From Constituent Assembly to Republic

Key milestones in drafting, adopting, calligraphing and commencing the Constitution of India

Making of the Indian Constitution (1946–1950)

01

Dec 1946: First Sitting & Objectives

- Constituent Assembly was formed in 1946 under the scheme proposed by the Cabinet Mission Plan.
- Jawaharlal Nehru moved the Objectives Resolution on 13 Dec 1946, shaping the Preamble's philosophy.
- First meeting held on 9 Dec 1946; Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected permanent President on 11 Dec 1946.

02

1947–1949: Drafting & Membership

- Drafting Committee was appointed on 29 August 1947 with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as its Chairman.
- Other prominent women members included Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Sucheta Kriplani.
- Fifteen women served in the Constituent Assembly; Dakshayani Velayudhan was its only Dalit woman member.

03

1949–1950: adoption and signatures

- The Constituent Assembly officially adopted and enacted the Constitution on 26 November 1949.
- Calligraphy: English by Prem Behari Narain Raizada; Hindi by Vasant Krishan Vaidya.
- Members signed the final Constitution on 24 January 1950 during the Assembly's final session.

04

26–28 Jan 1950: Republic & Supreme Court

- Most constitutional provisions commenced on 26 January 1950, when India became a republic.
- 28 January 1950: Supreme Court inaugurated; H. J. Kania was its first Chief Justice.
- Article 394 brought specified provisions into force immediately upon adoption.

REMEMBER Adopted: 26 November 1949. Signed: 24 January 1950. Republic: 26 January 1950.

Sources & practice · Parliament — Constituent Assembly milestones · PIB — Dakshayani Velayudhan · Parliament — Golden Jubilee of the Republic · Supreme Court of India — History
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