**25th May, 2020 JESUS AND MARY SCHOOL & COLLEGE MODULE 2**

**CLASS- 9**

**CIVICS**

**OUR CONSTITUTION**

**The** Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950, when India became a Sovereign Democratic, Republic. This day was a red letter day in the history of India.We became free on 15th Aug.1947, but we didn’t have our own Constitution. So after Independence a constituent assembly was constituted in 1946 under the provision of the cabinet mission plan. This assembly had 389 members in all, mostly elected by the provincial assemblies and some nominated by the rulers of native states.As a result of the partition of the country, its membership was reduced to 299 in 1947. However, this assembly represented people of all shades and opinions, regions and communities. It included eminent persons like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Dr. H. C. Mukherjee, Frank Anthony, Dr. H.P. Modi, Sardar Hukum Singh, Sardar Baldev Singh and many others. Women members like Sarojini Naidu, Durgabhai Deshmukh and Renuka Rai also played an important in the Constituent Assembly. In short, the constituent Assembly was a mirror of the nation.

**Formation Of The Constituent Assembly Of India:**

The Constituent Assembly started its work much before the Independence of the country.It started its work on December 9, 1946 when about 209 members attended its first session.The Muslim league members were the main absentees. On December 11, 1946 Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the elected President of the Constituent Assembly.In order to explain the objectives of the Constitution, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru proposed the "objectivise solution" on December 13, 1946 which was passed on January 22, 1947.

Soon after the passage of the ‘objective resolution ‘ the Constituent Assembly formed eight major Committees to take over different aspects of the Constitution.The chief among them were the Union Constitution Committe, The union Powers Committee, The Drafting Committee , The Committee on Fundamental Rights etc. Between December 9,1946 and August 14,1947 about five sessions of the Constituent Assembly were held.When India became free on 15th Aug,1947 The Constituent Assembly now became a sovereign body. It was no longer bound to confine itself to the limitations imposed by the Cabinet Mission.

**The Drafting Committee**

On 29th August 1947,the Constituent Assembly appointed a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ambedkar, one of the prominent intellectuals of the country. This Committee was entrusted with the task of drafting the constitution. The Indian people were provided enough time to study and Express enough time to study and Express their views on the Draft Constitution. Thus after 1st2nd&3rd reading the Constitution was completed on November 26, 1949. It then received the signatures of the President and was declared as passed. The Constituent Assembly started on work December 9,1946 and completed its work on November 26,1949.It took about 3 years to complete its work. However, it was commenced and implemented on January 26, 1950 due to some obvious reasons given below.

**Importance of January 26**

The Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. This date has a great significance in India ‘sfight for Independence or Swaraj. On December 29, 1929 the Congress had passed a resolution at its Lahore Session, declaring ‘ Purna Swaraj ' as its goal. It was also declared that 26th January should be observed as Purna Swaraj Day all over India. Complete Independence was celebrated on January 26,1930, and it continued to be observed every year. It was absolutely proper to select January 26 as the Date of Commencement of the New Constitution. Since then this day has assumed a still greater importance and began to be celebrated as the Republic Day. Our Constitution contains 395 Articles and 12 schedules which make it the most bulkiest Constitution of the world. Till date it has been amended 104 times.

**THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION:**

The Constitution of Republic of India is introduced to us through wisely formulated Preamble. It is an introductory part of the constitution, though not an operative part of the Constitution. The Preamble reads:

We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR,DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

**JUSTICE**, social, economic, and political;

**LIBERTY**, of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.

**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;

**FRATERNITY**, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation;

**Changes Made in the Preamble:** The 42nd Constitution Amendment Act, 1976 has made a change in the para of the Preamble to the constitution to substitute ‘Sovereign Democratic Republic ‘to Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. A little later, the term ‘Integrity was also incorporated in the Preamble.

**MAIN IDEALS OR OBJECTIVES OF THE INDIAN REPUBLIC:**

**Sovereign-**A nation is sovereign when it is free in its internal matters and there is no foreign interference, Its internal policy is also guided by it’s own interests and not by any super-power .Our country India is no longer a colony of the British empire.

**socialist-** The word ‘socialist' was added to the Preamble later on to lay stress on the resolve of the nation to strive for socialism that envisages equitable distribution of National Income to all sections of the people. Socialism means that there is freedom from all forms of exploitation-social, political and economic. The gap between the rich and the poor will have to be narrowed down so that the fruit of Independence is brought to every home and **hearth.**

**Secular –**The word ‘secular’ means that all religions command equal respect and recognition from the state(country). In India no discrimination is ever made against any individual because of his religion. All the people in India, forming different groups, sects, communities etc. are free to profess any religion of their choice, unless it goes detrimental to the peace, security and integrity of India. Everybody is equal before law and enjoys equal rights, no matter to which, caste, colour or creed he or she belong**s.**

**Democratic-** This word denotes that we have chosen democracy as our way of life and we will govern ourselves through Democratic institutions. The word democratic, used in the Preamble, has been used in a wider sense. It doesn't denote merely political democracy but also social and economic democracy. Political democracy has got no meaning unless it is accompanied by economic and social democracy. India cannot be said to be a real democratic country if the poor remain poor and the exploited remain still exploited.

**Republic –** A Republic is a nation which has an elected person as the Head of the state with no hereditary rights. The President if India is elected indirectly by the elected members of parliament and state legislative Assemblies for a period of five years. He has no hereditary rights. It means his family members cannot become President after him. They can if they are made candidate by any political party.

**Justice-** Justice is the quality of treating everybody at par without any privilege or prejudice. It ensures equal opportunities for everyone and gives to every man what is his due. Indians had already suffered much because of the injustice done to them by the imperialist rulers, So the Preamble to the Indian Constitution laid emphasis on ‘Justice.’

**Liberty-** The term ‘liberty’ means freedom – freedom thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Every citizen should be free to hold any belief and express his views freely. He can choose any religion of his own sweet will and can worship in any way he likes. Constitution lays emphasis on the liberty of belief, faith and worship in order to ensure the unity of the nation.

**Equality-** There can be no liberty without equality, so the Preamble to the Indian Constitution also lays emphasis on equality along with liberty. As such, our Constitution has done away with all inequalities based on sex, race, religion, caste, creed or colour. Now all are equal before law and enjoy equal opportunities for their advancement.

**Fraternity-**  It means brotherhood. ‘Liberty’, Equality and Fraternity was the slogan raised by the French revolutionaries in France. It means that one may belong to any part of the country but he is an Indian first and a Punjabi or a Bengali afterwards.

**Integrity -**  It means that each and every part of the country is an integral part of india. No one should play with the respect and honour of the country. If anyone plays with the integrity of the country, it would amount to ‘high treason’.

**Need or importance of the preamble -** Preamble has a great importance of it’s own because it makes the intentions of our Constitution quite clear through the following points:

1. It envisages Social, Economic and Political – for all the citizens of the Republic.
2. It would ensure all types of freedom necessary for the individual i.e. freedom of thought of expression, freedom of faith, freedom of belief and of worship etc.
3. It would strive for equality of status and opportunity to all individual and safeguard their dignity irrespective of their religious belief or sect.
4. It would promote a sense of brotherhood among all the citizens.
5. Unity of the nation would be the hallmark of the efforts of the Government.

Thus, we find that the Preamble to our Constitution is the real index to the provisions to come in the Constitution of the Republic of India.

**Dr. Contribution to the Indian Constitution:**

Dr.Bhimrao Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb, was one of the architects of the Constitution of India. He was a eminent jurist, economist and social reformer. The text of the Constitution prepared by Babasaheb provided for constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability, social rights for women and a system of reservation of jobs in the government services for members of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes.

**WORKSHEET**

**Short answer questions:**

1. What is meant by the term ‘Constitution’?
2. Name the body which framed the Constitution of India.
3. Name one member of the Constituent assembly who belonged to the Anglo- Indian Community.
4. On the basis of which plan was the Constituent Assembly constituted?
5. What is known as the ‘Objectives Resolution’?
6. Who was the permanent president of the Constituent Assembly?
7. Who was the Chairman of Drafting Committee?
8. What are the main ideas contained in the Preamble of the Constitution?
9. Mention the date on which the Indian Constitution commenced, implemented and came into force.
10. Why is 26 January, 1950 regarded as a red letter day in the history of India?
11. Why and when was the word ‘Socialist’ added to the preamble to the Constitution of India?
12. Explain the term ‘Republic’?
13. Write any one pledge undertaken in the ‘Objectives Resolution ‘ ?
14. Give one reason why our Constitution makers wanted India to be a Secular state.
15. Why is Constitution important for a Democratic country? Give one reason.

**Note: Please do all this work in your copies which will be checked when school re opens.**

**Please consider this important.**