

## Lesson-13

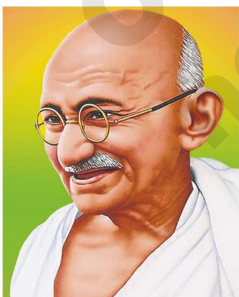
# Freedom movement of India and Assam



India is an independent country. The natural, social and cultural environment of India is very charming. We are all proud of our country. Our country was not independent till August 14, 1947. It was under the British rule.

In ancient times India was a very rich country. It had trade relations with different countries. During that time India was very famous for cotton clothes, silk, gold, silver, spices, etc. For this reason different foreign nation as came to India for business purpose. Among them the British also came to India to do exclusive trade. As trade and commerce flourished, they began to rule India under their own jurisdiction. On the other hand, since the British were in power in India, the Indian people could not easily accept their pursuits. This is because the Indians have long been the victim of unjust oppression by the British. They could not assert their rights in their own country. As a result, the Indians became dissatisfied and had to protest against the British rule. Thus, the beginning of our **Independence movement** was the struggle or revolt against the British rule for the independence of our country. This movement spread all over the country at one time.

Many people of our country participated in the independence movement to make India free from the British. Prominent among them are Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Sarojini Naidu, Abul Kalam Azad, etc.



Mahatma  
Gandhi



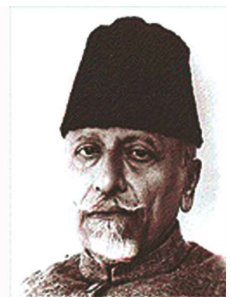
Jawaharlal  
Nehru



Subhash Chandra  
Bose



Sarojini  
Naidu



Abul Kalam  
Azad

The Assamese also contributed a lot to the Indian Independence struggle. Our Assam came under British rule after the treaty of Yandabu in 1826. From then on, the people of Assam also wanted Independence. Let us now know the names of few persons from Assam who took lead role in the Independence movement–

- |                  |                           |                        |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Gomdhar Konwar | ● Piyali Phukan           | ● Jiuram Duliya Baruah |
| ● Maniram Dewan  | ● Piyali Baruah           | ● Farmud Ali           |
| ● Dutiram Baruah | ● Bahadur Gaon Burha etc. |                        |

Piyali Phukan and Jeuram Dulia Baruah were beheaded in 1830 for their involvement in the movement. Maniram Dewan and Piyali Baruah were hanged in 1857. They were our national martyrs.



Martyr's column at Pathrughat

There were many small anti British movements in Assam from 1860 to 1900. These movements were dominated by the peasantry and the common people. These include Phulguri meet, peasant uprising in Pathrughat and public meeting at Rangia. These movements began with a sharp rise in land revenue. Instead of closing down trade on opium, taxes were levied on opium and salt. Seeing this people got furious. As a result the peasants revolted in 1861 in Phulguri in Nagaon district. This was the famous **Phulguri meet**.



Memorial at Phulguri

Similarly, peasant revolt broke out in Rangia in 1893 and Patharughat in Darrang in 1894

- ❑ Gomdhar Konwar was the first Assamese to oppose British rule in 1826. The British took him prisoner.
- ❑ In 1830 Piyali Phukan revolted against the British to chase them from Assam. Piyali Phukan was caught in the area of Rangpur while trying to set fire in the firearms godown of the British rulers. In the trial Piyali Phukan and his companion Jiuram Dulia Barua were hanged.
- ❑ In 1857, there was a major uprising in India against the British rule. It was called the **Sepoy Mutiny**. According to some, this was India's first Independence struggle. In 1857, the Sepoy Mutiny spread through out India. Maniram Dewan was the master mind of this uprising in Assam. However, Maniram Dewan and his accomplice Piyali Baruah were convicted of treason by the British and were hanged.

- Know about the freedom fighters of your region/area from your teachers.
- Write down on which days of the year the national flag is hoisted at your school.

### Let us know about the movements that took place from 1920 to 1947–

- In 1920-21, there was a **Non-cooperation Movement** led by Mahatma Gandhi. The entire Assamese people took part in this movement. Some of the leading figures in Assam were Chandranath Sarma, Tarun Ram Phukan, Nabin Chandra Bordoloi, Nalinibala Devi, Shyamacharan Dev, Haji Matsim Ali Choudhury, Gangadyal Dixit and others.
- There was a **Civil Disobedience Movement** in the country till 1930-32. Hemchandra Baruah, Amiya kumar Das, Ramanimohan Roy, Siddhinath Sarma, Chandra Prabha Saikiani, Pushpalata Das, Golam Sabir Khan etc. are some of the notable people of Assam who took part in this movement.
- On August 8, 1942, the **Quit India Movement** was launched all over India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Some of the leading figures in the movement in Assam are Gopinath Bordoloi, Bishnuram Medhi, Md. Tayabullah, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Kamala Miri, Bhimbor Deuri, Arun Kumar Dey, Saralabala Devi and others

On October 9, 1942, a train accident took place at Sarupathar in the then undivided Sivasagar district. Kushal Konwar was convicted for the accident and hanged unjustly. Young Kanaklata Baruah and Mukunda Kakati were shot



dead by police on their way to hoist the national flag at Gohpur police station.

### Discuss in group and write-

- What are the benefits that we derive from the freedom fighter's movement?

After the Quit India Movement, the British government felt that it would not be possible to keep India under their control. On 15th August, 1947, the British handed over the ruling power of our country to the hands of the Indians. Since then our country became independent. That is why we celebrate 15th August as **Independence Day**.

- Collect photographs of some freedom fighters of Assam and make an album.

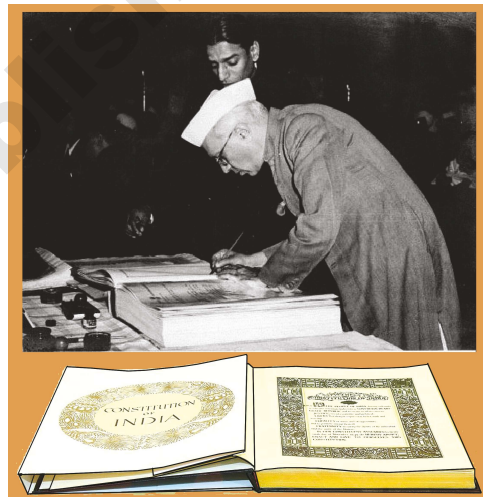




Every independent country has its own constitution. Our country India also has a Constitution. This Constitution contains the rules and regulations, law and order of our country which is in written form. These law and regulations, which are for the good governance of a country and the protection of its citizens are collectively referred to as **Constitution**. By studying this Constitution we can know how we are governed.

### **Let us know about the Constitution of India—**

Even before Independence, our country had been thinking of drafting its own Constitution. For this purpose a Constitution Committee was formed in 1946. This Constitution Committee started to draft the Constitution of India. Accordingly on August 29, 1947 under the leadership of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar a drafting committee was formed. On 26 November, 1949 nearly after 3 years of excessive hard work, this drafting committee was able to complete the work of framing the Constitution of our country. On 26 January, 1950 Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent assembly signed this drafted



constitution of India and it was adopted in the Constituent assembly and the Constitution came into force. According to this constitution India is a **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic**. Since then Indians have been observing 26 January every year as the **Republic Day**.

### **Let us know about the Preamble of the Indian Constitution-**

There is a proposal at the beginning of the Constitution of India. This preamble outlines the aims and objectives of the Constitution and is the full picture of the Constitution of India. For example, just like reading the introduction of a book we can get a general idea. Similarly by reading the preamble of the Constitution we can get a glimpse of the purpose and ideals of the Constitution.

Let us briefly discuss which aspects of the preamble are the most important–

- ❑ India is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.
- ❑ All citizens are equal in the eyes of law. There will be no discrimination on the basis of race, caste, religion, gender, language etc.
- ❑ Every citizen can freely express their views on any issues.
- ❑ The aim will be to ensure that all classes of people living in the country are not deprived of the basic necessities of life.
- ❑ Provide equal opportunities to Indian citizens to build the sense of brotherhood among them.

**The people who take birth and permanently reside in a country are said to be the citizens of that country.  
(You can know better about citizens of a country later on.)**

The constitution of India mentioned some special provisions for the citizens in India. These are our **rights**. If anyone interferes with the rights, they are legally punished. These rights protect the citizens in certain matters. Without these rights, development of personality in an individual is not possible.

The constitution of India defined certain rights as **fundamental rights**. With the help of these rights citizens get equal opportunities in various aspects like social, political, economic, cultural etc. The constitution has provided us with such six fundamental rights.

**They are–**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. Right to constitutional remedy</b>   | <b>2. Right to freedom</b>                 |
| <b>3. Right to equality</b>                | <b>4. Right to educational and culture</b> |
| <b>5. Right to resist exploitation and</b> | <b>6. Right to freedom of religion.</b>    |

For the welfare of the country, the people should not only enjoy the fundamental rights in return, some responsibilities towards the state also have to be performed, then only one can be qualified as a good citizen of the nation. Therefore, every citizen has certain responsibilities. These basic duties of a citizen towards the country are called **fundamental duties**. **There are 11 fundamental duties of an Indian citizen.**

The teacher will enlighten the students about the Fundamental Rights.

### Exercise

1. Answer the following :
  - (a) When did India become an independent nation?
  - (b) How many fundamental duties are there for an Indian citizen?
  - (c) Who was the president of the Constitution committee?
  - (d) Who was the leader of the Constitution drafting committee?
  - (e) When was the Constitution of India adapted?
2. Fill in the blanks-
  - (a) We have been celebrating 26 January as \_\_\_\_\_ every year since 1950.
  - (b) The \_\_\_\_\_ Constitution is a very long Constitution.
  - (c) India is now a Sovereign, \_\_\_\_\_, Republic.
  - (d) Each country or nation has its own \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (e) In the year \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ August India gained Independence.
3. What do you mean by Fundamental Rights? What are those rights?
4. Poster making : (Make posters on the following topics.)
  - (a) We are all Indians
  - (b) Assam is our birth place
5. Write short notes on-
  - (a) Independence movements
  - (b) Constitution of India
  - (c) Fundamental Rights
  - (d) Fundamental Duties

