

### **1. DISCUSS THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.**

The Constitution of India which was drafted after years-long deliberation and debate by the people of sovereign India through their representatives in the Constituent Assembly of India and came into operation on 26 January, 2016. It contains the following salient features.

It is the lengthiest Constitution in the world. It originally contained 395 Articles, 22 Parts and 8 Schedules.

It's drawn from different sources. It incorporates the accumulated experience and characteristics of different Constitutions.

The Indian Constitution is partly rigid and partly flexible.

The Constitution provides for a Parliamentary system of Government both at the centre and state level where the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers as the head of the government have the mandate of the people.

The Constitution makes India a secular state. It states that there is no state or state-sponsored religion in India. Religious affairs are left to the conscience of the citizens subject to public order, decency, unity and integrity of the country.

The Indian Constitution combines the features of both the federal and unitary systems of Government. It contains certain typical federal features like dual government, a written constitution, independent judiciary, distribution power between centre and states. It also contains certain unitary features like strong centre, single citizenship, integrated judiciary, nation emergency, all India services et al. During national emergency the central government becomes almost omnipotent to administer the whole country.

The residuary power of legislation lies with the Parliament. It makes India a unitary country with certain federal features.

The Constitution contains an elaborate list of Fundamental Rights and Duties. Fundamental rights have been made inviolable by the constitution. Parliament does not have the power to abrogate or delete the part of the whole of Part III which contains fundamental rights.

The Constitution outlines certain Directive Principles of State Policy which the Government has to keep in mind while framing laws and formulating policies.

The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature at the centre consisting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The Constitution vests extraordinary powers in the President during emergencies.

It provides for an independent judiciary.

The Constitution introduces Universal Adult Franchise. It gives the right to vote to all citizens above 18 years of age without discrimination.

The Constitution provides for single citizenship.

The Constitution makes special provisions for Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, etc.

The Constitution draws its authority from the people and has been promulgated in the name of the people. This is evident from the Preamble which states "We the people of India .... do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution." After the commencement of the Constitution of India in 1950, it has been amended more than 100 times to cope with the changing political, social and economic ambiances in the country.