

THAKUR COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & COMMERCE

Autonomous

INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Though the Indian society is pluralistic but it is united at the time of any foreign threat. In India the person from any religion can become Prime Minister and President. At the time of any natural calamity the people of India help each other. The people enjoy their human right freely. These is only possible because of our great Constitution. Otherwise in our neighbouring countries we see that Prime-Ministers, Presidents are imprisoned, governments are overthrown by militaries and political powers are captured by anti-social elements. In India, due to Constitution we as Indians remain united, follow patriotism and maintain national unity and integration Hence, Indian constitution as a Unifying factor in Indian Society must be studied properly.

MAKING OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

We have the history available about the Constitutional developments in India, e.g. Morley Minto Reforms, 1909, Montague Chelmsford reforms 1919 Indian independence Act, 1935, etc. In 1946, there came the Cabinet Mission Plan which provided for the formation of Constituent Assembly to prepare a Constitution for India. The member for the Constituent Assembly were elected from the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. These members were selected from three groups i.e. i) General ii) Muslims and iii) Sikhs. They were selected by the proportionate representation. There was also the representation given to the Minority and Depressed Classes communities like SCs (Scheduled Castes), Parsees, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians tribal and even women too. The members were the persons with talent and ability. The Congress (Indian National Congress) won 208 seats, Muslim league 73 and remaining from other categories. The Constituent Assembly consisted of 389 members out of which 296 were from British India and 93 from Princely States. Muslim League refused to join the Constituent Assembly.

The first session of the Constituent Assembly was held on 9th December 1946 under the provisional Chairmanship of Sachidanand Sinha. There were 207 members present at the session. On 11th December 1946 Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the permanent President of Constitutional Committee or Constitutional Assembly.

Constituent Assembly passed certain rules about the formation of the Drafting of the Constitution. Therefore, to prepare the draft Constitution 'Drafting Committee' was formulated and on August 29, 1947 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, a legal luminary and a constitutional expert was appointed as its Chairman. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar put all his energy and efforts to prepare the constitution.

The draft was completed on 26th January 1949. This draft was kept for discussion and suggestions for eight months (from 21st Feb 1948) before the public and the Constituent Assembly. It took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days (including 9th December and upto 26th November 1946) to complete the Constitution. From 26th January 1950 the Constitution came into force.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Objective Resolution:

The Preamble of Indian Constitution is the most important part which incorporates together the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles as well as the aims and ideals of the constitution. The philosophy of the constitution is nothing but the values, ideals, aims, objectives etc as the foundation on which it stands up. The first Session of the Constituent Assembly was held in New Delhi on 9th December 1946 under the provisional chairmanship of Dr. Sachindanand Sinha. On 11th December 1946 Dr. Rajendra Prasad was unanimously elected as the President of Constituent Assembly. On 9th December 1946, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru moved the "Objective Resolution" which was unanimously acclaimed and adopted on 22nd January 1947 by the Constituent Assembly. The Objective Resolution reflected high ideals and philosophy which inspired the shaping of the constitution of India through all its subsequent stages. These ideals and philosophy embodied in the Objective Resolution are truly reflected in the Preamble to the constitution of India. This objective Resolution was based on the concept of an India emerging as a sovereign Republic with its power and authority derived from the people wherein social, economic and political justice was to be guaranteed and secured to every individual as also equality of status and opportunity to everyone. It was a firm resolve and a pledge to build a sovereign Democratic Republic in India.

Content of Preamble:

The Preamble means Preface, Preliminary statement or an introduction to any literary work or scholarly work. It is the beginning remarks which takes the readers and the executors of the instructions towards guidance to performance. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution reveals the minds of the Indian Society though a divergent in nature. It reflects the sustaining goals of the

Indian polity and the ideals are sought to be achieved through the medium of the Constitution.

The Preamble begins as follows:

"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".

Added by 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.

Now we have to elaborate the Preamble word to word as per its concealed values, ideals, objectives and philosophy.

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA means it is the people of this country adopt and enact the constitution, a legal body for themselves. On behalf of the people, the founding fathers and chief architect of the Constitution Dr.B.R.Ambedkar prepared this document of Constitution. They are not themselves adopting and enacting but the people are the major body to frame the constitution. They are the representatives of the people and its people who are resolving to constitute India.

SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:

The people of India constitute India into sovereign nation. The term 'SOVEREIGN' means free from any internal or outside control. It suggests that the constitution is not the gift of the British Parliament and the people of India are capable of framing the legal body of their own for them. For this purpose, they have sent their representatives to the parliament i.e the Constituent Assembly. There is no any limit or any restrictions on the people of India to frame the constitution for themselves.

The term 'SOCIALIST' was not the part of the Preamble in 1950 but was inserted in it by 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976. Socialist means that the Indian masses aim to build an egalitarian society in India, prevent concentration of wealth bring about social control over means of production and ensure equitable and fair distribution of necessities in life. This term is related to the Socialism of Marx but in partial ways. Every citizen will have the right to earn his livelihood and also improve his standard of living.

The term 'SECULAR' also was not the part of the Preamble in 1950. By the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 it was inserted in the preamble. The term secular emphasizes the fact that the Indian State does not have any State religion and grants complete freedom of worship and faith to all its citizens. It does not encourage or discourage or discriminate against any particular religion. It indicates the fact that the state is neutral in all religions matters and the right of citizens are independent of the faith they profess. The spirit of secularism is fully reflected in Article 25 of the constitution which ensures freedom of conscience and right to freely profess, practice and propogate one's own religion. According to former President of India R.Venkanta Raman, Secular India means "India is not pro-religious, non-religious and anti-religious".

The term 'DEMOCRATIC' in the narrow sense refers to the form of Government which is elected by the people on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise. In a broader sense, it refers to a way of life of the people and numerous social organizations. Indian Government is based on a representative Parliamentary democracy in which the Government is responsible to the sovereign Legislative Body. There are various forms of democratic government such as Presidential(USA), Kingship(England, Australia, New Zealand) and Parliamentary democracy of which India has adopted parliamentary form of government.

The term 'REPUBLIC' stands for that the Head of the Indian State will be elected head and not the hereditary ruler by Kingship. It also means that the Supreme Powers of the State are vested in people and in the authority of the elected representatives of the people. The term 'Republic' also implies that all public offices are open to all citizen without any discrimination.

JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY:

Further, the preamble lays emphasis that the Indian citizens should get justice in three forms such as Social Justice, Economic Justice and Political Justice. The architects of the Constitution has made this arrangement of justice very intelligently. There cannot be economic justice and political justice without social justice. Indian Society composed of castes, classes religion, race. There happened the discrimination among Indians themselves on this basis. Therefore, the constitution is bound to cultivate healthy, social attitude among people and the state must be welfare state accordingly. The social justice can be realized only when 'equals to be treated equally and unequal's unequally' according to Aristotle.

The next step of justice which preamble secure for the Indian people is Economic Justice. Every citizen of India has right to live and earn his livelihood. They must be made available, employment opportunities taking in view social justice. The Directive Principles of State Policy make it clear that no discrimination would be made between persons on the basis of their economic status. The state is expected to enact laws and translate the concept of social and economic justice into reality.

Political Justice is only possible when there is realization of social and economic justice. Previously in India and many countries of the world were giving voting rights to only those who are rich by wealth and the high in social status. But the Indian constitution has conferred on all the Indian adult citizens the Universal Adult Suffrage without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, sex, wealth, status, etc. The Indian citizens have got one vote and one vote one value which is very significant for political justice.

Thus the concept of social, economic and political justice contained in the preamble aim at furthering the goal of social revolution and attempting to foster this revolution by establishing the conditions necessary for its achievement.

The preamble contains that liberty is secured for the Indians, which is of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. The constitution of India secure for its citizens the liberty that everyone without any bias will have the right to think and express his own views which will not harm other's liberty. They can convert to any religion, can worship any god and goddess or believe in any kind of philosophy they want. That is how the six kinds of freedoms are provided in the article no 19 of the Constitution.

The preamble makes mention of the equality for all the citizens of India without any kind of discrimination. There is two kind of equalities such as equality of status and equality of opportunity. Every citizen of India would be treated equal before law irrespective of his caste, religion, race, sex, language etc. As well as he shall get equal opportunity to make his economic progress. It also made clear as per the Article 16-(4) that state shall have right to enact laws and make provision for reservation of jobs or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens. This provision also promotes the cause of justice by providing protective discrimination to those class of peoples who have suffered due to historical circumstances of casteism. This is what unequal's to be treated unequally that is justice.

The preamble also provides that the Constitution is bound to promote among the Indians the fraternity which assures the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. In the words of Chief architect of Constitution Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, "Fraternity is a sense of common brotherhood and the principle which gives unity and solidarity to social life. He further says "Without fraternity equality and liberty will be no deeper than coats of paints".

Therefore, one has to take liberty, equality and fraternity not as separate objectives but as forming 'a union of trinity' in the sense that to diverse one from the other was to defeat the very purpose of Democracy.

All the above provisions further the people of India to adopt, enact and provide in the Constitution which is approved by Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION- THE PREAMBLE, MAIN BODY AND SCHEDULES

The structure of the Constitution is divided into the Preamble, the Main Body and the Schedules. The main structure of the constitution can not be changed totally as there are provision of Amendment to it. The Indian Constitution contained XXII parts, 395 Articles and 12 Schedules. In this structure the each and every provision has been discussed thoroughly and then got it passed in the Constituent Assembly.

The Preamble:

The preamble is the mirror of the aspirations of the people to themselves which reflects into it. The preamble is not the part of the Articles but it is the gist of all the provisions elaborated in all the Articles. It is the philosophical commitment which would be realized into practice by the government & its state. It is the sum total of the Constitution. We already have discussed the philosophical component of the preamble.

Main Body of the Constitution:

The main body of the Constitution of India consists of 22 parts, 395 articles and 12 schedules and they have been elaborated thoroughly in these provisions.

PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

PART I- THE UNION AND ITS TERRITORY:

The part I consists of Articles nos. 1-4. Article No. 2 deals with Name and Territors of the Union and establishment of new states. Article 3 mentions about the provisions of formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of new states. Article 4 provides the amendment of the First and the Fourth schedules and supplemental, incidental and consequential matter pertaining to Articles nos. 1 & 3.

PART II- CITIZENSHIP:

The part II consists of Article nos. 5 to 11 in regard to citizenship. Article 5 relate with the citizenship at the commencement of the constitution. Articles 6-11 provides for rights of citizenship for migrants to and from Pakistan, or outside India and the right of the Parliament to continue and regulate it.

PART III- FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

Part III deals with Fundamental Rights for Indian Citizen elaborated in the Article nos 12 to 35. The Fundamental Rights are the Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right against Exploitation, Right to Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights and Right to Constitutional Remedies. The Right to Property was deleted by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978.

PART IV- DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY:

It includes Articles from 36 to 51 wherein the constitution has directed the state to be Welfare State and execute the values, principles of equality, liberty, justice, social justice, health, industrialization, education in general and of weaker sections, etc. Though the government cannot be pulled in the court for the violation of the Directive Principles but it is also taken as a duty of the government as to become the welfare state. Due to fear of not getting elected again, the government has to do the public works continuously and is elaborated in their part.

PART IV –FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES:

In the 1950's originally the constitution did not contain separate Fundamental Duties for the citizens of India as it was natural that everybody respect everybody's Fundamental Rights. But by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 it was separately provided for the 11 fundamental duties for the Indian citizens.

PART V- THE UNION:

The Part V contains 5 chapters related to individual subject. Chapter I is titled as 'THE EXECUTIVE' and contains Articles from 52 to 78. Articles 52 to 73 deals with the powers and functions of the President and Vice President. Articles 74 & 75 provides for the formations of Council of Ministers and its functions. Article 76 makes provisions of appointment and powers, functions of Attorney General of India. Articles 77 & 78 pertain to conduct of Government Business and functions and duties of Prime Minister.

Chapter II is titled as 'Parliament' and contain Articles from 79 to 122. Articles 79 to 88 deals with formation and constitution of Parliament. Articles 89 to 98 provides for the officers of the Parliament. Article 99 to 100 deals with the conduct of Business of the Parliament. Articles 101 to 104 makes mention of disqualification of members and the vacant seats. Articles 105 and 106 deals with the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members. Articles 107 to 111 provides for the Legislative Procedures of the Parliament. Articles 112 to 117 are related to Procedure of Parliament in Financial Matters. Articles 118 to 122 provides for the procedure Generally of the Parliament.

Chapter III is titled as 'LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT'.

In this chapter Article 123 explains the powers of the President during recess of the Parliament to promulgate ordinances.

Chapter IV is titled as 'THE UNION JUDICIARY' and contain Articles 124 to 147. These Articles provide for the composition, powers and jurisdiction of Supreme Court of India. Article 143 mentions the powers of the President to consult Supreme Court.

Chapter V- titled as 'COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA'. This chapter contain Articles 148 to 151 and elaborates the appointment, duties, powers of (CAG) Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

PART VI THE STATES:

This part contain VI chapters and Articles from 152 to 237 regarding the State Level provisions. Chapter I is pertaining to General wherein Article 152 defines the State and its limits. Chapter II is titled as 'THE EXECUTIVE' and lies in the Articles from 153 to 167.

Article nos.153 to 162 elaborates the Governor, its appointment, powers and functions so far Articles nos.163 and 164 details about Council of Ministers. Article no.165 provides for ‘The Advocate General of State’. Articles 166 to 167 deals with ‘Conduct of Government Business’ in states, duties of Chief Ministers etc.

Chapter III is titled as ‘THE STATE LEGISLATURE’ and contain Articles from 168 to 212. Articles 168 to 177 explain in General the constitution of Legislature in States, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Articles 178 to 187 talks of officers of the State Legislature such as the Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Assembly, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Council, Secretariat etc. Articles 188 to 189 mentions of ‘Conduct of Business of Legislature’. Articles 190 to 193 elaborates the disqualification of members (MLA’s and MLC’s) due to vacation of seat or any other reason. Articles 194 and 195 provides for the powers, privileges etc. of the Houses of Legislatures and their members. Articles 196 to 201 explains the Legislative Procedure such as passing the Bills etc. where as Articles 202 to 207 provide for the Procedure of Legislature in regard to Financial Matters. Articles 208 to 212 deals with procedure generally wherein rules are explained.

Chapter IV titled as ‘LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR’ which have been explained by the Article no.213. e.g power of Governor to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Legislature.

Chapter V titled as ‘THE HIGH COURTS IN THE STATES’ contain Articles 214 to 231 which provides for the appointment, powers and jurisdiction of the High Courts in the States.

Chapter VI titled as ‘SUBORDINATE COURTS’ and contain Articles 233 to 237 and detail about the appointment, powers and jurisdiction of district and subordinate judges. Article 232 has been repealed from the constitution.

PART VII also have been repealed as per Article no.238 & seventh Constitutional Amendment Act,1956.

PART VIII- THE UNION TERRITORIES:

This part contains Article 239 to 242 and elaborates the administration of Union Territories, special status to Delhi, the powers and functions of President and the High Courts etc.

PART IX- THE PANCHAYATS:

This consists of Article 243 and explains the constitution of Panchayat Raj & Local Self Government. It also provides for the constitution of Municipalities its powers and functions. In the same sub-article there is provision of Finance Commission.

PART X:

This contain Article 244 where in we find the provisions of the administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas such as in Assam.

PART XI:

This is titled as ‘Relations Between the Union and the States’ and contain two chapters. Chapter I states as ‘Legislative Relations’ and consists of Articles 245 to 255. They provides for the powers of parliament and State Legislature. Chapter II elaborates Administrative

Relations between Union Government and the State Government Between Articles 256 and 263 it has detailed about disputes relating to water and co-ordination between states and the role of the Union.

PART XII- FINANCE, PROPERTY, CONTRACTS AND SUITS:

This part has four chapters and contain Articles 264 to 300. Chapter I is related to Finance and from Articles 264 to 267 is provides with General such as taxes imposed, consolidated funds, contingency fund and public accounts. Articles 268 to 281 makes mention of distribution of Revenues between the Union and the States. Again Article 280 provides for Finance Commission. Articles 282 to 290 are related with miscellaneous financial provisions.

Chapter II titled as ‘ Borrowing’ and consists of Articles 292 and 293 and mentions of Borrowing by the Government of India and the State.

Chapter III titled as ‘Property, Contracts, Rights, Liabilities, Obligations and Suits and contain Articles between 294 and 300. It provides for the succession. A property assets, rights, liabilities and obligations as well contracts and suits and proceedings.

Chapter IV is titled as ‘Right to Property’ where Articles no.300 A provides that persons not to be deprived of property save by authority of law.

PART XIII titled as ‘Trade, Commerce and Intercourse within the Territory of India’. This part contain Articles 301 to 307 wherein provisions are made for freedom of trade, commerce, powers of parliament to impose restrictions etc.

PART XIV is titled as ‘Services’ under the Union and the States’ and is divided into two chapters. It consists of Articles 308 to 323. Chapters I in the Articles 308 to 314 provides for the Recruitment and Conditions of Services of persons serving the Union or a State.

Chapter II is titled as ‘Public Service Commission’ where between the Articles 315 to 323 it makes provision for the UPSC and State Public Service Commission, its functions etc.

PART XIV A and its articles 323A & 323B are provisions of Administrative and other Tribunals.

PART XV is titled as ‘Elections’ and lies between Articles 324 and 329 wherein the provisions of Election Commission, its head its powers and functions have been made.

PART XVI- titled as ‘Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes’. This part contain Articles 330 to 342 and provides for the Reservation of Seats for SCs and STs, Anglo-Indians in Union and State Legislature and services. Articles 338 and 338 A provides for the National Commission for SC’s & ST’s respectively. Articles 340 makes provisions for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the condition of backward classes such as OBC’s, NTs, SBCs etc.

PART XVII titled as ‘Official Language’ and has four chapters. It has articles from 343 to 351. Chapter I (Art -343-344) mentions of Official language of the Union and its Commission, Committees of Parliament would be as Hindi.

Chapter II provides for the Regional languages elaborated in the articles 345 to 347. Chapter III mentions of the language of the Supreme Court, High Courts etc. in English and then can be translated by the State into the regional language of the State.

Chapter IV provides the Special Directives in the articles 350 to 351 wherein facilities for mother tongue at primary stage and Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities as also the Directives for development of the Hindi language.

PART XVIII titled as 'Emergency Provisions' contain articles 352 to 360. In this part article nos.352, 356 and 360 provide for the proclamation of Emergency such as National Emergency, Emergency due to Constitutional failure in State and financial Emergency respectively.

PART XIX titled as 'Miscellaneous' contain articles 361 to 367 in which provisions of protection of President and Governors and vice-versa have been made.

PART XX is titled as 'Amendment of the Constitution wherein only article 368 is provided for the power of Parliament to amend the constitution and procedure. Therefore

PART XXI titled as 'Temporary Transitional and Special provisions' lies between articles 369 to 392. In these articles the provisions are made where new states have been created, special provisions for judges of high courts, CAG, UPSC, etc.

PART XXII is titled as ' Short Title, Commencement, Authoritative Text in Hindi and Repeals such as 'Indian Constitution' as a title to this document and authoritative text in the Hindi language. Article 395 is repealed.

Schedules:

There are 12 Schedules which mentions of various provisions.

First Schedule

I-The States-List of all States

II-The Union Territories.

Second Schedule:

Part A- Provisions as to the President and the Governors of States. Part B(Repealed) and Part C mentions of Speakers of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Assemblies and Councils.

Part D- Provisions as to the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts.

Part E- Provisions as to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Third Schedule- Former of Oaths or Affirmations

Fourth Schedule- Allocation of seats in the Council of States

Fifth Schedule- Provisions as to the Administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes.

Part A- General.

Part B- Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes.

Part C- Scheduled Areas.

Part D- Amendment of the Schedule.

Sixth Schedule- Provisions as to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Seventh Schedule List I – Union List List II-State List

List III- Concurrent List

Eight Schedule- Languages.

Ninth Schedule- Validation of certain Acts and Regulations.

Tenth Schedules- Provisions as to disqualification on ground of defection.

Eleventh Schedule- Powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats.

Twelfth Schedule-Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities, etc.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES OF THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Basically, Fundamental Rights always corresponds to the fundamental duties of each citizen, therefore, the founding fathers of the constitution must had not specified them. When one individual knows or enjoys his fundamental rights at the same time others also do and show respect for them i.e. duty.

In 1976, there was 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act which is called as the 'Mini Constitution 1 by some experts. Article 51-A provided the Fundamental duties of Indian citizen which are as follows:- [Effective from 3rd Jan. 1977]

To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practice derogatory to the dignity of women;

To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures;

To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;

To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;

Who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child or as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years. (This was provided in 2002 by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act with reference to article 45).

These fundamental duties are sometimes criticised and sometimes favoured by the various constitutional experts.

VALUES OF TOLERANCE, PEACE AND COMMUNAL HARMONY

Indian Society is a pluralistic in nature and therefore it faces always differences and divergences of opinion in matters pertaining to religion, caste, race, colour, sex, region, languages etc. But our Indian Constitution is the only fabric that weave all these differences together and strengthen it. Apart from this there are some values to be inculcated among the children and youth and the Indian citizens in to such as tolerance, peace and communal harmony. Therefore, we will discuss these values as follows.

The Value of Tolerance:

Tolerance can be defined as the sense of understanding for other's feelings and having respect for others. In India as a multiplicity of religions, castes, creeds, regions, languages. Tolerance is the very significant value which all the Indians must cultivate among themselves. In this composite society one must bear with other's opinion. One has to have the understanding that divergent opinions are the common phenomenon in the country like India and hence though the opposite views expressed by any person has to be listened carefully and countered it by peaceful ways.

Importance of Tolerance:

Tolerance is necessary value to understand the nature (human nature) of the individual.

Tolerance lead the person to behave in the society with compromise and adjustment.

Tolerance can stop quarrels and conflicts among the people and establish peace.

The composite society like India, it is the prime requirement to strive for harmonious relationships and hence, only tolerance can maintain it.

Tolerance helps the democratic society to flower and flourish.

It also inculcates liberal thinking in the person about the differences of opinion.

Person can have respect for other's viewpoints though they are opposing to his own beliefs.

If we want India to prosper economically and become World power, tolerance is the important value to be attained.

Tolerance can establish equality between human beings and allow to enforce Constitutional Provisions.

Tolerance can help reduce the inter-group conflicts like Communalism, Casteism, Linguism and Regionalism and lay communal harmony as possible goal of the Indian Constitution.

Therefore, tolerance can promote National Integration, establish national unity and inculcate patriotism among the citizens.

Value of Peace:

To strengthen the social fabric of Indian Society there should be the peaceful co-operation among several members. The co-operation and mutual help lead the peoples towards peace. The peace is essence of progress. In a community life, we must lift equal share of responsibility and carry it as willingly. We should help each other in the natural calamity or in the difficulties created by human being or circumstances irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, sex, region, language, costume etc. When everyone is co-operative, the social and group activities will always bring best possible results and can subserve the interest of every member. Therefore, proper understanding and mutual co-operation is the soul of any successful group activity though it is pluralistic.

Peace is essentially a moral and human value and requisite of Indian Society. Whenever anything goes against one's interest or desire one should not resort to physical violence but should follow constitutional ways. 'Survival of the Fittest or 'Might is Right' are the phenomenon applied to animals and not to the human beings. If the violence and force have their way every time then the weaker, old, sick, handicapped and other sections of the society will find their survival impossible. When you are following peaceful life so will others. In Indian composite culture peaceful co-existence is very significant. By the virtue of peace we can avoid communal riots, violence and lead a harmonious life.

BASIC FEATURES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The founding fathers of our constitution studied the various constitutions available in the various countries of the World and picked up the selected principles which would be suitable to Indian social-political, economic, cultural, religious conditions. The Constitution of India have provided the Indian citizen the best of the things for leading a happy and peaceful life. Therefore, the basic features of it are as follows:-

Preamble:

The Lengthiest Written Constitution in the World:

When Indian Constitution was prepared, it had 395 articles 9 schedules and 12 parts. It is most detailed written document. The USA constitution has only 7 articles, the Australian constitution has 128 articles and the Constitution of Canada has 147 articles. Indian Constitution gives the details of administrative machinery, execution, legislation and implementation details of the judiciary. The country like England has no written Constitution at all.

According to the Constitutional Amendment no 92 in the year, 2003, the Indian constitution is consisted of 447 Articles, 12 schedules and 26 parts.

Popular Sovereignty:

It is clearly stated in the preamble that India is not under any outside control. It is a sovereign nation under the people. The people will have right to elect their representatives to rule for themselves to the government. Hence, India has a democratic system of government. Any citizen who is above 18 years of age irrespective of religion, creed, caste, region, property, rich or poor, man or woman can execute adult franchise and have his representative for his/her welfare. It is very of significant provision in the constitution that the person may be from dire

poverty or from an Industrialist will have right to one vote and one vote will have one value. Therefore, popular sovereignty is very important feature of the Constitution of India.

Partly Rigid and Partly Flexible:

When we read our constitutional document then we come to know that sometime, somewhere the articles of the constitution are very rigid to make any amendment and somewhere some articles are easily amended according to the situation exists. The article 368 of the Constitution provides for the amendment. At the same time, in case of Jammu & Kashmir, the parliament has got limited rights to intervene in the affairs of this state. As against this, during 57 yrs. there are 92 amendments have been made in the constitution and states like Nagaland, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh etc. have been newly created. Many articles are added according to the present context.

Provision of Fundamental Rights:

The constitution of India guarantees the Fundamental Rights to every individual irrespective of birth, caste, creed, sex, religion, race, language, region, age, education, rich, poor etc: Articles from 12 upto 35 mentions of Fundamental Rights.

The Fundamental Rights are as follows:- .

Right to Equality (equality before law for everyone).

Right to Liberty (includes freedoms).

Freedom of speech and expression;

Freedom of assembly;

Freedom of practice any profession or occupation ;

Freedom of union or professional organization;

Freedom of staying anywhere in India;

Freedom of move anywhere in India;

Right to freedom of Religion.

Right against Exploitation.

Cultural and Educational Rights.

Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Habeas Corpus

Mandamus

Prohibition

Co-Warranto and

Certiorari

The Right to Property have been deleted from the Constitution in 1979 by 44th amendment.

Article 17 of the constitution have abolished the practice of Untouchability and it is regarded as an offence cognizable.

Article 23 prohibits forced labour.

Thus by the provision of Fundamental Rights the constitution have woven the thread of unity of the Indians.

Fundamental Duties:

The Constitution have also provided for the fundamental duties of each citizen/Nonetheless, when Fundamental Rights were specified, it was obvious that one should not violate other's rights is the duty of everybody to be understood. But by the 42nd constitutional amendment in 1976, government clearly specified the Fundamental Duties.

Federal System with Unitary Bias:

The Constitution has its supremacy over all the political governments. The powers have been divided among the various provinces and states between the Union Government It also provides for the single Citizenship. The Central and State governments must discharge their powers-and duties according to their subjects of legislation and execution. The Constitution have divided the subjects into three lists i.e. Central list, State list and concurrent list. Central list have 99 subjects, State list have 61 and Concurrent list 52 subjects as of now. It means that centre state can pass acts, make legislations only on the subjects listed in their list. So far subjects listed in the Concurrent list, both the Centre and State can make legislation on these subjects. But due to unitary biasness the legislation of Central government will be supreme over the state. It means we can experience the equal power share between State and Federal government but regarding Emergency (due to Constitutional Breakdown) Centra! government can dissolve the State government may be with bias attitude.

Parliamentary Democracy:

We have adopted the Parliamentary Democracy with President as its Constitutional and Executive head. It means that Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers is the representative of President. Therefore, it is said that President is the nominal head and real power of the Union Government is lying in Prime Minister.

Parliament is bicameral and consists of i) Loksabha and ii) Rajyasabha. These houses pass various laws, acts, with majority of the members of the Parliament.

Directive Principles of the State Policy:

We find that these Principles are provided in the articles from 36 to 51. They are the extra legal instructions and guidelines to the political governments. The government is supposed to take note of those principles for the welfare of the people and achieve necessary conditions within the concept of welfare state. One can not go against the violation of these principles in the court of law. Despite governments must follow these instructions for succeeding the next tenure of power. Otherwise people will not get sucl" political parties elected in future by ballot boxes, e.g. Article 45 of the constitution provides for the free and compulsory education to the children between the age 6 to 14. Then to provide education t< them is the

moral responsibility of that state government. Hence government starts schools, appoints teachers, pays their salaries construct school buildings etc. Therefore this one of the feature ha got very significant role to play.

Principle of Secularism:

The word 'Secular' is adopted in the Preamble of the Constitution 1976 by 42nd amendment. This means that state has no 'Sta Religion'. At the same time government will not favour anybody religion and also not disfavour the religion of others. State will n interfere the religious affairs 'of the. individual and will be neuter about it. Religion is the private affairs. According to former President of India R. Venkata Raman "India is not pro-religious, non-religious and anti-religious" i.e. India in secular.

The religion will have no influence over any government. The citizens have got right to any religion, worship any God & Goddesses. It is only because of this constitutional secular nature of the state that led to become the President, Prime Minister from any religion or community.

Single Citizenship:

The American Constitution has given its citizens the 'Dual Citizenship', one for the country and other from the representing state. Contrary to this Indian constitution provides only Single Citizenship i.e. only for the country and not for the state. It is due to multiplicity of the nature of Indians society that states should not have loyalties only to their States. Therefore, any person can inhabit in any part of the country, take education, join profession or occupation. We also introduce ourselves as 'I am an Indian first.' Single citizenship bounds the Indians into oneness and unity.

The Independent Judiciary:

The Indian Constitution, among its three major bodies of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary; more rights and freedoms are given to the Judiciary. The rules and laws and reulations regarding the appointments and rights and powers of the Judiciary i.e. Supreme Court, High Court and Subsequent courts and their judges having been clearly stated in the constitution. The judiciary have been kept tally out of the purview of the legislation and executive body. The Judgement given by the judiciary becomes the law.

The Judicial Review:

The Supreme Court and the High Courts are the guardians of the Constitution. They have also got right to interpret the provision of the constitution. Therefore, government before passing any act or law undergoes investigation into the constitution and takes care that there would not be violation of the constitutional provisions. It happens sometimes that Parliament Councils & Assemblies may be wrong in passing any act against which one can ask the Courts of law to review the decisions taken by the governments. The Supreme court and the High Court can declare such law null and void or unconstitutional if it goes against constitutional provisions.

End of Old Order and Rise of New Order:

Our Indian constitution is revolutionary in true sense of the term. Since ancient times & for thousands of years, the power was administered by the provision in Manusmriti, instead, now

it runs with provisions of Constitution. The Constitution guarantees equality, liberty, fraternity, justice, equal opportunity etc. which were denied to certain section of the society. Now, there is no discrimination based on sex, caste, creed, religion language, region, rich, poor etc. The Constitution has abolished untouchability and termed it as an offence punishable. It also protects women, children and historically deprived or depressed classes. Hence the Old Order of Mansmirti have gone and the New Order of the constitution has risen.

Adoption of Good Principles from others:

The architects of the constitutions knew the constitutional provision of the many countries. Hence, after lots of study they adopted certain good principles from the constitutions of other nations of the world.

SUMMARY

The constitution of India is very important document. It guides the administrators continuously about the legal advice. It provides of the liberty, equality and fraternity with social eco-political justice and opportunity. The Constitution also guarantees to fundamental right; as well as provides for the fundamental duties. It is our constitution that is helpful in maintaining communal harmony, peace and law and order. The implementation of 'Democracy' and 'Guidance Principles' is only possible due to Constitution. Therefore, we have to regard the constitution as a 'Sacred Document' of India.

The Constitution of Independent India came into effect on 26 January, 1950. With its adoption India officially became a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. The Indian Constitution has established a parliamentary form of government both at the Centre and the State.

Though the President is the head of the executive, the real powers are vested with the Cabinet and the Prime Minister who are responsible to the Lok Sabha. Similarly Governor is the executive head of the States, but the real powers are exercised through Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers, who are responsible to the Legislative Assembly. The members of Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies are elected through elections by citizens of the country. Hence elections are the base for the formation of governments. Therefore the political parties who contest the elections become part and parcel of political system of the country. In India we have multi party system to ensure the representation of varied variety of people who reside in it. We shall now broadly discuss the party system in India.

THE PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

The party system is the base of democracy. It is a link between people and the government. A political party serves as a platform for people with common ideologies. Every political party aims to contest elections to be a part of legislative and executive organs of the government. Through representation in the parliament the party members function as agents of people and voice the grievances and challenges of the society.

India has a multi-party system with the existence of parties at the national and State level. In order to contest elections every party must register itself to the Election Commission of India.

The party that wins majority seats in elections forms the government and implements the policies designed by its election manifesto. The party with second majority votes plays the role of opposition in the parliament and keeps a close eye on the functioning of the government.

CLASSIFICATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

The types of political parties can be broadly classified into following categories:

National Parties :

Any party to be called as national level political party must fulfil following conditions:

It must have had its candidates stood for last elections in at least four or more States for Loksabha or for Legislative Assembly and secured not less than 6 % of total valid votes in those elections. In addition win at least four seats in Loksabha from any State or States.

It must have won at least 2 % seats in Loksabha from at least three different States.

Some of the present national parties are; Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Communist Party of India etc.

State Parties:

The State parties promote regional languages, culture and interest of people of that region. To be recognized as a State party, it must fulfill following conditions:

In the last general elections to legislative assembly, the party candidates must have secured not less than 6% of total valid votes and must retain at least 2 members to State Legislative Assembly. Some of the well known State political parties are; Shiv Sena (Maharashtra), AIADMK and DMK (Tamilnadu), Telgu Desam (Andhra Pradesh), Rashtriya Janata Dal (Bihar), the National Conference (Jammu and Kashmir) etc.

FEATURES OF PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Dominance of Single Party:

The party system was introduced in India as an influence of western education. The Indian leaders had realized the importance of united efforts to achieve independence. The political parties, thus, were established to demand for reforms from the British government and eventually complete self government. Various political parties had emerged before independence as well but it was Indian National Congress (INC) that remained one of the most popular and dominant political party. After independence except for a brief period in the late 1970s the congress dominated the political scene till late 1980s. Congress leaders like J. Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi had dominated the Indian politics for decades. Though many other political parties emerged during that period, Congress was regarded as the largest representative party of the country.

Emergence of multi- party system:

Internal factions led to the split in the Congress and by 1970s many new parties had emerged. In 1977, Janata party was formed which was a coalition of at least five parties. This new party formed the first non-Congress government after independence. The rise of BJP and

many regional parties in States reduced the dominance of Congress over Indian politics to a greater extent.

Coalition Party System:

From 1990s an era of coalition started. Failure of big national parties like Congress and BJP to win majority seats in elections has brought numerous small parties to the forefront. The large parties came to be dependent upon smaller parties for the formation of governments. In 1996 the elections led to the formation of 'United Front', a coalition of as many as 13 political parties. Similarly in 1999 a coalition party government of 'National Democratic Alliance' (NDA) was formed with BJP as a largest member of coalition.

Based on Personalities:

Instead of emphasizing on the strong organizational structure, the leaders or powerful personalities of the party are given more importance. Many people join the party because of the charisma of a party leader for ex; Balasaheb Thackeray, Mamta Banerjee, Mayawati, Jayalalitha, Lalu Prasad Yadav etc.

Absence of loyalty to ideology:

Every party is based on some ideology and when people join the party they are committed to its ideology. But the situation is changing fast. Most of the parties are interested in capturing power. Many candidates shuffle between parties to grab position in the government keeping aside the ideological commitment of the party.

Emergence of Regional Parties:

One of the reasons for the decline in the strength of national parties is the emergence of numerous regional level parties. As selfish motives and desire to grab power has prompted many politicians to form independent parties. Each state has almost 2 to 3 strong regional parties. Tamilnadu has become stronghold of DMK and AIADMK; Punjab is dominated by Shiromani Akali Dal; Shivsena is a powerful party in Maharashtra; National Conference is popular in Jammu and Kashmir etc.

Factions within the party:

Personality clashes, race to acquire power, intrigues against each other has led to the weakness of the party. Frequent changing of party has increased factions within the party. Caste and regional loyalties also play a role in dividing the party further.

Emergence of Bi-polar party System:

By 1990s the one party dominance ended giving rise to coalition party government. The politics of alliances led to the polarization of parties. It reflects the diverse political interests. The regional parties are playing important role in the formation of government at the Centre. The non-Congress national as well as regional parties acquired popularity and became viable alternatives. The rise of BJP and BJP led United Front dominated the Centre by creating the second 'pole' in the Indian politics. However, Sonia Gandhi's entry into active politics brought Congress back into the suitable alternatives. The formation of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the control over central government by this Congress led coalition government in recent years has transformed Indian politics into bipolar party system.

Conclusion:

The recent trend of offering support to the government from outside is causing a serious concern to the stability of the government both at the centre and state level. As the parties get to enjoy all the powers without participating in the government and sharing any responsibility. They dominate the government and influence the decision making by giving threat of withdrawal of support in case of failing to comply with their demands.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The concept of local self government is known to Indian since ancient times. During the vedic age, there existed village assemblies known as 'Sabha' and 'Samiti'. Gradually cities and towns came into prominence. They also enjoyed greater level of autonomy in administration as witnessed during the Mauryan and Gupta period. The system of local self government in its modern sense was revived during the British period.

In a democratic country power is decentralized and shared at different levels. Apart from the Central and State Government, the administration at the local level is handled by the local government in urban as well as rural areas. The local Self-Government ensures effective people's participation and ensures overall development. These small units of government enable people to feel a sense of responsibility and understand values of democracy.

In India the Local Self Government is broadly classified into two categories that is Rural and Urban.

The Urban local bodies include Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayat. The rural local bodies incorporate Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat.

THE URBAN LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

In urban areas a variety of local self-government institutions are found. They are as follows;

The Municipal Corporation:

The system was introduced by the Britishers first in Madras in 1688 and then in Bombay and Calcutta by 1762. The current structure of Municipal administration is largely based on Lord Ripon's reforms on local self government introduced in 1882.

The 1992 Act brought uniformity in municipal bodies. The Municipal Corporations were set up for highly urbanized areas, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Nagar Panchayat for areas in transition phase from rural to urban. The State legislature is empowered to make laws related to functioning and powers of the local government. The Municipal Corporation consists of the Council, wherein representatives from every ward are elected by the people known as Councillors for the term of five years. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Councillors for a period of two and half years. They enjoy great honour in the city. Mayor is regarded as the first citizen of the city. The MPs, MLAs are the ex-officio members of the corporation. The Chief Executive Officer is appointed through the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) known as the Municipal Commissioner. The entire administrative staff is also appointed by the State. The corporation also nominates some selected citizens as its members.

Functions of the Municipal Corporation:

It includes wide variety of duties to be performed by the corporations to ensure overall development of the city i.e. economic, social, health and sanitation, infrastructure etc. The functions of Municipal Corporations are classified as obligatory and voluntary. Some of them are listed as follows;

Obligatory Functions:

Sanitation of hospitals, roads, maintenance of drainage of city, Water supply for public and private purposes, Providing healthcare facilities, public vaccination and prevention of diseases, Establishing hospitals, child and maternity welfare centres, Providing street lights, cleaning of garbage's from the city roads, Registration of birth and death, Maintenance of bridges and public buildings, Providing primary education by setting up schools, Naming of streets and numbering of streets and houses, Maintaining and managing electricity supply, Providing transport facilities to the city.

Voluntary Functions:

Constructing and maintaining public parks, gardens, libraries, museums, swimming pools, recreation centers etc., Providing shelter to old, street children, destitute, orphans etc., Survey of buildings, lands etc.

Municipal Council:

The smaller cities are looked after by Municipal Councils. When the cities grow in size of population it is transformed under the administration of Municipal Corporations. The Council consists of; The Council members are elected by the people for the term of five years. President and Vice-President are elected by the members of the Council for the term of two and half years. The President is honoured as the first citizen of the town. Each Council has among its appointed Staff, one Executive Officer and its subordinate staff and nominated selected citizens of the town.

Functions of the Municipal Council:

The functions of the Municipal Council are similar to that of Municipal Corporations which includes some obligatory functions and some voluntary functions. To perform these functions various committees are created, namely, Public Works Committee, Education Committee, Sanitation Committee, Water Supply Committee, Planning and Development Committee, Women and Child Welfare Committee.

Nagar Panchayat:

The composition and functions of the Nagar Panchayat are similar to Municipal Councils. Nagar Panchayats are established in those rural areas to be soon transformed into urban. Nagar Panchayat is formed according to the 74th constitutional amendment.

THE RURAL LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The rural local self government in India is also described as 'Panchayat Raj'. It was a major step taken for the upliftment of rural areas and to ensure rural development. On the basis of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayat Raj in India.. Thereafter entire rural India came under this system. The main aims of the Panchayat Raj system was to promote social and economic development of rural areas, to make villages self reliant and to provide with political education and training to rural people. Under the committee's recommendation a three tier system of local government was established which is as follows:

Zilla Parishad:

It is a local government body at the district level. It looks after the administration of rural areas in a district. The members to the Parishad are elected by the people for the term of five years. Some seats are reserved for SC, ST, OBC and women. The President and Vice-President are elected for the term of two and half years. The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the State government through Indian Administrative Services. The main functions of the Zilla Parishad include providing of facilities and initiating development programmes for the rural people. It houses various committees like Finance, Education, Health, Agriculture, Child Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Public works, Water supply and irrigation etc.

Panchayat Samiti:

The Panchayat Samiti is formed at the taluka level. Every Panchayat Samiti is headed by the Chairperson. In the absence of Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson performs his functions. The Block Development Officer (BDO) is the executive head of the Panchayat Samiti. He is appointed by the State government and belongs to Indian Administrative Services.

Gram Panchayat:

It works at the village level. It is formed in a village which has minimum 300 population or else two or more villages are clubbed together. Sarpanch is the head of the Gram Panchayat who enjoys the term of five years. He supervises and implements the resolutions passed by the Gram Panchayat. In his absence Deputy Sarpanch looks after the affairs of the village. The functions of the Gram Panchayat includes looking after the basic amenities of the village.

Gramsevak is appointed by Zilla Parishad to carry out the routine work of the Gram Panchayat.

THE 73RD AND 74TH AMENDMENTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR INCLUSIVE POLITICS

Introduction:

The 73rd constitutional amendment provided more powers to local self governments and created a three tier system for the rural areas. It empowered and brought about better

functioning of the Panchayat Raj. The 74th constitutional amendment provided similar guidelines for the urban areas. Both the amendments provided guidelines to the States to form the local governments at the rural and urban level. It provided decentralization and democratization of power with greater participation of the people.

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992:

This amendment was passed in 1992 to provide constitutional status to the Panchayat Raj institutions. Following are its salient features: A uniform three-tier structure of Panchayat Raj was created, namely, Zilla Parishad at district level, Panchayat Samiti at intermediate level and Gram Panchayat at village level. All the seats at the panchayat level are elected by elections for the term of five years. Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes. 33% reservations of seats for women in these local self governments. To hold and control the smooth elections to panchayats, a State Election Commission has to be formed in every State. Appointment of State Finance Commission to make recommendations regarding financial powers of the Panchayats. To set up District Planning Commission to plan for the development of the district. Formation of 'Gram Sabha' to bring necessary changes in the village.

The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992:

The 74th amendment act brought stability and efficiency to the urban local self government. Following are its main provisions: Formation of three types of Municipalities namely; Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council and Nagar Panchayat. Adequate representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Women. It also introduces schedule 12th in the Constitution, which lists 18 subjects that comes under the jurisdiction of municipalities. Greater financial and functional responsibilities to the municipalities. Constitution of State Finance Commission to review financial position of the municipalities and suggest measures to improve their financial condition. Regular and fair conduct of elections. Creation of Ward Committees, District Planning Committees, Metropolitan Planning Committees for the preparation of development plans. All the above provisions aimed at making the municipal bodies an effective instrument of local administration. According to the 74th amendment several State governments amended their legislations to bring uniformity with the constitutional provisions. However the State governments are entrusted with the final decision making authority.

ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

Introduction:

The participation of women in politics is not a new phenomenon. In ancient times during early Vedic period women could become members of Sabha and Samiti. However her position declined considerably after the end of Vedic age as she was not only denied the political rights but was confined to the four walls of the house. She faced many inequalities

and was regarded inferior to men. Attempts were made to improve her condition during the 19th century by many social reformers. Gradual improvement was seen thereafter. Many women participated in the struggle for independence as well. However their participation remained less in number.

Enactment of Laws after Independence:

After independence various laws have been enacted and various provisions have been made to empower women. To bring about more of women's participation in politics provisions are made for the reservation of seats in the legislature. In spite of this the participation of women in politics is not satisfactory. As per the UN survey the parliamentary representation of women in the 15th Loksabha is 10.7%. This is much less as compared to other countries (South Africa- 44.5%, Britain- 17.12%). The representation of women at the Panchayat Raj is nearly 50% after passing of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992. The women's reservation bill is passed in Rajyasabha which provides 33% seats to women in parliament, however, the bill is yet to be passed in Loksabha.

Participation of women at the Centre:

The 15th Loksabha so far had the largest women members as compared to the earlier ones. The 14th Loksabha had 45 women and 15th Loksabha have a record of 59 women as Members of Parliament. Gradually younger women are entering the Loksabha. The 14th Loksabha had only 17% of women under 40, while 15th Loksabha has 29% of women below the age of 40. Today three of the prestigious positions are in the hands of women. Meira Kumar is the speaker of Loksabha, Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of ruling UPA coalition party, Sushma Swaraj is the leader of opposition in the Loksabha.

Role of women in the States:

State Assembly elections were held in May 2011 for four States and it gave us two female Chief Ministers i.e. Mamta Banerjee became Chief Minister of West Bengal, Jayalalitha became Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. Mayawati is another strong woman leader of Uttar Pradesh. At the age of 39, in 1995 Mayawati became the youngest politician to be elected as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the first Dalit woman Chief Minister of any State in India. In addition Sheila Dixit became the Chief Minister of Union Territory of Delhi for the third consecutive term in 2009.

Role of women in Local Self Government Bodies:

After the passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, the representation of women at the grass root level has increased by nearly 50%. Pioneering efforts in this direction were taken by the State of Karnataka in 1983 by offering reservations for women at the Panchayat level. Several States like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand have increased women's participation in panchayats to 50%. Women members of Panchayats have done remarkable work in improving the conditions of villagers in matters of healthcare, education, sanitation etc.

Obstacles faced by women in the participation of

Politics:Male Domination:

Male domination mindset is one of the major obstacle for women as politics is regarded as man's area of interest and caliber. There is a lack of family support or co operation because the political participation is time consuming as one has to attend party meetings, organize workers, gathering mass support for the party by undertaking different activities to promote party requires women to stay out of the house for a long time. In such scenario women face opposition from her family.

Role of Political Parties:

Many political parties have failed to offer enough representation to women. They are less likely to involve them in party's organizational bodies. Men are preferred while giving party tickets for contesting elections. At times those tickets are offered to them where party has less chances of victory. After elections, the parties are also not willing to offer key portfolios to women Members of Parliament. Thus political parties also act like a hurdle in women's active participation in politics.

Corruption and Criminalization of Politics:

Politics and contesting elections has been a costly affair in recent times. Corruption in elections and sabotaging of electoral booths are the methods adopted by many. Many criminal minded people are entering politics as they have huge chunk of black money. Women are regarded as misfit in such changing trends in politics.

Approach of Government officials:

The elected members need to meet government officials in order to fulfill the promises to the electorate. However women representatives often face non cooperation from the government officers due to their biased approaches towards women which causes hurdle in their work and reduces their efficiency.

Poverty, Unemployment and Illiteracy:

Poverty is the major problem faced by India and women's condition is even more bad as the unemployment rate is high among women. Many women work in unorganized sector and hence are paid low wages. Literacy rate is also low in case of women as compared to men. Such issues are the major obstacles in her political growth.

Psychological Barrier:

In general it has been observed that due to all above factors they have low self esteem and lack confidence in themselves. Many women accept that politics is man's world and they have no role to play in it. The traditional approach of family members as well as their own beliefs stops them from participating in active politics.