

E-ISSN: 2455-1511
IFSIJ IF: 5.355
www.simrj.org.in



Sanskruti International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
(SIMRJ)

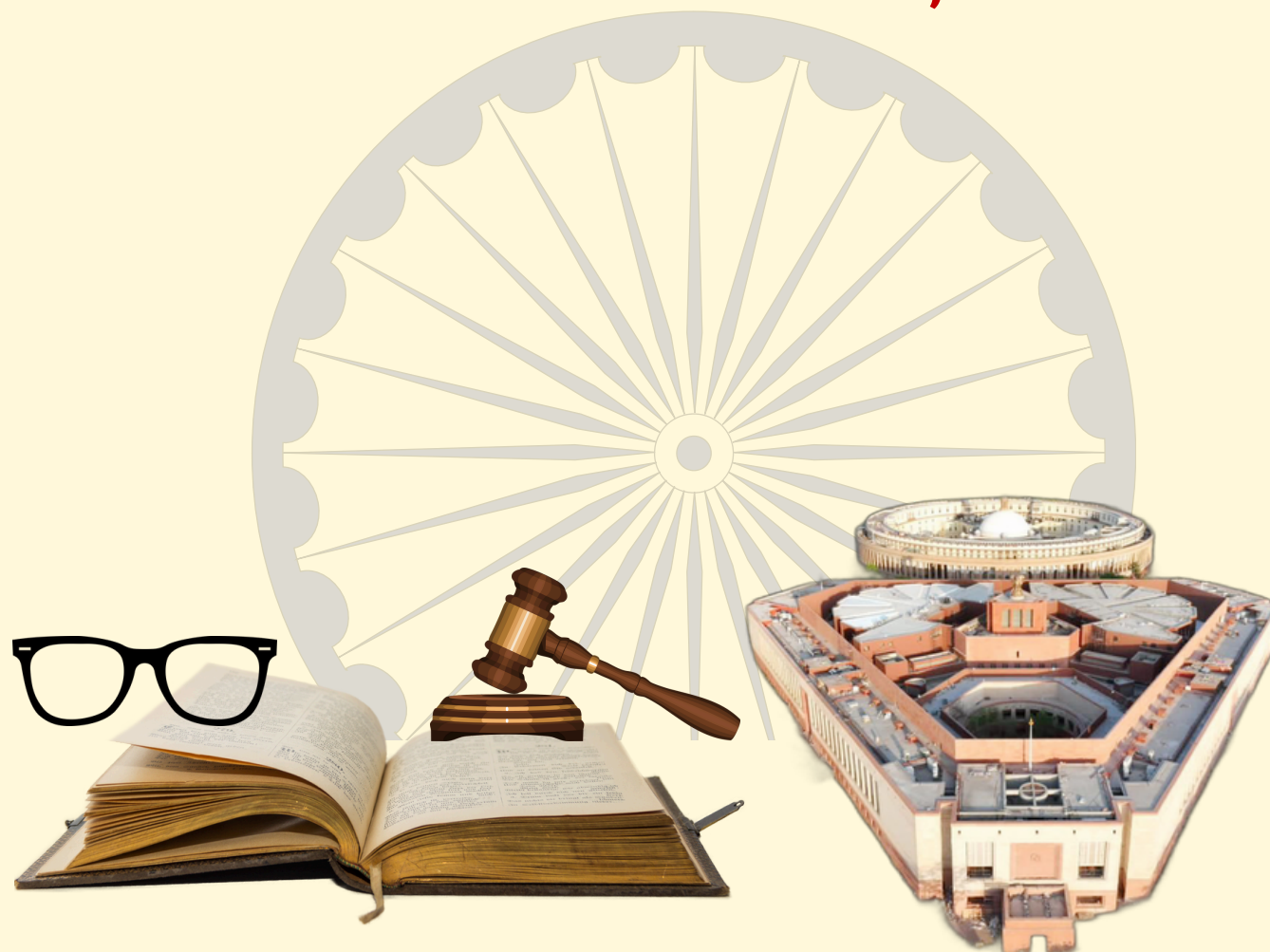
International Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Indexed E-Journal



March, 2025 Special Issue



The Constitution of India: Past, Present and Future



Excutive Editor

Mr. Sachin S. Bolaikar

Guest Editor

Principal Prof. (Dr.) Satish Ghatge

Shikshanmaharshi Bapuji Salunkhe Mahavidyalaya, Karad

Chief Editor: Captain (Dr.) Mahendra Kadam-Patil

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Indian Democracy: Past, Present, and Future

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Abstract

India, the world's largest democracy, stands as a testament to democratic governance, with deep philosophical roots in its freedom struggle. The evolution of Indian democracy is a product of the ideas of great leaders, thinkers, and visionaries such as Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Babasaheb Ambedkar, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This paper delves into the democratic thoughts of these leaders, examining their visions of the state, civil society, and political values. By analysing their ideas, we aim to understand the evolution of Indian democracy, its challenges, and its future trajectory.

Keywords

Indian Democracy, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Political Philosophy, State and Civil Society, Democratic Values, Social Justice, Secularism, Equality, Swaraj (Self-rule), Social Reform, Political Ideals, Constitutional Democracy.

Introduction

Indian democracy, a unique experiment in pluralism, has evolved over time, influenced by the ideas and thoughts of key leaders of the Indian independence movement. Each of these leaders contributed profoundly to shaping the democratic structure and political culture of independent India. Their ideas, while emerging from different backgrounds and philosophies, collectively contributed to building the democratic framework that India stands upon today (Gaikwad, 2016; Khilnani, 1997).

Objectives

- 1.To analyse the democratic thoughts of key Indian leaders: Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, and Jawaharlal Nehru, in the context of their views on state, civil society, and political values.
- 2.To explore the philosophical underpinnings of the Indian democratic system: Through the lens of these leaders' contributions, examining how their thoughts shaped India's democratic structure.
- 3.To evaluate the role of these leaders in defining the role of the state in India's democracy (Ambedkar, 1949).

Hypothesis

The democratic ideas of Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, and Jawaharlal Nehru have collectively shaped the foundational principles of the Indian democratic system (Gaikwad, 2016). Their thoughts on the state, civil society, and political values have created a comprehensive framework for inclusive governance, which continues to guide India's political trajectory. The democratic framework envisioned by these leaders, although diverse, shares a common commitment to equality, justice, and the empowerment of marginalized communities (Gandhi, 1942; Ambedkar, 1949).

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