

6th CIVICS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
1. Understanding Diversity	03
2. Achieving Equality	07
3. National Symbols	11
4. The Constitution of India	15
5. Democracy	19
6. Local Body	22

UNIT 1- UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY

Diversity in India

India is a home to a civilisation that is 5,000 years old. Different groups of people from different parts of the world were attracted towards India over the years because of its wealth. Some came for trade with the local people and others were keen on invading its territory. So diverse races of people migrated into India by land and sea routes over time. Thus the Dravidians, Negroids, Aryans, Alpines and Mongoloids became part of the modern Indian race. Then, the people who migrated to India also moved to other parts of the country. This movement and migration of people is the reason for India's rich diversity.

We will now study the diversity in India under the following broad headings:

Land Forms and Lifestyle Diversity

A continent is a very large area of land with various physical features such as mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers and seas and various types of weather patterns. India has all of them. India is known as a sub-continent. These features have an underlying influence upon the people who live in different landforms of the country.

Physical and climatic features determine the economic activities of a region. People living in the plains thrive on agriculture, while people in the coastal areas take to fishing for their livelihood. In mountainous regions, rearing of animals is undertaken. Hilly landscapes are supported by favourable climatic conditions for the cultivation of coffee and tea. Diversity in landforms also impacts the flora and fauna of a region. The plant and animal wealth of a place depends upon the natural habitat and the climate that prevails in that region. Food, clothing, occupation and livelihood of the people is closely connected with the region's natural surroundings and climate.

Social Diversity

Interdependence and Co-existence

A community is a place where people live together with a common interest or heritage. Our community is made up of peasants, labourers, artisans, parents, teachers, students and many others. For a comfortable livelihood, communities depend on each other.

Family and Society

Families constitute the fundamental unit of a society. There are two types of families: joint families and nuclear families. Families live in a harmonious

neighbourhood. Hundreds of neighbourhoods collectively form a village and thousands of them group together in a city. The needs of people and the interdependence of communities for amenities such as water, food, electricity, education, housing and so on bring us together to live in harmony. Though we are diverse in our cultural practices, we are united and interdependent socially.

Religious Diversity

Our Constitution declares India to be a secular nation in which all religions are treated equally. The freedom of religion is our fundamental right. India is the birth place of many religions and has become the home of many others. Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism and Zoroastrianism flourish in India.

India is a land of festivals, where people from different religions engage in many colourful celebrations in different parts of the country and co-exist harmoniously. The wide variety of festivals celebrated in India is a true manifestation of its rich culture and traditions. Festivals like Pongal, Deepavali, Holi, Vijayadhasami, AyudhaPuja, Navaratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Ganesh Chaturthi, Bihu, Kumbamela, Onam, MiladiNabi, Ramzan, Christmas, Buddha Poornima, MahavirJayanthi, Guru Nanak Jayanthy and Rakshabandhan are some of the festivals that denote the cultural diversity of India.

Linguistic Diversity

According to census of India 2001, India has 122 major languages and 1599 other languages. Four major Indian language families are Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austroasiatic and Sino Tibetan. Tamil is the oldest Dravidian language.

Historically, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the British, the Danish and the French came to India for trade and their occupation of India or some parts of it has left behind a certain impact upon the culture and language of the people. Because the Britishruled over the entire country for over three hundred years before independence in 1947, the English language gained prominence in India. In due course, English has emerged as an important language and a medium of instruction in schools and colleges. It is widely used in official communication and daily life.

DO YOU KNOW?

The Constitution of India recognises twenty-two languages as official languages. The Government of India has declared Tamil as the first classical language in 2004. Apart from Tamil, five other Indian languages have been declared as the classical languages, by the Government of India.

Top Five languages spoken in India (as per 2001 Census)

Language	Percentage of total population
Hindi	41.03 %
Bengali	8.10 %
Telugu	7.19 %
Marathi	6.99 %
Tamil	5.91 %

Cultural Diversity

The term 'culture' refers to customs and practices of people, their language, their dress code, cuisine, religion, social habits, music, art and architecture.

The culture of a group of people is reflected in their social behaviour and interactions. The group identity fostered by social patterns is unique to a group.

Art and architecture are an integral part of every community. It develops as a part of culture and tradition of a community. Each of the 29 states and 7 Union territories of India has rich traditions and unique ways of artistic expression.

Popular Dances of India

In ancient times, dance was considered as a way to celebrate, worship and also as a gesture of thanks giving and joy. Dances of India reflect its cultural richness.

Music and dance go hand in hand. There are several styles of music practiced in India. The Hindustani music, Karnatic music, Classical Tamil Music, Folk Music, Lavani, Ghazl are some of them. There are songs from various languages composed by blending these different forms of music.

State	Popular dance
Tamil Nadu	Karagattam, Oyillattam, Kummi, Therukoothu, Bommalattam, Puliattam, Kolattam, Thappattam
Kerala	Theyyam and Mohiniattam
Punjab	Bhangra
Jammu and Kashmir	Dumhal
Gujarat	Garba and Dandia
Rajasthan	Kalbelia and Ghoomer
Uttar Pradesh	Raaslila and Chholiya
Assam	Bihu

Unity in Diversity

Though diversity is visible in every aspect of life in India, we are united by the spirit of patriotism. Symbols such as the National Flag and National Anthem remind us of our great nation and the need to stay united. Celebration of landmark events such as Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanthi every year brings us together and keeps the spirit of one nation alive within us.

India has a multi-cultural society. India evolved as a single nation through common beliefs, customs and cultural practices. The freedom struggle and the drafting of our Constitution stands as ample evidence to the spirit of unity of India.

India is known for 'unity in diversity'. This phrase was coined by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, in his book *Discovery of India*.

UNIT 2 - ACHIEVING EQUALITY

Prejudice

Prejudice means to judge other people in a negative or inferior manner, without knowing much about them. It happens when people have false belief and ideas.

Prejudice -> Pre + Judge

The word 'prejudice' refers to prejudgement. Prejudices can be based on many things like people's religious beliefs, the region they come from, the colour of their skin, their accent or the clothes they wear. The types of prejudice are gender prejudice, racial prejudice, class prejudice, disability prejudice and so on.

For example, urban people are more civilised than rural people in attitudes and behaviour, is one such prejudice.

Causes for Prejudice

Some common social factors that contributes to the rise of prejudice are

1. Socialization
2. Conforming behaviours
3. Economic benefits
4. Authoritarian personality
5. Ethno-centrism
6. Group closure
7. Conflicts

Inequality and Discrimination

Inequality means difference in treatment. The different forms of inequalities such as caste inequality, religious inequality, race inequality or gender inequality give rise to discrimination.

Discrimination can be defined as negative actions towards people. Discrimination can happen on the basis of colour, class, religion, gender etc. Treating dark-skinned people differently from fair-skinned people, giving more importance to people of higher than to those of lower caste and thinking boys are smarter than girls are all thoughts of discrimination.

Article 15(1) of the Constitution states that the State shall not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar

- He is popularly known as Baba Saheb.
- He was an Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer.
- He earned his M.A. in 1915 and then obtained a D.Sc at the London School of Economics before being awarded Ph.D by Columbia University in 1927.
- He served as the chairman of drafting committee of the constituent assembly and hence regarded as the father of Indian Constitution.
- He was independent India's first Law Minister.
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Caste Discrimination

Caste system is the most dominant reason for inequality and discrimination in India. In the beginning, the society was divided into different groups on the basis of occupation, known as Varnas.

Many people in India have fought against caste oppression. The most prominent among them was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He belonged to a such depressed family and suffered discrimination throughout his childhood. He fought actively for equality among the citizens of India.

Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination refers to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and women in India. For example, A girl is not allowed to go to college after finishing her schooling. Similarly, most of the girls are not allowed to select a career of their choice rather they are forced into marriage. In some families, girls are not allowed to wear modern dresses while boys in such families often wear modern dresses.

Religious Discrimination

Religious discrimination is unequal treatment of an individual or group based on their beliefs. Religious discrimination has been around for a long time. There have been problems between people of different religions for thousands of years. Some people are not allowed to enter in public places; especially the places of worship because they belong to another religion. Some religious people often end up in conflict with each other because of their rituals and way of life.

Socio-Economic Inequality

In the socio-economic field, the benefits of growth have not been spread evenly. However, the income inequality is much higher than the inequality in human development. The low-income districts are associated with low industrial development, low agricultural productivity and low human development. Similarly, the Districts with literacy rate are found to be with lower sex ratio.

Remedial Measures for Abolishing Inequality and Discrimination

The remedial measures for abolishing inequality and discrimination in Indian society are as follows.

1. Wider access to quality basic services like healthcare and education for all.
2. Be aware of current gender bias.
3. Make women more visible in public life and institution to eradicate gender disparity.
4. Be open to learning about other religions.
5. Promoting community dining in the classroom may help the students to sit together without any bias of caste, religion or gender.
6. Socialise with people of all types outside home.
7. Effective implementation of laws.



Literacy rate – 2011 Census

High			Low		
S.No.	District Name	Percentage	S.No.	District Name	Percentage
1	Kanyakumari	91.75%	1	Dharmapuri	68.54%
2	Chennai	90.18%	2	Ariyalur	71.34%
3	Thoothukkudi	86.16%	3	Krishnagiri	71.46%
4	The Nilgiris	85.20%	4	Villupuram	71.88%

Source: Censusindia.gov.in

Sex Ratio – 2011 Census

Number of females per 1,000 males

High			Low		
S.No.	District Name	Sex Ratio	S.No.	District Name	Sex Ratio
1	The Nilgiris	1041	1	Dharmapuri	946
2	Thanjavur	1031	2	Salem	954
3	Nagapattinam	1025	3	Krishnagiri	956
4	Thoothukkudi	1024	4	Ramanathapuram	977

Source: Censusindia.gov.in

Constitution of India and Equality

A Constitution is a set of rules and regulations guiding the administration of a country. Article 14 of the constitution of India provides equality before the law or equal protection within the territory of India and prohibits the unreasonable discrimination between persons.

Our Constitution says ours is a land of diversity; therefore, equality has to be ensured for all. Two significant parameters to ensure equality in society are respecting diversity and ensuring freedom. The different kinds of freedom are freedom to follow their religion, speak their language, celebrate their festivals and express their views freely.

The Constitution is a legal framework of rules and regulations by which a nation would function. Equality is where untouchability is seen as a crime. In India, as per the Article 17 of the Indian Constitution, untouchability is totally abolished and it's any form is forbidden.

Even today, different types of discrimination are reported across the country. Women, peasants, tribes and people from lower social classes are still striving for equality in India.

UNIT 3 - NATIONAL SYMBOLS

NATURAL NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Banyan tree-1950
It is a symbol of pride and has many medicinal values.

Lotus-1950
Though it grows in muddy water it blooms with beauty.

Peacock-1963
It is native to Asia and the only bird which has a tail.

Tiger-1973
It is the largest cat species. India has 70% of tigers population in the world.

River Ganges-2008
It is a perennial river and many royal capitals flourished on the banks of this river.

Elephant-2010
It is native to mainland Asia and plays a critical role in maintaining the regions forests.

River Dolphin-2010
It is the reliable indicator of the health of the entire river eco-system. It is in the endangered list.

Lactobacillus-2012
They are friendly bacteria. They are a major part of the lactic and bacteria group.

**King cobra-
Ophiophagus hannah**
It is the world's longest venomous snake and lives in the rain forests and plains of India.

Mango - 1950
It is a rich source of vitamins A,C and D and mainly cultivated in the plains.

DO YOU KNOW? **Tamil Nadu's Natural Symbols**

Animal	Nilgiri Tahr	
Bird	Emerald dove	
Flower	Gloriosa Superba	
Tree	Palmyrah tree	

Other Symbols of our Country

National flag

The tricolour flag is our National flag. The three colours are of the same width and are arranged horizontally. The saffron at the top represents valour and sacrifice. The green at the bottom represents fertility and prosperity. The white band in between represents honesty peace and purity. The Ashoka chakra or the wheel in navy blue represents truth and peace. Our National Flag's length and width proportion is 3:2 respectively and the Ashoka's chakra has 24 spokes in it.



- The National flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya from Andhra Pradesh.
- The first Indian Flag was woven at Gudiyatham in Vellore district of Tamilnadu.
- This flag was hoisted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 15th August 1947 at Red Fort (Delhi)
- This flag is now an exhibit at the St.George's Fort Museum, Chennai.

National Emblem

The four lions on top of the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath was chosen to be our National emblem. The national emblem was accepted on 26th January 1950, 'SatyamevaJayate' has been inscribed at its bottom. It means 'Truth alone triumphs'. The National emblem consists of two parts-the upper and the lower parts.

The upper part has four lions facing the North, South, East and West. This is on a circular pedestal. One can only see three lions at a time. The lower part has an elephant, a horse, a bull and a lion. The 'Wheel of righteousness' is placed between them. This emblem is found at the top of the government communication, Indian currency and passport.

National Anthem

'Jana GanaMana' is our National anthem. It symbolises the sovereignty and integrity of our nation. This anthem was written by Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali. This was transcribed in Hindi and was accepted by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950.

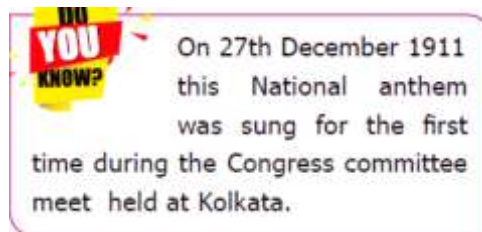
The rules to be observed while singing the Anthem

- This anthem has to be sung at a duration of 52 seconds.
- Everyone should stand erect while singing the national anthem.
- One should understand the meaning while singing.

National song

The song VandeMataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was a source of inspiration to the people of India in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana GanaMana. On January 24, 1950, the then President, Dr.Rajendra Prasad came up with a statement in the Constituent Assembly, “the song VandeMataram, which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honoured equally with Jana GanaMana and shall have equal status with it.”

The song was a part of Bankim Chandra’s most famous novel ‘Anand Math’.



National pledge

“India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters” is our national pledge. The pledge was written by PydimarriVenkataSubbaRao in Telugu.

National Micro organism

The curd which we consume every day is curdled from milk by a micro organism called lacto bacillus delbrueckii. This was accepted as our national micro organism in the year 2012. This micro organism makes the milk undergo a chemical reaction and changes the protein content of the milk. Curd is known for its digestive quality and cooling capacity.

Currency of India- (INR) `

The Indian currency is the Indian Rupees. The currency released by SherShah Sur in the sixteenth century was ‘Rupiya’. This ‘rupiya’ has been transformed, into ‘Rupees’. The symbol of rupees is ` . This was designed by D. Udhayakumar from Tamil Nadu in the year 2010.

National Calender

During the reign of Emperor Kanishka he began following a new calendar in the year 78 CE/AD. The year begins from the spring equinox which falls on March 22nd. During a leap year, it begins on March 21st. Our country follows this calendar. The famous astronomer Meghnad Saha headed the March 1957. It was then accepted by the committee as our national calendar.

The National symbols help in uniting the diversified sections of India and to instill patriotism.

National Holidays

Independence Day

Every year, August 15 is celebrated as the Independence Day to commemorate India's freedom from British rule. This auspicious day is also marked as a birth of the world's biggest democracy, India.

On the day India gained independence, MahakaviBharathiyar's poem "AaduvomePalluPaduvome" and it was sung over the AIR (All India Radio) by T.K.Pattammal, a famous singer of Carnatic Music. The celebration of Independence Day continues every year. The Prime Minister unfurls the National Flag on the Independence Day at the Red Fort, New Delhi.

Republic Day

On January 29, the third day of the Republic day, the celebrations are brought to an end with the "**Beating Reteat**" ceremony. This is performed by the bands of Indian Army, Navy and Airforce. The President of India is the chief guest of this day. RashtrapatiBhavan will be illuminated at 6pm as a part of the celebration.

On 26th January 1950, India was declared as a democratic state. Every year this day is commemorated as the 'Republic Day'. The constitution commenced on 26th January 1950. From August 1947 to 26th January 1950, the Queen of Britain was the honorary head of India. The day India was declared as a democratic state, the President became the first citizen of India. On Republic Day, the President of India hoists the National flag at the Red Fort New Delhi.

Gandhi Jayanthi

The birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, was declared one of the National festivals. It falls on 2nd October. In 2007, the United Nations declared October 2nd as the 'International Day of Non-violence'.

UNIT 4 - THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

“The Constitution is an authentic document containing the basic ideas, principles and laws of a country. It also defines the rights and duties of citizens. The laws governing a country originate from the constitution. Every country is ruled on the basis of its constitution”

Constituent Assembly

In 1946, nearly 389 members of the constituent Assembly who belonged to different parties from different places came together to frame the Constitution of India. The Chairman of the committee was Mr. Rajendra Prasad.

Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Moulana Azad, S. Radhakrishnan, Vijalakshmi Pandit and Sarojini Naidu were the significant members in the Constituent Assembly. 15 women members were in the Constituent Assembly

Drafting committee

The Drafting committee was formed with eight members and its Chairman was B.R. Ambedkar; B.N. Rao was appointed as an advisor. The committee met for the first time on 9th December 1946. On the same day, the drafting of constitution of India started.

Features of Constitution

- The constitutions of nearly 60 countries including the UK, USA, former USSR, France, Switzerland etc., were thoroughly examined and their best features have been adopted by our constitution.
- No, nearly 2000 amendments were made before the draft was finalised
- It took a period of 2 years, 11 months, and 17 days. It was completed on 26th November 1949.
- The constitution was accepted by the Constituent Assembly. So, 26th November is celebrated as the Day of the Constitution. The Preamble of our constitution stresses on the justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

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 26th day of November, 1949, do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**”

The preface of the constitution is the Preamble. According to it, India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic Republic.

Features of Preamble

The constitution has granted the people the right to rule. The members of the parliament and the legislative assembly are elected by the people. The right to decide is only in the hands of the representatives. Sovereignty refers to the ultimate power of the country.

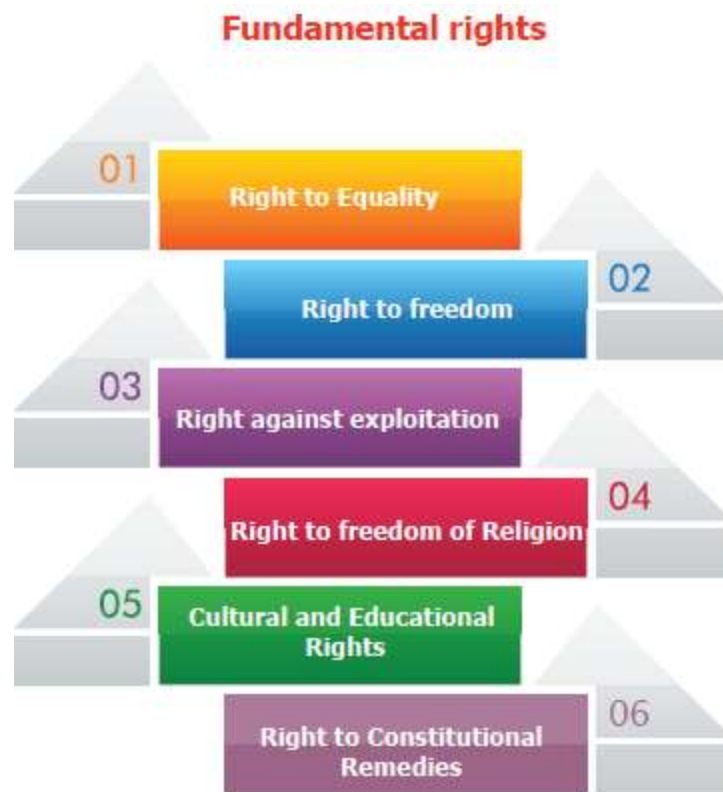
Law allows all the citizens of a country, the right to follow different faith and religious beliefs. All citizens enjoy the freedom of worship. The country does not have a religion of its own. All the religions in our country hold the same status.

Type of Government

The Constitution of India provides a Parliamentary form of Government, both at the centre and the state. In a Parliamentary System, the Executive is collectively responsible to the Legislature. The party which has the majority forms the government.

Fundamental Rights

Fundamental rights are the basic human rights of all citizens.



Directive Principles

There are certain guidelines to be followed while the governments frame law. Though these are not mandatory, they should be taken into account.”

Universal Adult Franchise

Every Indian citizen has the right to vote when they attain 18 years of age, irrespective of any caste, religion, gender or economic status.

Fundamental duties

There are duties respecting the National flag and National Anthem, respect and protect the Constitution, follow our great leaders who fought for our freedom, to protect our country, readiness to serve our country if necessary, treating everyone as brothers irrespective of their castes, religions, languages, races etc., to conserve our ancient heritage, and conserve natural elements like forests, rivers and lakes and fauna, to develop science, humanity and feelings of reformation to avoid non-violence and protect government property, parents or guardians providing educational opportunities to children between 6-14 years etc., have been added as our duties

FACTS

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, N. Gopalasamy, K.M.Munshi, Syed Ahmed sadullah, P.L. Mitter, N.Madhava Rao, T.T.K, T.P. Khaitan were the legal experts of the Drafting Committee.
- The Chairman of the Drafting Committee Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was considered the Chief architect.
- When the Cons titution was drafted, there were 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules. At present our Indian Cons titution contains 448 articles in 25 parts and 12 schedules.
- 101 amendments were made till 16.09.2016.

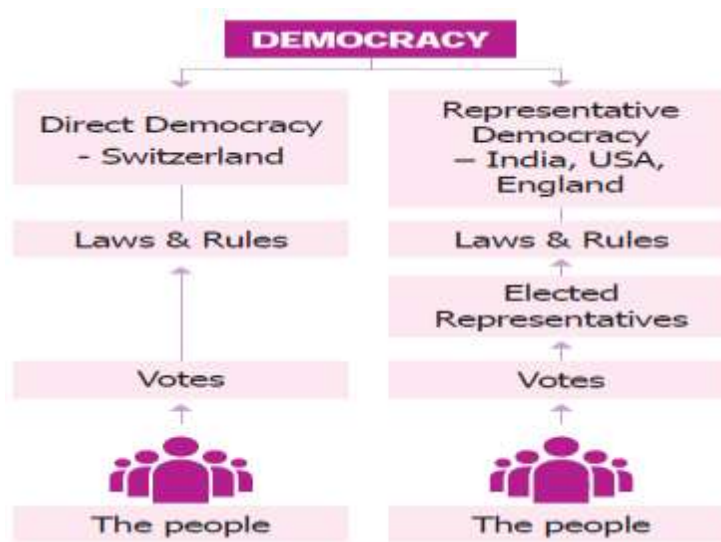
UNIT 5 - DEMOCRACY

The citizens of a country select their representatives through elections. Thus, they take part in the direct governance of a country. This is termed **Democracy**. In a democratic form of government, a considerable amount of power lies with the people of that nation. People can participate in the politics of the country and decision making processes. There are different types of democracy.

1. Direct democracy

In a Direct Democracy, people have the power to frame laws. The choice of the majority will be accepted. The others will also give their consent.

In a Direct Democracy, only the citizens can make laws. All changes have to be approved by the citizen. The politicians only rule over parliamentary procedure. **Switzerland** has had a long history of a successful direct democracy.



Representative Democracy

To select these representatives, elections are held. For example, many contest for the post of the Head, Secretary and members of the administration group. In the end, those who gain the maximum number of votes will be given the posts. On behalf of the other members, they obtain the power to take decisions in a democratic manner. This is termed as Representative Democracy.



In the system of democracy, the power to take decisions does not lie with the Head. On the contrary, a group holds the power, but adheres to the rules and regulations. All the members of the group hold open discussions and take final decisions only when everyone is convinced. This is called democratic way of decision making."

NOTE: The birth place of democracy is Greece. In 2007, the UNO General Assembly resolved to observe 15th September as the **International Day of Democracy**.

Indian Constitution

Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It is drafted by the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly headed by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**. That is why we call him the '**Chief Architect of our Constitution**'

Aims of Democracy

Democracy is defined as "Government of the people, for the people and by the people."

In a democracy, the power is vested in the hands of the people. For that, the people should have rights to take decisions. Everyone cannot participate in decision making. So, the representative government elected by the people to form a democratic system, all those who attain the age of 18 are given the voting rights to elect the representatives. At the same time, the representatives have the responsibility to protect the welfare of the people.

World Democracy

New Zealand is the first country to allow women to vote (1893). Voting rights to women were given in 1918 and 1920 in the UK and USA respectively. At the same time, the wealthy alone were given the voting rights in India. Many leaders like Mahatma Gandhi kept insisting on giving voting rights to all. Now in India, all the people above 18 years of age enjoy Universal Adult Franchise.

Oldest Democracies in the World

Sl. No.	Democracy	Period	Location	Significance
1	Greek Democracy	5 th century BC (BCE)	Greece	Foundation of political philosophy
2	Roman Empires Democracy	300 BC – 50 BC (BCE)	Italian Peninsula, Rome	Loads of expansions of the growth of civilization
3	San Merinos Democracy	AD (CE) 301	Italy	Earliest written constitution still in effect
4	The Iceland Democracy	AD (CE) 930	Thingvellir	The oldest and longest functioning parliament in the world.
5	The Isle of Man's Democracy	AD (CE) 927	Between Great Britain and Ireland	Self governing possessions of the crown
6	British Democracy	13 th Century AD (CE)	England	Magna Carta of 1215
7	US Democracy	AD (CE) 1789	United States of America	The oldest standing democracy

UNIT 6 - LOCAL BODIES – RURAL AND URBAN

The urban local bodies are categorized into City Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats, while the rural local bodies are categorised into Village Panchayats, Panchayat Unions and District Panchyats. These are together known as local bodies.”

Those areas which have a population of more than one lakh and a high amount of revenue and is found in the level below the City Municipal Corporation is called a **Municipality**.

Town Panchayat has about 10,000 population. A **Town Panchayat** is between a village and a city.

NOTE

Tamil Nadu was the first state to introduce a town Panchayat in the whole of India.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will declare certain municipalities based on population and high revenue.

The List of corporations in Tamil Nadu

1. Chennai
2. Madurai
3. Coimbatore
4. Tiruchirapalli
5. Salem
6. Tirunelveli
7. Erode
8. Thoothukudi
9. Tiruppur
10. Vellore
11. Dindigul
12. Thanjavur

Municipal Corporation

A City Municipal Corporation has a **Commissioner**, who is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. Government officials are deputed as **Commissioners** for the municipalities. The administrative officer of a Municipality is an **Executive Officer** (EO).

Village Panchayats

Village Panchayats are the local bodies of villages. They act as a link between the people and the government. Villages are divided into wards based on their population. The representatives are elected by the people.

The Elected Representatives

1. Panchayat President
2. Ward members
3. Councillor
4. District Panchayat Ward Councillor

Panchayat Union

Many village Panchayats join to form a **Panchayat Union**. A **Councillor** is elected from each Panchayat. Those councillors will elect a Panchayat Union **Chairperson** among themselves. A **Vice Chairperson** is also elected.

A **Block Development Officer** (BDO) is the administrative head, of a Panchayat Union. The services are provided on the Panchayat Union level.

District Panchayat

A District Panchayat is formed in every district. A district is divided into wards on the basis of 50,000 population. The ward members are elected by the Village Panchayats. The members of the District Panchayat elect the **District Panchayat Committee Chairperson**. They provide essential services and facilities to the rural population and the planning and execution of development programmes for the district.

The local bodies are governed by the representatives elected by the people. The constituencies are called wards. People elect their ward members.

The **Mayor** of the City Municipal Corporation and the **Municipal Chairperson** are the elected representatives of the people. The people elect them. The Corporation **Deputy Mayor** and the Municipal **Vice Chairperson** are elected by the ward councillors.

Functions of the village Panchayat

Obligatory Functions

- Water supply
- Street lighting
- Cleaning roads
- Drainage & sewage pipes system
- Laying down roads
- Activation of Central and State Government schemes

Discretionary Functions

- Parks
- Libraries
- Playgrounds, etc.

Functions of the City Municipal Corporation

- Drinking water supply
- Street Lighting
- Maintenance of Clean Environment
- Primary Health Facilities
- Laying of Roads
- Building flyovers
- Space for markets
- Drainage System
- Solid waste management
- Corporation schools
- Parks
- Play grounds
- Birth and Death registration, etc.

As per the decisions taken in the city Hall meetings, the commissioner or officers assign these works to their subordinate officers or other servants. Thus, they all work in various levels to get these public works done. The Government directly allots funds for these works. The local bodies also collect revenue.

Revenue of the Village Panchayat

- House tax
- Professional tax
- Tax on shops
- Water charges
- Specific fees for property tax
- Specific fees for transfer of immovable property
- Funds from Central and State Governments, etc.

Revenue of the City Municipal Corporation

- House Tax
- Water Tax
- Tax on shopping complexes
- Professional Tax

- Entertainment Tax
- Vehicle Charges
- Funds by Central and State Government, etc.

Grama Sabha

A Grama Sabha is formed in every Village Panchayat. It is the only permanent unit in the Panchayat Raj System. Grama Sabha meetings are held even in smaller villages. The Grama Sabha is the grass root level democratic institution in a Village Panchayat.

Those who have attained the age of 18 years and whose names are found in the electoral roll of the same Panchayat can take part in a Grama Sabha meeting. The Grama Sabha meetings are conducted four times a year. Officers like the District Collector, the Block Development Officer, teachers etc., also participate in this meeting. The people can freely express their needs and grievances.

NOTE

Meetings convened on **January 26, May 1, August 15 and October 2.**

Apart from these days, the meetings can be convened as per need or during emergency

Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayat Raj as the foundation of India's political system, as a form of government, where each village would be responsible for its own affairs. The Panchayat Raj Act was enacted on April 24, 1992.

Special features of Panchayat Raj

- Grama Sabha
- Three tier local body governance
- Reservations
- Panchayat Elections
- Tenure
- Finance Commission
- Account and Audit, etc

NOTE

1. **April 24** is National Panchayat Raj Day.

2. **Villupuram District** has the highest number of Panchayat Unions (22), while The Nilgiris and Perambalur Districts have the lowest number (4).

3. **Walajahpet Municipality** (Vellore District) is the first Municipality in TamilNadu.

4. **Kanchipuram** District has the most number of municipalities.

Role of women in the Local Self Government

All local bodies have a reservation of 33% for women. In the 2011 Local Bodies election, 38% seats were won by women. As per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 2016, 50% reservation for women is being fixed in Panchayat Raj institutions.

Local Body Election

The tenure for the representatives of local self Government is 5 years. The election to the Local Bodies is held once in five years by the State Election Commission. Every state has a State Election Commission. The Tamil Nadu State Election Commission is situated in Koyambedu, Chennai.

Tamil Nadu

Village Panchayats - 12,524

Panchayat Unions - 385

District Panchayats - 31

Town Panchayats - 561

Municipalities - 125

City Municipal Corporations - 12

7th CIVICS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
1. Equality	29
2. Political Parties	32

UNIT 1- EQUALITY

Equality is ensuring individuals or groups that are not treated differently or less favorably on the basis of specific protected characteristics, including areas of race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age.

According to **Prof Laski** "Equality does not mean identity of treatment, the sameness of reward. It means first of all absence of social privilege, on the second it means that adequate opportunities are laid upon to all".

Importance of Equality

Equality is a powerful moral and political ideal that has inspired and guided human society for many centuries. The concept of equality invokes the idea that all human beings have equal worth regardless of their caste, color, gender, race or nationality. The democratic ideals such as liberty, equality etc are meaningful and effective only when they are implemented with justice.

Kinds of Equality

Social equality

Social equality means that all citizens are entitled to enjoy equal status in society. There should not be any discrimination of caste, creed, color and race. All should have equal opportunity to develop their personality and to complete goals.

Civil Equality

Civil equality is enjoyment of civil rights by all citizens. There should not be any discrimination of superior or inferior, the rich or the poor, caste or creed. Equal rights should be available to all the persons and nobody should be denied enjoyment of any rights. Rule of law is in force in England and in the eyes of law all are equal and equal treatment is given to all by the rule of law. In India the same rule of law is followed.

NOTE

Rule of law was advocated by A.V.Dicey, the British legal luminary.

Political Equality

All the democratic countries including India have guaranteed the political rights to all citizens. It includes

- Right to vote
- Right to hold public Office
- Right to criticize the government

Citizens should have equal opportunity to actively participate in the political life. These rights can be enjoyed through the Universal Adult Franchise. In India the voting right is given to all the citizens who have attained 18 years of age without any discrimination. India is the first country to give right to vote to women from the very first general election held in the year 1952. In Switzerland the right to vote is given to women in 1971. Any person who has completed the age of 25 years can contest in the election. Right to criticize the government is also very important right and the people can express their resentment through demonstrations. The value of the vote of the Prime Minister and value of vote of common man in general election is same which denotes political equality.

Gender Equality

All human beings, both men and women, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without any limitations. Women were not given equal rights and they were considered as weak as compared to man and they were placed in a secondary position to men. They should be treated equally. It does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender Equality is the equal right of both men and women to have access to opportunities and resources. They have right to participate in the economic sphere and make important decisions. Women with their talent and hard work have proved that their ability is not less than men in any aspect. Nowadays, women are successfully working in many fields like Border security force, Indian Air Force, etc. For the uplift of women 50% reservation has been given for women in local bodies.

NOTE

UNICEF says Gender Equality “means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and provisions. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be same, or that they be treated exactly alike.”

As of 2017, gender equality is the fifth of seventeen sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

Equality of Opportunity and Education

All the individuals should have similar chances to receive education. They should have similar opportunities to develop their personality. We need equality to get equal treatment in society. If we treat equality we can earn respect and dignity.

Equality in Indian constitution

Almost the constitution all the countries in the world have guaranteed equality. Likewise, the constitution of India has also guaranteed equality to all citizens by providing Articles form 14-18.

Article 14 - guarantees to all the people equality before law.

Article 15 - deals with the prohibition of discrimination.

Article 16 - provides equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment.

Article 17 - abolishes the practice of untouchability .

Article 18 - abolishes the titles conferred to citizen.

Equality before law and equal protection of law have been further strengthened in the Indian constitution under **Article 21**.

We can promote equality by

- Treating all fairly
- Creating an inclusive culture
- Ensuring equal access to opportunities
- Enabling to develop full potential
- Making laws and policies
- Education.

NOTE

Efforts were made by many social activists from the 19th century onwards. The noted champions of this cause were Raja Rammohan Roy, IshwarchandraVidyasagarDayanandSaraswati, MahadevGovindRanade, TarabaiShinde, Begum RokeyaSakhawatHussain. They worked hard to get equal status to the women.

UNIT 2- POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties are the voluntary associations of individuals with broad ideological identity who agree on some policies, formulate an agenda and programme for the society. Political parties seek to implement their policies by winning people's support through election. Parties vary in size and in the ways they organize themselves as well as in their policies.

Any political party has three basic components

- the leader
- the active members
- the followers

Importance of political parties

Political parties are the backbone of democracy. Parties are not part of the formal arrangement of a government but they are essential elements to form the government. They formulate public opinion. They serve as intermediaries between the citizen and the policy makers.

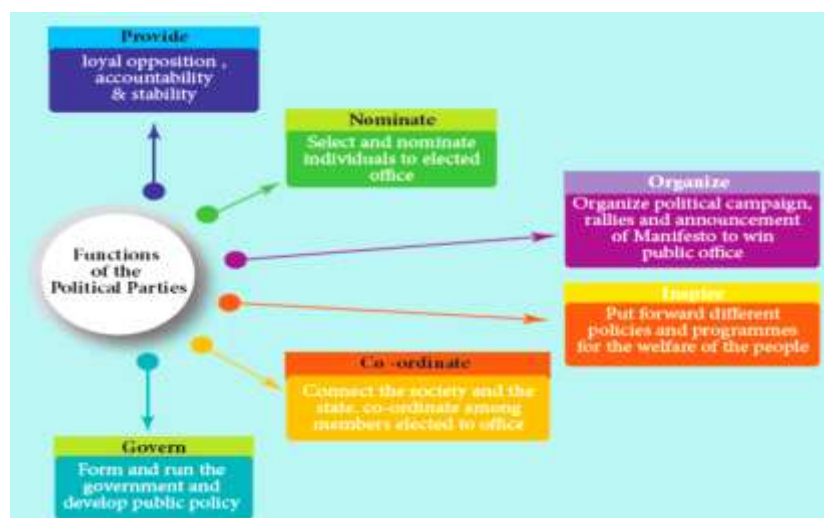
A party is recognized if

- It has been engaged in political activity for five years.
- Its candidates secure at least six percent of total votes in the last general election.

Characteristics of Political Parties

Political parties

- Consist a group of persons of common goals and shared values.
- Have its own ideology and programme.
- Capture power only by constitutional means.
- Endeavour to promote the national interest and national welfare.



Types of Party System

There are three major types of party system.

Single Party System

A system in which a single political party has the right to form the government. Single party is existed in the communist countries such as China, North Korea and Cuba.

Bi - Party System

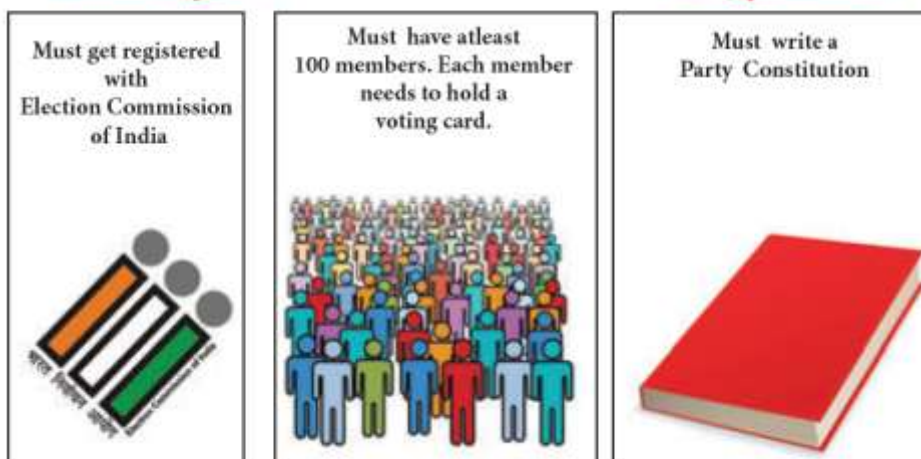
In Bi -Party system the power is usually shared between two parties. Of the two parties one becomes the ruling party and the other becomes opposition. eg Bi-Party system can be seen in U.K. (the Labour Party and the Conservative Party) and in U.S.A (the Republican Party and the Democratic Party).

Multi - Party System

When the competition for power is among three or more parties, the system is known as multi party system. This type of party system is in existence in India, France, Sweden and Norway etc.

Party system in India

Countries that follow a federal system have two kinds of parties. India's party system originated in the late 19th century. In fact India has the largest number of political parties in the world. In India we find the existence of political parties at three levels. They are National parties, Regional parties, and Registered but unrecognised parties (independent candidates). Every party in the country has to register with Election Commission.



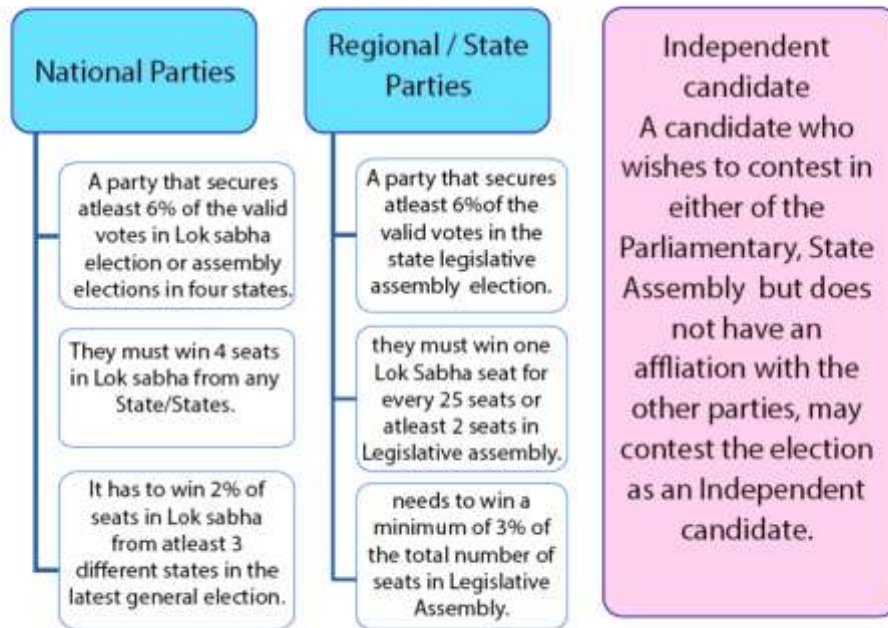
Recognized parties

Parties that fulfill these criteria are called recognized parties. They are given a unique symbol by the Election Commission.

A registered but unrecognized political party cannot contest election on its own symbol. This party has to choose one symbol from free symbol 'poll panel' announced by the Election Commission.

Criteria for Recognition

The Election Commission of India has some criteria for the recognition of political parties in India.



Free symbols 'Poll panel'

- As per the Election Symbols order 1968, symbols are either reserved or free.
- A reserved symbol is meant for a recognized political party.
- A free symbol is reserved for unrecognized party.

Majority Party

The Political Party whose number of candidates elected is more than the others is called the majority party. The Majority Party forms and runs the government. They select and appoint their ministers to run the government. They play a decisive role in making laws for the country.

Minority Party

Those with lesser number of elected candidates are called the minority party.

Opposition Party

The party which gets second largest number of seats next to the majority party in the election is called the Opposition party. An effective opposition is very essential for the successful operation of the democracy. They are as important as that of ruling party. They check the autocratic tendencies of the ruling party. They critically examine the policies and bills introduced by the government. They raise their voice on the failures and wrong policies. They highlight important issues which are not acted upon the Government. The leader of the opposition party enjoys the rank of Cabinet Minister.

Coalition Government

In a Multiparty system a single party sometimes may not secure the majority required to form the government. In such a case, some parties join together to form the government. Such government is called Coalition Government.

Electoral Symbols and its importance

An electoral symbol is a standardized symbol allocated to a political party. They play an important role in elections. They can be easily identified, understood, remembered and recognized by the voters. The Election commission has stopped allotting animals as symbols. The only exceptions are the lion and the elephant. The symbol of nationally recognized parties is standard throughout India. That symbol will not be allotted to any other party or individual.

State parties are allotted to certain symbols that no other party can use the symbol in that particular state but which different parties in different states can use the same symbol. (e.g Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand use bow and arrow as their symbol).

National Party	Regional /State Party
❖ National parties are political parties which participate in different elections all over India.	❖ Regional parties are political parties which participate in different elections but only within one state.
❖ It should be strong enough in at least four states.	❖ It should be strong enough in at least one or two states.
❖ It has an exclusive symbol throughout the country.	❖ A symbol is reserved for it in the state in which it is recognized. But the same symbol can be allotted to different parties in different states.
❖ It resolves State, National and International issues.	❖ It promotes regional and state interest.

NOTE

- **Party 'manifesto'**

During the campaign before election, the candidates announce the programmes and policies that their party will undertake if voted to power.

- **Election Commission**- Statutory body

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous, constitutional authority responsible for administering elections. Its head quarter is located in New Delhi

8th CIVICS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
01. How the State Government works	39
02. Citizen and Citizenship	46

UNIT – I: HOW THE STATE GOVERNMENT WORKS?

There are two sets of government in our country – the central government and the state government. There are 29 state governments in our country; every State has a government to run its own administration. The States have their own executive and legislature and Judiciary. The state executive consists of the Governor and the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. The Governor is an integral part of the State legislature.

The State Executive

The Governor

The Constitution provides for the post of the Governor as the Head of a State in India. He is appointed by the President of India. He is the constitutional Head of a State. The Governor is appointed for a term of five years. But before the expiry of his full term, the President can dismiss him from office. The Governor may also resign on his own interest. His term of office may be extended and he may be transferred to another State. However, the State Government cannot remove the Governor from his post. To be the Governor, a person must be a citizen of India and should have completed 35 years of age. And he cannot be a member of the Parliament or the State legislature. He should not hold any office of profit.

Powers and functions

- The Governor is the Chief Executive in a State. All the executive powers of the State are **vested upon him and decisions are taken in his name. He appoints the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers.**
- He makes some important appointments of the State Government, such as, the Advocate general, Chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission and others.
- The President imposes emergency in a State under Article 356 on the basis of the report of the Governor. The Governor also acts as the Chancellor of State Universities.
- He summons and prorogues the sessions of the State legislature and he can dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
- Money bills can be introduced in the State Legislative Assembly only with the approval of the Governor. The Governor may promulgate ordinances when the Legislative Assembly or both the Houses of the legislature (when there are two Houses) are not in session.
- The Governor may nominate one member from the Anglo- India Community to the Legislative Assembly if there are Anglo- Indian people in a State and

when they are not duly represented in the State legislature. He may also nominate 1/6 members of the Legislature Council from among persons who are experts in the fields of science, literature, arts, social service and co-operative movement.

- The annual budget of the State Government is laid before the legislature with the approval of the Governor. The Governor must give his assent to all the bills passed in the legislature including money bills. The Contingency fund of the State is also placed at the disposal of the Governor.

Position of the Governor

The position of the Governor of a State is compared to the President of India as a nominal executive. But the Governor is not always a nominal executive. He can exercise his powers in the real sense on some occasions. He acts as an agent of the Central Government in a State. Therefore, he is responsible for maintaining relation between the Central Government and the State Government. The Governor may advise the Council of Ministers when faces difficult situations. The President declares emergency in a State on the basis of the report of the Governor regarding the law and order situation in the State. The Governor takes independent decisions while exercising discretionary powers. He may seek information from the Council of Ministers regarding various activities of the Government.

The Chief Minister

The Governor appoints the leader of the majority party in the State Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister. He is the head of the State Council of Ministers. The Chief Minister has no fixed term of office. He remains in office so long as he gets support of the majority members of the Legislative Assembly. When he loses support in the legislature, he has to resign. The resignation of the Chief Minister means the resignation of the whole Council of Ministers in the State.

The Chief Minister must be a member of the State Legislature. If he is not a member of the State legislature at the time of his taking over charge, he must be so within a period of six months.

Powers and Functions

- The Chief Minister is the chief administrator of the State. All major decisions of the State Government are taken under his leadership.
- The Chief Minister plays an important role in the formation of the Council of Ministers. On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor appoints the other Ministers.
- The Chief Minister supervises the activities of different ministries and advises them accordingly. He also coordinates the activities of different ministries.

- The Chief Minister plays an important role in making policies of the State Government. He has to ensure that the policies of the government do not go against public interest. His voice is final in policy decisions of the State Government.
- He plays an important role in making higher appointments of the State Government. The Governor appoints different higher officials of the State Government on the advice of the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers.

The Legislature

In India, the State Legislature consists of the Governor and one or two houses. The upper house is called the Legislative Council while the lower house is called the Legislative Assembly.



Legislative Council

The Constitution provides that the total strength of the Legislative Council must not be less than 40 and not more than 1/3 of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of the State. The members of the Legislative Council are elected indirectly. One third of its members are elected by the local government bodies like the District Panchayat and Municipalities. Another one third is elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly. One twelfth is elected by the graduates of the constituency and another one twelfth by the teachers of secondary schools, colleges and universities. One sixth of the members of the Legislative Council are nominated by the Governor of the State.

The Legislative Council is a permanent house. One-third of its members retire every two years and elections are held to fill the vacant seats. The members are elected for a term of six years. To be a member of the Legislative Council, one must be a citizen of India and should have completed 30 years of age. He cannot be a member of the Legislative Assembly or either of the houses of the Parliament. The Chairman is the presiding officer of the Legislative Council. In his absence, the

Deputy Chairman presides over its meetings. They are elected from among the members of that house.

Legislative Assembly

The people who make the laws of a state government are called 'Members of the Legislative Assembly' (MLA). MLAs are chosen from different constituencies. For the election of MLAs the entire state is divided into different constituencies. These constituencies are called the legislative constituencies. One legislative constituency may have one lakh or even more people. One MLA is chosen from each legislative constituency to represent that legislative assembly.

Election to the Assembly

Different political parties compete in the elections to the legislative assembly. These parties nominate their candidates from each constituency. The candidate is that person who contests for the election and asks people to vote for him. A person has to be at least 25 years old to contest for election to the legislative assembly. One person can stand for election in more than one constituency at the same time. Even if a person does not belong to any political party, he can contest election; such candidate is called an independent candidate. Every party has its own symbol. Independent candidates are also given election symbol. The members of legislative assembly (MLA) are elected directly by the people. All people residing in the area of a legislative constituency who are 18 years of age can cast a vote in the legislative assembly elections.

According to the Constitution, a Legislative Assembly cannot have more than 500 members and not less than 60 members. Some seats in the Legislative Assembly are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Governor can nominate one member from the Anglo-Indian community. The members of the Legislative Assembly are elected for a term of five years. But the Governor can dissolve the house before the expiry of its term and can call for fresh elections. The meetings of the Assembly are presided over by the Speaker who is elected from among the members of the Assembly. In his absence, the Deputy Speaker conducts its meetings.

The States Council of Ministers

The leader of the majority party in the election is chosen as Chief Minister. In Tamil Nadu there are 234 legislative constituencies. The party with more than 118 elected candidates (MLA) are invited by the governor to form the Government. The Chief Minister (who also should be an MLA) chooses his ministers from the MLAs of his party. Ministers for various departments headed by the Chief Minister is called the State Government. So it is said that the party which got majority seats in the election forms the government.

The working of the State Government

After being elected to the legislative assembly the MLAs are expected to regularly participate in its sittings. The legislative assembly meets 2 or 3 times in a year. The main duty of the Legislative Assembly is to make laws for the state. It can make law on the subjects mentioned in the state list and the concurrent list. However, during state emergency, it cannot exercise its legislative power.

The assembly has control over the State council of Ministers. The State council of ministers are responsible or answerable to the Assembly for its activities. The Assembly may pass a no confidence motion against the council of Ministers and bring its downfall if it is not satisfied with the performance of the council of Ministers. The legislative Assembly has control over the finances of the state. A money bill can be introduced only in the Assembly. The government cannot impose, increase, lower or withdraw any tax without the approval of the Assembly. The elected members of the Legislative Assembly can take part in the election of the president of India and all members can take part in the election of the members of the Rajya Sabha from the state. The Assembly also takes part in the amendment of the Constitution on certain matters. So the government has three basic functions: making laws, executing laws and ensuring justice.

How laws are made in State Government?

Several kinds of rules and laws have been made for all people of our country. For instance, there is a law that you cannot keep a gun without having a licence for it. Or that woman cannot marry before the age of 18 years old and men cannot marry before the age of 21 years. These rules and laws have not been made just like that. People elected their government who thought carefully before making such laws. A lot of such laws are made by the state and central government.

In the legislative assembly meetings, MLAs discuss a number of topics like public works, education, law and order and various problems faced by the state. The MLAs can ask questions to know the activities of ministries, which the concern ministers have to answer. The legislative assembly makes laws on certain issues. The process of law making as follows:



Executing Laws

It is the job of the state's council of ministers to execute the law. The legislative assembly of Tamilnadu is located at Chennai. The place where a state's legislative assembly is located and where its council of ministers function is called the capital of that state.

The state government has several lakhs of government employees to execute the laws made by the legislative assembly- Collectors, Tahsildars, Block Development Officers, Revenue officers, Village Administrative Officers, Policemen, Teachers and Doctors, etc. All of them are paid salaries by the state government. They have to follow the orders of the state government.

Judiciary of State

High Courts

The High court stands at the apex of the State Judiciary. As per the constitution there shall be a High Court in each state. But there may be a common High Court for two or more states and Union Territories. The State High Court consists of a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may appoint from time to time it necessary. The number of judges in the High Court is not uniform and fixed. The President appoints the Chief Justice of High Court in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Governor of the state.

A Judge of High Court must have the following qualification:

- He must be a citizen of India
- He must have at least ten years' experience as head of the judicial office in the territory of India.
- He must have at least ten years' experience as an advocate in one or more High Courts.

A Judge of High Court holds the office until he completes the age of 62 years. A Judge of the High Court can be removed from office only for proven misbehaviour or incapacity and only in the same manner in which a Judge of the Supreme Court is removed.

Power and Functions of the High Court

- The High Court has been empowered to issue writs of Habeas corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari and Quo Warranto for the enforcement of the fundamental rights and for other purposes.
- Every High Court has a general power of superintendence over all the lower courts and tribunals within its jurisdiction except military courts and tribunals.
- If a case is pending before a sub - ordinate court and the High Court is satisfied that it involves a substantial question of the constitutional law, it can take up the case and decide it itself.
- The High Court controls all the subordinate courts in the State.

- Like the Supreme Court, the High Court also acts as a Court of Record.

For the purpose of judicial administration, each state is divided into a number of districts, each under the jurisdiction of a district judge. The district court Judges were appointed by the Governor. In the exercise of the above mentioned powers, the High Court enjoys full powers and freedom to act within its jurisdiction. The constitutional safeguards have ensured its independent working.

NOTE

1. While appointing the Governor, the President acts as per the advice of the Union Cabinet. The State Government is also consulted when the appointment is to be made. Generally, a person is not appointed Governor in his own State.
2. At present, only seven states in India have Legislative Council in their legislature. They are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Telengana
3. The State legislature follows the same procedure for passing an ordinary or a money bill like that of the Parliament. In State legislatures also, the Legislative Assembly which is the lower house is more powerful than the Legislative Council which is the upper house.

UNIT 2- CITIZENS AND CITIZENSHIP

The word 'Citizen' is derived from the Latin word 'Civis' which means resident of a City State of Ancient Rome. After the disappearance of City-State system, it has been used to mean a member of the State. The citizens of a state enjoy full civil and political rights.

Citizen and Citizenship

Citizen is a person of a country who is entitled to enjoy all the legal rights and privileges granted by a state and is obligated to obey its laws and to fulfil his duties.

Citizenship is the status given to the citizens which provide them the right to legally live in a country as long as they want.

Types of Citizen

There are two types of citizens, Natural and Naturalised citizens.

1. Natural citizens: are the citizens by birth.
2. Naturalised citizens: are the one who acquires citizenship.

Acquisition of citizenship

The citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship. They are by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.

1) By Birth

- a) A person born in India on or after 26th January 1950 but before 1st July 1987 is a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his Parents.
- b) A person born in India on or after 1st July 1987 is considered as a citizen of India only if either of his Parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.

2) By Descent

- a) A Person born outside India on or after 26th January 1950 but before 10th December 1992 is a citizen of India by descent, if his father was a citizen of India at the time of his birth.
- b) A person born outside India on or after 10th December 1992 is considered as a citizen of India if either of his parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.
- c) From 3rd December 2004 onwards, a person born outside India shall not be a citizen of India by descent, unless his birth is registered at an Indian consulate within one year of the date of birth.

3) By Registration

- a) A Person of Indian origin who is ordinarily resident in any country or place outside undivided India.

- b) A Person of Indian origin who is ordinarily resident in India for seven years before making an application for registration.
- c) A Person who is married to a citizen of India and is ordinarily resident in India for seven years before making an application for registration

4) By Naturalisation

The Central Government may, on an application, grant a certificate of naturalization to any person

- a) if he is not a citizen of any country where citizens of India are Prevented from becoming subjects or citizens of that country
- b) a citizen of any country, renounce the citizenship of that country
- c) he has either resided in India or been in the service of a Government in India or throughout the period of twelve months
- d) he is a good character and has an adequate knowledge of a language specified in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.(presently 22 languages)

5) By incorporation of Territory

If any foreign territory becomes a part of India, the Government of India specifies the persons who among the people of the territory shall be the citizens of India. Such persons become the citizens of India from the notified date. For example, when Pondicherry became a part of India, the Government of India issued the citizenship (Pondicherry) order, 1962.

Loss of Indian Citizenship

Part II of the Constitution of India (Article 5-11) prescribes three ways of losing citizenship.

Renunciation: (is a voluntary act) when a person after acquiring the citizenship of another country gives up his/her Indian citizenship.

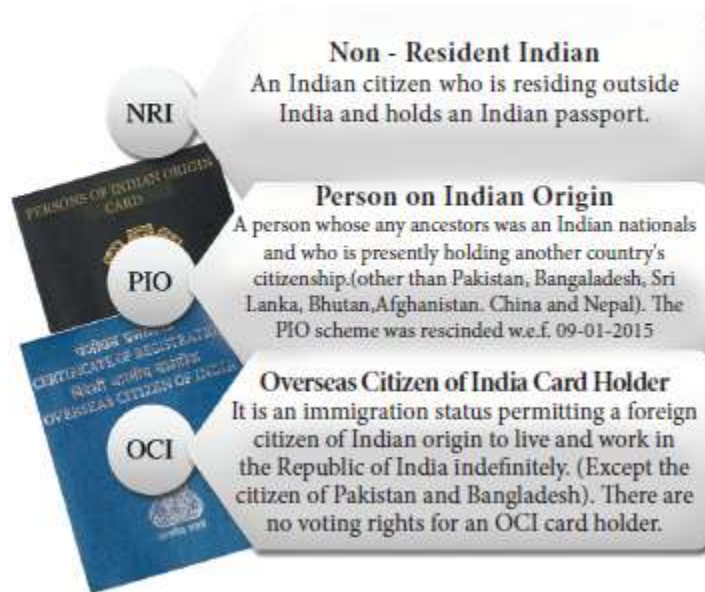
Termination: (takes place by operation of law) When an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country; he/she automatically ceases to be an Indian citizen.

Deprivation: (is a compulsory termination) The citizenship is deprived on the basis of an order of the Government of India in cases involving acquisition of Indian citizenship by fraud, false representation or being disloyal to the Constitution.

Single citizenship

Our Indian Constitution provides for only Single citizenship, that is, the Indian citizenship. But federal states like USA and Switzerland has dual citizenship. (National citizenship and the State citizenship). In India, all citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same political and civil rights of citizenship all over the country.

Overseas Citizenship of India



Rights and Duties of Citizen

Our Constitution confers the following rights for the citizen of India.

- Fundamental Rights
- Right to vote in the election to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature
- Right to hold certain public offices
- Right to become the Member of Parliament and State Legislature.

According to 42 Amendment of our Constitution, a set of Fundamental Duties are prescribed for all citizens of India. (For e.g. paying taxes honestly, respecting the rights, beliefs and opinions of others, defending the country, respect and obey state and local laws and so on)

Qualities of a good citizen

- Loyalty to the Constitution.
- Obeys laws.
- Contributes to society and community and performs civic duty.
- Quality of goodness and justice.
- Respecting diversity.

Global Citizenship

Global citizenship is an idea that everyone, no matter where they live is part of a worldwide community rather than as the citizen of particular nation or place. All people have rights and civic responsibilities. It is fundamental in enabling young people to access and participate in shaping modern society.

Our Constitution of India has introduced Single citizenship and provides uniform rights for the people of India to promote the feeling of fraternity and unity among them to build an integrated Indian nation.

NOTE

- **Indian Citizenship Act, 1955**
- This act is to provide for the acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship.
- **Nationality and citizenship**
- Nationality is the status of belonging to a particular nation by origin, birth basically, it's an ethnic and racial concept. Nationality of a person cannot be changed.
- Citizenship is granted to an individual by the government of the country when he/she complies with the legal formalities. Citizenship can be changed.
- As per the order precedence President is the first citizen of our country.
- Alien and immigrant are two terms that are used to refer to non-nationals of a country.
- Alien refers to all non-citizens or non-nationals residing in a country.eg. tourists, foreign students
- Immigrant refers to alien who has been granted the right to reside and work permanently without restriction in a particular country.
- **Overseas Indians' Day**
PravasiBharatiya Divas (PBD) Sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India is celebrated once in every two years, to "mark the contributions of Overseas Indian Community in the development of India". The day commemorates the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi in India from South Africa.