

Tamil Nadu's Role in First Constitutional Amendment

News highlights Tamil Nadu's historical connection to the First Constitutional Amendment concerning freedom of press and expression.

The First Constitutional Amendment in 1951 restricted freedom of speech and expression, prompted by Supreme Court rulings.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- On **March 1, 1950**, the **Madras government** banned the Left-leaning journal "**Cross Roads**".
- A month later, the **Supreme Court**'s full Bench quashed the ban order by a **five to one** majority.
- The Supreme Court declared **Section 9** of the **Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act** **ultra vires** the Constitution.
- This landmark judgment necessitated the **First Constitutional Amendment**.
- **Parliament** adopted the amendment Bill with **246** members voting in favour and **14** against.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **First Constitutional Amendment** was enacted in **1951**.

It restricted **freedom of speech and expression** and validated laws related to **zamindari abolition**.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees **freedom of speech and expression**.

Article 19(2) allows for **reasonable restrictions** on freedom of speech and expression.

The **Supreme Court**'s ruling in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** (**1950**) was a key trigger for the amendment.

The **Ninth Schedule** was added to the Constitution by the **First Amendment** to protect certain laws from **judicial review**.

In **Shankari Prasad v. Union of India** (**1951**), the **Supreme Court** upheld Parliament's power to amend **fundamental rights**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

First Constitutional Amendment was prompted by the Supreme Court's ruling on the Madras government's ban on "Cross Roads" journal.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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