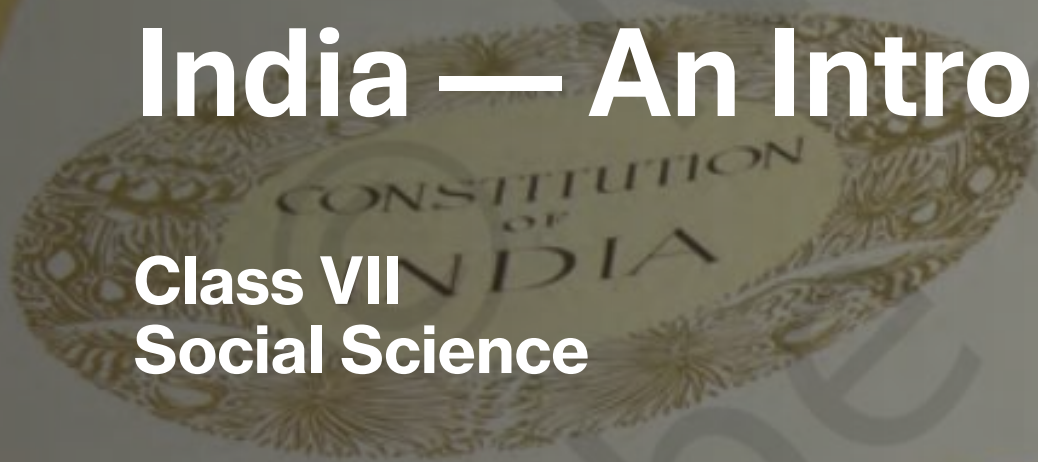


The background of the slide features a large, faint, golden-colored seal of the Constitution of India. The seal is circular with a decorative border and contains the text "CONSTITUTION OF INDIA" in the center. The overall background is a dark, muted green.

India — An Intro

Class VII

Social Science

tion

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly
resolved to constitute India a **SOVEREIGN DEMO-
CRATIC REPUBLIC**, and to secure to all its citizens
JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and
worship;
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;
and to promote among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual
and the unity of the Nation;
In our **CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** this twenty-
ninth day of November, in the **THIRTY-NINTH**,
YEART AND HAVE TO OURSELVES THIS
CONSTITUTION.

The Big Questions?



What is a constitution, and why do we need one?



How was the Indian Constitution prepared?



How did our freedom struggle and civilisational heritage influence the Constitution?



What are the key features of the Constitution of India? Why is it still relevant, even though it was written more than seventy years ago?

Republic Day & the Indian Constitution



Republic Day is celebrated on **26th January** every year.



It marks the day the **Indian Constitution** came into effect in **1950**.



On this day, people watch the **Republic Day Parade** showcasing:

- Marching bands
- Cultural performances
- Defence strength
- The **unfurling of the tricolour** at **Kartavya Path**

The Indian Constitution

01

A **set of fundamental rules** for governing the country.

02

It defines the **rights and duties** of citizens.

03

Establishes the **structure and powers** of the government.

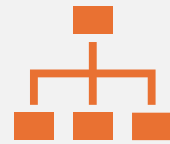
04

Ensures **justice, equality, and freedom** for all.

05

Carefully preserved in a **helium-filled glass case** in Parliament.

What Is the Constitution of India?



A **foundational document** that defines the structure and values of the nation.



Many key officials – **President, Prime Minister, Ministers, Judges** – pledge to **uphold and follow it**.

What Does the Constitution Do?

Defines the **framework** of the three main organs of government:

- **Legislature** – makes laws
- **Executive** – implements laws
- **Judiciary** – interprets laws

Establishes **checks and balances** to ensure:

- **Fairness**
- **Responsibility**
- **Accountability**

Lists the **rights and duties** of every citizen.

Sets out the **long-term goals and aspirations** of the nation.



Fig. 10.9. A scene from Orissan sculptures

It lays down the **basic rules** and **principles** for how the country is governed.

Why Do We Need a Constitution?

What Does a Constitution Do?



Defines the type of government and how it is formed and functions.

How **laws** are made and enforced

How the **legislature, executive, and judiciary** are formed and work

Who **elects the executive**

The **rights and duties** of citizens

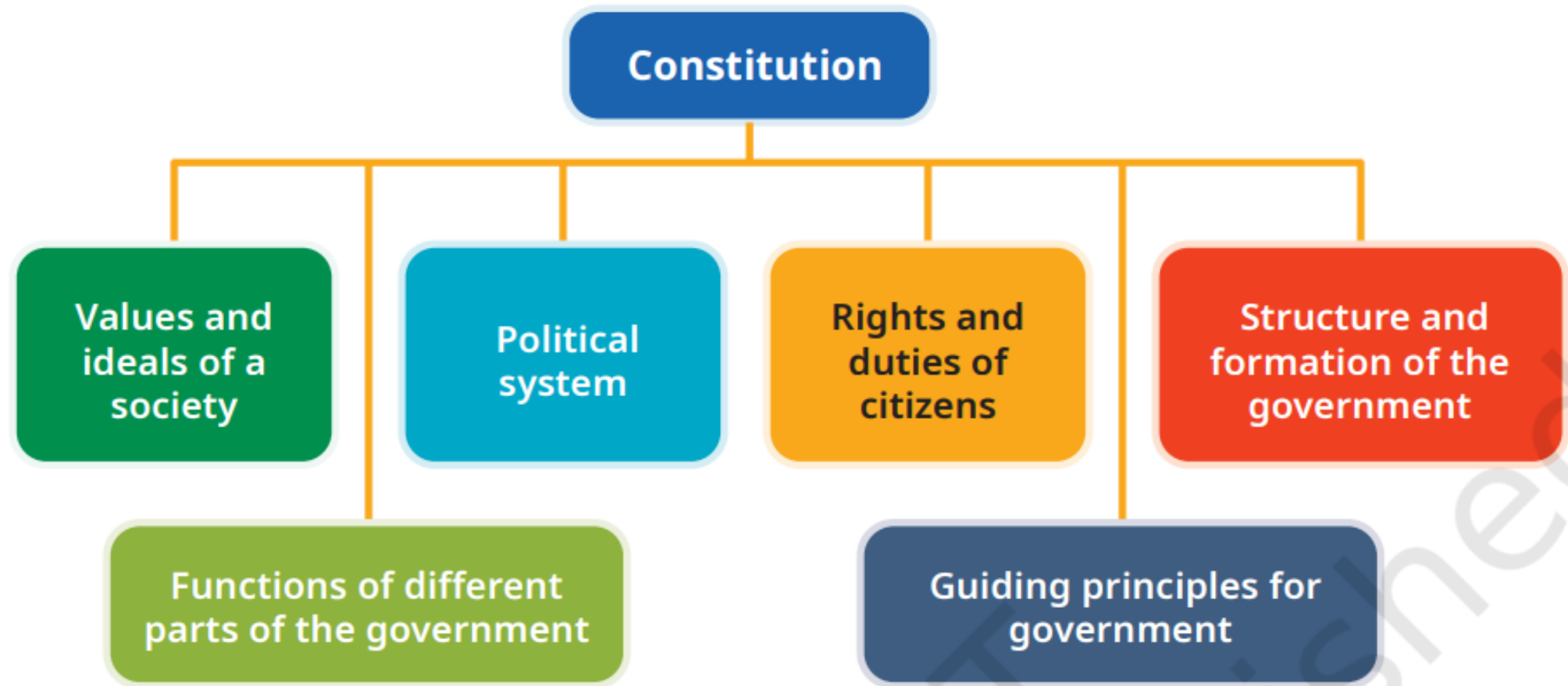
Upholds National Values

Embeds key values like:

- **Equality**
- **Justice**
- **Fraternity**
- **Freedom**
- **Pluralism**

These values guide all laws and policies in the country.

Some of the important things that most constitutions contain:





Why Was a Constitution Needed?

During the **freedom struggle**, India also planned how to **govern itself** after independence.

Key Questions India Faced:



WHAT TYPE OF
GOVERNMENT SHOULD
WE HAVE?



WHAT **RULES AND**
PRINCIPLES SHOULD
GUIDE THE NATION?



WHO SHOULD HAVE THE
RIGHT TO VOTE?



HOW SHOULD WE
RESOLVE DISPUTES
FAIRLY?

A Constitution Was the Answer

- It helped shape a **unified system** for a **diverse, complex country**.
- Ensured **democratic values** and **equal rights** for all citizens.



Making of the Constitution

A **Constituent Assembly** was formed in **1946** to draft the Constitution.

Initially had **389 members**, later reduced to **299** after Partition.

Included **15 women** members.

Represented **diverse regions, professions, and social groups** of India.

Tasked with answering key questions about **governance, rights, and national values**.

How Was Our Constitution Developed?

- The **Constituent Assembly** was formed on **9 December 1946**.
- Members were elected by **provincial legislative assemblies**.
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was the **Chairman** of the Assembly.
- Took **nearly 3 years** to complete the drafting process.
- Final draft was ready on **26 November 1949**.
- Adopted as the **Constitution of India** on **26 January 1950** (celebrated as **Republic Day**).



Drafting Committee

Draft prepared by a **Drafting Committee** chaired by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** – Social reformer and first **Law and Justice Minister** of India.

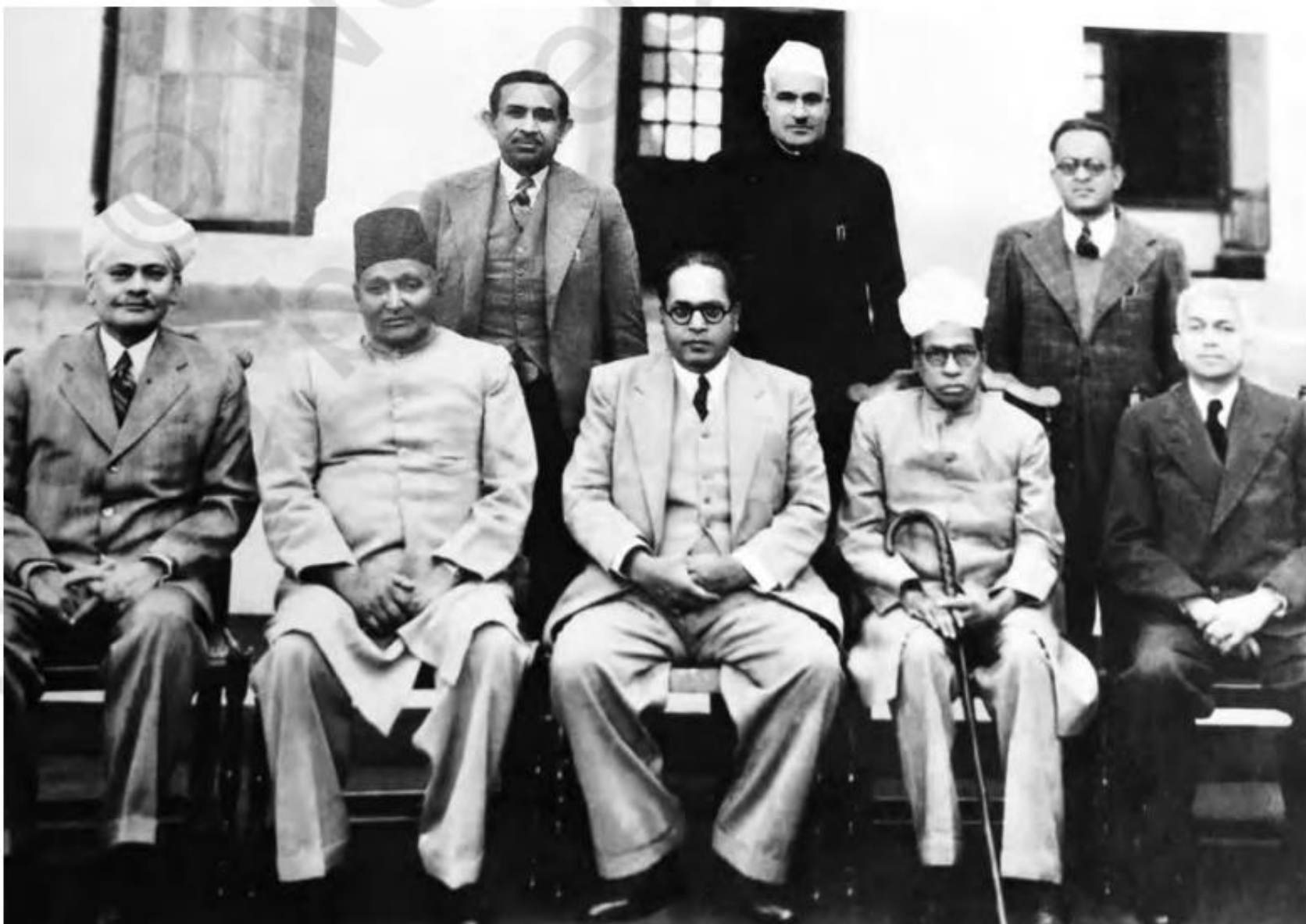


Fig. 10.3. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (seated, centre) with a few other members of the Drafting Committee.

What Shaped and Influenced the Indian Constitution?



Indian Freedom Movement

- Experience and ideals gained during the struggle for independence
- Emphasis on **democracy**, **justice**, and **equality**



India's Civilisational Heritage & Culture

- Deep-rooted values like **tolerance**, **pluralism**, and **respect for diversity**



Global Influences

- Borrowed useful features from other constitutions, such as:
 - **Parliamentary system** from the UK
 - **Fundamental Rights** from the USA
 - **Directive Principles** from Ireland
 - **Federal structure** from Canada

Influence of the Indian Freedom Movement

- The **Constitution** reflected the **ideals** of the freedom struggle.
- Many **freedom fighters** were part of the **Constituent Assembly**.
- They brought in their **experience, vision, and commitment** to nation-building.



Fig. 10.4.1. Workings of the Constituent Assembly

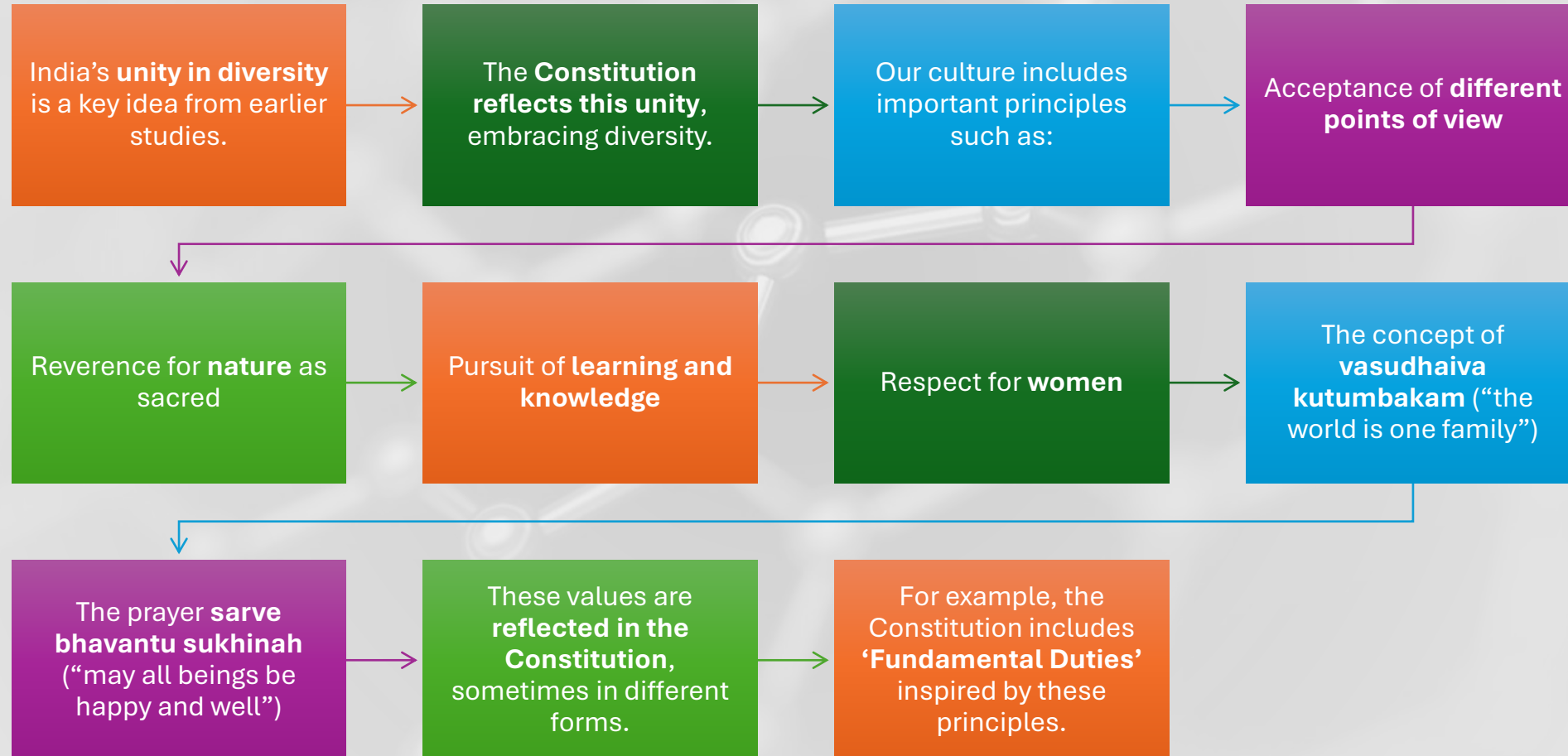


Fig. 10.7. A scene from the Rāmāyaṇa: Rāma's conquest of Lanka and recovery of Sītā

Core Values from the Freedom Movement:

- Equality for all
- Justice for all
- Freedom and Fraternity
- Preservation of India's cultural heritage
- Using the **Constitution as a tool** to realize these ideals

India's Civilisational Heritage and History



Learnings from Across the World

Guided by the Indian tradition:
“Āno Bhadrāḥ Kratavo Yantu Viśvataḥ”
*(“Let noble thoughts come to me from
every side”)*



Constitution makers studied democratic
constitutions from:

France

USA

UK

Ireland

Australia



Key Influences:

- **Liberty, Equality, Fraternity** — from **France** (French Revolution ideals)
- **Directive Principles of State Policy** — inspired by **Ireland's Constitution**
- **Independent Judiciary** — modeled after the **USA's Constitution**

Constitution's Role:



Clearly **defines roles, functions, and accountability** for all government organs.



Establishes an **electoral system** enabling every eligible citizen to vote.



Includes **Fundamental Duties, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.



Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):



Represent the **social and economic vision** for India.



Guide governance to ensure **justice, equality, and welfare** for all.

Directive Principles vs. Fundamental Rights

Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):

- Goals the government **should try to achieve**.
- Example: Ensuring a **good standard of living for all**.
- They are **guidelines**, not enforceable by courts.

Fundamental Rights:

- **Promises that must be upheld immediately**.
- Protect individuals from **unfair treatment**.
- You can approach courts if these rights are violated.

*Fig. 10.6. A scene
from an ancient
gurukula*

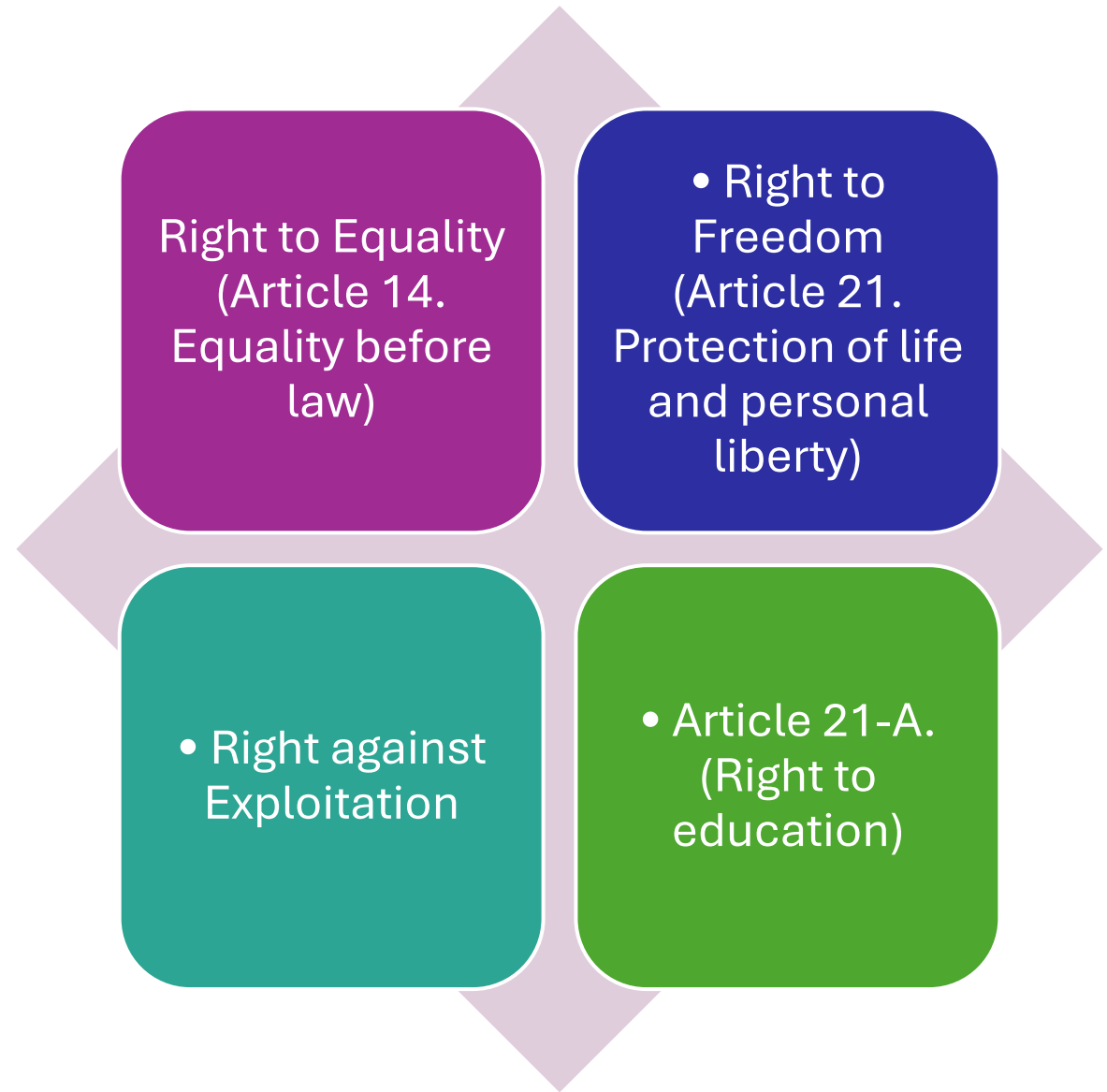


*Part II
Citizenship*

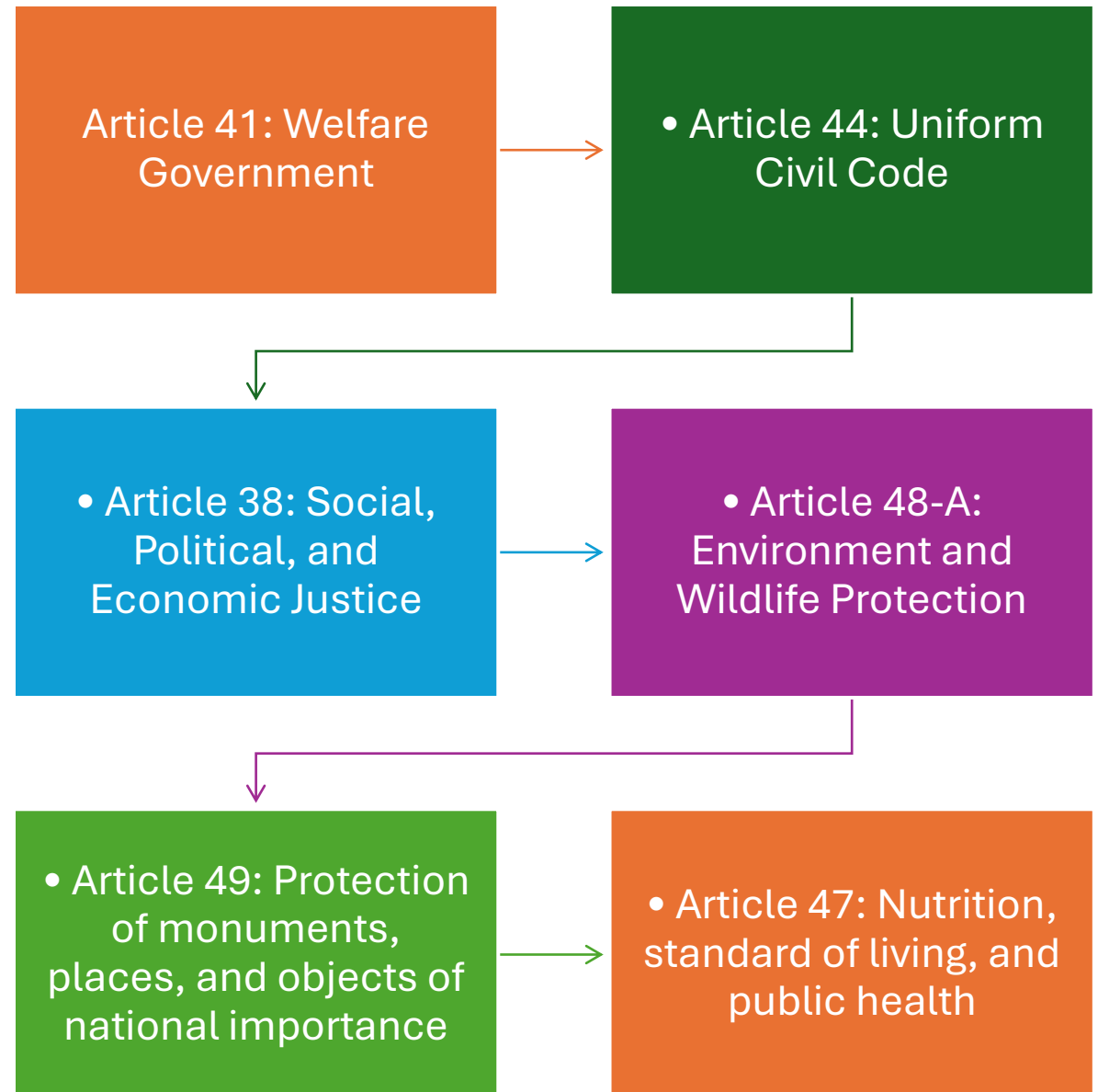
Why Both?

- The Constitution makers designed this system to balance:
 - **Immediate enforceable rights** (Fundamental Rights)
 - **Long-term goals** to improve the country over time (Directive Principles)

Fundamental Rights



Directive Principles of State Policy



Fundamental Duties

- a. to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem;
- b. to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- c. to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- d. to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- e. 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;
- f. if a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his or her child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six and fourteen years;

The Constitution is a Living Document



The Constitution can be **amended** to meet new needs over time.



Example: **Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)** was added in **1976**.



Amendments are **carefully debated** in Parliament and sometimes in State Assemblies.



Public opinions are often **sought before changes** are made.



Some changes have been initiated by **popular movements**.

Understanding the Preamble: The Guiding Values of the Constitution

- The **Preamble** expresses the **core values** of the Constitution.
- These values guide the **government's policies and decisions**.
- Citizens are also expected to **practice these values**.
- The Preamble captures the **essence and spirit** of the Constitution.



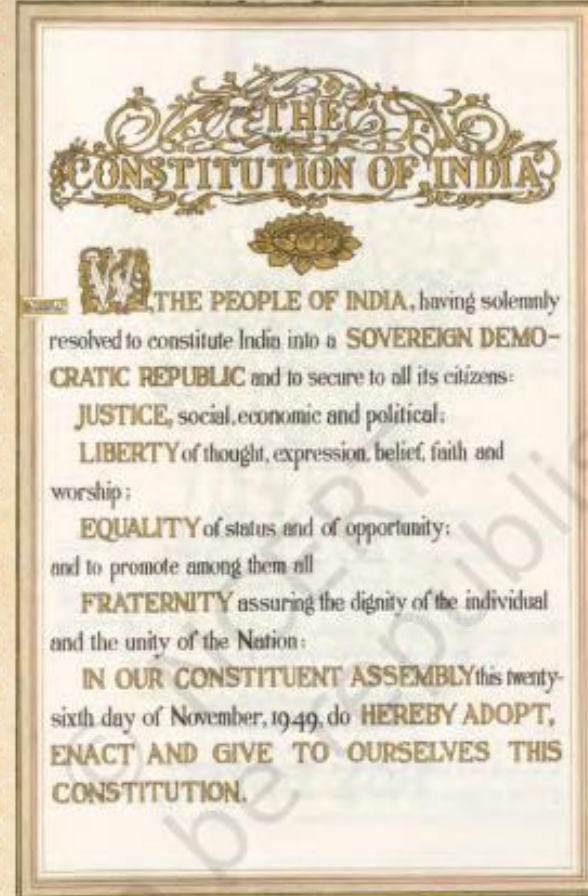
PREAMBLE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA
The Constitution has been drawn up and enacted by the people through their representatives, and not handed down to them by a king or any outside powers.

SOVEREIGN
The people have supreme right to make decisions on internal as well as external matters. No external power can dictate the government of India.

SOCIALIST
Wealth is generated socially and should be shared by the society. Government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

SECULAR
Citizens have complete freedom to follow any religion. But there is no official religion. Government treats all religious beliefs and practices with equal respect.



DEMOCRATIC
A form of government where the people enjoy equal political rights, elect their rulers and hold them accountable. The government is run according to some basic rules.

FRATERNITY
All of us should behave as if we are members of the same family. No one should treat a fellow citizen as inferior.

REPUBLIC
The head of the state is an elected person and not a hereditary position.

JUSTICE
Citizens cannot be discriminated on the grounds of caste, religion and gender. Social inequalities have to be reduced. Government should work for the welfare of all, especially of less advantaged groups.

LIBERTY
There are no unreasonable restrictions on the citizens in what they think, how they wish to express their thoughts and the way they wish follow up their thoughts in action.

EQUALITY
All are equal before the law. The social inequalities have to be ended. The government should ensure equal opportunity for all.

Below is the list of features given in the Preamble. Read them closely from the image above and write down examples of the application of these values in daily life around you. Two have been completed to help you with the exercise.

Features of the Preamble	How we see them in our daily lives
Sovereign	
Secular	A person does not have to take permission from the State to practice the rituals of their religion if the practice does not interfere with anyone else's day-to-day life.
Republic	
Justice	The State provides equal opportunity to all in jobs, regardless of gender, caste, religion, etc.
Liberty	
Equality	



THANK YOU