

Redesigning of Democracy in India and latest amendments

The Indian Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. Since then many democratic institutions have been set up in the country. Our Constitution is neither too rigid nor too flexible and over the years many Amendments have been introduced in it re-shaping the democratic set-up of the country according to the changed circumstances. The 42nd Amendment (1976) made many fundamental alterations to the Constitution – (a) The words ‘Secular’ and ‘Socialist’ were added to the Preamble (b) A new chapter on Fundamental Duties was added

(c) Parliament's power to amend all provisions of the Constitution was placed beyond doubts by excluding amendments from judicial scrutiny. (d) Primacy of Directive Principles over Fundamental Rights was ensured. (e) The Constitutional position of the President was placed beyond doubt by making it obligatory for him to act on the advice of the Council of ministers.

In 1985, amendment was made in the Constitution to prevent defection of political leaders from one party to another. The legislators could now be disqualified if they defected from their party after they were elected on the party ticket. The 73rd and 74th Amendments gave more power and recognition to the local government institutions. Panchayati Raj institutions and Municipal institutions have been made powerful through these amendments. The potential offered by Democracy is yet to be exhausted and it is important to continuously work on the ideals of Democracy with the changing times to improve its functioning.

There have been 105 Amendments to the Indian Constitution so far. The 104th Amendment extended the Reservation of seats for SC and ST in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies from seventy years to eighty years. This Amendment also removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian Community in the Lok-Sabha and State Assemblies.

The 105th Amendment Act restored State's power to make their own OBC list.

