BPSC-102: Constitutional Government and Democracy in India

(TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT)

Assignment Code: BPSC-102/ASST/TMA/2026-27

Marks: 100

Assignment – I

Answer the following questions in about 500 words each. (2 × 20 = 40 marks)

1. Discuss the making of the Indian Constitution and explain the major philosophical premises that informed it.

2. Analyse the constitutional division of powers between the Union and the States. How do the emergency provisions affect this division?

Assignment – II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

3. Examine the relationship between Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy.

4. Explain the constitutional position and functions of the Indian judiciary.

5. Discuss the constitutional provisions relating to the Fifth and Sixth Schedules.

Assignment – III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each. (5 × 6 = 30 marks)

6. State the main ideals embodied in the Preamble.

7. What are the principal functions of the legislature?

8. What is meant by a parliamentary executive?

9. Explain the significance of Fundamental Duties.

10. What is the constitutional importance of local self-government?

1. Discuss the making of the Indian Constitution and explain the major philosophical premises that informed it.

Answer

The Constitution of India emerged from a long struggle against colonial rule and from serious discussion about the kind of society independent India should become. It was not simply a collection of administrative rules. Its makers sought a political order in which elected governments would be accountable, individual freedom would be protected, and deep inequalities inherited from the past could be reduced through democratic action.

The background of constitution-making reaches back to the growth of Indian nationalism, demands for representative institutions, and criticism of the colonial state's concentration of power. The Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935 provided experience in legislative councils, provincial government and federal arrangements, but remained subject to British control. National leaders increasingly insisted that Indians themselves should frame their fundamental law. The demand for a Constituent Assembly was advanced in the 1930s and later accepted in principle. Under the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, an Assembly was formed through indirect election by provincial legislatures; representatives of princely states joined through a separate process. The body was not elected by universal adult franchise, an important historical limitation, but its committees and public discussions involved differing political and social viewpoints.

The Assembly first met on 9 December 1946. Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the Objectives Resolution on 13 December; it was adopted on 22 January 1947. The Resolution promised an independent sovereign republic, democratic institutions, justice, equality and safeguards for minorities and disadvantaged communities. Following Partition and independence, the Assembly functioned as a sovereign constitution-making body. Dr Rajendra Prasad presided over it, while the Drafting Committee, appointed on 29 August 1947 and chaired by Dr B. R. Ambedkar, turned committee reports and debates into a working constitutional text. B. N. Rau provided important constitutional advice. After extensive discussion and amendments, the Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came fully into force on 26 January 1950.

One guiding philosophical premise was **popular sovereignty**: legitimate political authority flows from the people, rather than a monarch or colonial ruler. The Preamble begins with “We, the People of India.” Universal adult franchise was a remarkably bold commitment in a society marked by poverty and low literacy. Equal voting rights made citizenship the basis of political