

## 15.2. Preamble of 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.



## 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 constitutions is considered to be great. Why?
- ◆ Which words in the preamble are not known to you?

### 15.3. Terms of the preamble and their concepts

Let us read the Preamble of the Indian constitution and to understand it.

#### 15.3.1. We the people of India means...

'We the people of India' means all the children and elders of India.



#### 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 decisions making process of our country. But we maintain good relations with other countries for trading, education etc., and make agreements.

**Socialist means** involving all the people of the country in production and wealth creation processes and enjoying the wealth equally. Everyone should share the wealth. Everyone should have equal opportunities to get sufficient food, live a healthy life, go to school, not get 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 welfare of others.



Let us share our belongings with others



Everyone should be able to go to school

Everyone should be given sufficient food

Everyone should live healthily



Everyone should have safe home



Doctors should be available to all

**Secular means** all religions are looked upon as equal. Equal respect will be given to all religions and beliefs. Government does not give prominence to any single religion. Every citizen will be given freedom to practice the religion he/she likes. Governments will not be 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.

**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 should 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 equal in our country. Everyone should respect each other. What should we do to promote this idea?
- ◆ What is a Government? Why should we elect good people as our leaders?
- ◆ What is a law? Who makes the laws?

### Do you know?

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

Our state has Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. 294 members will be elected to Legislative Assembly by casting votes. These members are called 'Member of Legislative Assembly' (M.L.A.). 90 members will be elected to Legislative Council. These members are called 'Member of Legislative Council' (M.L.C.).

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

### Think and say

- ◆ People below the age of 18 years will not be given the right to vote. Why?
- ◆ Who is your M.L.A.? Has he ever visited your school or village? Why?

### 15.3.3. Equal justice - social, economical, political justice

Everyone is 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 equal. 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 as equal'?
- ◆ Do the people of your class or home or village treat every one equally?
- ◆ Is everyone provided equal opportunities? What should be done to achieve this?

### 15.3.4. Equality

Every one should be treated equally irrespective of race, caste, language, religion etc. Every one should be given equal respect. Both males and females should be given equal respect, equal opportunities, equal health facilities, should be provided. Every one should have better life and developmental opportunities.



### 15.3.5. Freedom of thoughts, freedom of expressions, freedom of faith, freedom of practice and freedom for worship

Constitution provides many freedoms to us. 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 the course we like. The constitution has given freedom to us till no harm is done to others by us.

#### 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 have? What are the different freedoms you have lost?
- ◆ Do you ask questions freely in your class and school?



### 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. Are we giving equal respect to all or are some given more respect than others? Some people are never given any at respect, think...

#### Do This



Look at the following table. Particulars of some the people of the society are given below. Fill in the particulars regarding the extent to which they are given respect? 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	Illiterate persons				
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 for each other and cooperate with each other. Everyone should strive together for the development of our country, irrespective of religion, language, culture etc. Our country should be strengthened and its unity in diversity should be respected any understood.

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

### Think and say

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



The written constitution was accepted by the constituent assembly on 26 November, 1949. All the members of the constituent assembly signed it on 24 January, 1950, and we started ruling ourselves according to the accepted constitution from 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. That is why every year 26<sup>th</sup> January is celebrated as the Republic Day. This is a national festival. Our National flag is hoisted at each and every village, institution, school, office etc, on this day.



We should understand and follow our constitution. It will make everyone happy. The constitution has given freedom and equal opportunities to all the children in education, health and development. We should respect and practice it.

But, the reality is this some people don't get proper food. Some do not get on 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 unutilised. Hence, we should make the lives of all the people better by our sincerity, justice and service. 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. Do not pollute them. Practice before you preach others.



## 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 certain duties also.

### Fundamental duties

- a) Respecting the constitution, national flag and national anthem.
- b) Cherishing the noble ideals of the freedom struggle.
- c) Defending the country and rendering national service when called for.
- d) Upholding and protecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- e) Promoting harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst 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 and having compassion for living creatures.
- h) Developing scientific aptitude, humanisty and spirit of inquiry for reform.
- i) Safeguarding public property and abjuring violence.
- j) Striving for the excellence in all individual and collective activities.

### Group work

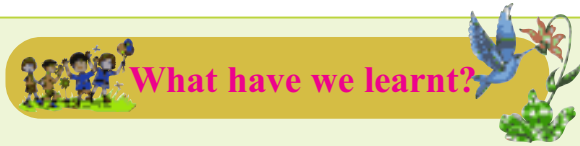


- ◆ Which rights are you enjoying? Which rights you have been denied?
- ◆ What should we do to practice the fundamental duties?
- ◆ What is discrimination?

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 the rights and everyone should develop as far as possible.

### Keywords

Constitution	Socialism	Republican Country
Contituent assembly	Secularism	Freedom, Equality
Preamble / Foreword	Democracy	Brotherhood



### What have we learnt?

#### 1. Conceptual understanding

- a) What is meant by constitution? Who has framed it?
- b) Write any 4 aspects of the Preamble.
- c) Write the reasons for why the people need liberty?
- d) What are your rights and duties?

#### 2. Questioning and hypothesis

- ◆ Frame any 5 questions on the preamble of constitution.

#### 3. Experiments - field observations

- ◆ The constitution has provided freedom and equality to us. Visit and observe your village and find out whether anybody from your village is not receiving the freedom and equality granted to us by the constitution.

#### 4. Information skills, projects

- ◆ Collect information on the latest elections held at your village. Prepare a table on the basis of the particulars given below, write in your note book and analyze it.

Why are elections held, name the contestants, name the winners and services rendered by them to your village

#### 5. Communication through mapping skills, drawing pictures and making models

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

#### 6. Appreciation, values and creating awareness towards bio-diversity

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

### Can I do this?

- 1. I can explain some important points of our constitution. Yes / No
- 2. I can give the reasons for non achievement of equal justice to all. Yes / No
- 3. I can frame questions on the basis of the Preamble of our constitution. Yes / No
- 4. I can write a letter appreciating the contributions of the architect of our constitution. Yes / No