

Riyasat IAS Mentorship

Riyasat IAS
Mentorship

Secure Prelims Program 2026

English - हिंदी माध्यम

AN INITIATIVE UNDER **RIYASAT IAS MENTORSHIP**

*Shaping Potential
Into Performance*



Riyasat Ali Sir

IAS Mentor Since 2011

INTENSIVE & INTERATED

Prelims GS & CSAT PROGRAM

to Crack CSE 2026

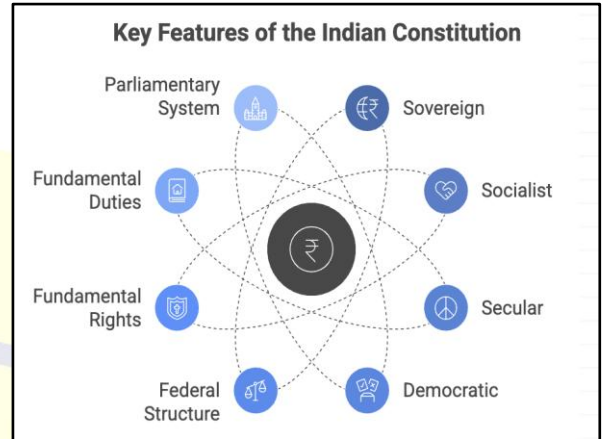
Secure Prelims Sample INDIAN POLITY Notes

More Information: 8090528260, 9319612575, 9266989092

INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Salient features of Constitution

- “Salient features” of Indian Constitution refer to its **core characteristics or distinguishing traits** – the elements that set it apart from the constitutions of other nations and make it unique. The Constitution is not merely a collection of legal provisions; it serves as the structural framework of India’s political, social, and economic life.
- A number of original features of the Constitution (as adopted in 1949) have undergone a substantial change. **42nd Amendment Act (1976)** is known as ‘**Mini Constitution**’.
- In **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, Supreme Court ruled that constituent power of Parliament under **Article 368** does not enable it to alter ‘**basic structure**’ of Constitution.



Salient features of the Constitution, as it stands today, are as follows

<p>1. Longthiest of all Written Constitution of world:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Constitution- American, Unwritten Constitution- British. <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <pre> graph LR A[Original Constitution] --> B[Preamble] A --> C[395 Articles] A --> D[8 Schedules] B --> E[Present Constitution] C --> E D --> E E --> F[Preamble] E --> G[470 Articles] E --> H[12 Schedules] </pre> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Constitution (1949): A Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules. • Presently (2019): A Preamble, 470 Articles (divided into 25 Parts) and 12 Schedules. • Factors contributed to the elephantine size of our Constitution are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographical factors ○ Historical factors, e.g., the influence of the Government of India Act of 1935 (bulky). ○ Single Constitution for both the Centre and the states ○ Dominance of legal luminaries in the Constituent Assembly
<p>2. Parliamentary Form of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary system- Based on principle of co-operation and co-ordination between the legislative and executive organs. It is also known as the ‘Westminster’ Model of Government, responsible Government and Cabinet

Riyasat IAS Mentorship

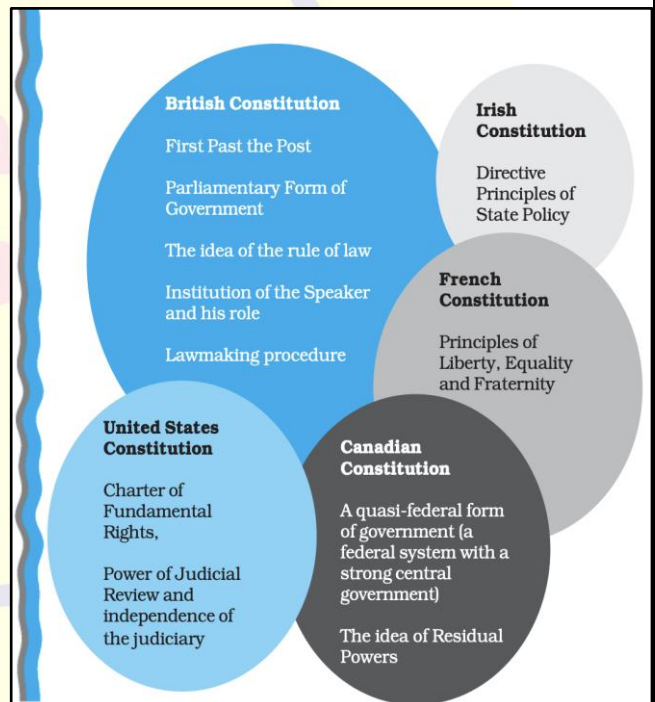
Government:

Government.

- **Presidential system-** Based on **doctrine of separation of powers** between the two organs.
- Features of parliamentary government in India are:
 - Presence of nominal and real executives
 - Majority party rule
 - Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature
 - Membership of the ministers in the legislature
 - Leadership of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister
 - Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly)
- Fundamental differences between the **Indian and British parliamentary system:**
 - The **Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body like the British Parliament.**
 - The Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has hereditary head (monarchy).

3. Drawn From Various Sources:

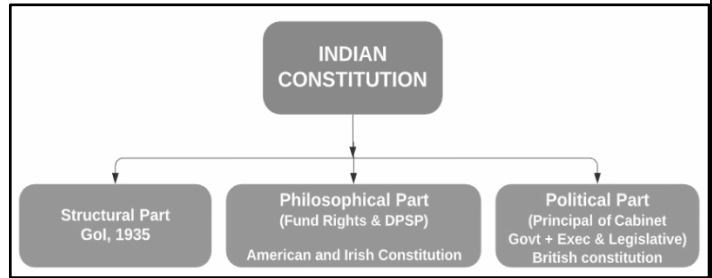
- **British Constitution-** Parliamentary form of Government, Rule of Law, Law making procedure, Single Citizenship, Institution of Speaker, Doctrine of pleasure tenure of civil servants.
- **American Constitution-** Judicial System, Fundamental Rights.
- **Canadian Constitutions-** The Federal system, union state relations and distribution of powers between the union and the state.
- **Irish Constitution:** Directive Principles, Elections of the President of India.
- **Australian Constitution-** Concurrent list, Freedom of Trade and Service within Country.
- **German (Weimar) Constitution-** Emergency Provision.



- **Soviet Constitution-** Five Year Plans, Fundamental Duties.

- **South African Constitution-** Amendment of Constitution.

- **Government of India Act, 1935-** The Federal Scheme, Judiciary, Governors, Emergency Powers, the Public Service Commissions.



4. Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility:

- **Rigid Constitution-** One that requires a special procedure for its amendment, **Ex- American Constitution.**

- **Flexible Constitution-** One that can be amended in the same manner as the ordinary laws are made, **Ex- the British Constitution.**

- Constitution of India is neither rigid nor flexible, but a synthesis of both.

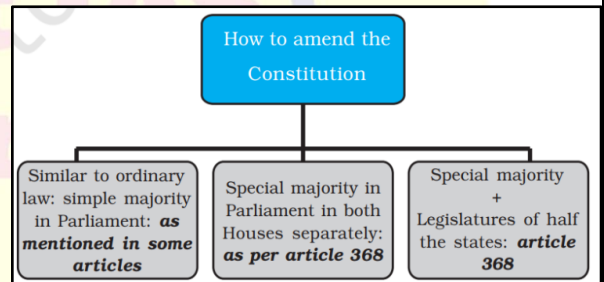
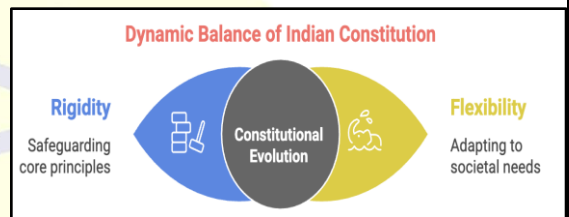
- **Article 368** provides for **two types of amendments:**

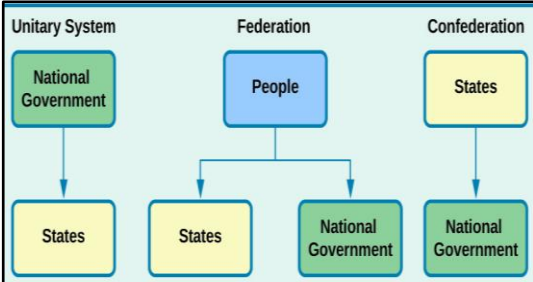
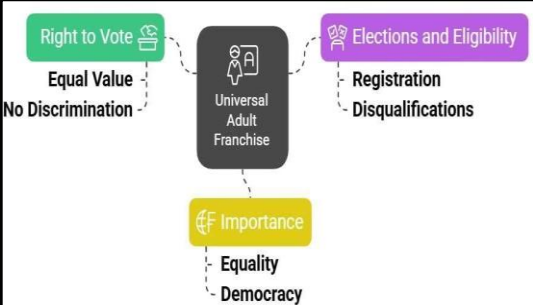
- **Some provisions:** A **special majority** of the Parliament, i.e., a two-third majority of the

members of each House present and voting, and a majority of the total membership of each House. **Ex-Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy etc**

- **Some other provisions:** A special majority of the Parliament and with the ratification by half of the total states. **Ex-Election of the President and its manner, Supreme Court and high courts.**

- Some provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a **simple majority** of the Parliament in the manner of ordinary legislative process. These amendments do **not come under Article 368.** **Ex- Admission or establishment of new states, Second Schedule, Rules of procedure in Parliament, Use of official language**



5. Federal System with Unitary Bias:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal features: Dual Government, Division of powers, written Constitution, Supremacy of Constitution, Rigidity of Constitution, Independent Judiciary and Bicameralism. • Unitary or non-federal features: A strong Centre, Single Constitution, Single Citizenship, Flexibility of Constitution, Integrated judiciary, Appointment of State Governor by the Centre, All-India services, Emergency Provisions. • Term 'Federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. • Article 1- India as a 'Union of States', implies two things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indian Federation is not the result of an agreement among the states. ○ No state has right to secede from federation. 	
6. Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine of sovereignty of Parliament- Associated with the British Parliament. • Principle of judicial supremacy- With that of the American Supreme Court. • The scope of judicial review power of the Supreme Court in India is narrower than that of what exists in US, because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Constitution- Provides for 'due process of law' ○ Indian Constitution (Article 21)- 'procedure established by law' 	
7. Universal Adult Franchise:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Constitution adopts universal adult franchise as a basis of elections to Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies. • Every citizen who is not less than 18 years of age has a right to vote without any discrimination of caste, race, religion, sex, literacy, wealth and so on. • Voting age was reduced to 18 years from 21 years in 1989 by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988. 	
8. A Secular State:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official religion of Indian State: Constitution of India does not uphold any particular religion as official religion • Following provisions of Constitution reveal secular character of Indian State: • Term 'secular'- Added to Preamble by 42nd C.A.A of 1976. • Preamble: Secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship. • Article 14: State shall not deny to any person equality before law or equal 	

protection of laws.

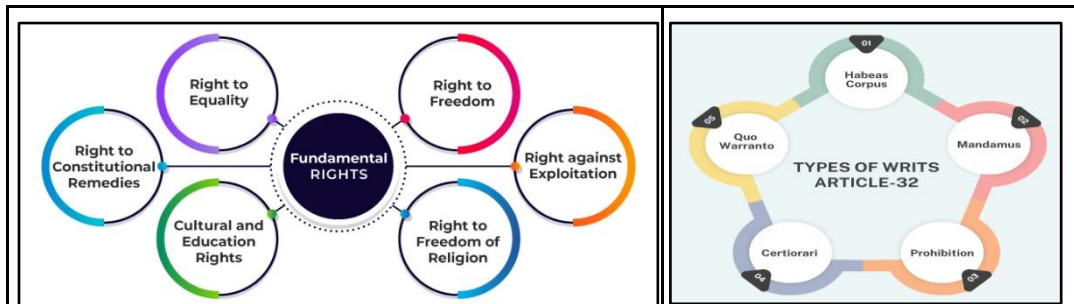
- **Article 15:** State shall **not discriminate** against any citizen on the ground of religion.
- **Article 16:** **Equality of opportunity** for all citizens in matters of public employment.
- **Article 25:** All persons are equally entitled to **freedom of conscience** and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion.
- **Article 26:** Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs.
- **Article 27:** No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of a particular religion.
- **Article 28:** No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution maintained by the State.
- **Article 29:** Any section of the citizens shall have the right to conserve its distinct language, script or culture.
- **Article 30:** All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- **Article 44:** The State shall endeavour to secure for all the citizens a Uniform Civil Code.
- **Western concept of secularism** connotes a **complete separation** between the religion (the church) and the state (the politics).
- **Indian Constitution** embodies the **positive concept of secularism**, i.e., giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.
- Constitution has also **abolished** old system of **communal representation**, that is, reservation of seats in the legislatures on the basis of religion.

Concept of Secularism:



9. Fundamental Rights (F. Rs):

- Part III of Indian Constitution guarantees six fundamental rights to all citizens:

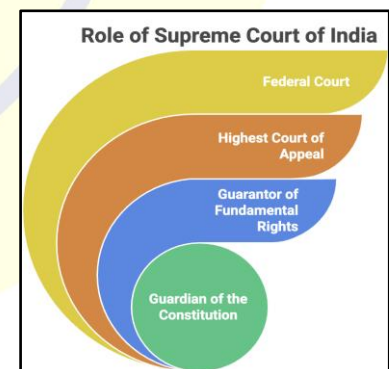
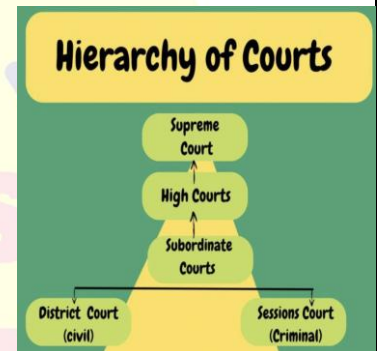


Fundamental Rights:

- Promote idea of **political democracy**.
- Operate as limitations on tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature.
- **Justiciable** in nature, that is, they are **enforceable** by courts for their violation.
- The aggrieved person can directly go to Supreme Court which can issue writs of **habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto** for the restoration of his rights.
- F. Rs are **not absolute** and subject to reasonable restrictions.
- They are **not sacrosanct** and can be curtailed or repealed by the Parliament through a Constitutional Amendment Act.
- They can also be **suspended** during the operation of a **National Emergency** **except** the rights guaranteed by **Articles 20 and 21**.

10. Integrated and Independent Judiciary:

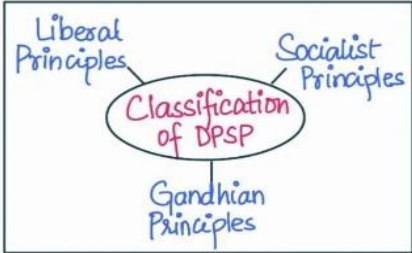
- **Supreme Court**- At the top of the integrated judicial system.
- **High courts**- State level.
- **Subordinate courts**- District courts and other lower courts.
- This **single system of courts** enforces both the central laws as well as the state laws, unlike in USA (federal laws by the federal judiciary, state laws by the state judiciary)
- The Constitution has made various provisions to ensure its **independence**—
 - Security of tenure of the judges,
 - Fixed service conditions for the judges,
 - All the expenses of the Supreme Court charged on the Consolidated Fund of India,
 - Prohibition on discussion on the conduct of judges in the legislatures, ban on practice after retirement,
 - Power to punish for its contempt vested in the Supreme Court,
 - Separation of the judiciary from the executive, and so on.




Riyasat IAS Mentorship

11. Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV):


- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**- DPSP is a 'novel feature' of the Indian Constitution.
- 3 broad categories of DPSP—**Socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.**
- Promoting ideal of **social and economic democracy** and seek to establish a 'welfare state' in India.
- Unlike F.Rs, the directives are **non-justiciable** in nature, that is, they are **not enforceable** by the courts for their violation.
- Constitution declares that it shall be duty of state to apply these principles in making laws'. Hence, they impose a **moral obligation** on state authorities for their application.
- Supreme Court in **Minerva Mills case (1980)**- 'Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of **balance between Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles**'.




Minerva Mills case (1980): Balance constitutional principles



Fundamental Rights
Protect individual liberties





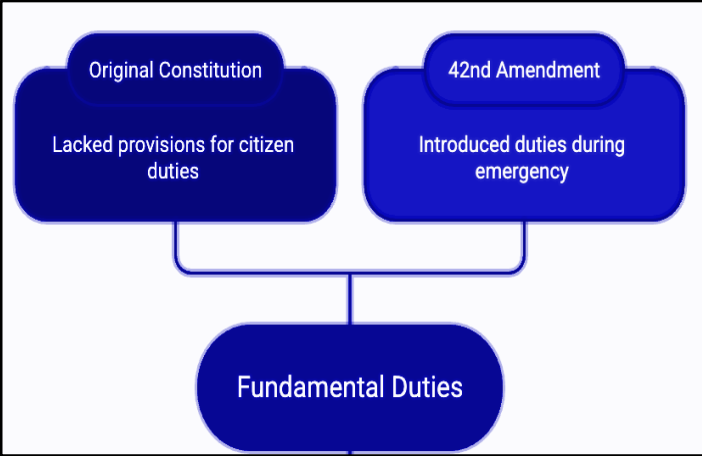
Directive Principles
Promote social welfare

12. Single Citizenship:

- Indian Constitution provides for **only a single citizenship.**
- In USA, each person is not only a citizen of USA, but also a citizen of the particular state to which he belongs.
- In India, all citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same political and civil rights of citizenship.

13. Fundamental Duties:

1. **Original constitution:** No Provision of Fundamental Duties of citizens.
2. 10 fundamental duties added during internal emergency (1975–77) by **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act** of 1976 on recommendation of **Swaran Singh Committee.**
3. **86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002** added one more fundamental

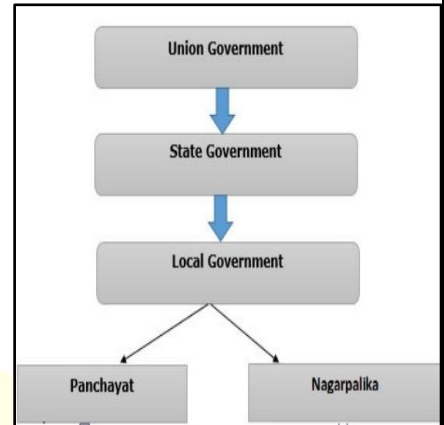


	<p>duty. It added a fundamental duty for parents to provide educational opportunities for their children aged 6 to 14</p> <p>4. Part IV-A of Constitution (Article 51-A) specifies eleven Fundamental Duties.</p> <p>5. Like Directive Principles, duties are also non justiciable in nature.</p>																												
<p>14. Co-operative Societies:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to co-operative societies. • It made following three changes in Constitution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 19: Right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right. ○ Article 43-B: It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on promotion of co-operative societies. ○ Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT: It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled as “The Cooperative Societies”. • New Part IX-B empowers Parliament in respect of multi-state cooperative societies and state legislatures in respect of other co-operative societies to make the appropriate law. • Article 19(1)(c) of Indian Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to form associations or unions for any lawful purpose. 																												
<p>15. Emergency Provisions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution envisages three types of emergencies: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;"> <th></th> <th>National Emergency</th> <th>Constitutional Emergency</th> <th>Financial Emergency</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Article</td> <td>352</td> <td>356</td> <td>360</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Grounds of Declaration</td> <td>National Emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • External Aggression • Armed rebellion </td> <td>State Emergency or President's Rule Failure of constitutional machinery of the state</td> <td>Financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory threatened</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Condition</td> <td>Written recommendation of the Cabinet (Mandatory after 44th amendment 1978)</td> <td>Report from the Governor of the state (Not mandatory)</td> <td>Satisfaction of the President</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Role of the Parliament</td> <td>To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with special majority in <= 1 month. Simple majority before 1978 (44th amendment)</td> <td>To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.</td> <td>To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Maximum Duration</td> <td>Infinite</td> <td>Maximum period is 3 years</td> <td>Infinite</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white;">Revocation</td> <td>President can revoke on his/her own OR Lok Sabha passes a resolution to discontinue</td> <td>By President Only</td> <td>By President Only</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During an emergency, Central Government becomes all- powerful and states go into total control of the Centre. • It converts federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. 		National Emergency	Constitutional Emergency	Financial Emergency	Article	352	356	360	Grounds of Declaration	National Emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • External Aggression • Armed rebellion 	State Emergency or President's Rule Failure of constitutional machinery of the state	Financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory threatened	Condition	Written recommendation of the Cabinet (Mandatory after 44th amendment 1978)	Report from the Governor of the state (Not mandatory)	Satisfaction of the President	Role of the Parliament	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with special majority in <= 1 month. Simple majority before 1978 (44th amendment)	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.	Maximum Duration	Infinite	Maximum period is 3 years	Infinite	Revocation	President can revoke on his/her own OR Lok Sabha passes a resolution to discontinue	By President Only	By President Only
	National Emergency	Constitutional Emergency	Financial Emergency																										
Article	352	356	360																										
Grounds of Declaration	National Emergency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • External Aggression • Armed rebellion 	State Emergency or President's Rule Failure of constitutional machinery of the state	Financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory threatened																										
Condition	Written recommendation of the Cabinet (Mandatory after 44th amendment 1978)	Report from the Governor of the state (Not mandatory)	Satisfaction of the President																										
Role of the Parliament	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with special majority in <= 1 month. Simple majority before 1978 (44th amendment)	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.	To be passed by both Houses of the parliament with simple majority in <= 2 month.																										
Maximum Duration	Infinite	Maximum period is 3 years	Infinite																										
Revocation	President can revoke on his/her own OR Lok Sabha passes a resolution to discontinue	By President Only	By President Only																										
<p>16. Three-tier Government:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally, Indian Constitution, provided for a dual polity and contained 																												

Riyasat IAS Mentorship

provisions with regard to organisation and powers of Centre and the states.

- Later, **73rd and 74th** Constitutional Amendment Acts (1992) have added a **third-tier** of Government (i.e., local) which is not found in any other Constitution of world.
 - **73rd Amendment Act of 1992: Constitutional recognition to panchayats** (rural local governments) by adding a **new Part IX** and a **new Schedule 11** to the Constitution.
 - **74th Amendment Act of 1992: Constitutional recognition to municipalities** (urban local governments) by adding a **new Part IX-A** Constitution.



17. Independent Bodies:

- Independent Bodies are envisaged by Constitution as **bulkworks of democratic system** of Government in India.

These are:

Election Commission: To ensure free and fair elections to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parliament, ○ State legislatures, ○ Office of President of India and ○ office of Vice-president of India. 	Union Public Service Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To conduct examinations all-India services and ○ higher Central services and ○ To advise President on disciplinary matters. 	Comptroller and Auditor-General of India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To audit accounts of Central and ○ State governments. ○ He acts as guardian of public purse.
---	---	--

Criticism of Constitution

- **A Borrowed Constitution:** The critics opined that the Indian Constitution contains nothing new and original.
- **A Carbon Copy of the 1935 Act:** Included a large number of the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935.

Riyasat IAS Mentorship

- **Un-Indian or Anti-Indian:** Not reflect the political traditions and the spirit of India.
- **An Un-Gandhian Constitution:** Not contain the philosophy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Elephantine Size:** Too bulky and too detailed and contains some unnecessary elements.
- **Paradise of the Lawyers:** Too legalistic and very complicated.

"One likes to ask whether there can be anything new in a constitution framed at this hour in the history of the world... The only new thing, if there can be any, in a constitution framed so late in the day are the variations, made to remove the failures and accommodate it to the needs of the country."



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Riyasat IAS Mentorship