Constitution Day in India 2026 – Samvidhan Diwas

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance | Polity*

Why is in news?

Constitution Day *was observed on 26 November 2026 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949.*

About Constitution Day

- Also known as Samvidhan Diwas, it is observed every year on 26 November.
- The Union Government declared ***26 November as Constitution Day*** in 2015, marking the 125th birth anniversary year of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
- The day seeks to promote awareness of the Constitution and its values, including justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs facilitates public participation in reading the Preamble. In 2026, an online reading initiative was organised through the MyGov portal in 23 languages – 22 Scheduled Languages and English.

Historical background

- The Constituent Assembly first met on 9 December 1946, with Dr. ***Sachchidananda Sinha*** as its temporary President.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected permanent President of the Constituent Assembly on 11 December 1946.
- The Drafting Committee was constituted on 29 August 1947, with ***Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*** as its Chairman.
- The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950. The date of commencement was chosen to honour the ***Purna Swaraj declaration*** of 26 January 1930.
- The Constituent Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete its work.

Why 26 November?

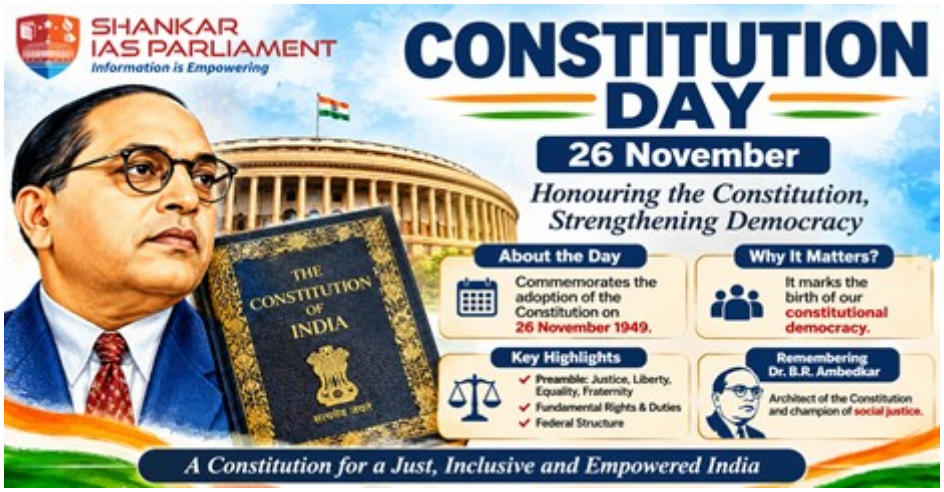
- It marks the formal adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly, rather than the date on which it came fully into force.
- 26 January is celebrated as ***Republic Day*** because the Constitution came into effect on that date in 1950.
- The distinction between adoption and commencement is important for understanding India's constitutional transition from the Government of India Act, 1935 to the constitutional republic.

Constitutional values

- The Preamble declares India to be a ***Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic*** and sets out the objectives of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- The Preamble was adopted along with the Constitution on 26 November 1949.
- Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties provide complementary constitutional foundations for rights, governance and civic responsibility.

Prelims watch-outs

- 26 November 1949 – Constitution adopted; 26 January 1950 – Constitution came into force.
- Constitution Day was officially instituted in 2015; Republic Day has been celebrated on 26 January since 1950.
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee; Dr. Rajendra Prasad presided over the Constituent Assembly.



Reference

PIB | Constitution Day, 2026 to be observed on 26th November

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