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## Introduction to the Constitution of India

The Constitution of India is the supreme rulebook that guides our nation's governance and protects citizens' rights. It was drafted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950, now celebrated as Republic Day. Shaped by India's freedom struggle, cultural values, and global democracy, justice, and equality for all.

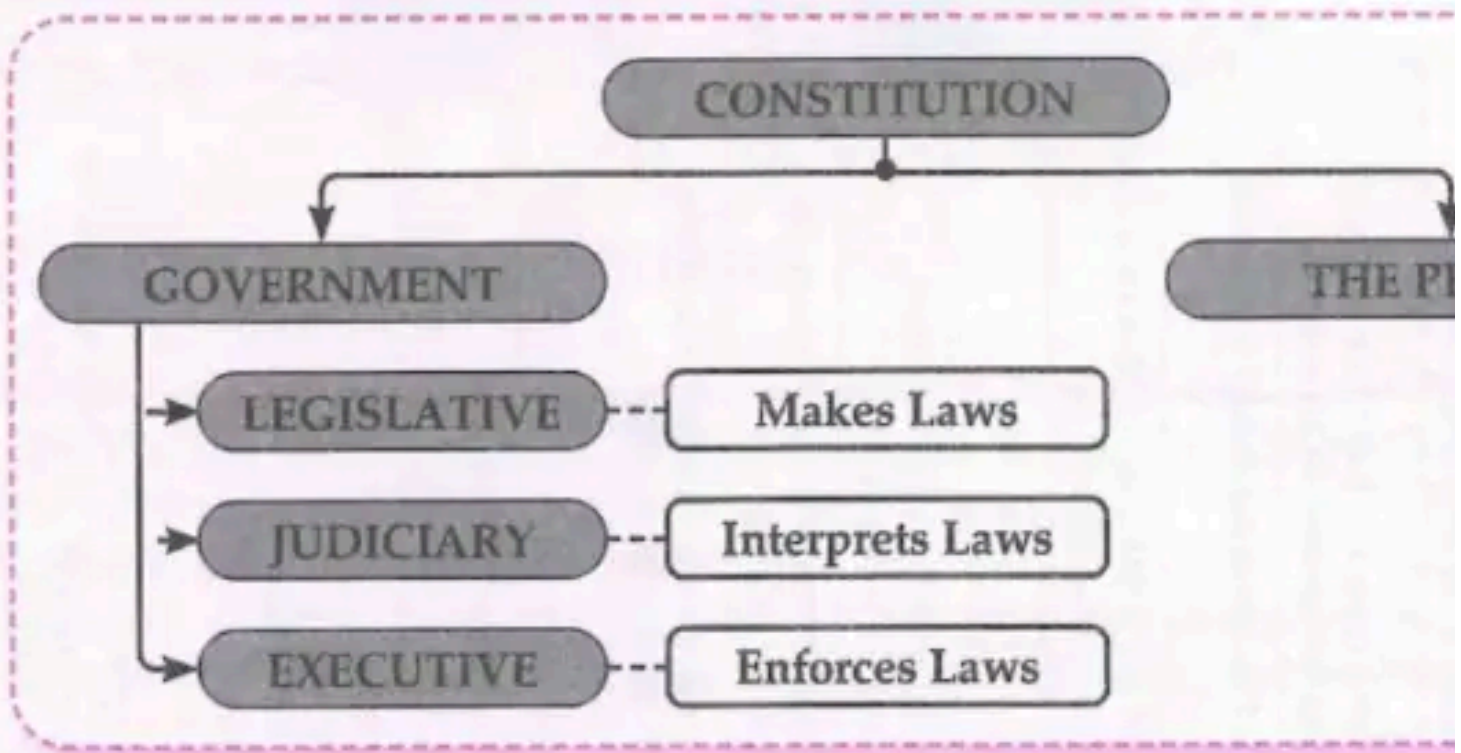
### What is a Constitution?

A Constitution is a document that lays down the basic rules and principles of a nation. It defines the structure of government, the principle of fairness, responsibility and accountability among the three organs of the government, the rights and duties of citizens, and the long-term goals of the nation.

The Constitution connects the Government and the People by defining how the Government works. The Government has three branches:

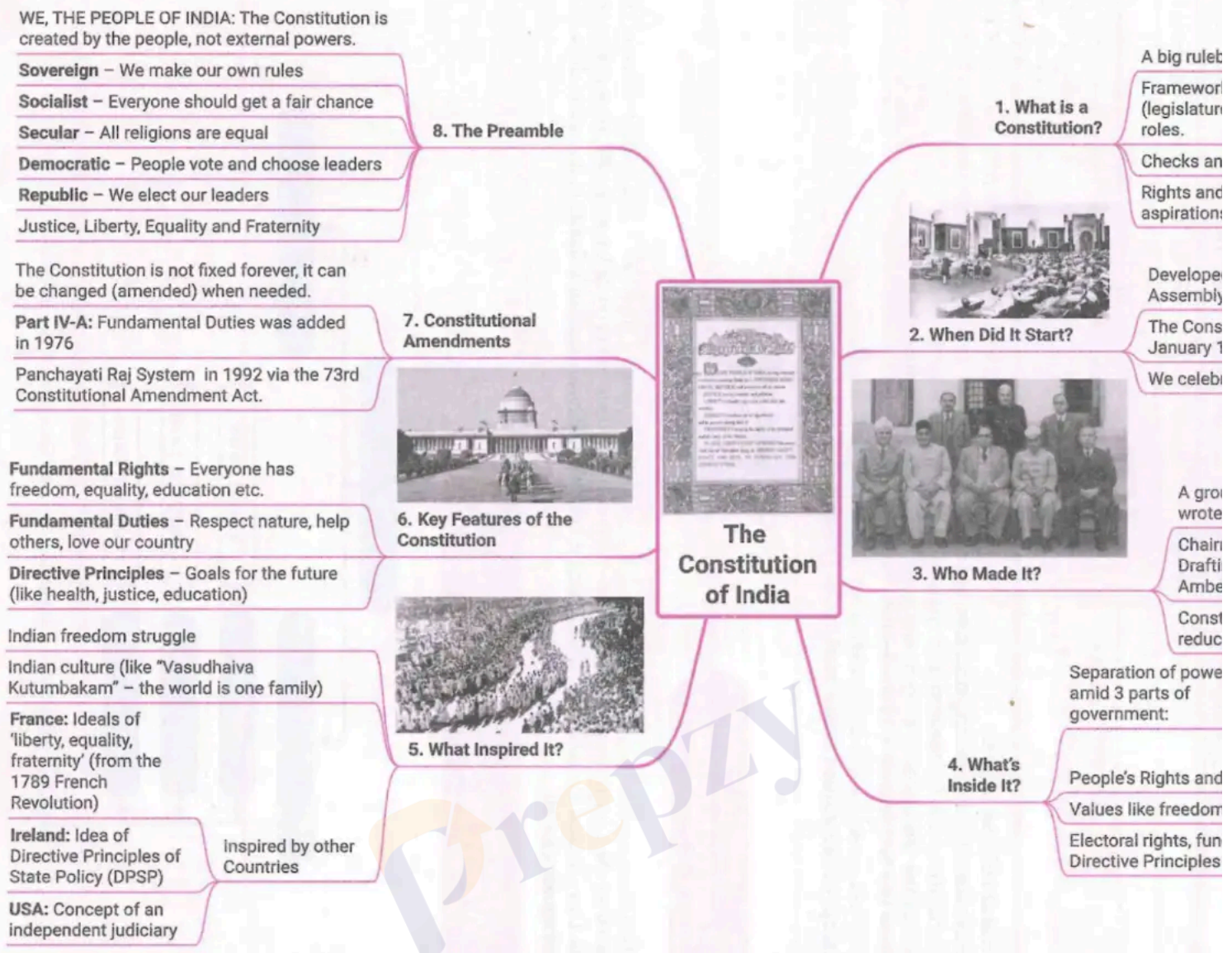
- **Legislative** – Makes Laws
- **Judiciary** – Interprets Laws
- **Executive** – Enforces Laws

These branches work together to serve the People according to the Constitution.



**Fig. Role of Constitution in relationship between Government and its people**

The Constitution is like a big rulebook for a country, defining government roles, checks and balances, and citizens' rights and duties. It was made with leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It separates government powers into three parts: Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. It was inspired by India's freedom struggle, culture, and ideas from France, Ireland, and the USA. Key parts include Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, and Principles for future goals. The Preamble states core values like democracy, equality, justice, and liberty, showing the Constitution is created for the people.



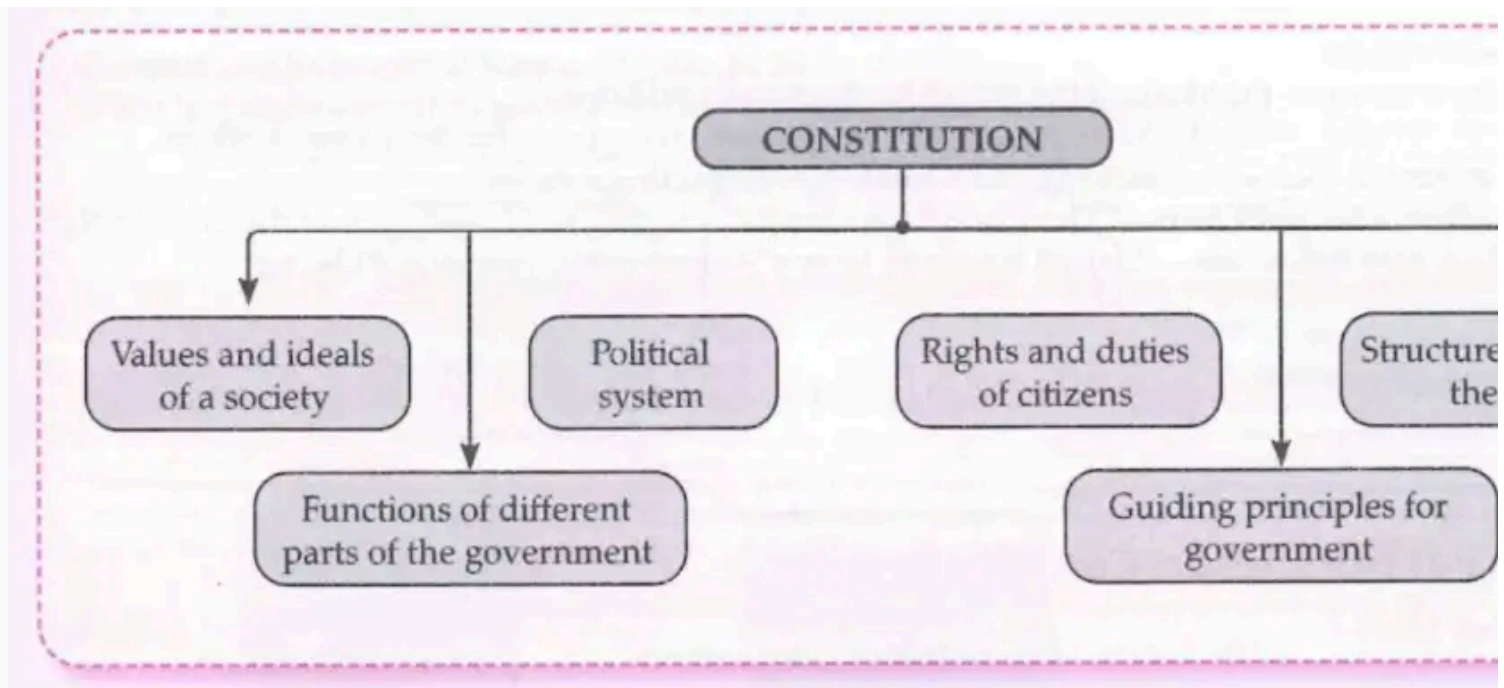
## Exam Question

**Q:** What are the three branches of the government defined by the Constitution of India?

**A:** The three branches are the Legislature (makes laws), the Executive (enforces laws), and the Judiciary (interprets laws).

## Importance of the Constitution

The Constitution is essential for the proper functioning of the governance of the country. It enlists the type of government and how it functions and the rights and freedoms of citizens. It ensures fairness, accountability, and justice in governance and reflects national values like equality



### Quick Example

Without traffic signals, there would be chaos on the roads. Similarly, without a Constitution, a country would be disorderly.

### Exam Question

**Q:** Why is a Constitution necessary for a country?

**A:** A Constitution is necessary because it provides the rules for governance, protects citizens' rights, ensures justice and fairness, and maintains order.

## Making of the Indian Constitution

On 9th December 1946, the Constituent Assembly was formed to draft the Constitution of free India. Initially, it had 389 members but later reduced to 299 after the Partition of India, representing different regions and communities. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Assembly, and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar headed the Drafting Committee, which prepared the initial text of the Constitution. By 26th November 1949, the Constitution was ready and implemented on 26th January 1950 as Republic Day.

### Exam Question

**Q:** Who was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly and who headed the Drafting Committee?

**A:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar headed the Drafting Committee.

## Influences on the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution was shaped by studying different existing constitutions. The Government of India Act 1935 was a major influence. Countries like the United States, Britain, France, Ireland, Australia, and Canada provided ideas and frameworks. By combining these sources, India created a constitution that met its own needs, developing a strong legal and governmental system.

## A. Indian Freedom Movement

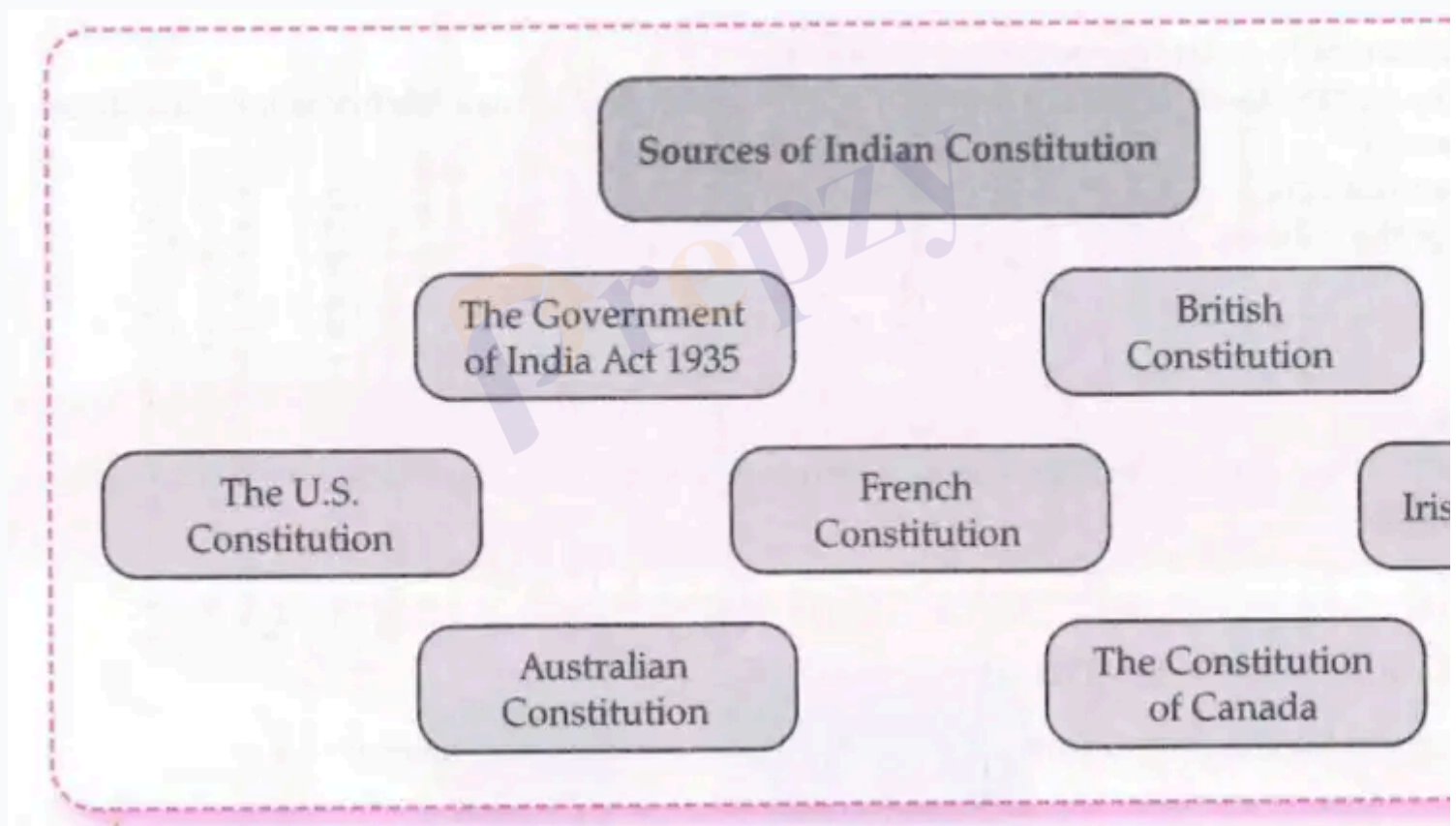
Many key values like equality, justice, fraternity, freedom, and preservation of Indian heritage and culture learned from the Indian Freedom Movement are reflected in the Indian Constitution. Several leaders of the freedom movement were members of the Constituent Assembly and helped add their experience and ideas to the Constitution.

## B. Indian Civilisational Heritage

The Constitution kept alive many ideals of Indian heritage and traditions. It promotes the idea of India being one unified country, acceptance of diversity as sacred, pursuit of learning and knowledge, and respecting women. The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – “The world is one family” - “May all beings be happy” – are reflected in the spirit of the Constitution.

## C. Other Countries' Constitutions

France contributed the idea of “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.” The USA inspired the independent judiciary. Ireland influenced the Directive Principles of State Policy.



### Exam Question

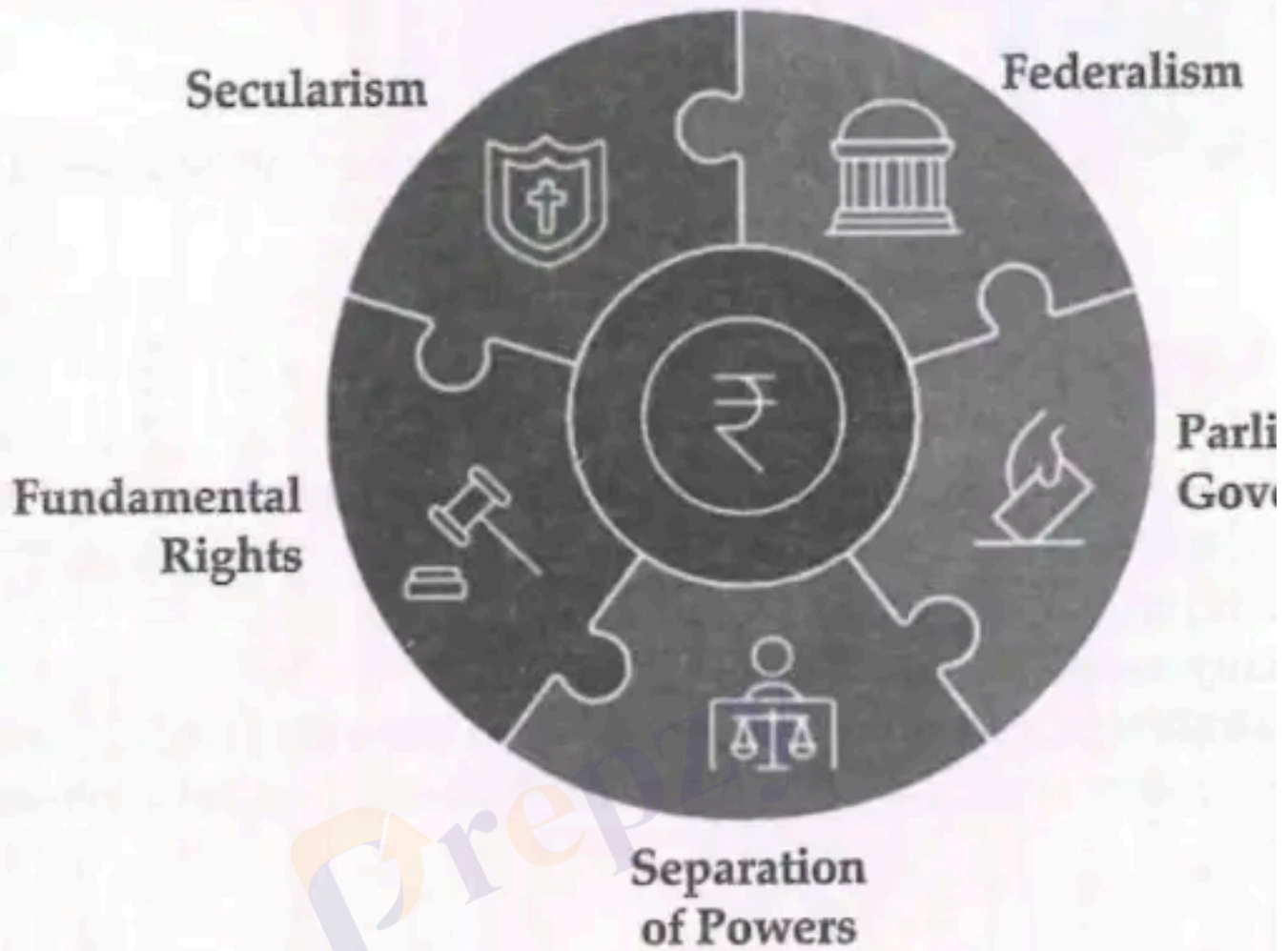
**Q:** Name two countries whose constitutions influenced the Indian Constitution and mention one idea from each.

**A:** France influenced the idea of “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,” and the USA influenced the concept of an independent judiciary.

## Key Features of the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution has key features that work together like puzzle pieces. These include Secularism, Federalism, Parliamentary Government, and Fundamental Rights. These features make the Constitution strong and fair.

## The Indian Constitution's Core Features



### A. Three Organs of Government

The three branches of government are:

- **Legislature:** Makes laws (Parliament, State Assemblies)
- **Executive:** Implements laws (Prime Minister, President, Chief Minister)
- **Judiciary:** Interprets laws (Supreme Court, High Courts)

Mnemonic to remember organs: L-E-J = Lawmakers, Executors, Judges

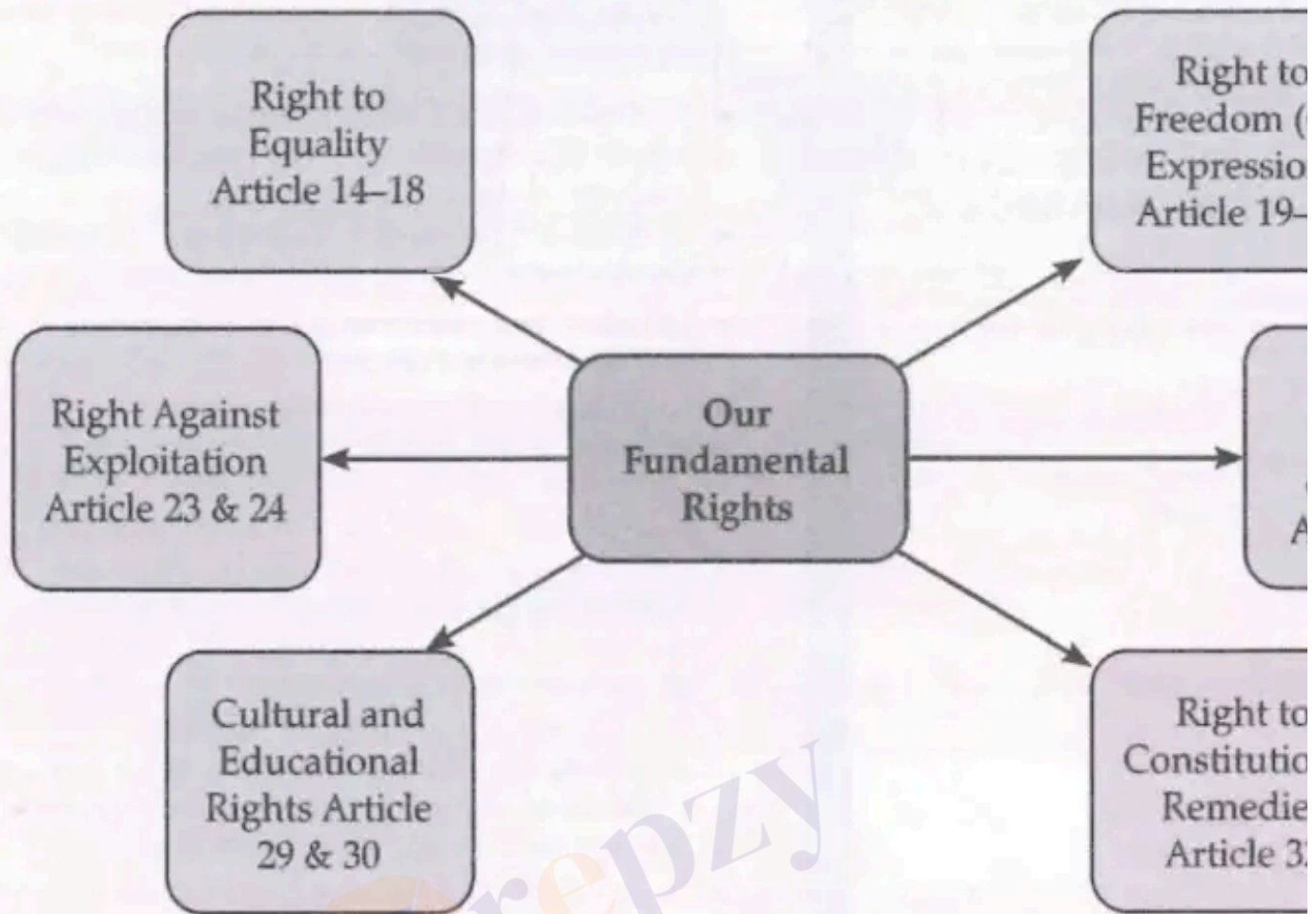
| Organ       | Function        | Examples                     |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Legislature | Makes laws      | Parliament, State Assemblies |
| Executive   | Implements laws | Prime Minister, President    |
| Judiciary   | Interprets laws | Supreme Court, High Courts   |

## B. Fundamental Rights

Fundamental Rights are a set of rights granted by the Constitution of India to every citizen to ensure individual liberty and equality. They are

Examples include:

- Right to Equality (Articles 14-18) – No discrimination
- Right to Freedom (Articles 19-22) – Speech, religion, etc.
- Right against Exploitation (Articles 23-24) – No child labour
- Right to Education (Article 21A) – Free and compulsory for children
- Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25-28)
- Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29-30)
- Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32) – Heart and soul of Constitution



### Exam Question

Q: What is the significance of Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution?

A: Fundamental Rights guarantee individual liberty and equality to all citizens and are enforceable by law, protecting basic freedoms.

### C. Fundamental Duties

Fundamental Duties are moral obligations upon all citizens to promote patriotism and uphold national unity.

Examples include respecting the National Flag and Anthem, protecting the environment and heritage, and promoting harmony and unity.

### D. Directive Principles of State Policy

These are non-enforceable guidelines for the government to create a better society.

Examples include social justice (equal pay for men and women), environmental protection, and free healthcare and education.

- Right to Equality (Article 14. Equality before law)
- Right to Freedom (Article 21. Protection of life and personal liberty)
- Right against Exploitation
- Right to Education-Article 21.A

## Fundamental Rights

## Directive Principles of State Policy

- Article 41: Welfare Government
- Article 44: Uniform Civil Code
- Article 38: Social, Political, and Economic Justice
- Article 48-A: Environment and Wildlife Protection
- Article 49: Protection of monuments, places, and objects of national importance
- Article 47: Nutrition, standard of living, and public health

## Fundamental Duties

- to abide by the Constitution, its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- to protect and improve the environment including forests, rivers and wild life, and to show compassion for living creatures
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement
- if a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, to a child of the age of six and fourteen

## Exam Question

**Q:** What is the difference between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy?

**A:** Fundamental Rights are enforceable by law and protect individual freedoms, while Directive Principles are guidelines for the government to follow, but not enforceable by law.

## The Constitution as a Living Document

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The Constitution is not rigid; it can be amended to meet the changing needs of society. Amendments require debate in Parliament and some Fundamental Duties were added in 1976.

## Exam Question

**Q:** Why is the Indian Constitution called a living document?

**A:** Because it can be amended and changed according to the needs of the society over time.

## The Preamble – India’s Guiding Light

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The Preamble is an introduction to the Constitution that enlists its core values. It begins with the words “We, the People of India,” showing that authority comes from the citizens. It defines India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and emphasizes justice, liberty, equality, and

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sovereign</b>  | India is free to make its own laws and decisions without any kind of external control.                                |
| <b>Socialist</b>  | The country aims to reduce inequality and provide equal opportunities to all.   |
| <b>Secular</b>    | India does not have an official religion and treats all religions equally.  |
| <b>Democratic</b> | People have the power to elect their representatives and take part in decision-making.                                |
| <b>Republic</b>   | The head of the country is elected by the citizens and not a hereditary monarch.                                      |
| <b>Justice</b>    | Fair treatment is given to everyone in economic, social, and political matters.                                       |
| <b>Liberty</b>    | Citizens have freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship.   |
| <b>Equality</b>   | Every individual is treated equally under the law, with no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, or gender. |
| <b>Fraternity</b> | A sense of brotherhood and unity among all citizens, promoting national integration.                                  |

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

## **PREAMBLE**

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a <sup>1</sup>**[SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens:

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political;

**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all

**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the <sup>2</sup>[unity and integrity of the Nation];

**IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** this twenty –sixth day of November, 1949 **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution ( Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f.3.1.1977)
2. Subs. by the Constitution ( Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f.3.1.1977)

Mnemonic to remember the core values of the Preamble: **S<sup>s</sup>-D-R-J-L-E-F** (Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Liberty, remember it as – *Some Smart Students Don't Really Just Learn Every Fact.*

### Exam Question

**Q:** What does the Preamble of the Indian Constitution signify?

**A:** The Preamble signifies the core values and guiding principles of India, including sovereignty, socialism, secularism, democracy, justice, liberty, and equality. It shows that power comes from the people.

### Keywords

- **Helium:** A gas used to preserve the Constitution in a glass case as it does not react with paper or ink.
- **Accountability:** Being responsible for one's actions and answerable to others, especially in government.
- **Checks and balances:** A system ensuring no one part of the government becomes too powerful.
- **Fraternity:** A feeling of brotherhood and togetherness among all citizens.
- **Moral obligations:** Responsibilities based on what is right and good, even if not enforced by law.
- **Non-enforceable:** Not backed by law but important for guiding actions.

### Solved Examples

#### Example 1:

**Question:** Explain the role of the three branches of government as per the Indian Constitution.

**Answer:** The Legislature makes laws, the Executive implements laws, and the Judiciary interprets laws. These branches work together to ensure the Constitution is followed and effectively.

#### Example 2:

**Question:** What are Fundamental Duties and why are they important?

**Answer:** Fundamental Duties are moral obligations of citizens to promote patriotism and national unity. They encourage citizens to respect n environment, and promote harmony.

## Practice Set

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### Easy

- What is the Constitution?
- Name the three branches of the government.
- When did the Indian Constitution come into effect?

### Moderate

- Explain the significance of Fundamental Rights.
- What are Directive Principles of State Policy?
- Who was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly?

### Challenging

- Discuss the influences on the Indian Constitution from other countries.
- Explain why the Constitution is called a living document.
- Describe the core values enshrined in the Preamble.

## Answer Key

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### Easy

- A Constitution is a document that lays down the basic rules and principles of a nation.
- The three branches are Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary.
- The Indian Constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950.

### Moderate

- Fundamental Rights guarantee individual liberty and equality and are enforceable by law.
- Directive Principles are guidelines for the government to promote welfare and are not enforceable by law.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

### Challenging

- The Indian Constitution was influenced by the Government of India Act 1935 and constitutions of the USA, Britain, France, Ireland, Austral
- It is called a living document because it can be amended to meet changing societal needs.
- The Preamble enshrines values like sovereignty, socialism, secularism, democracy, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

## Quick Reference

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- **Constituent Assembly:** Formed in 1946 to draft the Constitution.
- **Republic Day:** 26 January 1950, when the Constitution came into effect.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Basic rights guaranteed to citizens.
- **Directive Principles:** Guidelines for government policy.
- **Fundamental Duties:** Moral responsibilities of citizens.
- **Preamble:** Introduction stating the Constitution's core values.

## Glossary

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- **Constitution:** The supreme law of the land that defines government structure and citizens' rights.
  - **Legislature:** The branch of government that makes laws.
  - **Executive:** The branch that enforces laws.
  - **Judiciary:** The branch that interprets laws.
  - **Secularism:** No official religion; equal treatment of all religions.
  - **Federalism:** Division of power between central and state governments.
  - **Amendment:** A formal change or addition to the Constitution.
  - **Preamble:** The introductory statement of the Constitution's purpose and guiding principles.
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