

# Constitutional Law of India



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# **PREFACE**

A modern state without constitution is unimaginable. A constitution is a vital necessity as it determines the power relationship between the citizens of the country and between the governors and the governed. Hence, Jellinek observed "The people of every country have the democratic right to determine form of the government under which they are to live". For the purpose of determining the form and nature of government and the nature of power relationship, the people set up a constituent assembly. This assembly frames the constitution of the country. Thus, the establishment of a representative body for framing of a constitution is implicit in the very concept of democracy. However, the constitution may also have an automatic growth and may be mainly grounded in the conventions, *e.g.*, the British Constitution.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. It lays down the framework to make laws, govern the country, establish a structure of policies, procedures, powers and duties of the Union and State governments. It states out the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Duties of citizens.

The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950 and since then there has been a phenomenal growth in the development of Constitutional concepts, principles and dynamics. There are various ways of developing a Constitution; among them the most direct method is the method of formal Amendment by the Parliament. But the most active institution of the State which has contributed immensely for Constitutional development is the institution of Judiciary and it has made its contribution by virtue of the process of judicial interpretation and this particular role of the Judiciary has been witnessed in relation to the Fundamental Rights as guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution.

Originally the Constitution had 395 Articles, 8 Schedules and 22 Parts; currently it has 448 Articles, 12 Schedules and 25 Parts. The Constitution has been amended 101 times till date. The power of amending the Constitution and making laws lies with the Parliament. The most important amendment being the 42nd Amendment in 1976 which was so elaborate that it is called the Mini-Constitution. The latest 101st Amendment being the Goods and Service Tax which is by far the biggest Tax reform after the Indian Independence.

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## The Twelve Schedules

- 1. First Schedule: Territorial Demarcations of States and Union territories.
- 2. Second Schedule: Provisions for the President, Governor and Senior Executives.
- 3. Third Schedule: Affirmations and Oaths.
- 4. Fourth Schedule: Allocation of Seats in the Rajya Sabha.
- 5. Fifth Schedule: Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas.
- 6. Sixth Schedule: Administration of Tribal areas of North-East.
- 7. Seventh Schedule: Union, State and Concurrent Lists.
- 8. *Eighth Schedule*: Languages (22).
- 9. Ninth Schedule: Laws immune to Judicial Review.
- 10. Tenth Schedule: Disqualification on grounds of Defection.
- 11. Eleventh Schedule: Provisions for Panchayats.
- 12. Twelfth Schedule: Provisions for Municipalities.

The philosophy of a Constitution consists of the ideals for which the constitution stands and the policies that the Constitution enjoins upon the rulers of the Community to follow. The Constitution of India reflects the impact of our ideology in the following spheres:

- (i) **Secularism:** Secularism is the hallmark of the Indian Constitution. People professing different religions have the freedom of religious worship of their own choice. All religions have been treated alike. The fact appreciated in India was that all religions love humanity and uphold the truth. All the social reformers and political leaders of modern Indian have advocated religious tolerance, religious freedom and equal respect for all religions. This very principle has been adopted in the Constitution of India where all religions enjoy equal respect. However, the word 'secularism' was nowhere mentioned in the Constitution as adopted in 1949. The word 'secularism' has now been added to the Preamble to the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment passed in 1976.
- (ii) **Democracy:** We have borrowed the modern form of democracy from the West. Under this system, democracy means the periodic responsibilities of the Government to go to the people. For this purpose; elections have been held every five-year to elect a Government by the people. However, democracy covers even the economic and social aspects of life. This aspect of democracy is well-reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy. They are aimed at human welfare, co-operation, international brotherhood and so on.
- (iii) Sarvodaya: Sarvodaya refers to the welfare of all. It is different from the welfare of the majority. It seeks to achieve the welfare of all without exception. It is referred to as Ram Rajya. The concept of Sarvodaya was developed by Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave and J. Narayan under which the material, spiritual, moral and mental development of everyone is sought to be achieved. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution and the Directive Principles of State Policy represent this ideal.
- (iv) **Socialism:** Socialism is not new to India. *Vedanta's* philosophy has socialism in it. The national struggle for freedom had this aim also in view. Jawaharlal Nehru referred to himself as a socialist and republican. Almost all the parties in India profess to promote democratic socialism. These principles are included in the Directive Principles of State Policy. However, to lay emphasis on this aspect, the word 'socialism' was specifically added to the Preamble to the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment.

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(v) **Humanism:** Humanism is a salient feature of Indian ideology. Indian ideology regards the whole of humanity as one big family. It believes in resolving international disputes through mutual negotiations. This is what we find in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

- (vi) **Decentralization:** Decentralization is another aspect of *Sarvodaya*. Indian has always practised decentralization through the *Panchayat* system. Mahatma Gandhi also advocated decentralization. It is on this account that he is regarded as a philosophical anarchist. We have introduced the *Panchayati Raj* system in India to achieve the objective of decentralisation. The concept of cottage industries as laid down in the Directive Principles of State Policy also refers to decentralization.
- (vii) Liberalism: Liberalism does not refer to the Western concept of liberalism. It refers, in the Indian context, to self-government, secularism, nationalism, economic reforms, constitutional approach, representative institutions, etc., all these concepts were advocated by the modern Indian leaders.
- (viii) **Mixed Economy:** Co-existence is a salient feature of our ideology. Co-existence has manifested itself through a mixed system of economy. In this system, we have allowed both the private and public sectors of the economy to work simultaneously. Large scale and essential industries have been put in the public sector.
- (ix) **Gandhism:** Gandhism represents an ethical and moral India. Gandhi set a new example of fighting foreign rule through non-violence. He taught the importance of non-violence and truth. He advocated untouchability, cottage industry, prohibition, adult education and the uplift of villages. He wanted a society free of exploitation and decentralized in character. All these Gandhian principles have found an honourable place in the Constitution of India.

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# **About the Book**

A constitution is essentially the aggregate of the basic principles and laws of a political community, which is either a nation or a state, that determines the powers and duties of its government and the rights guaranteed to its citizens. It determines the structure and operation of government bodies and the political principles of the system.

The presence of a constitution is relevant in any modern democratic State in order to ensure that the principles of democracy are always upheld. It serves the purpose of limiting the government and distributing and separating powers among different organs and institutions of the government. It has a huge role in maintaining a balanced government. This book covers the Constitution of India in a simple and easy to understand language. The beauty of this book is that it will be of good use to one and all who are curious to know and study about Indian Constitution.

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