

GENERAL AWARENESS

★ **History and Culture of India**

(Indus Valley Civilisation, Vedic Culture, Emergence of New Kingdoms, Medieval India, Advent of Europeans and Indian National Movement)

★ **Indian Polity**

(The Constitution of India and its Salient Features, Executive, Legislature, Constitutional & Non-Constitutional Bodies and National Symbols)

★ **Indian Geography**

(India-Location, Relief and Drainage, Climate and Natural Vegetation, Resources and Industries)

★ **Indian Economy**

(National Income, Rural Economy, Banking, Fiscal and Monetary Policies)

★ **General Science**

(Physics – Measurement, Force & Motion, Light, Heat & Temperature and Electricity)

(Chemistry – Matter Around Us, Atomic Structure and Chemistry in Everyday Life)

(Biology – Plant and Animal Kingdom, Micro-organisms, Organ Systems and Nutrition & Health)

HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA

EARLY INDIA : FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO THE INDUS CIVILISATION

- ◆ Human life can be traced in India to Stone Age.
- ◆ The sources for the history of this period are archaeological sites, geological sediments, animal bones and fossils, stone tools, bone tools, rock paintings and artefacts. There is no written evidence for this period. Although the Harappans used a script, it is yet to be deciphered.
- ◆ The pre-historic period witnessed no development of scripts. It is referred to as Stone Age.
- ◆ It is believed that human ancestors might have first evolved in Africa and later migrated to different parts of the world. The migrants were known as 'Homo erectus'.
- ◆ Recent researches have revealed that humans lived in India between 2 million and 1 million years ago.
- ◆ The period before invention of script is divided into Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The names have been assigned depending upon the metals they used.
- ◆ The earliest age in history is called old Stone Age or Paleolithic. This period is divided into (1) Lower Paleolithic Culture (2) Middle Paleolithic Culture and (3) Upper Paleolithic Culture.
- ◆ The period after Stone Age is Mesolithic Age next is Neolithic Age. In the Neolithic Age only, animal and plant domestication developed leading to food production.
- ◆ During the Lower Paleolithic Period, human ancestor species of Homo erectus is believed to have lived in India. The first Palaeolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863.
- ◆ Pre-historic study mainly depends on tools they used. They used the tools mainly for hunting, butchering and skinning the animals.
- ◆ The industries of Palaeolithic cultures are divided into the Early, Middle and Late Acheulian Industries. The early Acheulian tools include polyhedrons, spheroids, hand axes, cleavers and flake tools. The Acheulian tradition is absent in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern India. Heavy rainfall is attributed to its absence.
- ◆ Lower paleolithic tools are found in Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam caves near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Palaeolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.
- ◆ Researchers have concluded that Paleolithic age was around two million years ago. This culture continued upto 60,000 years ago.
- ◆ Evidence of hominin (immediate ancestors of Homo Sapiens) fossil is rare in India. The only rare hominin fossil was found in Hoshangabad in M.P. A fossil was discovered in Athirampakkam. But now not available.
- ◆ A hominid Skull cap was found in a basal conglomerate deposit in 1982. It is considered to represent the Archaic Homo Sapiens.
- ◆ In Narmada Valley, animal fossils of pre-historic elephant skull was discovered. Skulls of wild cattle and of great horse-like animal were also found. The teeth of horses or asses and of water buffalo were found. 17 animal hoof-prints have been uncovered at Athirampakkam.
- ◆ The people of Lower Paleolithic age lived in caves near river valleys as seen from evidence in Bhimbetka (M.P).
- ◆ They belonged to the species of 'homo erectus' who had no complex languages. They expressed a few sounds and signs. They were intelligent enough to use stone tools.

Acheulian and Sohanian :

Based on research, two independent cultural traditions of hand axe (Acheulian) and pebble-flake (Sohanian) industries were confirmed in India. Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers. The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools. The Sohan industry gets its name from the Sohan river valley of Pakistan. These two cultural traditions are not considered distinct any longer. Recent studies argue that there was no independent Sohan tradition as Acheulian tools are found in the Sohan industry as well.

- ◆ About 4,00,000 years from now, changes took place in lithic technology and the species of human ancestors diverged. Anatomically, modern humans are said to have emerged around 3,00,000 years ago. The middle Paleolithic period of Athirampakkam is dated to be around 3.85 to 1.72 lakh years from now.
- ◆ The tool types of the Middle Palaeolithic period are hand axes, cleavers, choppers, chopping tools, scrapers, borers and points, projectile points or shouldered points and knives on flakes. Flake industry was predominant in the Middle Palaeolithic period and tools such as scrapers, points and borers were made. Scrapers were used for wood and skin working. The middle Paleolithic culture in India is dated between 3,85,000 and 40,000 BCE.
- ◆ The Middle Palaeolithic sites are found in Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Yamuna and other river valleys.
- ◆ The main features of the Indian Middle Palaeolithic period include the following :
 1. The tools became smaller.
 2. The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
 3. Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.
 4. Use of chert, jasper, chalcedony and quartz as raw materials.
- ◆ The period of upper Paleolithic culture is marked by innovation in tool technology and increased cognitive capability of humans.
- ◆ The modern humans evolved first in Sub-Saharan region about 3,00,000 years ago. They migrated and occupied various areas of Asia around 60,000 years ago. Their tool technology improved to blades and bone tools. Many tools made of Silica - rich raw materials were used.
- ◆ Bone tools and faunal remains are found in Kurnool caves of Andhra Pradesh.
- ◆ The upper Paleolithic culture is represented in India between 40,000 and 10,000 years from now.
- ◆ The people of this period used caves as well as the open air space for living. Meralbhavi in Karnataka, Kurnool caves and Godavarikhani in Telangana, Baghor I and Baghor III of Son Valley in Madhya Pradesh and Patne

in Maharashtra are some of the Upper Palaeolithic sites of India.

- ◆ Sri Lanka has evidence of microliths and hominin fossils. Incised ostrich eggshell, and shell and stone beads have been found at Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh, Patne in Maharashtra and Batadomba-Lena and Fa Hien Cave in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Evidences of art in the forms of paintings, beads and ornaments of this period have been found.
- ◆ Some of the green colour paintings of Bhimbetka belong to this period according to archaeological evidence.

Equus refers to the genus of animals including horses, asses and zebras.

Mesolithic Culture

Mesolithic culture can be found along the length and breadth of India. In the following places, the Mesolithic sites have been discovered.

Mesolithic sites in India are found in Paisra (Bihar), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Baghor II, Chopani Mando, Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama (all in Uttar Pradesh), Sankanakallu and Kibbanahalli (Karnataka). Rock shelter sites are found in Lekhakhia, Baghai Khor, Adamgarh and Bhimbetka.

Coastal sites are seen at Mumbai, Teri sites of Thoothukudy in Tamil Nadu and Vishakapatnam, which have microlithic evidence.

The change of climate triggered migration of people to various eco-zones. Monsoon pattern had also developed.

Even in today's deserts of Rajasthan also, there were fresh water lakes between 10,000 and 3500 B.P.

The date of Mesolithic culture differs from place to place.

In eastern Mediterranean (Levant) it dated between 20,000 and 9500 BCE, In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it continued upto 1000 BCE. In Srilanka, microlithics appeared about 28,500 years BP.

Ostrich Egg Shells : Evidence of ostrich has been found in some pre-historic sites of India. The egg shell of this bird had been used as beads and those from Patne have been dated to 25,000 BP. They are found in Bhimbetka and Patne.

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

Directive Principles of State Policy

The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution from **Articles 36 to 51**. The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the Irish constitution of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described these principles as 'novel features' of the Indian Constitution. The Directive Principles along with the Fundamental Rights contain the philosophy of the Constitution and is the soul of the Constitution. Granville Austin has described the Directive Principles and the Fundamental Rights as the 'Conscience of the Constitution'. The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws. These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters. According to Article 36, the term 'State' in Part IV has the same meaning as in Part III dealing with Fundamental Rights. Therefore, it includes the legislative and executive organs of the central and state governments, all local authorities and all other public authorities in the country.

Dr BR Ambedkar, described these principles as **novel feature** of the Constitution. The DPSP along with Fundamental Rights are the **philosophy** and **soul** of the Constitution.

Features

- ◆ These are constitutional instructions to the state in legislative, executive and administrative matters.
- ◆ It resembles the 'Instrument of Instruction' enumerated in the Government of India Act of 1935.
- ◆ They constitute the comprehensive economic, social and political programmes for a modern state.
- ◆ They promote social and economic democracy. They embody the concept of a welfare state'.
- ◆ These are fundamental in the governance of the country.
- ◆ They are non-justiciable.
- ◆ They apply to both Union and State Governments and all other authorities coming under the definition of 'State'.

Classification

The Constitution does not contain any classification of Directive Principles. However, on the basis of their content and direction, they can be classified into three broad categories, viz socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.

Socialistic Principles

These principles reflect the ideology of socialism. They lay down the frame work of a democratic socialist state aim at providing social and economic justice and set the path towards welfare state.

- ◆ **Article 38** To promote the welfare of the people by securing a order permeated by justice-social, economic and political and to minimise inequalities in income status facilities and opportunities.
- ◆ **Article 39** To secure (a) the right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens; (b) the equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good; (c) prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production; (d) equal pay for equal work for men and women; (e) preservation of the health and strength of workers and children against forcible abuse; and (f) opportunities for healthy and development of children.
- ◆ **Article 39 (A)** To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.
- ◆ **Article 41** To secure the right to work, education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.
- ◆ **Article 42** To make provision for just and humane conditions for work and maternity relief.
- ◆ **Article 43** To secure a living wage, adcent standard of life and social and cultural opportunities for all workers.
- ◆ **Article 43(A)** To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.
- ◆ **Article 47** To raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health.

Gandhian Principles

These principles are based on Gandhian ideology. They represent the programme of reconstruction enunciated by Gandhi during the National Movement. In order to fulfil the dreams of Gandhi, some of his ideas were included as Directive Principles.

Article 40 To organise village Panchayat to function as units of self government.

Article 43 To promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas.

Article 46 To promote the educational and economics interests of SCs, STs and other weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation.

Article 47 To prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health.

Liberal-Intellectual Principles : The principles included in this category represent the ideology of liberalism.

- ◆ **Article 44** To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country.
- ◆ **Article 45** To provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 6 years.
- ◆ **Article 48** To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.
- ◆ Calves and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds.
- ◆ **Article 48 (A)** To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife.

- ◆ **Article 49** To protect objects, places and monuments of historic interest and national importance.
- ◆ **Article 50** To separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the state.
- ◆ **Article 51** To promote international peace and security and to maintain just and honourable relations between nations; to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.
- ◆ New Directive Principles
- ◆ **Article 39A** To provide free legal aid to the poor (42nd Amendment Act, 1976).
- ◆ **Article 39** To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (42nd Amendment Act, 1976).
- ◆ **Article 43A** To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries. (42nd Amendment Act, 1976).
- ◆ **Article 43 B** To promote professionally run co-operative societies added by the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011.
- ◆ **Article 48 A** To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life. (42nd Amendment Act, 1976).
- ◆ **Article 38** added one more Directive Principle, which requires the state to minimise inequalities in income status, facilities and opportunities under Article 38. (44th Amendment Act, 1978)

Distinction between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles

Fundamental Rights	Directive Principles
It was derived from the Constitution of the USA.	It was drawn on the model of the Constitution of Ireland.
Even the Government cannot take away or abridge these rights.	These are mere instructions to the Government.
These are enforceable by a court of law.	These are not enforceable in any court.
These have legal sanctions.	These have moral and political sanctions.
These rights strengthen political democracy in the country.	The implementation of these principles ensures social and economic democracy.
These are natural rights.	These lead to protect human rights.
These are negative injunctions	These are positive directions.



FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)

In 1976, Indian Government set up the Swaran Singh Committee to make recommendations about fundamental duties, the need and necessity of which was felt during the internal emergency (1975-1977). The part IV-A imposes eleven fundamental duties on the citizens of India. These duties were incorporated in the Indian constitution by 42nd Amendment of 1976 in Article 51A.

The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of erstwhile USSR. Notably, none of the Constitutions of major democratic countries like USA, Canada, France, Germany, Australia and so on specifically contain a list of duties of citizens. Japanese Constitution is, perhaps, the only democratic Constitution in world which contains a list of duties of citizens. The socialist countries, on the contrary, gave equal importance to the fundamental rights and duties of their citizens. Hence, the Constitution of erstwhile USSR declared that the citizen's exercise of their rights and freedoms was inseparable from the performance of their duties and obligations.

- (a) To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and national anthem.
- (b) To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom.
- (c) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

(d) To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so.

(e) To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.

(f) To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.

(g) To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.

(h) To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.

(i) To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.

(j) To strive toward excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.

(k) To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. (This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

The main objective of the fundamental duties in our constitution is to change the attitude and thinking of the people and to bring about a peaceful social transformation in the country.

THE EXECUTIVE

India is a democratic republic with a parliamentary form of government. The government at the Central level is called 'Union Government' and at the State level it is known as 'State Government'. The Union Government has three organs - the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The President, Vice President, Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers and Attorney General collectively constitute the Union Executive.

The President : We know that India is a sovereign democratic republic. The President of India who is head of the State, is indirectly elected.

Qualifications : The qualifications for the office of President are:

- ◆ Should be a citizen of India
- ◆ Should have completed the age of 35 years
- ◆ Should be qualified to be elected as a member of Lok Sabha; and
- ◆ Should not hold any office of profit i.e., the candidate should not be a government servant. However the office of the President, the Vice-President, the Governor or the Minister of the Union or the State is not considered as an office of profit for this purpose.

The President cannot at the same time be a member of Parliament or of a State Legislature. If a member of Parliament or State Legislature is elected as President his/her seat will be deemed to have been vacated on the date, he/she assumes office as President of India.

Single Transferable Vote System : The election of the President is held through single transferable vote system of proportional representation. Under this system names of all the candidates are listed on the ballot paper and the elector gives them numbers according to his/her preference. Every voter may mark on the ballot paper as many preferences as there are candidates. The ballot becomes invalid if first preference is marked against more than one candidate or if the first preference is not marked at all.

The President : Tenure and Removal

The President is elected for a term of five years and is eligible for re-election.

He/she may resign before the expiry of his term, or the office President may fall vacant due to his/her death. His term of office commences from the date he takes the oath of office.

Privileges and Immunities

The President of India enjoys certain privileges and immunities which included the following :

- ◆ The President is not answerable to any court of law for the exercise of his functions.
- ◆ The President can neither be arrested nor any criminal proceedings be instituted against him in any court of law during his tenure.
- ◆ The President cannot be asked to be present in any court of law during his tenure.
- ◆ A prior notice of two months time is to be served before instituting a civil case against him.

Casting Vote : According to Article (100) of the Constitution, the vice president can/only cast his vote when there is a tie over the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. It means that there is need for one vote only to pass the Bill. So vice-president using his discretion power cast his vote in favor or against the Bill. No members have any right to oppose his decision.

Removal of the President

- ◆ The President can only be removed from office through a process called impeachment.

The constitution lays down a detailed procedure for the impeachment of the President. He can only be impeached 'for violation of the constitution'.

- ◆ The resolution to impeach the President can be moved in either House of Parliament. Such a resolution can be moved only after a notice has been given by at least one-fourth of the total number of members of the House. Such a resolution charging the President for violation of the Constitution must be passed by a majority of not less than two-third of the total membership of that House before it goes to the other House for investigation. The charges levelled against the President are investigated by the second house. President has the right to be heard or defended when the charges against him are being investigated. The President may defend himself in person or through his counsel. If the charges are accepted by a two-third majority of the total membership of the second House, the impeachment succeeds. The President thus stands removed from the office from the date on which the resolution is passed.

- ◆ This procedure of impeachment is even more difficult than the one adopted in America where only simple majority is required in the House of Representatives to initiate the proceedings.

Impeachment : An impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure leading to the removal of a high public official, say, the President as in India, on the grounds of the violation of the Constitution.

Powers of the President of India

Executive Powers

- ◆ The executive power of the Union is vested in the President and is exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with the constitution. There is a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions. All executive powers of the Union government are exercised in the name of President.
- ◆ The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and on the advise of the Prime Minister other Ministers of the Union are appointed by the President.