

Q1. Explain the salient features of fundamental rights as enshrined in the Indian Constitution.
(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Answer:

Fundamental Rights are a set of basic rights that are enshrined in the Constitution of India. These rights are guaranteed to every citizen of India, and they form the cornerstone of a democratic society.

Salient features of fundamental rights as enshrined in the Indian Constitution:

- 1. Claim of Citizens against state:** Citizens can claim their rights from the state, and the state is obligated to protect and respect those rights.
 - Fundamental Rights can be limited by the state for social control within the grounds mentioned in the Constitution. Courts balance individual and societal rights.
- 2. Restriction upon state:** Fundamental Rights limit legislative and executive power. Any law or action that violates them is invalid, protecting an area of individual freedom from government interference.
- 3. They are enforceable by court:** Constitution under Articles 32 and 226 provides machinery for enforcing Fundamental Rights. Judiciary ensures their speedy and effective enforcement for these rights to be useful.
- 4. Balance between freedom and social control:** Fundamental Rights aim for a balance between individual freedom and social control. They are based on a liberal spirit.
- 5. Rights are correlative with duties:** Rights and duties are correlative, meaning that the enjoyment of rights comes with corresponding duties towards society and fellow citizens.

The Indian Constitution guarantees six Fundamental Rights to protect individual liberties against arbitrary state actions, promote democracy, and enable citizens to hold the state accountable, with judicial enforcement.

Q2: Battle of Plassey lead to the fragmentation of India's political landscape and paved the way for British colonial rule. Discuss. (10 Marks, 150 words)

Answer:

The Battle of Plassey was a significant battle fought on June 23, 1757, between the British East India Company and the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj ud-Daulah. The British emerged victorious.

Plassey led to British rule and political fragmentation in India:

1. **Disintegration of the Mughal Empire:** The Battle of Plassey defeated Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah, a Mughal vassal, led to decline of already weakened Mughal Empire.
2. **Division of local rulers:** British used Plassey's victory to divide local rulers and expand control over India by employing "Divide and Rule," further fragmented India's political landscape.
3. **British military superiority:** The Battle of Plassey saw a small British force defeated the much larger army of Siraj ud-Daulah. The victory demonstrated the military superiority of the British, who had access to modern weaponry and tactics.
4. **Economic exploitation:** Plassey victory allowed EIC to exploit Bengal's resources and use those resources to defeat French in Battle of Wandiwash.
5. **Establishment of British colonial rule:** The Battle of Plassey marked the beginning of British colonial rule in India. The British established their control over India's political and economic systems, which allowed them to impose their values, culture, and language on India.

He British emerged victorious and established their foothold in India, leading to the eventual colonization of the country. The battle is considered a turning point in Indian history as it marked the beginning of British colonial rule in India.