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UPSC Mains 2023

4 am Batch Test

(DAY-27)

1) Explain the significance of Constitution in a democratic form of government.

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| UPSC Mains Syllabus topic | Indian Constitution historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure. |
| Why was this question asked? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Constitution? What are the main sources of the Indian Constitution? Constitutional Morality is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (2021) |
| Introduction | The Constitution serves as the backbone of a democratic form of government, providing a framework that ensures the protection of individual rights, upholds the rule of law, and establishes a system of checks and balances. |
| Body | I. Safeguarding Individual Rights and Freedoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution enshrines fundamental rights and freedoms, guaranteeing equality, liberty, and justice to all citizens. It provides safeguards against discrimination based on religion, caste, gender, or any other grounds, promoting social inclusivity and harmony. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the right to freedom of speech, expression, and association, it encourages public participation and facilitates the growth of a vibrant civil society. <p>II. Establishing the Rule of Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution establishes the supremacy of the law, ensuring that all individuals, including government officials, are subject to the same set of laws. • It provides for an independent judiciary, ensuring impartiality and the protection of citizens' rights. • The principle of separation of powers delineated in the Constitution prevents the concentration of power and acts as a check on potential abuses. <p>III. Balancing Governmental Powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution provides for a system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, preventing any one branch from becoming too dominant. • It establishes mechanisms such as parliamentary oversight, judicial review, and the independence of constitutional bodies to ensure accountability and transparency in governance. • This balance of power helps maintain stability and prevents the misuse of authority. <p>IV. Facilitating Social Progress and Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution allows for the amendment process, enabling necessary changes to adapt to evolving social, political, and economic realities. • It provides for reservations and affirmative action to promote social justice and uplift marginalized sections of society. • The Constitution also guarantees the right to education, ensuring access to learning opportunities for all, thereby fostering inclusive development. |
| <p>Conclusion</p> | <p>Thus a Constitution continues to be a living document that reflects the aspirations of the people, enabling the nation to thrive and progress in the years to come.</p> |

2) How Indian secularism differs from the model of secularism in the west.

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| Why was this question asked? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? (2019) |
| Introduction | Indian secularism and Western secularism exhibit notable differences in their core principles and approaches. This distinction arises from India's unique historical context and the assimilation of Western ideas. |
| Body | <p>I. Interreligious Equality vs. Church-State Separation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Western secularism primarily focuses on maintaining a strict separation between religious institutions and the state, aiming to prevent religious interference in governance.• Indian secularism, in addition to church-state separation, emphasizes interreligious equality within a society characterized by deep religious diversity.• Indian secularism seeks to address religious domination and foster equal dignity and respect for all individuals and communities. <p>II. Protection of Minority Rights vs. Individual Religious Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• While both models protect individual religious freedom, Indian secularism goes further by safeguarding the rights of minority communities.• Indian secularism recognizes the right of religious minorities to exist, practice their faith, and maintain their cultural and educational institutions.• Western secularism typically focuses on individual religious freedoms without specifically addressing the unique concerns of minority communities. <p>III. State-Supported Religious Reforms vs. Non-Interference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian secularism allows for state engagement with religion, both negatively (opposing religious tyranny) and positively (promoting religious reforms). |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Constitution actively prohibits discriminatory practices and supports reforms within religious communities. • In contrast, Western secularism tends to avoid interference in religious matters and focuses more on non-interference and neutrality towards religious practices. <p>IV. Comprehensive Equality vs. Limited Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian secularism addresses both interreligious and intra-religious domination, actively combating discrimination and promoting equality. • Indian secularism opposes oppression within Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and other religions, as well as potential threats to minority religious communities. • Western secularism primarily aims to establish neutrality and non-discrimination in the public sphere, often focusing less on intra-religious issues. |
| Conclusion | <p>While Western secularism prioritizes church-state separation and individual religious freedom, Indian secularism recognizes the need to address both interreligious and intra-religious domination to foster a harmonious and egalitarian society.</p> |

3) Compare the amendment process of Indian Constitution with other Constitutions of the world.

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| Why was this question asked? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (2019) |
| Introduction | <p>The amendment process of the Indian Constitution exhibits distinct characteristics when compared to other constitutions.</p> |

Body

I. Modes of Amendment

- The Indian Constitution allows for three methods of amendment, blending flexibility (as seen in unwritten constitutions) and rigidity (as seen in the oldest written constitution, the American Constitution).
- This combination makes the Indian Constitution both partly flexible and partly rigid, providing avenues for modifications while maintaining a foundational structure.

II. Power to Amend

- In contrast to the American Constitution, where an ad hoc body is responsible for amendments, the Indian Constitution vests the amending power with the Parliament.
- This centralized approach gives the Indian Parliament the authority to propose and enact amendments, streamlining the process.

III. Roles of State Legislatures

- Unlike the Swiss Constitution, where state legislatures (cantons) play an active role in the amendment process, the Indian Constitution does not involve state legislatures extensively, apart from the requirement of ratification by more than half of the states.

IV. Referendum and Ratification

- The Indian Constitution does not include provisions for referendums, similar to the United States, while constitutions like those of Australia, Switzerland, and the Commonwealth of Australia Act, 1900 do allow for referendums.
- The Indian Constitution adopts a broad approach to ratification, differing from the more specific requirements of ratification found in the corresponding constitutions of the United States, Australia, Switzerland, and the Canada Act, 1982.

V. Role of Executive and Time Limit

- The President's assent in the Indian Constitution is granted in a liberal and formal manner compared to the requirements in the Australian, Weimar, and former Soviet Constitutions.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time limits for ratification are not explicitly specified in the Indian Constitution, unlike in the United States. <p>VI. Extent of Amendment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the Indian Constitution does not provide provisions preventing the amendment of fundamental rights, other constitutions like the Weimar Constitution and the United States Constitution have such limitations, although the doctrine of basic structure in India establishes certain limits through judicial interpretation. |
| Conclusion | <p>The Indian Constitution's amendment process demonstrates a unique combination of flexibility and rigidity, distinct from other constitutions. It vests the amending power with the Parliament, minimizes the involvement of state legislatures, lacks provisions for referendums, and provides a liberal approach to the President's assent. While there is no explicit time limit and fundamental rights can be amended, the doctrine of basic structure sets boundaries through judicial interpretation.</p> |

4) Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.

The Citizens' Charter Movement is a proactive approach towards improving public service delivery and accountability. It aims to empower citizens by setting standards of service quality, defining their entitlements, and ensuring transparency and responsiveness from public service providers. This answer highlights the basic principles of the Citizens' Charter Movement and emphasizes its significance in promoting effective governance.

I. Basic Principles of the Citizens' Charter Movement:

- Service Standards:** Citizens' Charters establish clear and measurable service standards for public services, outlining the quality of services citizens can expect and the timeframes for service delivery. These standards provide a benchmark for public service providers to meet and maintain.
- Transparency and Information:** The movement promotes transparency by ensuring that citizens have access to accurate and timely information about the services provided, including procedures, fees, and entitlements. It emphasizes the provision of easily understandable and accessible information to enhance citizen awareness and participation.
- Accountability and Grievance Redressal:** Citizens' Charters incorporate mechanisms for holding public service providers accountable for their performance. It enables

citizens to provide feedback, voice grievances, and seek redressal in case of service failures or misconduct. Grievance redressal systems are established to address complaints efficiently and fairly.

4. **Participation and Consultation:** The movement emphasizes citizen participation in the formulation and evaluation of service standards and policies. It encourages consultation with stakeholders, including citizen groups, to ensure that public services meet the diverse needs and expectations of the population.

II. Importance of the Citizens' Charter Movement:

1. **Empowerment of Citizens:** Citizens' Charters empower individuals by clearly stating their entitlements and rights to receive quality services. It enhances their confidence in dealing with public service providers, as they are aware of the expected standards and can hold authorities accountable for any shortcomings.
2. **Improved Service Delivery:** The movement promotes a customer-centric approach, leading to enhanced service quality and efficiency. Public service providers are encouraged to improve their systems and processes to meet the defined service standards, resulting in better service delivery outcomes.
3. **Increased Transparency and Accountability:** By establishing clear standards and disseminating information, Citizens' Charters promote transparency in public services. This transparency holds public service providers accountable for their actions and encourages them to be more responsive to citizens' needs and expectations.
4. **Citizen Engagement and Trust:** The movement fosters citizen engagement, enabling their active participation in the governance process. By involving citizens in decision-making and soliciting their feedback, it builds trust between the government and its constituents, fostering a sense of ownership and cooperation.
5. **Redressal of Grievances:** Citizens' Charters provide accessible channels for citizens to voice their grievances and seek resolution. This ensures that service failures or misconduct are addressed promptly, improving the overall experience and satisfaction of citizens.

The Citizens' Charter Movement, with its principles of service standards, transparency, accountability, participation, and grievance redressal, plays a vital role in promoting effective governance and citizen empowerment. By setting clear expectations, enhancing service quality, and enabling citizen participation, the movement contributes to improved service delivery, increased transparency, and stronger trust between the government and its citizens. Embracing the Citizens' Charter Movement is essential for fostering a citizen-centric approach and achieving efficient and accountable public administration.

5) Optional Self-Practice Questions:

ANTHROPOLOGY :

- What is acclimatization? Discuss adaptive responses to high altitude and cold climate

HISTORY :

- How does Tuzuk-Babri testify that Babar had been a culture man?

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION :

- Gender equality and women's rights have laid down strong foundation of development. Elaborate. (2021)

SOCIOLOGY :

- Is patriarchy a universal phenomenon? Critically examine how does patriarchy affect sexual division of labour in societies.
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GEOGRAPHY :

- Trace the relationship between climate change and volcanoes.