



Constituent Assembly (संविधान सभा)

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General Introduction

- Constituent Assembly ⇒ An elected or representative body that prepares the 'compilation' of fundamental laws and political framework of a country.
 - Concept - Sir Henry Maine
 - First Constituent Assembly
 - Philadelphia Convention (1787, America)
 - National Constituent Assembly (1789, France)
- Cabinet Mission --- Formation of Constituent Assembly (December 1946)
 - Basis:- Indirect election and nomination (Princely States) ⇒ July 1946

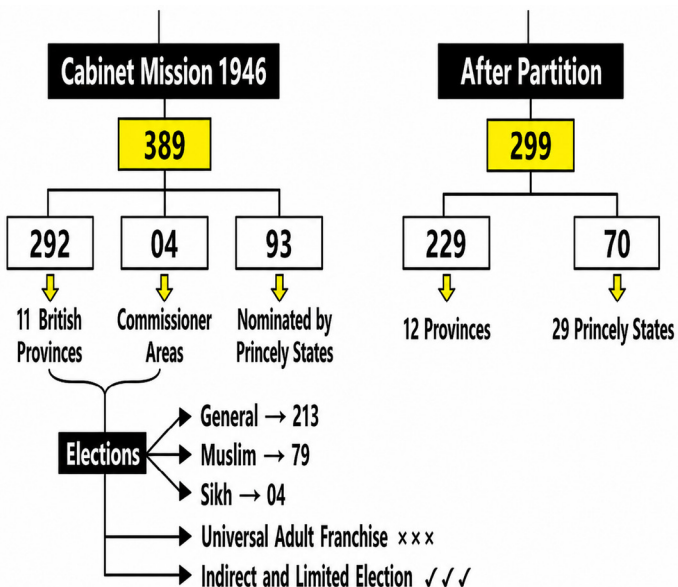
Proportional representation through Single Transferable Vote

Provincial Legislatures

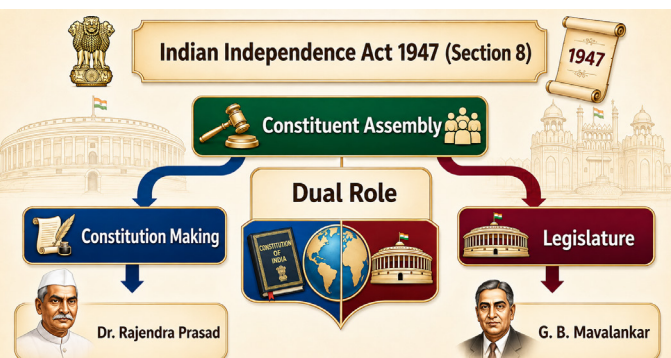
Provincial elections of 1937 under Government of India Act 1935

- Provinces and Princely States - One seat for every 10 lakh population
- Three communities - General, Muslim and Sikh

Structure of the Constituent Assembly



Indian Independence Act 1947 (Section 8) ⇒ Constituent Assembly ⇒ First Legislature of India ⇒ Dual Role



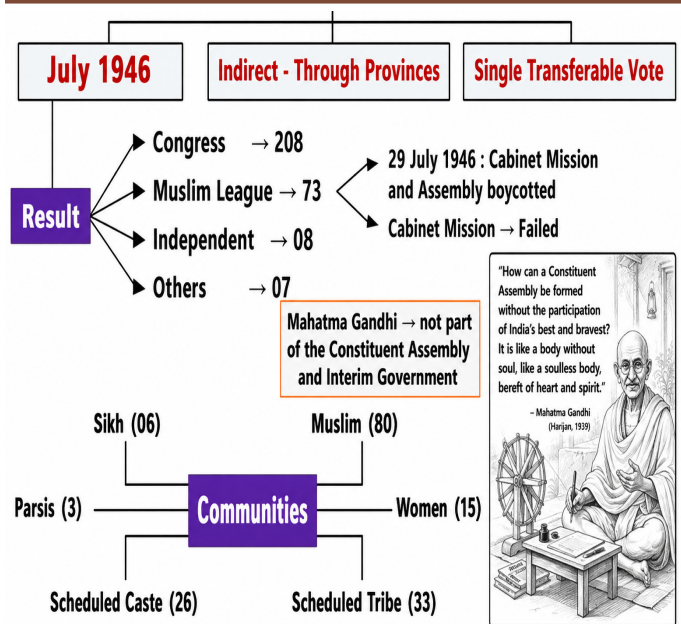
HISTORICAL RECORD OF INDIA

◆ Four Representatives from the Four Chief Commissioners' Provinces

- ✓ Delhi — Deshbandhu Gupta
- ✓ Ajmer-Merwara — Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava
- ✓ Coorg — C. M. Poonacha (also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh)
- ✓ British Baluchistan — S. B. Nawab Mohammad Khan Jogeza

Representative Details for the Constituent Assembly

Elections for the Constituent Assembly



State-wise membership of India's Constituent Assembly as on 31 December 1947

12 Provinces → 229		29 Princely States → 70	
Madras	49	Mysore	7
Bombay	21	Baroda	3
West Bengal	19	Bhopal	1
United Provinces	55	Travancore	6
East Punjab	12	Cochin	1
Bihar	36	Gwalior	4
C.P. and Berar	17	Indore	1
Assam	8	Jaipur	3
Odisha	9	Jodhpur	2
Delhi	1	Tripura, Manipur and Khasi	1
Ajmer - Marwar	1		
Coorg	1		

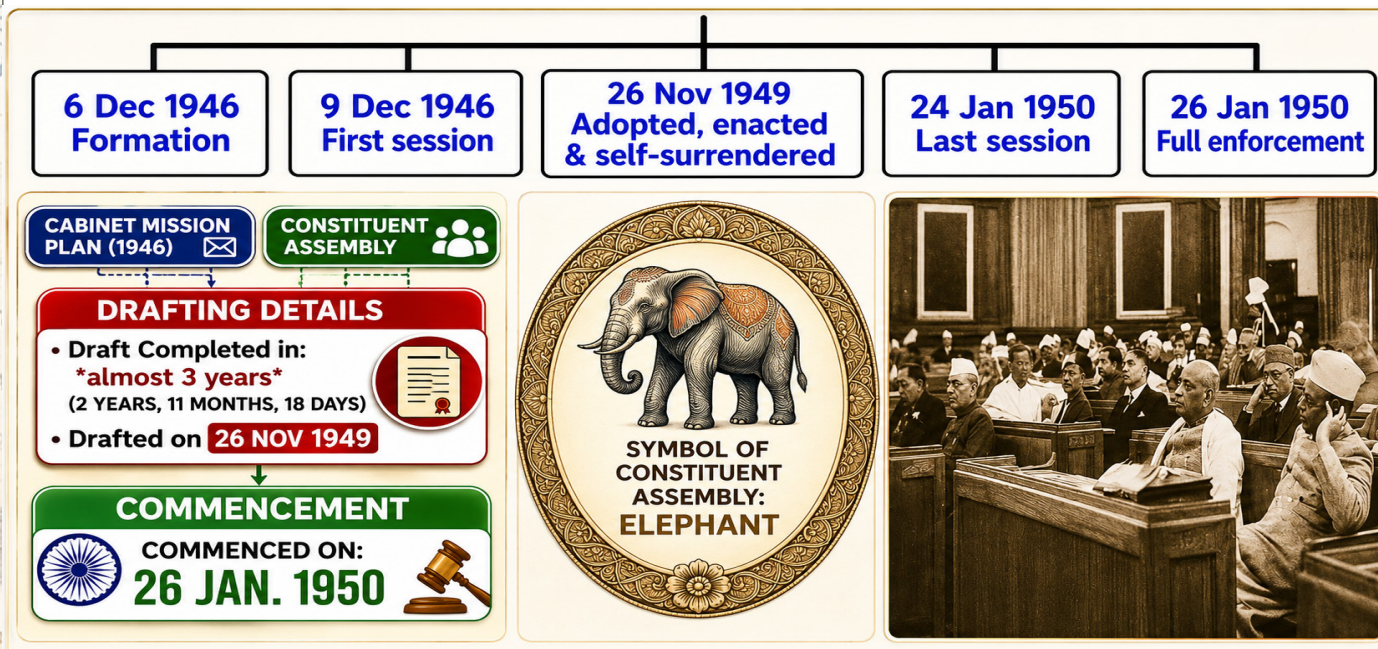
There was no representative from the Hyderabad State.

Women Members of the Constituent Assembly

Name	Constituency	Name	Constituency
Ammu Swaminathan	Madras	Purnima Banerji	United Provinces
Annie Mascarene	Travancore and Cochin Union	Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Central Provinces and Berar
Begum Aizaz Rasul	United Provinces (Muslim)	Renuka Ray	West Bengal / General
Dakshayani Velayudhan	Madras (SC Woman)	Sarojini Naidu	Bihar
G. Durgabai	Madras	Sucheta Kripalani	United Provinces
Hansa Mehta	Bombay	Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit	United Provinces
Kamala Chaudhry	United Provinces		
Leela Ray	West Bengal		
Malati Choudhury	Odisha		

- There were 5 women from United Provinces
- 10 women members were present in the first meeting of the Indian Constituent Assembly on 9 December 1946

Formation & Key Meetings



Country	Articles	Working Period	Time Taken
America	7	25 May 1787 to 19 September 1787	Less than four months
Canada	147	19 October 1864 to March 1867	About 2 years 6 months
Australia	128	1891 to 1900	About 9 years
South Africa	153	October 1908 to September 1909	One year
India	395	- Start : 9 December 1946 - Adopt : 26 November 1949 - Implement : 26 January 1950	2 years, 11 months and 18 days 11 Sessions

- ✓ 26 November → Constitution Day (National Law Day)
- ✓ The official observance of Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) in India began from the year 19 November 2015.

SESSION	DATE
➤ First Session	9–23 December, 1946
➤ Second Session	20–25 January, 1947
➤ Third Session	28 April – 2 May, 1947
➤ Fourth Session	14–31 July, 1947
➤ Fifth Session	14–30 August, 1947
➤ Sixth Session	27 January, 1948
➤ Seventh Session	4 November, 1948 – 8 January, 1949
➤ Eighth Session	16 May – 16 June, 1949
➤ Ninth Session	30 July – 18 September, 1949
➤ Tenth Session	6–17 October, 1949
➤ Eleventh Session	14–26 November, 1949



Did you know?

The Indian Constitution exists in **two handwritten versions**: one in English and the other in Hindi. It has been preserved in special helium-filled cases at the Central Library of the Parliament.

प्रेम बिहारी नारायण रायजादा ने हाथ से लिखा है हमारा संविधान

दुनिया के सबसे बड़े भारतीय संविधान की मूल प्रति हाथ से लिखी गई है।



हमारे संविधान की मूल प्रति अंग्रेजी के हिंदी में अनुवाद किया गया

संविधान की मूल अंग्रेजी प्रति कैलिग्राफर प्रेम बिहारी नारायण रायजादा ने लिखी है।

First meeting of the Constituent Assembly

→ Monday → Morning 11:00 AM → 9 December 1946
→ First Session (9–23 December 1946)

- Central Hall of Parliament House (Constitution Hall), New Delhi
- Temporary Chairman → As per French tradition, the most senior member of the assembly: Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha (Bihar) ~ Proposed by Acharya J.B. Kripalani
- First Nominated Deputy chairman → Frank Anthony (Central Provinces)
- Due to the boycott by the Muslim League, a total of 207 members participated in this session.
- Goodwill messages received from → United States of America, China and Australia
- Prasanna Deo Rekut → passed away on 4 December 1946, five days before the first session of the Constituent Assembly.

Second meeting of the Constituent Assembly

Monday → Morning 11:00 AM → 10 December 1946

- Temporary Chairman → Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha
- Main Focus → To lay the administrative and procedural groundwork for smooth functioning of the assembly.
 - ◆ The day for setting the internal 'rules of procedure' of the assembly
- Process for election of Permanent Chairman → A proposal was presented by Acharya J.B. Kripalani

Third meeting of the Constituent Assembly

11 December 1946

- Election of Permanent President → Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- Two Vice Presidents →
 - ◆ Harendra Kumar Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari (Jaipur State)
- Constitutional Adviser → B.N. Rau (Benegal Narsing Rau)
- Secretary → H.V.R. Iyengar (Hurav Varadraj Iyengar)
- Chief Draftsman → S.N. Mukherjee
- Calligrapher → Prem Bihari Narayan Raizada

Fourth meeting of the Constituent Assembly

12 December 1946

- Permanent President → Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- Postponement of 'Objective Resolution' (Postponement of Objective Resolution)
- Discussion on the work of the Rules Committee

Fifth meeting of the Constituent Assembly

13 December 1946

- Jawaharlal Nehru → 'Objective Resolution' → Soul and Core Philosophy of the Constitution
- Supported by → Purushottam Das Tandon
- Adopted → 22 January 1947
- 8 Articles
 - ◆ An independent and sovereign republic
 - ◆ Unity and integrity
 - ◆ Union of States → A union of provinces, princely states, and all territories that wish to join it
 - ◆ Source of power → 'The People'
 - ◆ Justice and equality → Social, economic, and political justice along with equality
 - ◆ Fundamental freedoms → Thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, and occupation
 - ◆ Protection of weaker sections → Minorities, backward classes, and tribal areas
 - ◆ World peace → India will contribute to international peace and the welfare of all humanity



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