

Chapter-01 Civics

The Indian Constitution

- **Why Does a Country Need a Constitution:** (i) A Constitution lays out certain ideals that form the basis of the kind of country that we as citizens aspire to live in.
 - (ii) A Constitution tells about the fundamental nature of our society.
 - (iii) A Constitution helps serve as a set of rules and principles that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed.
 - (iv) This includes the type of government and also an agreement on certain ideals that they all believe the country should uphold.
 - (v) When Nepal was a monarchy, the king had the final authority. After the transition of Nepal into a democracy, it started the process of writing a new constitution for the country.
 - (vi) In a democracy, leaders exercise their power responsibly on the behalf of the people.
 - (vii) In democratic societies, the constitution lays down rules that guard against the misuse of authority by our political leaders.
 - (viii) A Constitution plays an important function in a democracy to ensure that a dominant groups does not use its power against any person, group, organization, etc.
 - (ix) Consitution prevents tyranny or domination by the majority of a minority.
 - (x) The Constitution helps to protect us against certain decisions that we might take and which may have an adverse effect on the larger principles that the country believes in.
- **The Indian Constitution Key Feature:** (i) The Indian National Movement had been active in the struggle for Independence from British rule for several decades.
 - (ii) **Fedaralism:** Refers to the existence of more than one level of government in the country.
 - (iii) **Parliamentary Form of Government:** The Constitution of Indian guarantees universal adult suffrage for all citizens. This means people have a direct role in electing their representatives.
 - (iv) **Separation of Powers:** There are three organs of the states: (a) the Legislature (b) the Executive and (c) the Judiciary.

Key Notes

- (v) The legislature refers to our elected representative, the executive is a smaller group of people who are responsible for implementing laws and running the government. The judiciary refers to the system of courts in the country.

- **Fundamental Rights:**

- (i) The Fundamental Rights are referred to as the 'conscience' of Indian Constitution. Fundamental Rights protect citizens against the arbitrary and absolute exercise of power by the state.
- (ii) The Constitution guarantees the rights of individuals against the State as well as against other individuals.
- (iii) There are six Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution, which are: (i) Right to Equality; (ii) Right to Freedom; (iii) Right against Exploitation; (iv) Right to Freedom of Religion; (v) Cultural and Education as Rights; (vi) Right to Freedom of Religion; (v) Culture and Education as Rights; (iv) Right to Constitution Remedies.
- (iv) In addition to Fundamental Rights, the Constitution has a section called Directive Principles of State Policy. It ensures greater social and economic reforms and to serve as a guide to independent Indian state to institute laws and policies that help reduce the poverty of the masses.
- (v) A secular state is one in which the state does not officially promote any one religion as the state religion.
- (vi) The Constitution plays a crucial role in laying out the ideals that we would like all citizens of the country to adhere to, including the representatives that we elect to rule us.