

## Unit - 2

# Citizens and Citizenship



## Learning Objectives

Students acquire knowledge in

- ▶ Meaning, definition of citizens and citizenship
- ▶ The Constitutional Provisions of India
- ▶ Acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship
- ▶ Nature of overseas citizenship of India
- ▶ Rights and responsibility of a citizen



## Introduction

Civics is the study of government. The word 'Citizen' is derived from the Latin word 'Civis' which means resident of a City State of Ancient Rome. After the disappearance of City-State system, it has been used to mean a member of the State. The citizens of a state enjoy full civil and political rights.

## Citizen and Citizenship

Citizen is a person of a country who is entitled to enjoy all the legal rights and privileges granted by a state and is obligated to obey its laws and to fulfill his duties.

Citizenship is the status given to the citizens which provide them the right to legally live in a country as long as they want.

### Types of Citizen

There are two types of citizens, Natural and Naturalised citizens.

1. Natural citizens: are the citizens by birth.
2. Naturalised citizens: are the one who acquires citizenship.

## Indian Citizenship Act, 1955

This act is to provide for the acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship.

## Acquisition of citizenship

The citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship. They are by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.

### 1) By Birth

- A person born in India on or after 26th January 1950 but before 1st July 1987 is a citizen of India by birth irrespective of the nationality of his Parents.
- A person born in India on or after 1st July 1987 is considered as a citizen of India only if either of his Parents is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.

