



We have Sarpanch at village level, Chairman at mandal, Zilla Parishad Chairman at district, Chief Minister at state and Prime Minister at national level. They serve to meet the needs and necessities of the people. All these people discharge their duties following some rules and regulations. These rules and regulations are written in a book called the 'Indian Constitution'. The citizens of India should follow the rules written in the constitution. Our constitution was written after we got independence from British colonial rule. It was developed under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He was the first President of independent India.

Think and answer

- ♦ What is independence? When did our country get independence? How was our country before independence? How were the people?

When we achieved independence in the year 1947, our leaders decided to write down all the rules and regulations to govern the country, and rights and duties to be given to the citizens, in the form of a book. They conducted many meetings with intellectuals and discussed all the issues in detail. A Drafting Committee was formed and Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar was appointed as its Chairman. The members of the committee examined the constitutions of the various countries of the world and framed a constitution for us. It came into force on 26th January, 1950. From that day, our country is being ruled according to the Indian constitution and 26th January is celebrated as Republic Day every year.

The rules as well as, citizen's rights and duties have been written down in the constitution. We have a provision for changing the rules of our constitution. When people accept the demand for changes then the constitution can be amended. Ours is the biggest written constitution in the world. Some countries like Britain have no written constitution at all.

Think and say

- ♦ What is the greatness of the Indian constitution?
- ♦ What did Dr. Ambedkar give to the country?

Do you know?

While Dr. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, other intellectuals such as Gopala Swamy Ayyengar, Alladi Krishna Swamy Ayyar, K.M. Munshi, Syed Mohammed Sadullah, N. Madhava Rao, P.T. Krishnama Charyulu etc., were some of the members. It took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to write the Constitution.

15.2. Preamble to the Indian Constitution

Our constitution starts with a preamble. This is an introduction or a foreword to the constitution and gives information about the objectives of our nation. Preamble is the heart of the constitution.



Subs. by the Constitution [Forty-second Amendment] Act, 1976, Sec.2, for “Sovereign Democratic Republic” (w.e.f. 03.01.1977)

Subs. by the Constitution [Forty-second Amendment] Act, 1976, Sec.2, for “Unity of the Nation” (w.e.f. 03.01.1977)

Group work



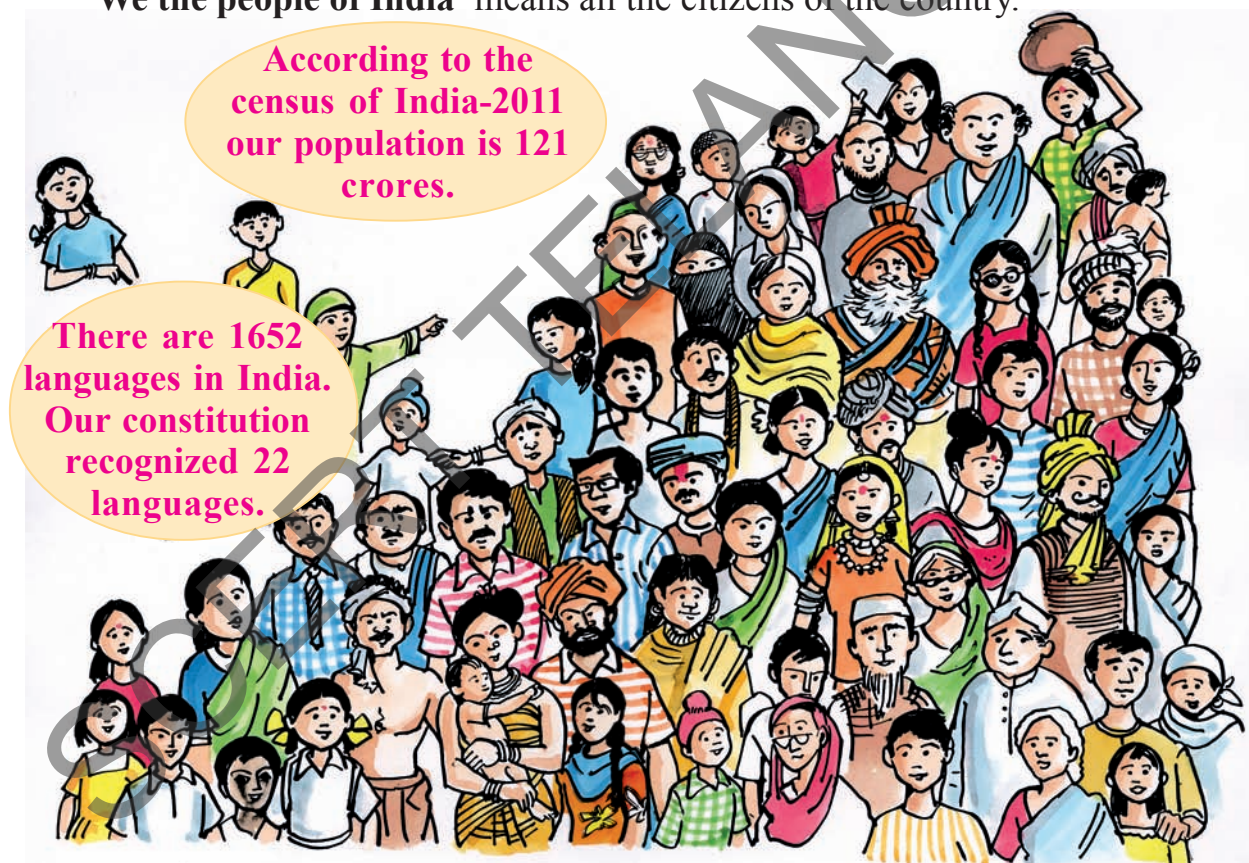
- ◆ You have read the preamble of the Indian Constitution. What did you understand?
- ◆ What are the great words written in it? Why do you feel they are great?
- ◆ The preamble of the Indian constitution is considered great. Why?
- ◆ What new words in the preamble have you come across?

15.3. Terms of the preamble and their concepts

Let us read the preamble of the Indian constitution to know why it is great, what message it gives, its key terms and their meanings.

15.3.1. We the people of India means...

'We the people of India' means all the citizens of the country.



15.3.2. Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic state means...

We have taken a collective decision to make our country a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic state and included these words in our preamble.

Sovereign means we can take our own decisions regarding our country. No other country will be allowed to get involved in the decision making process of our country. But we maintain good relations with other countries for trading, education etc., and sign agreements.

Socialist means involving all the people of the country in production and wealth creation processes and enjoying the wealth equally. Everyone should share wealth. Everyone should have equal opportunities to get sufficient food, to live a healthy life, to go to school, not to be discriminated and receive all the facilities. We all should work for this equality and help others. We should always think that our welfare lies in the welfare of the others.



Let us share what we have with us



Everyone should be able to go to school

Everyone should be given sufficient food

Everyone should live healthily



Everyone should have a safe home



Doctors should be available to all

Secular means all religions are looked upon as equal. Equal respect is given to all religions and beliefs. Government does not give prominence to any single religion. Every citizen is given freedom to practice the religion he/she likes. Government is not formed on the basis of religion.

In India, 80% of the population is Hindus. Muslims are 13% and Christians 2%. The remaining are Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains etc; The religions like Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism were born in India. Buddhism spread to other countries from here.

Democratic Republic Country means the representatives elected by the people rule the country. There are no kings or queens. The representatives elected by the people run the government. The government formed, of the people, by the people and for the people is called a democratic form of government. For this the people cast their vote and elect the leaders.

We should elect the people who work for us and who are good and selfless. These elected people run the government according to the rules written in the constitution and protect the commoners. They should always think about the welfare of everyone. They should meet the masses and try to know their condition. They should feel that helping people is their most important job.

Group work



- ◆ You have read about socialism. Do all the people of our country get opportunity to enjoy the wealth equally? What is your opinion?
- ◆ 'All religions are treated equal in our country. Everyone should respect the others'. What should we do to promote this idea?
- ◆ What is a government? Why should we elect good people as leaders?
- ◆ What is a law? Who makes the laws?

Do you know?

The leaders we elect make laws. These laws are made in the Parliament. The Parliament has two houses namely, The Rajya Sabha and The Lok Sabha. People elect 543 members to the Lok Sabha by casting votes for them. Two members are nominated without elections. 233 members are elected to the Rajya Sabha. 12 members are nominated by the President. The total number of members in the Parliament is 790.

Our state has a Legislative Assembly and a Legislative Council. 119 members are elected to Legislative Assembly. They are called the 'Members of Legislative Assembly' (M.L.A.). 40 members are elected to the Legislative Council. They are called 'Member of Legislative Council' (M.L.C.).

In our country, the people who are above 18 years of age have the right to vote. He / she can cast his / her vote as per his wish for a candidate contesting in the elections.

Think and say

- ◆ People below the age of 18 years are not given the Right to Vote. Why?
- ◆ Who is your M.L.A.? Has he/she ever visited your school or village? Why?

15.3.3. Equal justice to all - Social, Economical and Political Justice

All citizens are treated equal in terms of receiving education, implementation of laws, honour, dignity, opportunities, enjoying rights, receiving benefits, health facilities etc.

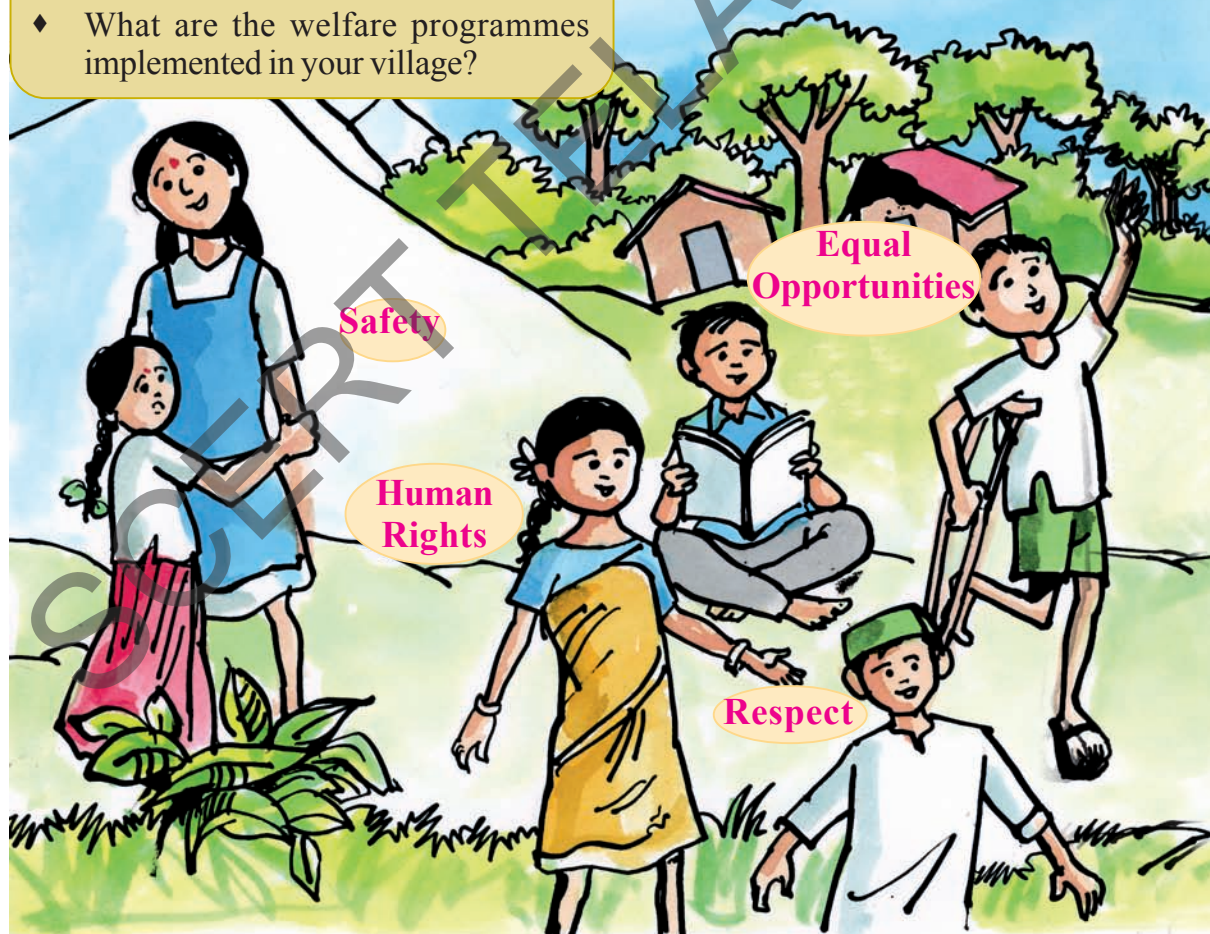
There should be no discrimination on the basis of gender, religions, castes, etc. All should be respected and treated as equals. Everyone should get equal opportunities of education and employment.

Think and say

- ♦ Why should we not discriminate between boys and girls or male and female?
- ♦ What is meant by 'treating all the people equal'?
- ♦ Do the people of your class or home or village treat every one equally?
- ♦ Is everyone given equal opportunities? What should be done to achieve this?
- ♦ What are the welfare programmes implemented in your village?

15.3.4. Equality

Every one should be treated equally irrespective of their race, caste, language, religion etc. Every one should be given equal respect. Both men and women should be given equal respect, equal opportunities and equal health facilities. Every one should have a chance to better life and to better developmental opportunities.



15.3.5. Freedom of Thoughts, Expression, Faith, Practice and Worship

The constitution provides freedom to us in many ways. They are: Freedom of speech, freedom of writing, freedom of visiting places any where in India without fear, freedom of residing at a place without fear, freedom of choosing friends, freedom of practicing the religion we like etc. We can study any course we like. The constitution sanctions our freedom until no harm is done to others.

Group work

- ♦ How do you utilise the freedom of speech?
- ♦ How should we use the right to freedom without causing harm to others?
- ♦ Do you think that you have freedom? What are the different freedoms you enjoy? What are the different freedoms you have lost?
- ♦ Do you ask questions freely in your class and school? What do you do for that?



15.3.6. Developing Self Respect, National Integration and Universal Brotherhood

According to our Constitution, everyone should receive equal respect. Many people live in our society. Do we respect all in the same way or do we respect some people more than others? Some people are never respected at all, think...

Do This



Look at the following table. Particulars of some people in the society are given below. Fill in the particulars regarding the extent to which they are respected put a (✓) mark.

| Sl.No. | People of the society | Respect and honour they receive | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|-----------|
| | | High | More | Less | Very Less |
| 1 | House maids | | | | |
| 2 | Poor people | | | | |
| 3 | Illiterates | | | | |
| 4 | Students | | | | |
| 5 | Engineers | | | | |
| 6 | Teachers | | | | |
| 7 | Senior citizens | | | | |
| 8 | Doctors | | | | |
| 9 | Sarpanches | | | | |
| 10 | Rich people | | | | |

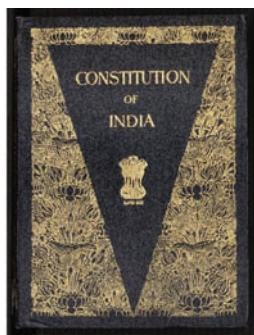
You have marked for different people. Your friends might also have marked. Who is respected the most? Who is respected the least? What did you understand from this?

We all should live as members of a single family with affection, like brothers and sisters. Everyone should be responsible and cooperate with one another. Everyone should strive together for the development of our country, irrespective of religion, language, culture, etc. Our country should be strengthened unitedly through its unity in diversity.

Brotherhood means living like brothers and sisters. All Indians should lead their lives as brothers and sisters of a family with affection towards every one. They should help one another and live together. Though languages, religions and food habits are different, we all should live together as Indians.

Think and say

- ♦ What is meant by brotherhood? What do you do to live amicably with others?
- ♦ Which language do you speak? Are there any people in your class, school and village who speak other languages? Which language do you speak to them? Do you want to learn other languages? Why should you learn them?



The Written Constitution was accepted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949. All the members of the Constituent Assembly signed it on 24th January, 1950, and we started ruling ourselves according to the accepted constitution from 26th January 1950. That is why every year 26th January is celebrated as the Republic Day. This is our National Festival. Our National flag is hoisted in each and every village, institution, school and office on this day.



We should understand and follow our constitution. We should see that all are happy. The constitution has given freedom and equal opportunities to all the children for education, health and development. We should respect and practice it.

But, in reality some children don't get proper food. Some do not get the opportunity to attend school. They have to work as child labourers. All the children are not healthy. Think, why? If all the children don't get a chance to lead a healthy life and go to school then, the right to equality, justice, freedom will remain unfulfilled. Hence, we should make the lives of all the people better by being sincere and fair. We should protect the environment, plant trees and conserve them. Show affection and be kind to animals and birds. Give them food. Protect them. Protect the environment, lakes, hills, rivers, tanks and forests, and do not pollute them. We must follow the principle, 'practice before we preach'.

15.4. Rights and Duties

The Indian Constitution has given us some rights and duties. The various rights given are : right to work, right to freedom of speech, right to freedom of religion, right against exploitation, right to vote, right to education, right to establish societies. Similarly, the constitution has given us certain duties also.

Fundamental duties

- a) Respecting the Constitution, National Flag and National Anthem.
- b) Cherishing the noble ideals of the freedom struggle.
- c) Upholding and protecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- d) Defending the country and rendering national service when called for.
- e) Promoting harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India and renouncing any practice derogatory to the dignity of women.
- f) Preserving the rich heritage of the nation's composite culture.
- g) Protecting and improving the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life.
- h) Developing scientific attitude, humanity, spirit of inquiry and reforms.
- i) Safeguarding public property and abjuring violence.
- j) Striving for excellence in all individual and collective activities.

Group work

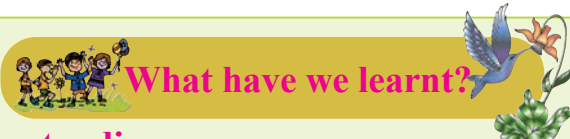


- ♦ What rights do you enjoy? What rights you have been denied?
- ♦ What should we do to practice the fundamental duties?
- ♦ What is discrimination?

Some people are subjected to discrimination which means not everyone can enjoy all the rights. Not receiving equal respect, denial of freedom, non-recognition, prohibition from educational opportunities etc, comes under discrimination. But, this should not happen. Everyone should be able to enjoy all the rights and everyone should develop well as far as possible.

Keywords

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| constitution | socialism | republic state |
| constituent assembly | secularism | freedom, equality |
| preamble / foreword | democracy | brotherhood |



1. Conceptual Understanding

- What is meant by Constitution? Who framed it?
- Write any 4 aspects of the Preamble.
- Write reasons for why people need freedom.
- What are your rights and duties?

2. Questioning and Hypothesis

- ◆ Frame any 5 questions on the Preamble of the Constitution.

3. Experiments - Field Observations

- ◆ The Constitution has provided freedom and equality to us. Observe your village/city and find out whether anybody from your villages / city is not receiving the freedom and equality granted to us by the Constitution.

4. Information Skills, Projects

- ◆ Collect information on the latest elections held in your village/city. Prepare a table on the basis of the particulars given below, write in your note book and analyze it.
Why are the elections held? Name the contestants. Name the winners.

5. Communication through Mapping Skills, Drawing Pictures and Making Models

- Write down the important aspects of the Constitution on a chart and exhibit it in your class room.
- Point out New Delhi on a map of India. Write its borders.

6. Appreciation, Values and Creating Awareness towards Bio-diversity

- Write a letter appreciating the services of the architect of the constitution, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.
- Write a few slogans on the occasion of Republic Day.

I can do this

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. I can explain about our constitution. | Yes / No |
| 2. I can give reasons for non achievement of equal justice to all. | Yes / No |
| 3. I can frame questions on the preamble of our constitution. | Yes / No |
| 4. I can write a letter appreciating the contributions of the architects of our constitution. | Yes / No |