



Unitary feature in India

Emergency Provisions

The President of India can declare three different types of emergency rules under Articles 352, 356 and 360 for an act of foreign aggression or internal armed rebellion, failure of constitutional machinery in a State and financial emergency respectively.

During an emergency, the Central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre.

It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution.

This kind of transformation is not found in any other federation.

Single Citizenship

In India, only single citizenship is available to citizens. They cannot be citizens of the state as well.

All citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same rights all over the country.

This helps in increasing the feeling of nationality as it forges unity amidst regional and cultural differences.

The other federal states like US, Switzerland and Australia have dual citizenship, that is, national citizenship as well as state citizenship.

Flexibility of the Constitution

The constitution is a blend of flexibility and rigidity.

The process of constitutional amendment is less rigid than what is found in other federations.

The bulk of the Constitution can be amended by the unilateral action of the Parliament, either by simple majority or by special majority.

Further, the power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies only with the Centre.

Integrated Judiciary

The Indian Constitution has established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the state high courts below it.

The civil and the criminal laws are codified and are applicable to the entire country.

To ensure their uniformity, they are placed in the Concurrent List.



