

Constitution of India

The Constitution of India is a unique blend of all the fundamental principles that guide a country's administration. It lays down all the rules and guidelines outlining the duties and rights of the government as well as the citizens of the country. The constitution of India has been inspired by the constitution of various countries, which is why it is also sometimes referred to as a '**Bag of Borrowing**'.

Many features of the **Indian constitution** have been inspired by other countries. To understand the various features of the constitution of India that have been inspired by others, read about the [comparison of Indian constitution with other countries](#).

Introduction to the Constitution of India: Preamble

A Preamble is the most important aspect of a constitution. The constitution of India begins with the Preamble followed by the entire guidelines presented in the form of articles, schedules & parts. The idea of the Preamble has been inspired by the constitution of America who was the first one to introduce it.

- The Preamble of India has been given by Pandit Nehru as it was based on his 'Objectives Resolution' & therefore was passed & introduced by him into the Constituent Assembly.
- A Preamble is a set of words that introduces and presents a gist of the constitution of India. Certain amendments have been made to the Preamble as well. The words 'socialist', 'secular', and 'integrity' have been added to it. These additions in the Preamble have been made through the [42nd Amendment of Indian Constitution](#) in 1976.

The Preamble can be divided into four sections that provide for the four major elements of the constitution of India.

- The date when the constitution of India was adopted - 26th November 1949.
- Mentions the clear objectives of the constitution in the form of 'justice', 'equality', 'liberty', and 'fraternity'.
- Mentions the people of India as the source of power to the constitution.
- States India's nature as a socialist, sovereign, secular, republican, and a democratic state.

About Indian Constitution: Important Amendments

The Constitution of India is a lengthy document that provides for the basic framework of the country by laying down guidelines for the government. In simple words it is a guide that acts as a rule book for the state by stating the laws & principles based on which a state should be governed.

Since its adoption, the constitution of India has been amended for 105 times to make it suit the needs of the country.

There are three types of amendments that can be made to the Indian constitution. Out of these three, the second and third types are governed by Article 368.

- The first type of constitutional amendment is the one that can be passed through a “simple majority” in each of the two houses of Parliament.
- The second type of amendment is the one that can be brought into effect by Parliament through a “special majority” in each house.
- The third amendment type includes the ones that need validation by minimum half of the state legislatures along with the “special majority” in each house.

List of Amendments in Indian Constitution

As discussed earlier, till date a total of 105 amendments have been made to the Indian constitution. These amendments saw a couple of significant changes. Here are a few [important amendments of Indian constitution](#) that were passed to bring certain changes that were required for the good of the country.

Important Amendments of Constitution of India	Year
First Constitutional Amendment Act	1951
Second Amendment Act of Indian Constitution	1952
Fourth Amendment Act	1955
Seventh Amendment Act	1956
Ninth Amendment Act	1960
10th Amendment of Indian Constitution	1961
12th Constitutional Amendment	1962
13th Amendment Act	1962
14th Amendment in Constitution of India	1966
21st Amendment Act	1967
24th Amendment Act	1971

31st Amendment Act	1972
35th Amendment Act	1974
36th Amendment Act	1975
42nd Amendment Act	1976
44th Amendment Act of Constitution of India	1978
61st amendment Act,	1889
74th Amendment Act	1992
86th Amendment Act	2002
92nd Amendment Act	2003
97th Amendment Act	2011
101st Amendment Act	2016
102nd Amendment Act of Indian Constitution	2018
103rd Amendment Act	2019
104th Amendment Act	2020
105 th Amendment Act	2021

Salient Features of Indian Constitution

The constitution of India is a famous constitution which is quite flexible in its nature. It provides for a variety of amendments that can be done & have been done to it for various reasons. The document is a mix of the best features inspired from the constitution of different countries in the world. It can be said that there are various [sources of Indian Constitution](#) that make it one of the best constitutions today.

The Indian Constituent Assembly tried its best to incorporate the best principles & guidelines that suit the needs of our country. Here are a few salient features of the constitution of India.

- Longhiest Constitution in the world
- An insightful Preamble that provides for the goals & objectives of the constitution
- Provides for a federal system of government in India but with an exception of a unitary bias. The states can not break away from the federation.
- The system of democracy is another feature of the Indian constitution.
- [Emergency provisions](#)
- Parliamentary system of government
- States India as a republic

- Clearly provides the fundamental rights and duties for the citizens
- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Single citizenship
- Separate judiciary system which is free of Legislature and Executive
- Flexible constitution which is open to amendments

Significant Provisions of the Indian Constitution

The constitution of India is the lengthiest written document and makes space for any such change that is required for the betterment of the country and its citizens. That proves the flexibility of the Indian constitution which plays a very important role in the functioning of a nation. Mentioned below are the significant provisions of the Indian constitution.

- Preamble
- Fundamental Rights
- Fundamental Duties
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)
- Emergency Provisions

Structure of the Indian Constitution

The constitution of India is a sacred document that guides the smooth functioning and administration of the country. It acts as a book of rules and provides for the basic rights of the citizens & also states the fundamental duties for Indians to perform as responsible citizens. The basic structure of the constitution of India comprises a **Preamble** as an introductory text, **470 Articles**, **12 Schedules**, **25 Parts**, and 5 appendices. From a UPSC aspirant's perspective, it is extremely important to have deep knowledge of all the [important articles of the Indian Constitution](#) to score well in the polity section.