Introduction:

French revolution started in 1789. The series of events started by the middle class shaken the upper classes. The people revolted against the cruel regime of monarchy. This revolution put forward the ideas of liberty, fraternity, and equality.

• The revolution began on 14th July, 1789 with the storming of the fortress-prison, the Bastille.

The Bastille, the fortress prison was hated by all, because it stood for the despotic power of the king.

The fortress was demolished.

Causes of the French Revolution:

Social Cause -

The society was divided into three estates.

1. 1st Estate: Clergy (Group of persons
Economic Cause - Subsistence Crisis:

• The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789.
• This increased the demand for the foodgrains. However, production could not keep pace with the demand which ultimately increased the prices of the foodgrains.
• Most workers work as labourers in the workshops and they didn’t see increase in their wages.
• Situation became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest.
• This led to the scarcity of foodgrains or Subsistence Crisis which started occurring frequently during old regime.

Political Cause

• Louis XVI came into the power in 1774 and found empty treasury.
• Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
the draft of the constitution in 1791 which main object was to limit the powers of the monarch.
• The powers were now separated and assigned to different institutions – the legislature, executive and judiciary which made France a constitutional monarchy.
• The Constitution of 1791 gave the power of making laws in the hands of National Assembly, which was indirectly elected.
• The National Assembly was elected by a group of electors, which were chosen by active citizens.
• Active Citizens comprises of only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer’s wage.
• The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens who had no voting rights.
France Constitution at that time
• The Constitution began with a Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.