

## 3

## INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Heli, Priyanshi and Sachin are watching the final match of World Cup of 2011 on T.V. with their parents. An exciting match is going on between India and Sri Lanka. Who will win the World Cup, India or Sri Lanka? Sri Lanka had put up a challenging target for India to achieve but with the fearless batting of the Indian captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India won the World Cup. Everyone was rejoicing in victory. Heli said to her mother while watching T.V., “Mummy, the previous match between England and India resulted in a tie? What does that mean?” Neetaben said, “Heli, for a popular game like cricket, the ICC has systematically formed rules. A tie in a match means that both the teams have an equal score. Even the games like football, hockey, kabbadi, etc. have their own set of rules. If a game has so many rules, then to run the administration of a populous nation, we surely require well framed rules.”

***WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVREIGN 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.***

### 3.1 Preamble of our Constitution

A systematic compilation of set of rules to run the government of a country is known as the ‘constitution’ of the country. Constitution can be in written or unwritten form. Our Constitution starts with the Preamble.

## How was the Constitution of India formed?

The Constitution of India is the statement of national goals and aims such as democracy, socialism, secularism, national unity, etc. The Constituent Assembly was established. It started working from 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1946. The Constituent Assembly was formed of prominent and distinguished scholars and leaders. Their political vision and foresight was incorporated in the constitution. Leaders like Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Sardar Baldev Singh, etc. provided their guidance. Frank Anthony represented the Anglo Indian community and H.P. Modi represented the Parsi community. The committee had various constitution scholars like Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, K.M. Munshi, etc.

There were female members like Sarojini Naidu and Vijayalaxmi Pandit. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Constituent Assembly. There were a number of sub committees to take care of various aspects of the Constitution. The Drafting Committee which was headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave to the Constitution its final shape. Total 166 meetings were held by the Constituent Assembly in a time period of 2 years 11 months and 18 days. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949, the Committee passed the Constitution, which was enforced on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950.

### Think

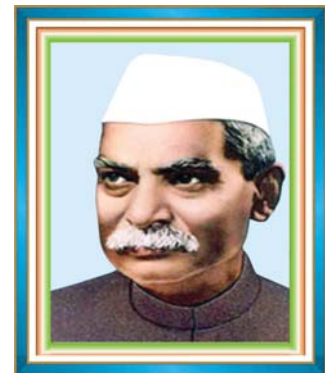
- *Do you know why the day of 26<sup>th</sup> January was selected to enforce the Constitution?*



Maulana Azad



Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar



Dr. Rajendra Prasad



Sarojini Naidu



Kanaïyalal Munshi

## 3.2 Creators of the Constitution

Why do we need a Constitution? What if there is no Constitution? No country can function without a Constitution. A Constitution serves many objectives. It is a document which finely weaves the ethos and ideals of our country. It tells about the kind of government our country would have. How to run the administration of our country? In a democratic form of government we elect our leaders so that they can run the administration on our behalf. However, there are provisions in the Constitution to check the misuse of power by the leaders.

### Things to know

- *The Constitution of India has borrowed some special features of the Constitutions of Britain, Ireland, France and The United States of America.*
- *The Constitution of India is the longest written Constitution in the world.*

## Salient features of our Constitution

### Democratic Rule

India has adopted the democratic system of government. General elections are held in our country every five years. Citizens above the age of 18 are eligible to cast their vote. We cannot imagine democracy without elections. People all over the country play their role in electing their representatives. Any voter of the country can contest an election irrespective of his/ her religion, caste, class or gender. The elected representatives rule for 5 years. Every citizen enjoys the freedom to follow religion of his/her choice as well as freedom of speech, expression and thoughts.



### 3.3 Voting/Polling Booth



### 3.4 Secularism

### Secularism

A secular nation means that the government does not conform to the norms of any particular religion in its system of governance. Citizens are not discriminated on the basis of their faith, sect or religion. Every citizen enjoys the right to follow and propagate the religion of his/her choice.

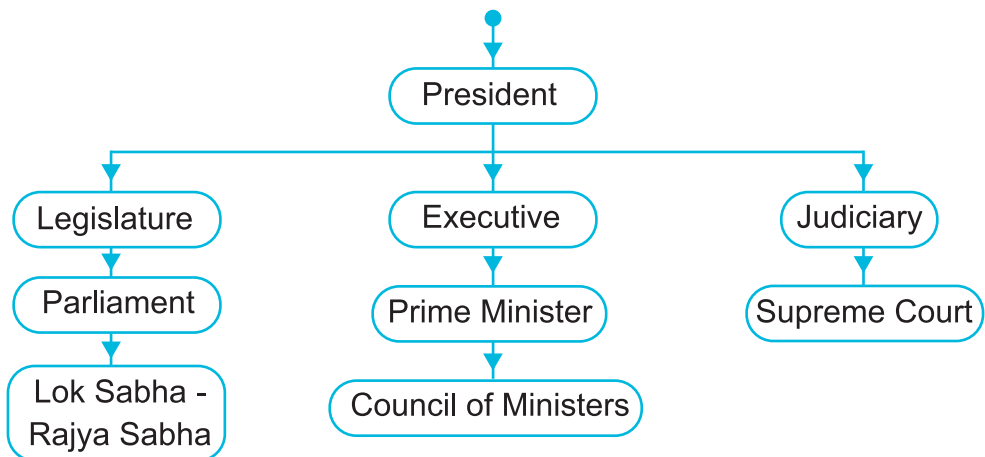
## Republic

Republic means a government that obtains powers from people directly or indirectly. We have adopted a democratic republic system of government which means that powers are not limited in the hands of a few privileged people; rather it is accessible to all the citizens irrespective of their caste, class, religion or gender.

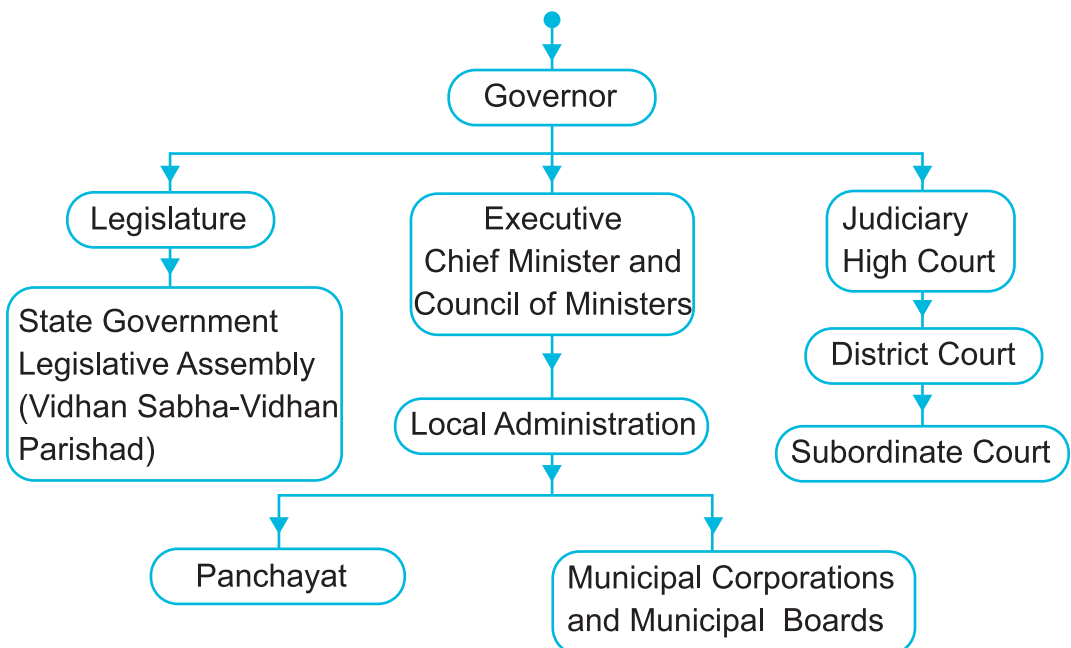
### Things to know

- Any common person, man/woman, be it a hawker or a vegetable vendor can become the Sarpanch of a village. For Example : A mason, Manjibhai contested election of Legislative Assembly and became the Member of Legislative Assembly (M.L.A)

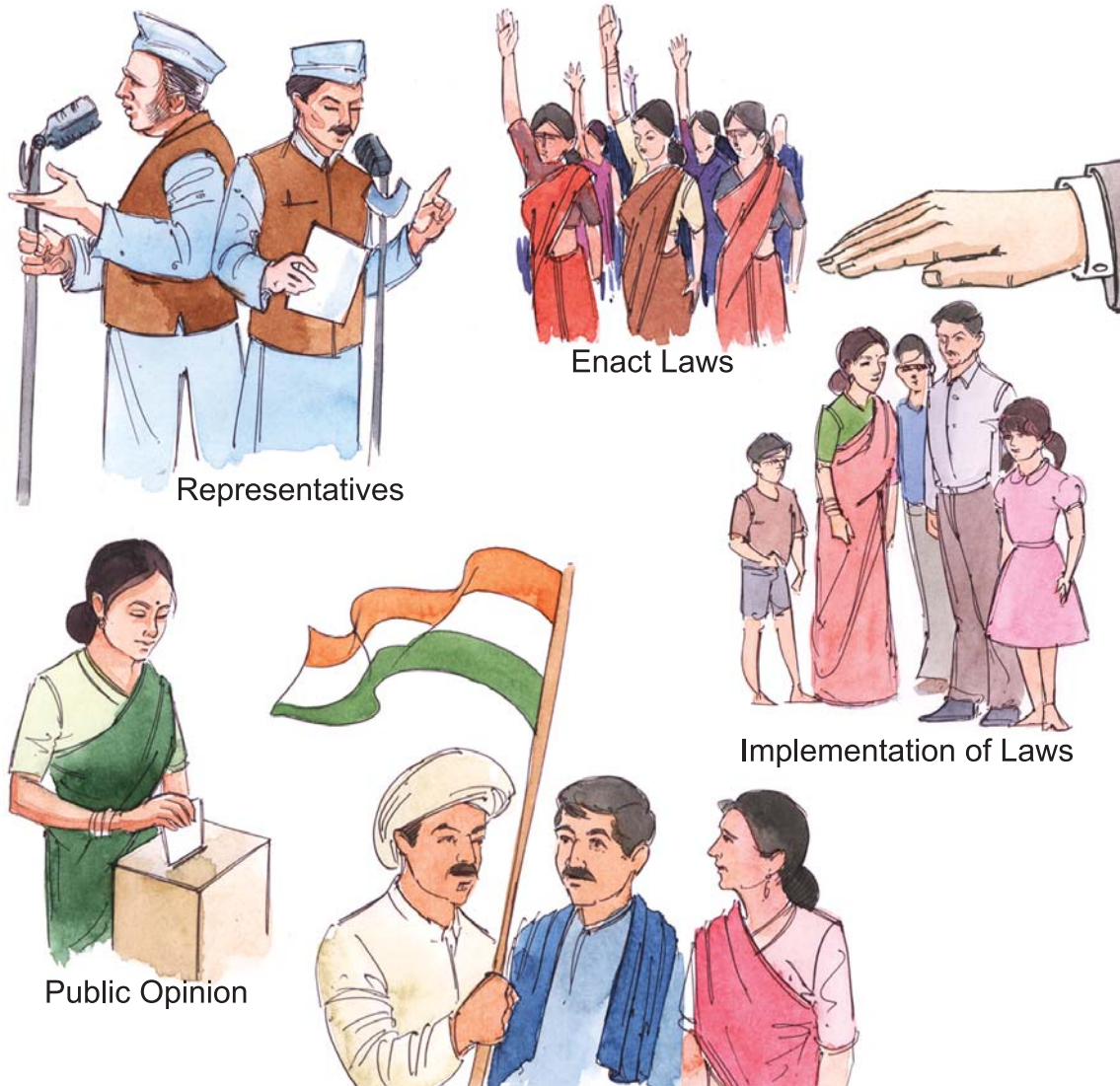
### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



### STATE GOVERNMENT







### 3.5 Functions of government

Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are the organs of government. Legislature makes laws, Executive with the help of civil service officers implements the laws and judiciary makes people follow the law and does the work of providing justice.

#### Think

- **Gujarat also has Vidhan Sabha, Council of Ministers and High Court. Why so?**

### Federal State

India is a federal state. There is a distribution of subjects on which the central or the state governments can frame laws. There are three such lists-Union list, State list and the Concurrent list. Laws framed by the Central Government are applicable to the entire nation.

## Fundamental Rights

Fundamental rights of Indian Citizens are provided by the Constitution of India, that was adopted on the 26th of November, in the year 1949, but was put in use on the 26th of January 1950. The Fundamental Rights of Indian Citizens guaranty that the residents of the land can lead a peaceful life, as long as they inhabit the country. The individual Fundamental Rights of Indian Citizens are most of the time similar in all the democratic countries.

The Individual Fundamental Rights to Indian Citizens include the following:

- Equality before the law
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of association and peaceful assembly
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Right to constitution remedies for the protection of civil rights

## EXERCISES

### Q. 1 Answer the questions in brief

- 1 What do you mean by Constitution?
- 2 Who were the main leaders in the formation of the Constitution of India?
- 3 What are the salient features of our Constitution?
- 4 Why is a constitution necessary for a nation?
- 5 Why is India known as a Republic?
- 6 When was the Constitution of India enforced?

### Q. 2 Fill in the blanks with appropriate words

- 1 Our Constitution starts with the .....
- 2 ..... was the president of the Constituent Assembly.
- 3 India has adopted ..... system of government.
- 4 The elections are held in our country every ..... Years.

### Q. 3 Identify me

- 1 I am a federal state.
- 2 I am the constitutional head of the state.
- 3 The administration of any country can't run without me.
- 4 I am the Republic Day.
- 5 I was elected as the president of Drafting Committee of Constitution.