

## STUDY COURSE MATERIAL

### S.St-Civics

### SESSION-2020-21

### CLASS-VIII

## TOPIC: The Indian Constitution

## DAY-1

### ❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution in the world. It is a set of rules by which the government rules our country. It is the supreme law of the land. It came into effect on 26th January 1950. Our Constitution is based on the principles of democracy, socialism and secularism.

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar is known as 'The Father of Indian Constitution'.

### **Why Does a Country Need a Constitution?**

- (i) A Constitution lays out certain ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that we as citizens aspire to live in.
- (ii) It tells us about the fundamental nature of our society.
- (iii) It 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.
- (iv) This includes the type of government and also an agreement on certain ideals that they all believe the country should uphold.
- (v) When Nepal was a monarchy, it reflected the final authority of the king. After transition of Nepal into a democracy, it started the process of writing a new constitution for the country.
- (vi) In a democracy, leaders exercise their power responsibly on the behalf of the people. It defines country's political system.
- (vii) In democratic societies, the constitution lays down the rules that guard against the misuse of authority by our political leaders. It lays certain important guidelines that govern decision making processes.
- (viii) A Constitution plays an important function in a democracy to ensure that a dominant groups does not use its power against any person, group, organization, etc.
- (ix) Constitution prevents tyranny or domination by the majority of a minority.

(x) The Indian Constitution guarantees the right to equality to all citizens and says that no citizen can be discriminated on the basis of religion, caste, gender, race, etc.

The Indian Constitution Key Feature:

(i) The Indian National Movement had been active in the struggle for Independence from British rule for several decades.

Nationalists devoted a great deal of time to imagining and planning what a free India would be like.

When the constitution was being written India was going through a turmoil because of partition of India and Pakistan.

The final document reflects a respect for maintaining diversity with preserving national unity, along with eradication of poverty through socio-economic reforms.

## DAY-2

### ❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

#### FEATURES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The final document reflects a respect for maintaining diversity with preserving national unity, along with eradication of poverty through socio-economic reforms.

**Following are the key features of Indian constitution.**

1) Federalism: It refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the country. These are at the state and at the central levels. Later on in the 90s a separate level of government was included called as local or Grass root governance which justified administration of rural and urban local bodies in the form of Panchayats and municipal bodies respectively. Citizens are governed by laws & policies made by each of these levels of government. Some laws are preferentially formulated under the purview authority of the central government and thus has an exclusive role. While in some spheres states allowed to form laws at their own discretion but there are arenas called as concurrent lists which authorizes both the state and the center in law formulation in coordination.

2) Parliamentary Form of Government: The Constitution of Indian guarantees universal adult suffrage for all citizens. This means every citizen of the country irrespective of his/her social background have a direct role in electing their representatives.

Representatives are thus accountable to the people in a parliamentary form of government. Parliament is the seat of governance by its representatives duly elected through direct elections from their respective constituencies. Elections and electing representatives in parliamentary form of governance ensures authorization for governance in effective manner.

3) Separation of Powers: There are three organs of the State: (a) the Legislature (b) the Executive and (c) the Judiciary.

a) The legislature refers to our elected representative; those who make laws.

b) The executive is a smaller group of people who are responsible for implementing laws and running the government.

c) The judiciary refers to the system of courts in the country; who settle disputes and make sure that laws are obeyed.

Each organ acts as a check on the other organs of the State and this ensures the balance of power between all three.

While each one separately is assigned to their core role with full transparency and accountability.

## DAY-3

### ❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

4) Fundamental Rights:

(i) The Fundamental Rights are referred to as the 'conscience' of the Indian Constitution. Fundamental Rights protect citizens against the arbitrary and absolute exercise of power by the state.

(ii) The Constitution guarantees the rights of individuals against the State as well as against other individuals.

(iii) There are six Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution, which are: (i) Right to Equality; (ii) Right to Freedom; (iii) Right against Exploitation; (iv) Right to Freedom of Religion; (v) Cultural and Educational Rights; (vi) Right to Freedom of Religion; (iv) Right to Constitutional Remedies.

(iv) In addition to Fundamental Rights, the Constitution has a section called Directive Principles of State Policy. It ensures greater social and economic reforms and to serve as a guide to the independent Indian state to institute laws and policies that help reduce the poverty of the masses.

5) Secularism

A secular state is one in which the state does not officially promote any one religion as the state religion.

The Constitution plays a crucial role in laying out the ideals that we would like all citizens of the country to adhere to, including the representatives that we elect to rule us.

The Constitution has been changed over the years to reflect new concerns of the polity that involve a change in the fundamental nature of the country.

# DAY-4

## ❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

### What is Preamble of Constitution?

The preamble is the introduction part of the constitution which symbolizes the basic core values deep ingrained in our constitution. These values are :

**Socialism-** state sponsored economy which ensures government expenditure in all spheres of social and economic life. It showcases govt as welfare oriented and care taker of its people. Much of the aspects in the country is nationalized with least scope for private ownership.

**2. Republic-** A form of government which is representative of its people and thus connotes people's power in their selection for governance prudently. **Secularism -** the concept of no preferential treatment to any religion vis a vis others. The state shall have no intervention in its policy of either appeasing or aggrandizing any religion or demeaning any such. The purpose behind is to give importance to all religions equally and unequivocally.

**Democratic -** rule of the people by the people and of the people. The prime authority of governance shall rest in the hands of the people accordingly who shall elect their temporary executives from their constituency for their interests and aspirations to be fulfilled.

**Liberty -** the word itself connotes to the freedom oriented values required by its citizens for a better living.

**Justice -** The word does have multiple ways of expression. Equal opportunities for all is possible in a just society. Justice as well means provisions in due by a citizen and once guaranteed or begotten ensures a just action. While perpetrators and violators of law do bring harm to the victims , the need is law takes it course of action justifiably against the perpetrators assuring the victim of safety and security in the hands of state machinery. An act duly expected on part of the state or other machineries for security provisions to its citizen lawfully without any further derailment shall ensure justice. Justice. Can be social.economic and political

Empowerment of women through panchayati system is both social and political justice. State intervention with appropriate policies if further cause an increase in employment opportunities is guaranting economic justice as it enhances the income and earning ability of each one.

## DAY-5

Equality - no preferential treatment to any one specific. Each one shall be considered equal and firstly a citizen of the state in lieu to the constitution. The identity of citizen shall ensure equal treatment of all under the purview of Rule of Law.

Fraternity - the concept of brotherhood and emotional affinity shall prevail ensuring relations of harmony and cordial nature am

### NOTES:-

#### Why should we believe our constitution?

Its sanctity and purified nature. Nothing of diluted or pervert nature.

The constitution is an outcome of intense discussion; negotiation ; and rational thinking by our leaders there then. When prepared by best think tank of the nation ensuring full accountability and transparency of the same; there is no reason not to believe.

Our constitution is not rigid but flexible enough to suit the dynamic state of the environment.

Thus if a country needs to maintain order; integrity and stability its necessary that inscribed laws of constitutional nature be enforced situation wise.

### VIDEO LINKS

<https://youtu.be/KGQ-Hn3hbKk>

<https://youtu.be/9tRcoBb6QD8>

### DOCUMENT LINKS

<https://byjus.com/ncert-solutions-class-8-social-science-civics-chapter-1-the-indian-constitution/>

[https://www.google.com/search?client=ms-android-samsung&source=android&sxsrf=ALeKk02Nch\\_CFJnTGqNggTnRx\\_QG-fVwEg%3A1587917985560&source=hp&ei=obSIXsCBILTDpgfJlaOYBw&q=the+india+n+constitution+class+8&oq=the+indian+&gs\\_lcp=ChFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdpei1ocBABGAAyBAgjECcyBQgAEIMBMgUILhCDATIFCAAQgwEyAggAMgIIADICCAyAggAOgcIIXDqAhAnOgIILjoCCAVQrBFY0ChggDJoAXAAeACAAfwEiAHLJ5IBCTItMS4zLjEuNpgBAKABAbABDw&sclient=mobile-gws-wiz-hp](https://www.google.com/search?client=ms-android-samsung&source=android&sxsrf=ALeKk02Nch_CFJnTGqNggTnRx_QG-fVwEg%3A1587917985560&source=hp&ei=obSIXsCBILTDpgfJlaOYBw&q=the+india+n+constitution+class+8&oq=the+indian+&gs_lcp=ChFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdpei1ocBABGAAyBAgjECcyBQgAEIMBMgUILhCDATIFCAAQgwEyAggAMgIIADICCAyAggAOgcIIXDqAhAnOgIILjoCCAVQrBFY0ChggDJoAXAAeACAAfwEiAHLJ5IBCTItMS4zLjEuNpgBAKABAbABDw&sclient=mobile-gws-wiz-hp)

## QUESTIONS:-

1. What is Preamble of the constitution?
  2. What is meant by Legality of the laws?
  3. What are Fundamental rights?
  4. What are the three organs of government?
  5. Nepal was declared a republic, democratic, and federal nation. What is meant by this?
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