

- Framing the Constitution The Beginning of a New Era

Framing the Constitution The Beginning of a New Era

The framing of the Indian Constitution marked the beginning of a new era in the history of India. The Constituent Assembly was formed in 1946 in a diverse, and deeply divided country after independence.

The process involved extensive debates on federalism, secularism, minority rights, and the powers of the state. The Constitution aimed to establish a democratic framework, and the traumatic partition influenced the values and provisions of the Constitution.

Prepzy

Objectives Resolution (1946) set ideals: sovereignty, justice, equality, and freedom.

Emphasized safeguarding minorities, backward classes, and tribal communities.

Inspiration was drawn from global constitutions, including those of the USA, UK, and Ireland.

Emphasis was placed on equality, justice, and liberty to uphold human dignity.

Focused on spirit of democracy over terminology—avoided but implied "democratic."



The Vision of the Constitution

Constitution framed between Dec 1946–Nov 1949 over 165 days and 11 sessions.

Members chosen by Provincial Legislatures; universal franchise not used.

Congress dominated the Assembly; League boycotted, Socialists were skeptical.

Assembly was influenced by public opinion, press, and diverse ideological inputs.

It sought to reflect the will of the people, not colonial imposition.



The Constituent Assembly

The Constituent Assembly and Key Members

The Constituent Assembly consisted of 300 members, including representatives from British Indian provinces and princely states. The Muslim League proposed the national flag; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; Rajendra Prasad; and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Exam Question:

Q: Who was the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution and what was his role?

A: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee. He guided the drafting of the Constitution through the Assembly, overseeing

The Tumultuous Time and Challenges

India's independence in 1947 was accompanied by joy and hope but also by violence and chaos due to Partition. Millions of refugees moved across the country, and the Constituent Assembly had to address diverse views of its members.

Exam Question:

Q: What were some challenges faced by the Constituent Assembly during the framing of the Constitution?

A: Challenges included managing the refugee crisis caused by Partition, integrating princely states with ambiguous status, and addressing

The Vision and Ideals of the Constitution

On 13th December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the Objectives Resolution, which defined the ideals of the Constitution. It declared India a liberal democracy with socialist economic justice within the Indian context.

Debates included the issue of separate electorates for minorities, which was opposed by many nationalists fearing it would divide the nation.

Exam Question:

Q: What was the Objectives Resolution and why was it significant?

A: The Objectives Resolution, introduced by Nehru, outlined the fundamental principles of the Constitution, including sovereignty, justice, equality,

The Powers of the State and Language Debates

The Constitution divided subjects into Central, State, and Concurrent lists, defining the powers of the Union and States. Article 356 allowed the

Language was a contentious issue. Hindi in Devanagari script was proposed as the official language, but many opposed this, especially in the

Exam Question:

Q: How did the Constitution address the division of powers between the Centre and the States?

A: The Constitution created three lists—Central, State, and Concurrent—to allocate subjects. It also included provisions like Article 356 for

Key Dates in the Framing of the Constitution

Year	Event
1946	Formation of Constituent Assembly and start of sessions
1947	India's Independence on 15 August
1949	Adoption of the Constitution in December
1950	Constitution came into effect on 26 January

Solved Examples

Example 1: Explain the role of the Constituent Assembly in framing the Indian Constitution.

Answer: The Constituent Assembly was responsible for drafting the Constitution. It held 11 sessions over 165 days between 1946 and 1949. Men

Example 2: What were the main ideals enshrined in the Objectives Resolution?

Answer: The Objectives Resolution declared India an Independent Sovereign Republic, guaranteeing justice, equality, freedom, and protectio

Practice Set

Easy

- When was the Constituent Assembly formed?
- Who introduced the Objectives Resolution?

Moderate

- What challenges did the Constituent Assembly face during the framing of the Constitution?
- Explain the significance of Article 356.

Challenging

- Discuss the debates on separate electorates and their impact on the Constitution.
- Analyze the language controversy during the framing of the Constitution and how it was resolved.

Answer Key

- Easy 1: The Constituent Assembly was formed in 1946.
- Easy 2: Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the Objectives Resolution.
- Moderate 1: Challenges included Partition violence, refugee crisis, princely states integration, and diverse political views.
- Moderate 2: Article 356 allows the Centre to take over state administration under certain conditions.
- Challenging 1: Separate electorates were opposed by many as divisive; ultimately, the Constitution abolished them and promoted social unity.
- Challenging 2: The language controversy involved Hindi, Urdu, and Hindustani; a middle path was adopted to balance regional sentiments.

Quick Reference

- **Constituent Assembly:** Formed in 1946 to draft the Constitution.
- **Objectives Resolution:** Defined the ideals of justice, equality, and freedom.
- **Article 356:** Provision for Centre's intervention in states.
- **Separate Electorates:** Rejected to promote national unity.
- **Language Issue:** Hindi proposed as official language; compromise reached.

Glossary

- **Constituent Assembly:** A body elected to draft or adopt a constitution.
- **Objectives Resolution:** A resolution outlining the guiding principles of the Constitution.
- **Federalism:** A system where power is divided between central and regional governments.
- **Separate Electorates:** Electoral system where minorities elect their own representatives.
- **Secularism:** Principle of equal treatment of all religions by the state.
- **Fiscal Federalism:** Financial relations between different levels of government.

