



UNIQUENESS OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

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"A nation is as good as its principles"

- Proverb

We are witnessing an era of democratic deterioration. Many countries and governments face criticism and protests against their orthodox laws and unethical decisions. People question the basic laws that uphold the society. In such a scenario, it is important as well as relevant to discuss the uniqueness of the Indian constitution.

Democracy as a system of government, came into life in Athens, Greece. But it took hundreds of years for the establishment of a



constitutional democracy. After the French Revolution in eighteenth century Europe, the middle class people of France, formed a legislative body and drafted the French Constitution. Today, every democracy have a written constitution. No set of laws can perfectly handle each and every situations, but the Indian constitution stands out among the many.

India is a diverse land. In fact, it is so diverse, that there are more than a thousand dialects in the country. ^{People in} Each and every part of India have extremely different cultures and lifestyles. Moreover, the country spans over a large area of land with varying topologies. To understand the cultures of everyone in India is a nearly impossible task. Yet, our constitution makers have brilliantly handled every small detail. No wonder, it took years to complete the draft.



The constitution of a country defines the laws and rule in administration of the country. The Indian Constitution specifically describes the rights and duties of each citizen. Let's talk about the specialties of our Republic.

The major speciality of India is its secularism. India houses followers of almost all the religions in the world. Every religion is respected equally and all religious practices are respected and promoted, as long as it does by the constitution. Unlike other religious countries where religion is a barrier, in India, it is something to be embraced close to the heart.

Untouchability and caste system is a haunting past for the Indian community. The social degradation of in the medieval period.



resulted in many such social evils. Sati and child marriage prevailed in India till the late nineteenth century. The constitution ~~have~~ has become a piercing sword against all these unethical practices. Caste discrimination is strictly punishable under law and lower castes have now been empowered and has an equal say in any society. Is there a greater example than Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian constitution?

Any ~~Every~~ practice that disrupts the ~~the~~ right of an individual, or a society is strictly prohibited. ^{In India,} Freedom of an individual comes first in the Indian constitution. It provides us six basic or fundamental rights (and many other essential rights). Freedom to express, to equality, to education, to religion, ... etc.



empower the citizens to and provide them the much needed 'individuality' in any society. People have the right to choose - their religion, their leaders, their place of residence, and any such matter. The Article 21 of the constitution provides the 'right to life' for any individual, It asserts the importance of individual rights such as, access to food and other basic amenities. Keeping these points in mind, it is safe to say that a person can enjoy individuality in India like more than any other country in the world.

Civil order and law of a country is very important in terms of peace. India has a civil code ^{of conduct} and a very elaborate penal code for jurisdiction over every kind of crime. ~~Some~~ people are of the The Indian judiciary is an



independent and impartial institution where any person is treated with dignity, and equality ~~equally~~ ^{equally} in the eyes of law. The judicial system in India ^{have} has zero loopholes, and any person can easily solve their problems. Higher appeal is possible in any court.

Dictatorship ~~has~~ is something that has destroyed the foundations of many countries. In India, the chance for a dictatorial rule is almost null. The constitution gives power to the legislature, executive and the judiciary - all playing pivotal roles in maintaining the peace. If any ~~body~~ constitutional body decides to overstep their limits, ~~we~~ it will not be fruitful for the people. To prevent such a scenario, a 'check and balance' system prevails between the three pillars of democracy. If any part of



or body of our democracy fails to fulfill their duties or is found to be interfering in matters against the constitution, they can be dismissed accordingly. This ensures the stability of democracy.

Another strong point is the three-tier legislative system. The central government takes care of the overall welfare of the country, while the state government focuses on subjects that relate to a particular region. They fulfill the people's needs, ~~in~~ and subjects of legislature are divided into three lists - the union, state and concurrent - where each government is responsible for their own respective matters. This makes law-making easier, more effective and ~~also~~ reduce the chance of conflict between the levels of government. The third tier, perhaps the most important, is the local government bodies



- a realisation of Gandhiji's dream, the 'Panchayati Raj'. The local government bodies have more influence on people's lives and caters to more specific needs of the citizen.

All these specialities make our constitution very valuable, and a study material for other countries. What makes it unique? Well, unlike certain countries, India has a derived and filtered constitution. The makers or the drafting committee, went through several, numerous constitutions that existed at the time and carefully handpicked the most suitable and essential parts from the many. These were then filtered and remodelled to meet our needs. Well, thanks to their efforts, we now have the most extensive and rigid constitution in the world.



True

and Freedom

True, Individuality is one of the strongholds of the Indian constitution. Article 13 of the constitution says - 'All citizens are have the right to follow any religion, and all religious practises are respected, unless and allowed, unless it interferes with the basic rights of any individual.' Here, freedom of the individual comes even before religion. But what makes the constitution really unique is the chance to amend it.

The Indian Constitution is both Rigid and 'Flexible'. Certain laws can become outdated with time. Certain others have to ~~be~~ be made as time progresses. This is where the 'Constitutional Amendment' is used. It makes our constitution more ~~convn~~ convenient. With proper support from



the Legislature, the ~~constitution~~ changes can be made to any prevailing law. But at the same time, no change can be made to the basic principles of the constitution. Any amendment that deviates from the basic principles will not be accepted. Recently, the special position held by the state of 'Jammu & Kashmir' was taken back. This is a very fair example of the flexibility of the constitution.

All people must have certain principles in life. Similarly, the Indian constitution also have some to maintain the country's stability. Often, ~~principle~~ people forget these when they go after their own greed. Certain leaders of many democratic countries have often done so, which made democracy look like a joke.



" A people that value their privileges more than their principles, soon loses both "

- D. Eisenhower.

The principles and values imparted to us by our constitution are rigid structures that form the base of our democracy. And these have the utmost value in our country. No Indian can break it. It is the fundamental duty of a citizen to respect the country that they live in. The constitution provides us the right to information on all of the country's proceedings (except National Security). It gives us the chance to face law equally, and even the right to

All these laws make life in India smoother. That is why the constitution of the largest democracy is often praised as the holy grail of democratic rights.