

the constitution seeks to strike a balance between individual liberty and social interests.

6. **Fundamental Duties**

The constitution also contains a list of 10 fundamental duties of the citizens.

These duties were added to the constitution by the 42nd amendment in 1976. These duties serve as constant reminders to the citizen that they have to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct.

7. **Directive Principles of State Policy.**

The constitution outlines certain Directive Principles of State Policy which the government has to keep in mind. While formulating any policy. These principles seek to provide social and economic basis for democracy and the establishment of a welfare state.

Unlike the Fundamental Rights, the Directive Principles of State Policy are non-Justice-able, which implies that no action can be brought against the state before a court of law for its failure to implement the Directive Principles. However, in actually the government has accorded due importance to the Directive Principles in the formation of its policies.

8. **Secular State.**

The constitution makes India a secular state. This means that there is no state religion and state is completely detached from religious dogmas.

It also implies that citizens are free to profess, practice and propagate any religion. However, freedom of religion is not absolute and the same can be regulated in the interest of the public.

9. **Independent Judiciary.**

The constitution provides an independent judiciary which ensures that the government is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

It acts as the guardian of the liberties and fundamental Rights of the citizen. It also determines the limits of the powers of the centre and the states.

10. **People as source of Authority.**

The constitution draws its authority from the people and has been promulgated in the name of the people. This is evident from the preamble with states. "We the people of India..... do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution".

11. **Universal Adult Franchise.**

The constitution introduces universal adult franchise and accords the right to vote to all citizens above 18 years of age without discrimination. However it makes reservation of seats for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes to provide them adequate representation.

12. **Emergency Powers.**

The constitution vests extraordinary powers in the President during emergencies arising out of armed rebellion or external aggression, emergency due to breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state and financial emergency where the credit of the country is threatened. In fact during emergency the federal constitution can virtually be converted into a unitary constitution.

13. **Single Citizenship.**

It provides single citizenship. All persons residing in different parts of the country are treated as Indian citizens and are entitled to the same rights of citizenship. There is no separate citizenship of different States.

14. **Bicameral Legislature.**

It provides a bicameral legislature at the centre consisting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The former contains representatives of the people, while the latter contains representatives of the States.

15. **Special Provisions for minorities.**

The constitution makes special provision for minorities, Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes etc. It not only reserves seat for them in the Parliament and state legislatures, but also grants them certain special rights and privileges.

16. **Panchayati Raj.**

The constitution provides constitutional basis to Panchayati Raj institution as well as Urban local bodies. This was achieved through the seventy-third and seventy-fourth amendment to the constitution carried out in December 1992.

Preamble.

1. The constitution of India is preceded by a preamble which outlines its aims and objectives.

It reads:

“We the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens:

Justice social, economic and political

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faiths and worship.