



**CLASS IX**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**CHAPTER 2**  
**CONSTITUTION**

**NOTES**

In a democracy, the ruler cannot exercise absolute powers. They are to work under certain rules and limits. There are certain basic rules that the Government and the citizens have to follow. All such rules together are called **Constitution**.

The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country.

**Constitution of South Africa as an example for designing the constitution:**

- In South Africa, there were three groups of people—the Whites (rulers), the Blacks (native people) and the coloured (mixed) including the Indians.
- There was a system of apartheid or racial segregation in the rule of the whites.
- Nelson Mandela and some other leaders of African National Congress were kept in jail for 28 years.
- He was released from jail in 1994 and became President of South Africa.
- After 2 years of discussions and debates, South Africa produced one of the finest constitutions the world has ever had.
- The change could be brought by the determination of the people of South Africa.

**Do we need a constitution?**

- A country has written laws accepted by people living together in a country.
- It generates trust and coordination.
- It lays down limits on the powers of the government
- It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.
- It specifies how a government should be constituted.

**Making of the Indian Constitution/factors contributed to the making of the constitution:**

- The makers of the constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.
- India was a country full of diversities and mutual tolerance must exist in it.
- It was only natural that the constitution that would be adopted after Independence, would be democratic constitution.
- It would ensure freedom and political equality to all sections of Indian citizens.
- The leaders like Gandhi and Nehru were democrats and they were influenced by the French Revolution of 1789 and the Russian Revolution of 1917.



### The Constituent Assembly:

- Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946 and its first meeting was held in December, 1946. It had 299 members.
- **Dr Rajendra Prasad** was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly while **Dr B.R. Ambedkar** was the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee.
- The constitution was adopted on 26th November, 1949 and came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950, when India became a Republic.
- The Constitution reflects the best minds of the country. The Constituent Assembly was called **Mini-India**.

### Why should we accept the constitution?

- The constitution does not reflect the views of its members alone. It expresses a broad consensus of its time.
- The Constituent Assembly represented the people of India.
- Finally, the working manner of the Constituent Assembly gave sanctity to the constitution. It worked in a systematic, open and consensual manner.

### Philosophy of the Constitution:

- The values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle formed the foundation for India's democracy.
- These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- It contains the philosophy on which the entire constitution has been constructed.
- It is **the Soul of the Indian Constitution**.

### PREAMBLE

**“WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a 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 unity and integrity of the Nation;**

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



**Salient features of the Indian Constitution:**

1. Written constitution
2. Rigid and Flexible
3. Sovereign Democratic republic
4. Secular state
5. Socialist state
6. Fundamental Rights and Duties
7. Directive Principles on State Policy
8. Partly Federal and Partly Unitary
9. Parliamentary System of Government

**The elements borrowed from other Constitutions of different countries:**

1. From the US Constitution - Independence of Judiciary, Judicial Review and Fundamental Rights.
2. From the UK Constitution - Parliamentary System, Rule of Law and Institution of Speaker.
3. From the Constitution of Ireland - Directive Principles of State Policy.
4. From the Constitution of Australia - Concurrent List.

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