



Committees of the Constitution (संविधान की समितियाँ)


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Shubham Gupta Sir

Key Committees of the Constituent Assembly

22 Committees



8 Major Committees

No. & Committee	Chairperson
1 Drafting Committee	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
2 Union Powers Committee	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
3 Union Constitution Committee	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
4 Provincial Constitution Committee	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
5 Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal Areas	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
6 Rules of Procedure Committee	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
7 States Negotiating Committee	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
8 Steering Committee	Dr. Rajendra Prasad



14 Minor Committees

- ✓ **National Flag Committee:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- ✓ **Finance and Staff Committee:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- ✓ **Committee for the Functions of the Constituent Assembly:** G.V. Mavalankar
- ✓ **Supreme Court Committee:** S. Vardachari (not a member of the Assembly)
- ✓ **Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee:** J.B. Kripalani
- ✓ **Minorities Sub-Committee:** H.C. Mukherjee
- ✓ **Sub-Committee for Assam Tribal and Excluded Areas:** Gopinath Bordoloi
- ✓ **Business Conduct Committee:** Dr. K.M. Munshi

Drafting Committee

1. Formation → 29 August 1947
2. Objective → To consider and finalize the preliminary draft of the Constitution prepared by the Constitutional Adviser (Sir B.N. Rau).
 - First Meeting → 30 August 1947
 - Total Meetings → 141 days
 - Publication of First Draft → 21 February 1948
 - Second Draft → October 1948
 - Final Draft → 4 November 1948
3. Final Adoption → 26 November 1949
 - Article 393 gives the 'Short Title' of the Constitution, which states: 'This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India.' On 17 October 1949, the Constituent Assembly held its final discussion on the name and the Preamble section.
4. Committee Members (Total 7 Members)
 - Chairman → Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar
 - Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar
 - Dr. K.M. Munshi
 - Syed Mohammad Saadullah (Muslim League)
 - N. Madhav Rao (replaced B.L. Mitra, who had resigned due to health reasons)
 - T. T. Krishnamachari (He replaced D. P. Khaitan after his death in 1948.)

Three Stages or 'Readings'

- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar introduced the final draft of the Constitution in the Assembly on November 4, 1948. A general discussion on it took place in the Assembly for five days (until November 9, 1948). The Constitution was taken up for consideration for the second time starting from November 15, 1948. During this period, at least 7,635 amendment proposals were received, of which only 2,473 were actually discussed in the Assembly. The total duration of the sessions was 165 days, of which 114 days were dedicated to debating the draft.

First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading
4 Nov 1948 to 9 November 1948	15 November 1948 to 17 October 1949	14 November 1949 to 26 November 1949
	➤ Extensive deliberation on each clause ➤ 7,635 amendments were proposed, out of which 2,473 amendments were discussed in the House	➤ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar → The Constitution as settled by the Assembly be passed ➤ 26 November 1949 → Adopted, Enacted and Self-promulgated ➤ Came into effect on 26 January 1950 → Republic Day

Last Session of the Constituent Assembly 24 January 1950

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad → Elected as first President of India
2. Conversion of the Constituent Assembly into 'Provisional Parliament'
3. National Anthem → 'Jana-Gana-Mana'
 - Author → Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore
 - Original Language → Bengali (5 stanzas in the original song)
 - First Sung → 27 December 1911 (Calcutta Session)
 - Duration of Singing → 52 seconds
 - Abbreviated Version → 20 seconds
 - Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971
 - Case → Bijoe Emmanuel vs. State of Kerala (1986)
 - In 1919, Rabindranath Tagore translated it into English in Andhra Pradesh under the title 'The Morning Song of India'.
4. National Song → 'Vande Mataram'
 - Composer (Author): Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
 - Original Source: 'Anandamath' (1882 – Sannyasi Rebellion)
 - First Sung: 1896 (Calcutta Session)
 - Set to music by Rabindranath Tagore
 - Duration of Singing: 65 seconds (1 minute 5 seconds)
 - English Translation: Sri Aurobindo
 - Associated with the 1905 Partition of Bengal (Swadeshi Movement)
5. Out of 299 total members, only 284 were present on that day.
 - The first signature is considered to be that of Jawaharlal Nehru and the last of Feroze Gandhi, while Dr. Rajendra Prasad's signature was at the top.

Important Facts

1. National Flag → 22 July 1947
 - Original Design → Pingali Venkayya, freedom fighter and agricultural scientist from Andhra Pradesh
2. Confirmation of Commonwealth Membership → May 1949
3. Time Taken → 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days
 - Total 11 Sessions
 - Constitutions of approximately 60 countries were studied
 - Total Expenditure → ₹63,96,729
4. Two original copies → One in Hindi and one in English
 - Preservation → Parliament House Library (New Delhi)
 - Kept in special glass boxes filled with nitrogen gas.
5. Calligraphy
 - Hindi Version → Vasant Krishna Vaidya
 - English Version → Prem Bihari Narayan Raizada (Flowing Italic Style)
6. Artwork and Decoration → Artists of Shantiniketan
 - Artist → Nandalal Bose
 - Preamble → Beohar Rammanohar Sinha
7. Constituent Assembly Symbol (Seal) → Elephant
8. 26 November 1949 → Adopted, Enacted, and Given to Ourselves
 - Adopted → To accept or embrace
 - Enacted → Recognised as the supreme law
 - Given to Ourselves → The people of India made it themselves and subjected themselves to it.
 - Preamble, 395 Articles, and 8 Schedules

National Flag Committee → Dr. Rajendra Prasad

- Date of Adoption → 22 July 1947
- Ratio of Width to Length of Flag → 2:3
- Ashoka Chakra → 24 spokes
- Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 → Constitution, National Flag, National Anthem
- Flag Code of India 2002
- Naveen Jindal Case (23 January 2004, Supreme Court, V.N. Khare) → Hoisting the National Flag with honour and dignity is a Fundamental Right of every citizen.

Independence Day (15 August)

Flag Hoisting : The flag is pulled up from below using a rope and then unfurled.

Prime Minister of the country

Red Fort, New Delhi

15 August 1947: Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted the National Flag at Princess Park near India Gate, New Delhi.
16 August 1947: The National Flag was hoisted at the Red Fort, where Ustad Bismillah Khan performed shehnai.

Republic Day (26 January)

Flag Unfurling : The flag is already tied at the top of the pole and is simply opened/ released.

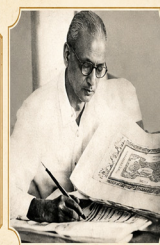
President of the country (21-gun salute)

Kartavya Path, New Delhi

- Ministry of Defence
- First (1950): President Sukarno of Indonesia
- Second: King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah of Nepal

Prem Behari Narain Raizada Handwrote Our Constitution

The original copy of the world's longest handwritten Constitution was written by hand.



The original copy of our Constitution is in English; it was also translated into Hindi.

The English copy of the Constitution was handwritten in calligraphy by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.

The Hindi Copy of the Constitution Was Written by Vasant Krishan Vaidya

The Hindi copy of the Constitution has 264 pages and weighs 14 kilograms.

Its handmade paper was manufactured in Pune.

Calligrapher Vasant Krishan Vaidya wrote the Hindi copy by hand.

The Original Copy of the Constitution Weighs 13 Kilograms



1 The Constitution was handwritten in calligraphy on parchment paper measuring 45.7 cm × 58.4 cm.

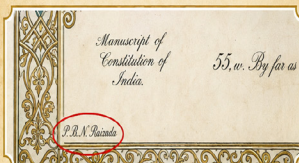
2 This paper was imported from Birmingham, England.

3 The manuscript contains 233 pages and weighs 13 kilograms.

4 The Constitution was written in black ink, while the decorative artwork was done with gold illumination.

* In English, parchment refers to animal skin specially prepared as a durable writing surface.

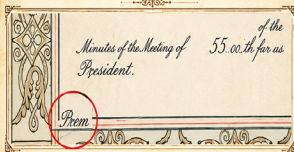
He Wrote the Constitution for Free—On the Condition That His Name Appear on Every Page



Then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru requested Prem Behari Narain Raizada to handwrite the Constitution in an italic calligraphic style.

Prem Behari charged no fee for writing the Constitution. He stipulated that his name should appear on every page, and that the name of his grandfather and teacher, Ram Prasad Saxena, should appear on the final page.

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The Room Where the Constitution Was Written Later Became the Constitution Club



Prem Behari was allotted a room in **Constitution Hall**. It later became the **Constitution Club**.

It took **six months** to handwrite the Constitution.

The President Also Had a Separate Flag



The four symbols represented national ideals: the Lion Capital symbolised unity, the lotus represented art and prosperity, the elephant stood for patience and strength, and the scales represented economy and justice.

From 26 January 1950 until 1971, the President of India had a separate flag.

In 1971, President **V. V. Giri** discontinued its use.

It displayed the President's initials along with four national symbols: the Lion Capital, elephant, scales and lotus.

On 26 January 1950, the Governor-General's flag was lowered at Rashtrapati Bhavan and the President's flag was unfurled.

Both Original Copies of the Constitution Are Kept in Two Nitrogen-Filled Chambers



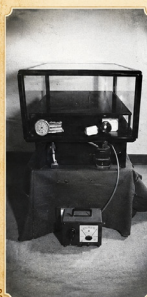
The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) constructed three sealed boxes measuring 180 cm x 180 cm x 305 cm. Two were delivered to Parliament on 20 March 1994.

The chambers contain nitrogen at 40–50% relative humidity, while the oxygen level is kept below 1%.

Even after the chamber is sealed, a 5 cubic cm nitrogen sample is taken every seven months to check for microbiological changes.

Special chemicals placed inside both chambers absorb and eliminate oxygen.

Finally, Help from an American Institute Was Required



1 The **National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** built a special airtight glass chamber to protect the Constitution from air and moisture.

2 After several attempts, the leakage of helium gas could not be stopped. **NPL** then sought assistance from abroad.

3 In **November 1992**, **NPL** contacted the **Getty Conservation Institute (GCI)** in the United States. The GCI team had already used nitrogen-filled enclosures to preserve delicate historical objects.

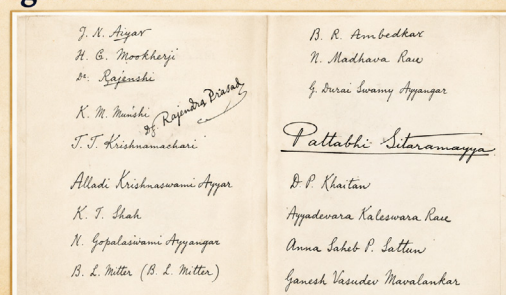
The Effort to Preserve the Original Copy Began in 1985



1 To protect the original English and Hindi copies of the Constitution for a long period, the **Parliament Library** contacted conservation specialists in **1985**, including institutions in Lucknow and the **National Physical Laboratory** in New Delhi. However, no practical solution emerged at first.

2 Later, scientists at the **National Physical Laboratory** began developing an airtight glass chamber lined with protective material and filled with inert gas.

This Is Why Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Signature in the Constitution Is Tilted



Major Criticisms of the Constituent Assembly

1

1. Not a Representative Body



The Assembly was not directly elected by the general public.

2

2. Lack of Sovereignty



The Assembly was created under the authority of the British Parliament.

3

3. Dominated by Congress



The Indian National Congress exercised overwhelming influence in the Assembly.

4

4. Time-Consuming



It took considerable time to draft the Constitution, while public expectations remained high.

5

5. Dominance of Lawyers and Politicians



Lawyers and politicians dominated the Assembly, so other voices received less attention.

6

6. Dominated Mainly by Hindus



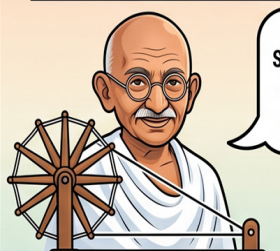
Hindus formed the majority, while other communities had comparatively limited representation.

7

7. 'A Bag of Borrowings' or 'Patchwork'



Critics argued that many constitutional features were adopted from the constitutions of other countries.

'FAMOUS QUOTES & PROPOSALS: INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY (IN ENGLISH)**MAHATMA GANDHI**

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS SHOULD BE DISSOLVED AS A POLITICAL PARTY AND BE FLOWER GARDEN AND ITS WORK BE OF WINNING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND MORAL FREEDOM.'



POLITICAL INC



LOK SEVAK SANGH



SOCIAL FREEDOM

SIR IVOR JENNINGS

'IN THEIR NATIONALIST REACTION, THE MAKERS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION HAVE UNDERESTIMATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERESTS AND SENTIMENTS OF MINORITIES.'



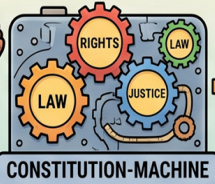
CULTURAL RIGHTS



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD

'A CONSTITUTION, LIKE A MACHINE, IS A LIFELESS THING. IT ACQUIRES LIFE BECAUSE OF THE MEN WHO CONTROL IT. INDIA NEEDS TODAY NOTHING MORE THAN A SET OF HONEST MEN FOR WHOM NATIONAL INTEREST IS PARAMOUNT.'



HONEST MEN

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY



PROPOSAL:

POSTPONE UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE



EDUCATION



MATURITY



PREPARATION



'...THE NEXT 15 YEARS'



UNIVERSAL VOTE