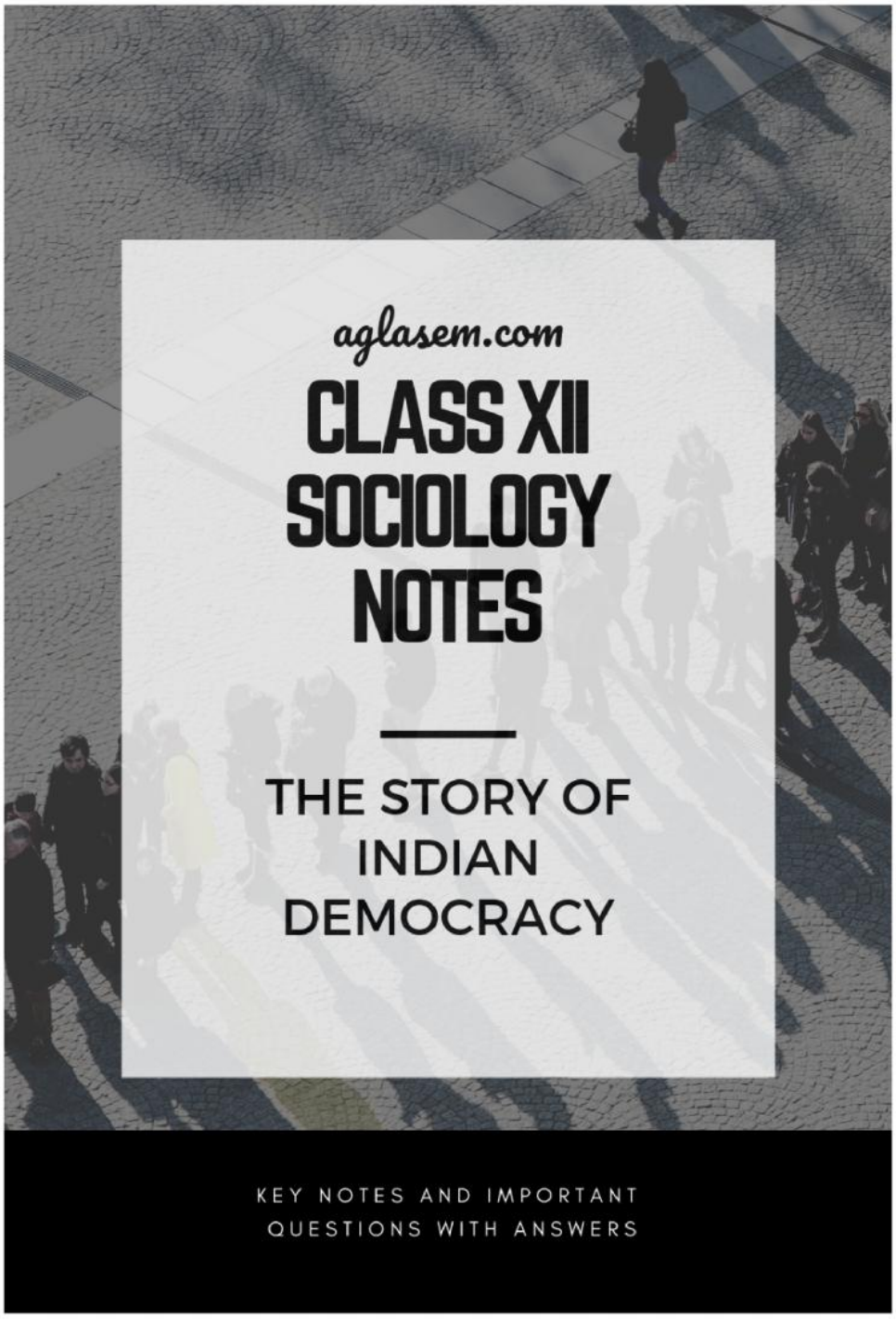

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CLASS XII
SOCIOLOGY
NOTES
THE STORY OF
INDIAN
DEMOCRACY
KEY NOTES AND IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

CHAPTER 3

THE STORY OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

1. Democracy is a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

2. Two kinds of categories are - DIRECT & REPRESENTATIVE.

Direct Democracy : all citizens without the intermediary of elected officials can partiicpate in making public decisions is practical with small number of people for eg. tribal council, community organisation, local unit of a trade union etc.

Representative Democracy : citizen elect officials to represent them, formulate laws and take decisions. Features of modern society with large populations.

For eg. - Municipal Boards State Assembles, Parliament etc.

3. **Participatory democracy :** members of a group or community participate collectively in taking of major decisions for eg Panchayati Raj System.

Decentralised Democracy : It is the grass root level democracy.

4. **Basis of the core values of Indian Democracy :**

- **Ancient-epics** : like Mahabharata, various folk tales that has elements of dialogue, discussion and debates (essential requirements of democracy).
- **Western theories on democracy :** values like liberty, franternity and equality derived from the French and the Russian revolutions.
- **Karachi Congress Resolution** 1931 which pointed out even before independence the goal of equal rights for all citizens across caste, gender and religion.

5. **Basic objectives laid down by the constitution**

– Empowernment of the poor and marginalised.

– Ending of caste discrimination

– Equality to all diverse groups.

Competing Interest do not always reflect clear class divide.

- Operate on the Indian social scene and clamour for control of the state's resources.
- Empowerment of the poor and marginalised, poverty alleviation, ending of caste.
- The issue of the close down of a factory because it emits toxic waste and effect the health of those around. This is a matter of life, which the constitution protects.
- Closure of the factory will render people jobless livelihood again, is a mater of life that the constitution protects.

6. Law carries the means to force obedience, has the power of state behind it. The essence of law is force and coertion.

Justice : essence of justice is fairness. It functions through the hierarchy of authorities and follow the basic procedures as prescribed in the constitution. A hierarchy of courts interpret the laws.

7. **Constitution** is a document based on the ideals on which a nation rests. It is the basic norm from which all other rules and authorities flow. The Supreme court is the highest court and the ultimate interpreter of the constitution.

8. **Panchayati Raj** literally translates to governnance by five individuals. The idea has been to create a vibrant democracy at the village or grassroot level.

- Three tier system of the Panchayati Raj has the Gram Sabha at the base.

9. **Views of Panchayati Raj**

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was critical of the Panchayati Raj system. He believed that local self-government meant giving extra power to the already dominating local elites and upper castes. Thus such a system would lead to further exploitation of the lower castes and the downtrodden.
- Mahatma Gandhi on the other hand believed in 'gram swarajya', i.e., village self-governance as an ideal model to adopt after Independence. He envisaged each villages as self sufficient units and hence supported Panchyayati Raj System.

10. **73rd amendment** of constiutution in 1992 introduced grass root democracy or decentralised governance, granting various provisions :-

- Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institution (PRIs)
- Local self government bodies in rural and municipal area to be elected every 5 years.
- Control of local resources given to the elected local bodies.

11. **74th Constitutional amendment**

- Reservation of one third of total seats for women in rural and urban local elected bodies.
- 17% of seats reserved for women of scheduled castes & tribes.

12. **Various powers & responsibilities undertaken by Panchayats.**

- To prepare plans and schemes for economic development
- To ensure social justice
- To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, tolls and fees
- To maintain burning and burial grounds.
- To keep record of births and deaths.
- To propagate family planning
- To establish child care and maternity centres.
- To construct roads, buildings, schools for community use.

13. **Main source of income for Panchayats**

- Taxes levied on property, profession, animals, vehicles
- Cess on land revenue and rentals
- Grants received through the Zilla Panchayat

14. **Nyaya Panchayat** are constituted in certain villages. They have authority to pass judgement on petty civil and criminal cases, they can impose fines but cannot award sentences.

15. **Van Panchayat** these are environmental groups comprising mostly of village women who devleop nurseries and nurture tree saplings. They also guard nearby forests to check illegal deforestation.

- Many tribal areas have a rich tradition of grassroot democracy. 'Durbar Kur' in Khasis presided over by a clan headman.
- A large chunk of tribal areas lie outside the provisions of 73rd Amendment as the policy makers did not wish to interfere with the traditional tribal institutions.

16. **Interest grups :** are organized to pursue specific interest in the political arena operating primarily by lobbying with the members of legislative bodies.

Pressure Groups

- Industrialist form associations such as FICCI Assocham. Workers from trade unions such as INTUC, CITU. Farmers form unions like Shetkari Sangathan.
- A political party is an organisation oriented towards achieving legitimate control of government through an electoral process.

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What is Participatory Democracy?
2. Differentiate between direct and indirect democracy by giving suitable examples.
3. What is a representative democracy?
4. Examine the conflict found in British colonial practices and the western theories of democracy.
5. What is Panchayati Raj?
6. What was the significance of 73rd amendment?
7. What is the source of revenue for the panchayats?
8. Mention the steps taken by the panchayats for a transparent functioning.
9. Who are Nyaya Panchayats?
10. What is the significance of political parties in a democracy?
11. Name some of the Industrial associations.
12. What are pressure groups?

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Describe the various kinds of pluralities present in Indian society.
2. Explain the concept of competing interests with the help of examples.
3. Differentiate between law and justice.
4. Examine the arguments given by Dr. Ambedkar & Mahatma Gandhi for the inclusion of Panchayati Raj in the constitution.
5. 73rd and 74th amendment has been monumental in bringing voice to the people justify.
6. Give a detailed account of various powers and responsibilities of Panchayats.
7. Explain the significance of Van Panchayats.
8. Describe the grass root democratic functioning in tribal areas.

6 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Explain the various core values adopted in the Indian Democracy.
2. Explain the significance of Panchayati Raj's inclusion in the Indian constitution. Also give an account of its various powers & responsibilities.