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Indian Constitutional History Workshop

Exploring Freedom of Speech

To solve this worksheet, go to: <https://www.constitutionofindia.net/search>

1. Which Article of the Constitution of India contains the idea of freedom of speech? Read the Article carefully. Does the Article say that Indians have an unlimited right to freedom of speech?
2. Find out the date(s) on which the Constituent Assembly debated this Article. Note down 3.
3. Identify 1 member of the Constituent Assembly involved in the debate around freedom of speech. What is their background?
4. A legal academic paper stated that the Constituent Assembly of India made a big mistake in placing restrictions on freedom of speech. The editorial further stated that before the Constituent Assembly was set up in 1946, Indian political leaders supported the constitutional right to speech without any restrictions. Fact-check.
5. The Senior Advocate whom you work under has asked you for research assistance for an important constitutional case she is going to argue at the Supreme Court. She tells you that B.R. Ambedkar on 04 November 1948 defended the idea of placing restrictions on freedom of speech. She has asked you to locate the speech and give your opinion and analysis on B.R. Ambedkar's argument. Locate the speech and note down the citation. Read through the speech and put down your impressions.
6.
 - 6.1. Does the Constitution of India mention the term 'sedition' as a restriction on freedom of speech?
 - 6.2. Does sedition find a mention in any constitutional document before 1946?
 - 6.3. What was T.T. Krishnamachari's position on 'sedition'?