

**DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, JAMMU**  
**SESSION (2021-22)**  
**TOPIC -THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

**CLASS-VIII**

**SUBJECT -CIVICS**

**FOUNDATION WORKSHEET.**



**FEATURES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. It is perhaps the longest and the most exhaustive Constitution in the world. Since its adoption, the country has undergone major changes in political, social and economic arena. Accordingly, changes were made from time to time, in the Constitution, by making amendments to the existing laws. Now, latest look at some of the principles highlighted in our Constitution.

The constitution begins with the **Preamble** that states the ideals, which act as a guideline for the policy makers. These ideals or principles are as follows:

**Federalism**: India is a land of diversity which has 2 levels of government- the state government and the central government. Both the centre and the state draw power from the constitution. The union, state and concurrent lists deal with the powers and functions of each level. In a federal setup, individual states in enjoy independence in matters related to their states. On matters of national importance, they have to follow orders of the central government. Some issues are of concern for both the centre and the states, so they are included in the concurrent list.

**Parliamentary form of government**: In a parliamentary structure the people who are chosen by the citizens through universal adult franchise run the country. These people are the elected representatives of the citizens on behalf of which they make laws. The Indian constitution guarantees universal adult franchise. This means that all citizens of 18 years of age or above have the right to vote. The framers felt that all citizens regardless of their social background can directly participate in the functioning of the government in this manner.

**Separation of power**: the constitution clearly defines powers between 3 organs of the state - legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislature is the group of elected representatives that frames laws on behalf of the people. The executive is responsible for implementation of those rules and regulations and is answerable to the legislatures. Lastly, the judiciary protects the interest of the people and prevents the breach of rules proclaimed in the constitution by any of the organs. Thus, each organ acts as a system of check on the other and creates a balance of power between the three.

**Fundamental Rights**: the Indian constitution guarantees its citizens certain rights which are essential for our

wellbeing and promote the ideals of equality, Liberty and justice. The 6 fundamental rights included in the constitution are - right to equality , right to freedom , right against exploitation , right to freedom of religion , cultural and educational rights and right to constitutional remedies these fundamental rights are often referred to as the conscience of the Indian constitution.

**Right to equality:** According to the constitution all people are equal in the eyes of law. No one can be discriminated on the grounds of colour, caste, class, gender or Creed.this is valid in matters of employment as well as education. However, special provisions have been made for reservations of seats for underprivileged. Practicing untouchability in any form is a punishable offence.

**Right to freedom:** The Constitution shows freedom of speech and expression, to assemble peacefully without arms and ammunition, to form associations and unions, to move freely and reside in any part of the country and to practice the profession of one's own choice.

**Right against exploitation:** The Indian constitution recognises the dignity of every individual and so it prohibits human trafficking ( sale and purchase of humans for immoral purpose ), begging (forced Labour ) and employing children below the age of 14 .

**Right to freedom of religion:** It means all religions are equal and every individual is free to practice and propagate the religion of his or her choice.

**Cultural and educational rights:** the Indian constitution guarantees the right to education. Moreover, since our country is composed of diverse elements, the constitution guarantees everyone the right to develop and preserve his/her culture

**Fundamental Duties:** Since people benefit from the rights it is their responsibility to do something for the state. do not enforceable by law, were included in the Indian constitution in 1976 it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to:

- Show respect to our national flag and anthem.
- give regard and preserve natural and cultural heritage.
- promote peace and harmony
- Uphold principles of sovereignty, unity and honesty
- Safeguard public property
- Develop scientific temper and spirit of inquiry

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q 1. The Indian Constitution guarantees \_\_\_\_\_ to all citizens of 18 years of age or above.

Q 2. Giving regard and preserving our natural and cultural heritage is the \_\_\_\_\_ of every citizen.

Q 3. \_\_\_\_\_ were included in the Indian Constitution in 1976

Q 4. The Constitution was approved in \_\_\_\_\_

Q 5. \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the salient feature of our Constitution.

Q 6. \_\_\_\_\_ are the guidelines that help the government in transforming the ideals enshrined in Constitution into laws that promote socio-economic justice.

Q 7. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two levels of government.

Q 8. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Fundamental Rights included in the Constitution.

Q 9. Discuss 3 salient features of our constitution.

Q10. A democratic country needs a Constitution. Do you agree?

Why/Why not?