 **MOUNT ABU PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Class-viii**

**Subject- social science**

**Feb.2021 period- 2**

**Sub topics-**

* NATIONAL MOVEMENT- THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
* INDIA MARCHES TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE
* AGRICULTURE
* THE PARLYAMENTRY SYSTEM OF GOVERMENT
* JUDICIARY

LEARNING OUTCOMES-

* Students will enhanced their knowledge about the struggle for freedom
* Students will learn the value of independence
* Students will know about renewuation in agriculture
* Students will know about our judiciary system.

Instructional learning aids-

* <https://youtu.be/fDmJ44luSHg>
* <https://youtu.be/JWJLpLQMlH8>
* <https://youtu.be/j4ids1HhVik>
* <https://youtu.be/Xx-X9JYcuNY>
* <https://youtu.be/aGtJ_TrxxXM>

**LESSON DEVELOPMENT**

**INDIA MARCHES TOWARDS FEEDOM**

After so many years of struggle and hardship, India finally attained freedom from the British Raj on 15th August 1947.

### ****A New and Divided Nation:****

After Independence, India faced a series of enormous challenges. Like-

i. The problems of refugees and of the princely states had to be addressed immediately.

ii. The new nation had to adopt a political system that would best serve the hopes and expectations of its population.

iii. India’s population in 1947 was large and was divided. Division between high castes and low castes, between majority Hindu community and Indians who practiced other faiths could be seen.

iv. Famers and peasants were dependent on the monsoon for their survival.

v. The new nation had to lift its masses out of poverty by increasing the productivity of agriculture & by promoting new job-creating industries.

vi. Unity & development goes hand in hand. If the divisions between sections of India were not healed, they could result in violent conflicts. Examples-

* Hindus Vs Muslims
* High castes fighting with the low castes

### ****A Constitution is Written:****

The Constitution of India is a document that establishes the political values, the powers of government and the rights of the citizens of the country.  
It is the supreme law of India.

(i) The meetings of **‘Constituent Assembly’** were held in New Delhi and representatives from all parts of India attended the meeting. These discussions resulted in the framing of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on **26 January 1950**.

(ii) One feature of the constitution was its adoption of **Universal Adult Franchise;** All Indians above the age of 21 would be allowed to vote in the state and national elections. This was the revolutionary step as Indians never had been allowed to choose their own leaders.

(iii) It guaranteed equality before the law to all citizens, regardless of their caste or religious affiliation. This was Constitution’s second feature.

(iv) The third feature of the Constitution was that it offered special privileges for the poorest and the most disadvantaged group of Indians.

(v) The practice of untouchability was abolished.

(vi) Temples which were once opened for only higher castes were now open to all including the untouchables or **Harijans.**

(vii) Along with the former Untouchables, the Adivasis or Scheduled Tribes were also granted reservation in seats and jobs.

(viii) The Constituent Assembly spent many days in discussing the powers of the Central government and of the State government. It was decided that Centre’s interest should be foremost as they will be in position to think & plan for the well-being of the country as a whole.

(ix) The Constitution sought to strike a balance of power, between the centre and the states by providing three lists of subjects which are Union list, the State list, and the Concurrent list.

* **The Union list** has subjects like taxes, defence, and foreign affairs which are the responsibility of the Centre.
* **The State list** has subjects like education and health, which would be taken care of principally by the state.
* **The Concurrent list** comprises of forests, agriculture, etc. in which the centre and the states would have joint responsibility.

(x) **Hindi was designated as the ‘Official language’** **of India** and English would be used in the courts, the services and communications between one state and another.

(xi) **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, who was the Chairman of the drafting committee and under whose supervision the document was finalized played an important role in framing the Indian Constitution and referred to as **“The father of Indian Constitution”.**

**How Were States to be Formed:**

(i) In 1920s, the Indian National Congress amended its constitution and reorganized its regional branches on the basis of linguistic (language) groups.

(ii) Prime Minister Nehru and Deputy Prime Minister Vallabhbhai Patel were against the creation of linguistic states.

(iii) In October 1952, a veteran Gandhian named Potti Sriramulu went on a hunger strike demanding the formation of Andhra Pradesh to protect the interests of Telegu speaking people.

(iv) On 15 December 1952, fifty-eight days into his fast, Potti Sriramulu died. His death led to violence all over the state and central government was forced to give in to the demand.

(v) On 1 October 1953, the new state of Andhra Pradesh was created.

(vi) After creation of Andhra Pradesh, other linguistic communities also demanded separate states. Therefore, a State Reorganisation Commission was set up.

(vii) Following recommendations were done:

* The large Hindi-speaking region of north India was also to be broken up into several states.
* The bilingual state of Bombay was divided into separate states for Marathi & Gujarati speakers.
* The state of Punjab was also divided into Punjab & Haryana.

**Planning for Development:**

(i) Among the major objectives of the new nation, lifting India and Indians out of poverty and building a modern technical and industrial base were very strong.

(ii) In 1950, the government set up a Planning Commission to help design and execute suitable policies for economic development. It was agreed that India would follow**‘Mixed Economy’** model where both public and private sectors would co-exist for the economic development of the nation.

(iii) In 1956, the second five-year plan was formulated which focused mainly on the development of heavy industries in India such as steel, and on the building of large dams. These sectors were directly under the control of the state.

(iv) The Bhilai steel plant of Chhatisgarh came to be seen as an important sign of development of modern India after Independence.

**The Nation, Sixty Years On:**

(i) On 15 August 2007, India celebrated sixty years of its existence as a free nation.

(ii) In these sixty years, India has seen many achievements as well as failures.

(iii) Success during 60 years of India were-

* Still a united and a democratic country
* There is unity in diversity
* There is a free press and an independent judiciary

(iv) Failures during 60 years of India-

* Deep divisions persist
* Despite constitutional guarantees
* the untouchables or the Dalits face violence and discrimination
* there are Clashes between different religious groups in many states
* The gulf between the rich and poor has widened over these years.

**Revision Notes Agriculture**

**Points to remember:**

* Economic activities are of three types: (i) Primary Activities, (ii) Secondary Activities, (iii) Tertiary Activities.
* Primary activities are those activities which are connected with extraction and production of natural resources, for example, agriculture, fishing, etc.
* Secondary activities are concerned with the processing of natural resources to manufacturing products like baking of bread, weaving of cloth, etc.
* Tertiary activities provide services like transport, trade banking, insurance, advertising, etc.
* Agriculture is a primary activity which include growing crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers and rearing of livestock.
* 50% of persons in the world are engaged in agricultural activity.
* 2/3 of India’s population is still dependent on agriculture.
* Favourable topography of soil and climate are vital for agricultural activity. The land on which the crops are grown is known as arable land.

**Various types of cultures:**

1. Agriculture: raising crops and rearing livestock
2. Sericulture: rearing of silk worms and silk production
3. Pisciculture: Breeding of fish
4. Viticulture: Cultivation of grapes
5. Horticulture: Growing of vegetables, flowers and fruits

**Farm System:**

1. Agriculture or farming is a system in which seeds, fertilizers, machinery, and labour are important inputs.
2. Ploughing, sowing, irrigation, weeding, and harvesting are some of the operations.
3. The outputs from the system include crops, dairy, wool and poultry products.
4. Farming includes the rearing of crops as well as animals.
5. Farming removes the concern of farmers of bad crops and crop loss as well.

**Type of Farming:**

1. Farming depends upon the geographical conditions, demand of produce, labour and level of technology.
2. Subsistence farming and commercial farming are the two types of farming.

* **Subsistence Farming:**Subsistence farming is practices to meet the needs of the farmer’s family and needs less technology and labour.
* **Intensive Subsistence Agriculture:** In this farming, the farmer cultivates a small plot of land using simple tools and more labour. Rice is the main crop. Other crops include wheat, maize, pulses and oil seeds. This type of cultivation produce little to be left over and mainly farmers fullfil only personal needs.
* **Primitive Subsistence Agriculture:** Primitive subsistence agriculture includes shifting cultivation and nomadic herding.
* **Shifiting Cultivation:** In shifting cultivation, after cultivation the soil is abandoned and the cultivator moves to a new plot. Shifting cultivation is also known as ‘slash and burn’ agriculture. In most of the part of country it has been banned as proved to be futile.
* **Nomadic Herding:**In nomadic herding, herdsmen move from place to place with their animals for fodder and water along defined routes. Sheep, yak and goats are the herding animals. They sell their milk and flesh in market and get things for survival.
* **Commercial Farming:**In commercial farming crops are grown and animals are reared and grown  for sale in market. it involves high mechanisation and less labour. Developed nation mostly perform this farming extensively.
* **Commercial Grain Farming:**In commercial grain farming crops like wheat and maize are grown for commercial purpose. This farming practiced in temperate grasslands of North America, Europe and Asia.
* **Mixed Farming:** In mixed farming, the land is used for growing food and fodder crops and rearing livestock. it protects against crop loss.
* **Plantation:** Plantations are a type of commercial farming where single crop of tea, coffee, sugarcane, cashew, rubber, banana or cotton are grown. These crops are labour intensive and needs specific climatic conditions.
* **Major Crops:** A variety of crops or many crops are grown to meet the requirement of the growing population. Major crops of India are: Rice, Wheat, Millets, Maize, cotton, jute, coffee, tea.These crops can be grow as subsitance as well as commercial level.
* **Agriculture Development:** Agricultrure Development refers to efforts made to increase farm production in order to meet the growing demand of increasing population. It includes better farming practises, better crops variety and awareness of farmers.
* **A Farm in India:** A typical Indian, Munna Lal has a farmland of about 1.5 hectares. He purchases high yielding varieties of seeds from the market every alternate year. mostly subsistance farming exist in India. Labour availability and small size of farm lands make it for farmers to use intensive farming practices.
* **A Farm in the USA:** The average size of a farm in the USA is about 250 hectares. The farmers grow corn, soyabean, wheat, cotton and sugarbeet. Crops are grown at commercial level. large farm lands and less population is suitable to development of this type of farming in developed nations.

**THE PARLYAMENTRY SYSTEM OF GOVERMENT**

### Why Should People Decide?

The decision of people matters in a democratic country because:

1. A democratic government is run by the consent, approval, and participation of the people or citizens.
2. The people in a democracy are the citizens and they are an integral part of any democracy.
3. The people elect a few candidates who represent their collective voices in the Parliament.

### The Role of the Parliament

The Indian Parliament is an expression of the faith that the people of India have in principles of democracy. The Parliament in the Indian system has immense powers as it is the representative of the people.

* Elections to the Parliament are held in a similar manner as they are for the state legislature.
* The Lok Sabha is elected once every 5 years.

### Functions of Parliament

India has numerous constituencies. Each of these constituencies elects one person to the Parliament. The candidates who contest elections usually belong to different political parties. These candidates become Members of Parliament or MPs. Once elections to the Parliament have taken place, the Parliament needs to perform the following functions:

#### 1) To Select the National Government

Parliament of India consists of

* The President
* The Rajya Sabha
* The Lok Sabha

After the **Lok Sabha elections**, a list is prepared showing how many MPs belong to each political party.

1. There are 543 elected (plus 2 Anglo-Indian nominated) members in Lok Sabha.
2. For a political party to form the government, they must have a majority of elected MPs. A majority party should have at least half the number, i.e. 272 members or more.
3. The Opposition in Parliament is formed by all the political parties that oppose the majority party/coalition formed. The largest amongst these parties is called the **Opposition party**.

One of the most important functions of the Lok Sabha is to select the executive. The **executive** is a group of persons who work together to implement the laws made by Parliament for which we use the term government. The **Prime Minister** of India is the leader of the ruling party in the Lok Sabha. When two or more than two different political parties join together to form a government, it is known as a **coalition government**.

The **Rajya Sabha functions** primarily as the representative of the states of India in the Parliament. It has an important role in reviewing and altering the laws initiated by the Lok Sabha.

1. The Rajya Sabha can also initiate legislation.
2. A bill is required to pass through the Rajya Sabha in order to become a law.
3. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of various states.
4. There are 233 elected members plus 12 members nominated by the President.

#### 2) To Control, Guide and Inform the Government

The Parliament begins with a question hour. The question hour is an important mechanism through which MPs can elicit information about the working of the government. By asking questions the government is alerted to its shortcomings. The government also comes to know the opinion of the people through their representatives in the Parliament (the MPs). In all matters dealing with finances, the Parliament’s approval is crucial for the government.

#### 3) Law-Making

Law-making is a significant function of Parliament. You will learn about it in the next chapter.

### Who are the People in Parliament?

Parliament now has more and more people from different backgrounds. There has also been an increase in political participation from the Dalits and backward classes. Some seats are reserved in Parliament for SCs and STs. Similarly, there is a reservation of seats for women.

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**Judiciary**

### What is the Role of the Judiciary?

Work of the judiciary can be divided into the following:

**Dispute Resolution:** The judicial system provides a mechanism for resolving disputes between citizens, between citizens and the government, between two state governments and between the centre and state governments.

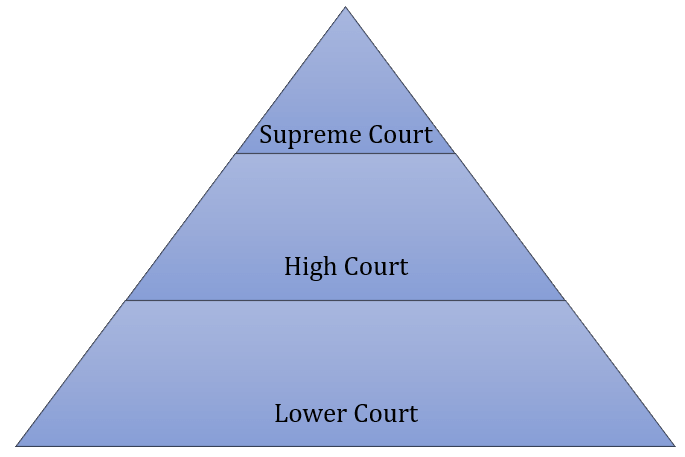
**Judicial Review:** Judiciary has the power to strike down particular laws passed by the Parliament, if it believes that these are a violation of the basic structure of the Constitution. This is called judicial review.

**Upholding the Law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights:** Every citizen of India can approach the Supreme Court or the High Court if they believe that their Fundamental Rights have been violated.

### What is an Independent Judiciary?

The Independence of Judiciary means:

1. Other branches of government – the legislature and the executive – cannot interfere in the work of the judiciary. The courts are not under the government and do not act on their behalf.
2. Independence of the judiciary allows the courts to play a central role in ensuring that there is no misuse of power by the legislature and the executive.
3. Independence of the judiciary also plays a crucial role in protecting the Fundamental Rights of citizens.



### What is the Structure of Courts in India?

There are three different levels of courts in India.

1. **District Court:** The courts that most people interact with are called subordinate or district courts or Tehsil level court.
2. **High Court:** Each state has a High Court which is the highest court of that state.
3. **Supreme Court** is at the top-level. The decisions made by the Supreme Court are binding on all other courts in India. It is located in New Delhi.

In India, we have an integrated judicial system, which means that the decisions made by higher courts are binding on the lower courts. The **appellate system** exists in India which means that a person can appeal to a higher court if they believe that the judgment passed by the lower court is not just.

### What are the Different Branches of the Legal System?

Go through the following table to understand the significant differences between criminal and civil law.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criminal Law** | **Civil Law** |
| Deals with conduct or acts that the law defines as offences. Eg: Theft, harassing a woman, dowry, murder. | Deals with any harm or injury to the rights of individuals. Eg: Disputes relating to sale of land, purchase of goods, rent matters, divorce cases. |
| It usually begins with the lodging of a First Information Report (FIR) with the police who investigate the crime, after which a case is filed in the court. | A petition has to be filed before the relevant court by the affected party only. |
| If found guilty, the accused can be sent to jail and also fined. | The court gives the specific relief asked for. |

### Does Everyone Have Access to the Courts?

All citizens of India can access the courts in this country. This means that every citizen has a right to justice through the courts. The courts are available for all but in reality, access to courts has always been difficult for a vast majority of the poor in India. Legal procedures involve a lot of money and paperwork as well as take up a great deal of time. In response to this, the Supreme Court in the early 1980s devised a mechanism of Public Interest Litigation or PIL to increase access to justice. It allowed any individual or organisation to file a PIL in the High Court or the Supreme Court on behalf of those whose rights were being violated.

The phrase ‘justice delayed is justice denied’ is often used to characterise extended time period that courts take. However, inspite of this there is no denying that the judiciary has played a crucial role in democratic India, serving as a check on the powers of the executive and the legislature as well as in protecting the Fundamental Rights of citizens.

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In Indian democracy, the Parliament is in charge of making laws. According to the constitution, all are equal before law.

The rule of law applies equally to all citizens and no one can be above the law. Neither a government servant nor even the president of the country.

Any crime or violation of law is subject to specific punishment.

In ancient times, there were so many laws. The British Government introduced the rule of law. This law was arbitrary.

In India, citizens can express their unwillingness by holding meetings or writing in newspapers to accept repressive laws.

When any law favors one group and disregards the other, then it is called Controversial Law. This type of law leads to conflict.

In India, the court has the power to cancel or modify any type of controversial law framed by the Parliament.

All persons in independent India are equal before the law. It means that the law cannot discriminate between persons on the basis of their religion, caste or gender. Laws apply equally to all citizens of the country and no one, not even the President of the country is above the law.

Any crime or violation of law has a specific punishment.

But in ancient India laws did not apply equally to all. Even the punishment that two persons received for the same crime varied depending on their caste backgrounds, with lower castes being more ruthlessly penalised.

Even the colonial government failed to establish the rule of law in India. The colonial law was arbitrary. The Sedition Act of 1870 presents the best example of the arbitrariness of British law. Under this Act, any person protesting or criticising the British government could be arrested without due trial.

Indian nationalists raised voice against the arbitrary use of authority by the British. They began fighting for greater equality and wanted to change the idea of law from a set of rules that they were forced to obey, to law as including ideas of justice.

By the end of the 19th century, the Indian legal profession also began emerging and demanded respect in colonial courts.

Indian judges began to play a greater role in making decisions. Their efforts did not go in vain. The rule of law emerged during the colonial period.

When the Indian Constitution came into existence, laws for the country began to be made by our representatives.

The Indian Parliament makes laws for the entire country.

Whenever, people think that a new law is necessary, they propose for it. The Parliament then comes forward and does what is required.

The issue of domestic violence was raised by the people. It was brought to the attention of the Parliament which in due course passed a law ‘The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act’ to uproot this issue.

The role of citizens is crucial in helping Parliament frame different concerns that people might have into laws.

Sometimes it so happens that laws passed by the Parliament turn out to be unpopular. Sometimes a law can be constitutionally valid and hence legal, but it can continue to be unacceptable to people because they feel that the intention behind it is unfair and harmful. In such a situation, people might civilize this law by holding meetings, etc.

When a large number of people begin to raise voice against a wrong law, then the Parliament has to change it.

We can make it clear through an example. Various municipal laws on the use of space within municiple limits often make hawking and street vending illegal. No one will dispute the necessity for some rules to keep the public space open for people’s convenience. At the same time one cannot deny that hawkers and vendors provide essential services. This is their means of livelihood.

Hence, if the law favours one group and disregards the other it will be controversial and lead to conflict. In such a situation people can go to the court which has the power to modify or cancel laws if it finds that they do not adhere to the constitution.

In a democratic country like India people have full right to protest unjust laws.

**Rule of Law:** It means that all laws apply equally to all citizens of the country and no one can be above the law.

**Sedition:** This applies to anything that the government might consider as stiring up resistance or rebellion against it. The British passed the Sedition Act in 1870. Under this Act any person protesting or criticising the British government could be arrested without a trial.

**Evolution:** In the chapter, it refers to the way in which protecting women against domestic violence developed from an urgently-felt need to a new law that can be enforced in the entire country.

**Hindu Succession Amendment Act, 2005:** According to this law, sons, daughters and their mothers can get an equal share of family property.

**Domestic violence:** It refers to the injury or harm or threat of injury or harm caused by an adult male, usually the husband, against his wife: Injury may be caused by physically beating up the woman or by emotionally abusing her. Abuse of the women usually includes verbal, sexual and economic abuse.

**Criticize:** In the chapter, the term refers to citizens who find fault with the functioning of government.

**Repressive:** In the chapter, the term refers to laws that use brutal methods to control persons and prevent them from exercising their Fundamental Rights.

**ASSINGEMENT-**

Question 1. In a democracy like ours what can a citizen do to reject the repressive laws framed by the Parliament?

Question 2. Name the African American woman who played a key role in the starting of the Civil Right Movement.

Question 3. What does the term Evolution refer to in general?

**Question 4. State the two examples of-Arbitrariness performed by the British.**

**Question 5. When did the Jallianwala Bagh incident take place?**

**Question 6. Name the two leaders arrested for the protests against the Rowlatt Act.**

**Question 7. What does the Hindu Succession Amendment Act 2005 say?**

**Question 8. What did the Rowlatt allow the Britishers to perform as arbitrariness?**

**Question 9. In which year was the sedition Act was introduced?**

**Question 10. Who is known to be the incharge of making law?**

**Question 11. On what basis law cannot discriminate between persons?**

**Question 12. What was scenario of local laws in Ancient India?**

**Question 13. When does the system of law began to further evolve?**

**Question 14. Who is believed to be the introducer of the rule of law in India?**

**Question 15. Who began to protest and criticize the arbitrary use of authority by the British?**

**Question 16. According which new law sons, daughters and their mothers get an equal share of family property?**

**Question 17. When did standing committee submitted its recommendation for the implementation of Domestic violence Act?**

**Question 18. In which year did the Rowlatt act came into effect?**

**Question 19. Define the term Repressive..**

**Question 20. What is meant by ‘criticise’?**