

Assignment for Unit - 3

- ① A detailed note on: "Proposing and Defending Constitutional Amendments, fostering Critical thinking about Societal Needs".

The constitution of India is a dynamic document, designed to evolve with the needs of society. Constitutional amendments are essential tools that enable this evolution. These amendments are proposed and enacted to rectify legal loopholes, address socio-political demands, or adapt to emerging realities.

→ Proposing Amendments:

Under Article 368, amendments can be initiated in either House of Parliament. They require a special majority - i.e., a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, and a majority of the total membership. In some cases, ratification by at least half of the state legislatures is also needed, especially for matters

affecting federal features (like representation of states or powers of the President).

→ Defending Amendments :

Once proposed, amendments often undergo intense scrutiny and debate, both in parliament and the public sphere. Defending these proposals requires strong reasoning, constitutional backing, and societal consensus. For instance, amendments related to reservation policies or changes in election laws often spark diverse public reactions.

Defenders must present historical context, data, and alignment with democratic principles to support the change.

→ Fostering Critical Thinking :

Every constitutional amendment encourages citizens to reflect on societal values. For example, the 42nd Amendment (1976), which introduced the words "Socialist" and "Secular" to the Preamble, sparked debates about India's

ideological direction, such moments foster critical thinking, enabling society to question:

- Are our laws inclusive?
- Is the amendment promoting justice & equality?
- How will future generations be affected?

thus, the amendment process is not just a legal mechanism but a democratic dialogue about India's path forward.

②

Essay: "The Principles Outlined in the Preamble - Their Relevance Today."

The Preamble of India highlights Justice, liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. These core principles guide the nation's democratic structure.

- Justice ensures fair treatment in society, law, and economy.
- Liberty allows freedom of speech, religion, and thought. Today, it is crucial for media freedom and peaceful protests.

- Equality supports non-discrimination, despite progress, caste and gender biases still need attention.
- Fraternity promotes unity and brotherhood, essential in a diverse country like India.

These ideals remain relevant, reminding us of our shared responsibility to build an inclusive and fair society.

③ Case study: Right to Privacy (2017) - K.S. Puttaswamy Case

In this landmark case, the Supreme Court declared the Right to Privacy a Fundamental Right under Article 21.

The challenge was against Aadhar's biometric data collection. The court ruled that privacy is essential to personal liberty.

Impact:

- Strengthened citizen's digital rights.

- Affected laws on data protection and freedom of choice.

This case shows how the judiciary protects our rights in a changing technological world.

④ fundamental Duties - History & Today's Relevance,

Fundamental Duties were added in 1976 (42nd Amendment) during the emergency inspired by socialist nations. Initially 10, now there are 11 duties under Article 51A.

They include:

- Respecting the constitution.
- Protecting the environment
- Promoting harmony.
- Ensuring child education (added in 2002).

Though not legally enforceable, they encourage citizens to act responsibly. In today's society, where people demand rights, these duties remind us to contribute positively to the nation.

Assignment for unit - 4

① Advanced Urban Planning in the Indus Valley v/s Modern City Planning.

- Indus valley cities (like Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa) had grid layouts, drainage systems, public baths, and planned streets - highly advanced for their time (~ 2500 BCE).
- Houses had wells, toilets, and were built with uniform bricks.
- Modern cities also use grid planning, zoning, and focus on sanitation and public services.
- Comparison: While modern planning uses technology (like smart cities), the Indus system showed similar logic in water management, waste disposal, and organized living.

② Evolution of the Vedic Caste System.

- Early Vedic Period: Society had 4 varnas (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra), based on work and qualities, not birth.
- Later Vedic Period: Varna became rigid and hereditary; social mobility reduced.
- Over time, many sub-castes (jatis) emerged.
- Today, the caste system is legally abolished but still affects social structure, especially in rural areas.

③ Status and Roles of Women in Vedic Civilization.

- Early Vedic Era: Women had rights to education, could attend assemblies, and were respected (eg - Gargi, Maitreyi).

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- * Later Vedic Period: Decline in freedom in patriarchy rose, practices like child marriage and restrictions increased.
- * Overall: Initially progressive but became conservative over time.