

## Chapter- 19

# OUR RIGHTS AND DUTIES

## STUDY NOTES



- Our country was ruled by the British for almost 200 years.
- After a long and hard struggle, India got its independence from the British on 15 August 1947.
- Our leaders got together to form a government.
- One of the first things they did was to make a set of rules, based on which the government would run. This set of rules is known as our Constitution.
- The Constitution was accepted on 26 January 1950. We celebrate this day as Republic Day.
- Our Constitution lays down important guiding principles that have to be followed by the leaders of our nation.
- The preamble, or introduction, to our Constitution describes India as a democratic, socialist, secular republic. What does this mean?

**Democratic:**

- This means that all the people of the country will choose or elect leaders who would form the government. This kind of government is known as democracy. Thus, our country is no longer ruled by kings.
- If the people are not happy with their elected leaders, they can be removed from their posts.



**Socialist:**

- This means that all the people in the country will be treated as equals.
- The government will not differentiate between people on the basis of their caste, religion or in any other way. This is known as the principle of socialism.

**Secular:**

- This means that all people in the country would be free to follow whatever religion they want. This is known as the principle of secularism.



**Republic:**

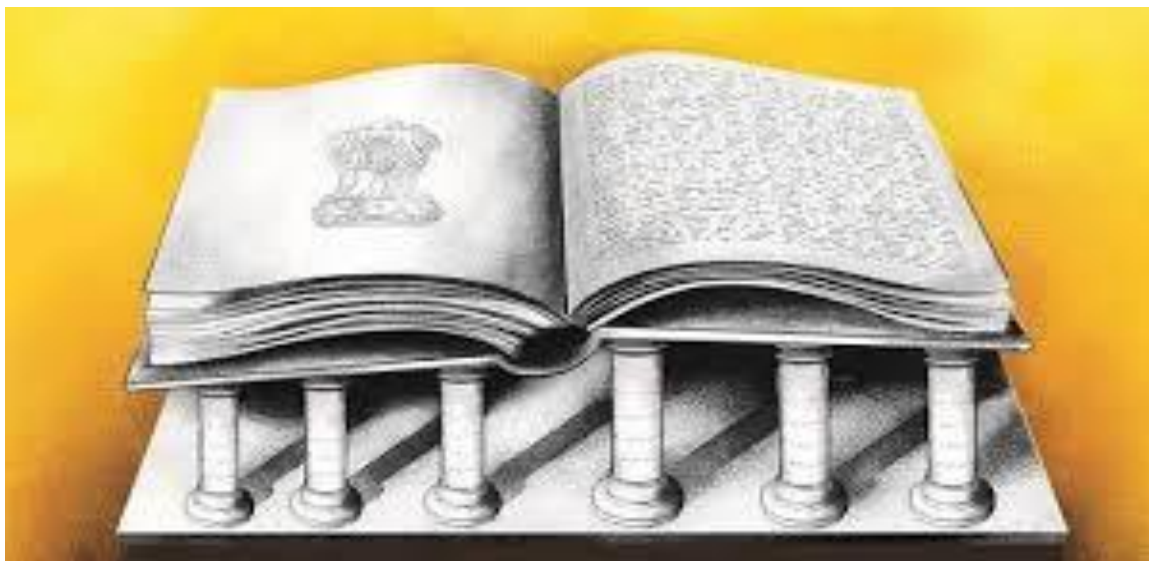
- This means that our head of state is elected by the people. India is headed by an elected president, unlike Britain whose head of state is a hereditary monarch.

**Our Fundamental Rights**

- The Constitution of India gives its citizens certain fundamental rights.
- If anyone feels that his or her fundamental rights have been denied, he or she can approach a court of law.

**Some of the important rights are given here:**

- Right to equality
- Right to freedom of speech-we can speak freely without fear
- Right to follow any religion
- Right to justice
- Right to live and travel anywhere in the country
- Right to choose our profession
- Right to free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14
- These rights are not absolute and the government may take certain measures, like reserving jobs or seats in colleges for the backward and poorer sections of society, for their upliftment.

**Our Duties:**

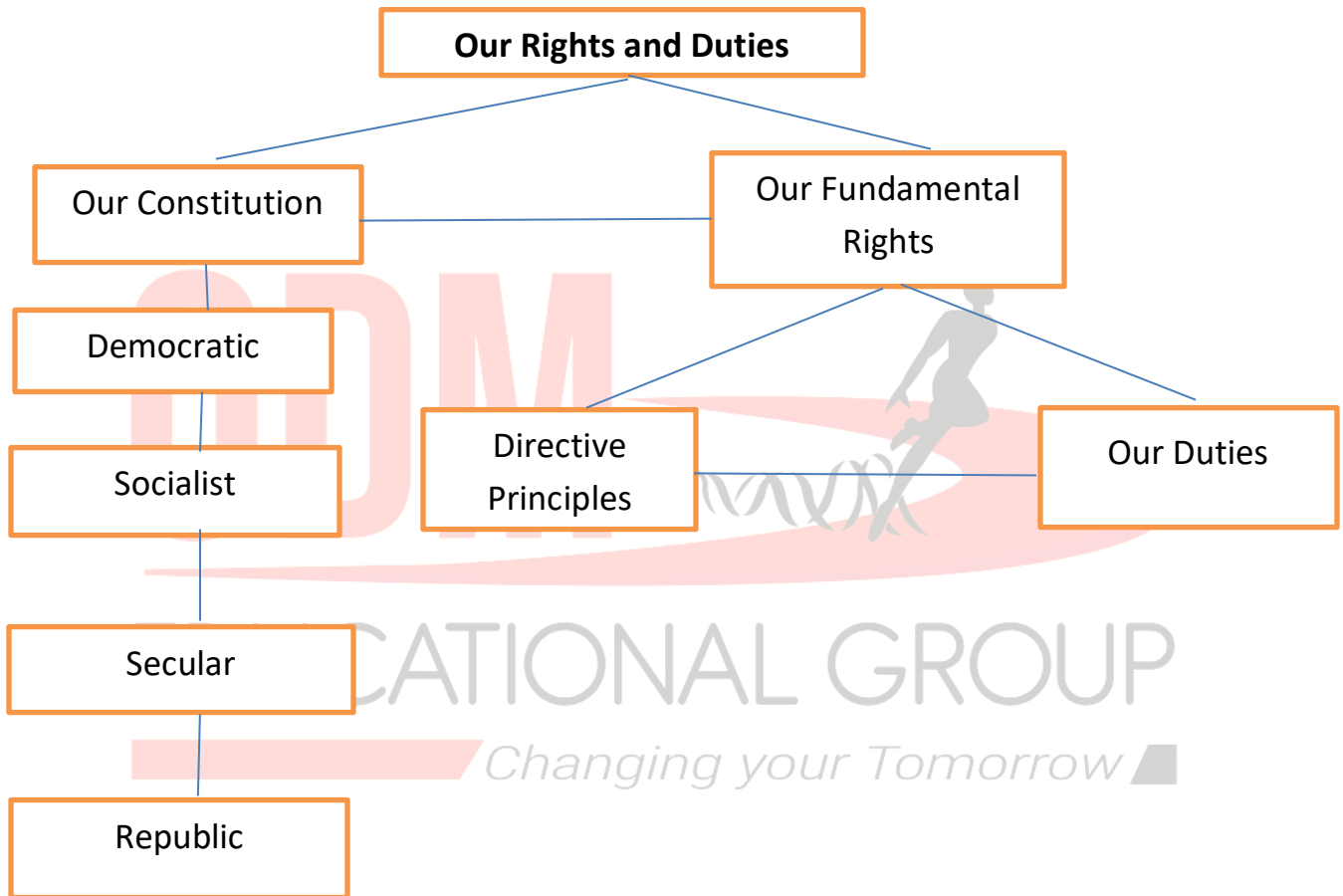
- Duties always come along with rights.
- Some of our important duties as citizens of India are given here.
- ❖ We must follow the rules laid down by the Constitution.
- ❖ We must honour the national flag and national anthem.
- ❖ We must help to keep our country united.
- ❖ We must defend our country at the time of danger.
- ❖ We must protect our national property.
- ❖ We must protect our environment.
- ❖ We must treat all Indians as equal.

**Directive Principles:**

- Our Constitution lays down certain guidelines for the government to follow, for the welfare of the people.
- Some important guidelines are given here.
- ❖ Providing proper living conditions for all citizens

- ❖ Providing work for everyone
- ❖ Ensuring that some people do not become rich by exploiting others
- ❖ Improving the conditions of weaker sections of society such as those belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

### Memory Map



#### Let's Know More

##### I. Fill in the blanks:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the constitution of India have the concept of welfare states.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is recognised as the Father of the Constitution of India.

**Let's Do****A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. The set of rules according to which our government runs is called our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our Constitution was accepted on \_\_\_\_\_. This day is called \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ Principles give guidelines to the government for the welfare of the citizens.
4. Every citizen of India has certain fundamental \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Match the columns.**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. 26 January                          | a. Fundamental Right   |
| 2. Right to follow any religion        | b. Directive Principle |
| 3. Protecting our national property    | c. Republic Day        |
| 4. Providing education to all children | d. Our duty            |

**C. Identify the principle behind the following in our Constitution.**

1. People of India are free to follow the religion of their choice: \_\_\_\_\_
2. All citizens of India will be treated as equals: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The people of India choose the leaders who form the Government: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Answer the following questions.**

1. What do you mean by the Constitution of our country?
2. India is a democracy'. What does this mean?
3. List three fundamental rights of the people of India.
4. List three of our important duties as citizens of India.
5. What do you mean by the 'Directive Principles' of our Constitution?

**E. Multiple choice questions.**

1. Which of the following applies to India?

- a. Democracy
- b. Socialism
- c. Secularism
- d. All of these

2. The set of written rules according to which our country is run, is called:

- a. Constitution
- b. Directive principles
- c. Fundamental rights
- d. Duties

3. Which of the following is not a fundamental right?

- a. right to be treated as equal
- b. right to follow any religion
- c. right to choose our profession
- d. right to proper living conditions

4. Which of these is a directive principle and not a right?

- a. providing work for everyone
- b. providing education to all children
- c. freedom to live anywhere in the country
- d. freedom to give your opinion



**Teacher's Note**

- Democracy is a better form of government than monarchy. Why?

**Improve Your GK**

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru drafted the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ Total number of Fundamental Rights in Constitution of India are six in numbers.
- ❖ M. Fathima Beevi was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

**Answer Key****I. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
2. Directive principles
3. BR Ambedkar

**A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. constitution
2. 26 January 1950, Republic Day

3. Directive Principles

4. rights

**B. Match the columns.**

1. c. Republic Day
2. a. Fundamental Right
3. d. Our duty
4. b. Directive Principle

**C. Identify the principle behind the following in our Constitution.**

1. Secularism
2. Our duties

### 3. Democracy

#### D. Answer the following questions.

1. The set of rules according to which a country is run by our country is known as our constitution.
2. 'India is a democracy' because:
  - a. All the people of our country will choose or elect leaders who would form our government.
  - b. Our country is no longer ruled by kings.
3. Three fundamental rights of the people of India are:
  - a. Rights to equality
  - b. Right to freedom of speech
  - c. Right to follow any religion
4. The three of our important duties as citizens of India are:
  - a. We must follow the rules laid down by the constitution.
  - b. We must honour the national flag and national anthem.
  - c. We must defend our country at the time of danger.
5. The 'Directive Principles' of our Constitution are the guiding principles for government to promote the welfare of the people.

Ex- Providing proper living conditions for all citizens.

#### E. Multiple choice questions.

1. d. All of these
2. a. Constitution
3. d. right to proper living conditions
4. e. providing work for everyone