Every written constitution in the world has its own unique characteristics.

Our Constitution has adopted the best features of most of the major constitutions of the world as per the needs of the country.

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Indian Constitution has many prominent features that distinguish it from the other Constitutions

- like World's Longest Constitution, Taken from various sources, Rigidity and Flexibility,
- Federal System with Unitary Features, Independent as Well As Integrated Judicial System,
- Parliamentary form of Government, Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy
- Directive Principles of State Policy, Single Constitution for both Union and States

 Single Citizenship, Emergency provision

Introduction

Features of Indian Constitution

Taken from various sources

—Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who was the major contributor in the drafting of the Indian constitution, took help from multiple sources.

The basic structure of the constitution is taken from the Government of India Act 1935.

The article of Fundamental rights is taken from the American Constitution.

Directive Principles are taken from the Irish Constitution.

Cabinet form of Government is sourced from British Constitution.

Apart from these, there are many provisions added from the constitution of Canada, Germany,

France, and USSR.

The Indian Constitution contains 395 articles and 12 schedules, making it the world's longest written constitution.

One reason is that the Constitution has drawn from a variety of sources.

The other is that the constitution-makers ensured that no element of uncertainty

was left.

Since the year 1950, the Indian constitution has undergone many changes and amendments with many additional articles added to it.

World's Longest Constitution

Rigidity and Flexibility

A rigid constitution is one which can't be amended easily.

A flexible constitution is one which can be amended easily.

The Indian constitution is best known in the entire world for keeping

the perfect balance between rigidity and flexibility.

which means some parts of it can be amended by the Parliament by a simple

majority, whereas some parts require a two-third majority as well as

not less than one-half of the state legislatures.

Indian Constitution is neither ideally Federal Constitution of US type, nor ideally

Unitary Constitution of British type.

Federal System with Unitary The Indian Constitution includes all the federal characteristics of governance such as dual government system, division of powers between the three state organs, constitutional supremacy, independent judiciary and bicameralism.

Nevertheless, the Indian Constitution is unique in that it includes many unitary features such

as a strong centre, all India services common to the center and the states, emergency provisions,

appointment of governors by the president on the advice of the center, etc.

Federal System with Unitary Features

Features of Indian Constitution

Parliamentary form of Government

On the pattern of the British parliamentary system of government, the
Indian Constitution has opted for the parliamentary form of government.

In a Parliamentary form of government executive is part of the legislature and there is a collective responsibility of the council of ministers to the legislature, Rule of the majority party, Prime Minister's or chief minister's leadership in the state, Lower house dissolution (Lok Sabha and state assemblies), Government form of the Cabinet

In the United States of America, there is 2 tier judicial system. But in India, there is a single integrated system of judiciary where the Supreme Court is the supreme authority to make decisions.

because of the following provisions it is also independent-

Appointment of judges of Supreme Court and High Courts by collegium system

Removal of judges in Parliament through an impeachment procedure that is

very difficult to pass

Supreme Court judges' salaries, pensions, and allowances are charged to

India's Consolidated Fund

. Power to punish for self – disregard

Independent as Well As Integrated Judicial System

Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy

-The Indian Constitution has a proper balance between Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review vide Articles 13, 32 and 136.

Thus, it can cancel any Parliamentary law as unconstitutional. On the other hand, the Parliament has the authority to make laws and also amend the major portion of the Constitution vide Article 368.

The Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV of the Constitution intends to

make India a welfare state.

Dr. B R Ambedkar has called Directive Principles as the 'Novel Feature' of
Indian constitution.

These are very fundamental aspects for any country's governance.

The Principles of the Directive are inherently unjustifiable, that is, they are not enforceable for their violation by the courts.

Directive Principles of State Policy

India has a single Constitution for Union and all the States. The Constitution promotes the unity and convergence of the ideals of nationalism.

-Single Constitution empowers only the Parliament of India to make changes in the Constitution.

It empowers the Parliament even to create a new state or abolish an existing state or alter its boundaries.

Single Constitution for both Union and States

Features of Indian Constitution

Single Citizenship

The Indian constitution provides a single citizenship for all the people residing different parts of the country and there is no separate citizenship for the states (Article 5–11).

No state in India can discriminate against an individual of another state.

Emergency Provisions

-The constitution vests extraordinary powers, known as Emergency Powers in the President during emergencies out of armed rebellion or external aggression or due to failure of constitutional machinery in the state (Article 352–360).

The President is empowered to take certain steps to tackle any extraordinary situation to maintain the sovereignty, security, unity, and integrity of the nation

The states become totally subordinate to the Central Government when an emergency is imposed.