

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Preamble:

1. Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic
2. Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity

Fundamental Features:

1. Federal Structure: Division of power between Union and States
2. Parliamentary System: President as Head of State, Prime Minister as Head of Government
3. Separation of Powers: Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
4. Fundamental Rights: Guaranteed to all citizens (Articles 14-35)
5. Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): Guidelines for governance (Articles 36-51)

Key Provisions:

1. Universal Adult Franchise (Article 326)
2. Independent Judiciary (Article 124-147)
3. Rule of Law (Article 14)
4. Protection of Minority Rights (Articles 29-30)
5. Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19)
6. Right to Life and Liberty (Article 21)
7. Equality before Law (Article 14)

Constitutional Bodies:

1. Supreme Court (Article 124-147)
2. High Courts (Article 214-232)
3. Election Commission (Article 324)
4. Comptroller and Auditor General (Article 148)
5. Attorney General (Article 76)

Amendment Procedures:

1. Two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament
2. Simple majority in both Houses and ratification by half of the States

Other Important Features:

1. Emergency Provisions (Articles 352-360)
2. Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)
3. Constitutional Amendments (over 100 amendments)
4. Judicial Review (Supreme Court's power to review laws)
5. Secularism (no official state religion)

Landmark Amendments:

1. 42nd Amendment (1976): Added Fundamental Duties
2. 44th Amendment (1979): Repealed internal emergency provisions
3. 73rd Amendment (1992): Introduced local self-government
4. 86th Amendment (2002): Made education a Fundamental Right
5. 103rd Amendment (2019): Introduced 10% reservation for economically weaker sections

Influences:

1. British Constitution
2. US Constitution
3. French Constitution
4. Indian Independence Movement
5. Constitutional Assembly Debates

Unique Features:

1. Largest written constitution
2. Most diverse population governed by a single constitution
3. Blend of federal and unitary features
4. Strong emphasis on social justice and equality.