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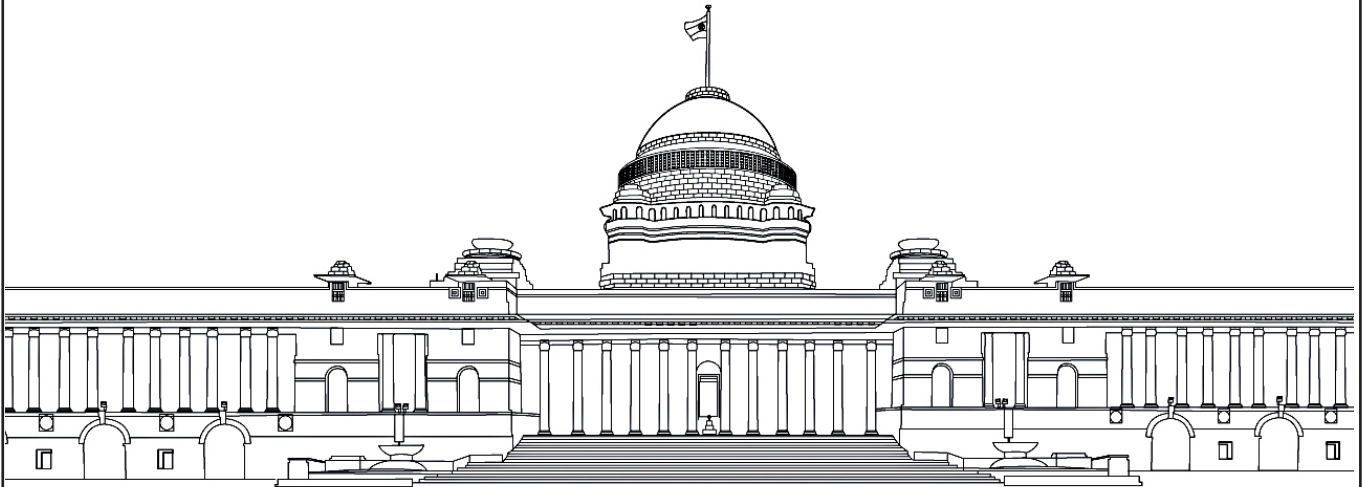
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INDIAN POLITY



Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & DEMAND FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

The Constitution of India, adopted on **26 November 1949** and brought into full operation on **26 January 1950**, stands as the **longest written constitution in the world**. The framers took immense care in shaping this monumental document. Before drafting, they carried out a thorough examination of the **Constitutions of numerous countries** as well as the operational details of the **Government of India Act, 1935**, which had governed British India. While drawing inspiration from several global sources, they also retained provisions of functional value from the 1935 Act, modifying them to suit India's socio-political conditions.

From the very beginning, it must be acknowledged that a considerable number of the original provisions of the Constitution, as they existed in 1949–50, have undergone significant changes through numerous Constitutional Amendments. Some of the most transformative amendments include the **7th, 42nd, 44th, 73rd, 74th, 97th, and 101st Amendment Acts**. Among these, the **42nd Amendment Act of 1976** is often referred to as a **"Mini-Constitution"** due to the extensive number of structural and ideological changes it brought to various parts of the Constitution.

1. The Longest Written Constitution in the World

Constitutions across the world can broadly be classified into **written** and **unwritten** categories. While countries like the **United States** have a written constitution, nations such as the **United Kingdom** follow an unwritten constitution based on conventions and statutes. Among all written constitutions, the **Constitution of India is the longest and most comprehensive**.

Original Framework

◆ At the time of enactment, the Constitution contained:

395 Articles, 22 Parts, 9 Schedules Over the decades, through amendments, the Constitution has **expanded and evolved**. Today, it comprises: **470 Articles, 25 Parts, 12 Schedules** This expansion occurred due to changes in governance needs, judicial interpretations, political developments, and the desire to incorporate emerging socio-economic realities.

◆ Changes Through Amendments (Detailed)

The numerous amendments have: Added nearly 95 new Articles, Deleted about 20 Articles, Removed an entire Part (Part VII), Introduced new Parts and Schedules

◆ New Parts Added Over Time:

Part	Amendment	Subject
Part IVA	42nd	Fundamental Duties
Part IX	73	Panchayats
Part IXA	74th	Municipalities
Part IXB	97th	Co-operative Societies
Part XIVA	42nd	Tribunals

◆ **New Schedules Added :**

Schedule	Amendment	Subject
9 th	1 st	Land reforms
10 th	52 nd	Anti-defection law
11 th	73 rd	Panchayat Raj subjects
12 th	74 th	Municipalities

◆ **Why is the Indian Constitution so lengthy? (Detailed reasons)**

India's vast geographical expanse and deep social diversity : To accommodate different religions, castes, tribes, languages, customs, and cultural practices, the Constitution needed to incorporate special provisions ensuring inclusivity and national unity.

Influence of the Government of India Act, 1935 : The 1935 Act contained elaborate administrative details, many of which were adopted—sometimes with modifications—into the Constitution.

Single Constitution for the Union and States : Unlike countries such as the USA, where states have their own constitutions, India opted for a **single, unified Constitution** for both the Centre and the States, naturally making it more extensive.

Special Provisions for Certain States : Articles 371 to 371J provide distinct arrangements for several states, especially due to historical, cultural, and developmental considerations.

Special Status of Jammu kashmir (before 2019): Under **Article 370**, Jammu & Kashmir had a separate constitution and significant autonomy. However, in **2019**, through **The Constitutional (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019**, this special status was withdrawn. This order replaced the 1954 Presidential Order, and the entire Constitution of India now applies to J & K and Ladakh.

◆ **Time Taken by the Framers of Major World Constitutions :**

Country	Articles	Time Taken
USA	7	Less than 4 months
Canada	147	2 years 6 months
Australia	128	About 9 years
South Africa	153	Around 1 year

○ Compared to these examples, the Indian drafting process—spanning 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days—was relatively moderate, yet the output was far more exhaustive and detailed.

2. A Unique Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility :

One of the distinctive characteristics of the Indian Constitution is its balanced combination of rigidity and flexibility. It is neither as rigid as the American Constitution nor as flexible as the British Constitution. This blend enables India to maintain constitutional stability while also responding effectively to socio-political needs and changing circumstances.

◆ **Rigid Features :**

- Certain provisions of the Constitution—particularly those concerning the **federal structure, judiciary, distribution of powers, and Fundamental Rights**—can be amended only through a **special procedure laid down in Article 368**, which involves:
 - A **special majority** in both Houses of Parliament (i.e., a majority of the total membership plus a two-thirds majority of members present and voting), and
 - **Ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures** when the amendment relates to federal provisions.
 - This ensures that key pillars of the Constitution cannot be altered without broad national consensus.

◆ **Flexible Features :**

- At the same time, many provisions—especially those related to **citizenship, formation or renaming of states, salaries and allowances of constitutional authorities, and matters in the Union and State Lists**—can be amended by a **simple majority**, just like ordinary laws.
- This enables Parliament to address routine administrative and political needs quickly, without the burden of cumbersome procedures.

◆ **Purpose of the Blend :**

- This combination of rigidity and flexibility reflects the intention of the framers to ensure:
 - Stability of the constitutional structure
 - Adaptability to new challenges
 - Smooth political and administrative functioning
 - Balance between federalism and national unity
 - Thus, the Constitution remains a living, dynamic instrument capable of evolving with the times.

3. Drawn From Various Sources :

India’s Constitution is a remarkable document that draws from some of the world’s best constitutional models.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar proudly stated that the Indian Constitution was framed after “ransacking all known constitutions of the world.”

This comparative approach enabled the framers to:

Adopt proven principles of governance

Avoid errors experienced by other nations

Blend global ideas with Indian socio-political realities

◆ **Major Sources of the Constitution**

Country / Source	Borrowed Features
Government of India Act, 1935	Federal scheme, office of Governor, emergency provisions, administrative details, judiciary, Public Service Commissions (approx. 250 Articles similar)

Country / Source	Borrowed Features
USA	Fundamental rights, independence of judiciary, judicial review, impeachment of the president, removal of Supreme Court and high court judges and post of vicepresident.
Ireland	Directive Principles of State Policy, nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and method of election of president
UK	Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, legislative procedure, single citizenship, cabinet system, prerogative writs, parliamentary privileges and bicameralism.
Canada	Federation with a strong Centre, vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, appointment of state governors by the Centre, and advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
Australia	Concurrent List, freedom of trade, commerce and inter-course, and joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
Germany (Weimar Constitution)	AS
USSR (Russia)	Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble.
France	The ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity
Japan	Procedure establish by law
South African Constitution .	Procedure for amendment of the Constitution and election of members of Rajya Sabha

● **The Influence of the Government of India Act, 1935**

- ◆ The most extensive influence came from the **1935 Act**, which served as the administrative backbone of British rule.
- ◆ India had been operating under this Act for years, so the administrative machinery was familiar and functional. Hence, features like:
 - ◆ Federal structure
 - ◆ All-India Services
 - ◆ Emergency powers
- ◆ Provincial autonomy were largely adapted with modifications to fit a democratic republic. More than **half of India's Constitution** bears close resemblance to this Act, though its spirit is fundamentally democratic and Indian.

4. Parliamentary Form of Government :

The Constitution of India adopts the **British Parliamentary System**, also known as the **Westminster Model**, instead of the **American Presidential System**. This decision reflects India's historical familiarity with parliamentary institutions and the desire for a system based on **responsibility, accountability, and collective decision-making**.

◆ **Key Features of Indian Parliamentary System**

Nominal and Real Executive

The President is the **nominal executive** (constitutional head).

The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers constitute the **real executive**.

◆ **Majority Party Rule**

The political party or coalition that commands majority support in the Lok Sabha forms the government.

◆ **Collective Responsibility :**

The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. If the House passes a no-confidence motion, the entire Council must resign.

◆ **Individual Responsibility :**

Ministers are individually responsible for their respective ministries.

◆ **Executive Is Part of Legislature :**

Ministers must be or must become members of Parliament within six months.

◆ **Prime Minister as the Keystone :**

The PM provides leadership, coordinates government policies, and represents India domestically and internationally.

◆ **Dissolution of the Lower House :**

The Lok Sabha may be dissolved before its term ends, allowing fresh elections.

◆ **India vs. Britain — Important Differences**

The British Parliament is sovereign, whereas the Indian Parliament is limited by the Constitution, judicial review, and Fundamental Rights.

India has an elected President, whereas Britain has a hereditary monarch.

In both countries, however, the growing importance of the Prime Minister has led political scientists to call these systems “Prime Ministerial Governments.”

5. Federation with Strong Centralising Tendency :

Although the Constitution establishes a federal structure, it describes India as a “Union of States” (Article 1).

This expression is deliberate and signifies:

The federation is not a result of an agreement among states

States do not possess the right to secede

India’s federalism is unique and tilted towards strong national integration.

Federal Features :India exhibits classic federal characteristics such as:

Dual polity (Union and States)

Written Constitution with clear division of powers

Supremacy of the Constitution

Independent judiciary

Bicameral legislature (at the Centre)

Rigid amending process for federal provisions

Unitary / Centralising Features :

Despite its federal structure, the Constitution incorporates strong unitary elements:

Single Constitution for Union and States

Single citizenship

More powers with the Union

Emergency provisions that convert the federal structure into a unitary one

All-India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS) common to both Union and States

Strong role of the Governor as an agent of the Centre
Residuary powers with the Union Government (unlike the USA)

Nature of Indian Federalism :

Constitutional expert K.C. Wheare described Indian federalism as “quasi-federal”—a federation with a strong central bias necessary for maintaining unity, stability, and national integration.

6. Independent Judiciary:

The Constitution of India establishes an independent, impartial, and integrated judiciary, which is considered one of the strongest in the world. It is designed to act as the guardian of the Constitution, the protector of Fundamental Rights, and the arbiter of disputes—both between citizens and the State and among different levels of government.

India follows a single, integrated judicial system, unlike countries such as the USA, which have separate federal and state courts. In India, the judiciary is structured in a hierarchical manner:

- Supreme Court at the apex
- High Courts at the state level
- Subordinate Courts, including District Courts, Magistrates’ Courts, and other lower courts

◆ **Role and Powers of Judiciary:**

Guardian of Fundamental Rights : The judiciary ensures that no law or executive action violates the Fundamental Rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution.

- ❖ Under **Article 32**, citizens can directly approach the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Under **Article 226**, they may approach their respective High Courts.

Judicial Review : Through Articles 13, 32, and 226, the courts can review the constitutionality of laws and strike them down if they violate the Constitution.

Landmark case: *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)* established the Basic Structure Doctrine, preventing Parliament from altering the core features of the Constitution.

Interpreter of the Constitution : The Supreme Court is the final interpreter of constitutional provisions, resolving ambiguities and guiding their implementation.

Defender of Federal Balance : The judiciary adjudicates disputes between the Union and States under Article 131, preserving India’s federal equilibrium.

◆ **Safeguards Ensuring Judicial Independence:**

India’s judiciary is protected from executive and legislative interference through:

Security of tenure (judges can be removed only through impeachment by Parliament)

Fixed service conditions not subject to executive discretion

Prohibition on discussing judicial conduct in Parliament (Art. 121)

Ban on legal practice after retirement for SC and HC judges

Power to punish for contempt (Art. 129 and 215)

Judicial independence is considered essential for maintaining the **rule of law**, the **constitutional order**, and **public confidence** in justice.

7. Fundamental Rights (Part III):

Fundamental Rights are the cornerstone of political democracy in India. They protect individuals from arbitrary state action and promote the ideals of liberty, equality, and dignity, serving as a bulwark against authoritarian tendencies.

◆ **Six Categories of Fundamental Rights**

Fundamental Right	Articles	Key Points
Right to Equality	14-18	Equality before law, abolition of untouchability & titles
Right to Freedom	19-22	Speech, assembly, movement, profession, protection in criminal laws
Right Against Exploitation	23-24	Prohibits trafficking, forced labour & child labour (under 14)
Right to Freedom of Religion	25-28	Freedom of conscience, religious practices, no taxes for religion
Cultural & Educational Rights	29-30	Rights of minorities to conserve culture & manage institutions
Right to Constitutional Remedies	32	Supreme Court can issue writs (heart & soul of Constitution)

◆ **Writs for Enforcing Fundamental Rights:**

The Supreme Court and High Courts may issue:

Habeas corpus – produce the detained person

Mandamus – perform legal duty

Prohibition – stop lower court from exceeding power

Certiorari – quash illegal orders of lower courts

Quo warranto – challenge the legality of holding public office

These are powerful tools ensuring accountability of the State.

◆ **Limitations and Restrictions:**

Fundamental Rights are not absolute. They are subject to:

Reasonable restrictions (e.g., public order, morality, national security)

Parliamentary amendments, provided they do not violate the Basic Structure

◆ **Suspension during National Emergency, except Articles 20 & 21**

Additional MPSC-Relevant Points:

Article 21 (Right to life and personal liberty) is the most interpreted Article; it includes rights such as privacy, livelihood, education (before 86th Amendment), clean environment, and legal aid.

Article 19(1)(a) – Freedom of Speech & Expression is central to democratic participation.

44th Amendment (1978) ensured Article 20 & 21 cannot be suspended even during Emergency.

Fundamental Rights collectively uphold **individual freedom**, **human dignity**, and the **democratic framework** of the Indian Republic.

8. Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) the “novel feature” of the Constitution. DPSPs serve as guidelines for governance, aiming to establish a welfare state based on social, economic, and political justice.

Though non-justiciable, they are fundamental to the governance of the country (Article 37). They impose a **moral and political obligation** on the State to implement them.

◆ **Classification of DPSPs**

○ **Socialist Principles** : Designed to promote social and economic justice.

Include:

- Right to livelihood
- Equal pay for equal work
- Prevention of concentration of wealth
- Worker participation in industries
- Provision of human conditions of work

○ **Gandhian Principles** :

Based on Gandhiji’s philosophy of village life and self-reliance:

- Promotion of Panchayati Raj
- Village industries
- Prohibition of intoxicating drinks
- Protection of cow and other milch-cattle

○ **Liberal-Intellectual Principles** :

Reflect the ideals of modern liberal democracies:

○ **Uniform Civil Code (Article 44)**

- Promotion of international peace
- Protection of monuments
- Environment protection
- Separation of judiciary from executive
- Relationship Between Fundamental Rights & DPSPs
- Initially, they were seen in conflict.
- Later, the Supreme Court recognized their complementary nature.

○ **Landmark cases:**

- Minerva Mills (1980): Balance between FRs and DPSPs is part of Basic Structure.
- Kesavananda Bharati (1973): FRs cannot destroy DPSPs and vice versa.

○ **MPSC-Important Legislations Implementing DPSPs**

- MGNREGA (Right to work)
- PDS and Food Security Act (Right to food)
- GST (Economic integration)
- 73rd/74th Amendments (Panchayati Raj)
- Environmental laws (Environment Protection Act, Air Act, Water Act)
- DPSPs guide India toward creating an egalitarian society, fulfilling the constitutional vision of justice and welfare.

9. Fundamental Duties (Part IVA)

Fundamental Duties were introduced by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, inspired by the Constitution of the USSR. They remind citizens that while the Constitution grants rights, it also expects responsible behavior from individuals. Originally 10 duties were added. Later, the 86th Amendment Act, 2002 added the 11th duty, requiring parents and guardians to provide educational opportunities to children aged 6 to 14 years.

◆ Important Features

Located in Part IVA, Article 51A

Non-justiciable, but legally enforceable through indirect mechanisms

Promote patriotism, discipline, environmental protection, and commitment to national unity

List of Fundamental **Duties (Expanded for MPSC Study)**

◆ Citizens must:

Respect the Constitution, National Flag, and National Anthem

Cherish the noble ideals of the freedom struggle

Uphold sovereignty and integrity of India

Defend the country when required

Promote harmony & renounce practices derogatory to women

Protect environment, forests, rivers, wildlife

Cultivate scientific temper

Safeguard public property

◆ Strive for excellence

Provide education to children (6–14)

◆ MPSC-Relevant Facts

Verma Committee (1999) recommended methods to implement duties.

Judiciary has used duties to justify environmental protection and curb vandalism.

Fundamental Duties help balance rights with responsibilities, strengthening civic culture and national unity.

10. Secular State

The Constitution of India firmly upholds the principle of **secularism**, meaning that the State does not identify with or promote any particular religion. Instead, it grants **equal respect, protection, and freedom** to all religions. This form of secularism is uniquely Indian, embracing **positive secularism**, which means the State can intervene to ensure equality and reform, unlike Western secularism, which maintains strict separation between State and religion.

◆ Constitutional Provisions Establishing Secularism

Preamble : The word “**Secular**” was explicitly inserted into the Preamble by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, reaffirming India’s commitment to religious neutrality.

Article 14 : Equality Before Law The State shall not deny equality before the law or equal protection of laws to any person.

Article 15 : No Discrimination The State shall not discriminate based on

religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

Article 16 : Equal Opportunity Provides equality in matters of public employment, without religious discrimination.

◆ **Articles 25–28 — Freedom of Religion**

Article 25 : Freedom of conscience and the right to profess, practice, and propagate religion

Article 26 : Right of religious denominations to manage religious affairs

Article 27 : No taxes for promotion of religion

Article 28 : No religious instruction in State-funded institutions

◆ **Articles 29–30 — Minority Rights Cultural and educational rights protect linguistic and religious minorities.**

Article 44 : Uniform Civil Code (Directive Principle) The State shall strive to enact a UCC to promote uniformity in personal laws.

● **Indian vs. Western Secularism**

Aspect	Indian Secularism	Western Secularism
Approach	Equal respect to all religions	Strict separation of church & state
Intervention	State can intervene for reform (e.g., Sabarimala, Triple Talaq)	State usually does not intervene
Nature	Positive	Negative

● **MPSC-Relevant Judgments**

◆ **S.r. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)** - Secularism declared a **Basic Structure** of the Constitution.

◆ **Aruna Roy case (2002)** — Teaching of religions academically is allowed; indoctrination is not.

◆ India’s secularism seeks harmony in a multi-religious society while ensuring constitutional supremacy.

11. Universal Adult Suffrage (Article 326)

Universal adult suffrage is one of the **boldest and most revolutionary** features of the Indian Constitution. Unlike many Western democracies that expanded voting rights gradually over centuries, India granted **universal adult franchise from the very beginning** of its republic.

◆ **Key Features**

Every citizen aged **18 years and above** has the right to vote in elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.

Originally, the voting age was **21**, but the **61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988** lowered it to **18**, empowering youth participation.

◆ **Significance**

Ensures political equality irrespective of caste, gender, religion, wealth, literacy, or social status.

Makes India the world’s largest democracy, with over 900 million eligible voters today.

Strengthens democratic participation and accountability of the government.

Reflects the framers’ deep faith in the maturity and wisdom of Indian citizens.

◆ **MPSC-Important Facts**

India’s universal franchise was called a “social revolution through the ballot box” (Granville Austin).

India became the first large developing country to implement universal suffrage at the moment of independence.

Conduct of elections is under the Election Commission of India (Article 324).

12. Single Citizenship

Unlike many federal countries like the USA, where dual citizenship (national and state-level) exists, India follows the principle of single citizenship, meaning every Indian is simply a **Citizen of India** — not of a specific state.

◆ **Rationale for Single Citizenship**

Promoting National Unity : Prevents regional or parochial loyalties from overshadowing national identity.

Equal Rights Across India : Every citizen enjoys the same civil and political rights across all states.

Reduces State-Based Discrimination : Avoids fragmentation based on residency or linguistic identity.

Facilitates Mobility : Citizens can move freely across states without discrimination in jobs, residence, or trade.

◆ **MPSC-Relevant Points**

Provided under Articles 5–11 (Part II: Citizenship).

There is no separate citizenship for J&K after the 2019 abrogation of Article 370.

Overseen by the Citizenship Act, 1955, amended several times (notably in 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2019).

13. Emergency Provisions

Emergency provisions are among the most critical components of the Constitution. They empower the President to respond effectively to threats to national security, constitutional order, and financial stability.

These provisions were inspired partly by the Weimar Constitution of Germany, which had similar emergency clauses.

◆ **Types of Emergencies**

Type	Grounds	Article (s)	Key Features
National Emergency	War, external aggression, armed rebellion	352	Centre becomes powerful; FRs restricted
State Emergency (President’s Rule)	Failure of constitutional machinery	356, 365	State govt dismissed; Centre takes control
Financial Emergency	Threat to financial stability	360	Salaries can be reduced; Centre controls finances

1. National Emergency (Article 352)

Can be proclaimed on grounds of : War

External aggression : Armed rebellion (term replaced “internal disturbance” by 44th Amendment)

Effects:

Union becomes all-powerful

Parliament gets authority to legislate on State subjects

Fundamental Rights under Article 19 automatically suspended

Other rights may be restricted

Term: Initially 6 months; can be extended indefinitely with 6-month renewals

National Emergencies in India:

1962–68 (China war)

1971–77 (Pakistan war)

1975–77 (Internal emergency declared by Indira Gandhi) — Highly controversial

44th Amendment (1978) added safeguards

Written advice of Cabinet mandatory

Lok Sabha can disapprove emergency by simple majority

Art. 20 & 21 cannot be suspended

2. President's Rule (Articles 356 & 365)

Imposed when the Governor reports failure of constitutional machinery in a state.

Effects:

State Council of Ministers dismissed

President assumes functions of State Government

Legislative powers **shift** to Parliament

MPSC-relevant case:

S.R. Bommai vs Union of India (1994): Misuse of **Article 356** restricted; subject to judicial review.

3. Financial Emergency (Article 360)

Never imposed in India so far.

Effects include:

President may issue directions on financial matters

Salaries of officials, including judges, may be reduced

Centre gains control over state finances

Nature of Indian Federalism During Emergencies

During an emergency, India temporarily transforms from a federal state to a unitary state without amendment, making this a unique constitutional feature.

14. Three-Tier Government

Originally, the Constitution established a dual polity—Union and State governments.

However, recognizing the importance of grassroots democracy, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (1992) added a third tier — Local Government.

1. 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) — Rural Local Government Added

◆ **Part IX, 11th Schedule (29 subjects)**

Key Features

○ Constitutional status to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**

- Gram Sabha as the foundation
- Three-tier structure:
- Gram Panchayat
- Panchayat Samiti
- Zilla Parishad
 - ◆ Reservation for SCs, STs, and 33% reservation for women (many states have 50%)
 - ◆ State Finance Commissions every 5 years
 - ◆ State Election Commissions for local polls
- ◆ **2. 74th Constitutional Amendment (1992) — Urban Local Government**
 - ◆ Added: Part IXA
 - ◆ 12th Schedule (18 subjects)
 - ◆ **Key Features:**
 - ◆ Urban local bodies such as Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, and Nagar Panchayats
 - ◆ Ward Committees in larger municipalities
 - ◆ Similar reservation and financial provisions as PRIs
 - ◆ **Importance**
 - ◆ These amendments transformed India into a true three-tier federal system, enabling decentralized planning and empowering local communities.

● **Critique of the Constitution :**

A. Borrowed Constitution

Many critics argue that the Constitution is not original but a “**bag of borrowings**”, heavily influenced by foreign constitutions. Sir Ivor Jennings even called it a “**lawyer’s paradise**” due to its complexity.

However: Dr. Ambedkar defended this approach, stating that modern constitutions cannot avoid similarities.

Granville Austin noted that India **adapted**, not copied, foreign provisions.

India’s Constitution blends global best practices with Indian needs, making it practical and modern.

B. Carbon Copy of the Government of India Act, 1935

Critics highlight that large portions of the Constitution resemble the Government of India Act, 1935.

- ◆ Examples : Federal structure
- ◆ Office of Governor
- ◆ Emergency provisions
- ◆ Public Service Commissions
- ◆ Administrative machinery

N. Srinivasan called it a “close copy,” while P.R. Deshmukh said it was “essentially the 1935 Act with adult franchise.”

Ambedkar justified this, stating that India already operated under the 1935 ad-

ministrative framework, so retaining it ensured continuity.

C. Un-Indian or Anti-Indian

Some members of the Constituent Assembly argued the Constitution lacked Indian ethos and was overly Westernized. K. Hanumanthaiya famously remarked: “We wanted the music of the Veena or the Sitar, but we have the music of an English band.”

Lokanath Misra called it a “slavish imitation of the West.”

Granville Austin dismissed these claims as “absurd,” arguing that values like liberty, equality, and fraternity are universal, not Western.

D. An Un-Gandhian Constitution

Critics argued the Constitution did not reflect Gandhian philosophy, particularly:

Village self-governance

Decentralized economy

Rural-centric democracy

T. Prakasam and others blamed Ambedkar’s ideological differences with Gandhi for its “un-Gandhian” nature.

However, the later addition of Parts IX and IXA (Panchayats and Municipalities) brought Gandhian ideas back into constitutional structure.

● **Ambedkar’s Warnings (Highly Important for MPSC)**

Dr. Ambedkar made several prophetic warnings during the Constituent Assembly debates:

1. Political Democracy Cannot Survive Without Social and Economic Democracy

- ❖ He warned that India was entering an “era of contradictions”:
- ❖ One man, one vote (political equality)
- ❖ Coexisting with massive social and economic inequalities
- ❖ Unless inequalities are removed, democracy will be endangered.

2. Avoid “Grammar of Anarchy”

- ❖ He urged Indians to abandon unconstitutional methods of protest once the Constitution came into force.

3. Danger of Hero-Worship

- ❖ Blind worship of leaders can destroy democracy.
- ❖ This was a sharp caution against authoritarianism.

4. Need for Constitutional Morality

- ❖ Citizens and leaders must respect the Constitution not just in letter, but in spirit.
- ❖ These warnings remain deeply relevant even today.

