

**NATURE AND  
CHARACTERISTICS OF  
INDIAN CONSTITUTION**



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The Indian Constitution is known for its unique nature and characteristics, which make it distinct and significant. Here are 20 key features of the Indian Constitution along with explanations:

**Lengthy and Detailed:** The Indian Constitution is one of the longest and most detailed in the world, consisting of a preamble and 470 articles.

**Explanation:** This length reflects the comprehensive nature of the constitution, covering various aspects of governance and society.

**Federal System:** India has a federal system of government where power is divided between the central government and states.

**Explanation:** This division allows both levels of government to have defined powers, fostering cooperation and autonomy.

**Parliamentary Democracy:** India follows a parliamentary system of government, where the executive branch is accountable to the legislature.

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**Explanation:** This system ensures checks and balances in governance and promotes accountability.

**Secular State:** The Indian Constitution guarantees secularism, ensuring that the state remains neutral in matters of religion.

**Explanation:** This feature safeguards religious freedom and prevents discrimination based on religion.

**Written Constitution:** The Indian Constitution is a written document, with its provisions codified in a single document.

**Explanation:** This written form provides clarity and accessibility for citizens and institutions.

**Rigid and Flexible:** It combines rigidity with flexibility, as certain provisions require special procedures to amend, while others can be amended more easily.

**Explanation:** This balance maintains the stability of the Constitution while allowing necessary adaptations.

**Single Citizenship:** India has a single citizenship, which means that every citizen is a citizen of India and not of individual states.

**Explanation:** This promotes national unity and eliminates discrimination based on state of residence.

**Fundamental Rights:** The Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, including right to equality, freedom of speech, and protection from discrimination.

**Explanation:** These rights protect individual liberties and ensure justice and equality for all.

**Directive Principles of State Policy:** The Constitution includes Directive Principles that guide the government in formulating policies for socioeconomic justice.

**Explanation:** These principles emphasize the state's role in promoting the welfare of citizens and a just society.

**Independent Judiciary:** The Constitution establishes an independent judiciary to interpret and uphold the law.

**Explanation:** An independent judiciary safeguards the rights of citizens and ensures justice.

**Universal Adult Suffrage:** Every citizen who is 18 years or older has the right to vote in elections.

**Explanation:** This feature ensures democratic representation and equal participation of all citizens.

**Social Justice:** The Constitution emphasizes social justice and inclusivity to address historical inequalities.

**Explanation:** This commitment promotes equity and uplifts marginalized sections of society.

**Rule of Law:** The Constitution establishes the supremacy of the rule of law.

**Explanation:** This ensures that no one, including the government, is above the law.

**Bicameral Parliament:** India's Parliament consists of two houses, the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

**Explanation:** This provides for a system of checks and balances and represents the diversity of the nation.

**Independent Bodies:** The Constitution establishes independent bodies like the Election Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

**Explanation:** These bodies ensure fair elections and financial accountability.

**Special Provisions:** The Constitution includes special provisions for certain states like Jammu and Kashmir and tribal areas.

**Explanation:** These provisions respect the unique circumstances of these regions.

**Emergency Provisions:** The Constitution allows for the declaration of a state of emergency in times of crisis.

**Explanation:** This ensures the government's ability to respond to extraordinary situations while maintaining democratic principles.

**Amendment Procedure:** The Constitution provides a clear procedure for amending its provisions.

**Explanation:** This maintains the stability of the Constitution while allowing for necessary changes.

**Separation of Powers:** The Constitution separates the powers of the executive, legislature, and judiciary.

**Explanation:** This separation ensures the functioning of each branch independently and avoids concentration of power.

**Preamble:** The Preamble to the Constitution reflects its guiding principles, including justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

**Explanation:** The Preamble encapsulates the spirit and objectives of the Constitution, serving as its soul and essence.

These characteristics make the Indian Constitution a unique and robust framework for governance, reflecting the aspirations and values of a diverse and democratic nation.

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