

Question: What are the main features of the Indian Constitution?

Answer:

The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It incorporates the principles of democracy, socialism, secularism, and federalism. It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950. The key features of the Indian Constitution are as follows:

1. Written and Detailed Constitution

The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It consists of 448 Articles, 12 Schedules, and 25 Parts. It serves as a guiding framework for all citizens, institutions, and the government.

2. Sovereignty

India has been declared a sovereign nation, meaning it is not subject to any external power. India has complete authority over its internal and external affairs.

3. Secularism

India is a secular state, meaning that the government does not have an official religion. All religions are given equal respect and freedom.

4. Socialism

The Indian Constitution is based on socialist ideals, aiming to establish social and economic equality. The state ensures that resources are distributed equitably among all citizens.

5. Democracy

India is a democratic nation where the government is elected by the people, for the people, and through the people. Every citizen has the right to vote through universal adult suffrage.

6. Republic

India is a republic, meaning that the head of state, i.e., the President, is elected by the people. Unlike monarchies, all citizens are considered equal before the law.

7. Fundamental Rights

The Indian Constitution grants six fundamental rights to its citizens:

1. Right to Equality
2. Right to Freedom
3. Right against Exploitation
4. Right to Freedom of Religion
5. Cultural and Educational Rights
6. Right to Constitutional Remedies

These rights protect individual freedom and dignity.

7. Directive Principles of State Policy

Included in Part IV of the Constitution, these principles aim to promote social and economic welfare. Examples include:

Free education

Equal wages

Rural development

8. Federal System

India follows a federal system of governance but is often referred to as a quasi-federal system, where power is distributed across three levels:

1. Central Government
2. State Governments
3. Local Bodies (Panchayati Raj and Municipalities)

This ensures a balance of power.

9. Flexibility and Rigidity

The Indian Constitution is partly rigid and partly flexible. Some amendments can be passed by a simple majority, while others require a special majority and state ratification.

10.Independent Judiciary

The judiciary in India is independent from the executive and legislature. The Supreme Court acts as the guardian of the Constitution.

11.Universal Adult Franchise

Every Indian citizen above 18 years has the right to vote, ensuring social equality and strengthening democracy.

12.Emergency Provisions

The Constitution includes three types of emergency provisions:

1. National Emergency
2. State Emergency

3. Financial Emergency

These provisions help maintain national security and stability during crises.

13.Panchayati Raj and Local Governance

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) introduced local self-governance, increasing public participation at the grassroots level.

14.Preamble of the Constitution

The Preamble declares India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. It upholds justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

15.Special Provisions

The Constitution initially granted special provisions (such as Article 370) to Jammu and Kashmir, which was later revoked in 2019. Special arrangements exist for different states and regions.

Important Facts:

1. It took 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days to draft the Constitution.
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is considered the chief architect of the Constitution.
3. As of 2023, there have been 105 amendments to the Constitution.

Conclusion

The features of the Indian Constitution make it unique and progressive. It strengthens democracy and social justice while considering India's diversity and unity. It is not just a legal document but also a guiding framework for national development and citizen rights.



Sheo Vivek

**Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Shers Shah
College, Sasaram, District –
Rohtas, Bihar**