**Historical development of Indian Constitution**

**Introduction**

We know that on 15th August, 1947 the British rule came to an end and after division; the authority was transferred to two sovereign countries, namely, India and Pakistan.

On 26th January, 1950, India adopted a Constitution and became a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic.

**Background of constitution during the British Period**

Among the many countries, the Portuguese were the first to visit India.

Gradually the Dutch, the French and the British merchants came in India and became the rivals of the Portuguese merchants.

The British came to India in 1600 as traders under the name of the East India Company. After defeating the rivals the British became rulers in India.

They followed a policy of conquest, annexation and consolidation in India. Initially, they were busy with trade and commerce only.

But, after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 the British Company took some active interest in the Political matters in India.

Their imperialistic approach to rule India became clear after the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

In this battle British defeated Siraj-Ud-Daulah, Nawab of Bengal.

The Battle of Buxar (1764) and the annexation of Punjab (1849) completed the task of British imperialism in India.

Thus, by the middle of 19th Century most of India was controlled by the British, either directly by the East India Company or through the system of treaties and alliances with the Princely States.

During this period certain measures of constitutional reforms were introduced.

During the reign of Warren Hastings, the Regulating Act (1773) and Pitts India Act (1784) were passed.

**Regulating Act (1773): The main provisions of this Act were:**

1. The Governor of Bengal was made the Governor General
2. The first man to be appointed to this post was Warren Hastings.
3. For the assistance of the Governor General an executive Committee of four members was created.
4. A Supreme Court was set up at Calcutta, with a Chief Justice and three assistant judges.
5. The number of the Directors of the Company was fixed at 24.

The Regulating Act initiated the process of centralization in India.

**Pitts India Act (1784)**

This Act introduced many significant changes in the Constitutional history of India.

The number of members of the Governor General‘s Committee was reduced to three and the Commander-in-Chief was to be one of them.

A special court was established for trial of the Company‘s officials in England for offences committed by them in India.

By this Act, the real power in India passed from the Directors of the Company to the British Indian Parliament.

The Regulating Act of 1773 made a provision that the Charter of the Company would be reviewed every 20 years.

Therefore, from time to time, Acts of 1793, 1813, 1833 and 1853 reviewed the Charter Act of the Company and brought about some changes here and there.

The first Law Commission was established after the Charter Act of 1833.

In 1958 British Indian Parliament passed the Indian Committee s Act of 1858 and with this the Rule of the East India Company was terminated and the power to govern India was transferred from the Company to the British Crown and India was to be governed by and in the name of Her Majesty‘ the queen of England.

Again, the British Indian Parliament passed the Indian councils Act of 1861.

This Act is very important in the Constitutional history of India because it has created devolutional system of administration in India.

The members the Governor-General‘s Executive Committee was increased from four to five.

The work of government was also distributed among its different members.

The Legislative members of the Bombay and Madras Government were restored.

The British Indian Parliament passed Indian Committees Act of 1892 and the principle of indirect election was introduced.

The elected members could ask questions and seek other

information from the Government.

**The Indian Committee Act 1909**

The Indian Committee Act of 1909 which is mostly known as Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 is a significant event in constitutional history of India.

**The significant provisions of this Act were:**

Enlargement of the size of the Central and Regional Legislative Committees.

i) The number of members was raised to 60 in central Legislature and the regional Legislative Committees were to consist 30 to 50 members.

ii) Powers and functions of the Central and Regional Committee s were also increased,

iii) Provision for the appointment of an Indian member in the Executive Committee of the Governor General

iv) Introduced the system of Communal representation.

**Government of India Act of 1919:** The British Indian Parliament passed the Government of India Act of 1919 which is also known as Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

The Act made many important changes in the Central and regional Government.

The Act introduced a bicameral legislature at the centre. The two Houses were- **Legislative Assembly** **(Lower House) and Committee of States (Upper House).**

The term of Legislative Assembly and Committee of States were five and three years respectively.

But the Governor-General could alter this term.

The powers and functions of both the Houses were also increased.

The number of Indian members in the Executive Committee of the Governor General was raised from one to three.

The system of direct election was introduced.

The Act made many changes in the regional Government too.

A system of Diarchy was introduced in the Provinces.

The subjects which were dealt with by the Regional Government were divided into two sets:

**Transferred and Reserved Subjects**.

The Governor administered the Reserved Subjects with the help of the Ministers chosen by him from the elected members of the legislature.

The Governor General could shift a subject from Transferred to Reserved Part.

The Act created two lists of Subjects (departments) and divided them into Central and Regional Governments.

The Central List included the subjects such as

Defence, Currency, Commerce, Commerce, Communication, Telegraph, Foreign Relations, Customs,

Civil and criminal law etc. were given to the Central Government.

On the other hand, the Regional List which were of regional interest such as Local-Self Government, Education, Public Works, Agriculture Public Health, Revenue, Irrigation, water Supplies etc. were given to the regional Government.

The Act created a post of a High Commissioner for India. The term of his office was six years.

The Act of 1919 was a significant landmark in the constitutional development of India which opened a new era of responsible Government.

**Government of India Act of 1935**

The British Indian Parliament passed the Government of India Act of 1935 which was so valuable and significant that most provisions of this Act were taken by the framers of the Indian Constitution.

The Act was a very lengthy written document. The Act proposed to form an All India Federation.

All the provinces were to be members of a federation.

The Government of India Act of 1935 provided a bicameral legislature at the Centre consisting of Central assembly (Lower House) and Committee of States (Upper House).

The total number of members of the Central Assembly were 375 (250 were elected by the people of British Provinces and 125 from Indian States).

The Committee of States consisted of 260 members (150 elected from the British Provinces, 104 nominated by the rulers of the States and 6 were nominated by the Governor- General).

The Act introduced Diarchy system at the Centre. The Central Subjects were divided into the Reserved and the Transferred subjects.

The Act provided Division of powers by creating Central list; Regional List, Concurrent List and also a provision for Residuary Subjects.

59 subjects were included in Central List consisting of Defense, Currency and Coinage, post and Telegraphs, Foreign Affairs etc.

Regional List included 54 subjects such as Police, Government of Justice, Education, Agriculture, Industry, Land revenue etc.

There were 36 subjects in Concurrent list. These were Newspaper and Printing Press, Marriage and Divorce, registration, Criminal Procedure Code etc.

The subjects which were not included in any of the above lists were residuary subjects. They were looked after by the Governor General.

The Act established a Central Court at Delhi. Central Court was to decide inter-state disputes and heard appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.

The system of Dyarchy was replaced by the Regional autonomy in the Provinces.

The Act introduced a bicameral legislature (viz, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Committee) in six out of total eleven provinces. These six provinces were- Bengal, Bihar, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Madras and Assam.

Rest five Provinces Punjab, Central Provinces, Orissa, and North-West Frontier Provinces (N.W.F.P.) and Sind were to have Legislative Assembly only.

The Legislative Committee was the Upper Chamber and the Legislative Assembly was the Lower Chamber.

The Legislative Committee was to be a permanent body and one third of its members were to retire every three years.

The members of the Legislative Assembly were elected for five years. Governor was the executive head of the Provinces.

The India Committee of the Secretary of State for India was replaced by an Advisory Committee.

A Central Public Service Commission was established.

**The Cripps Mission**

The Second World War started in 1939 and Great Britain was fully involved in this war.

In 1942, the Cripps Mission was sent to India from Great Britain under the leadership of Sir Stafford Cripps.

The Cripps Mission provided some proposals to Indian people.

**Some of them are:**

After the Second World War, dominion status would be granted to India.

ii) For framing a Constitution for India, an elected body would be set up in India, after war.

iii) The Indian states would also participate in the Constitution making body.

iv) The British Government was to accept the Constitution so framed. But a Province or a Princely State

may or may not accept it. The Provinces were given a right to finalize their Constitution in consultation with the British Government.

v) The Princely States would have the freedom to join Indian Union.

vi) During the World war and until the new constitution was framed, India would remain under the control of Her Majesty‘s Government.

But the Cripps proposals were rejected by almost all the Parties and sections in India on different grounds.

The Indian National Congress, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and Sikhs rejected the Cripps Proposal.

**The Cabinet Mission Plan**

The appointment of Cabinet Mission Plan was another significant step approved by the British Government in the process of Constitutional development. The chief proposals of Cabinet Mission Plan were -

i) To form a Union of India consisting of British Provinces and Indian States.

ii) To establish a Constituent Assembly having 389 members.

iii) An interim Government with fourteen representatives of the major Political Parties.

Initially, the Congress accepted the proposals but the Muslim League under the leadership of Md. Ali Zinnah rejected the proposals and left the Interim Government.

The Muslim League observed Direct Action Day‘on August 16, 1946. On that Hindu Muslim clashes and riots took place in various parts of the Country.

Disagreement and conflict between the Congress and Muslim League continued.

Now, Lord Mountbatten proposed a plan to Divide India into two parts- India and Pakistan. The Congress and Muslim League accepted the plan.

Based on Mountbatten plan, the British Indian Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act on July 18, 1947 and ultimately; in August 15, 1947 India became an independent State.

According to the proposals of cabinet Mission Plan, a Constituent Assembly was framed as a representative body.

It was accepted that the constituent Assembly would act as the Dominion Legislature until the Constitution was framed and India was administered according to the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 with some necessary modifications.

**Constituent Assembly**

* The Constitution was drafted by the Constituent Assembly, which was elected by the elected members of the provincial assemblies.
* Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Sanjay Phakey, Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Kanaiyalal Munshi, Purushottam Mavalankar, Sandipkumar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Nalini Ranjan Ghosh, and Balwantrai Mehta were some important figures in the Assembly.
* Frank Anthony represented the Anglo-Indian community, and the Parsis were represented by H. P. Modi. The Chairman of the Minorities Committee was Harendra Coomar Mookerjee, a distinguished Christian who represented all Christians other than Anglo-Indians. Ari Bahadur Gururng represented the Gorkha Community. Prominent jurists like Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, Benegal Narsing Rau and K. M. Munshi, Ganesh Mavlankar were also members of the Assembly. Sarojini Naidu, Hansa Mehta, Durgabai Deshmukh, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Vijayalakshmi Pandit were important women members.
* The members of the Constituent Assembly met for the first time on 9 December 1946.
* The Constitution of India is the supreme law of [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India).
* It is a living document, an instrument which makes the government system work
* It lays down the framework, defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions.
* It is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world,
* It contains 12 schedules, 25 parts, 448 articles and 5 appendices.
* Besides the English version, there is an official Hindi translation.
* The Constitution follows [parliamentary system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) of government and the [executive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government)) is directly accountable to the [legislature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature).
* It also states that there shall be a [President of India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_India) and a [Vice-President of India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice-President_of_India) under Articles 52 and 63.
* Unlike the Prime Minister, the President largely performs ceremonial roles.
* The Constitution of India is [federal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism) in nature but [unitary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) in spirit.
* The common features of a federation are  *written*[*Constitution*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution)*, supremacy of Constitution, rigidity of Constitution, two government,*[*division of powers*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers)*,*[*bicameralism*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameralism)*and independent*[*judiciary*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary_of_India).
* The unitary features like *single Constitution, single*[*citizenship*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_nationality_law)*, integrated judiciary, flexible Constitution, a strong* [*Centre*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India)*, appointment of*[*state governor*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governors_of_states_of_India)*by the Centre,*[*All-India Services*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_India_Services)*,*[*Emergency Provisions*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_provisions_of_the_Constitution_of_India)*etc* can be seen in Indian Constitution.
* This unique combination makes it Quasi-Federal in form.
* Each state and each [Union territory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_territory) of India has its own government.
* Analogues to President and Prime Minister, each has a [Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governors_of_states_of_India) (in case of states) or [Lieutenant Governor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant_governor) (in the case of Union territories) and a [Chief Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Minister_(India)).
* The 73rd and 74th Amendment Act also introduced the system of [Panchayati Raj](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panchayati_raj) in rural areas and [Municipality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagar_Palika) in urban areas.
* Also, [Article 370](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Article_370) of the Constitution gives special status to the State of [Jammu and Kashmir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir).
* The Constitution declares India to be a [sovereign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign), [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist), [secular](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular), [democratic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic), assuring its citizens of [justice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justice), [equality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_before_the_law), and [liberty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty), and endeavors to promote [fraternity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraternity) among them.
* The words "socialist" and "secular" were added to the definition in 1976 by the 42nd constitutional amendment (mini constitution).
* India celebrates the adoption of the constitution on 26 January each year as [Republic Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_Day_(India)).
* 26 November 1949 is also known as National Law Day.
* It consists of almost 80,000 words and took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to build.

**Previous Legislations as Source**

* The Constitution of India is drawn from many sources. Keeping in mind the needs and conditions of India the framers of the Constitution of India borrowed different features freely from previous legislation.
* [Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr._Bhimrao_Ramji_Ambedkar) is widely regarded as the architect of the Indian Constitution.
* The Constitution was adopted by the India [Constituent Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constituent_Assembly_of_India) on 26 November 1949, and came into effect on 26 January 1950.
* The date of 26 January was chosen to commemorate the [Purna Swaraj declaration of independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purna_Swaraj) of 1930.
* Before it India was governed by the [Government of India Act 1935](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India_Act_1935) which was considered as the as the country's fundamental governing document.

**Important features of Indian Constitutional Law**

The Constitution of India has some important features as compared to other constitutions to the globe.

As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee puts it; the framers had tried to accommodate the best features of other constitutions, keeping in view the odd problems and needs of India.

The following are the salient features of the Constitution of India.

**1 Longest written constitution**

Indian Constitution can be called the largest written constitution in the globe because of its provisions.

In its original form, it consisted of 395 Articles and 8 Schedules to which additions have been made through

Subsequent changes.

At present it contains 395 Articles and 12 Schedules, and more than 80 changes.

There are a variety of factors responsible for the lengthy size of the constitution.

One major factor was that the framers of the constitution borrowed provisions from several sources and several other constitutions of the globe.

They have followed and reproduced the Government of India Act 1935 in providing matters of governmental detail.

Secondly, it was necessary to make provisions for odd problems of India like SC/ST/OBC.

Thirdly, provisions were made for elaborate centre-state relations in all aspects of their governmental and other activities.

Fourthly, the size of the constitution became bulky, as provisions regarding the state government were also included.

Further, a detail list of individual rights, directive principles of state policy and the details of government procedure were laid down to make the Constitution clear and unambiguous for the common citizen.

Thus, the Constitution of India became an exhaustive and lengthy one.

**2 Partly inflexible and Partly Flexible**

The Constitution of India is neither purely inflexible nor purely flexible. There is a harmonious blend of inflexibleity and flexibility.

The common law-making process by Indian Parliament can amend some parts of the Constitution.

Certain provisions can be amended, only when a Bill for that purpose is passed in each house of Indian Parliament by a majority of the total membership of that house and by a majority of not less than two-third of the members of that house present and voting.

Then there are certain other provisions, which can be amended by the second method, described above and are ratified by the legislatures of not less than one-half of the states before being presented to the President for his assent.

It must also be noted that the power to initiate bills for amendment lies in Indian Parliament alone, and not in the state legislatures.

Pundit Nehru expressed in the Constituent Assembly, "While we want the Constitution to be as solid and permanent as we can make it, there is no permanence in Constitution. There should be certain flexibility.

If you make anything inflexible and permanent, you stop the nation‘s growth, the growth of a living, vital organic people."

**3. A Democratic Republic**

India is a democratic republic. It means that sovereignty rests with the people of India.

They govern themselves through their representative‘s elected based on universal adult franchise.

The President of India, the highest official of the state is elected for a fixed term.

Although, India is a sovereign republic, yet it continues to be a member of the Commonwealth of Nations with the British Monarch as its head.

Her membership of the Commonwealth does not compromise her position as a sovereign republic.

The common wealth is an association of free and independent nations. The British Monarch is only a symbolic head of that association.

**4. Indian Parliamentary System of Government**

India has adopted the Indian Parliamentary system as found in Britain.

In this system, the executive is responsible to the legislature, and remains in power only as long and it enjoys the confidence of the Indian Parliament.

The president of India, who remains in office for five years, is the nominal, titular or constitutional head.

The Union Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head is drawn from the elected representatives.

It is collectively responsible to the House of People (Lok Sabha), and has to resign as soon as it loses the confidence of that house.

The President, the nominal executive shall exercise his powers according to the advice of the Union Council of Ministers, who is the real executive.

In the states also, the government is Indian Parliamentary in nature.

**5. A Federation**

Article 1 of the Constitution of India says: - "India that is Bharat shall be a Union of States." Though the

word 'Federation' is not used, the government is federal. A state is federal when (a) there are two sets of

Governments and there is distribution of powers between the two, (b) there is a written constitution, which is the supreme law of the land and (c) there is an independent judiciary to interpret the constitution and settle disputes between the centre and the states.

All these features are present in India. There are two sets of government, one at the centre, the other at state level and the distribution of powers between them is quite detailed in our Constitution. The Constitution of India is written and the supreme law of the land. At the apex of single integrated judicial system, stands the Supreme Court which is independent from the control of the executive and the legislature.

But in spite of all these essential features of a federation, Indian Constitution has an unmistakable unitary tendency. While other federations like U.S.A. provide for dual citizenship, the India Constitution provides for single citizenship. There is also a single integrated judiciary for the whole country.

The provision of All India Services, like the Indian Governmental Service, the India Police Service, and Indian Forest Service prove another unitary feature.

Members of these services are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission on an All-India basis. Because these services are controlled by Union Government, to some extent this constitutes a constraint on the autonomy of states.

A significant unitary feature is the Emergency provisions in the Indian constitution.

During the time of emergency, the Union Government becomes most powerful and the Union Indian Parliament acquires the power of making laws for the states. The Governor placed as the constitutional head of the state, acts as the agent of the centre and is intended to safeguard the interests of the centre. These provisions reveal the centralizing tendency of our federation.

Prof: K.C. Wheare has rightly remarked that Indian Constitution provides, "a system of government which is quasi-federal, a unitary state with the subsidiary unitary features".

The framers of the constitution expressed clearly that there exists the harmony of federalism and the unitarism.

Dr. Ambedkar said, "The political system adopted in the Constitution could be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirement of time and circumstances". We can say that India has a "Cooperative

Federalism" with central guidance and state compliance.

**6 Fundamental Rights**

"A state is known by the rights it maintains", remarked Prof. H.J. Laski.

The constitution of India affirms the basic principle that every individual is entitled to enjoy certain basic rights and part III of the Constitution deals with those rights which are known as fundamental rights.

Originally there were seven categories of rights, but now they are six in number. They are

(i) Right to equality, (ii) Right to freedom,

(iii) Right against exploitation, (IV) Right to freedom of Religion, V) Cultural and Educational rights and

vi) Right to constitutional remedies.

Right to property (Article-31) originally a fundamental right has been omitted by the 44th Amendment Act. 1978.

It is now a legal right.

These fundamental rights are justiciable and the individual can move the higher judiciary that is the Supreme Court or the High Courts, if there is an encroachment on any of these rights. The right to move to the Supreme Court straight for the enforcement of fundamental rights has been guaranteed under

Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies).

However, fundamental rights in India are not absolute.

Reasonable restrictions can be imposed keeping in view the security-requirements of the state.

**7. Directive Principles of State Policy**

A novel feature of the Constitution is that it contains a chapter in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

These principles are in the nature of directives to the government to implement them for establishing social and economic democracy in the country.

It embodies important principles like adequate means to livelihood, equal pay for both men and women, distribution of wealth so as to serve the common good, free and compulsory primary education, right to work, public assistance in case of old age, unemployment, sickness and disablement, the organization of village Panchayats, special care to the economically back ward sections of the people etc.

Most of these principles could help in making India welfare state.

Though not justiciable, these principles have been stated a; "fundamental in the governance of the country".

**8. Fundamental Duties**

A new part IV (A) after the Directive Principles of State Policy was incorporated in the constitution by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 for fundaments duties.

These duties are:

i) To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

ii) To cherish and follow the noble ideals, which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

iii) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

iv) To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

v) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of woman;

vi) To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

vii) To protect and improve the natural environments including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures;

viii) To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;

ix) To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;

x) To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of Endeavour and achievement.

The purpose of incorporating these duties in the Constitution is just to remind the people that while enjoying their right as citizens, should also perform their duties for rights and duties are correlative.

**9. Secular State**

A secular state is neither religious nor irreligious, or anti-religious. Rather it is quite neutral in matters of religion. India being a land of many religions, the founding fathers of the Constitution thought it proper to make it a secular state.

India is a secular state, because it makes no discrimination between individuals on the basis of religion. Neither it encourages nor discourages any religion. On the contrary, right to freedom of religion is ensured in the Constitution and people belonging to any religious group have the right to profess, practice or propagate any religion they like.

**10. An Independent Judiciary**

The judiciary occupies an important place in our Constitution and it is also made independent of the legislature and the executive.

The Supreme Court of India stands at the apex of single integrated judicial system. It acts as protector of fundamental rights of Indian citizens and guardian of the Constitution.

If any law passed by the legislature or action taken by the executive contravenes the provisions of the Constitution, they can be declared as null and void by the Supreme Court. Thus, it has the power of judicial review.

But judicial review in India constitutes a middle path between the American judicial supremacy in one hand and British Indian Parliamentary supremacy in the other.

**11. Single Citizenship**

The Constitution of India recognizes only single citizenship.

In the United States, there is provision of dual citizenship.

In India, we are citizens of India only, not of the respective states to which we belong.

This provision would help in promoting unity and integrity of the nation.