Topic of the week for discussion: 3rd to 9th Dec. 2015

Topic: Constitution Day

Constitution Day in India is celebrated every year on **26th November** as the constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November in the year 1949 and came into power on 26th January in 1950. Dr. Ambedkar is believed to be the Father of Constitution of India. After the independence of India Dr. Ambedkar was invited by the Congress government to serve as a first law minister of the India. He was appointed as the Constitution Drafting Committee's Chairperson on 29th August. He was the chief architect of the Indian constitution and known for his notion to build a strong and united India. Indian constitution was first described by Granville **Austin** as a tool to achieve social revolution. The ever lasting contribution of Baba Saheb Ambedkar to the Indian constitution acts as a guiding torch advocating and propagating equality, fraternity and social justice. The constitution of India was brought into effect in order to constitute the country as an independent, communist, secular, autonomous and republic to safeguard all Indian citizens against various kinds of injustice, tyranny, and subjugation. When the constitution of India was adopted, the nation transformed into a state which supported progress and peace, at least in notion. The constitution of India is unique as it reserves many privileges for the downtrodden. It took around **2 years**, **11 months and 17 days** to pass by the Constituent Assembly.

Some of the following characteristics of the Indian constitution are:

- > It is written and broad
- > The government is elected democratically
- > Fundamental rights have been secured
- Liberty of judiciary, travelling, speech, religion, education
- Single Nationality
- > Indian constitution is both flexible and non-flexible
- ➤ Obliteration of caste system at the National level
- > Common civil code and official languages
- Centre is similar to a Buddhist 'Ganrajya'
- > Impact of Buddha and Buddhist rituals
- > Since the Indian constitution came into act, females in India got right to vote.
- ➤ Various countries all over the world have adopted the Indian Constitution.
- ➤ One of the neighbour countries, Bhutan has also accepted the Indian Democratic system.

Some Important Points:

➤ The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, while it came into force on January 26, 1950

Topic Introduction

- > The Constitution of India was not typeset or printed but was handwritten and calligraphed in both English and Hindi
- > The original copies of the Constitution of India are kept in **special helium-filled** cases in the Library of the Parliament of India
- > Indian Constitution is known as a **bag of borrowings**
- > The concepts of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity were taken from the French constitution
- The concept of **five year plans** was taken from the USSR
- > The Directive principles were taken **from Ireland**
- ➤ Law on which the Supreme Court functions was taken from Japan
- > It is the **longest written constitution** of any independent country in the world
- The Constitution of India contains 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules, 5 appendices and 98 amendments
- ➤ The Constituent Assembly had **284** members, out of which 15 were women
- ➤ The draft was submitted in November 1949. After the submission, it took three more years to complete it
- ➤ All the 284 members of the Constituent Assembly signed the documents on January 24, 1950
- The **national emblem** of India too was adopted on the same day
- ➤ Indian constitution is known as one of the world's best Constitutions especially since it has only seen 94 amendments.

Why Do We Celebrate Constitution Day?

Constitution Day in India is officially celebrating event which is celebrated every year on 26th of November to honour and remember the father of Constitution, **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.** People in India celebrate their history, freedom, independence and peace after launching the own constitution of India.

Read further:

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/constitution-of-india/1/496659.html

http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/excerpts-from-cpim-general-secretary-sitaram-yechurys-speech-in-the-rajya-sabha/article7930222.ece

http://www.deccanchronicle.com/151126/nation-current-affairs/article/9-facts-about-indian-constitution-world-constitution-day

http://www.oneindia.com/india/constitution-day-why-is-it-celebrated-on-nov-26-rarely-known-facts-about-india-1938156.html