

## CONSTITUTION: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & EVOLUTION

Early Proposals | Acts & Missions | Constituent Assembly | Adoption | Nature  
TNPSC Group I / Group II / Group IV & VAO

Based on 29 Previous Year Questions

### AT A GLANCE — PYQ DISTRIBUTION BY SUB-TOPIC

This analysis is based on 29 PYQs across 6 sub-topics of the Historical Background & Evolution of the Indian Constitution.

#	Sub-Topic	Count	%	Qs	Priority
1	Constituent Assembly (formation/officials/committees)	7	24.1%	Q12-18	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
2	Nature & Philosophy of Constitution	6	20.7%	Q25-29	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
3	Cabinet Mission 1946	4	13.8%	Q5-8	★★★★★ SUPER HIGH
4	Adoption Dates & Duration	5	17.2%	Q19-24	★★★★ HIGH
5	Transfer of Power & Chronology	3	10.3%	Q9-11	★★★★ HIGH
6	Early Proposals + Acts/Conferences	4	13.8%	Q1-4	★★★ MEDIUM

### 1. THE "DECODED" SYLLABUS

The syllabus says "Historical Background of the Constitution." The PYQs concentrate on three things: the Constituent Assembly's officials and dates, the Cabinet Mission 1946 details, and the adoption timeline (26 Nov 1949 vs 26 Jan 1950). Personality attribution (who said/proposed what) and exact durations are the recurring formats.

#### What the Syllabus SAYS vs. What is ACTUALLY Asked

Syllabus Implies	What is ACTUALLY Tested
Early Proposals	Constitution for free India first suggested by M.N. ROY (Q1). August Offer rejection quote = Maulana Azad (Q2). Concept of constitution first originated in USA (Q25).
Acts & Conferences	Govt of India Act 1935 created the FEDERAL COURT of India (Q3). Simla Conference 1945 convened by Lord WAVELL (Q4).
Cabinet Mission 1946	Headed by Pethick LAWRENCE (Q5). Three members: Pethick Lawrence + Stafford Cripps + A.V. Alexander (Q6). Cripps called it 'best plan' / Gandhi-Nehru context (Q7). Endorsed weak Centre + strong autonomous provinces with residuary powers (Q8).
Transfer of Power	PM ATTLEE announced transfer in House of Commons (Q9). Mountbatten replaced WAVELL in March 1947 (Q10). Chronology: Simla Conf > Wavell Plan > Cabinet Mission > Mountbatten Plan (Q11).

Syllabus Implies	What is ACTUALLY Tested
<b>Constituent Assembly</b>	Indirectly elected by Provincial Assemblies via proportional representation/single transferable vote (Q12). First meeting 9 Dec 1946. Temporary/oldest chairman = Sachchidananda Sinha (Q13,14,15). Permanent President = Rajendra Prasad. Drafting Committee chair = AMBEDKAR (Q16,17). Architect/Father = Ambedkar (Q18). British-American-Swiss model (Q17).
<b>Adoption &amp; Nature</b>	Took 2 years 11 months 18 days (Q19,20). Adopted 26 Nov 1949; came into force 26 Jan 1950. Sovereign on 15 Aug 1947 (Q23). 42nd Amendment 1976 (Q24). Not absolute federal — union supremacy (Q28). Doctrine of Eclipse on pre-constitutional laws (Q29).

## The "Hidden Syllabus"

- Constitution for free India first proposed by M.N. Roy (1934). Concept of written constitution first originated in USA.
- **Govt of India Act 1935** = Federal Court of India (1937), the precursor to Supreme Court.
- **Cabinet Mission (1946)** = 3 members: Pethick Lawrence (head), Stafford Cripps, A.V. Alexander. Mnemonic: PCA / 'LawCripAlex'.
- **Simla Conference 1945** = Lord Wavell. PM Attlee announced transfer of power. Mountbatten replaced Wavell (Mar 1947).
- **Constituent Assembly key dates**: First meeting 9 Dec 1946; Sachchidananda Sinha = temporary/oldest chairman; Rajendra Prasad = permanent President; Ambedkar = Drafting Committee chair + 'Architect/Father'.
- **Adoption timeline**: Drafted in 2 yrs 11 months 18 days; adopted 26 Nov 1949; enforced 26 Jan 1950.
- **India** = Sovereign on 15 Aug 1947. Not an absolute federation — tilted toward Union supremacy.
- Doctrine of Eclipse applies to PRE-constitutional laws (before 26 Jan 1950) under Article 13(1).

## 2. MASTER FACT TABLES

### Personalities & Attributions

Who	What	PYQ
M.N. Roy	<b>First suggested a Constitution for free India (1934) (Q1).</b>	Q1
Maulana Azad	'Even without consulting colleagues, I declined the (August) offer' (Q2).	Q2
Lord Wavell	<b>Convened Simla Conference 1945 (Q4). Replaced by Mountbatten Mar 1947 (Q10).</b>	Q4,10
Pethick Lawrence	<b>Headed Cabinet Mission 1946 (Q5).</b>	Q5
PM Attlee	Announced transfer of power in House of Commons (Q9).	Q9
Sachchidananda Sinha	<b>Oldest member; Temporary/Provisional President of Constituent Assembly (Q13,14,15).</b>	Q13,14,15
Rajendra Prasad	Permanent President of Constituent Assembly.	Q13
B.R. Ambedkar	<b>Chairman of Drafting Committee; 'Architect/Father of the Constitution' (Q16,17,18).</b>	Q16,17,18

### Cabinet Mission 1946

Aspect	Detail	PYQ
Head	<b>Lord Pethick Lawrence (Q5).</b>	Q5
Three members	<b>Pethick Lawrence + Stafford Cripps + A.V. Alexander (Q6).</b>	Q6

Aspect	Detail	PYQ
Plan endorsed	Weak Central Govt + strong autonomous provinces holding residuary powers (Q8).	Q8
'Best plan' remark	Described as best plan under the circumstances (Q7).	Q7

## Dates, Duration & Chronology

Event	Date / Detail	PYQ
First CA meeting	9 December 1946 (Q13).	Q13
Drafting duration	2 years, 11 months, 18 days (Q19,20).	Q19,20
Constitution adopted	26 November 1949 (Q22).	Q22
Came into force	26 January 1950 (Republic Day).	—
Sovereign state	15 August 1947 (Q23).	Q23
Pre-independence chronology	Simla Conference > Wavell Plan > Cabinet Mission > Mountbatten Plan (Q11 = 4,1,3,2).	Q11
CA functions order	Adopted National Flag > National Anthem > continued as Provisional Parliament > ratified Commonwealth membership (Q21).	Q21
42nd Amendment	1976 (Q24). Senior Citizens Act 2007; UDHR 1948; Constitution 1950.	Q24

## Nature & Philosophy

Concept	Detail	PYQ
Concept origin	Written Constitution first originated in USA (Q25).	Q25
Act of 1935 court	Federal Court of India (Q3).	Q3
Election method	CA indirectly elected by Provincial Assemblies via proportional representation + single transferable vote (Q12).	Q12
Model adopted	British-American-Swiss model (Q17).	Q17
Federal nature	<b>NOT absolute federal — structural balance favours Union supremacy (Q28). Rationally deliberated moral document (Q26).</b>	Q26,28
Document nature	Socially constructed text, subject to interpretation by Parliament + Judiciary (Q27).	Q27
Doctrine of Eclipse	Applies to PRE-constitutional laws (before 26 Jan 1950); Art 13(1) (Q29).	Q29

### ▲ KEY TRAPS

- Constitution for free India first suggested by M.N. ROY (Q1). NOT Nehru/Gandhi/Bose.
- Act of 1935 created the FEDERAL COURT (Q3), NOT Supreme Court (that came in 1950).
- Cabinet Mission HEAD = Pethick Lawrence (Q5). Members = Lawrence + Cripps + Alexander (Q6). NOT Simon.
- Simla Conference 1945 = Lord WAVELL (Q4). Mountbatten replaced WAVELL, not Irwin (Q10).
- Transfer of power announced by PM ATTLEE in House of Commons (Q9). NOT Mountbatten/Queen.
- Sachchidananda Sinha = TEMPORARY/oldest chairman ONLY (Q15 = i only). He was NOT Vice-President or permanent President.
- Permanent CA President = Rajendra Prasad; Drafting Committee chair = Ambedkar. Don't confuse the two roles.
- Drafting duration = 2 years, 11 months, 18 days (Q19,20). The classic distractor numbers are close (2y 9m, 2y 7m).
- Constitution ADOPTED 26 Nov 1949; came into FORCE 26 Jan 1950. Two different dates — a frequent trap.
- Concept of written constitution originated in USA (Q25), NOT England (England = unwritten).

- India became Sovereign on 15 Aug 1947 (Q23).
- Doctrine of Eclipse applies to PRE-constitutional laws (before 26 Jan 1950), Art 13(1) (Q29).

## PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & EVOLUTION

#### Demands and Early Proposals

1. Need for a constitution for free India was first suggested by
  - (A) Motilal Nehru
  - (B) M.N. Roy
  - (C) Subash Chandra Bose
  - (D) Mahatma Gandhi
  - (E) Answer not known
2. August offer was rejected both by the Indian National Congress as well as the Muslim League. "Even without consulting, my colleagues, I declined the offer". Who said the above statement?
  - (A) Jawaharlal Nehru
  - (B) Ambedkar
  - (C) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
  - (D) Maulana Abulkalam Azad
  - (E) Answer not known

#### ACTS AND CONFERENCES (1935–1945)

3. What was the first name of the All India Court established under the Act of 1935?
  - (A) All India Court
  - (B) Supreme Court of India
  - (C) Federal Court of India
  - (D) All India Supreme Court
  - (E) Answer not known
4. Which Viceroy convened the 'Simla Conference' in 1945?
  - (A) Lord Wavell
  - (B) Lord Linlithgow
  - (C) Lord Mountbatten
  - (D) Clement Atlee
  - (E) Answer not known

#### THE CABINET MISSION (1946)

5. The British Cabinet Mission was headed by \_\_\_\_\_ in the year 1946.
  - (A) Sir Stafford Cripps
  - (B) A.V. Alexandar
  - (C) Clement Attlee
  - (D) Pethick Lawrence
  - (E) Answer not known
6. Members of the Cabinet Mission sent to India in 1946 were
  - (A) Lord Pethick Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps and A.V. Alexander
  - (B) Lord Pethick Lawrence, Sir Simon, Stafford Cripps
  - (C) Lord Pethick Lawrence, Sir Simon, A.V. Alexander
  - (D) Stafford Cripps, Sir Simon, A.V. Alexander
  - (E) Answer not known
7. The Cabinet Mission plan was "The best plan put up by the British Government under the then circumstances" described by
  - (A) Nehru
  - (B) Gandhi
  - (C) Rajaji
  - (D) Jinnah
  - (E) Answer not known
8. Which mission endorsed the plan for a Central Government with limited powers and relatively strong provinces having considerable degree of autonomy with all the residuary powers?
  - (A) 1946, Cabinet Mission
  - (B) 1942, Cripps Mission
  - (C) Constituent Assembly 1949
  - (D) Simon Commission, 1928
  - (E) Answer not known

## TRANSFER OF POWER & CHRONOLOGY

9. Who announced in the House of Commons to hand over power to the people of India?
- (A) Queen Victoria  
(B) Queen Elizabeth-II  
(C) Viceroy Lord Louis Mountbatten  
(D) Prime Minister Attlee  
(E) Answer not known
10. In March 1947, Mountbatten replaced \_\_\_\_\_ as Viceroy of India.
- (A) Irwin  
(B) Attlee  
(C) Wavell  
(D) Cripps
11. Arrange the following events in chronological order:
- 1) Wavell plan  
2) Mountbatten plan  
3) Cabinet Mission plan  
4) Simla Conference
- (A) 3, 2, 1, 4  
(B) 4, 3, 2, 1  
(C) 1, 4, 3, 2  
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1  
(E) Answer not known

## THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

### FORMATION AND ELECTIONS

12. Assertion [A]: The Constituent Assembly was elected by indirect election by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies.  
Reason [R]: Members of each community in the Provincial Legislative Assemblies elect their representatives by the method of proportional representation by single transferable vote.
- (A) [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation for [A]  
(B) [A] is true but [R] is false

(C) [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation for [A]

(D) [A] is false and [R] is true

(E) Answer not known

## MEETINGS AND OFFICIALS

13. The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on 9th December, 1946. \_\_\_\_\_ Presided over the inaugural session.
- (A) Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
(B) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru  
(C) Dr. Sachidanand Sinha  
(D) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar  
(E) Answer not known
14. Who among the following elected as a Temporary Chairman of the first meeting of the Indian Constitution Assembly?
- (A) J.B. Kripalani  
(B) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha  
(C) Dr. Rajendra Prasad  
(D) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar  
(E) Answer not known
15. Which of the following statements are correct about Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha?
- (i) He was the oldest member elected as the temporary President of the Assembly.  
(ii) He was elected as the Vice-President of the Assembly.  
(iii) He was elected as the President of the Assembly.
- (A) (i) only  
(B) (i) and (iii) only  
(C) (i) and (ii) only  
(D) (ii) and (iii) only  
(E) Answer not known

## COMMITTEES AND DRAFTING

16. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution?

- (A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (B) Rajendra Prasad
- (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (D) None of the above
- (E) Answer not known

17. Assertion [A]: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constituent Assembly was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Reason [R]: Nehru and Ambedkar ultimately had their way; a constitution of the British - American - Swiss model had been adopted to mark the launching of India as a Republic.

- (A) [A] is true but [R] is false
- (B) Both [A] and [R] are true, and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
- (C) [A] is false, [R] is true
- (D) Both [A] and [R] are true, but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A] is correct
- (E) Answer not known

18. Who is considered to be the Architect of the Constitution of India?

- (A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (B) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (C) H.C. Mukherjee
- (D) V.T. Krishnamachari
- (E) Answer not known

#### DURATION AND CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

19. The time taken for the Constituent Assembly to finalize the Constitution of India

- (A) 2 Years, 11 months, 18 days
- (B) 2 Years, 9 months, 8 days
- (C) 2 Years, 7 months, 18 days
- (D) 2 Years, 5 months, 20 days
- (E) Answer not known

20. It took \_\_\_\_\_ to draft and enact the Indian Constitution.

- (A) 2 years, 11 months, 17 days

- (B) 2 years, 9 months, 15 days
- (C) 2 years, 8 months, 10 days
- (D) 2 years, 7 months, 8 days

21. Arrange the following events related to functions of Constituent Assembly in chronological order:

I. It ratified the India's membership of the common wealth.

II. It adopted the National flag.

III. It adopted the National Anthem.

IV. It continued as the provisional Parliament of India.

- (A) II, I, III, IV
- (B) IV, III, I, II
- (C) II, III, IV, I
- (D) I, II, III, IV

(E) Answer not known

#### ADOPTION & NATURE OF CONSTITUTION

#### DATES OF ADOPTION AND SOVEREIGNTY

22. The Constitution of India was finally adopted on

- (A) 26 December 1949
- (B) 26 January 1950
- (C) 26 November 1949
- (D) 30 November 1949
- (E) Answer not known

23. India emerged as a Sovereign State on

- (A) 4 September 1947
- (B) 27 June 1947
- (C) 15 August 1947
- (D) 15 March 1947
- (E) Answer not known

24. Match the following:

- (a) 1976 – 1. UNO declaration of Human Rights
  - (b) 2007 – 2. Constitution of India
  - (c) 1950 – 3. 42nd Amendment Act
  - (d) 1948 – 4. Senior Citizens Act
- (A) (a)-1, (b)-2, (c)-3, (d)-4  
(B) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-2, (d)-1

(C) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-2

(D) (a)-1, (b)-2, (c)-4, (d)-3

(E) Answer not known

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND PHILOSOPHY

25. The concept of constitution was first originated in \_\_\_\_\_ country.

(A) Russia

(B) United States of America

(C) India

(D) England

(E) Answer not known

26. Assertion [A]: Indian Constitution is a rationally deliberated moral document.

Reason [R]: Indian Constituent Assembly was a site where different interest groups debated for a negotiated settlement.

(A) [A] is true but [R] is false

(B) [A] is false, [R] is true

(C) Both [A] and [R] are true; and [R] is the correct explanation is [A]

(D) Both [A] and [R] are true; but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]

(E) Answer not known

27. Of the following three statements identify the true statement(s) on Indian Constitution.

(i) Indian Constitution is a socially constructed document

(ii) Indian Constitution is unwritten customs and practices

(iii) Indian Constitution is a text subject to interpretative practices of both parliament and judiciary

(A) (i) only

(B) (i) and (iii) only

(C) (i) and (ii) only

(D) (ii) and (iii) only

(E) Answer not known

28. Assertion (A): The Constitution of India is not an absolute Federal Constitution.

Reason (R): The structural-functional balance is in favour of the supremacy of the union.

(A) (A) is true (R) is false

(B) (R) is true (A) is false

(C) Both (A) and (R) are correct, (R) is not correct explanation of (A)

(D) Both (A) and (R) are correct, (R) is the correct explanation of (A)

(E) Answer not known

## LEGAL INTERPRETATIONS

29. Consider the following statements:

(I) The doctrine of Eclipse is applied in relation to a pre-constitutional law enacted before 26th January 1950

(II) The Act is eclipsed when the constitution came into force and a shadow falls on it because it is inconsistent with the constitution.

(III) All laws governed by Articles 13 (1) and 13 (2) are pre-constitutional laws.

Which of the above mentioned are correct?

(A) (I) and (II) are correct

(B) (I) and (III) are correct

(C) (II) and (III) are correct

(D) (I), (II) and (III) are correct

(E) Answer not known

## CONSTITUTION — HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & EVOLUTION

Conceptual Foundations | Early Proposals | British Acts | Conferences & Missions  
Constituent Assembly | Committees & Women | Preamble | Nature | Quotes

## SECTION 0 — CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS

### 0.1 WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION?

- A **Constitution** is the **fundamental / supreme / basic law of the land** — the document that **constitutes** the State, sets up the **organs of government** (legislature, executive, judiciary), **distributes and limits** their powers, defines the **State-citizen relationship** (rights & duties), and declares the **goals & values** of the political community.
- It is the **source of all legal authority** — every other law derives its validity from it (the "**grundnorm**" in Hans Kelsen's terms).
- **Core functions:**
  - (1) creates organs of government;
  - (2) confers & distributes power;
  - (3) **limits** government power (checks & balances);
  - (4) guarantees rights;
  - (5) expresses national identity/aspirations (Preamble);
  - (6) provides a peaceful mechanism for change (amendment).
- **Types: written/codified** (USA, India) vs **unwritten/uncodified** (UK); **rigid vs flexible**; **federal vs unitary**.
- The **Indian Constitution** = written, the **lengthiest in the world**, a **blend of rigidity & flexibility**, **quasi-federal**, and the **supreme law** — aptly called the "**political autobiography of a nation**" and a **living document**.

#### THEME

- A constitution is not just a rulebook — it both **empowers** government (constitutes it) and **restrains** it (limits it); that dual character is its essence.

### 0.2 HIERARCHY OF LAWS (THE PYRAMID OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM)

India follows **Constitutional Supremacy** (not Parliamentary supremacy) — the Constitution sits at the apex and all law flows downward from it.

Tier	Source of Law	Note
<b>1. The Constitution</b>	The supreme/fundamental law (grundnorm)	All laws must conform; an inconsistent law is <b>void (Article 13)</b>
<b>2. Constitutional Amendments</b>	Made under <b>Article 368</b>	Above ordinary statute, <b>but subject to the Basic Structure doctrine</b>
<b>3. Statutory Law (Legislation)</b>	Acts of <b>Parliament &amp; State Legislatures</b> within their fields (Union / State / Concurrent Lists — 7th Schedule)	On the Concurrent List, <b>Union law prevails on repugnancy (Article 254)</b>
<b>4. Delegated / Subordinate Legislation</b>	Rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders, notifications by the executive	Must conform to the parent Act — <b>Doctrine of ultra vires</b>
<b>5. Judicial Decisions / Precedent</b>	Case law; <b>Article 141</b> (SC's law binds all courts); stare decisis	Interprets & fills gaps
<b>6. Customs &amp; Conventions</b>	Recognised customs, personal laws, constitutional conventions	Lowest tier; unwritten practices

- **Key principles holding the pyramid together:** **Article 13** (laws violating FR are void), **Doctrine of ultra vires** (sub-laws can't exceed conferred power), **Article 254** (Union law prevails over State law on the Concurrent List), and the **Basic Structure doctrine** (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973 — even amendments can't breach the core).

## THEME

- The **Constitution is the apex norm**; validity cascades downward — amendment → statute → delegated law → precedent → custom. Anything clashing with a higher tier is struck down.

## 0.3 CONSTITUTIONALISM

- **Constitutionalism** = the doctrine that **government power must be limited by a higher law** — i.e., "**limited government**," the antithesis of arbitrary or despotic rule.
- **Crucial distinction: having a Constitution ≠ Constitutionalism**. A State may possess a written constitution yet **not practise constitutionalism** (e.g., authoritarian regimes with "sham" constitutions). True constitutionalism requires that the constitution **genuinely restrains and controls** power.
- **Core ingredients**: rule of law, separation of powers, independent judiciary, judicial review, guaranteed fundamental rights, free & fair elections, accountability, checks & balances, and federalism.
- **In India**, constitutionalism is secured by: a **written Constitution, Fundamental Rights (Part III), an independent judiciary + judicial review, separation of powers, the rule of law, free elections, federalism,** and the **Basic Structure doctrine**.

## THEME

- **Constitution = the document; Constitutionalism = the philosophy of limited government**. Every modern State has the first; only genuine democracies live by the second.

## 0.4 CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY

- **Constitutional Morality** = fidelity to the **spirit, core principles and values** of the Constitution — not merely its literal text — namely **justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, dignity, rule of law, pluralism and inclusiveness**. It requires citizens, institutions and officials to act by constitutional values **even where the law is silent**.
- **Origin**: the phrase comes from the Greek historian **George Grote** — "a paramount reverence for the forms of the Constitution." It was famously invoked by **Dr B.R. Ambedkar** in the Constituent Assembly (his "Draft Constitution" speech), warning that "**constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment; it has to be cultivated**" — and that India's soil was "essentially undemocratic" until that habit grew. For Ambedkar it included **respect for constitutional methods, rule of law, due process, and self-restraint by those in power**.
- **Revived by the Supreme Court** as an interpretive tool in landmark cases — **Navtej Singh Johar (2018, Section 377), Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2018)**, the **Sabarimala** judgment (Indian Young Lawyers Association, 2018), **Joseph Shine (adultery, 2018)** and **Manoj Narula (2014)**.
- **Constitutional vs Public/Social morality**: when the two conflict, **constitutional morality prevails** — constitutional values stand **above majoritarian or popular sentiment** (Navtej Johar).
- **Criticism**: the concept is **vague and subjective**, and risks **judicial overreach** (becoming "what judges think is moral").

## THEME

- Constitutional morality is the **invisible glue** that keeps the written text alive — it asks all stakeholders to honour the **values behind the words**, and lets courts protect minority and individual rights against the tyranny of mere majorities.

## 1. EVOLUTION OF THE DEMAND FOR A CONSTITUTION

Year	Event / Proposal	Significance
1895	<b>Constitution of India Bill (Home Rule Bill)</b>	Possibly the <b>first attempt</b> to draft a constitution for India; envisaged freedom of speech, universal suffrage, representative government
1922	<b>M.K. Gandhi's statement</b>	Swaraj = a constitution made by the will of the Indian people through their freely chosen representatives
1924	<b>Commonwealth of India Bill</b>	Drafted by <b>Annie Besant</b> ; proposed Dominion Status, responsible government, a declaration of rights
1928	<b>Nehru Report</b>	First major Indian-drafted framework (Motilal Nehru); demanded Dominion Status, rejection of separate electorates, <b>19 fundamental rights</b> , responsible government at centre & provinces
1934	<b>M.N. Roy's proposal</b>	Marxist leader <b>M.N. Roy</b> = <b>first to advocate a Constituent Assembly elected on adult franchise</b>
1935	<b>INC official demand</b>	Congress officially demanded a Constituent Assembly elected on adult suffrage
1938	<b>J.L. Nehru's declaration</b>	The CA would be "a world event of great significance"; <b>not based on the GoI Act 1935</b>
1940	<b>August Offer</b>	Britain <b>first acknowledged Indians' right</b> to frame their own constitution; rejected by INC (allowed partition)
1942	<b>Cripps Mission</b>	Post-WWII Constituent Assembly proposed; rejected (allowed provinces to secede)
1946	<b>Cabinet Mission Plan</b>	The <b>most concrete plan</b> → formation of the Constituent Assembly; rejected Pakistan; proposed a three-tier executive & legislature

- The concept of a written constitution first originated in the USA (England = unwritten).

### THEME

- Thread: **1895 Bill** → **Nehru Report (1928)** → **M.N. Roy (1934)** → **INC demand (1935)** → **August Offer (1940)** → **Cripps (1942)** → **Cabinet Mission (1946)**.

## 2. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE BRITISH

Act	Key contribution
<b>Regulating Act 1773</b>	First British control; GG of Bengal (Warren Hastings); Supreme Court Calcutta (1774)
<b>Pitt's India Act 1784</b>	Board of Control; dual government
<b>Charter Act 1813</b>	Ended Company's trade monopoly (except tea & China)
<b>Charter Act 1833</b>	<b>Governor-General of India</b> (Bentinck, first); centralisation
<b>Charter Act 1853</b>	Open competition for civil services
<b>GoI Act 1858</b>	<b>Crown rule begins</b> ; Secretary of State for India
<b>Indian Councils Act 1861</b>	Representative institutions begin; portfolio system
<b>Indian Councils Act 1892</b>	Enlarged councils; indirect elections

Act	Key contribution
Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley-Minto)	Separate electorates for Muslims
GoI Act 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford)	Dyarchy in provinces; bicameralism at centre
GoI Act 1935	Provincial autonomy; all-India federation (never realised); <b>created the Federal Court of India (1937)</b> — precursor to the Supreme Court
Indian Independence Act 1947	Partition; two dominions; ended British paramountcy

- **Key fact:** the GoI Act 1935 created the Federal Court (1937) — NOT the Supreme Court (1950).

### 3. CONFERENCES & MISSIONS (TRANSFER-OF-POWER CHRONOLOGY)

Event	Detail
August Offer 1940	Linlithgow; <b>Maulana Azad</b> declined the offer even without consulting colleagues
Cripps Mission 1942	Stafford Cripps; dominion status + constitution-making body post-war (rejected)
Simla Conference 1945	Convened by <b>Lord Wavell</b> (Wavell Plan)
Cabinet Mission 1946	Proposed the Constituent Assembly
Attlee's announcement (20 Feb 1947)	<b>PM Clement Attlee</b> announced the transfer of power in the <b>House of Commons</b>
Mountbatten replaces Wavell (Mar 1947)	Last Viceroy
Mountbatten Plan (3 June 1947)	Blueprint for partition
Indian Independence Act 1947	India free on <b>15 Aug 1947</b> ; made the CA a <b>fully sovereign body</b> that could frame & repeal any law

- **Chronology:** Simla → Wavell Plan → Cabinet Mission → Mountbatten Plan.

### 4. THE CABINET MISSION 1946

Aspect	Detail
Head	<b>Lord Pethick-Lawrence</b> (Secretary of State for India)
Three members	<b>Pethick-Lawrence + Stafford Cripps + A.V. Alexander</b>
Plan endorsed	<b>Weak central government + strong autonomous provinces holding residuary powers</b>
"Best plan"	Described as the best plan under the circumstances

- Rejected both a unitary India and a separate Pakistan; provided for the **Constituent Assembly** and an **Interim Government**.
- **Mnemonic** — "LawCripAlex" (PCA): Pethick-Lawrence, Cripps, Alexander (not Simon).

### 5. THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT (1946)

- Formed on **2 September 1946** to oversee the transition; led by **Jawaharlal Nehru** as **Vice-President of the Executive Council**.

- The **Muslim League** initially stayed out, joining on **26 October 1946**; to accommodate its 5 members, three original members — **Syed Ali Zaheer, Sarat Chandra Bose, and Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan** — resigned.

Member	Portfolio	Party
Jawaharlal Nehru	External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations (VP of Council)	INC
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Home, Information & Broadcasting	INC
Dr Rajendra Prasad	Food & Agriculture	INC
Dr John Mathai	Industries & Supplies	INC
Jagjivan Ram	Labour	INC
Sardar Baldev Singh	Defence	INC
C.H. Bhabha	Works, Mines & Power	INC
Liaquat Ali Khan	Finance	Muslim League
Abdur Rab Nishtar	Posts & Air	Muslim League
Asaf Ali	Railways & Transport	INC
C. Rajagopalachari	Education & Arts	INC
I.I. Chundrigar	Commerce	Muslim League
Ghazanfar Ali Khan	Health	Muslim League
Jogendra Nath Mandal	Law	Muslim League

## 6. THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY — FORMATION & COMPOSITION

- Constituted under the **Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)**; a **partly elected, partly nominated** body — provincial reps **elected**, princely-state reps **nominated** by their rulers.
- Election method: indirectly elected** by members of the **Provincial Legislative Assemblies** (elected 1946) via **proportional representation + single transferable vote** — **not** by direct adult franchise.
- Seat allocation:** in proportion to population; within each province split among three communities — **Muslim, Sikh, General**.
- Total strength = 389: 292 (British India) + 93 (Princely States) + 4 (Chief Commissioners' Provinces)**.
- First meeting: 9 December 1946.** Following **French practice**, **Sachchidananda Sinha** (the **oldest member**) was elected **temporary/provisional President**; the **Muslim League boycotted**.
- 11 Dec 1946: Dr Rajendra Prasad** elected **permanent President**; **H.C. Mukherjee** and **V.T. Krishnamachari** elected **Vice-Presidents**.
- Objectives Resolution:** moved by **Jawaharlal Nehru** on **13 Dec 1946**; proclaimed India an "**Independent Sovereign Republic**" with all authority from the people; guaranteed justice, equality, freedom of thought, safeguards for minorities & backward areas; **unanimously adopted 22 Jan 1947**.
- Impact of Partition:** the **Mountbatten Plan (3 June 1947)** announced partition; the **Indian Independence Act 1947** made the CA **fully sovereign**; membership **reduced to 299 (229 British India + 70 Princely States)**.

### THEME

- Three distinct roles: **Sinha (temporary/oldest chair) ≠ Rajendra Prasad (permanent President) ≠ Ambedkar (Drafting chair)**; remember **389 → 299** after partition.

## 7. WORKING OF THE ASSEMBLY

- **Time taken: 2 years, 11 months, 18 days.**
- **11 sessions** held over **165 days**.
- **Draft Constitution published February 1948**; received **7,635 suggestions**; the **final (third) reading** was completed on **26 Nov 1949**.
- **284 members signed** the final document.

## 8. DRAFTING COMMITTEE & MAJOR COMMITTEES

- **Drafting Committee** appointed **29 August 1947**; chaired by **Dr B.R. Ambedkar** — "**Chief Architect / Father of the Indian Constitution.**"
- **Members: Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, N. Gopalaswami (Ayyangar), K.M. Munshi, Syed Mohammad Saadullah, B.L. Mitter (replaced by N. Madhava Rau), D.P. Khaitan (replaced by T.T. Krishnamachari).**

Committee	Chairman	Work
<b>Drafting</b>	<b>Dr B.R. Ambedkar</b>	Prepared the final draft; Ambedkar = "Father of the Indian Constitution"
<b>Union Constitution</b>	Jawaharlal Nehru	Parliamentary system, federal structure, President's role
<b>Provincial Constitution</b>	Sardar Patel	Structure of state governments
<b>Advisory (FR, Minorities)</b>	Sardar Patel	Sub-committee on <b>FR = J.B. Kripalani</b> ; on <b>Minorities = H.C. Mookherjee</b> ; Part III, reservations, minority rights
<b>Union Powers</b>	Jawaharlal Nehru	Defined Union, State & Concurrent Lists
<b>Rules of Procedure</b>	Dr Rajendra Prasad	Rules for the Assembly's functioning
<b>States Committee</b>	Jawaharlal Nehru	Negotiating with Princely States; integration
<b>Flag Committee</b>	Dr Rajendra Prasad	Recommended the present flag

## 9. KEY APPOINTMENTS & SYMBOLS

- **Symbol (Seal) of the Constituent Assembly = the Elephant.**
- **Constitutional / legal advisor = Sir B.N. Rau.**
- **Secretary = H.V.R. Iyengar.**
- **Chief Draftsman = S.N. Mukerjee.**

## 10. WOMEN IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (15 MEMBERS)

Name	Key contribution
<b>Hansa Jivraj Mehta</b>	Advocated a <b>Uniform Civil Code</b> ; argued for " <b>Human Rights</b> " instead of "Rights of Man" (gender neutrality)
<b>Rajkumari Amrit Kaur</b>	First Health Minister; championed <b>secularism</b> ; opposed religious-minority reservations
<b>Begum Aizaz Rasul</b>	<b>Only Muslim woman</b> ; opposed <b>separate electorates</b> for Muslims as self-destructive
<b>Dakshayani Velayudhan</b>	<b>Only Dalit woman</b> ; argued social disabilities can't be removed by political safeguards alone
<b>Ammu Swaminathan</b>	Criticised the Constitution as too long; wanted a simple document
<b>Sucheta Kripalani</b>	Freedom fighter; sang " <b>Vande Mataram</b> " at the closing session; later India's first woman CM

Name	Key contribution
<b>Durgabai Deshmukh</b>	Lawyer/activist; Steering & Rules Committees; founded the Central Social Welfare Board
<b>Sarojini Naidu</b>	" <b>Nightingale of India</b> "; first woman to speak in the Assembly; "only Indians, no classes/communities"
<b>Vijayalakshmi Pandit</b>	Global voice for India; <b>first woman President of the UN General Assembly</b>
<b>Purnima Banerjee</b>	Advocated rights of detainees & maintenance for their families
<b>Renuka Ray</b>	Staunch advocate of uniform personal laws & gender equality (since 1934)
<b>Annie Mascarene</b>	Represented Travancore-Cochin; Select Committee on the Hindu Code Bill
<b>Kamla Chaudhri</b>	Writer/freedom fighter (UP); VP of the AICC
<b>Leela Roy</b>	Radical leftist (Bengal, linked to Bose); resigned in protest against partition
<b>Malati Choudhury</b>	Worked with farmers/tribals in Odisha; nicknamed " <b>Toofani</b> " by Gandhi

## 11. CRITICISM & DEFENCE OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- **Criticism:** not directly elected (not fully representative); not originally sovereign (created by the British); **Congress dominance; lawyer-politician domination** (legalistic, complex document); a "hurried" job.
- **Naziruddin Ahmed** (West Bengal) derisively called the Drafting Committee the "**Drifting Committee.**"
- **Granville Austin:** "The Assembly was the Congress and the Congress was India."
- **Winston Churchill & Lord Viscount Simon** called it a **Hindu-dominated** body representing only one community.
- **Defence/Appraisal:** a "**microcosm of India**" (all regions, religions, communities); worked in a **consensual spirit** with frank, respectful debate; reconciled conflicting interests into a remarkable consensus.

## 12. SOURCES / MODEL OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Adopted a **British-American-Swiss model** (and others).

Source	Borrowed features
<b>GoI Act 1935</b>	Federal scheme, Governor, judiciary, emergency, PSCs (largest single source)
<b>British</b>	Parliamentary govt, rule of law, single citizenship, bicameralism, Speaker
<b>USA</b>	Fundamental Rights, judicial review, judicial independence, Preamble, impeachment
<b>Irish</b>	DPSP, Rajya Sabha nominations, Presidential election method
<b>Canadian</b>	Strong-Centre federation, residuary powers with Union, Governor appointment
<b>Australian</b>	Concurrent List, freedom of trade, joint sitting
<b>Weimar (Germany)</b>	Suspension of FR during emergency
<b>USSR</b>	Fundamental Duties, ideals of justice
<b>South African</b>	Amendment procedure, Rajya Sabha member election
<b>French</b>	Liberty, Equality, Fraternity; Republic
<b>Japanese</b>	Procedure established by law

## 13. ADOPTION & MAKING — TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

Date	Event	Outcome
9 Dec 1946	First Meeting	Sachchidananda Sinha elected <b>interim President</b> (oldest member, French practice); Muslim League boycotted
11 Dec 1946	Election of President	Dr Rajendra Prasad elected <b>permanent President</b>
13 Dec 1946	Objectives Resolution	Moved by Nehru; adopted <b>22 Jan 1947</b> ; philosophical bedrock
22 July 1947	National Flag adopted	Tricolour in its present form
29 Aug 1947	Drafting Committee appointed	7-member committee under Ambedkar
Feb 1948	Draft Constitution published	For public feedback; <b>7,635 suggestions</b> received
26 Nov 1949	Constitution adopted	<b>284 members signed</b> ; enacted (Constitution Day)
24 Jan 1950	Final session	<b>National Anthem &amp; National Song</b> adopted; <b>Rajendra Prasad elected first President of India</b>
26 Nov 1949 → 26 Jan 1950	Adoption → Enforcement	Came into full effect <b>26 Jan 1950</b> (Republic Day; honours the <b>1930 Purna Swaraj</b> declaration)

### THEME

- The two-date trap: **ADOPTED 26 Nov 1949 vs ENFORCED 26 Jan 1950** — and **24 Jan 1950** is when the Anthem/Song were adopted and Rajendra Prasad became first President.

## 14. STRUCTURAL & ARTISTIC ATTRIBUTES

- **World record:** the **world's longest written constitution** for a sovereign nation.
- **Original composition:** **395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules, ~80,000 words.**
- **Handcrafted:** not typeset/printed — a **handwritten masterpiece** of calligraphy & art.
- **English calligraphy:** **Prem Behari Narain Raizada** (flowing italic style).
- **Hindi calligraphy:** **Vasant Krishan Vaidya (Vaid).**
- **Artistic decoration:** artists from **Shantiniketan led by Nandalal Bose**; the **Preamble** was illuminated by **Beohar Rammanohar Sinha** (Nandalal Bose's student); the **Hindi version** was decorated by **Nandalal Bose**.
- The **original Hindi and English versions** are preserved in a **helium-filled case** in the **Library of Parliament**.
- **Cost ≈ ₹64 lakh** (enrichment).

## 15. HISTORICAL TRANSITION → PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

- On **26 January 1950**, the Constituent Assembly **did not dissolve** — it **transformed into the Provisional Parliament of India**, functioning until the **first elected Parliament (1952)**.
- **Samvidhan Diwas / Constitution Day / National Law Day = 26 November** (commemorates adoption).

### Comparative evolution of institutional status:

Feature	Pre-Independence (1946)	Post-Adoption (Jan 1950)
Primary body	Constituent Assembly	Provisional Parliament
Members	389 (initial)	299 (post-partition)
Guiding document	Cabinet Mission Plan	Constitution of India

Feature	Pre-Independence (1946)	Post-Adoption (Jan 1950)
National Anthem	Not officially adopted	Jana Gana Mana
National Song	Not officially adopted	Vande Mataram
Head of State	British Monarch/Viceroy	President of India

- **Republic Day venues (1950–1955):** 1950–1954 — **Red Fort, National Stadium, Kingsway Camp, Ramlila Ground; 1955 onwards — Rajpath** (permanent venue).

## 16. PROVISIONS ENFORCED ON 26 NOVEMBER 1949 (ARTICLE 394)

While the bulk commenced on 26 Jan 1950, transition-critical provisions came into force on **26 Nov 1949**:

Category	Articles	Subject
Citizenship	5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Who was a citizen at commencement (crucial for refugees)
Executive Oath	60	Oath/affirmation by the President
Elections	324	Establishment of the Election Commission
Interpretation	366, 367	Definitions & interpretation clauses
Provisional Parliament	379, 380, 388	Provisional Parliament; casual vacancies
Temporary Provisions	391, 392	President's power to remove difficulties; amend 1st/4th Schedules
Short Title	393	"Constitution of India"
Commencement	394	The article declaring the above come into force immediately

## 17. PREAMBLE — OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Based on the **Objectives Resolution drafted by Nehru**.

Key term	Meaning
<b>We, the people of India</b>	Ultimate sovereignty lies with the people
<b>Sovereign</b>	Free from external control; independent authority
<b>Socialist</b>	(42nd Amendment) social & economic equality; implies a mixed economy
<b>Secular</b>	(42nd Amendment) no official religion; equal respect for all
<b>Democratic</b>	Government by the will of the people via free & fair elections
<b>Republic</b>	Elected (not hereditary) head of state
<b>Justice</b>	Social, Economic, Political
<b>Liberty</b>	Of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship (with reasonable restrictions)
<b>Equality</b>	Of status and opportunity
<b>Fraternity</b>	Dignity of the individual; unity & integrity of the nation

- The **Preamble** is the **soul of the Constitution**, a **key to the framers' intent**, and **part of the Constitution** (held in **Kesavananda Bharati**).

## 18. NATURE & PHILOSOPHY

- **India became Sovereign on 15 August 1947.**

- **Not an absolute federation** — balance favours **Union supremacy** ("quasi-federal" — K.C. Wheare; "federal in form, unitary in spirit").
- The **written-constitution concept first originated in the USA**.
- A **rationally deliberated moral document** and a **socially constructed text**, interpreted by **Parliament + Judiciary**; blends **rigidity & flexibility**; a **living document**.

## 19. DOCTRINE OF ECLIPSE & ARTICLE 13

- **Doctrine of Eclipse** applies to **pre-constitutional laws** (made before **26 Jan 1950**) under **Article 13(1)** — such a law inconsistent with FR is **eclipsed (not dead)** and **revivable** if the FR is later amended.
- **Doctrine of Severability** — only the unconstitutional portion is struck down.
- **Doctrine of Waiver** — a citizen **cannot waive** their Fundamental Rights.
- **Article 13(2)** voids **post-constitutional laws** violating FR (**void ab initio**).

### THEME

- Eclipse = pre-1950 laws (revivable); Article 13(2) = post-1950 laws (void from birth). The line is 26 Jan 1950.

## 20. TRANSITION OF PORTFOLIOS (1946 → 1947)

Portfolio	Interim Govt (1946)	First Cabinet (1947)
PM / External Affairs	Nehru (VP)	Nehru (PM)
Home, Info & Broadcasting	Patel	Patel (+ States)
Food & Agriculture	Rajendra Prasad	Rajendra Prasad
Defence	Baldev Singh	Baldev Singh
Labour	Jagjivan Ram	Jagjivan Ram
Finance	Liaquat Ali Khan (ML)	<b>R.K. Shanmukham Chetty</b>
Law	Jogendra Nath Mandal (ML)	<b>Dr B.R. Ambedkar</b>
Railways & Transport	Asaf Ali	Dr John Mathai
Education	C. Rajagopalachari	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Commerce	I.I. Chundrigar (ML)	C.H. Bhabha
Health	Ghazanfar Ali Khan (ML)	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
Industries & Supplies	Dr John Mathai	Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
Communication	Abdur Rab Nishtar (Posts & Air)	Rafi Ahmed Kidwai
Works, Mines & Power	C.H. Bhabha	V.N. Gadgil

- **Key shifts:** Finance & Law (ML's Liaquat Ali Khan & Jogendra Nath Mandal) → **R.K. Shanmukham Chetty & Dr B.R. Ambedkar**; new entrants **Ambedkar, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**; John Mathai moved Industries → Railways; Bhabha moved Works → Commerce.

## 21. CRITICAL COMMENTARY & HISTORICAL QUOTES

Leader	Event	Quote / Critique
C. Rajagopalachari	GoI Act 1935	"New Charter of Bondage"

Leader	Event	Quote / Critique
<b>Mahatma Gandhi</b>	Poona Pact (1932)	Separate electorates "vivisect and disrupt Hinduism"; fasted unto death
	August Offer (1940)	"Widened the gulf between Nationalist India and the British rulers"
	Cripps Mission (1942)	"A post-dated cheque on a crashing bank"
	Wavell Plan (1945)	Objected to the term "Caste Hindu" for Congress
	Cabinet Mission (1946)	"The best document the British Government could have produced"
<b>Jawaharlal Nehru</b>	Mountbatten Plan (1947)	Partition = "a spiritual tragedy"; accepted only to avoid civil war
	Nehru Report (1928)	Criticised "Dominion Status"; demanded "Purna Swaraj"
	GoI Act 1935	"New Charter of Slavery"; "a machine with strong brakes but no engine"
	August Offer (1940)	Dominion Status "dead as a doornail"
	Cabinet Mission (1946)	"We are not bound by a single thing..." (led Jinnah to withdraw)
<b>Dr B.R. Ambedkar</b>	Objectives Resolution	Resolve to proclaim India an "Independent Sovereign Republic"
	Poona Pact (1932)	"Political democracy is meaningless without equal participation of depressed classes"
	Borrowing	"There are no patent rights" on fundamental constitutional ideas
	Draft Constitution	"Workable, flexible and strong enough to hold the country together"
<b>M.A. Jinnah</b>	Nehru Report (1928)	After his "14 Points" rejected → "the parting of ways"
	GoI Act 1935	Federal scheme "thoroughly rotten, fundamentally bad and totally unacceptable"
	Lahore Resolution (1940)	"The Mussalmans are not a minority. They are a nation by any definition"
	Direct Action Day (1946)	"Today we have said goodbye to constitutional methods. We have forged a pistol..."
<b>Lala Lajpat Rai</b>	Simon Commission (1927)	"Every blow on my body will prove a nail in the coffin of the British Empire"
<b>Subhas Chandra Bose</b>	Nehru Report (1928)	Rejected Dominion Status; founded the Independence for India League
<b>Winston Churchill</b>	Constituent Assembly	"A meeting of men... representing only one major community in India"
<b>Madan Mohan Malaviya</b>	GoI Act 1935	"Undemocratic from outside and hollow from inside"

## 22. KEY AMENDMENT CONTEXT

- **42nd Amendment Act, 1976** — the "**Mini-Constitution**": added **Socialist, Secular, Integrity** to the Preamble and **Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)**; later partly reversed by the **44th Amendment (1978)**.

## 23. RAPID-FIRE TRAP SHEET & MNEMONICS

- CA idea first = M.N. Roy (1934) (on adult franchise); written constitution first = USA; first attempt at a constitution = 1895 Bill.
- GoI Act 1935 → Federal Court (1937), not Supreme Court.
- Cabinet Mission head = Pethick-Lawrence; members = Lawrence + Cripps + Alexander ("LawCripAlex").
- Simla 1945 = Wavell; Mountbatten replaced Wavell; transfer of power by Attlee (House of Commons).
- Chronology: Simla → Wavell Plan → Cabinet Mission → Mountbatten Plan.
- First CA meeting = 9 Dec 1946; Sinha = temporary/oldest chair (French practice); ML boycotted; Rajendra Prasad = permanent President (11 Dec); VPs = H.C. Mukherjee & V.T. Krishnamachari.
- Strength: 389 (292+93+4) → 299 (229+70); drafting = 2y 11m 18d; 11 sessions/165 days; 7,635 suggestions; 284 signed.
- Drafting Committee chair = Ambedkar (Architect/Father); appointed 29 Aug 1947.
- Seal = Elephant; Advisor = B.N. Rau; Secretary = H.V.R. Iyengar; Chief Draftsman = S.N. Mukerjee.
- English calligrapher = Prem Behari Narain Raizada; Hindi = Vasant Krishan Vaidya; artist = Nandalal Bose; Preamble = Beohar Rammanohar Sinha.
- Original = 395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules, ~80,000 words.
- Adopted 26 Nov 1949; enforced 26 Jan 1950; sovereign 15 Aug 1947; Anthem/Song + first President on 24 Jan 1950.
- Provisions on 26 Nov 1949 = Article 394 (citizenship 5–9, oath 60, EC 324, etc.).
- Preamble: Socialist + Secular = 42nd Amendment (1976); Preamble is part of the Constitution (Kesavananda Bharati).
- Not absolute federal — Union supremacy (quasi-federal).
- Doctrine of Eclipse = pre-constitutional laws, Article 13(1).
- Interim Govt = 2 Sep 1946 (Nehru VP); ML joined 26 Oct 1946 (3 resigned: Zaheer, Sarat Bose, Shafaat Ahmed Khan). Finance/Law shifted to R.K. Shanmukham Chetty & Ambedkar in 1947.
- Women: 15 members; only Muslim woman = Begum Aizaz Rasul; only Dalit woman = Dakshayani Velayudhan; Hansa Mehta ("Human Rights" wording); first woman to speak = Sarojini Naidu.

### THEME

- Three clusters dominate:

(1) Constituent Assembly officials, dates & committees,

(2) Cabinet Mission 1946,

(3) adoption timeline (26 Nov 1949 vs 26 Jan 1950) — surrounded by personality-attribution, calligraphy/specific-fact, and Interim-Government traps.