

Boys' High School and College, Prayagraj

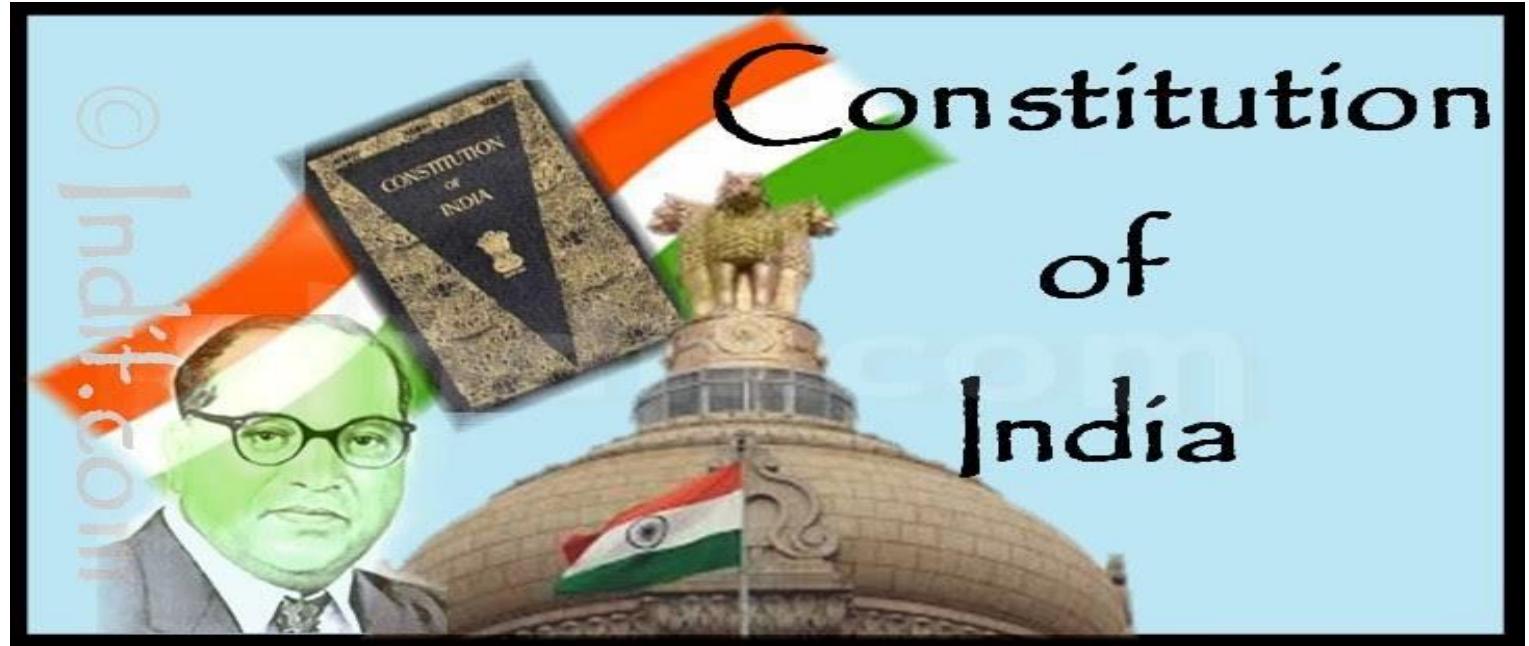
Session 2020-2021

Social Studies

Worksheet No.2

Class V

Chapter:- The Indian Constitution



6

Theme 2 : The Constitution of India-
Basic Features

The Indian Constitution



Learning Objectives :

- Constitution (Formation, nature, need and guiding principles)

WHAT IS A CONSTITUTION ?

A Constitution is a set of fundamental principles, rules or established precedents according to which the Government of a country is run. A written document in which we find such rules is called a Constitution. Thus, the Constitution is the framework of guidelines which lays down :

the nature and principles of the political system of a country.

the powers and functions of the government.

the rules that guard against the misuse of power by political leaders.

When India gained freedom from the British rule, the leaders realised that we had won the war against an external enemy, but many internal enemies, such as inequality, poverty, etc., still remained. In order to give all Indians a life of equality and a sense of freedom, we needed a set of rules that would guide not only the government but also the people of India. Hence, a board was constituted

to draft the Constitution of India under the chairmanship of Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

The Constitution of India, which came into force on 26 January 1950, starts with a Preamble, which assures that all Indians are entitled to justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The Constitution of India is divided into twenty-five parts and twelve schedules. Part III deals with the Fundamental Rights of the people of India. The first fundamental right that has been guaranteed to every citizen alike is Right to Equality.



Do You Know?

1. The original Constitution of India is hand-written with beautiful calligraphy and is kept in a special helium-filled case in the Library of the Parliament of India.
2. The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world. It is the most detailed constitution in the world. No other constitution has gone into such minute details as the Indian Constitution.

The Preamble

The Constitution begins with a Preamble which contains the basic ideals and objectives of the Constitution. A Preamble is an introduction to the Constitution. It outlines the vision of the Constitution and helps in understanding and interpreting it. It is thus called the 'soul' of the Constitution.



CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Preamble

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens

JUSTICE

Social, economic and political:

LIBERTY

of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

EQUALITY

of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY

assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do

HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO

OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION

Preamble of the Constitution

The Preamble declares India to be a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

THE KEY FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Main features of our Constitution are :

1. **Written Constitution:** The Indian Constitution like the Constitution of America is a written Constitution.
2. **Partly rigid and partly flexible:** It can change and grow with the passage of time. But the procedure for amendment is neither as easy as in England, nor as difficult as in USA.
3. **Federal in structure but Unitary in spirit:** The Indian Constitution is federal in structure. The Constitution divides the powers between the Central government and the State governments. The states are not merely agents of the federal government but draw their authority from the Constitution. But the Central government has been made more powerful making it unitary in essence.
4. **Parliamentary form of Government:** The Constitution provides for a Parliamentary form of government. Though the President is the head of the Executive, the real powers are vested



Lok Sabha

with the Prime Minister. The council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is responsible to the Lok Sabha.

5. **Separation of Power:** The Constitution provides for three organs of the state - the **Legislature**, the **Executive** and the **Judiciary**. To ensure a balance between all three organs, each organ acts as a check on the other organ.

6. **Independent Judiciary:** The makers of our Constitution have provided for an independent Judiciary. The Supreme Court is the guardian of the Fundamental Rights of the citizens. It also decides the disputes between Central government and states and between two or more states.

7. **Fundamental Rights of the Citizens:** The Constitution guarantees several Fundamental Rights, such as :

- Right to Equality
- Right to Liberty
- Right to Freedom of Religion
- Right to Cultural and Educational Rights
- Right against Exploitation
- Right to Constitutional Remedies



Right against exploitation-
Bans child labour

8. **Directive Principles of State Policy :** The provisions regarding the Directive Principles in the Constitution are the directions given to the central government and state governments to adopt such policies as would help establish a just society in our country.

SECULARISM IN INDIA



Since India is a multi-racial and multi-religious country, secularism is very important in India. Secularism in India means :

- India does not have an official state religion. It has adopted a policy of separating religion from the state.
- Right to Freedom of Religion is guaranteed to all its citizens and the state treats all individuals as equal citizens regardless of their religion.
- People are free to choose, practice or propagate any religion. There is freedom of belief, faith and worship.

DISCUSS

Discuss with your friends and find out some examples of different beliefs, faiths or ways of worship even within the people of the same religion.

- The government does not fund any religion or religious institutions.

- The state can neither favour any religion nor discriminate against the people of any religion.

Steps taken to safeguard the rights of religious minorities

To ensure the true spirit of secularism and to safeguard that the majority does not dominate or discriminate against the religious minorities, the following steps have been taken :

- No government institution or government office can display anything which promotes any one religion.

The government-run schools cannot promote any religion or celebrate any religious festival within the school. Such a rule, however, does not apply to private schools.

To respect the religious sentiments of all religious groups in India, the state has a policy of non-interference in religious practices of any religious community. All religious groups and communities are free to celebrate their religious festivals and practices.

Lesson at a glance



- Today most countries in the world have a Constitution.
- The Constitution lays out certain ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that we as citizens aspire to live in.
- A country is usually made up of different communities of people who share certain

beliefs but may not necessarily agree on all issues.

- A Constitution helps serve as a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed.
- In 1934 the Indian National Congress made a demand for a Constitution Assembly.
- The Constitution Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar drafted our constitution of India.
- The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks:-

1. The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950.
2. The Indian Constitution begins with a Preamble.
3. The Constitution of India is divided into twenty-five parts and twelve schedules.
4. A Preamble contains the basic ideas and objectives of the Constitution.
5. The original Constitution of India is kept in the library of the Parliament of India.

State True or False:-

1. India is not a democratic country. [False]
2. The Constitution lays out certain rules and principles.[True]

3. The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1949.[False]
4. The Constitution of India guarantees several fundamental rights.[True]

Match the following:-

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. B.R Ambedkar | a) Constitution starts with (3) |
| 2. Constitution | b) Right to Equality (4) |
| 3. Preamble | c) 26 th January 1950 (2) |
| 4. Fundamental Right | d) Drafting Committee (1) |

Unscramble these words:-

1. Cnotstiutoni --- Constitution
2. Pearbmel ---- Preamble
3. Doemrcaitc --- Democratic
4. Usealrc --- Secular

Answer the following question:-

Q1. What is a Constitution?

Ans. A Constitution is a set of fundamental principles, rules or established precedents according to which the government of a country is run.

Q2. How and when was the Constitution of India framed?

Ans. A board was constituted to draft the Constitution of India under the chairmanship of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Constitution of India, came into force on 26th January 1950.

Q3. What is a Preamble?

Ans. A Preamble is an introduction to the Constitution. It outlines the vision of the Constitution and helps in understanding and interpreting it. It is thus called the 'Soul' of the Constitution.

Q4. Mention any three key features of the Constitution of India?

Ans. Three key features of the Constitution of India are :-

1. It is a written Constitution.
2. Partly rigid and partly flexible.
3. Federal in structure but Unitary in spirit.

Q5. What are the Fundamental Rights of a citizen of India?

Ans. 1. Right to Equality.

2. Right to Liberty
3. Right to Freedom of Religion.
4. Right to Cultural and Educational Rights.
5. Right against Exploitation.
6. Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Q6. Mention any two steps taken to safeguard the rights of religious minorities?

Ans. To ensure the true spirit of secularism and the safeguard that the minority doesn't dominate or discriminate against the religious minorities, the following steps have been taken.

- No government institution or government office can display anything which promotes any one religion.
- All religious groups and communities are free to celebrate their religious festivals and practices.

Quick Recap Test

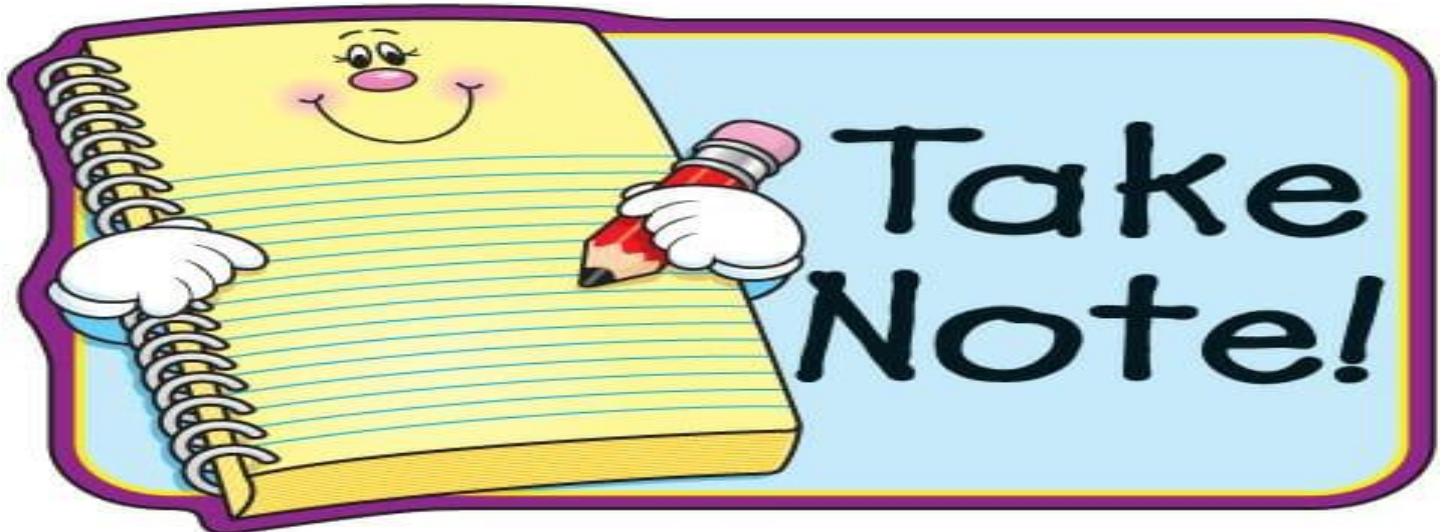
Mahendra's



LET'S RECAP

Write short notes on [4 to 5 lines]

1. Parliamentary form of Government.
2. The Supreme Court of India.
3. Secularism in India.



- Students must read the chapter carefully.
- **Lesson at a glance** to be read carefully.
- All exercises to be done in an interleaf notebook.
- Assessment questions can be framed from inbetween the chapter.