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As per the latest ICSE syllabus

9

ICSE

History & Civics



Sudeshna Sengupta



Ratna Sagar

Based on the latest syllabus prescribed by the
Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations

ICSE
**History
& Civics**

9

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Ratna Sagar

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Preface

A textbook will be deemed effective if it is optimally useful for the teacher and student alike. With this belief, I have designed ICSE History & Civics 9 slightly differently. Each chapter is interspersed with a Section Review, to enable the students to revise small sections before attempting to understand the entire chapter. Actually, this review section is designed on the lines of the Objective Questions set by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi.

Each chapter has a To Remember section, which recapitulates the entire chapter. The Photo Study section meets the Board's requirement of 'picture questions'. A special chapter, Art and Architecture Down the Ages, has been given at the end.

Another significant addition is by way of snippets under Trivia. It will allow the students to go beyond mere historical facts and essentials. The tables and bullet points will help the students to understand the facts at a glance. Two model papers have been given for further practice.

As a teacher and a lifelong student of History, I trust that both teachers and students will benefit from this book.

Suggestions for the improvement of the book are welcome.

Sudeshna Sengupta

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Our Constitution

THE MAKING OF OUR CONSTITUTION

Two momentous days in the history of this great nation are 15 August 1947, the day the people of India saw the start of an epoch filled with a new vision; and 26 January 1950, the day the Constitution of India came into force and India became a republic.

Constitution is a set of rules and regulations according to which a nation is governed. The ordinary laws of the country must conform to these set of rules. It also provides a framework for the government to function. The Constitution of India, for instance, outlines the democratic and parliamentary form of government adopted by our country. It defines the position and powers of the three organs of the government—the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. It also enshrines the Fundamental Rights to be granted to every citizen and the Directive Principles to be followed to establish a welfare society.

Formation of the Constituent Assembly

In 1938, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru put forward the demand for a Constituent Assembly thus: ‘The National Congress stands for independence and a democratic State. It has proposed that the Constitution of free India must be framed, without outside interference,

by a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise.’

The British Government sent a delegation of three Cabinet ministers to India. The Cabinet Mission arrived in India on 24 March 1946. It decided that the legislative assemblies of the provinces were to elect the members of the Constituent Assembly. The Princely States would have their own representatives by way of nomination.

The Constituent Assembly comprised 389 members, of which 296 were from British India and 93 from the Princely States of India. With the partition of the country the number was reduced to 299, with 90 members forming a separate body to frame the Constitution of Pakistan.

The Constituent Assembly included representatives from all sections of the Indian society—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Parsis, Anglo-Indians, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. Some of the prominent members were Dr Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr HC Mukherjee, Sardar Baldev Singh, Frank Anthony, Dr HP Modi, Sarojini Naidu and others. The Assembly was thus a mirror reflecting the diverse culture of this great nation.

Members of the Constituent Assembly





Dr Sachchidananda Sinha and Dr Rajendra Prasad

At 11 a.m., on 9 December 1946, the Constituent Assembly began its first session, which was attended by 207 members. The Muslim League members did not join the deliberations. Sachchidananda Sinha, the oldest member of the Assembly, was made the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly temporarily. **Dr Rajendra Prasad** was unanimously elected as its permanent Chairman, which was later termed as the President of the Assembly.

On 9 December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru as head of the interim government, moved the famous Objectives Resolution, which formed the basis of the Preamble of the Constitution. It was passed on 22 January 1947. With the announcement of the Mountbatten Plan for partition of India, the perspective of the Constituent Assembly also changed. After India gained independence on 15 August 1947, the Constituent Assembly became a sovereign body. It doubled up as the legislature for the new nation, which was to make ordinary laws as well as frame a new constitution.

The task of framing the Constitution was accomplished in five stages:



Mountbatten Plan—Lord Mountbatten with Jinnah and Nehru

- ◆ Committees like the Constitution Committee, Powers Committee, Fundamental Rights Committee were formed to present reports on basic issues.
- ◆ The Constitutional Advisor prepared a draft on the basis of these reports and his own research into other world constitutions.
- ◆ The Drafting Committee, chaired by Dr BR Ambedkar, presented a detailed draft of the Constitution for public discussion.
- ◆ The Draft Constitution was discussed and amendments proposed.
- ◆ The Constitution was adopted.

Drafting Committee

The Constituent Assembly appointed a Drafting Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ambedkar on 29 August 1947. This Committee prepared a Draft Constitution in line with the general guidelines provided by the Constituent Assembly. It was published in February 1948. The Constituent Assembly next met in November 1948 to consider the provisions of the draft, clause by clause. The second reading was completed by October 1949. The Constituent Assembly sat again for the third and final reading, which was completed on 26 November 1949. The Constitution was then signed by the President and declared as passed officially.

Commencement of the Constitution

The Constitution of India came into force on 26 January 1950, a day specially selected for its historical significance. At the Lahore Session in 1929, the Congress had passed a resolution declaring

Trivia!

- ◆ The historic task of drafting the Constitution took two years, eleven months and eighteen days to complete.
- ◆ Out of a total of 7,635 amendments tabled in the Constituent Assembly during the deliberations, as many as 2,473 were disposed of after discussion.



Dr BR Ambedkar



The Drafting Committee members

‘Purna Swaraj’ as the goal for India. It had also decided to observe the Independence Day on 26 January every year till India actually gained freedom. Thus it was appropriate to choose that day to show the continuity of our freedom struggle from the beginning to the adoption of the Constitution, which made India a ‘republic.’

A written Constitution

The Constitution of India is a written document comprising in its original form 395 Articles and 8 Schedules. As the makeup of this country was diverse and varied, our Constitution makers decided to prepare a written document based on laws framed by members of the Constituent Assembly. No aspects of governance were left to conventions, traditions and practices. There are also unwritten constitutions as in the case of England.

A detailed and lengthy Constitution

The Constitution of India has the distinction of being the lengthiest and the most detailed constitutional document in the world. This large

size is due to the following factors:

- ◆ The framers decided to include in our Constitution the relevant features from all known constitutions and avoid the defects and loopholes that might be encountered by them. For example, the Fundamental Rights are based on the American Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy were taken from the Constitution of Ireland.
- ◆ The vastness of the country with its diverse cultures, traditions and customs and the peculiar problems linked to this diversity has also contributed to the bulk of the Constitution. There are sections dealing with the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes, the Official Languages and Emergency Provisions as well.
- ◆ Not only does the Constitution provide for the functions and role of the Union Government but a detailed powers of the State Governments are also dealt with. To avoid any controversies between the two sets of Governments a detailed distribution of powers is given, which has also added to the bulk of the document.
- ◆ The Constitution makers adopted the bulk of

Trivia!

- ◆ The newly adopted Constitution was signed by 284 members of the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950.
- ◆ After the Constitution came into force, the Constituent Assembly was made the Provisional Parliament of India until a new Parliament was constituted in 1952.



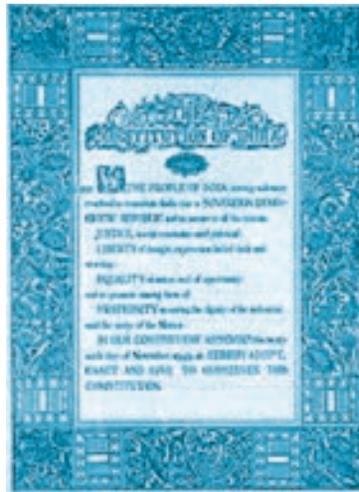
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru signing the Constitution

the provisions from the Government of India Act, 1935, which contributed to the volume of the Constitution. The Act itself was very lengthy and much was borrowed from it, as people were familiar with the contents. All details about the administrative processes were included.

- ◆ It also includes the justifiable fundamental rights of the individual along with the Directive Principles, which are fundamental in the governance of the country. These are by way of moral restraints and are in such details that they add bulk to the Constitution.

Section Review

1. Define the term 'constitution'.
2. Why was the Constituent Assembly set up?
3. Name four prominent members of the Constituent Assembly, who proved that it was truly representative in nature.
4. Who was nominated as the temporary Chairman of the Constituent Assembly?
5. Who was elected as the permanent Chairman of the Constituent Assembly? What was the later name for that position?
6. What was the role of the Constituent Assembly after India gained independence?
7. How many members comprised the original membership of the Constituent Assembly? Why did the number reduce and by how many?
8. Name the five stages of work undertaken by the Constituent Assembly.



9. What was the main task of the Drafting Committee?
10. When was the Drafting Committee formed and under whose chairmanship?
11. When was the Constitution of India adopted?
12. Why was the particular day chosen?
13. How many articles and schedules were there in the original Constitution and how many are there now?
14. What do Parts III and IV of our Constitution deal with?
15. State two important reasons for the Constitution of India being one of the lengthiest in the world.

THE PREAMBLE

The Objectives Resolution was 'something more than a resolution. It is a declaration, a firm resolve, a pledge, an undertaking and for all of us a dedication.' This ideal, the basic philosophy, which is the moving spirit of the Constitution, is faithfully reflected in the Preamble. It is an introduction to the Constitution, not enforceable in a court of law. Though it was earlier believed that the Preamble was not a part of the Constitution, a landmark judgement of the Supreme Court (in the Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala case) in 1973 established that it was definitely an integral part of the Constitution. It serves two purposes:

- ◆ It indicates the source from where the Constitution derives its authority; and
- ◆ It states the goals which the Constitution seeks to establish and promote.

The words 'We, the people of India ... adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution', declares the

THE PREAMBLE

We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN *SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation.

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

*The terms SOCIALIST and SECULAR were added to the original Preamble by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976.

ultimate sovereignty of the people of India and that the Constitution is derived from them. The people of India are the source of the Constitution.

Objectives of the Constitution

The Preamble states the objectives of the Indian nation in clear terms as to be a 'Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic.'

Sovereign The word signifies the independent authority of the State. India is sovereign means that she is internally free to formulate her policies and also externally free from any foreign control. She cannot be dictated to by any outside authority and all matters are under her legislation.

India is a member of the Commonwealth, but unlike Australia and Canada, she does not acknowledge allegiance to the Crown. As stated by Prime Minister Nehru, India would continue 'her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and her acceptance of the King as the symbol of the free association of the independent nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth.' Being a member of the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) does not affect the sovereignty of the Republic of India.

Socialist The word 'socialist' was added to the Preamble in 1976. Its principal aim is to eliminate economic inequality and to provide a decent standard of life to one and all. It does not seek to abolish the concept of private property but to restrain it so that what is available may be used for the upliftment of the poor. Thus, India has a mixed economy, where both government (public sector) and private ownerships can go together. A socialist state should endeavour to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor so that equal opportunities can be made available to all citizens.

Secular The word 'secular' was also inserted into the Constitution in 1976. This was done to reaffirm



Election is an important tool in a political democracy.

the policy of the State to protect and preserve the rights of all religious groups. India does not recognize any particular religion as the State religion and is not a theocracy (a form of government, often controlled by religious leaders). Our Constitution guarantees individual's right to freedom of religion by incorporating it as a Fundamental Right.

The State does not discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs and practices. All citizens are free to practice, preach and profess any religion of their choice in so far as it does not go against the peace and sovereignty of the nation. Every citizen is equal before the law irrespective of his religion, caste, class, colour or creed.

Democratic The concept of democracy adopted by the Constitution covers the political, social and economic aspects of life. All citizens who are 18 years of age and above have been given the right to choose their representatives to the Parliament and to respective State legislatures, as also to the local bodies such as municipalities and village panchayats. Thus, the form of government in India can be described in the words of Abraham Lincoln as 'of the people, by the people and for the people.'

A true democracy should ensure ways and means for every citizen to realize his or her potential to the fullest. India aims to be a democratic society where the human rights are respected and the people are free from all forms of exploitation. The Fundamental Rights guaranteed in the Constitution secures the basic freedom that is essential in a democracy, e.g. **Freedom of Speech and Expression.**

Republic The Preamble declares India as a 'Republic'



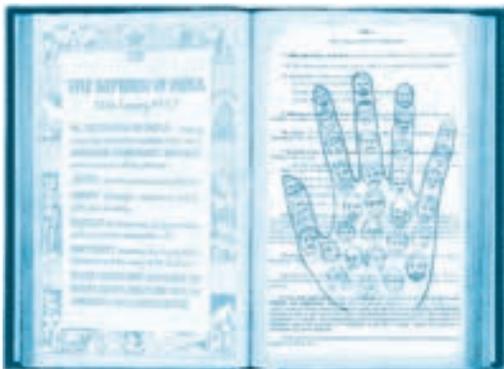
All forms of discriminations weaken our democracy.

as the head of the State is an elected one, having no hereditary rights as in the case of a king. The people elect the President of India, who is the head of the State. It is done indirectly through their representatives in the Parliament and various State Legislatures. Compare this with the system in the USA, which is also a republic. The US President is elected directly by the people as they follow the Presidential form of Government. India follows the Parliamentary system of government in which the President is elected indirectly while the Parliament and the Council of Ministers are elected directly by the people. The elected head is in office for a fixed term of five years and not life long as in the case of the King or Queen of England.

Ideals of the Constitution

The ideals of the Constitution of India as stated in the Preamble include Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Justice Justice ensures that every citizen gets his or her due in a society, which is free from prejudice and



The Constitution of India is one of the best in the world.

partiality. Political Justice means the absence of any distinction between humans in the political sphere. The **Universal Adult Franchise**, which India has adopted, ensures that all citizens irrespective of their caste, religion and educational qualifications could participate in the political process. Equal opportunities are available to men and women, irrespective of their caste or creed, in the matter of public employment. Constitutional safeguards are also provided for the minorities and the backward communities in the country.

Social Justice ensures that social evils and imbalances are removed from the society. The environment in the country should be one of harmony and the discriminations on the grounds of race, class, religion or caste should not exist.

Economic Justice works towards the equitable distribution of the nation's wealth. Through the Directive Principles of State Policy which strive to give citizens the right to work, the right to adequate means of livelihood and the right to governmental assistance, it seeks to establish a 'welfare state'. By removing inequality of opportunities, it ensures that equality of status becomes meaningful.

Liberty Liberty as the very word suggests means freedom. The Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution guarantee freedom of thought, expression, faith, belief and worship to every Indian. Every Indian can express his thoughts without fear or favour, follow any faith of personal choice, worship in any way he desires as long as he does not encroach upon another's freedom. This way, the Constitution makers believed that with the growth of individual citizens, the country will develop and there will be a stronger sense of peace and unity within the nation.

Equality To guarantee rights to individuals would be meaningless unless all inequalities are banished from the social structure. The Constitution guarantees equality of status and opportunity for the development of persons. All Indian citizens are equal before the law and can enjoy all advantages that the state provides.

CONCLUSION



Fraternity builds unity among the people.

By abolishing untouchability and titles of honour, by throwing open public places for all citizens, by providing universal adult franchise to all citizens, by ensuring equal pay for equal work for all men and women, the Constitution guarantees equality in its entirety.

Fraternity This assures the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. The concept of democracy would be meaningless if it failed to generate the spirit of brotherhood among all sections of the people. The feeling is one of belonging to the same motherland. This is most appropriate in a country like India because of the diversity of races, religions and cultures in it. The first requisite for maintaining the independence of the country as well as to make democracy a success is to foster a sense of unity among the people.

The word 'fraternity' was inserted in 1976 in order to augment the sense of unity and belongingness in a country torn apart by a multitude of problems. This spirit is possible when all communal and provincial feelings, which stand in the way of the unity of the country, are abolished. National integration, the conviction of 'one country, one nation', should be upheld by all citizens. The Preamble of the Constitution reflects this spirit of brotherhood to be followed by all Indians.

The Preamble reflects the intentions of our Constitution through the following ideals:

- ◆ Securing justice, equality and liberty to all citizens of India.
- ◆ Guaranteeing basic individual freedom of thought, expression, faith, belief and worship.
- ◆ Promoting a sense of brotherhood and fellow-feeling among all citizens.
- ◆ Maintaining the unity of the nation by fostering a feeling of oneness among all people.

The Preamble seeks to establish what Mahatma Gandhi once described as 'The India of My Dreams', namely, '... an India, in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice ... an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability... Women will enjoy the same rights as men.'



Section Review

1. In what way is the Objectives Resolution related to the Constitution of India?
2. State the philosophy behind the Preamble of the Constitution.
3. What is the source of the Constitution?
4. When was the Constitution i. adopted, ii. enforced?
5. Define these terms in one sentence: i. sovereign, ii. secular, iii. socialist, iv. republic.
6. How is India a political democracy?
7. How is India different from America and England as far as being a 'republic' goes?
8. What is the meaning of political justice?
9. How can economic justice be ensured for India?
10. What does the word 'liberty' suggest?
11. How is equality guaranteed to the citizens of the country?
12. What does the word 'fraternity' mean?
13. How is fraternity linked to the unity of the country?
14. Is the Preamble a part of the Constitution?
15. When was the golden Jubilee of the Indian Constitution celebrated?

To Remember

Definition of Constitution—Set of rules according to which a State is governed.

Framing of the Constitution—Cabinet Mission put the first proposal, representatives from all sections of the Indian society, Dr Rajendra Prasad elected permanent Chairman, Objectives Resolution by Nehru, Independence of the country, Constituent Assembly as a sovereign body and the legislature.

Drafting Committee—Chairmanship of Dr BR Ambedkar, completed on 26 November 1949.

Commencement on 26 January 1950—Specially selected as it was celebrated as Purna Swaraj day since 1930, lengthiest and bulky as all relevant factors incorporated.

The Preamble—Introduction to the Constitution, not enforceable, source the people of the country, Nature of the State: Sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic. Ideals of the State: Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, it reflects the intentions of our Constitution.

Questions

1. With reference to the Preamble of our Constitution, answer the following:
 - a. When was the Constitution formally adopted?
 - b. What is the source of our Constitution?
 - c. What does a Sovereign State signify?
 - d. Does India's membership in the Commonwealth affect her sovereignty? Give reasons.
2. Gandhiji desired to establish an India of his dreams. How far has the Preamble succeeded in fulfilling this dream through its ideals? Write two sentences on each of the following:
 - a. Justice.
 - b. Equality.
 - c. Liberty.
 - d. Fraternity.
3. The Preamble is the introductory section of the Constitution. In this context throw light on the following:
 - a. The significance of the 42nd Amendment 1976.
 - b. The importance of Secularism.
 - c. Democracy and its significance.
 - d. Features of a Republic State.

Photo Study

Answer the following.

- a. Whose statue is it? Which Committee did he head with reference to the Constitution of India?
- b. What work did that particular Committee do with reference to the Constitution?
- c. State the reason why the gentleman in the picture and other members of the Constituent Assembly chose 26 January as the date of commencement of the Constitution.

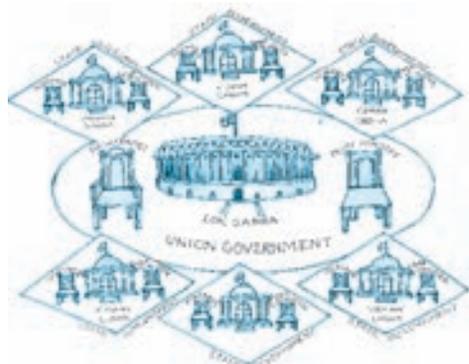


Basic Features of the Constitution

Every constitution is supposed to have a basic structure that cannot be altered. Our Constitution was written based on laws framed by members of the Constituent Assembly. As Dr Ambedkar observed, 'One likes to ask whether there can be anything new in a Constitution framed at this hour in the history of the world. More than hundred years have rolled when the first written Constitution was drafted. It has been followed by many other countries reducing their Constitutions to writing... The only new things, if there be any, in a Constitution framed so late in the day are the variations made to remove the faults and to accommodate it to the needs of the country.' The Constitution of India is remarkable for many outstanding features that make it unique and one of the best in the world. This chapter deals with those salient features of our Constitution.

Parliamentary system of government

The Constitution makers rejected the Presidential form of government as in the United States and adopted the British model of Parliamentary Democracy minus the monarchy. There is an elected Head of the Executive (the President) who acts on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers. The real



Two sets of government—central and state levels.

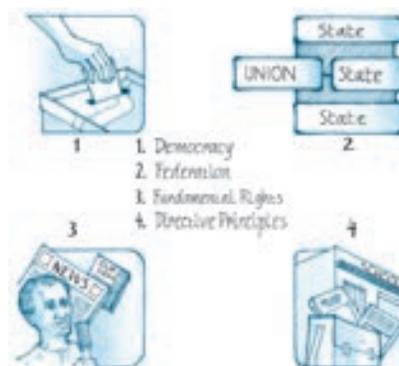
powers of governance are in the hands of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

At the state level, the Head of the Executive is the Governor and the real power lies with the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

Partly unitary and partly federal

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Indian Constitution is the combination of the federal and unitary systems of governance. The essential federal features include the following.

- ♦ There are two sets of governments—the Union Government and the State Governments.
- ♦ There is a distribution of legislative authority between the two sets of governments. The Constitution does it in detail under the head of three Lists. They are: the Union List (97 items) over which the Union Government has exclusive rights, the State List (66 items) over which the State Governments exercise their jurisdiction, and the Concurrent List (47 items) over which both have equal powers to legislate. The unspecified or Residuary powers are given to the Union Government.



The basic features of our Constitution.



India has a unified judiciary under the Supreme Court.

- ◆ The powers of governance are divided between the three branches—the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The Judiciary is independent of the other two branches.
- ◆ The Constitution of the country is supreme and the federation derives its existence from it.
- ◆ In a federation it is essential to maintain the division of powers between the different branches of government. This is achieved by giving the courts the power to interpret the Constitution.

The essential unitary features of the Indian system include:

- ◆ The Constitution of India provides for single citizenship. An Indian, irrespective of the State he is born or is living in is a citizen of India. Unlike the American system, which offers dual citizenship (of the centre and the respective State), the Constitution of India recognizes only one citizenship.
- ◆ The Constitution provides for the creation of All-India Services, but they are common to the Union and States. Members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), appointed by the Union, may be employed either by the Union departments or under State Governments and their services are transferable.
- ◆ When the country is in a state of Emergency or there is President's Rule in any state, the Union Government has complete powers to legislate on any matters of the State List.
- ◆ The President exercises control over the administration of a State through the Governor. The President can suspend the constitutional

machinery of the State not only on the report of the Governor but also when he is satisfied that the administration cannot be conducted according to the provisions of the Constitution.

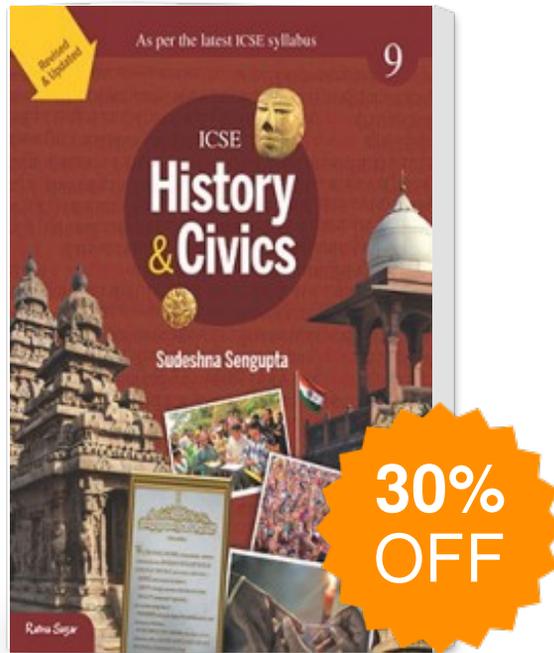
- ◆ The Union Parliament may assume legislative power over any subject included in the State List during other times also, if the Rajya Sabha resolves by 2/3 majority that it needs to be done for the national interest.
- ◆ The distribution of powers also has a very strong bias towards the Centre. There are more items included in the Union List. Moreover, when it comes to the Concurrent List, if there is a conflict between the Union and the State laws on any matter, the Union law will prevail.
- ◆ India also has a unified judiciary, headed by the Supreme Court. The High Courts and the Subordinate Courts come below in the hierarchy. There are no separate sets of laws and a single legal procedure runs throughout the country.
- ◆ The Parliament has the right to change or fix the boundaries between two States and create a new State.

The Constitution of India is 'quasi-federal', that is, 'it is neither purely federal nor purely unitary but is a combination of both. It enshrines the principle that in spite of federalism the national interest ought to be paramount.'

Section Review

1. On what did the Constitution makers base the document?
2. What, according to Dr Ambedkar, is new in our Constitution?
3. How is the Parliamentary system different from the Presidential form of Government?
4. Name the heads of the Executive at the Union and State levels.
5. State any two federal features of our Constitution.
6. Name the three lists that distribute the legislative powers of the Government.
7. Name the three branches of the government.
8. Which country has dual citizenship?
9. State two unitary features of the Constitution.
10. Define the term 'quasi-federal'.

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