LESSON-15

FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION

(THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA)

TIMELINE

26 JULY 1945 Labour Government comes to power in England

16th MAY 1946 Cabinet Mission announces its Constitutional Scheme.

16th JUNE 1946 Cabinet Mission presented the Scheme for the formation of an interim Govt. at

Centre.

2 Sept. 1946 Congress forms the interim govt.

13 October 1946 Muslim League decides to join the interim government.

11 August 1947 Jinnah was elected as the president of Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

14 AUGUST 1947 Pakistan Independence

15 August 1947 India became an independent nation

Lesson – 15 FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION XII HISTORY

* Indian Constitution was prepared by the learned members of the Constituent Assembly.
* The Constitution was framed between December 1946 to December, 1949.
* All in all, 11 sessions of Constituent Assembly were held and 165 sittings took place.
* The Constituent Assembly had 299 members. The assembly adopted the constitution on 26 November 1949, but it came into effect on January 26, 1950.
* The members of the Constituent Assembly were elected on the basis of provincial election held in 1946.
* The Constituent Assembly remained as a one party show as its 82% members belonged to Congress party.
* The meeting of the Constituent Assembly was influenced by the public opinion. The arguments of various sections were published in all leading newspapers and there was a public debate on all proposals.
* Dr. B.R.Ambedkar played an important role in Constituent Assembly. He acted as the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the constitution.
* Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru moved the Objective Resolution in the Constituent Assembly.
* ObjectIve Resolution was ahistoric resolution which defined the the ideals of the constitution of free India.

1. It proclaimed India as an independent sovereign Republic.
2. It guaranteed Justice, equality and freedom to all citizens of India.
3. It assured that safeguards shall be provided for all the minorities, backward and tribal area.

* By 1949, most of the members of the Constituent Assembly agreed that the resolution pf separate electorate is against the interest of minorities.
* A socialist leader and the leader of the peasant movement N.G. Ranga urged that the word minorities must be interpreted in economic terms.
* K.Santhanam favoured the right to the states because he felt that a reallocation of powers of the state as well as the centre is necessary.
* The language issue was debated in the Constituent Assembly for many months.
* R.V.Dhulekar favoured the use of Hindi language as a language of constitution making. He argued that Hindi must be declared as a national language not as an official language.
* Most of the members of the Assembly were agreed on the fact that all the adult citizens of India must be granted the right to vote.
* Those who drafted the constitution of India felt that it has to be in accordance with people’s aspiration and changes in the society. So, they made provisions to incorporate changes from time to time.
* Constitution declares India as a secular state. Every person is allowed to practice the religion of his / her choice.
* The Indian Constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950.
* It is the largest Constitution of the world.
* Federal form of government was adopted in which political power is divided among Centre and States. It means Government works at two levels.
* Citizens of India have been granted Fundamental Rights. These are important for the progress and development of any individual.
* Division of Power was made between the Centre and the States. There are 97 issues in the Union List, 66 issues in the State List and 47 in the Concurrent List.