

# Constitutionalism: Meaning and Features

Constitutionalism is a system of government where the power of the government is limited by a constitution, which is a supreme law of the land. It ensures that the government operates within the boundaries set by the constitution, protecting individual rights and promoting accountability.

## Meaning:

Constitutionalism is based on the idea that government power should be restricted and that there are certain fundamental rights that cannot be taken away. It emphasizes the importance of the rule of law, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The constitution serves as a framework for governance, defining the relationship between the government and citizens.

## Key Features:

1. **Supremacy of the Constitution:** The constitution is the highest law of the land, and all laws and government actions must conform to it.
2. **Separation of Powers:** Power is divided among separate branches of government (legislative, executive, and judiciary) to prevent abuse of power.
3. **Checks and Balances:** Each branch has some ability to limit the actions of the other branches, ensuring no single branch dominates.
4. **Protection of Fundamental Rights:** The constitution

guarantees certain basic rights to citizens, such as freedom of speech, equality, and life.

5. \*mRule of Law: The government operates under the law, and all individuals are equal before the law.

6. Limited Government: Government power is restricted, and it cannot act arbitrarily.

7. Independent Judiciary: The judiciary is free from government influence, ensuring impartial justice.

Why It Matters:

Constitutionalism promotes accountability, transparency, and protection of individual rights. It ensures that power is not misused and that the government works for the people.

Example:

The Indian Constitution is a prime example of constitutionalism, with its emphasis on fundamental rights, separation of powers, and an independent judiciary.