

Salient features of the Indian Constitution

What are the salient features of Indian Constitution?

Before making the present Constitution, the framers examined Constitutions of various countries of the world and also the working of the Government of India Act, 1935. They liberally borrowed appropriate provisions from Constitutions of many countries of the world. The Constitution so adopted has the following salient features—

1. The Longest Constitution in the World.-

Constitutions are classified into written, like the American Constitution, or unwritten, like the British Constitution. The Constitution of India is the longest of all the written Constitutions of the world. It is a very comprehensive, elaborate and detailed document.

The Indian Constitution originally consisted of 395 articles divided into 22 Parts and 9 Schedules. Presently, it consists of a Preamble, about 450 articles divided into 24 Parts and 12 Schedules.

2. Parliamentary Form of Government.-

The Constitution of India has opted for the British Parliamentary system of Government rather than American Presidential System of Government. The Parliamentary system is based on the principle of co-operation and co-ordination between the legislative and executive organs while the Presidential system is based on the doctrine of separation of powers between the two organs.

3. Unique Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility.-

The Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible but a synthesis of both. A rigid Constitution is one that requires a special procedure for its amendment while flexible Constitution is one that can be amended in the same manner as ordinary laws are made.

4. Fundamental Rights.-

Part III of the Indian Constitution guarantees six fundamental rights to all the citizens—

- (a) Right to Equality (Articles 14-18);
- (b) Right to Freedom (Articles 19-22);
- (c) Right against Exploitation (Articles 23-24);
- (d) Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25-28);
- (e) Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29-30);
- (f) Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32).

The Fundamental Rights are meant for promoting the idea of political democracy. They operate as limitations on the tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature.

5. Directive Principles of State policy.-

The Directive Principles of State Policy contained in Part of the Constitution set out the aims and objectives to be taken by the state in the governance of the country. According to B.R. Ambedkar “ the Directive Principle of State policy is a novel feature of the Indian Constitution. They can be classified into three broad categories, Socialistic, Gandhian and Liberal-intellectual.