

Lesson - 5

Preamble and the Salient Features of the Constitution

Summary -

Constitution symbolises independence of country and the framework and structure for the governance of free country are provided in the Constitution. Preamble declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic and mentions the goals of securing justice, liberty, and equality for all its citizens and promotion of national unity and integrity based on fraternity among the people assuring dignity of the individual. The Constitution of India has several distinctive features & it declares India as parliamentary democratic

Constitution -

The document containing laws & rules which: -

Form the government & the relationship between the citizens and the government

It is a fundamental law of a State

Describes the rights and duties of the citizens

Constituent Assembly

constituted in 1946

members were indirectly elected by existing Provincial assemblies

members nominated by the rulers of Princely States

consisted of 299 members as on 31st December 1947

Constituent Assembly -

- ✚ Dr. Rajendra Prasad - President of the Assembly worked with committees of two types:
 - relating to matters concerning with procedures, and
 - concerning important issues, In addition an Advisory Committee.
- ✚ The Drafting Committee, Chairperson Dr. B.R. Ambedkar - to prepare the

Objectives of The Constitution -

- ✚ aspirations of the people.
- ✚ integrity and unity of the country.
- ✚ establishment of a democratic society.

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to

constitute India into a
1[**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

2[**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.

1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 2 for “**SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**” (w.e.f. 3-1-1977)

2. Subs. by s. 2. ibid, for “unity of the Nation” (w.e.f. 3-1-1977).

SOVEREIGN

- Complete political freedom
- The supreme authority
- Internally all powerful
- Externally free

SOCIALIST

- Planned and coordinated social development

SECULAR

- Allows all to profess, preach & practice any religion

DEMOCRATIC

- Democracy as a value
- Government derives its authority from the will of the people

REPUBLIC

- President of India is elected among the people.

JUSTICE

- Social, Economic & Political Justice

LIBERTY AND EQUALITY

- Freedom of Idea, expression, belief & worship,
- Equality of status and opportunities

FRATERNITY, DIGNITY, UNITY & INTEGRITY

- Brotherhood among people of India,
- Equal participation in democratic governance,
- Strengthen the unity and integrity of the nation.

Evaluate Yourself –

1. Indian constitution is a protector of the rights of Indians. Write your views in favour of the given statement.
2. Discuss the concept of Universal Adult franchise in your own words.
3. List down the features of the Indian constitution and discuss the importance

Salient Features of The Constitution -

- ✚ **Written Constitution** - The constitution of India is the longest written constitution.
- ✚ **Combination of Rigidity & Flexibility** - Constitution may be called rigid or flexible based on its amending procedure.
- ✚ **Federal Polity & Parliamentary Democracy** - The federal system of state and the parliamentary form of government.
- ✚ **Fundamental Rights & Duties** – Six (06) fundamental Rights & eleven (11) Fundamental duties.
- ✚ **Directive Principles of State Policy** - Ensuring social and economic reforms.
- ✚ **Single Integrated & Independent Judiciary** - Single hierarchy of courts.
- ✚ **Single Citizenship** - Every Indian is a citizen of India.
- ✚ **Universal Adult Franchise** - Every Indian voting right after attaining a certain age (present 18 years).
- ✚ **Emergency Provision** - Three types of emergencies:
 - (i) emergency caused by war, external aggression, or armed rebellion
 - (ii) emergency arising out of the failure of constitutional machinery in states; and
 - (iii) financial emergency.