

Unit I. Overview of Indian Society.

Q. Explain the Multi -Cultural Diversity of Indian Society.

Indian society is pluralistic in nature. Pluralism refers to the existence within a nation or society of groups distinctive in ethnic origin, cultural patterns, language, religion etc. The Indian culture followed the concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam” (The world is one family) resulting in a great cultural heritage.

The main features of Indian culture are :

Multi Religion: The Indian Constitution declare India a secular state: that is a state in which all religions and citizens irrespective of their faith would be treated without bias. Thus India has no official religion. As per 2011 census, 80.5% of India’s population follows Hinduism, followed by Islam (13.4%) and 6.1% of the population follow other religions.

Multi Lingual : It is estimated that there are 1652 languages and dialects in India. The Constitution of India has recognized 22 major languages. According to the article 343(1), the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagri script. Hindi is the most wieldy spoken language followed by Bengali and Telugu. The states have their own official language. State boundaries are largely based on linguistic groups.

Caste System : The Indian Constitution lists 1108 castes. Each caste had its own rules and regulations. The basis of birth replaced occupation as the criterion to determine ones caste. During the Vedic period there are four varnas based on the occupation of an individual : Brahmins, Kshatriya, Viashya, and Shudra.

Influence of the Western Culture : Indian cultural came under the Western cultural influence of Portuguese, British, French and the Dutch. Due to Western cultural impact, several elements of Indian culture have undergone several changes in food habits, music and dance clothing, life styles, education.

Q. Explain the Demographic Composition / Population Distribution.

Demography is a study of population. India occupies about 2.4% of world's land area, but it has 17.5% of world population. It is estimated that by 2025 India will be the most populous country surpassing China.

Religion wise Composition of population :

The Constitution of India guarantees the freedom of religion. One can follow and practice religion of his/her choice. The main religions are briefly stated as follows.

Religions in India

Religion	Population in (%)
Hindu	80.5
Islam	13.4
Christian	2.3
Sikh	1.9
Buddhist	0.8
Jain	0.4
Others	0.7
Total	100

1. **Hinduism** : Majority of India's population follow Hinduism. Bhagwad Geeta is the holy book of the Hindus. Hinduism advocates the four main values Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. The four are based on the understanding that the humans have varied needs.
2. **Islam** : It considered Prophet Mohammad as the greatest prophet and the Koran as the most sacred book. Islam prescribes five primary duties of a devout Muslim :
 - i. Belief in Allah
 - ii. Prayers five times a day
 - iii. Giving of alms
 - iv. Fasting for a month (During Ramdan)
 - v. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime.

3. **Christianity** : The Christianity gained roots in India especially after the Portuguese invasion in Goa in the 16th century and later by the British in the 17th century. It third largest religion of India, making up 2.3% of the population. Christians comprise a majority in Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. The holy book of Christians is the Bible.
4. **Sikhism** : Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhism followed by ten successive Sikh gurus, the last being the sacred text Guru Sahib. The religious symbols of Sikhism are five K's : Kesh(Hair), Kanghac (Comb), Kara (Bracelet), Kripan (Sword), Kachha (Shorts) . 1.9% of the population of India belongs to the Sikh.
5. **Buddhist** : Buddhist follow the teaching of lord Gautam Budha. About 85% of Buddhist in India are located in Maharashtra. 0.8% population of India belongs to this faith.

Caste Wise Composition of Population :

Census states that 16.2% of the population belongs to scheduled castes (SC) and 8.2% of the population belongs to scheduled tribes (ST). the highest proportion of SC,s is found in Punjab(28.9%) and lowest proportion is in Mizoram (0.03%)

Economically politically, socially, educationally, and intellectually as well, the members of SC's , ST's and OBC's are in general still more backward than the rest of their countrymen. Over the period of time they were exploited by every possible means. Following factors are responsible for the growth of caste system.

1. Due to illiteracy people have become orthodox and they blindly accept the caste rules and restrictions.
2. The rulers did not enforce uniform customs and they recognized the various custom of different groups of people which in turn encouraged caste system .
3. The hereditary occupations of the people especially in rural areas kept alive the caste system.

Gender Wise Composition of Population :

Gender ratio (Sex Ratio) is the ratio of females per 1000 males in the country. The study of gender ratio helps to understand the situation of women in India. In India the gender ratio is

biased in favor of males. The following table indicates the males and females population as per Census 2011.

Year	Females (Per 1000 males)
1901	972
1951	946
2001	933
2011	940

The above data indicates that the gender ratio has improved from 933 to 940 in the year 2011. Among the states Kerala has the highest gender ratio of 1084 females to 1000 males and Haryana has the lowest gender ratio of 877 females to 1000 males in 2011.

It is to be noted that although the overall gender ratio has decline in 2011 as compared to 2001. But the child gender ratio (0 to 6 years) has declined to 614 as against 927. Some of the reasons for biased gender ratio are:

- Preference for male child in Indian societies.
- Practice of female feticide.
- High infant mortality rate of females
- Malnutrition of females.

Q. Explain the characteristics rural area.

India is a land of villages. As per census 2011, there are over 6 lakh villages in India. 68.84% of India's population lives in villages, and 31.16% of India's population live in urban areas. The characteristics of rural India are briefly stated as follow :

- 1. Caste system :** In Indian villages, the caste system is widespread. There is hardly any village without the castes. Each village has several castes, although in some villages a particular caste dominates. There is inter dependence of castes in villages due to the specialized occupations.
- 2. Close Relations :** In Indian villages, there are face to face relations among the people. Normally, every person knows each other in the village. This is because the village population

is of small size, and therefore, personal contact or relations can be maintained through regular interactions.

- 3. Status of women :** The rural women are very much dependent on their men. The women require the support of institutions like marriage and family. The rural women mostly engage in indoor activities and they work in fields as well. They are very much attached to their family members. Women adjust themselves to the family conditions, and make sacrifices in the interest of the family.
- 4. Occupation :** The rural people are mostly engaged in agriculture. About 80 to 90% of village people are directly or indirectly connected with agriculture and other related areas. Therefore, the prosperity of rural areas is directly connected with agriculture.
- 5. Size of the population :** Majority of India's population lives in villages. As per 2011 census, 68.84% of India's total population lives in villages. The main reason for majority of population in rural India is due to developing nature of Indian economy, and majority of the workers (about 55% in 2011) were engaged in agriculture.
- 6. Work Participation Rate :** The work participation rate is the ratio of total workforce to total population. The work participation ratio in rural area is similar for males (53%) as in urban areas.

Q. What are the urban area characteristics?

The urbanization in India has improved over the years. In 1951, the urban population was 17% and it has increased to nearly 31.16% in 2011. The following are the main characteristics of urban India.

- 1. Social Diversity :** There are wide differences in the way of life of urban people. The urban masses are mainly diverse in nature. Especially, in the major metros like Mumbai and Delhi, the urban people speak different languages, follow different customs and traditions, different food habits, and so on.
- 2. Social mobility :** Urban people are socially mobile as compared to rural. Social mobility refers to movement of people from one social status to another, i.e. from lower status to

higher status in the society. In urban areas, an individual's position is determined more by his achievements rather than by his birth.

3. **Literacy:** The urban literacy rate is comparatively higher as compared to rural literacy. Most of the major cities / towns have literacy rate of over 70%. The highest literacy rate in 2011 was recorded in Kerala at over 93%.
4. **Occupation :** The urban population is mostly engaged in the services sector, followed by secondary sector. It is obvious that the urban population is not involved in agriculture directly. They may be involved indirectly in the agro-based industries, or in the services sector that support agriculture.
5. **Unemployment :** Urban areas also face unemployment. However, the unemployment rate has declined in urban areas more sharply than that of rural areas. In 2009-10, the unemployment rate in urban areas was 5.8% as compared to 6.8% in rural areas.
6. **Media exposure :** The media exposure of urban population is comparatively higher as compared to rural areas. Most of the urban population is exposed to radio, TV and internet
7. **Poverty :** The poverty in urban areas is lower as compare to rural areas. Prof. Suresh Tendulkar's Committee report, 2009 states that people living below poverty line in urban India is 27.5%.
8. **Work participation rate :** The work participation rate for males in rural areas (53%) is comparatively similar as in urban areas (53.8%). As far as female workers are concerned, the work participation rate is 30% in rural areas which is comparatively higher than in urban areas (15.4%).

Q. Write a note on the Casteism:

Number of castes are in existence with specific social status being decided. The caste system is the hierarchy of the castes in the upper and lower classes. The discrimination is still followed in the villages according to the castes of the people. The untouchables are ill treated by upper classes. In urban part the situation is quite good. But in villages still the reports are heard of such kind of discrimination. The role of government is very important in such a case because India is the secular nation so no one has right to take advantage of any class of people under the name of superiority or inferiority.

EFFECTS:

1. It leads to the violence in the society (Khairlanji prakaran of maharashtra)
2. Loss of the property and even the life of untouchables or lower communities.
3. Discrimination followed by the upper class officers in respect of sanctioning loan to the marginal or Small farmers or job opportunities.
4. Forcing people to stay in the slums and in the destitute simply because they are from the lower class
5. It gives a way to the tension and anger among people with reference to the reservation provided to People.
6. Educational deficiencies are observed among the lower level communities.

Measures/ ways to minimize the casteism:

1. More **educational opportunities** should be provided to the students belonging to the such classes. Reservation should be provided if they are not in the position to pay the school fees. The students should be provided special attention in the classroom by the teachers and remedial teaching should also be followed for the advantage of such students.
2. The **media should play an active role** to let people know the reality of social tensions took place and should guide the people against the evil and wrong practices followed by the political leaders.
3. The role of religious leader must be clear to **bring people together** and not breaking the social integration. They should try to bring the peace among the religions instead of making the wrong statements about the other religions.
4. **Punishment** should be given to the officers or the people who make the unbearable statements against the minorities or the particular communities.
5. **Public awareness** should be brought for making people integrate in one. They should be made aware that they are one and religions do not separate them being human beings.
6. The **strict laws** should be brought against the caste discrimination.
7. Students should be taught the **moral values** and the importance of secularism to grow as the similar human being and not with the orthodox attitude of counting self recognition only.

Q. Classification of Tribal Groups of India

The tribes of India are classified into different groups on the basis of geographical location, language, race and levels of their socioeconomic development. The tribes of India form an important part of Indian population. Tribal population in India constitutes 8.6% of Indian Population according to Census of India, 2011. The census of 2011 estimated their population at 104.2 million, and 240.

The Tribal groups in India have distinct cultural patterns. A large portion of Indians belong to Tribal group (Tribal community) – Adivasis, as they are called, they occupy distinct regions, especially in the hilly and forested areas.

Classification of Tribes on the Basis of Geographical Location:

The tribal population in India is widely dispersed. There is no single, definite and acceptable way of classifying the regions inhabited by the tribes. The more commonly used classifications are: The Himalayan region, middle India, Western India, South India and Islands (Vidyarthi) or North-Eastern India, middle India, Southern India, North-Western Himalayas, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Singh). Territorially, tribes in India are divided into three main zones, namely (1) North-North- Eastern Zone, (2) Central Zone and (3) Southern Zone.

1. North-North-Eastern Zone:

Eastern Kashmir, Eastern Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Northern Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam etc. constitute this zone. The Aka, the Mishmi, the Chulikata and the Naga are some of the tribes of this zone.

2. Central Zone:

Bihar, Bengal, Southern U.P., Southern Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa come under this zone. The Kondh, the Santhal, the Bhil, the Gond, the Muria and the Baiga are only a few of the large number of tribes of this zone. The bulk of the tribal population lives in this zone. There is a very high concentration of tribal population in central India. Over 85 per cent of the total tribal population inhabits the eight States that constitute this zone.

3. Southern Zone:

The Southern zone is consisted of four Southern States – Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The Toda, the Chenchu, the Kadar and the Koraga are some of the important tribes of this zone.

Besides these main zones, there is another isolated zone constituting the Andaman and Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal. The Jarawa, the Andamanese and the Nicobarese are the important tribes of this zone.

Unit III. Concept of Disparity -2

Q.1. What are the Causes and effects of Communalism?

Communalism has come to be associated with tensions and clashes between different religious communities in various regions. Several causes can be identified for the growth of it.

1. A Legacy of Past :

On the basis of the “Two Nation” theory of Jinnah, India was partitioned. Communal politics had played its cruel game during the immediate past of independent India. The “Divide and Rule” policy of the British Government served their colonial interest. The partition of India was the ultimate outcome of their politics. Despite the emergence of Pakistan, a large number of Muslims are staying in India. India has adopted the principles of secularism and equality of the people. But communalism as a legacy of past, is continuing and expressing itself in various form.

2. Presence of Communal Parties :

The so called secular political parties also enter into alliance with communal forces for electoral benefit. Candidates are selected by different political parties taking into account the communal composition of the constituency. Some political leaders preach communalism to attain their immediate political goal. They have become leaders and continue to remain as such only due to the adoption of communal and sectarian interest. When political leaders and their organisations are not away from communalism, obviously this spirit will be promoted in the society.

3. Poverty :

Mass poverty and unemployment create a sense of frustration among the people. It generates backwardness, illiteracy, ignorance, etc. The unemployed youth of both the communities can be easily trapped by religious fundamentalists and fanatics. They are used by them to cause communal riots.

5. Cross-Border Factors :

Communal tensions in sometimes are highly intensified due to the rule of neighboring countries. These countries try to create communal problems in the border states. The communal problems of Punjab and Jammu Kashmir are caused due to provocation of Pakistan.

6. Orthodoxy :

The orthodox members of minorities feel that they have a separate entity with their own cultural pattern, personal laws and thought. There are strong elements of

conservatism and fundamentalism among them is observed. Such feeling has prevented them from accepting the concept of secularism and religious tolerance.

7. Failure of Government :

Both the Union and the State Governments often fail to prevent communalism in the country. Due to lack of prior information, they fail to take any preventive measures. So the communal violence can easily take innocent lives and destroys property.

8. Negative Impact of Mass Media:

The messages relating to communal tension or riot in any part of the country spread through the mass media. This results in further tension and riots between two rival religious groups.

Effects of Communalism:

1. The communal tendencies **hampered the nationalist movement**. They did not concern themselves with questions affecting the common people-poverty, social reform and equality.
2. A communal thought always tends to establish **political dominance** off particular religious community.
3. The **country weakens** when political parties are formed and political activities are conducted on the communal lines.
4. One of the most ugly face of communalism emerges out in the form of **riots, violence**.
5. The investment attitude towards the country from foreign investor would be cautiousness, they tend to avoid the countries with highly communal country, for not take the risk of end up **losing their investment**.
6. The flow of labour from productive activities is diverted to unproductive activities; there is massive **destruction of public properties** to spread the ideology.

Q.2. Suggestions for the Eradication of Communalism.

The following measures may be taken for the eradication of communalism.

1. Abolition of Communal Parties:

All the political parties which thrive on religious loyalties should be banned or abolished by the government. Even non-political cultural organizations should always be kept under constant vigil so that they cannot preach communalism.

2. Transmission of the Past Heritage:

Feelings of nationalism should be inculcated in the minds of people by reminding them about the glorious moments of history in Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs were combined to safeguard the interest of the country.

3. Inter-religious Marriage:

Youth organizations and other types of associations should be formed in every locality to give opportunity to people of different communities to come closer and know each other. This may help them to practice inter-religious marriages which will lessen the social distance among the members of different religious groups.

4. Economic Development :

Since poverty encourages the forces of communalism, all efforts should be taken for the economic development of the people.

5. Secular Education :

Communalism is a psychological disorder or mental malady. For the removal of communal hate, proper socialization of children is necessary. Common living and common share of life should be encouraged by the families, schools, social activists etc. The educational system must be designed systematically for checking communalism. For this purpose, special books, booklets, pamphlets, articles should be published to do the needful in this direction.

6. Promotion of Brotherhood:

The formation of peace and brotherhood committees at local levels will ensure healthy atmosphere and will prevent the anti-social elements who indulge themselves in communal riots.

7. Check on foreign intervention :

Foreign intervention should be carefully watched and prevented from encouraging communalism in India.

Q.3. What is Castism? Explain the causes, effects and solution on it.

Meaning : **Caste system** can be defined as a social structure according to class of people, which gets decided by their birth. Caste system is a hereditary classification of people in a society.

Causes of Castism.

The following are the causes of Caste System.

- 1. Segregation depending on job capability:** Caste system determined your social status by your ability of doing a job. People with a certain job capability were judged by their professional ability. For example, a blacksmith was considered of lower caste than a business person.
- 2. Retain hereditary based profession:** One was expected to follow the path of their ancestors and stick to their hereditary based profession. An uneducated cleaner's child did not have the liberty to get educated and pursue any other profession other than that of a cleaner's.

3. **Desire to gain power:** The so-called 'higher caste' people wanted to gain power over the lower strata people in a caste system. The whole purpose behind the introduction of caste system was a game of gaining power in the society. The rich and well-to-do people of the society wanted to rule over the weaker sections of the society.
4. **Feel superior over others: Caste system allowed people of higher caste to have a sense of superiority over people of lower caste. The castes that belonged to the lower part of the hierarchy ladder were treated as inferior beings by those at the top.**
5. **To create fear among social groups:** Caste system centered the power among certain castes of the society, who would continue to create fear among the lower caste people. High caste section people were meant to rule over the low-caste people, who were supposed to live in fear of the former.

Effects/ Impact of Castism :

The effects / impact of Caste system have been discussed under the following headings.

1. **Lack of Freedom among people:** Caste system had some serious effect on the freedom of people. Since all rules restricted people to practice everything intra-caste, stepping outside your caste and socializing with people was not allowed.
2. **Undemocratic burden:** Caste system went against the democratic rights of people. Keeping the country's democracy aside, caste system expected people to abide by the caste segregation laws. Since the rules of the society were enforced by the high caste people, the low-caste members did not have a go-to place to protest for their democratic rights.
3. **Prevalence of social Inequality and untouchability:** The practice of untouchability was born solely due to the introduction of caste system. The sense of superiority that came among the people of high caste, thanks to the hierarchy of caste system had widespread inequality in the society.
4. **Lack of professional & business opportunities:** Caste system did not allow swapping professions among different castes. As a result, a person born in a low-caste did not have any open professional opportunity. Also, there was no novelty in jobs, people just blindly inherited their professions, which killed the creativity in the professional and business front.
5. **Rigidity in society rules:** Caste system did not allow any flexibility in society rules. The caste system rules that were established were extremely rigid and there was no leeway provided for offenders. Straying away from the rules and regulations was not an option and any rebels were severely punished.
6. **Widening of gap between high caste and low-caste people:** Caste system created a wide rift between the high and low cast people. This was done purposely so that the high caste people become more powerful and influential in the society.
7. **Threat to general peace & society stability:** Caste system always threatened the peace and stability of the society. Inequality always gave rise to discontentment and anger. Low caste people with suppressed rights always looked for chances to revolt against the rules of the caste system.

Solution / Measures on Castism:

The following are the solutions/ control measures aimed at solving the problem of Caste system.

- 1. Spreading literacy and increasing Education:** Education can abolish caste system. Educating people about their democratic and moral rights will make them see through the evils of the caste system. Women`s education is also important to prevent them from getting exploited.
- 2. Industrialization especially in rural areas:** This will increase unbiased job opportunities for people even in the rural areas. To break the caste system, it is important to increase the employment rate. Industrialization will also modernize the society with a cosmopolitan population.
- 3. Promote inter-caste marriages among people:** Inter caste marriage should be promoted among people. This way, the caste system walls will automatically be brought down.
- 4. Spreading modernization:** Modernization by itself defies ancient rules and regulations. Thus, spreading modernization in a society inflicted with injustice will help the people fight for their rights.
- 5. Promote intermingling of people:** People should be encouraged to socialize with each other irrespective of their pre-defined caste. This will free them of the restrictions of a caste system and give them the social liberty that they deserve.

Q. 4.What is regionalism? What are the causes and measures on regionalism.

Regionalism is defined as a feeling of loyalty to a particular part of a country and a wish for it to be more politically independent. Regionalism in India is a multidimensional phenomenon as it is a complex combination of geographical, historical, cultural, economic, politico- administrative factors.

Causes of Regionalism :

1. Regionalism evolved when the national government tries to **impose a particular ideology** may be language or culture pattern over a particular state. This is evident from the Anti- Hindi movement in the South Indian states as well as the Anti-foreigner Movement in Assam both were launched in order to protect their own culture.
2. The continuous **neglect of an area** or reason by the ruling party and **concentration of administration** and political party has also given rise to the demand for decentralization of authority and bifurcation of and unilingual States.
3. The **low rate of economic growth** investment infrastructure and social expenditure by the state on health education and sanitation can also be a reason for the development of regionalism.

4. The **sons of the soil doctrine** which after 1950 in competition between local youth and migrants for employment has led to the development of regionalism not only in rural areas but also in cities.
5. The Desire of the various units of the Indian federal system to maintain the **subcultural regions** and greater degree of self-government has promoted regionalism and giving rise to demand for Greater autonomy.
6. The **ambition of regional leaders** to capture power, for example, the DMK, AIDMK Telugu Desam have encouraged regionalism to capture power. The dispute between the states over the sharing of river water primacy given by the states to the language of the majority and the people of their own state in a job opportunity with growing awareness among the people of backward areas that they are being discriminated against has also promoted the feeling of regionalism.
7. The dispute between the states over the **sharing of river water**.

Measures :

1. That should be balanced regional development in formulating the economic policies of the state so as to avoid the economic negligence of a particular region
2. The excessive interference of the central Government in the affairs of the state should be minimized unless if it is unavoidable for National interest.
3. That should be a friendly relationship between the center and the states with the national education system so that it would help to overcome the regional feelings and develops an attachment towards Nation.

Q.5. Explain linguistic differences in India with causes and consequences?

India has become a land of many tongues and has been called “as a tower of veritable languages” or a “Museum of languages”. In 1950, the States in India were reorganized on linguistic basis. The Constitution of India has approved of 22 languages.

Causes of Linguism:

- 1. Love of Literature :** Love of literature creates and strengthens a sense of loyalty towards it among the linguistic groups. These linguistic loyalties slow down the evolution of a common language.
- 2. Geographical Causes :** People living in a particular locality tend to speak the same language. This promotes local identity and uniqueness among people.
- 3. Historical Causes :** Linguism in India is a by-product of India’s struggle for national freedom. Our leaders of freedom movement criticized the British system of dividing country by cutting across linguistic boundaries. Rather, they pleaded for the division of India into different provinces along linguistic lines. After independence, in 1956, the States were reorganized on the basis of homogeneity of languages. The reorganization of the States on linguistic lines has provided geographical foundations for sub-nationalism in India.
- 4. Political Causes :** Narrow-minded political parties create linguistic feeling among the people of a locality and exploit their sentiments at the time of election.

Consequences of Linguism :

1. Increasing Regionalism and Parochialism: The people of different linguistic groups who are concentrated in a state seem to think only in terms of interests of their own States. This undermines consideration of national issues and causes parochial feelings.

2. Formation of Regional Political Parties: Linguism has resulted in regionalism which has ultimately led to the formation of regional political parties in some state. Some of these regional political parties have also formed government. Such political parties in power often complicate Centre-State relationship.

3. Persecution of the Linguistic Minorities: The State Reorganization Commission had provided for safeguard of linguistic minorities in States. But in reality the linguistic minorities have been harassed in different States. As a result certain complications and disturbing trends have developed which seem to have threatened the unity of the country.

4. Demand for Separate States: Linguistic conflicts take place due to selfish motive of politicians. These politicians instigate the linguistic minority to demand partition of the States along linguistic lines. The demand for a separate state creates problems for the concerned state as well as the centre.

5. Erosion of National Feeling: The national feeling is eroded due to linguistic and regional loyalties. The erosion of national feeling threatens the sovereignty of the country.

6. Inter-State Border Dispute: Language problems have created tensions in the boarder which are bilingual. For example, the Goans are divided on the basis of Konkani and Marathi languages.

Remedial Measures:

Following measures may be taken for the eradication of tensions between different linguistic groups.

1. Development of a National Language: Although Hindi has been recognized as the national language, it has caused bitter hostilities, particularly in the South. It will be unwise to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people. Therefore, the propagation of Hindi as the national language requires lot most care and tact.

2. Development of Common Script: At present there are a number of scripts in India. But if a common script is evolved, it would break through the script barrier which separates one language area from another. M. N. Srinivas's suggestion for the use of Roman Script may also be considered.

3. Ban on Political Parties and other Organisations: The regional political or any other organization which try to exploit the sentiments of people along the linguistic lines should be banned. The Sarkaria Commission was appointed in 1983 to examine the language problem in India. The Commission made a couple of recommendations for the solution of the problem. It suggested that the styles, forms and expression of English along with other regional languages are to be retained in the process of development of official language. The three language formula such as regional language, Hindi and English should be properly implemented.

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Unit IV. Constitution of India

Q.1.Explain the concept of Constitution.

A Constitution is a set of laws, rules and procedures, and a [fundamental rules](#) governing the [conduct](#) of an [organization](#) or [nation](#) and establishing its [concept](#), [character](#), and [structure](#). It is usually a short [document](#), [general](#) in nature and expressing the [aspirations](#) and [values](#). [Constitution is superior to all other laws of the country.](#) The oldest (1787) written national Constitution is that of the US.

Q.2.Explain the Preamble to the Constitution of India

The Constitution of India starts with a preamble. It is a brief introductory statement which spells out the guiding purpose and principles of the entire document called the constitution of India. Preamble is termed as the heart and soul of the Indian constitution.

Text of the Preamble :

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;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do
HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

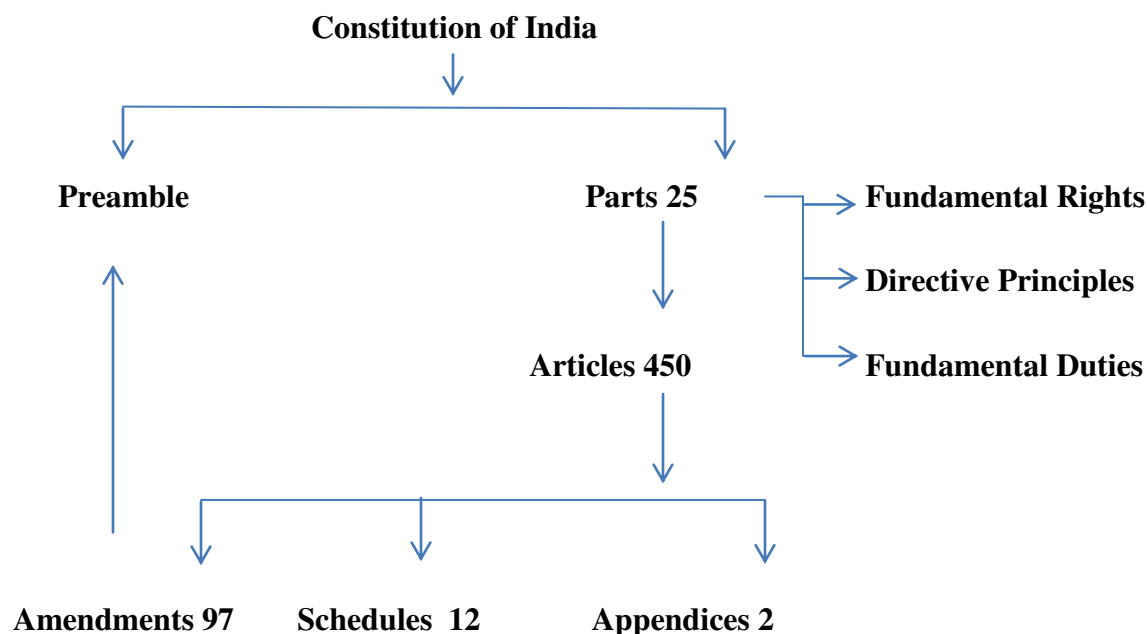
The Preamble to the Constitution of India serves the following purposes: -

- A) It indicates the source from which the Constitution derives its authority.
- B) It also states the objects, which the Constitution seeks to establish and promote.

Q.3.Describe the structure of constitution of India.

The Constitution of India in its current form (March 2011) consist of 1 preamble, 25 parts containing 450 articles, 12 schedules, 2 appendices and 97 amendments to date. Although it is federal in nature it also has a strong unitary bias.

Strucrue of Indian Constituion



Preamble :It is a brief introductory statement which spells out the guiding purpose and principles of the entire document called the constitution of India.

Parts :The individual Articles of the Constitution are grouped together into the parts.

Schedules :Schedules are lists in the constitution that categorize and tabulate bureaucratic activity and policy of the Government.

Fundamental Duties : A countervailing factor has been introduced by the 42nd amendment Act of 1976, known as the Fundamental Duties. These duties are mentioned in Article 51A. Under this Article every citizen of India shall have ten Fundamental duties.

Amendments : Amendments of the Constitution have been done for the purpose of variation, addition, or cancellation of any provision made in the constitution.

Q.4.List down the Fundamental Duties of Indian Constitution

The section 'Fundamental Duties' was not a part of the original constitution. These were added to the Constitution much later by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. The fundamental duties were added to the constitution on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee. There were

ten fundamental duties at the time of incorporation but the eleventh was inserted by the 86th Amendment in 2002.

1. To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
5. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India surpassing religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
8. To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
9. To safeguard public property and to avoid violence;
10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.
11. To provide opportunities for education by the parent the guardian, to his child, or a ward between the age of 6-14 years as the case may be.

Q. 5. Explain the salient Features of Indian Constitution

The main federal features of the Indian Constitution are as follows:

1. Written Constitution: The Indian Constitution is a written document containing 450 Articles and 12 Schedules, and therefore, fulfills this basic requirement of a federal government. The Indian Constitution is the most elaborate Constitution of the world.

2. Supremacy of the Constitution: India's Constitution is also supreme and not the hand-made of either the Centre or of the States. If for any reason any structure of the State challenge to violate any provision of the Constitution, the courts of laws are there to ensure that dignity of the Constitution is maintained at all costs.

3. Rigid Constitution: The Indian Constitution is largely a rigid Constitution. All the provisions of the Constitution concerning Union-State relations can be amended only by the joint actions of the State Legislatures and the Union Parliament. Such provisions can be amended only if the amendment is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting in the Parliament and approved by at least one-half of the States

4. Division of Powers: the Constitution provides for a federal form of government. The power of Federal Government are divided between the Central and State government. The Seventh Schedule contains three Legislative Lists viz., Union List, State List and Concurrent Lists. The Union List consisted of 97 subjects, the State List consisted of 66 subjects. The Concurrent List contains 47 subjects which are of common concern to the central and state government.

5. Independent Judiciary:In India, the Constitution has provided for a Supreme Court and every effort has been made to see that the judiciary in India is independent and supreme.

6. Borrowed provisions : Our founding fathers borrowed great constitutional principles from the foreign constitutions while avoiding their loopholes to ensure healthy political life to the citizens. Thus, the fundamental rights were borrowed from the U. S. constitution, Parliamentary system of government from British, the Directive principles from the Irish constitution and the idea of emergency from the German Constitution.

7. SingleCitizenship :The Constitution of India provides single citizenship to every Indian, irrespective of his place of birth, cast, religion etc.

8. One National Language : Although India is a multi-lingual state, the constitution provides that Hindi in Devnagari script will be the national language. A state can adopt the language are spoken by its people in that state as its official language.

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Unit V. Aspects of Political Process.

Q.1.Elucidate the classification of Political parties in India.

1. All India Political Parties : All India political parties have been officially defined as those national parties with broad based national support and able to win at least six percent of valid votes polled in any four or more States. At the general elections to the Lok Sabha. After the 2014 Lok Sabha elections only three recognized National parties are BJP, Congress and CPI(M).

2. Regional Parties :The second group consist of regional parties. These parties try to aggregate regional interests regardless of cast and religious connections of their members. Their power base and voting strength are confined to a particular geographic area. i.e. Dravida Munnerta Kazagam(DMK) in Tamil Nadu, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, Biju Janta Dal in Orissa etc.

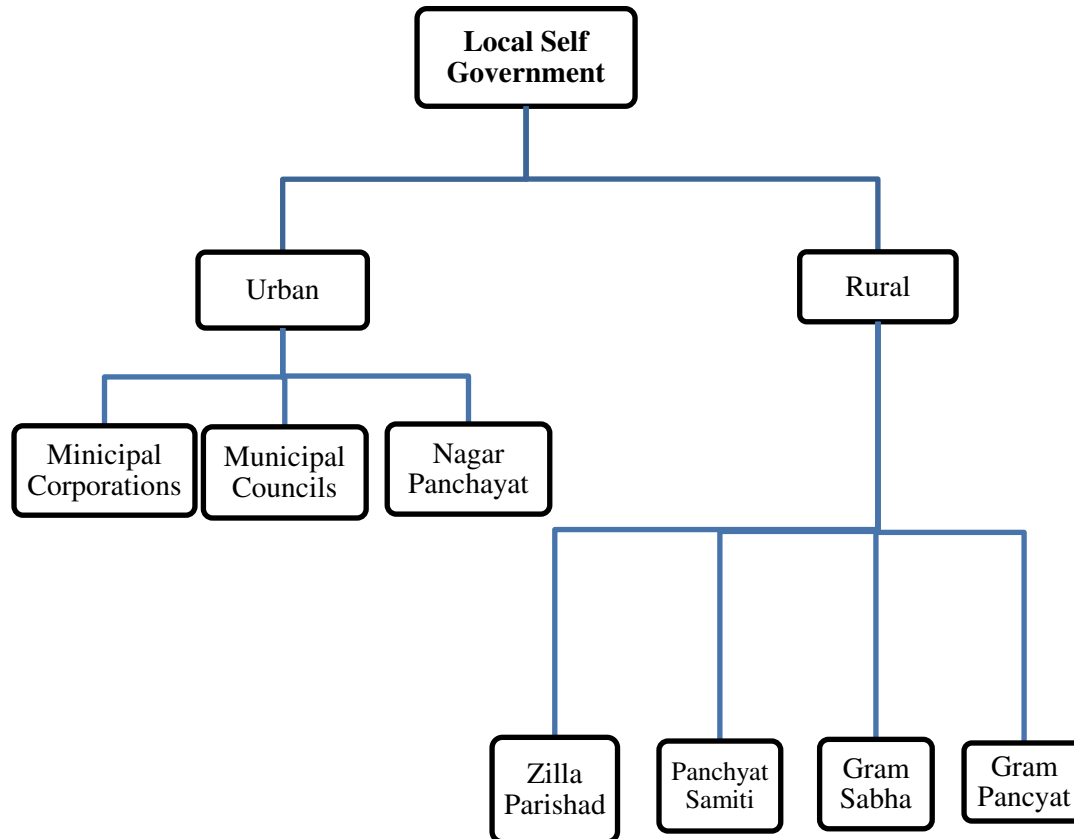
3. Communal Parties :The third group includes those parties that are exclusive in their membership, that is they accept as members only the people of a particular religious or racial community. They protect and promote the interest of that particular community alone i.e. Akali Dal in Punjab and Muslim League in Kerala.

4. Ad-hoc Parties : the last group pa parties consists of those organized around powerful persons of local and state issues. Such parties may not survive very long some may appear only for a short period then disappear completely or merge into other parties. The Bangla Congress, the Kerala Congress are of such ad-hoc parties.

Q.2. Define and explain the structure of Local Self Government in India.

Local self-government is a form of public administration such that the residents of a certain territory form a community that is recognized by the central government and has a specific legal status. The local governments enjoy greater degree of authority in decision making. The local governments are engaged in solving the problems in their areas.

In India self-governing institutions are classified as follows:



Q.3. Structure of Local self-Government in Urban Area

The urban areas in India are administered by the Municipalities. The structure of Municipalities includes.

1. **Municipal Corporation** :Municipal Corporations is established by the act of State government for the big cities and by the Act of Parliament for the cities of Union Territories. A Municipal Corporation involves :

- **The Council** consisting of representatives elected by the people from different wards.
 - **Mayor and Deputy Mayor** are the positions of great honor. The mayor is the first citizen of the city. However mayor lacks executive authority.
 - **Municipal Commissioner** is the Chief Executive Officer. He is appointed by the State Government.
2. **Municipal Council** : The smaller cities are looked after by the Municipal Council also known as Nagar Parishad. It consist of:
- **The Council members** elected by the people.
 - **President and Vice Precedent** are the governing officers. They are elected by the members of the council. The President of the Municipal Council is the first citizen of the town.
 - **The Chief Municipal Officer** is responsible for the general administration of the municipality.
3. **Nagar Panchayat** :It is a new form of urban local self-government. It is formed according to the 74th constitutional amendment. A Rural area I n the process of transition to an urban area is governed by Nagar Panchayat.
4. **Cantonment Boards** : These are created under Central Act 1924 under the administrative control of Ministry of Defense. The defense officer commanding the cantonment station is the ex-officio chairman of the Cantonment Board.

Q.4. Structure of Local Self-Government in Rural area.

The rural local self-government in India is described as ‘Panchayati Raj’. On the basis of BalwantRaiMehata Committee, Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayati Raj In India. In India the system is exist at three levels:

1. **ZillaParishad at District Level**
2. **PanchayatiSamiti at Block Level**
3. **Gram Panchayat at Village Level.**

1. **ZillaParishad** :It is the apex institution in the Panchayati Raj system.It administered the rural area of the district and its office is located at the district

capital. The President and Vice-President are the governing officers of ZillaParishad. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is at the administrative head of the ZillaParishad. ZillaParishad looks after the Finance, Public work, Agriculture, Social Welfare, Education, Animal Husbandry, Women and Child Welfare, and Water supply. The main source of income of the ZillaParishad is Taxes on Water, markets etc., fixed grant form State Government in proportion with the land revenue etc.

2. PanchayatSamiti : It functions at Taluka or Tehsil level. The PanchayatSamiti is the link between the Gram Panchayat and the District Administration. The Chairman of PanchayatSamitileads over the meeting. The Block Development Officer (BDO) is the executive head of the PanchayatSamiti. It is known as MandalPrajaParishad in Andhra Pradesh and TalukaPanchayat in Gujarat. The main source of income of the PanchayatSamiti is grant-in –aid and loans from the state government.

3. Gram Panchayat :It is the local self-government at the village level or small town. Sarpanch is the head of theGram Panchayat. Gramsevak carry out the routine work of the Gram Panchyat. To establish a Gram Panchayat in a village the population of the village at least 500 people of voting age. Gram Sabha is a rural organization of local people but was in efficient in its functioning due to lack of executive powers. The main source of income of the Gram Panchayat is property tax levied on buildings, animal trade, grant from State government and ZillaParishad.

Q.5. Critically assess the role of Indian Women in politics.

India has the lowest number of women representation in the Parliamenti.e.9.1 percent in the 14thLokSabha elections. The women’s Reservation Bill is passed in RajyaSabha which provides 33 percent seats to women in Parliament. However the Bill is yet to be passed in LokSabha. After passing the 73rd Amendment Act the representation of women leaders at the Panchyati Raj System in Indiaincrease nearly 50 percent.

1. **Women Empowerment** : The elected women actively work for women empowerment. They may promote setting up Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to generate employment for women especially in rural areas.
2. **Political Rights of Women** :The elected women leaders may make women aware of their political rights. The political rights of women are :
 - i. Voting right
 - ii. Contest in election.
 - iii. To hold public office etc.
3. **Resolving Women related Social Problem** :
 Women in political power try to carry out their responsibilities in true spirit. Hence, they may take effective measures to eradicate or alleviate social problems, such as:
 - Sexual harassment at workplace
 - Domestic violence
 - Problems of malnutrition of females, etc.
 The above solution may lead to upliftment of women status in the society.
4. **Women upliftment**:In India, women have low status in the society. There are number of restriction on women such as on restriction participating in religious rituals, education, employment and so on. The women political leaders may try to uplift the status of women though efforts such as passing special legislation and also encouraging the women to fight for their rights and privileges.

Q. 6. Write a short note on the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act.

The act came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act passed in 199. The provisions of the Act are as follows.

- Constitution of Panchayat Raj at three tier levels i.e. Zilla Parishad at District Level, Panchayati Samiti at Block Level and Gram Panchayat at Village Level.
- Holding Panchayat elections regularly in every five years.

- Reservation of seats for SC(15%), ST(8%) and Open (78%)and Women reservation in respective categories(33%) .
- Appointment of State Finance Commission to make recommendations regarding financial powers of the Panchayat.
- Constitution of District Planning Commission (DPC) to plan for the development of the district.

Q.7. Write a short note on the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act passed in 1992 and followings are the provisions :

- Constitution of three types of municipalities i.e. the municipal Corporation, The Municipal Councils and the Nagar Panchayat.
- Regular and fair conduct of municipal elections by State Election Commissions.
- The representation of SC, ST, OBC and Women in municipalities.
- Constitution of Finance Commission to review the financial position of municipalities and to make recommendations to improve their financial position.
- Constitution of District Planning Committee at the district level and a Metropolitan Planning committee.
- Constitution of Ward Committee to ensure peoples participation in civic affairs.