

CUET Political Science: Indian Constitution at a Glance

Quick revision notes · Humanities / Arts stream · CUET UG · Political Science

1. Making of the Constitution

- The Constituent Assembly first met on 9 December 1946.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad was its President; Dr B. R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee.
- The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 (Constitution Day) and came into force on 26 January 1950 (Republic Day).

2. The Preamble

- India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.
- Objectives: Justice (social, economic, political), Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- "Socialist", "Secular" and "Integrity" were added by the 42nd Amendment (1976).

3. Fundamental Rights (Part III, Articles 12-35)

Right	Articles
Right to Equality	14-18
Right to Freedom	19-22
Right against Exploitation	23-24
Right to Freedom of Religion	25-28
Cultural and Educational Rights	29-30
Right to Constitutional Remedies	32

- The Right to Property was removed from Fundamental Rights by the 44th Amendment (1978); it is now a legal right under Article 300A.
- Article 21A (Right to Education, age 6-14) was added by the 86th Amendment (2002).
- Dr Ambedkar called Article 32 the "heart and soul" of the Constitution.

4. Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties

- Directive Principles of State Policy: Part IV (Articles 36-51). Not enforceable in courts; idea taken from the Irish Constitution.
- Fundamental Duties: Part IVA, Article 51A. Added by the 42nd Amendment on the Swaran Singh Committee's recommendation. There are now 11 duties (the 11th added by the 86th Amendment).

5. Borrowed features

Source	Feature
United Kingdom	Parliamentary system, rule of law
United States	Fundamental Rights, judicial review

Source	Feature
Ireland	Directive Principles
Canada	Federation with a strong centre
Australia	Concurrent List
France	Liberty, equality, fraternity
Germany (Weimar)	Suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency
South Africa	Procedure for amendment

6. Key articles

- Article 352: National Emergency. Article 356: President's Rule in a state. Article 360: Financial Emergency.
- Article 368: power of Parliament to amend the Constitution.
- Rajya Sabha: maximum 250 members, of whom 12 are nominated by the President.

Quick check

Q1. When did the Constitution come into force?

Answer: 26 January 1950.

Q2. Which amendment added Fundamental Duties?

Answer: 42nd Amendment, 1976.

Q3. Directive Principles were borrowed from which country?

Answer: Ireland.

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