



MALUKA IAS

**SYNOPSIS OF NCERT
POLITY, ECONOMICS
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION**

VI TO XII CLASS



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CONTENT

S.NO.	CLASS	PAGE NO.
POLITY		
1.	CLASS- IX DEMOCRATIC POLITICS-I	1-23
2.	CLASS- X DEMOCRATIC POLITICS-II	1-23
3.	CLASS- XI INDIAN CONSTITUTION AT WORK	1-43
ECONOMICS		
4.	CLASS-X UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT	1-11
5.	CLASS- XI INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1-31
6.	CLASS- XII INTRODUCTORY MICROECONOMICS	1-33
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS		
7.	CLASS- XII CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS	1-17

Class- IX

Democratic Politics- I

CHAPTER I

Democracy in the Contemporary World

Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers.

In a democracy-

- Only leaders elected by people should rule the country, and
- People have the freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.

PHASES IN THE EXPANSION OF DEMOCRACY

French Revolution (1789)

- French Revolution inspired many struggles for democracy all over Europe
- The right to vote was granted to more and more people

American Revolution-

- British colonies in North America declared themselves independent in 1776
- In the next few years these colonies came together to form the United States of America.
- Adopted a democratic constitution in 1787.
- 19th century struggles for democracy often centred round political equality, freedom and justice
- Challenge- right for every adult citizen to vote; Often women did not have the right to vote.
- In USA, the blacks all over the country could not exercise the right to vote until 1965.
- Those struggling for democracy wanted this right granted universally to all adults – men or women, rich or poor, white or black.
- This is called 'universal adult franchise' or 'universal suffrage'.

End of Colonialism

- For a very long time most countries in Asia and Africa was colonies under the control of European nations.
- Many of these countries became democracies immediately after the end of WW2 in 1945.
- India got Independence- 1947
- Ghana used to be a British colony named Gold Coast.(Independent- 1957)

Recent phase

- 1980- democracy was revived in several countries of Latin America
- Poland and several other countries became free from the control of the Soviet Union during 1989-90.
- Soviet Union itself broke down in 1991. The Soviet Union comprised 15 Republics
- Pakistan and Bangladesh made a transition from army rule to democracy in 1990s
- In 2008, Pakistan became democratic again and Nepal emerged as a democratic republic after abolishing the monarchy.

Story of Myanmar-

- Myanmar, previously known as Burma.
- Gained freedom from colonial rule in 1948 and became a democracy.
- But the democratic rule ended in 1962 with a military coup.
- In 1990 elections were held for the first time after almost 30 years.
- The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi (pronounced Soo-chi), won the election.
- But the military leaders of Myanmar refused to step down and did not recognise the election results.
- Instead, the military put the elected pro-democracy leaders, including Suu Kyi, under house arrest.
- Anyone caught publicly airing views or issuing statements critical of the regime can be sentenced up to twenty years in prison.
- Due to the coercive policies of the military-ruled government in Myanmar, about 6 to 10

lakh people in that country have been uprooted from their homes and have taken shelter elsewhere.

- Despite being under house arrest, Suu Kyi continued to campaign for democracy.
- Finally, under her leadership, the NLD fought the historic 2015 elections and a democratic republic was established.

United Nations (UN)

- The UN is a global association of nations of the world to help cooperation in international law, security, economic development and social equity.
- The UN Secretary General is its chief administrative officer.

UN Security Council

- Organ of the UN, is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries.
- It can put together an international army and take action against the wrongdoer.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)-

- Lends money to governments when they need it
- One of the biggest moneylenders for any country in the world.
- Its 189 member states (as on 12 April 2016) do not have equal voting rights.
- The vote of each country is weighed by how much money it has contributed to the IMF.
- More than 40% of the voting power in the IMF is in the hands of only seven countries (US, Japan, Germany, France, UK, Italy and Canada).
- The remaining 182 countries have very little say in how these international organisations take decisions.

World Bank-

- Also gives loans to the governments.
- Before lending they ask the concerned government to show all its accounts and direct it to make changes in its economic policy.
- The President of the World Bank has always been a citizen of the US, conventionally nominated by the Treasury Secretary (Finance Minister) of the US government.

CHAPTER 2**What is Democracy? Why Democracy?**

Democracy is based on a fundamental principle of political equality.

That gives us the third feature of democracy: in a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

One person, One vote, One value-

- Until 2015, in Saudi Arabia women did not have the right to vote.
- Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote.
- In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.

MERITS OF DEMOCRACY

- 1) A democratic government is better form of government because it is more accountable form of government.
- 2) Democracy improves the quality of decision making.
- 3) Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- 4) Poor and least educated has the same status as the rich and educated.
- 5) Democracy allows us to correct our own mistake
- 6) A democracy requires that the rulers have to attend to the needs of the people.
- 7) A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government

ARGUMENTS AGAINST DEMOCRACY

- 1) Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- 2) Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
- 3) So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.

- 4) Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
- 5) Democracy leads to corruption for it is based on electoral competition.
- 6) Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

Arguments for democracy

- China's famine- 1958-1961- ~ 3crore people died in this famine.
- During those days, India's economic condition was not much better than China.
- Yet India did not have a famine of the kind China had.
- Economists think that this was a result of different government policies in the two countries.
- The existence of democracy in India made the Indian government respond to food scarcity in a way that the Chinese government did not.
- They point out that no large-scale famine has ever taken place in an independent and democratic country.
- If China too had multiparty elections, an opposition party and a press free to criticise the government, then so many people may not have died in the famine

Rule of law and respect for rights

- Zimbabwe attained independence from White minority rule in 1980.
- Since then the country has been ruled by ZANU-PF, the party that led the freedom struggle. Its leader,
- Robert Mugabe ruled the country since independence.
- Elections were held regularly and always won by ZANU-PF. President Mugabe was popular but also used unfair practices in elections.
- Over the years his government changed the constitution several times to increase the powers of the President and make him less accountable.
- Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted.
- Public protests and demonstrations against the government were declared illegal.

- There was a law that limited the right to criticise the President.
- Television and radio were controlled by the government and gave only the ruling party's version.
- There were independent newspapers but the government harassed those journalists who went against it.
- The government ignored some court judgments that went against it and pressurised judges. He was forced out of office in 2017.

Why democracy should lead to better decisions than any non-democratic government?

- Democracy is based on consultation and discussion.
- A democratic decision always involves many persons, discussions and meetings.
- When a number of people put their heads together, they are able to point out possible mistakes in any decision. This takes time.
- It reduces the chances of rash or irresponsible decisions.
- Thus democracy improves the quality of decision-making.
- Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- In any society people are bound to have differences of opinions and interests.
- These differences are particularly sharp in a country like ours which has an amazing social diversity.
- People belong to different regions, speak different languages, practise different religions and have different castes.
- They look at the world very differently and have different preferences.
- The preferences of one group can clash with those of other groups. The conflict can be solved by brutal power.
- Whichever group is more powerful will dictate its terms and others will have to accept that.
- But that would lead to resentment and unhappiness.
- Different groups may not be able to live together for long in such a way.

- Democracy provides the only peaceful solution to this problem.
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- Finally, democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.
- It offers better chances of a good decision; it is likely to respect people's own wishes and allows different kinds of people to live together.
- Even when it fails to do some of these things, it allows a way of correcting its mistakes and offers more dignity to all citizens.
- That is why democracy is considered the best form of government.

CHAPTER 3

CONSTITUTIONAL DESIGN

DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA-

- This was Nelson Mandela, being tried for treason by the white South African government.
- He and seven other leaders were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for daring to oppose the apartheid regime in his country.

Struggle against apartheid

- Apartheid was the name of a system of racial discrimination unique to South Africa.
- The white Europeans imposed this system on South Africa.
- During 17th& 18th centuries, the trading companies from Europe occupied it with arms and force, in the way they occupied India.
- But unlike India, a large number of 'whites' had settled in South Africa and became the local rulers.
- The system of apartheid divided the people and labelled them on the basis of their skin colour.
- The native people of South Africa are black in colour.
- They made up about three-fourth of the population and were called 'blacks'.
- Besides these two groups, there were people of mixed races who were called 'coloured' and people who migrated from India.
- The white rulers treated all non- whites as inferiors. The non-whites did not have voting rights.
- The apartheid system was particularly oppressive for the blacks. They were forbidden from living in white areas.
- They could work in white areas only if they had a permit.
- Trains, buses, taxis, hotels, hospitals, schools and colleges, libraries, cinema halls, theatres, beaches, swimming pools, public toilets, were all separate for the whites and blacks. This was called segregation.

- They could not even visit the churches where the whites worshipped.
- Blacks could not form associations or protest against the terrible treatment.
- Since 1950, the blacks coloured and Indians fought against the apartheid system.
- They launched protest marches and strikes.
- The African National Congress (ANC) was the umbrella organisation that led the struggle against the policies of segregation.
- This included many workers' unions and the Communist Party.
- Many sensitive whites also joined the ANC to oppose apartheid and played a leading role in this struggle.
- Several countries denounced apartheid as unjust and racist.
- But the white racist government continued to rule by detaining, torturing and killing thousands of black and coloured people

Towards a new constitution

- As protests and struggles against apartheid had increased, the government realised that they could no longer keep the blacks under their rule through repression.
- The white regime changed its policies.
- Discriminatory laws were repealed.
- Ban on political parties and restrictions on the media were lifted.
- After 28 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela walked out of the jail as a free man.
- Finally, at the midnight of 26 April 1994, the new national flag of the Republic of South Africa was unfurled marking the newly born democracy in the world.
- The apartheid government came to an end, paving way for the formation of a multi-racial government.
- After the emergence of the new democratic South Africa, black leaders appealed to fellow blacks to forgive the whites for the atrocities they had committed while in power.
- The party that ruled through oppression and brutal killings and the party that led the freedom struggle sat together to draw up a common constitution.

- After two years of discussion and debate they came out with one of the finest constitutions the world has ever had.
- This constitution gave to its citizens the most extensive rights available in any country.
- Together, they decided that in the search for a solution to the problems, nobody should be excluded; no one should be treated as a demon.
- They agreed that everybody should become part of the solution, whatever they might have done or represented in the past.
- The preamble to the South African Constitution sums up this spirit.
- The South African constitution inspires democrats all over the world.
- These rules also determine what the elected governments are empowered to do and what they cannot do.
- Finally these rules decide the rights of the citizen.
- These rules will work only if the winner cannot change them very easily.
- This is what the South Africans did. They agreed on some basic rules.
- They also agreed that these rules will be supreme, that no government will be able to ignore these.
- This set of basic rules is called a constitution.
- Every country has diverse groups of people.
- All over the world people have differences of opinion and interests.

Why we need a Constitution?

- The South African example is a good way to understand why we need a constitution and what do constitutions do.
- The oppressor and the oppressed in this new democracy were planning to live together as equals.
- The black majority was keen to ensure that the democratic principle of majority rule was not compromised. ‘
- They wanted substantial social and economic rights.
- The white minority was keen to protect its privileges and property.
- After long negotiations both parties agreed to a compromise.
- The whites agreed to the principle of majority rule and that of one person one vote.
- They also agreed to accept some basic rights for the poor and the workers.
- The blacks agreed that majority rule would not be absolute.
- They agreed that the majority would not take away the property of the white minority.
- The only way to build and maintain trust in such a situation is to write down some rules of the game that everyone would abide by.
- These rules lay down how the rulers are to be chosen in future.
- Whether democratic or not, most countries in the world need to have these basic rules.
- This applies not just to governments.
- Any association needs to have its constitution.
- Constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country.
- Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory (called citizens) and also the relationship between the people and government.

A constitution does many things:

- 1) First, it generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together;
- 2) Second, it specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take which decisions;
- 3) Third, it lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens are; and
- 4) Fourth, it expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society
- 5) *All countries that have constitutions are not necessarily democratic.*
- 6) *But all countries that are democratic will have constitutions.*

- 7) After the War of Independence against Great Britain, the Americans gave themselves a constitution.
- 8) After the Revolution, the French people approved a democratic constitution.
- 9) Since then it has become a practice in all democracies to have a written constitution.

MAKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- At that time the people of India were emerging from the status of subjects to that of citizens.
- The country was born through a partition on the basis of religious differences.
- The British had left it to the rulers of the princely states to decide whether they wanted to merge with India or with Pakistan or remain independent.
- The merger of these princely states was a difficult and uncertain task.
- The makers of the constitution had anxieties about the present and the future of the country.

The path to Constitution

- Our national movement was not merely a struggle against a foreign rule.
- It was also a struggle to rejuvenate our country and to transform our society and politics.
- There were sharp differences of opinion within the freedom struggle about the path India should take after Independence.
- As far back as in 1928, Motilal Nehru and eight other Congress leaders drafted a constitution for India.
- In 1931, the resolution at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress dwelt on how independent India's constitution should look like.
- Both these documents were committed to the inclusion of universal adult franchise, right to freedom and equality and to protecting the rights of minorities in the constitution of independent India.

- Thus some basic values were accepted by all leaders much before the Constituent Assembly met to deliberate on the Constitution.
- The British rule had given voting rights only to a few.
- Elections were held in 1937 to Provincial Legislatures and Ministries all over British India.
- These were not fully democratic governments.
- But the experience gained by Indians in the working of the legislative institutions proved to be very useful for the country in setting up its own institutions and working in them.
- That is why the Indian constitution adopted many institutional details and procedures from colonial laws like the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Many of our leaders were inspired by the ideals of French Revolution, the practice of parliamentary democracy in Britain and the Bill of Rights in the US.
- The socialist revolution in Russia had inspired many Indians to think of shaping a system based on social and economic equality.

The Constituent Assembly

- The drafting of the document called the constitution was done by an assembly of elected representatives called the Constituent Assembly.
- Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in July 1946.
- First meeting was held in December 1946.
- Soon after, the country was divided into India and Pakistan.
- The Constituent Assembly was also divided into the Constituent Assembly of India and that of Pakistan.
- The Constituent Assembly that wrote the Indian constitution had 299 members.
- The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 but it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- To mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year.
- Constituent Assembly represented the people of India.

- There was no universal adult franchise at that time.
- So the Constituent Assembly could not have been chosen directly by all the people of India.
- It was elected mainly by the members of the existing Provincial Legislatures that we mentioned above.
- This ensured a fair geographical share of members from all the regions of the country.
- The Assembly was dominated by the Indian National Congress, the party that led India's freedom struggle.
- But the Congress itself included a variety of political groups and opinions.
- The Assembly had many members who did not agree with the Congress.
- In social terms too, the Assembly represented members from different language groups, castes, classes, religions and occupations.
- Drafting Committee- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- More than two thousand amendments were considered.
- The members deliberated for 114 days spread over three years.

The Dream and the Promise

Mahatma Gandhi.

- He was not a member of the Constituent Assembly. Yet there were many members who followed his vision.
- Years ago, writing in his magazine *Young India* in 1931, he had spelt out what he wanted the Constitution to do

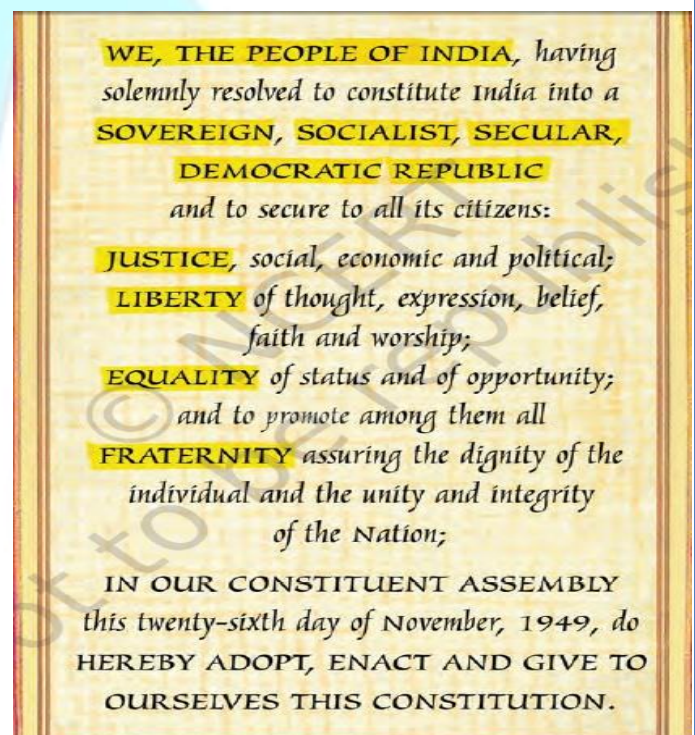
Dr. Ambedkar

- This dream of an India that has eliminated inequality was shared by Dr. Ambedkar, who played a key role in the making of the Constitution but he had a different understanding of how inequalities could be removed.
- He often bitterly criticised Mahatma Gandhi and his vision.

Philosophy of the Constitution

- Values that inspired and guided the freedom struggle and were in turn nurtured by it, formed the foundation for India's democracy.
- These values are embedded in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.
- They guide all the articles of the Indian Constitution.
- The Constitution begins with a short statement of its basic values. This is called the Preamble to the constitution.
- Taking inspiration from American model, most countries in the contemporary world have chosen to begin their constitutions with a preamble.

Preamble



WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

The constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives, and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers

SOVEREIGN

- People have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters.