **Diverse Assembly:**

- 299 members
- From various religions, castes, regions, ideologies
- Included Congress & non-Congress leaders
- Women like Sarojini Naidu, leaders like Jaipal Singh (tribal rights), Ambedkar (Drafting Chairperson)

📖 Final Constitution adopted: 26 November 1949

📅 Came into force: 26 January 1950 (Republic Day)

◆ Guiding Values of the Constitution

Let's understand through 3 great voices:

🕊️ **Mahatma Gandhi (1931, Young India):**

- Wanted equality, no untouchability, women's rights, no class divide

📖 "India should be a place where the poorest feel they have a voice."

⚖️ **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:**



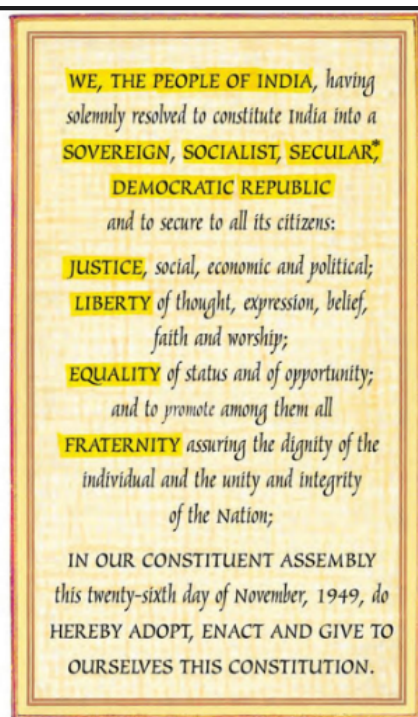
- Warned about social and economic inequality despite political democracy
- “One person, one vote” won’t mean much if society remains unequal

🔥 **Jawaharlal Nehru (15 August 1947, Tryst with Destiny speech):**



- Freedom means responsibility
- Serve the poor, end inequality and ignorance

◆ The Preamble: India’s Constitutional Philosophy




📖 The Preamble is the soul of the Constitution. It expresses India’s fundamental values and goals.

📖 Key Words:


Word	Meaning
Sovereign	India is independent; no foreign power can control it
Socialist	Wealth should be shared equally; reduce inequality
Secular	No official religion; all religions respected equally
Democratic	People elect leaders; government is accountable
Republic	Head of state is elected, not hereditary
Justice	No discrimination; fairness in society and economy
Liberty	Freedom of thought, speech, belief, expression
Equality	Equal treatment before the law
Fraternity	Sense of brotherhood; unity among all

 Note: "Socialist" and "Secular" were added in 1976 (42nd Amendment).


 Think of the Preamble as India's promise to its people — of freedom, equality, and dignity.

—

◆ Institutional Design

 The Constitution is not just values — it also creates institutions:

- ✓ Legislature (makes laws)
- ✓ Executive (implements laws)
- ✓ Judiciary (interprets laws)
- ✓ Fundamental Rights and Duties

 **Amendment** = A change in the Constitution (necessary to keep it relevant)

India's Constitution is one of the lengthiest in the world because:

- It covers a large, diverse population
- Allows changes with time

—

Glossary (Important Terms):

- Constitution: Supreme law of the land
- Constituent Assembly: Group that wrote the Constitution
- Amendment: A formal change in the Constitution
- Preamble: Introductory statement of values
- Apartheid: System of racial segregation
- Treason: Crime of betraying the state

—

Summary:

India's Constitution:

- Is people-made and people-approved
- Balances majority rule with minority rights
- Is both flexible (can change) and firm (protects core values)
- Is India's strongest tool to uphold democracy, unity, and justice