

## **Chapter-6**

### **Democratic Rights**

---

#### **1 marks Questions**

**1. The right to freedom is a cluster of how many freedoms?**

**Ans.** Freedoms.

---

**2. In which year the National Human Rights Commission was set up?**

**Ans.** 1993.

---

**3. Which fundamental right ensures the ban on bonded labour?**

**Ans.** Right against Exploitation.

---

**4. Which freedom is not available to an Indian Citizens?**

**Ans.** Freedom to participate in armed revolution.

---

**5. Which country has provided that any person unable to support himself shall be entitled to receive assistance from the government?**

**Ans.** Denmark.

---

**6. Name the International organization which deals with the human rights.**

**Ans.** Amnesty International.

---

**7. Kosovo was province of which country?**

**Ans.** Czechoslovakia.

---

---

**8. What is the full form of NHRC?**

**Ans.** National Human Rights Commission.

---

**9. What is Right?**

**Ans.** Rights are claims of a person over other fellow being over the society and over the government.

---

**10. What are Fundamental Rights?**

**Ans.** Some rights which are fundamental to our life are given a special status. They are called fundamental rights.

---

**11. What is PIL?**

**Ans.** PIL is Public interest Litigation.

---

**12. What are RTI?**

**Ans.** RTI is Right to information.

---

**13. What are writs?**

**Ans.** A formal document containing an order of the court to the government issued only by High Court or the Supreme Court.

---

**14. What is secular state?**

**Ans.** A Secular state is one that does not establish any one religion as official religion.

---

**15. What does Freedom?**

**Ans.** Freedom means absence of constraints.

---

---

**16. Name the state whose government decided to make anti-conversion law.**

**Ans.** Rajasthan.

---

**17. What SGPC?**

**Ans.** Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandak Committee.

---

**18. Name the book of Salman Rushdie which was banned by the government.**

**Ans.** Satanic Verses.

---

**19. Name the person who wrote a series of news reports in The Hindu describing untouchability and caste discrimination.**

**Ans.** P. Sainath.

---

**20. Why was Milosevic tried by the International Court of Justice?**

**Ans.** Milosevic lost power and was tried by the International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

### 3 marks Questions

**1. The Constitution of South Africa guarantees its citizens several kinds of new rights'. Highlight any three new rights included in the constitution of South Africa?**

**Ans.** Right to privacy, so that citizens or their home cannot be searched, their phones cannot be tapped, their communication cannot be opened.

Right to have access to health care services, sufficient food and water, no one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

Right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.

---

**2. Explain any three different Rights recognized by International Covenant.**

**Ans.** Right to Work: Opportunity to everyone to earn livelihood by working.

Right to safeguard healthy working conditions, fair wages that can provide decent standard of living for the workers and their families.

Right to adequate standard of living including adequate food, clothing and housing.

---

**3. How far it is correct to say that all claims cannot become rights?**

**Ans.** All of us want to live happily, without fear and without being subjected to degraded treatment. For this we expect similar treatment from others.

We cannot have rights that harm others. The claim we make should be responsible.

They should be such that they can be made available to others to an equal measure.

---

**4. Why is it said that rights acquire meaning only in a society?**

**Ans.** Just because we claim something, it does not become a right.

It has to be recognized by the society we live in.

---

Rights acquire meaning only in a society.

Every Society makes certain rules to regulate our conduct.

They tell us what is right and what is wrong.

---

### **5. What is public interest litigation?**

**Ans.** Any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court for the protection of public interest.

Against a particular law or action of the government.

One can write to the court even on post card.

This is Public Interest Litigation.

---

### **6. Explain any three restrictions on the Right to Freedom to Religion.**

**Ans.** It is absolutely impossible to forcibly convert any person against his will as such a right would infringe on the right of freedom.

Activities in religions' charitable institutions which are not religions should be performed accordingly to law laid down by the government.

It shall not affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the state for making any further law regulating or restricting any economic, financial and political or other secular activities.

---

### **7. Can you illustrate any three significances of Rights?**

**Ans.** Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure that the majority cannot do whatever it likes.

Rights are guarantees which can be used when things go wrong. Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish take away the rights of others. Rights are necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy.

---

### **8. State the condition of prisoners according to the report of Amnesty International in Guantanamo Bay.**

**Ans.** About 600 people were secretly picked up by the US forces from all over the world and

---

put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay.

The American Government said that they were enemies of the US and linked to the attack on the US.

The US army arrested them, interrogated them and decided whether to keep them there or not.

---

### **9. Explain the right to Freedom of Religion?**

**Ans.** Our constitution describes that the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

We have the freedom to run religious affairs.

According to our constitution no person shall be compelled to pay any tax for the promotion or maintenance of any religion.

---

### **10. What is Secularism?**

**Ans.** Secularism is the Attitude that religion should have no place in civil affairs.

Secularism in India means equal treatment of all religion by the state.

The public of India have freedom of religion and the state treats all individuals as equal citizens regardless of their religion.

---

### **11. Explain the freedom of profession, trade or business.**

**Ans.** This freedom allows us to do job of our choice.

No one can force us to do a certain job.

Women cannot be told that some kind of occupations are not for them

People from deprived caste cannot be kept to their traditional occupations.

---

### **12. What is the importance of PIL?**

**Ans.** According to Public Interest Litigation any citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government. One can write to the court even on post card.

The PIL has become a powerful weapon in the hands of the public to check malpractices on

---

the part of public officials.

---

**13. Which three evils are declared illegal by Indian constitution, according to the Right against Exploitation?**

**Ans.** Traffic in human beings: Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women, for immoral purposes.

Begar: our Constitution also prohibits forced labour or beggar in any form. It is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the master, free of charge or at a nominal salary. When this practice takes place on a lifelong basis, it is called bonded labour.

Child labour: The constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of 14 years to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work such as in the railways and at ports.

---

**14. How can we secure our Rights?**

**Ans.** It is done by Right to Constitutional remedies.

Under this, if the fundamental right of any individual is violated, we can go to Supreme Court and High Court.

The Supreme Court and High Court can issue writs to enforce rights of individuals.

---

**15. What is meant by Rule of law?**

**Ans.** The Constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person, in India, equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws.

It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. This is called Rule of Law.

Rule of law is the foundation of any democracy. It means that no person is above the law.

---

**16. What happened in Kosovo in 1999?**

**Ans.** A massacre was being carried out by the army of their own country, working under the directions of a leader, Milosevic, who came to power through democratic election.

This was one of the worst instances of killing based on ethnic lines in recent time.

---

Finally, several other countries intervened to stop the massacre .Milosevic lost power and were tried by an International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity.

---

**17. Why do some rights need to be placed higher than the government?**

**Ans.** Things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights of others. This usually happens when those in majority want to dominate in the majority. The government should protect the citizen's rights in such a situation. But sometimes elected governments may not protect or may even attack the rights of their own citizens. That is why, some rights need to be placed higher than the government, so that the government cannot violate them.

---

**18. Why has constitution made untouchability a punishable offence?**

**Ans.** The constitution mentions an extreme form of social discrimination, the practice of untouchability and clearly directs the government to put an end to it. The practice of untouchability has been forbidden in any form. Such practices deny them interaction with others or accesses to public places as equal citizens. So the constitution made untouchability a punishable offence.

---

**19. Why are rights important?**

**Ans.** The rights are important because they help individuals to live happily, and without fear in a country. Rights protect minority against majority section of the society. The rights are essential of the democracy.

---

**20. What do you know about Guantanamo Bay Prison?**

**Ans.** Guantanamo Bay is an area near Cuba. This area is controlled by the United States. USA has made a prison there and hundreds of people had been confined there. No one is allowed to meet them.

---

They were living in inhuman condition.

---

**21. Write a short note on Amnesty International?**

**Ans.** Amnesty International is an international organization which works for the protection and restoration of Human Rights.

This organization works as the watch dog to check human rights violation in all parts of the world.

This organization has collected information on many human right violation incidents.

---

**22. Describe the Citizen's rights in Saudi Arabia?**

**Ans.** Citizens do not have the right to form political parties or associations.

Citizens do not have the freedom of religion.

Women citizen are not given equality. They don't have right to cast their vote.

In Saudi Judges are appointed by Arabia kings, He can change their decisions.

---

**23. Who was Milosevic?**

**Ans.** Milosevic was the President of ex- Yugoslavia.

He was a narrow minded nationalist.

He wanted to control and dominate the Yugoslavia.

Therefore he started o crush the Albanians in Kosovo a province of Yugoslavia.

---

**24. Why do we need rights?**

**Ans.** Rights are the bases of democracy.

Democracy is incomplete without rights.

The Rights help us to express our opinion.

Rights protect minority against majority section of the society.

The rights are essential of the democracy.

---

**25. Name the Fundamental Rights given in the Constitution of India.**

---

**Ans.** Rights to Equality

Right to Freedom

Right against Exploitation

Right to freedom of Religion

Cultural and Educational right

Right to Constitutional Remedies

---

**26. Describe freedom of speech and expression.**

**Ans.** Freedom of speech and expression is one of the essential features of any democracy. Our ideas and personality develops only when we are able to freely communicate with others.

We may think differently from others. Even if a hundred people think in one way we should have the freedom to think differently and express our views accordingly.

---

**27. Describe the right of citizens to hold meetings, processions, rallies and demonstrations on any issue.**

**Ans.** Citizens to hold meetings, processions, rallies and demonstrations on any issue.

They may want to discuss a problem, exchange ideas, mobilize public support to a cause, or seek vote for a candidate or party in an election. But such meetings have to be peaceful. They should not lead to public to disorder or breach of peace in society.

Those who participate in these activities and meetings should not carry weapons with them.

---

**28. Describe citizens' rights to travel to any part of the country.**

**Ans.** As citizens we have the freedom to travel to any part of the country.

We are free to reside and settle in any part of the territory of the country.

This right allows lakhs of people to migrate from villages to towns and poor regions of the country to prosperous regions and big cities.

The same freedom extends to choice of occupation.

---

**29. Describe the right of life or personal liberty.**

---

**Ans.** The constitution says that no person can be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

It means that no person can be killed unless the court has ordered a death sentence.

It also means that a government or police officer can arrest or detain any citizen unless he has proper legal justification.

Even when they do, they have to follow some procedure.

---

**30. Explain the procedures; police must follow to detain a person.**

**Ans.** A person who is arrested and detained in custody will have to be informed of the reason for such arrest and detention.

A person who is arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours of arrest.

Such a person has the right to consult a lawyer and engage a lawyer for his defense.

## 5 marks Questions

**1. What was the report of Amnesty International regarding the prisoners of Guantanamo Bay? What was US's response to orders of UN Secretary General?**

**Ans.** Report of Amnesty International: According to the report of Amnesty International prisoners were being tortured in what ways that violated the US laws. They were being denied the treatment that even prisoners of war must get as per international law. Many prisoners had tried protests against these conditions by going on hunger strikes. Prisoners were not released even after they were officially declared not guilty.

US Response: The United States of America refused to obey the orders of United Nations' Secretary General. An independent inquiry by the UN supported these findings. The UN Secretary General said the prison in Guantanamo Bay should be closed down. The US Government refused to accept these pleas.

---

**2. How the US Government violated the rights of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay?**

**Ans.** About 600 people secretly picked up by US forces from all over the world and put in a prison in Guantanamo Bay.

Government of their countries were not asked or informed about their imprisonment. Families of the prisoners, media or even UN representatives were not allowed to meet them. The US army arrested them, interrogated them and decided whether to keep them there or not.

There was no trial before any magistrate in the US.

Nor could these prisoners approach courts in their own countries.

---

**3. It is not wrong to say that Democratic Government is not there in Saudi Arabia". Are you agreeing with this statement? Give some suitable reasons.**

---

**Ans.** Yes, we are agreeing with this statement. On the behalf of following facts we can say that democracy is not there in Saudi Arabia.

The country is ruled by a hereditary king and the people have no role in electing or changing their rulers.

The King selects the legislature as well as the executive. He appoints the Judges and can change any of their decisions.

Citizens cannot form Political Parties or Political Organizations. Media cannot report anything that the Monarch does not like.

There is no freedom of religion. Every citizen is required to be Muslim. Non Muslim residents can not follow their religion in private, but not in public.

---

**4. Do you believe that the ethnic differences were the main reasons for the massacre in Kosovo? Explain.**

**Ans.** Yes, the ethnic differences were the main reasons for the massacre in Kosovo:

Kosovo was a province of Yugoslavia before its split. In this province the population was overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian.

But in the entire country, Serbs were in majority. A narrow minded Serb nationalist Milosevic had won the elections. His Government was very hostile to the Kosovo Albanians. He wanted the Serbs to dominant the country. Many Serb leaders thought that Ethnic minorities like Albanians should leave the country or accept the dominance of the Serbs. In this way the prejudice between Majority group Serbs and minority group Albanians was a major cause of massacres and disintegration of the country. These massacres were being carried out by the army of their own country, working under the directions of their leader.

---

**5. Do you believe that Rights also require some power to enforce them democratically? Explain.**

**Ans.** Rights are claims of a person over other fellow being over the society and government. All claims are not Rights, it acquire meanings and recognition only in society. Rights are assurances given by Government to the citizens. These assurances include security, dignity, freedom and fair play. All these Rights are written in the constitutions of the democratic countries. Such assurances do not remain on papers. There should be someone required to enforce these assurances to the citizens. Those who violate these Rights should be punished.

---

To punish them a strong institution is required at national level and at international level. In other words a system is required which provide at least a minimum guarantee for the protection of their rights to everyone –powerful or weak, rich or poor, majority or minority.

---

### **6. How would you explain the three qualities of Right?**

**Ans.** Rights are reasonable claims: Rights are claims of a person over other fellow being over the society and government. All claims are not rights. It should be such that can be made available to others in equal measures. Thus a right comes with an obligation to respect other rights.

Rights are recognized by the society: Rights has to be recognized by the society we live in. Rights acquire meanings only in society. What is recognized by society as rightful becomes the basis of rights.

Rights are sanctioned by the law: When the socially recognized claims are written into the constitution, they become law and acquire real force. Otherwise they remain merely as natural or moral rights.

---

### **7. Write main features of Right to Freedom?**

**Ans.** Article 19 to 22 of Indian constitution deals with the right to Freedom

According to this article people have freedom of speech and expression.

Form associations and unions.

Move freely throughout the country.

Reside in any part of the country

Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

---

### **8. What are the significances of Fundamental Rights?**

**Ans.** The Fundamental rights are the foundation of democracy.

Democracy is incomplete without fundamental rights

The Fundamental rights are essential for the development of human beings.

The Fundamental rights give protection to minorities and protect their interests.

Fundamental rights provide equality to all the citizens.

All the citizens are given equal status irrespective of their status, caste, religion or creed.

---

## 9. What are the features of Right to Constitutional Remedies?

**Ans.** A right which seeks the enforcement of other fundamental rights is the Right to Constitutional Remedies.

This right makes other right effective.

It possible that some time our rights may be violated by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government.

When any of our rights are violated we can seek remedy through courts.

If it is a Fundamental Right we can directly approach the Supreme Court or the high court of a state.

That is why Dr, Ambedkar called the Right to Constitution remedies the heart and soul of our constitution.

---

## 10. Why do we need Rights in a democracy?

**Ans.** Rights in themselves are very necessary for the very sustenance of a democracy.

Without rights, democracy will become meaningless and ineffective.

For democratic elections to take place, it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinions, form political parties and take part in political activities.

There should be some rights because things may go wrong when some citizens may wish to take away the rights from others.

Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority. They ensure the majority cannot do whatever it wishes.

The government is expected to protect citizen's rights. But sometimes elected government may not protect or may even attack of its own citizens. So, some rights need to be placed than higher than the government so that it cannot violate them.