



Something To Know

A. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. The smallest unit of community life is—

(a) a village.

(b) a family.

(c) a school.

(d) a child.

2. It is very essential to keep the environment—

(a) light and bright.

(b) clean and green.

(c) dry and wet.

(d) hot and cold.

3. Economic development has made villages and towns—

(a) close to each other.

(b) distant from each other.

(c) independent of each other.

(d) rivals of each other.

4. Which one of the following festivals is not a harvesting festival?

(a) onam

(b) baisakhi

(c) diwali

(d) pongal

5. The Directive Principles of State Policy are helpful in achieving our national goal like—

(a) secularism

(b) economic justice

(c) population control

(d) education for all

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. Several families living close to one another form a _____.

2. Community life promotes a feeling of _____.

3. Depending on one another is called _____.

4. Education makes us a good _____.

5. India is mainly a land of _____.

C. Give one word answer to the following.

1. Name the first school of a child. _____
2. Name the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu. _____
3. What makes the fulfilment of our needs possible? _____
4. What forces the villagers to migrate to towns and cities? _____
5. Which factor has diluted the impact of India's economic progress? _____

D. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What values does our family inculcate in us?
2. How does school help us in our development?
3. How did economic interdependence begin in a community?
4. List any four essential services commonly required by rural as well as urban communities.
5. Name the main factors responsible for Green Revolution in India.

E. Answer the following questions.

1. How did the 'community life' begin?
2. How does the cultural exchange help in community development?
3. Distinguish between the rural and urban communities.
4. Highlight the factors that make the city-life in India very difficult.
5. State the provisions given in the Indian Constitution which aim at bringing equality.



Value Based Question

Anurag is a student of DAV Public School, Dhanbad, Bihar. One day, he found his best friend Shivam crying because his father was in the hospital and needed blood urgently. After the school, Anurag went with Shivam and donated blood. When he reached home and told everything to his parents, they scolded him for what he had done.

1. How far do you agree with Anurag's parents?
2. What will you do if you get a chance to donate blood in such a situation and why?



Map Skill

On an outline political map of India, locate and label the following:

- (a) Any two North Indian states where Green Revolution took place.
- (b) The state where Pongal is celebrated.
- (c) The state to which Bihu dance is associated with.
- (d) The state known for Onam festival.



Something To Do

1. Make a list of problems caused by over-population. Hold a group discussion in the class to find out solutions to these problems.
2. List ten ways in which your family helps you. In return, what can you do for your family?
3. Cite examples of unity in diversity in your day to day life.
4. Hold an exhibition in the school where the stalls should represent different states of India showing food, dresses, dance forms and varieties of natural vegetation and wildlife.

You have read in the previous chapter that 'We, the People of India', come from different races, regions, religions, castes and speak different languages. In such a diverse society, different demands arise which are often in conflict with one another. Some people think that their problems are more important. So, they should be solved first whereas others may think that their problems should be given top priority. In such a conflicting situation, the positive attitude of “live and let live” is the best course to amicably settle the disputes and solve the problems. The democratic way of life based on equality, fraternity and justice paves the way and prepares the citizens to mutually resolve the disputes arising out of the vested or varied interests.

Be it a government office, a private company, a hospital or an educational institution, conflicting interests lead to misunderstanding, rigid stands and sometimes clashes. In such a situation of discord and division, democratic attitude of adjustment and accommodation is the best way to settle the issues. That is why, India opted to form a **democratic government**.



Parliament House

DEMOCRACY

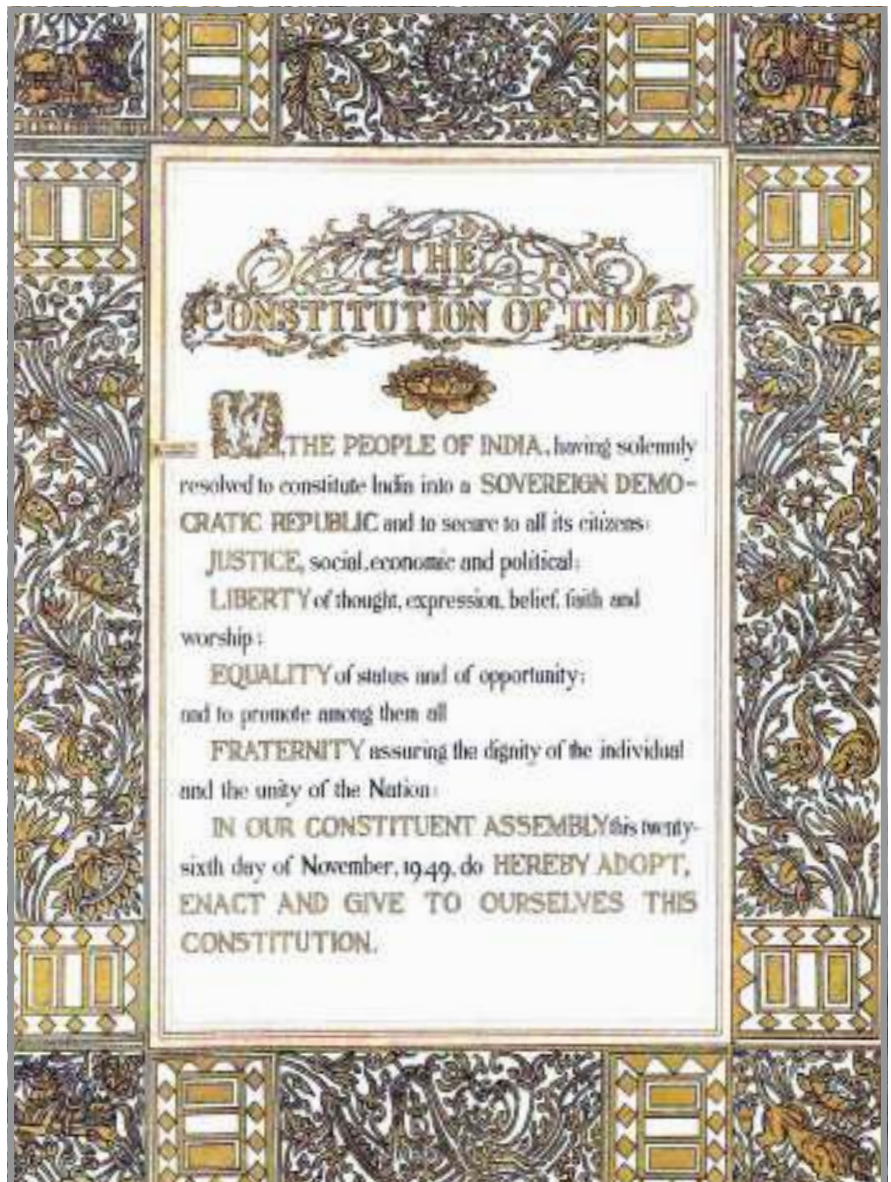
Let us remember that **democracy** is just not a form of government but is a way of life. It teaches us to provide equal opportunities to everyone without any discrimination. It makes us conscious about protection of the old, infirm and children. It expects involvement of all members of the family or society in decision making. In democracy, everyone can share equal freedom in social, economic

and political fields. In case of conflicting interests, issues and extreme approaches, the harmony can be brought through tolerance and self-discipline. In this way, it strikes a **balance** in the society.

Many a time, a question arises that when a large number of people are involved in taking a decision or reaching at a consensus, whose view should be accepted? In democracy, the opinion of majority is accepted but the opinion of minority is also respected.

Goals of Democracy

- To solve all problems through discussion, persuasion and compromise. There is no place for coercion and violence in democracy.
- Democracy stands for gradual changes in society in the social, economic and political fields.
- Democracy aims at social, economic and political equality.
- Democracy maintains harmony and balance in the society.
- To root out authoritarianism and dictatorship.
- Democracy inculcates the habit of obeying the rules and regulations of the state.
- It helps in maintaining peace.
- It endeavours to solve the problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and unemployment, the main causes of inequality in India.
- Probably, the ultimate goal of democracy is the well being of each individual as a distinct and significant human being.



Preamble of Indian constitution

Representative Democracy

In a vast country like India, it is difficult to devise a method for the direct participation of the people in the governance of the country. Therefore, representative democracy has been adopted in India. Under this system, people elect their representatives who govern on their behalf. This means, India is indirectly governed by the people through their elected representatives like *Panchs*, Municipal Councillors, Members of Legislative Assemblies or Members of Parliament.

India is the largest democracy of the world governed by a democratic government. A **democratic government** is a government of the people, for the people and by the people. The people of India have the power to govern their country through their elected representatives who take decisions on behalf of the people, make laws in the interest of the people and work for their welfare.



Do You Know?

We Indians must feel proud of the fact that our constitution makers gave equal voting rights to men and women both after independence when the Constitution was enforced unlike that of US, the UK and France where women had to fight for years to get the right to vote. In the United States of America women got the right to vote in 1920. In UK they were given voting rights in 1928, whereas in France the women were given the right to vote in 1944.

People's Participation

Participation of the people in the election process of the country at various levels is based on **Universal Adult Franchise**, which means all the citizens of India, who are 18 years of age and above are eligible to cast their votes, irrespective of caste, colour, creed, religion, region or language. Right to vote and to elect representatives is given to all the adults without any discrimination. This right forms the very basis of democratic governments at various levels in India.

People's participation does not end even after the elections. It is also to be seen when government is formed by the elected representatives. In day to day life, people closely watch the activities of various departments of the government and criticise also, if required. They also guard their own rights and freedom given to them by the Indian Constitution.



Queue outside a polling booth



A woman casting vote

When the term of government at any level expires, which is five years in India, general elections are held. At this stage again, it is the people who decide whether to elect the same political party or candidates to rule or replace them by some others in the elections. Considering all the aspects, the duty of the voters in a democratic set up is by no means easy and simple. Therefore, it is essential to think carefully before one casts one's vote. It is our moral duty that we use our right to vote judiciously.

How do we govern ourselves?

In our daily life, we observe that many activities are always going on throughout the country. These are building of roads, generation of electricity, running of hospitals and dispensaries, imparting education, transportation of goods and passengers, defending the borders, etc. Who organises and controls all this? Who makes laws to regulate such activities? It is the governments at different levels that organise, supervise and control the activities around us. The government not only makes laws for all of us but executes them as well. In case, some people break these laws, they are punished also.

For good governance and smooth functioning of various departments, the duties and responsibilities are divided among the governments at different levels.

Levels of Government

Keeping in mind, the large extent of the country, vast population and diversity of India, the responsibilities of the government have been divided into governments at three levels. They are:

- (i) Government at the **national level** works for the whole country and is called the **Central or Union government**.
- (ii) Government at the **state level** works within its own state territory. For example, the government of Haryana works only in the state of Haryana. The government of Kerala looks after Kerala state only and likewise.
- (iii) The **lowest level** of government is at the **village level** which is also called the **government at the grass root level**. The *Gram Panchayats* come under this category.



Keywords

- **authoritarianism**: a government in which ruler is an absolute dictator.
- **coersion**: use of force to cause something to occur.
- **compromise**: an accommodation in which both sides make concessions.
- **democracy**: a form of government chosen by the people.
- **dictatorship**: a form of government in which ruler is unconstrained.
- **poverty**: the state of having little or no money or possession.
- **violence**: a turbulent state resulting in injuries and destruction.



Something To Know

A. Tick (✓) the correct option.

- Conflicting interests lead to—
(a) understanding (b) harmony
(c) flexible stand (d) clashes
- In an atmosphere of discord and division, what is the best way to settle disputes?
(a) firm stand and rigidity (b) fight for one's rights
(c) open confrontation (d) adjustment and accommodation
- Democratic way of life demands that—
(a) majority should not accept what the minority says.
(b) minority should ignore the view point of majority.
(c) opinion of the minority should be respected.
(d) majority and minority both should stick to their stands.
- Which one of the following is against the spirit of democracy?
(a) harmony and balance (b) dictatorship
(c) social equality (d) economic equality
- Identify the undemocratic method of problem solving.
(a) discussion (b) coercion
(c) persuasion (d) compromise

B. Fill in the blanks.

- Our country is _____ governed by the people through their representatives.
- A democratic government is a government _____ the people, _____ the people and _____ the people.
- When elected representatives govern the country on behalf of the people, it is called _____ democracy.
- There is no place for _____ and _____ in a democracy.
- Democracy paves the way and prepares the citizens to _____ the disputes.

C. Match the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. India | a. right to cast vote |
| 2. Goal of democracy | b. live and let live |
| 3. Universal Adult Franchise | c. government at national level |
| 4. Union Government | d. well being of each individual |
| 5. Positive attitude | e. democratic government |

D. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. What is the most positive attitude in a conflicting situation?
2. Mention an outcome of conflicting situations.
3. Who organises, supervises and controls activities around us?
4. What is the outcome of tolerance and self-discipline?
5. Give example of any two elected representatives of the people at various levels of government.

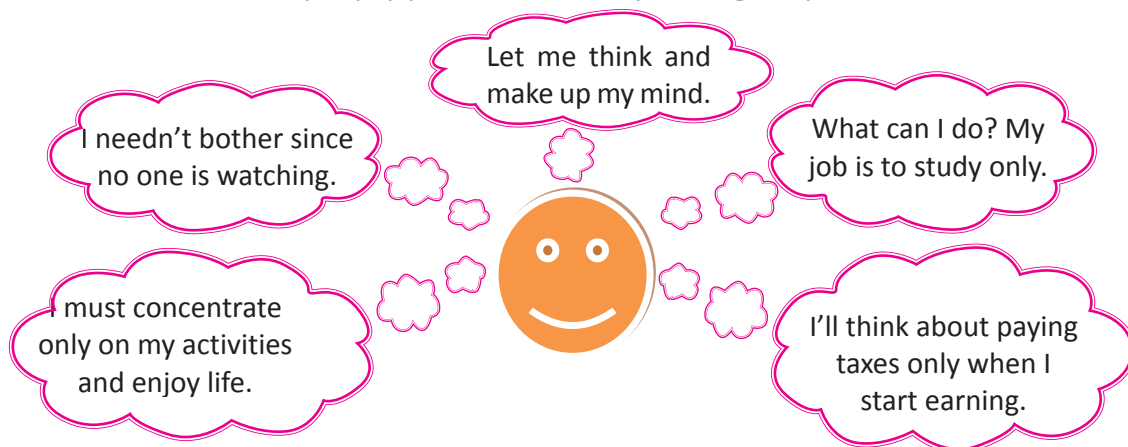
E. Answer the following questions.

1. State three points on the right which forms basis of democratic government.
2. Whose view should be accepted when so many people are involved in taking a decision and why?
3. Why did India opt for representative democracy? Explain.
4. Mention any three advantages of a democratic set up.
5. How do people guard their own rights and freedom granted to them by the Constitution? Explain.



Value Based Question

As a citizen of India, should you pay your taxes honestly and regularly?



1. Study the above diagram carefully and suggest ways and means to bring a change in the attitude.
2. Why should we pay taxes honestly and regularly?



Map Skill

On the outline political map of the world, locate and label the following:

- (a) The oldest representative democracy—USA
- (b) The country with largest number of voters—India
- (c) A country which has given voting rights to its women in 2015—Saudi Arabia
- (d) The country which is considered the birth place of direct democracy—Greece
- (e) The country which gave its women the right to vote as late as in 1928—UK



Something To Do

1. Read the Preamble very carefully. Identify the key concepts or words which depict the key goals/ideas/salient features of the Indian Constitution. Now discuss them in the class and try to list the top five which are most essential in a democratic set up.
2. Divide the class into four groups. Let each group prepare a presentation against any one of the following topics.

The right to vote should not be given to-

- (a) the poor people
- (b) the women
- (c) the uneducated people
- (d) the corrupt people

On the day, when presentation is made in the class by the concerned group, all others should raise points against the topic. At the end, the teacher should conclude the debate in favour of 'Universal Adult Franchise'.