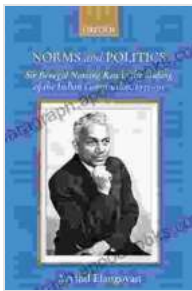


# Sir Benegal Narsing Rau: The Statesman and Architect of the Indian Constitution

As India celebrates the 75th anniversary of its independence, it is opportune to remember the remarkable individuals who shaped the destiny of our nation. Among them, Sir Benegal Narsing Rau stands tall as a distinguished statesman, jurist, and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.



## Norms and Politics: Sir Benegal Narsing Rau in the Making of the Indian Constitution, 1935–50

by Tracy Sugarman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1558 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 292 pages  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported



## Early Life and Education

Benegal Narsing Rau was born on 26th February 1887, in a small village in the South Indian state of Karnataka. His father, Dr. Narsing Rau, was a renowned physician, and his mother, Lakshmibai, was a devout Hindu woman.

Rau's brilliance was evident from a young age. He excelled in his studies, earning a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Madras in 1907. He then went on to study law at the prestigious University of Cambridge, where he obtained a Master's degree in 1910.

### **Career as a Jurist**

After returning to India, Rau began his legal career as an advocate at the Madras High Court. He quickly rose through the ranks and gained recognition for his sharp legal mind and persuasive advocacy.

In 1921, Rau was appointed as a judge of the Madras High Court, becoming one of the youngest judges in India at that time. He served with distinction for over a decade, delivering landmark judgments that shaped Indian jurisprudence.

### **Role in the Constituent Assembly**

India's independence movement gained momentum in the 1940s, and Rau played a crucial role in shaping the post-independence constitutional framework. In 1946, he was elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly, the body tasked with drafting the Indian Constitution.

As a member of the Drafting Committee, Rau was responsible for drafting many of the key provisions of the Constitution. He played a pivotal role in shaping the fundamental rights, directive principles of state policy, and the structure of the Indian judiciary.

### **Chief Justice of India and International Jurist**

After the adoption of the Constitution in 1950, Rau was appointed as the first Chief Justice of India. He served in this capacity until 1951, during

which time he established the Supreme Court as the apex court of the nation and laid the foundation for an independent and impartial judiciary.

Rau's reputation as a distinguished jurist extended beyond India. In 1952, he was elected as a judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where he served for 15 years. His contributions to international jurisprudence were significant, and he played a key role in shaping the ICJ's decisions on various international disputes.

## **Legacy**

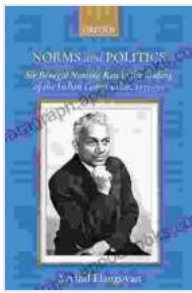
Sir Benegal Narsing Rau passed away on 11 November 1953, leaving behind a legacy of excellence in law and public service. He is widely regarded as the constitutional architect of India, and his contributions have shaped the legal and political landscape of the nation.

Rau's life and work continue to inspire generations of lawyers, jurists, and statesmen. He is remembered for his brilliance, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the principles of democracy.

Sir Benegal Narsing Rau was a visionary statesman and a brilliant jurist who played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of India. His contributions to the Indian Constitution and the international legal system have left an enduring legacy that continues to benefit the nation and the world.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence, let us remember the extraordinary individuals like Sir Benegal Narsing Rau who dedicated their lives to building a just, equitable, and prosperous society.

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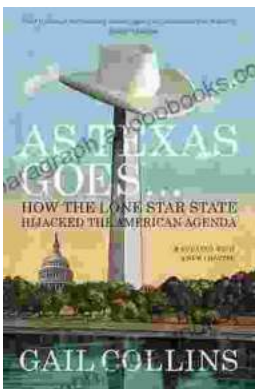
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