

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL PATULI

HISTORY

CHAPTER -- 12 : OUR CONSTITUTION

SUMMARY OF THE STORY :

The constitution of India is the longest written constitution in the world. The constitution of a country is the fundamental law of that country. All laws must be in accordance to the principles laid down in the constitution. Our country gained Independence from British rule on 15th August, 1947. There was an urgent need to lay down rules and regulations to guide the governance of our country. A group of representatives who prepared the Constitution formed the Constituent Assembly in 1946 for the sole purpose of framing the constitution.

Dr B.R.Ambedkar is called the Father of the Indian Constitution. Being the chairman of the drafting committee, he defined the vision and the goal of our Constitution.. On 26th January, 1950, the constitution came into force and India was declared a Sovereign Democratic Republic. We celebrate Republic day every year on 26th January.

The Preamble is a short introduction to the constitution. It helps us in understanding our constitution by highlighting the source, nature of state and objectives of the constitution. There are five nature a state can adhere to. They are Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic.

*Objectives of the Constitution:

Justice- There are three kinds of justice. Social, economic and political justice.

Liberty - This implies that every individual is free to enjoy the basic rights.

Equality- All citizens are equal before law.

Fraternity- India is a country of diversity. This stands for a common brotherhood of all Indians.

* There are eight important FEATURES of our Indian Constitution:

Federal System - The Indian Constitution has provided for a federal form of government which means the responsibility of governing our country has been divided between the centre and the state.

Parliamentary system- This system is divided into two houses; The house of the people and the council of states. The government at the center is answerable to the parliament. The government at the state level is answerable to the state legislature.

Organs of the government- There are three main branches of the government. The legislature which makes laws for the country, the executive branch which carries out the decisions made by the legislature and the Judicial branch which protects the rights of the citizens.

An Independent judiciary:

There are certain provisions to make the judiciary Independent. A few of them are; Specific qualifications are laid down for the appointment of a judge, Judges of the Supreme court and High court are appointed by the President of India....etc

Fundamental Rights:

The Indian constitution guarantees certain basic rights to all its citizens which are known as Fundamental Rights.

Directive principles of State Policy :

Part 4 of the Constitution states certain principles which the government should follow. These are the Directive Principles of state Policy.

Single Citizenship:

In India, we follow single Citizenship. People born to the citizens of Indian are citizens of the nation and not of the state.

Universal Adult Franchise :

A democracy is incomplete without this feature. This means that all adult citizens are entitled to elect their representatives to the government. Every citizen of India who is 18 years of age or above the age of 18, has the right to vote.

However amendments to the constitution has been made to keep pace with the changing times. We must respect our constitution and follow .

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WORKSHEET

A. State whether the following statements are True or False :

1. In India, all religions are equally respected.
2. The constitution is the Supreme law of the land.
3. The constituent Assembly was elected in 1940.
4. The Preamble is justiciable.
5. The preamble helps us in understanding our constitution.

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. Our country gained Independence on _____.
2. _____ was added to the preamble by the 42nd Amendment act.
3. The _____ is the shortest introduction to the constitution.
4. All citizens are _____ before law.
5. General elections are held every _____ years.

C. Define the following:

1. Allegiance-
2. Fraternity-
3. sovereign-
4. Fundamental -
5. Amendment act -

D. Answer in one word or words, according to the question asked :

1. First President of Independent India-
2. Chairman of the Drafting Committee -
3. Basic rights guaranteed to all citizens-
4. Three main branches of the government-
5. Indian Flag -
6. Indian song -
7. Indian anthem -
8. Indian icon for our country-
9. A state where the head of the state is an elected person -
10. A state where the government is run by the elected members of the people.
11. A state which is Independent of external interference.
12. A state where there is no discrimination against any religion.
13. A state which lays emphasis on economic and social equality.
14. The three kinds of justice adopted by the Constitution.
15. A sense of common brotherhood for all Indians.

E. Answer the following questions:

1. What does our constitution contain?
2. Why is the Preamble important?
3. State the difference between a Democracy and a Republic .
4. Do you think the Indian government is "of the people, by the people and for the people" ?
5. Why is the Preamble not justiciable?

F. With reference to your text book, answer the following exercises:

1. Exercise A : (Nos 1 to 5)
2. Exercise B : (Nos 1 to 5)
3. Exercise F : (Nos 1 and 2)