

## CHAPTER - 19

## **DEMOCRACY**

## **NOTES:**

- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as "a government of the people, by the people and for the people".
- Rule of Law- A country should be ruled by laws and not by the whims of a king or a monarch or a military general.
- Democracy has two kinds: Direct and Indirect.
- <u>Direct democracy</u> is where citizens themselves vote for or against specific proposals or laws. Some city states in <u>Ancient Greece</u> had this system. In modern countries direct democracy is impossible because of the vastness of the size of the territory and largeness of population
- **Indirect democracy**, or representative democracy, is when <u>citizens</u> elect representatives to make <u>laws</u> for them. This is what most modern countries have today.
- Monarchy or Dictatorship are non-democratic governments.
- Manipur State Constitution Act was drafted and adopted in 1947.
- All democratic countries have formal constitutions, hold elections at regular intervals, have political parties, guarantee rights of citizens.
- Equality is a key feature of democracy and influences all aspects of its functioning.
- Universal Adult Franchise —all adults above 18 years of age have the right to vote irrespective of their social or economic backgrounds.
- **Election** is important in a democracy.
- There are three types of elections- General Election, By Election and Mid Term Election.
- Election has certain procedures.
- It is almost impossible to run democracy without political parties.
- Three types of party systems are commonly found Single party, Bi-party and Multi-party systems.
- In India we find two types of political parties National Parties and Regional Parties.
- Constitution of India was adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1949 and came into force from 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950.
- The Indian Constitution is the supreme law of the country.
- A **constitution** is a set of rules that guides how a country, state, or other political organization works. The **constitution** may tell what the branches of the government are, what powers they have, and how they work. It may also state the rights of citizens.

## • THE PREAMBLETO THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC 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 and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this 26th day of November 1949,

do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

• The Preamble is the soul of the Indian Constitution.

