

**CHAPTER-1**

**:- OUR CONSTITUTION :-**

**PART – I SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

1. Explain the term 'Constitution'.

**ANS-** The word constitution is derived from old French and Latin words '**constitucion**' and '**constitutionem**' which means- establishment and act of settling respectively. A constitution is a set of rules and laws which define the position and powers of the three organs of the government- the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary.

2. Who framed the Constitution of India?

**ANS-** The constitution of India was framed by the elected scholars and leaders of the Constituent Assembly.

3. When was the body that framed the Constitution of India constituted?

**ANS-**The body that framed the constitution of India was constituted in 1946. The assembly originally had 389 members but after the partition from Pakistan it came down to 299 seats.

4. Who was the permanent president of the Constituent Assembly?

**ANS-**Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was the permanent president of Constituent Assembly and other prominent leaders such as Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Patel etc.

5. When did the Constitution of India come into force?

**ANS-**The constitution of India came into force on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950.

6. What is meant by the term 'Preamble' to the Constitution?

**ANS-**Preamble is the preface or an introduction to the Constitution.

7. What is the significance of the Preamble to the Constitution?

**ANS-**It highlights and reflects the aim & objectives of the constitution that it indented to achieve & promote. It also contains the spirit & values of the Constitution.

8. What do the words "we the people of the India" in the Preamble signify?

**ANS-**The words "*We the people of India*" signify to the people of the country are one under one law. There should be no discrimination on the basis of cast, creed, sex, language, birth place, food habits etc.

9. What do you mean by a secular state?

**ANS-**Secular means that India doesn't have a state religion and doesn't identify itself with one particular religion. It also means that all religions & its citizens should be treated with equal respect. It was added to our constitution under 42<sup>nd</sup> constitutional amendment in 1976.

10. The Preamble of the Constitution describe India as are public .What are its main features?

**ANS-**The word 'Republic' means a form of government that has an elected representative as the head of the State. This elected representative has no hereditary rights.

11. What are the salient features of the Constitution?

**ANS-**The salient features of the constitution are as follow;

- i) It is legally sanctified document consists the basic principles for the governance of the state.
- ii) It ensures the certain basic rights to the citizens of India and defines their duties as well.
- iii) It is a written and most lengthy and detailed document in the world.
- iv) It has the Parliamentary form of government which has the supreme political body in India.
- v) It divides the powers of governance between the centre and the state.
- vi) The Indian constitution recognises only a single citizenship.
- vii) It establishes a system of Universal Adult Franchise through which a citizen who is 18 and above irrespective of cast, creed, religion, sex, language, birth place, food habits etc. has right to vote.

12. Explain the term 'Written Constitution'.

**ANS-**A constitution is a legal and formal document which defines the nature of the constitutional settlement. The rules that govern the political system and the rights of the citizens is known as written constitution.

13. Why is our Constitution the lengthiest in the world?

**ANS-**Our constitution is lengthiest in the world because it touches every aspects of the life of its citizens. Our country is the most diverse country on basis of cast, creed, religion, sex, language, birth place, food habits etc. It empowers its citizens with fundamental & legal rights and also limits where it is necessary to give social equality for various schedule casts and tribes.

14. Which form of government exists in India?

**ANS-**The parliamentary form of government exists in India where the President of India is the head of the State and the Prime Minister of India is responsible for running of the State.

15. What do you understand by a federal government?

**ANS-**The Federal government refers to a system of governance where there is the division of the powers between the central national government & the local state governments.

16. In how many list are the legislative powers of the government divided?

**ANS-**The legislative powers of the government are divided into three lists;

i) The Union List with 97 subjects of national importance.

ii) The State Lists with 66 subjects on which state can make laws.

iii) The Concurrent List with 47 subjects on which both the central & the state governments can make laws.

17. Why was the Indian Constitution unitary in spirit?

**ANS-**India has the federal government through which the powers are divided into central & state. But the power at the time of emergency goes into the hands of central government completely.

18. Mention the type of citizenship followed by India. How does it differ from the type of citizenship followed in the USA?

**ANS-**India has a single citizenship which means a person who is born anywhere in India can only be a citizen of India. It means he/she doesn't have a separate citizenship of the state. In USA, on the other hand, a person living in a particular state can be the citizen of the state as well as a citizen of the USA.

19. Who all are eligible to vote in India?

**ANS-**Every Indian citizen who has completed the age of 18 years has the right to vote.

20. What do you mean by universal adult franchise?

**ANS-**Every Indian citizen who has completed the age of 18 years irrespective of cast, creed, religion, sex, language, birth place, food habits etc. has the right to vote. It is called **Universal Adult Franchise**.

## **PART-II STRUCTURED QUESTIONS (Answer in detail)**

### **1. Picture Study**

a) Can you name this personality?

**ANS-** Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

b) When was the Constitution in framing the Constitution of India?

**ANS-**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the chairperson of Drafting Committee. It was first constituted on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. He was also the one the prominent members of Constituent Assembly. It had seven members. He played the crucial role in bringing up the constitution so called the Father of Indian Constitution.

c) When was the Constitution of India adopted?

**ANS-**The constitution was adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1949.

d) Name some prominent members of the constituent Assembly.

**ANS-**Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the permanent president of Constituent Assembly, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, K. M. Munshi, H. N. Kunzru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and C. Rajagopalachari were the prominent members of Constituent Assembly.

2. With reference to the constitution of India, What is the significance of 26 January? Why was this day chosen for the promulgation of the Constitution?

**ANS-The significance of 26<sup>th</sup> January:-** The date 26<sup>th</sup> January has its historical importance in our struggle for freedom. It was on this date in December 1929 that the Lahore Session of the National Indian Congress had for the first time given the call of *Purna Swaraj* or Complete Independence resolution. The Congress Working committee later met on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1930. The Committee then decided to take pledge which was taken by the public on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1930 and was celebrated as first Independence Day. Since then the day 26<sup>th</sup> January was celebrated as Independence Day up to 1947.

On achieving Independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 became the Independence Day. The completion of the Constitution was done by 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949. However the day 26<sup>th</sup> January, the subsequent year was chosen for the promulgation of the Constitution.

3. With reference to the Preamble to the constitution of India, answer the following question:

**a) What is meant by a sovereign state?**

**ANS-**The term '**Sovereign**' is derived from old French word '*Soverain*' which means independence and from Latin word '*Supernus*' means 'above or autonomy'. It means the country which is not dependent upon any outside authority governance. It suggests that the country is independent with the ability to take responsibility for all decisions. Indian constitution has a place for it in preamble. The term '**Sovereign**' is taken from article 5 of the constitution of **Ireland**. It denotes supreme & ultimate/absolute power.

**b) When did India become a sovereign state?**

**ANS-**India became a sovereign state after its constitution came into force/effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950.

**c) Why was the term socialist inserted in the preamble by the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of India in 1976?**

**ANS-** The term '**Socialist**' refers to 'democratic socialism'. This was inserted in the Preamble under 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1976 that the constitution may govern the State with equitable distribution of national resources and opportunities among all sections of the people. In this way the resources are not concentrated in the hands of few. Government regulates the ownership of land & industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

**d) Why is India considered a secular State?**

**ANS-** 'Secular' means that India doesn't have a state religion and doesn't identify itself with one particular religion. India is a secular state because it has no official State religion. Also there should be no favour or discrimination against any religion. Every religion is free to profess, preach, practice & propagate own religion. **Alexander Owics** rightly comments: "[Secularism is a part of basic structure of the Indian Constitution & it means equal freedom & respect for all religion.](#)"

4. With reference to the constitutional divisions of powers into three lists, write a short note on each of the following:

**a) Union List:** - It contains matters over which only the centre can make the laws. The List has 97 subjects of national importance.

For example defense, foreign affairs, finance, railways, banking, posts & telegraph, currency, elections, election commission etc.

**b) State List:** - It contains matters over which only the centre can make the laws. The Lists has 66 subjects on which state can make laws.

For example education, agriculture, water supply, irrigation, markets & fairs, police, public health & sanitation, hospitals & dispensaries etc.

- c) **Concurrent List:** - It contains matters over which both the centre & the states can make the laws. The List has 47 subjects on which both the central & the state governments can make laws.

For example education, factories, trade unions, electricity, labour, economic & social planning, prevention to cruelty to animals, criminal law, wildlife, forests etc.

5. With reference to the constitution of India, answer the following questions:

- a) What do you mean by single citizenship?

**ANS- Single Citizenship:** - the Indian Constitution provides for a single citizenship. This means that a person born anywhere in India can only be a citizen of India. He/she does not have a separate citizenship of the state to which he/she belongs to this is unlike the system prevailing in the USA, where one can be the citizen of New York as well as an American citizen. In India a person is born in Punjab or in Kerala can only be a citizen of India and not the citizen of the state. This has been done to prevent separatist tendencies and promote fraternity and unity among the people of the country. Every Indian is a citizen of India and enjoys the same rights of citizenship.

- b) What are the main features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2003?

**ANS- The main features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003:** By the Citizenship Act 2003 the government of India has decided to grant dual citizenship to all the Persons of India Origin (PIO), who migrated to other countries after January 26, 1950. All privileges of an Indian citizen except the right of voting could be enjoyed by those holding dual citizenship.

6. Answer the following questions:

- a) Explain the term **Universal Adult Franchise:**

**ANS- Universal Adult Franchise:** Universal means 'every'. Its open to all, no matter a person is high or low, rich or poor, man or woman. Adult means one who is 18 and above. Franchise means right to vote. Thus, one can aptly say that the Universal Adult Franchise is that every Indian citizen who has completed the age of 18 years irrespective of cast, creed, religion, sex, language, birth place, food habits etc. has the right to vote.

- b) What is the minimum age of voting in India?

**ANS-** The minimum age of voting in India is 18. They have right to vote and participating in choosing the government at different levels, for example, the central, the state and the local levels.

- c) Which old British system did the Constitution of India abolish?

**ANS-** The old British system of communal electorate was abolished by the Constitution of India. And it established joint electorate. Communal Electoral means a system of communal representation for Muslim by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. Under this, Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters. The Act therefore was legalized communalism. **Lord Minto** came to be known as the father of Communal Electorate.

**## THE END ##**