

features of Unitary System	Strong centre, single constitution, single citizenship, integrated judiciary, all-India services, emergency provisions, etc.
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- **Parliamentary form of Government**-The Indian Constitution has preferred **British Parliamentary System** of government to American Presidential System of government. **Features of Parliamentary form of government are:** Presence of nominal and real executives + Rule of majority party + Leadership of the Prime Minister or the chief minister + Membership of the ministers in the legislature + Dissolution of the lower house (Lok Sabha).
- **Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy**- The sovereignty of parliament is associated with the British Parliament while Judicial supremacy is associated with American system. The framers of the Indian Constitution have preferred a proper synthesis between the British principle of parliamentary sovereignty and the American principle of judicial supremacy.
- **Integrated and Independent Judiciary**-The Supreme Court stands at the top of the integrated judicial system in the country followed by High courts in states and subordinate courts and other lower courts. **The Supreme Court is the highest court of appeal, the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and the guardian of the constitution.**
- **Fundamental Rights**- Part III of the constitution guarantees **6 FRs** to all the citizens → (1) **Right to equality(Article 14-18)** + (2) **Right to freedom(Article 19-22)** + (3) **Right against exploitation(Article 23-24)** + (4) **Right to Freedom of Religion(Article 25-28)** + (5) **Cultural and Educational Rights(Article 29-30)** + (6) **Right to Constitutional Remedies(Article 32)**. If a fundamental right of any Indian citizen is violated, then the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court which can issue the writs of **Habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto** for the restoration of his rights.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy**- Mentioned in **Part IV** of the constitution. The DPSPs are meant to promote the ideals of social and economic democracy. However, unlike the FRs, the directives are non-justiciable in nature, i.e. they are non-enforceable by the courts for their violation.

NOTE- MINERVA MILLS CASE(1980): SC held that ‘the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the DPSPs – Basic Structure

- **Fundamental Duties**- Added to the Constitution only after the recommendations of **Swaran Singh Committee**. The **86th CAA, 2002** added one more fundamental duty. The **duties are also non-justiciable in nature.**
- **A Secular State**- The term ‘**secular**’ was added to the **Preamble** of the Indian Constitution by the **42nd CAA, 1976**. The Indian Constitution embodies the **positive concept of Secularism**, i.e. giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.
- **Universal Adult Franchise**-The voting age was reduced to 18 years from 21 years in 1989 by **61st CAA, 1988**.
- **Single Citizenship**- Enjoy the same political and civil rights of citizenship all over the country.
- **Independent Bodies**-Certain Independent Bodies are envisaged by the Constitution as the bulwarks of the democratic system of Government of India. These are: **Election Commission + Comptroller and Auditor-General + Union Public Service Commission + State Public Service Commission.**
- **Emergency Provisions** - National Emergency (**Art. 352**), State Emergency or President’s Rule (**Art. 356 and Art. 365**) and Financial Emergency (**Art. 360**). During an emergency, the federal structure converts into unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution and the Central government becomes all-powerful.
- **Three-tier Government**- The **73rd and 74th CAA, 1992** have added a third-tier of government (local) which is not found in any other constitutions of the world. The 73rd CAA of 1992 gave constitutional recognition to **Panchayats** by adding a **new part IX and a new schedule 11** to the constitution. The 74th