Salient Features of the Constitution

1. Lengthiest Written Constitution (Articles 465, 25 Parts, 12 Schedules) – Geography, History, both for centre and states, legal luminaries in the constituent assembly - The British Constitution can be found in a variety of documents.

2. Drawn from various sources – borrowed – H.WORK

3. Blend of Rigidity (Special procedure for Amendment) & Flexibility (ordinary)
Salient Features of the Constitution

4. Federal System (1 + Many) with Unitary Bias (Many as 1)

Federal

Two governments, Division of power, Written Constitution, Supremacy of the Constitution, Rigidity of the Constitution, Independent Judiciary, Bicameralism

Unitary


Parliamentary Form in India (Centre & States ) – Parliament not sovereign

Nominal & real executives, Majority party rule, Collective responsibility of the executive to legislature, Membership of the ministers in the legislature, Leadership of P.M or C.M, Dissolution of the lower house
Salient Features of the Constitution

6. Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty (UK) and Judicial Supremacy (US)


7. Integrated and Independent Judiciary
Salient Features of the Constitution

8. Fundamental Rights – Not absolute & Not Sacrosanct
10. Fundamental Duties
11. A. Secular
12. Universal Adult Franchise
13. Single Citizenship
14. Independent Bodies- Election Commission, Comptroller & Auditor General of India, UPSC & SPSCs – security of tenure, fixed service conditions, expenses charged on the Consolidated Fund of India…
16. Three-tier government
Preamble – Introduction/Preface

• Objective Resolution – Nehru
• Nature of Indian State:
  ✓ Sovereign
  ✓ Socialist [42nd AA in 1976, Democratic Socialism; blend of Marxism & Gandhism]
  ✓ Secular [42nd AA in 1976, Positive Secularism]
  ✓ Democratic: Doctrine of popular sovereignty [A referendum is a vote by all enrolled electors on a single political question question ex: On 2014 people in Scotland voted in a Referendum to remain in the United Kingdom, plebiscite The direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the policy]
  ✓ Republic: Elected Head of State /Political Sovereignty in the people – Up to 1956, Pakistan was British dominion.
Preamble – Introduction/Preface

Objectives:

✓ Justice: Social, Economic, Political – FRs, DPSP
✓ Liberty: Thought, Expression, Belief, Faith, Worship – FRs
✓ Equality : FRs, DPSP, Art. 325 & 326 [Elections]
✓ Fraternity: Single Citizenship, FDs, ‘Union of States’

Preamble part or not of the Constitution? - Supreme Court

1960 – Berubari Union Case – NOT
1973 – Kesavananda Bharathi Case – Part, Amendable
1995 – LIC of India case – Part
Union and its Territory

- Art 1: India, that is Bharat – a Union of states
- UTs: 7
- Art 3: Internal readjustment of states – two conditions & 1 Note
  1. Prior recommendation of president
  2. Concern of concerned state legislature but, Not binding

Note: Art 2 & 3 not consider as amendment except cession to foreign State
Art 1 to 4: Union and its Territory

- Evolution of states & UTs
- Integration of Princely States – Hyderabad (police action), Junagadh (referendum) & Kashmir (instrument of accession)
- Demand for states on linguistic basis

1948 – GoI appointed SK Dhar – administrative convenience
1948 – Congress appointed JVP – reject language
Death of Potti Sriramalu on hunger stirke – 1953 Andhra created
1953 – AKP – accepted linguistics states – States Re-organisation Act, 1956 – 14 states & 6 UT
1960 – Bombay – MH & GJ
1963 – NL
1966 – PJ & HY
1972 – MA, T, ME
1975 – SK – 36th AA
1987 – MI, ARP, GO
2000 – CH, UT, JH
Art : 5 to 11 : Citizenship - Single Citizenship

- Citizens - Full members of Indian State and owe allegiance
- Constitutional provisions: Art 5 to 11, but not elaborate provisions
- Citizenship Act, 1955...Amended many times
- Indian Constitution does not restrict eligibility to the top constitutional offices of President and Vice-President to natural-born citizens. There is also no question of placing any such restriction on eligibility to become a Minister or Prime Minister or Chief Minister.

- Who is a refugee? A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they have suffered human rights abuses or because of who they are or what they believe in. Their own government cannot or will not protect them and so they are forced to seek international protection.
- Who is an asylum seeker? An asylum-seeker is someone who has left their country in search of international protection, but is yet to be recognized as a refugee.
Acquisition of Citizenship

✓ By birth but not diplomats children
✓ By descent – born outside and either of parents Indian citizen but, registration with consulate/embassy
✓ By registration – to person like a person married to a citizen of India, resided in India for some years…Oath
✓ By naturalization – to any person with some conditions [the applicant is not a citizen of a country that denies citizenship for Indians, renounce his/her citizenship, adequate knowledge of a language specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution] & distinguished person of science, philosophy, art, literature, world peace & human progress …Oath
✓ By incorporation of territory
Mrs. Sonia

- 1968, the year she married Rajiv Gandhi
- she surrendered her Italian passport on 1983 [thereby relinquishing her Italian citizenship]
- 1983 chose to acquire Indian citizenship – for citizenship by registration - only people of Indian origin, if they had resided in India for six months before the date of their application, qualified - So, by naturalisation as provided for under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955: enables any person not born in India or having Indian parents to become an Indian citizen if he or she has resided in the country for at least (14 years) on the date of application
- 1986 when Section 5 (c) was inserted in the Citizenship Act, 1955, through an amendment - enables a foreign spouse marrying an Indian citizen to acquire Indian citizenship by registration
Loss of Citizenship

• By Renunciation – renounced one’s child can resume citizenship
• By Termination – Voluntarily accept citizenship of another country
• By Deprivation – Compulsory termination – 7 years continuously out of country

Exceptions to non-discrimination

✓ For certain state/UT employment, education – residence
  ✓ Interest of tribals
  ✓ J&K -the state Govt

NRIs - Indian citizens not residing in India - vote through electronic-ballots or through proxy

PIOs - Persons of Indian Origin

OCI - Overseas Citizenship of India

• The PIO-OCI merger comes close on the heels of promulgation of an ordinance on January 6 amending the Citizenship Act, 1955. The ordinance incorporated the eligibility and additional benefits of PIO card in OCI card and provided certain other relaxations to OCI card-holders. The relaxations include allowing breaks not exceeding 30 days in the one-year continuous stay required before applying for Indian citizenship and registration as an OCI by a minor born to Indian parents or by the spouse of an Indian citizen or OCI after two years of marriage.

Art 11: Parliament to regulate Citizenship
India grants asylum and provides direct assistance to some 200,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. As the country lacks a national legal framework for asylum, UNHCR conducts registration and refugee status determination (RSD)

The established position of New Delhi on refugees is that once normality returns in their respective home countries, such persons should go back.

India has not ratified the 1951 U.N. Convention and 1967 U.N. Protocol on Refugees
• The Indian Penal code, in its basic form, is a document that lists all the cases and punishments that a person committing any crimes is liable to be charged with.

• A criminal code will contain offences which are recognised in the jurisdiction, penalties which might be imposed for these offences- It provides the machinery for the investigation of crime, apprehension of suspected criminals, collection of evidence, determination of guilt or innocence of the accused person and the determination of punishment of the guilty.

• poll tax: tax of a uniform amount levied on each individual, or “head.”

• You pay for your visit — a capitation tax of Rs 20.-Matheran