



The Indian Constitution in the Digital Age: Emerging Challenges and Reforms

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ABSTRACT :

One of the most thorough and intricate constitutions in the world, the Indian Constitution offers a strong foundation for socioeconomic development, individual rights, and governance. But as time has gone on, it has faced several difficulties that jeopardize its ability to effectively address modern problems. This article explores the major faults with the Indian Constitution, such as the overabundance of modifications, the court's tardiness, federalism, electoral and political difficulties, and social justice concerns. The goal of the conversation is to draw attention to areas that urgently need reform to preserve India's democratic integrity and constitutional ideals.

Key Words - Indian Constitution, Socioeconomic Development, Individual Rights, Governance, Federalism, Electoral Difficulties, Democratic

Introduction :

Adopted on January 26, 1950, the Indian Constitution is the ultimate law of the land and forms the basis of rights, responsibilities, and governance. Assuring justice, liberty, equality, and brotherhood for all citizens, it was drafted with the goal of constructing a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. The Constitution has been essential in establishing India's democratic framework, allowing for diversity, and promoting social and economic advancement throughout the last 70 years. Nevertheless, the Constitution has shortcomings in spite of its advantages. Its shortcomings have been revealed by a number of underlying issues and changing sociopolitical circumstances, calling for a reexamination of certain of its provisions.

Among the main concerns are the growing number of constitutional modifications, judicial inefficiencies, conflicts between the federal and central governments, and problems with social justice and electoral reforms. These issues show that in order to improve government and guarantee that the Constitution is still applicable in the contemporary world, structural and legislative modifications are required. Some of the most important problems facing the Indian Constitution right now are listed below.

1. Overly Modified

One of the most often revised constitutions in the world, the Indian Constitution has undergone more than 100 amendments since it was first adopted. The sanctity and stability of the constitutional structure are weakened by numerous revisions, even while flexibility is required to adjust to changing circumstances. This rises questions about how easily basic values and rights can be changed for political reasons.

2. Court Delays and Case Pendency

Because it ensures justice and upholds constitutional norms, the judiciary is an essential component of democracy. However, with millions of cases pending in different courts, the Indian legal system is beset by severe delays. The sluggish administration of justice erodes public trust in the judicial system and frequently causes litigants to endure protracted pain.

3. Centralization vs. Federalism

Despite India's federal system, the central government still has a lot of power and frequently supersedes state jurisdiction. Conflicts arise and the fundamental spirit of federalism is weakened when the federal government overreaches into areas that are legally left to the states. The President's Rule (Article 356) and the states' financial reliance on the center are still controversial topics.

4. Social Justice and Reservation Issues

Originally designed to promote social justice and strengthen underprivileged areas, the reservation system has become extremely politicized. Discussions about meritocracy vs social justice have been triggered by the recurring extensions of reservation quotas and the creation of new categories. Finding a balance between guaranteeing equal opportunity for all citizens and affirmative action is a difficult task.

5. Political and Electoral Reforms

The criminalization of politics, the absence of internal democracy inside parties, and the abuse of financial resources and electoral power are some of the problems facing the Indian political system. To improve democratic integrity, electoral changes are essential. These reforms include limiting defections through the Anti-Defection Law and introducing openness in political fundraising.

6. Directive Principles vs. Fundamental Rights

While the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) serve as a framework for governance, the Constitution's Fundamental Rights (Part III) guarantee individual liberties. However, when laws passed for socioeconomic wellbeing violate fundamental rights, conflicts frequently result, resulting in constitutional quandaries and judicial interventions.

7. Provisions for Emergencies and Power Abuse

In times of emergency, the government is given extraordinary powers by the emergency provisions (Articles 352, 356, and 360). However, there are worries about possible authoritarianism due to its historical misuse, especially during the Emergency (1975–77). There is still discussion on the necessity of safeguards to stop emergency regulations from being imposed arbitrarily.

8. Difficulties in Putting Social Justice Laws into Practice

Even though India has several laws that guarantee social justice, including those that prohibit child labor, gender inequity, and caste discrimination, their implementation is nevertheless difficult. The ideals of the constitution are undermined by corruption, ineffective bureaucracy, and ignorance, which prevent these laws from being implemented effectively.

Conclusion :

An amazing document that has effectively led the country for many years is the Indian Constitution. But in a culture that is changing quickly, resolving these important issues is necessary to guarantee its ongoing applicability and efficacy. While upholding the principles of justice, liberty, and equality, reforms in the areas of judicial effectiveness, election integrity, federal balance, and constitutional consistency might contribute to the strengthening of India's democratic fabric.

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