

Polity Class 05

24th May, 2023 at 9:00 AM

REVISION OF THE PREVIOUS CLASS (09:07 AM)

REASONS FOR ADOPTING FEDERALISM IN INDIA (09:10 AM)

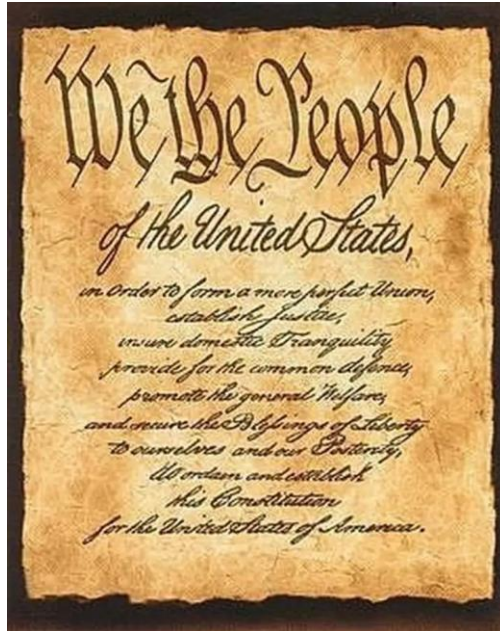
- Indian Constitution to a large extent is based on the Government of India Act, 1935 which itself was **federal in nature**.
- India possesses a rich diversity of languages, religions, ethnicity, etc which could not have been accommodated in a unitary setup.
- Federalism brings the Government closer to the people and ensures **deeper participation of the citizens** in governance processes.
- It ensures greater accountability of the government to the citizens due to reasons of proximity.

PREAMBLE (09:42 PM)

- It gives us an idea of what we can expect after reading our Constitution.
- **"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a 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 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."**

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- The preamble to a Constitution is similar to a preface in a book.
- In other words, it is a text attached at the beginning of the Constitution to give an idea to the readers about the **principles and the provisions of the Constitution.**
- It is based on the **objectives resolution** tabled in the Assembly in 1946 which guided the Constituent Assembly in writing the Constitution.
- The Preamble was the last to be written but was attached at the beginning of the Constitution.
- **Significance of the Preamble:**
- It tells us about the **source of the power and the authority** for writing the Constitution.
- It tells us about the nature of the Indian state.
- It tells us about the objective of the Constitution.
- It provides us with a summary of the Constitution and gives us an insight into the philosophy of the Constitution.
- It unveils the mindset of the makers of the Constitution.
- **"We the people of India":**
- It signifies that the Constitution has been written by the Indian citizens.
- It tells us that Indians are free to choose their destiny and hold the ultimate source of power for writing the Constitution.

- Read along with the last sentence, it signifies that the Constitution has not been imposed on us by an external authority.
- In fact, it is a gift from the Indian citizens to themselves.



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- The image shows the Preamble of the US Constitution.
- The Preamble tells us about the **nature of the Indian State**.
- **Two models of democracy:**
- **Monarchy model of democracy:**
 - The head of the state is non-elected e.g. a king/queen or essentially someone who acquired this position hereditarily.
 - The head of the state is chosen on the basis of **lineage** but does not have real power.
 - For example, the UK, Australia, Japan, Netherlands, etc.
- **Republican model of democracy:**
 - The head of the state is elected e.g. in India & the USA, the head of state is a President who is elected.
 - India is a democratic republic.
 - India also chose a democratic model of Government in which the powers are exercised based on the wishes of the people.
 - Democracies may also be categorised into:

- **Direct and representative democracy:**
- A direct democracy is one in which the citizens directly participate in decision-making.
- Some of the tools of direct democracy in modern times include:
- **Referendum:**
- The Government may seek the opinion of the people on some important political issue.
- **Plebiscite:**
- It allows the seeking of the opinion of the citizens on matters of **sovereignty and independence**.
- **Citizens' initiative:**
- The citizens can initiate a move to introduce a law.
- **Recall:**
- It involves the recall of elected candidates by the citizens.
- Indian Constitution makers by providing voting rights to all citizens above a certain age brought democracy to life in India.
- There are multiple aspects of democracy:
- **1. Political Democracy:**
- It means equal voting and political rights for all citizens.
- **2. Economic Democracy:**
- All the citizens shall have equal opportunities to progress in the economic sphere and there shall be no distinction on the basis of one's economic status.
- **3. Social Democracy:**
- All the sections of the society must be equal in the social sphere and there should not be any discrimination on the basis of the social background of a person.
- **Sardar Patel believes that** political democracy cannot survive without social and economic democracy.

- **Challenges to Indian Democracy:**

- 1. Often the policies of the Government are influenced by corporate houses and tech companies rather than the wishes of the people.
- 2. the compromised independence of media is a major threat to democracy considering its role in the formation of opinion and holding the Government **accountable to the citizens**.
- **3. Increased role of money and muscle power** in the elections.
- For example, a study by **Association for Democratic Reforms** highlighted that the **winnability of candidates** with a criminal record is higher in the elections.
- Elections are solely contested on the basis of the economic power a person possesses which means there are no equal opportunities to participate in political processes.
- 4. Lack of **internal party democracy** which is a major concern associated with **electoral democracy in India**.

INDIA SHALL BE A SOVEREIGN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (11:49 AM)

- **Sovereignty** means **freedom from any external control**.
- Sovereignty has two aspects:
- **1. External Sovereignty:**
- A country is free from **external control** in the area of **foreign diplomacy and international relations**.
- India has full power to decide whether it should be part or not of some **multilateral grouping** or the way it should vote at various international forums.
- **2. Internal Sovereignty:**
- Internal or **domestic sovereignty** on the other hand implies the powers of the state to take decisions related to the **internal matters of the nation**.
- For example, we are free to make laws, schemes, and programs and decide upon their execution.
- In today's day and age, **Complete Sovereignty is a myth** as both domestic and foreign policies of a nation are regulated according to **international norms** and institutions such as WTO, IMF, UNSC, World Bank, etc.
- For example, the decision of the Indian state to open up its economy was guided according to the IMF guidelines/regulations.

The topic to be discussed in the next class-Continuation of the topic of the Preamble.