



Cabinet Mission

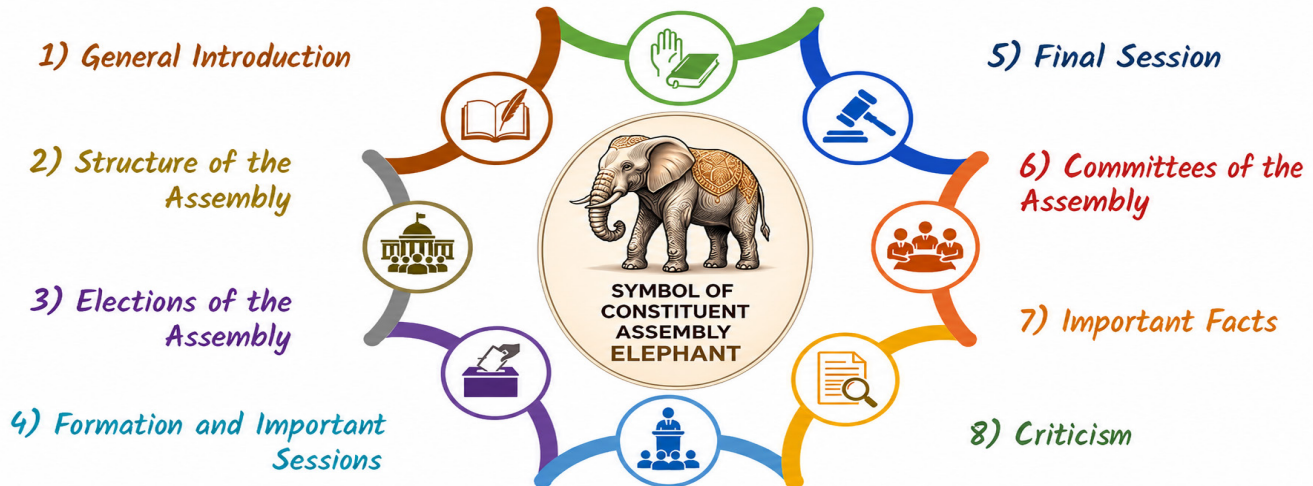
(कैबिनेट मिशन)

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Shubham Gupta Sir

Making of the Constitution



Background

Idea of Constituent Assembly → Sir Henry Maine

World's first Constituent Assembly → America (1787 – Philadelphia)



1)1895 ⇒ Bal Gangadhar Tilak

1)1922 ⇒ Mahatma Gandhi (Young India)

1)1924 ⇒ Swaraj Party

1)1928 ⇒ Nehru Report

1)1934 ⇒ M.N. Roy

1)1935 ⇒ Indian National Congress

1)1938 ⇒ Jawaharlal Nehru

1)1940 ⇒ August Offer

1)March 1942 ⇒ Cripps Mission

1)July 1945 ⇒ Shimla Conference

1)March 1946 ⇒ Cabinet Mission

1)1946 ⇒ Constituent Assembly formed



DEMAND FOR THE INDIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS (1895–1947)



- 1 **1895 : Bal Gangadhar Tilak** → First unofficial demand for a constitution in the 'Swaraj Bill'
 - First use of the word 'Swaraj': Swami Dayanand Saraswati → 'Satyarth Prakash' (1875)
 - 1906 Calcutta Session → Dadabhai Naoroji
- 2 **1922 : Mahatma Gandhi (Young India)** → "India's political destiny should be decided by Indians themselves."
- 3 **1924 : Swaraj Party** → Demand for the formation of a 'Constituent Assembly'
- 4 **1928 : Draft constitution prepared through the Nehru Report**
- 5 **1934 : M.N. Roy** → First formal and explicit proposal for formation of a Constituent Assembly
- 6 **1935 : Indian National Congress (INC)** → Official demand
- 7 **1938 : Jawaharlal Nehru** → Demanded a Constituent Assembly elected by 'sovereign' and 'adult franchise'
- 8 **1940 : August Offer (Lord Linlithgow)** → British government accepted the demand for a Constituent Assembly for the first time
- 9 **March 1942 : Cripps Mission (Sir Stafford Cripps)** → Clear proposal for formation of an elected Constituent Assembly after World War II
- 10 **June–July 1945 : Wavell Plan (Shimla Conference)** → Attempt to resolve political deadlock for a new constitution
- 11 **March 1946 : Cabinet Mission** → Formation of the Constituent Assembly
- 12 **24 August 1946** → First Interim National Government
- 13 **3 June 1947 : Mountbatten Plan** → Partition of India
- 14 **18 July 1947 (Section 8) : Indian Independence Act 1947** → Independence to India and division of the Constituent Assembly



This timeline shows that after nearly five decades of continuous efforts, debate, and political struggle, the formation of the Constituent Assembly became possible, laying the foundation of India's democratic future.



August Offer 1940

1. **Viceroy Linlithgow** — 8 August 1940
2. **Objective:-** To gain Indian support in World War II.
3. **Provisions:**
 - Dominion Status
 - Proposal for the formation of a Constituent Assembly
4. **Nehru's Remark:-** "A rusty nail stuck in the door."

Cripps Mission (March 1942)

1. **Head:** Sir Stafford Cripps (Labour Party)
2. **Proposals:**
 - Dominion Status
 - Indian Union
 - Constituent Assembly
3. **Mahatma Gandhi's Remark:-** "A post-dated cheque on a crashing bank."

REACTIONS TO THE CRIPPS MISSION



Mahatma Gandhi

"A post-dated cheque on a crashing bank"



Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya

"A dead-born child of the British Parliament"



Jawaharlal Nehru

"My old friend has come to me today as the advocate of the devil."

Only a revised and enlarged version of the August Offer (1940)

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

8 AUGUST 1942

Wavell Plan (1945)

1. (October 1943) ⇒ (Wavell as Viceroy)
2. (Provisions)
 - (Interim National Government)
 - (Constituent Assembly)
- ❖ (Discussion) -- Shimla Conference (14 July 1945)

Cabinet Mission (1946)

Arrival in Delhi — 24 March 1946	03 British Cabinet Ministers	Main Objectives	16 May 1946 Plan
❑ Announcement - February 1946 ❑ On 15 March 1946, Prime Minister Attlee announced in the House of Commons	❑ Pethick Lawrence (Secretary of State for India) ❑ Stafford Cripps (President of the Board of Trade) ❑ A. V. Alexander (Naval Minister) ❑ Prime Minister Clement Attlee	❑ Formation of the Constituent Assembly ❑ Establishment of an Interim Government ❑ Peaceful transfer of power in India	FAILED

CABINET MISSION 1946

A PLAN FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

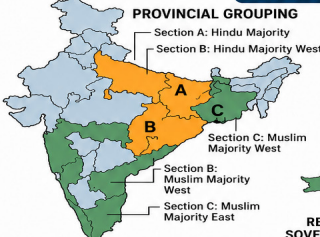
THE 'BIG THREE' MEMBERS

 LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE (Secretary of State for India)	 SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS (President of the Board of Trade)	 A.V. ALEXANDER (First Lord of Admiralty)
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KEY OBJECTIVES

 PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER	 FORM INTERIM GOVERNMENT	 CREATE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
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KEY PROPOSALS



PROVINCIAL GROUPING

Section A: Hindu Majority West

Section B: Hindu Majority West

Section C: Muslim Majority West

Section B: Muslim Majority West

Section C: Muslim Majority East



WEAK FEDERAL UNION

DEFENCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATIONS, CURRENCY, ALL OTHER POWERS TO PROVINCES



REJECTION OF SOVEREIGN PAKISTAN



PROPOSED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

REACTIONS & OUTCOME



CONGRESS & MUSLIM LEAGUE ACCEPTANCE

DIVERGENT INTERPRETATIONS



ULTIMATE FAILURE

PATH TO PARTITION & INDEPENDENCE (1947)

INDIA, PAKISTAN, INDEPENDENCE

1. **Pakistan** ⇒ Rejected
2. **Formation of Three-tier Indian Union :-**
 - Union : Weak
 - Provinces : Powerful
3. **(Grouping of Provinces)** → (A, B and C)
4. **Formation of Constituent Assembly**
 - ❖ **December 1946 – Constitution of Constituent Assembly**
 - ❖ **2 September 1946 : Formation of Interim Government**
 - Members : 389
 - Indirect Election
 - 1 seat per 10 lakh people
5. **Subsequent Events :-**
 - Muslim League accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan on 6 June 1946 but rejected it on 29 July 1946
 - July 1946 → In the Constituent Assembly elections, Congress won 208 out of 296 seats in British India
 - ◆ Granville Austin : "The Constituent Assembly was the Congress and the Congress was India."
 - ◆ Lord Simon : Hindu Organisation
 - ◆ Churchill : Representative of only one large community
 - 16 August 1946 → Direct Action Day (Great Calcutta Killings)
 - 24 August 1946 → Announcement of the first Interim Government
 - 2 September 1946 → Jawaharlal Nehru : Interim Government
6. **14-Member Interim Government**
 - Announcement → 24 August 1946
 - Formation → 2 September 1946
 - ◆ 6 Congress
 - ◆ 5 Muslim League (Muslims)
 - ◆ 1 Indian Christian
 - ◆ 1 Sikh
 - ◆ 1 Parsi
 - When the government was reconstituted on 26 October 1946, 5 representatives of the Muslim League were included
 - ◆ 3 original Congress members (Syed Ali Zaheer, Sharat Chandra Bose and Sir Shafat Ahmad Khan) had to resign
 - **The Muslim League accepted the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) on June 6, 1946.**
 - The League rejected it on July 29, 1946.

Minister	Department
➤ Jawaharlal Nehru	➤ Vice-President of Executive Council, External Affairs & Commonwealth
➤ Vallabhbhai Patel	➤ Home, Information & Broadcasting
➤ Baldev Singh	➤ Defence
➤ John Mathai	➤ Industries & Supply
➤ C. Rajagopalachari	➤ Education
➤ C. H. Bhabha	➤ Works, Mines & Ports
➤ Rajendra Prasad	➤ Food & Agriculture
➤ Asaf Ali	➤ Railways
➤ Jagjivan Ram	➤ Labour
➤ Liaquat Ali Khan	➤ Finance
➤ I. I. Chundrigar	➤ Commerce
➤ Abdul Rab Nishtar	➤ Communications
➤ Jogendra Nath Mandal	➤ Law (Bengal SCF Chief)
➤ Ghazanfar Ali Khan	➤ Health

❖ Lord Wavell was the Governor-General, acting as the President of the Council.

First Cabinet of Independent India — August 15, 1947

1. Jawaharlal Nehru	Prime Minister; Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs; Scientific Research
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Home, Information & Broadcasting; States Affairs
3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad	Food and Agriculture
4. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	Education
5. Dr. John Mathai	Railways and Transport
6. R.K. Shanmugam Chetty	Finance
7. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Law
8. Jagjivan Ram	Labour
9. Sardar Baldev Singh	Defence
10. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Health
11. C.H. Bhabha	Commerce
12. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai	Communication
13. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee	Industry and Supply
14. Narhar Vishnu Gadgil	Works, Mines and Energy



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