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Tender Heart High School,
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

08.4.24

Class IX

Subject:- History and Civics

Chapter 1 Our Constitution

Teacher :- Ms. Rameet

Good Morning Students!

This lesson is of Class IX for the subject of History and Civics Chapter 1 Our Constitution starting on Page No. 132 of your textbook titled Total History & Civics ICSE 9 and is being submitted to you on

Students, do you know what is a Constitution? The Constitution is that body of rules and laws according to which a country is governed. It defines and determines:-

- i) the form of the government
- ii) the powers to be exercised by the three organs of the government - the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
- iii) the limitations on these powers
- iv) people's rights and duties.

The Constitution establishes the 'Rule of Law' which means "the absence of arbitrary powers, equality before the law and freedom from illogical, unfair and unjust laws".

The Cabinet Mission which arrived in India in 1946 put forward the proposal for setting up of a Constituent Assembly, whose members were to be elected by the Provincial Legislative Assemblies. The Princely States were represented by the members who were nominated by the rulers. The Constituent Assembly meant

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for undivided India was to have 389 members.

It was the Constituent Assembly which framed the Constitution of India.

The Constituent Assembly had its first sitting on December 9, 1946. Dr. Sachidananda Sinha, the oldest member of the House was the Interim President of the Assembly. On December 11, 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected its permanent President.

The membership of the Constituent Assembly got reduced after the Muslim League boycotted the Assembly, to demand for the creation of Pakistan. The members which belonged to the territories which went to Pakistan withdrew from the Constituent Assembly.

The Constituent Assembly had members from all major and smaller communities - the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, the Anglo-Indian, the Christians and the Parsees. The weaker sections, and in particular the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were given due representation in the Assembly. Among the women members we may refer to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, etc. The Assembly was, thus a Mini-India. All major regions and sections of the society were represented in the Assembly and it was to be the Mirror of the Nation.

Let us take a short break. You are

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Students, please read the assignment and answer the following questions in your notebooks.

1. When was the first sitting of the Constituent Assembly held?
2. Who was elected as the permanent President of the Constituent Assembly?
3. Name two women members of the Constituent Assembly.

Answer

1. December 9, 1946
2. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
3. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

On 13th December 1946,

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru proposed the 'Objectives Resolution'. It reflected the objectives that India wanted to achieve:

1. Free India will be nothing but a republic.
2. The ideals of social, political and economic democracy would be guaranteed to all people.
3. The republic would grant Fundamental Rights to the citizens.
4. The state would safeguard the rights of minorities and backward classes.

Although the Constituent Assembly had begun its deliberations in December 1946, they gathered momentum only after India became free. The Assembly had eight

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major Committees to examine the various issues in depth. Of these the most important was the Drafting Committee which had Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as its Chairman. He took up all the major issues and his contribution to the Indian Constitution was most important. Under him following principles were made part of our Constitution

1. Strong and flexible Constitution to deal with all situations.
2. Proper safeguard provided to the minorities and weaker sections.
3. Article 32 - The Right to Constitutional Remedies provided a safeguard to the Fundamental Rights of the citizens. If the rights were taken away by the centre or the state, a person could move to a court of law to get it back.
4. In order to bring the people together, single citizenship, single judiciary and a strong centre was provided.

It took some 2 years, 11 months and 17 days for the Constituent Assembly to finally adopt and enact the Constitution on 26 November, 1949. The Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. This date has a historical significance. It was on 26 January 1930, that the first Complete Independence Day was celebrated before the independence

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of our country. This was done in the Lahore session of the Congress in December 1929 when the Purna Swaraj Resolution was passed. The day 26 January continued to be observed so till our independence. So 26 January was chosen for the enforcement of our Constitution.

We will briefly discuss here about the features of the Constitution.

1. India has a written Constitution and also the lengthiest Constitution ever framed by a free country.
2. Our Constitution has democratic and republican features.
3. It is based on the principle of Universal Adult Franchise.
4. There is single citizenship in India.
5. It lays down Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy.
6. Our Constitution is said to be 'federal in form, but unitary in spirit'.

Students please read the chapter again and complete the following home assignment.

1. Short Answer Questions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
2. Structured Questions 1(a, b, c) ; 2(a, b, c)

With this we end this lesson.

Thank You!