Constitution with Special Focus on Citizen's Duties

Constitution of India: The Supreme Law of India

Drafted by *Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar*, it is the longest written constitution of the world. The constitution declares India to be a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic with a parliamentary system of government. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949 and came into effect on 26th January, 1950. Accordingly, *November 26 is celebrated as the Constitution Day* and January 26 as Republic Day of India. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution of India, which defines the policies including the fundamental political code, structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the governing bodies and sets out the fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of the Indian citizens. India's enormous diversity in terms of its culture, language and religion has been embraced by the versatility of our Constitution, which is an unparalleled achievement. At present, the Constitution of India has 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules and 5 appendices.

The Constitution of India is founded on two premises: democracy (dominated by politicians) and rule of law justice (ensured by the higher courts). One does not exist without the other. Without democracy, there would be autocracy; without rule of law, there would be unruliness. Apart from allocating the powers to the federation and the legislature, executive and the judiciary, the purpose of the Constitution is to achieve social and distributive justice. Just as the constitution advocates certain obligations of the states to its citizens; the rights and the duties of the citizens to the State are also set.

Citizen's Duties:

Abiding by the constitution and consciously carrying out the civic duties is the key to India's unity. Hence the fundamental duties must be propagated by all citizens, with a sense of patriotism and conscience.

As per the Constitution of India, it is the duty of each citizen of India,

1. To abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

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

6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

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

8. To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;

9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence;

10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;

11. Who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child, or as the case may be, ward between the age of six to fourteen years

How important it is to follow the fundamental duties?

While the fundamental rights can be enforced by the judiciary, the fundamental duties cannot be done so. These duties are the moral obligations of all Indian citizens in order to uphold the integrity of the country. The fundamental duties can however be made enforceable by parliamentary law and violation of the fundamental duties can be punishable.

Alongside following the existing duties, it is also the responsibility of every citizen to be aware of the status quo and to carry out additional duties voluntarily. As responsible citizens it is the duty of every citizen to vote, to pay taxes regularly, to utilize the resources, subsidies, and incentives provided by the government in a righteous manner, to help the accident and disaster victims, to keep the premises clean, to contribute to the relief funds, to prevent civil wrongs and to raise voice against injustice, to protect the whistle-blowers and social-reformers, to support genuine movements that improvise civic society.

In the modern context, it has become increasingly important to instil a reinvigorated sense of civic responsibility among Indian citizens, especially the younger generation. As much as we have the rights to question the democracy and its function, as citizens of India, we also have the obligation to follow the fundamental civic duties which in turn will help in the betterment and progression of the country. As rightly stated by PM Modi, our Constitution is the Dignity of every India and paves ways of Unity of India. Hence to preserve our rights, let's consciously preform our duties to the nation.

Sources:
1. Wikipedia: Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties of India
2. Document for all ages: Why Constitution is our greatest achievement
3. Constitution of India
4. Expanding the Idea of India