

### TNPSC MAIN DESCRIPTIVE

Q. NO.

## Distinguished features of Constitution of India

As said by Ambedkar Indian Constitution is a product of ransacking all the constitutions present that time. Still it is unique in its content and spirit.

Salient features of the constitution:

1) Longest Constitution = Factors like geographical, historical, dominance of legal luminaries and a single constitution for the center and state made the constitution bulk. Even the original version itself had a preamble, 395 articles and 8 schedules.

2) Various sources = As said the drafting committee referred almost all the constitutions and used them which were suitable for us.

Structural part - Government of India Act, 1935

Philosophical part - Fundamental rights from USA  
DPSP from Ireland

Political part - largely from Britain

3) Blend of rigidity and flexibility = Unlike too rigid of the US constitution and too flexible of the British, ours is a synthesis of both.

Some parts are flexible, which can be amended like an ordinary law & some are rigid which requires a special procedure to amend - Art. 368.

4) Federal system Unitary bias = Our constitution has been praised as "bargaining federalism", "co-operative federalism", "quasi-federal", by various experts because of its nature.



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India has dual government, written constitution, independent judiciary which are found in a federal system but also has single citizenship, single constitution which are in unitary system. Thus we have a federation with centralising tendency.

5) Parliamentary system = Principle of co-operation and coordination is found between executive and legislative organs in our country.

6) Parliamentary sovereignty and judicial supremacy = Constitution makers used the doctrine of sovereignty and judicial supremacy to create a system where the judiciary can interpret the legislature's activities using constitution while the legislature can amend the same constitution without altering the basic structure.

7) Integrated and independent judiciary = Every judicial body is interconnected in our country and the Supreme Court stands at top in the network.

8) Fundamental rights, DPSP; Fundamental duties = With the history of our country the makers of <sup>the</sup> constitution kept these three parts in the constitution for political, social and economical democracy. And to remind the citizens that freedom comes with duties.

9) Secular state = Due to the plurality of the religions the constitution gives our country a best way to respect all of them equally.

10) Universal Adult Franchise = This reflects the national thinking of our freedom fighters. 1st constitutional amendment reduced voting age to 18 in 1958.



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- 11) Independent bodies = Constitution establishes some bodies like election commission, Union and state public service commissions..., as independent ones. This helps our country to be democratic, liberal and just.
- 12) Emergency provisions = These provisions are to be used to safeguard sovereignty, unity, integrity and security of the country. Art. 352, Art. 356, Art. 360 and A. 365 are some related to these provisions.
- 13) Three-tier government = The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution in 1992 transformed India into a 3-tier government. This was to decentralise the power.  
These features make our constitution to stand alone and also makes our country one of the biggest democracies in the world.