

Constitution Day & Citizens' Duties

26th November 2019 - 26th November 2020

संविधान दिवस एवं मौलिक कर्तव्य

26 नवम्बर 2019 - 26 नवम्बर 2020

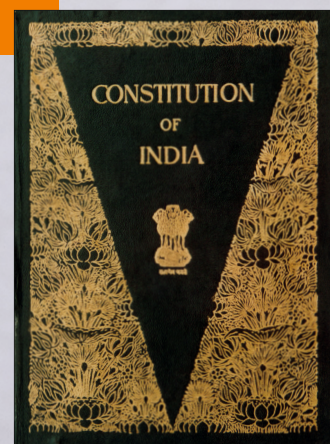


"If Constitution, merely remains a document to be followed by the Government, then democracy will suffer, that's why it needs to reach the roots."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The Constitution of India

- The Constitution of India is the foundational law which lays the basic political structure of our country. It establishes a Parliamentary Democracy and a Republic with a federal structure.
- The Constitution of India embodies the vision and values of our founding fathers. It represents their thinking – social, political and economic ethos, faith and will.
- The Constitution defines the main organs of the Republic of India – the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary – and defines their power and demarcates their responsibilities.
- The key features of the Indian Constitution :
 - Parliamentary System of Government
 - Federal Structure
 - Secular State
 - Independent Judiciary
 - Fundamental Rights and Duties
 - Directive Principles of State Policy
 - Citizenship
 - Adult suffrage
- Indian Constitution is the lengthiest and the most detailed Constitution in the world, taking inspiration from constitutions of United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Russia etc.
- The Constitution contains 395 Articles, 22 Parts and 12 Schedules.



Cover page of the calligraphic copy of the Constitution of India in English.
The original manuscript of the Constitution was written on parchment sheets measuring 16x22 inches which have a lifespan of a thousand years. The finished manuscript consisted of 251 pages and weighed 3.75kgs.

"अगर संविधान को सरल भाषा में मुझे कहना है तो हमारा संविधान Dignity for Indians and Unity for India इन दोनों मूल मंत्रों को साकार करता है।"

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Constituent Assembly and Framing of the Constitution

The Constitution of India was drafted by a Constituent Assembly (set up under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946) between the years 1946 and 1949. Dr. Rajendra Prasad served as the President of this body.

299 members (including 15 women) of the Assembly took less than three years (1946-1949) to draft the Constitution.

The Constituent Assembly members met over 11 sessions between December 1946 and November 1949.

On 29 August 1947 the Constituent Assembly set up a Drafting Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to prepare a draft Constitution.



Session of Constituent Assembly, December 1946.

"India drafted an inclusive Constitution under the leadership of respected Baba Saheb Ambedkarji. This inclusive Constitution is the harbinger of a resolve to build New India. It has brought with it some responsibilities for us and also set a few boundaries on us."

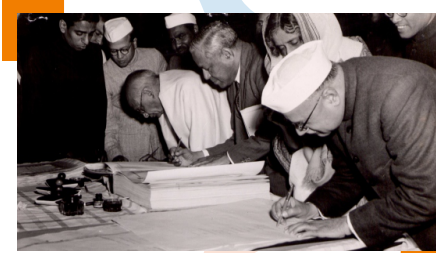
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

"Constitution is not a mere lawyers document, it is a vehicle of life and its spirit is always the spirit of age."

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



Portrait of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.



Members of the Central Cabinet, signing the Constitution of India. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Dr. John Mathai and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel are seen in the picture.

The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949. It came into effect on 26 January 1950. On that day the assembly ceased to exist transforming itself into the provisional Parliament of India until a new Parliament was constituted in 1952. While deliberating upon the draft Constitution, the Assembly moved, discussed and disposed of 2473 amendments out of a total of 7635 amendments tabled.

Out of the 299 members, 284 members actually signed the Constitution.

The Constituent Assembly appointed a total of 13 committees to deal with different tasks of constitution-making. Out of these, eight were major committees and the others were minor committees.

Names of 8 major committees of the Constituent Assembly

- Drafting Committee
- Union Power Committee
- Union Constitution Committee
- Provincial Constitution Committee
- Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas
- Rules of Procedure Committee
- States Committee
- Steering Committee



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Constituent Assembly at its final Session held on 24 January 1950.

The Constituent Assembly adopted the National Flag on 22 July 1947 & the National Anthem and National Song on 24 January 1950

Sh. Nand Lal Bose, a pioneer of modern Indian Art, designed the borders of every page of the Constitution and adorned it with art pieces.

Sh. Prem Behari Narain Raizada, a master of calligraphic art, singlehandedly handwrote the Constitution. It took him 6 months to complete the task and charged no money for the job.



Group Photograph of the Constituent Assembly Members 1950.

Constituent Assembly & its Prominent Members

Members of the Constituent Assembly were chosen through indirect elections by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies, as per recommendation of the Cabinet Mission. The Assembly had 299 members, with 229 representing the provinces and 70 representing states.

Some of the eminent members of the Assembly included:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Jawaharlal Nehru
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Govind Ballabh Pant
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Sarojini Naidu
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
J.B. Kripalani
C. Rajagopalachari
Sarat Chandra Bose

Asaf Ali
Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Hansa Mehta
Gopinath Bordoloi
Harendra Coomar Mookerjee
Binodanand Jha
Durgabai Deshmukh
Frank Anthony
Jaipal Singh Munda
Hargovind Pant
John Mathai

Begum Aizaz Rasul
K.M. Munshi
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
Ammu Swaminadhan
M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar
Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar
B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
T. Prakasam
N. Sanjeeva Reddi
S. Nijalingappa
G.V. Mavalankar

Padampat Singhanian
Prurshottamadas Tandon
Sucheta Kripalani
Hasrat Mohani
Rafi Ahmad Kidwai
Anugrahnarayan Sinha
Jagjivan Ram
Sachchidananda Sinha
Satyanarayan Sinha
Sri Krishna Sinha
Seth Govind Das

Hari Singh Gour
Panjabrao S. Deshmukh
Ravi Shankar Shukla
Harekrushna Mahatab
Annie Mascarene
Jivraj Narayan Mehta
Moturi Satyanarayana
Deep Narayan Singh
Sir Syed Muhammad Saadulla
K Kamaraj
P Subbarayan

I beg to move, Sir,

"That it be resolved that:

(1) After the last stroke of midnight, all members of the Constituent Assembly present on this occasion do take the following pledge:
'At this solemn moment when the people of India, through suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom, I, ... a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself in all humility to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain her rightful place in the world and make her full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.'

(2) Members who are not present on this occasion do take the pledge (with such verbal changes as the President may prescribe) at the time they next attend a session of the Assembly."

Pledge by the Member of Constituent Assembly.

Citizens' & Fundamental Duties

An Essential Feature of Our Constitution



**“Right is Duty
well performed.”**

Mahatma Gandhi

The Government of India is reaching out to all Indian citizens to bring greater awareness about our Citizens' and Fundamental Duties (26 November 2019 to 26 November 2020). Join at [#itsmyduty](#)

Key Objectives

- To reiterate to people of India that they are the true custodians of the Constitution and the values and principles contained therein.
- To remind all the citizens about their duties towards fellow citizens, society and the nation.
- To encourage citizens to take pride in the spirit of nationhood.
- To help in promotion of a sense of discipline and commitment towards the nation and mobilise the energy of citizens in nation-building.

Be Aware of Citizens' Duties

- Sign the online pledge on 26 November 2019 and get an instant certificate on MyGov.in
- Join to spread awareness amongst school children and college students.
- Download outreach material on Citizens' & Fundamental Duties available at www.doj.gov.in

“I urge you to take at least one resolution and think about your duties and your obligations towards the nation. Walking on the path of duty, the strength of 130 crore efforts and 130 crore resolutions can do so much for the country.”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister
On Swachh Bharat Diwas 2019

Follow us on @DoJ_India and @MyGov

#itsmyduty

See full text of Constitution of India and Fundamental Duties at <http://legislative.gov.in/constitution-of-india>



न्याय विभाग
Department of Justice
भारत सरकार
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते

Fundamental Duties – Significance & Addition

The key idea behind incorporation of the 11 fundamental duties in our Constitution was to emphasize the obligation of citizens in exchange for the comprehensive rights enjoyed by them.

Fundamental duties focus on key values of Respect, Pride, Tolerance, Peace, Growth and Harmony.

Introduced into the Constitution in 1976 by the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act, Fundamental Duties prescribe the fundamental, moral, and obligatory duties of citizens to the nation.

A committee constituted while recommending insertion of Fundamental Duties opined that steps needed to be taken to ensure that citizens did not overlook their duties while exercising their Fundamental Rights.

The 11th Fundamental Duty regarding education opportunities for children was added to the Constitution by the 86th Amendment Act, 2002.

“I learnt my duties on my mother's lap. She was an unlettered village woman...She knew my dharma. Thus if from my childhood we learn what our dharma is and try to follow it our rights look after themselves... The beauty of it is that the very performance of a duty secures us our right. Rights cannot be divorced from duties. This is how satyagraha was born, for I was always striving to decide what my duty was.”

Mahatma Gandhi on the importance of Fundamental Duties at a prayer meeting in Delhi on 28th June 1947

Inspiration on Fundamental Duties was derived from the Constitutions of USSR, Japan and China.

Our Fundamental Duties are a codification of duties integral to promoting the Indian way of life. They promote a sense of discipline and commitment towards the society.

Fundamental duties are intended to serve as a constant reminder to every citizen that while the Constitution specifically conferred on them certain Fundamental Rights, it also requires citizens to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct and democratic behaviour because rights and duties are co-relative.

“Every Indian should now forget that he is a Rajput, a Sikh or a Jat. He must remember that he is an Indian and he has every right in his country but with certain duties.”

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

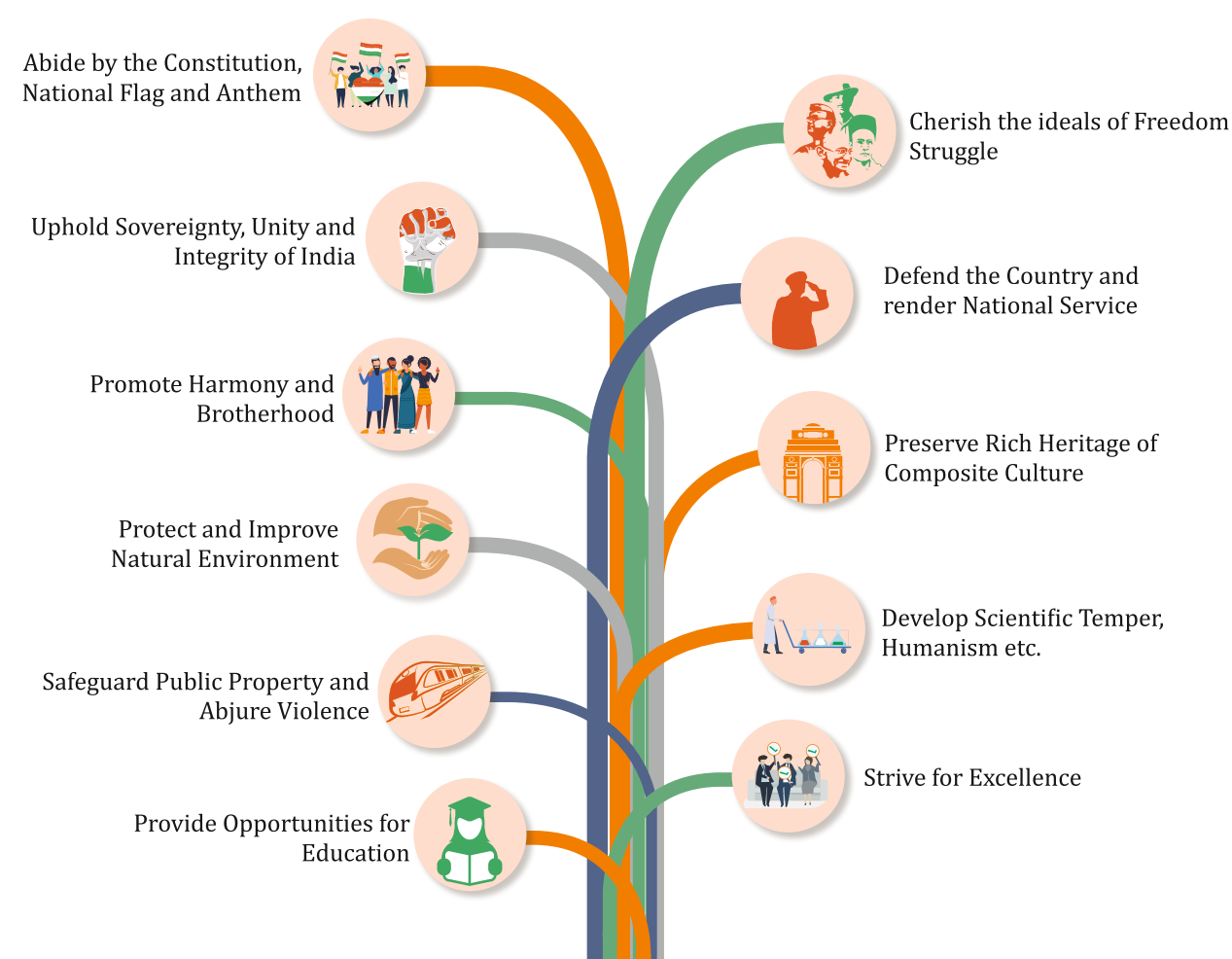
Citizens' and Fundamental Duties can help us in realising our national goals only through active participation.

In October 1999, a committee headed by Justice Verma submitted a report on 'Suggestions to teach Fundamental Duties to the Citizens of the Country'.

“Democracy is not merely a form of Government... It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards our fellow men.”

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

The Eleven Duties enshrined in the Constitution (Part IV-A, Article 51A)



The addition of fundamental duties in our Constitution has aligned it with the Article 29(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“The very right to live accrues to us only when we do the duty of citizenship of the world. From this one fundamental statement, perhaps it is easy enough to define the duties of man and woman, and correlate every right to some corresponding duty to be first performed. Every other right can be shown to be usurpation hardly worth fighting for.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Fundamental Duties and Rights are two sides of the same coin.

Mahatma Gandhi has said that “the source of duty is right. If we discharge our duties, rights will not be far to seek”.

Democracy cannot establish its deep roots in the society until and unless the citizens don't compliment their fundamental rights with their fundamental duties.

Every right carries with it a corresponding duty. Performance of one's citizen duty ensures the rights of others.

We are entitled to our rights when we perform our duties.