

# “THE JOURNEY OF THE INDIAN REPUBLIC”

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## **Abstract**

The present research paper highlights the central theme of the journey of the Indian Republic. While examining the long and eventful journey of the last 75 years, it becomes evident that the Indian Republic has continued its progress successfully and uninterruptedly. In this context, the paper reviews India's performance in the social, political, economic, and cultural spheres. At the same time, it also examines the challenges encountered by the Indian Republic during this journey.

**Keywords:** Republic, Social, Political, Economic, Cultural, Educational, Scientific

## **Introduction**

Seventy-five years have been completed since India emerged from British colonial rule and became a Republic. This is indeed a matter of great pride. No system can ever be completely perfect or fully satisfactory; every system inevitably contains certain shortcomings. However, despite these limitations, systems continue to evolve and progress over time.

During its 75-year journey, the Indian Republic has made significant progress in social, political, cultural, economic, educational, and scientific fields. Throughout this journey, the Republic has faced several challenges, which often created obstacles in its path. Such obstacles can be detrimental to a republic. However, many countries that attained independence during the mid-twentieth century failed to establish stable systems of governance. Frequent changes in governments and constitutions in those countries prevented the successful rooting of republicanism.

In contrast, the Indian Republic has

steadily progressed and today has established a distinct identity at the global level. Therefore, it is important to study the journey of the Indian Republic. This study not only examines its progress but also critically analyses the challenges encountered along the way, thereby presenting the ground reality of the Republic's evolution.

## **Objectives:**

1. To glance at the journey of the Indian Republic.
2. To study the progress made by the Indian Republic in various fields.
3. To examine the major challenges faced by the Indian Republic during the last 75 years.
4. To analyse the present condition of the Indian Republic.

## **Hypotheses:**

1. The journey of the Indian Republic has been successful.
2. The Indian Republic has faced numerous challenges over the past 75 years, which have had long-term consequences.
3. The Indian Republic has delivered remarkable performance in social, political, economic, educational, scientific, and cultural fields.

## **Discussion**

India attained independence from British colonial rule. With the implementation of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950, India became a Republic in the true sense. Leaders of the freedom movement had consistently expressed their views on establishing India as a republic. Accordingly, the Constituent Assembly articulated the vision of the Indian Republic.

The Indian Republic was founded on

the values of democracy, secularism, socialism, equality, justice, liberty, fraternity, and dignity. Over the last platinum years, the Republic has made significant contributions and progress. This journey can be analysed under the following phases:

#### **Initial Challenging Era: 1950-1970**

The first two decades of the Indian Republic were primarily devoted to building institutional and infrastructural foundations. This period was marked by challenges related to the implementation of the Constitution, establishment of Parliament, the Supreme Court, and autonomous institutions such as the Election Commission. Simultaneously, issues such as technological limitations and shortage of skilled manpower posed serious difficulties.

In order to strengthen democracy, India adopted universal adult franchise—an unprecedented decision at a time when literacy levels were extremely low. Despite this, Indian citizens demonstrated political maturity and commitment to democratic values. Due to their role in the freedom struggle, the leadership of the time enjoyed immense popular support, which was reaffirmed through electoral mandates.

However, the challenge of institutionalising a newly independent republic remained formidable. This period is often referred to as the “Nehruvian Era.” During this phase, democratic institutions were established, Five-Year Plans were implemented, and national unity was strengthened through adherence to secular principles. The leadership also faced challenges such as linguistic reorganisation of states, wars with China and Pakistan, poverty, famine, and non-alignment in global politics. Despite these challenges, India successfully carved out a distinct identity at the international level.

#### **The Challenge of the Emergency: 1970-1979**

During this decade, the Indian Republic faced a

serious challenge in the form of the Emergency. Rising unemployment, poverty, inflation, and drought led to widespread public dissatisfaction, which manifested in mass movements led by Jayaprakash Narayan. These movements posed a direct challenge to the ruling establishment.

In response, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency, which severely tested the foundations of the Indian Republic. Fundamental rights were suspended, democratic values were undermined, constitutional amendments were carried out, opposition leaders were imprisoned, and the freedom of the press—the fourth pillar of democracy—was curtailed.

As a result of these unconstitutional practices, Indira Gandhi was defeated in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, leading to the formation of the Janata Government. However, this government also failed to complete its full term. Consequently, the decade from 1970 to 1979 proved to be extremely challenging for the Indian Republic.

#### **Liberalisation and Globalisation (LPG) Era: 1990–2000**

During this period, India faced a severe economic crisis. To overcome this crisis, sweeping economic reforms were introduced after 1991, including liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation, thereby integrating India with the global economy. This opened new avenues for foreign investment and economic development.

However, this phase also witnessed serious challenges to secularism. The demolition of the Babri Mosque in 1992 led to widespread communal riots across the country, posing a major threat to the Republic. Politically, this period marked the emergence of coalition politics, as no single party could secure an absolute majority. Consequently, several governments collapsed before completing their terms, adding to political instability.

## **Political Stability and Growth with Emerging Challenges: 2000–2025**

During this period, the Indian Republic achieved greater political stability. India emerged as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and has now become the fourth-largest economy globally, with an estimated GDP of four trillion dollars. Significant progress has been made in economic growth, technological advancement, and scientific achievements, including successful missions such as Chandrayaan, placing India among a select group of nations at the global level.

In the health sector, India has achieved substantial reductions in malnutrition, mortality rates, and infant mortality, leading to an increase in life expectancy. Literacy has risen from 18% at the time of independence to nearly 74% today, with states such as Kerala and Manipur achieving near-universal literacy. The country now has thousands of colleges and universities catering to a large student population.

India has also made progress in providing basic infrastructure such as roads, water, and electricity. Poverty levels have declined to some extent, though a significant proportion of the population still lives below the poverty line. Social challenges persist in the form of caste-based discrimination, communal violence, regional conflicts, and linguistic disputes between northern and southern states. Additionally, concerns regarding the safety and rights of minorities have become increasingly serious.

### **Conclusions:**

1. The Indian Republic has faced numerous challenges such as the Emergency, regionalism, casteism, linguistic conflicts, terrorism, and communalism. Despite these challenges, it has progressed successfully over the last 75 years.

2. India's performance in social, political, economic, health, educational, and

scientific fields is commendable and a matter of pride.

3. Although unemployment and poverty have not been completely eradicated, significant progress has been made in reducing them.

4. The 75-year journey of the Indian Republic has had a substantial global impact. India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy, and achievements in areas such as Chandrayaan, healthcare, and education indicate that the Indian Republic is progressing steadily and successfully.

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