Diversity in India

- India is home to a 5,000-year-old civilization.

- Different groups from various parts of the world were attracted to India due to its wealth.

- Some came for trade, while others invaded its territory.

- Diverse races, including Dravidians, Negroids, Aryans, Alpines, and Mongoloids, migrated to India by land and sea.

- These groups became part of the modern Indian race.

- Migrants also moved within India, contributing to its rich diversity.

Landforms and Lifestyle Diversity

- A continent is a large land area with varied physical features like mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers, and seas, along with different weather patterns.

- India, known as a sub-continent, has all these features and favorable climatic conditions for cultivating crops like coffee and tea.

- Landform diversity impacts the flora and fauna of each region.

- The plant and animal life depends on the natural habitat and prevailing climate of the region.

- People's food, clothing, occupation, and livelihood are closely connected to their natural surroundings and climate.

- Physical and climatic conditions influence the economic activities of each area.

- Plains support agriculture, coastal areas encourage fishing, and mountainous regions focus on animal rearing and related activities.

Social Diversity

Interdependence and Co-existence

- A community is where people with common interests or heritage live together.

- Communities consist of various groups like peasants, laborers, artisans, parents, teachers, and students.

- For a comfortable life, communities depend on each other.

- Families are the fundamental units of society and can be joint or nuclear.

- Families live harmoniously in neighborhoods, which collectively form villages or cities.

- People and communities are interdependent for essential amenities like water, food, electricity, education, and housing.

- Despite cultural diversity, communities are united and socially interdependent.

Interdependence and Co-existence

- A community is where people live together with common interests or heritage.

- Communities consist of various groups like peasants, laborers, artisans, parents, teachers, and students.

- For a comfortable livelihood, these groups depend on each other for support and resources.

Family and Society

- Families are the fundamental units of society.

- There are two types of families: joint families and nuclear families.

- Families live together in harmonious neighborhoods.

- Multiple neighborhoods form a village, and several villages combine to create a city.

- Communities are interdependent for essential amenities like water, food, electricity, education, and housing.

- Despite cultural diversity, society is united and socially interdependent.

Religious Diversity

- India is a secular country with no state religion, ensuring freedom of religion as a fundamental right.

- It is the birthplace of many religions and home to others.

- Major religions flourishing in India include Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism.

- India is a land of festivals where people from different religions celebrate diverse festivals and co-exist harmoniously.

- Festivals like Pongal, Deepavali, Holi, Vijayadhasami, Ayudha Puja, Navaratri, Durga Puja, Dussehra, Ganesh Chaturthi, Bihu, Kumbh Mela, Onam, Milad-un-Nabi, Ramzan, Christmas, Buddha Poornima, Mahavir Jayanthi, Guru Nanak Jayanthi, and Raksha Bandhan highlight India's cultural diversity.

Linguistic Diversity

- As per the 2001 Census of India, the country has 122 major languages and 1,599 other languages.

- The four major Indian language families are Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austroasiatic, and Sino-Tibetan.

- Tamil is the oldest Dravidian language.

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- Historical influences from Portuguese, Dutch, British, Danish, and French traders and rulers have impacted Indian culture and language.
- British rule, lasting over 300 years until India's independence in 1947, gave prominence to the English language.
- English has since become an important language and is widely used in education, official communication, and daily life.

Top Five Languages Spoken in India (as per 2011 Census)

Language	Percentage of total population
Hindi	43.63%
Bengali	8.30%
Telugu	6.93%
Marathi	7.09%
Tamil	5.89%

Popular Dances and Music of India

- In ancient times, dance was a form of celebration, worship, and thanksgiving, reflecting India's cultural richness.
- Music and dance are closely linked in Indian traditions.
- India has various music styles, including Hindustani music, Karnatic music, Classical Tamil Music, Folk Music, Lavani, and Ghazal.
- Songs in multiple languages are often composed by blending these different music forms.

Unity in Diversity

- Despite visible diversity in India, the nation is united by the spirit of patriotism.
- Symbols like the National Flag and National Anthem remind us of the importance of unity.
- Celebrations of Independence Day, Republic Day, and Gandhi Jayanthi bring people together and reinforce the spirit of one nation.
- India is a multi-cultural society, united by common beliefs, customs, and cultural practices.
- The freedom struggle and the drafting of the Constitution highlight India's enduring unity.

Box Content

- Mawsynram in Meghalaya is known for receiving the highest rainfall in the world.
- Jaisalmer in Rajasthan experiences the lowest rainfall in India.

- The Constitution of India recognizes 22 languages as official languages.

- Tamil was declared the first classical language of India in 2004.

- Five other languages—Sanskrit (2005), Telugu (2008), Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Oriya (2016)—were also recognized as classical languages by the Government of India.

- The phrase "unity in diversity" was coined by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, in his book *Discovery of India*.

- V.A. Smith referred to India as an "Ethnological museum" due to the wide variety of racial types that exist within the country.

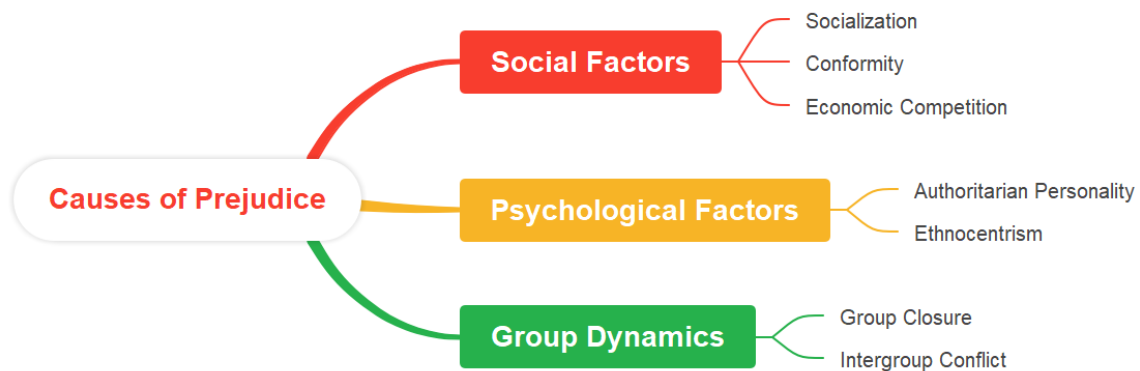| State	Popular dance
Tamil Nadu	Karagattam, Oyillattam, Kummi, Therukoothu, Bommalattam, Puliattam, Kolattam, Thappattam
Kerala	Theyyam and Mohiniattam
Punjab	Bhangra
Gujarat	Garba and Dandia
Rajasthan	Kalbelia and Ghoomer
Uttar Pradesh	Ras Lila
Uttarakhand	Chholiya
Assam	Bihu

Unity in Diversity and Social Challenges

- Society consists of people from various social groups with differences in many aspects.

- Though the concept of "Unity in Diversity" promotes peaceful coexistence, diversity is not always accepted.

- Hostility towards people who are perceived as "different" often arises, leading to tensions within society.

- Opinions about other groups can be prejudiced, further fueling conflict and division.

Prejudice

- Prejudice means judging people in a negative or inferior way without knowing much about them.

- It is based on false beliefs and ideas.

- The word "prejudice" is formed from "Pre" (before) + "Judge" (judgment).
- Prejudice can be based on religious beliefs, region, skin color, language, accent, or clothing.
- Types of prejudice include gender prejudice, racial prejudice, class prejudice, and disability prejudice.
- Example: The belief that urban people are more civilized than rural people is a form of prejudice.

```
                                              ┌─ Socialization
                        Social Factors ───────┼─ Conformity
                                              └─ Economic Competition

Causes of Prejudice ─── Psychological Factors ─┬─ Authoritarian Personality
                                               └─ Ethnocentrism

                        Group Dynamics ───────┬─ Group Closure
                                              └─ Intergroup Conflict
```

Stereotypes

- When prejudice becomes stronger, it develops into a stereotype.
- A stereotype is a false or fixed idea about a group, like "girls are not good at sports."
- Stereotypes are learned early in life and shape strong opinions about people, cultures, beliefs, and ideologies.
- **Example:** Ragu cried when hit by a ball, and others laughed because of the stereotype that "boys don't cry," reinforcing a false image.
- Gender-based stereotypes are commonly portrayed in films, advertisements, and TV shows.
- Advertisements for products like detergents or washing machines typically show women as the primary users.
- Bike advertisements often show men performing stunts, reinforcing gender stereotypes.

Inequality and Discrimination

- Inequality refers to differences in treatment.
- Various forms of inequality, such as caste, religious, race, and gender inequality, lead to discrimination.
- Discrimination involves negative actions towards people based on such differences.
- Caste, religion, and gender-based discriminations cause inequality and untouchability.

- Discrimination based on skin color, caste, gender, and religion results in the denial of equal status, rights, and opportunities.
- Article 15(1) of the Indian Constitution prohibits the State from discriminating against citizens based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.

Caste Discrimination

- The caste system is a major cause of inequality and discrimination in India.
- It originated from the Varna system in Vedic Aryan society, initially based on occupation and flexible social divisions.
- Over time, the Varna system became rigid, discriminatory, and based on birth, forming graded caste divisions.
- Many people in India fought against caste oppression, including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- Dr. Ambedkar, who belonged to a depressed caste, faced discrimination throughout his childhood and actively worked for the annihilation of the caste system to ensure equality for all citizens.

Gender Discrimination

- Gender discrimination involves inequalities in health, education, economic opportunities, and political representation between men and women.
- **Example:** A girl is not allowed to attend college after completing school, while boys may continue their education.
- Many girls are denied the freedom to choose their career and are often forced into early marriage.
- In some families, girls are restricted from wearing modern clothing, whereas boys are allowed to do so.

Religious Discrimination

- Religious discrimination refers to unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on their religious beliefs.
- It has existed for thousands of years, causing conflicts between different religious groups.
- The Indian Constitution guarantees equality for all, regardless of caste, religion, language, or place of birth.
- Despite these provisions, discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, and language still exists, even in places of worship.
- Great social thinkers have consistently fought against such discriminations and inequalities.

Socio-Economic Inequality

- The benefits of economic growth have not been distributed evenly in society.
- Low-income districts often experience low industrial development, low agricultural productivity, and low human development.
- Districts with lower literacy rates are typically associated with lower sex ratios.

Literacy rate – 2011 Census

S.No. (High)	District Name (High)	Percentage (High)	S.No. (Low)	District Name (Low)	Percentage (Low)
1	Kanyakumari	92.14%	1	Dharmapuri	64.71%
2	Chennai	90.33%	2	Ariyalur	71.99%
3	Thoothukkudi	86.52%	3	Villupuram	72.08%
4	The Nilgiris	85.65%	4	Krishnagiri	72.41%

Females per 1,000 males (Sex Ratio):

S.No. (High)	District Name (High)	Sex Ratio (High)	S.No. (Low)	District Name (Low)	Sex Ratio (Low)
1	The Nilgiris	1041	1	Dharmapuri	946
2	Thanjavur	1031	2	Salem	954
3	Nagapattinam	1025	3	Krishnagiri	956
4	Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli	1024	4	Ramanathapuram	977

Remedial Measures for Abolishing Inequality and Discrimination

1. Ensure wider access to quality basic services like healthcare and education for all.
2. Increase awareness of current gender biases.
3. Promote visibility of women in public life and institutions to eliminate gender disparity.
4. Encourage learning about different religions.
5. Promote community dining in classrooms to foster unity regardless of caste, religion, or gender.
6. Encourage socialization with diverse groups outside the home.
7. Ensure effective implementation of laws against discrimination.

Constitution of India and Equality

- A Constitution is a set of rules and regulations guiding a country's administration.

- **Article 14** of the Indian Constitution provides equality before the law and prohibits unreasonable discrimination within India's territory.

- India, being a land of diversity, requires ensuring equality for all.

- Two key factors to ensure equality are respecting diversity and guaranteeing freedom.

- Freedoms include the right to follow one's religion, speak one's language, celebrate festivals, and express views freely.

- **Article 17** of the Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form.

- Despite constitutional provisions, various forms of discrimination, particularly against women, peasants, tribes, and lower social classes, continue to be reported in India.

Nelson Mandela

- After 27 years in prison, Nelson Mandela, former South African President, was freed in 1990.

- He successfully achieved the end of apartheid in South Africa.

- Mandela brought peace to a racially divided country and led the global fight for human rights.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- Popularly known as Baba Saheb, he was an Indian jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer.

- He earned his M.A. in 1915, a D.Sc. at the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1927.

- Ambedkar was the chairman of the drafting committee of the constituent assembly and is regarded as the father of the Indian Constitution.

- He served as independent India's first Law Minister.

- In 1990, Ambedkar was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Natural national symbols of India

National Symbol	Year	Scientific Name	Description
Banyan Tree	1950	*Ficus benghalensis*	It is a symbol of pride and has many medicinal values.

Lotus	1950	*Nelumbo nucifera*	Though it grows in muddy water, it blooms with beauty.
Peacock	1963	*Pavo cristatus*	It is native to Asia and the only bird with a tail.
Tiger	1973	*Panthera tigris*	It is the largest cat species. India has 70% of the tiger population in the world.
River Ganges	2008	Platanista gangetica	It is a perennial river, and many royal capitals flourished on its banks.
Elephant	2010	*Elephas maximus*	It is native to mainland Asia and plays a critical role in maintaining the region's forests.
River Dolphin	2010	*Platanista gangetica*	It is a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem. It is on the endangered list.
Lactobacillus	2012	*Lactobacillus spp.*	They are friendly bacteria, a major part of the lactic acid bacteria group.
Mango	1950	*Mangifera indica*	It is a rich source of vitamins A, C, and D, and is mainly cultivated in the plains.
King Cobra	-	*Ophiophagus hannah*	It is the world's longest venomous snake and lives in the rainforests and plains of India.

India's national flag

- Called the tricolour flag
- Three horizontal bands of equal width
- Saffron on top: represents valour and sacrifice
- White in middle: represents honesty, peace, and purity
- Green at bottom: represents fertility and prosperity
- Navy blue Ashoka Chakra (wheel) in center: represents truth and peace
- Flag's length to width ratio is 3:2
- Ashoka Chakra has 24 spokes

India's national emblem:

- Based on the four lions atop the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath
- Adopted on January 26, 1950
- Inscription at bottom: "Satyameva Jayate" (Truth alone triumphs)

- Consists of two parts: upper and lower

Upper part:

- Four lions facing North, South, East, and West

- Placed on a circular pedestal

- Only three lions visible at a time

Lower part:

- Four animals: elephant (energy), horse (speed), bull (hard work), lion (majestic)

- "Wheel of righteousness" between the animals

Usage:

- Found on top of government communications

- Appears on Indian currency

- Used on Indian passports

India's national anthem:

- Title: "Jana Gana Mana"

- Symbolizes: Sovereignty and integrity of India

- Author: Rabindranath Tagore

- Original language: Bengali

- Transcribed into: Hindi

- Adopted by Constituent Assembly: January 24, 1950

- First public performance: December 27, 1911, at Congress committee meet in Kolkata

Rules for singing:

- Duration: 52 seconds

- Posture: Stand erect

- Understanding: Grasp the meaning while singing

National Symbol	Description
National Pledge	"India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters." - Written by Pydimarri Venkata Subba Rao in Telugu.
National Microorganism	*Lactobacillus delbrueckii* - The bacteria that turns milk into curd. Accepted in 2012.
Currency	Indian Rupee (INR) - Symbol: ₹. Designed by D. Udhayakumar in 2010.

National Calendar	Saka Calendar - Started in 78 CE/AD by Emperor Kanishka. Year begins on the spring equinox (March 21st/22nd). Officially adopted in 1957.

Independence Day:

- Date: August 15th annually

- Significance: Commemorates India's freedom from British rule

- Marks: Birth of world's largest democracy

- First celebration: Mahakavi Bharathiyar's poem "Aaduvome Pallu Paduvome" sung on AIR by T.K. Pattammal

- Current celebration: Prime Minister unfurls National Flag at Red Fort, New Delhi

Republic Day:

- Date: January 26th annually

- First celebrated: 1950

- Significance: India declared a Republic state

- Constitution: Came into effect on this day

- Transition: From August 1947 to January 26, 1950, Queen of Britain was honorary head of India

- Change: President became first citizen of India

- Current celebration: President unfurls National Flag on Kartavya Path (path of duty), New Delhi

Box Content

National Flag:

- Designed by: Pingali Venkayya from Andhra Pradesh

- First Indian Flag: Woven in Gudiyatham, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu

- First hoisting: By Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on August 15, 1947, at Red Fort, Delhi

- Current location: Exhibited at St. George's Fort Museum, Chennai

Beating Retreat Ceremony:

- Date: January 29th (third day after Republic Day)

- Marks: End of Republic Day celebrations

- Performers: Bands of Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force

- Chief Guest: President of India

- Special feature: Rashtrapati Bhavan illuminated at 6 PM

Kodi Kaatha Kumaran:

- Full name: Tirupur Kumaran

- Birthplace: Chennimalai, Erode district

- Involvement: Active participant in freedom struggle

- Notable event: Protested Gandhiji's arrest in 1932

- Death: During violent police attack at a protest

- Heroic act: Held on to the tricolor flag even in death

- Title earned: "Kodi Kaatha Kumaran" (Kumaran who protected the flag)

- Commemoration: Government of India released a postal stamp on his centenary year

Tamil Nadu Symbols

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name
Animal	Nilgiri Tahr	*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*
Bird	Emerald Dove	*Chalcophaps indica*
Flower	Gloriosa Superba	*Gloriosa superba*
Tree	Palmyrah tree	*Borassus flabellifer*

Constitution:

- Definition: An authentic document containing basic ideas, principles, and laws of a country

- **Contents:**

  o Defines rights and duties of citizens

  o Source of country's laws

- **Purpose:**

  o Serves as the basis for governing a country

- **Significance:**

  o Every country is ruled based on its constitution

<p style="text-align:center">Indian Constitution:</p>

- Status: Ultimate law of India

- Compliance: All citizens must abide by it

- Contents:

  o Explains fundamental concepts of government structure

  o Outlines methods, powers, and duties of government bodies

  o Lists fundamental rights of citizens

- o Specifies duties of citizens

- o Includes Directive Principles of State Policy

- Nature: Holistic, covering various aspects of governance and citizenship

Making of the Indian Constitution:

Constituent Assembly:

- Formed in 1946

- Total members: 389

- Chairman: Rajendra Prasad

- Notable members: Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Moulana Azad, S. Radhakrishnan, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Sarojini Naidu

- Women members: 15

Drafting Committee:

- Members: 8

- Chairman: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (known as 'Father of the Constitution')

- Advisor: B.N. Rao

- First meeting: December 9, 1946

Constitution Formation:

- Process: Examined constitutions of nearly 60 countries (UK, USA, USSR, France, Switzerland, etc.)

- Adopted best features from these constitutions

- Amendments made: Nearly 2000 before finalization

- Time taken: 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days

- Completion date: November 26, 1949

- Cost: Approximately 64 lakhs

Significance:

- November 26 celebrated as Constitution Day

- Accepted by the Constituent Assembly on this day

Indian Constitution's objectives and features:

Preamble:

- Preface of the constitution

- Emphasizes: Justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity

- Defines India as: Sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic

Key Concepts:

- Sovereign: Ultimate power with the people, exercised through elected representatives

- Secular: Freedom of religion, no state religion, equal status for all religions

- Parliamentary form of government: At center and state levels

    - Executive collectively responsible to Legislature

    - Majority party forms government

Fundamental Rights:

- Basic human rights for all citizens

- Include: Right to Equality, Freedom, Against Exploitation, Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights, Constitutional Remedies

Directive Principles:

- Guidelines for governments while framing laws

- Not mandatory but should be considered

Universal Adult Franchise:

- Voting right for all Indian citizens aged 18 and above

- Irrespective of caste, religion, gender, or economic status

Fundamental Duties:

- Respect National flag and Anthem

- Protect and respect Constitution

- Follow freedom fighters' ideals

- Protect country and serve if needed

- Treat all as brothers regardless of differences

- Conserve heritage and natural elements

- Develop scientific temper and spirit of reform

- Avoid violence

- Protect government property

- Provide education to children aged 6-14 (for parents/guardians)

Box Content

- **Preservation:**

    - Original copies (Hindi and English) kept in Parliament of India Library

    - Stored in special Helium-filled cases

- **Drafting Committee legal experts:**

- o Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman and Chief Architect)

- o N. Gopalasamy

- o K.M. Munshi

- o Syed Mohammad Sadullah

- o N. Madhava Rao

- o T.T. Krishnamachari

- o Alladi Krishnaswamy

- **Original Constitution structure:**

  - o 395 articles

  - o 22 parts

  - o 8 schedules

- **Current Constitution structure**

  - o 448 articles

  - o 25 parts

  - o 12 schedules

- **Amendments:**

  - o 105 amendments made until October 30, 2021

Democracy

Key Aspects of Democracy

- Citizens select representatives through elections

- People participate in direct governance

- Considerable power lies with the people

- Citizens can engage in politics and decision-making processes
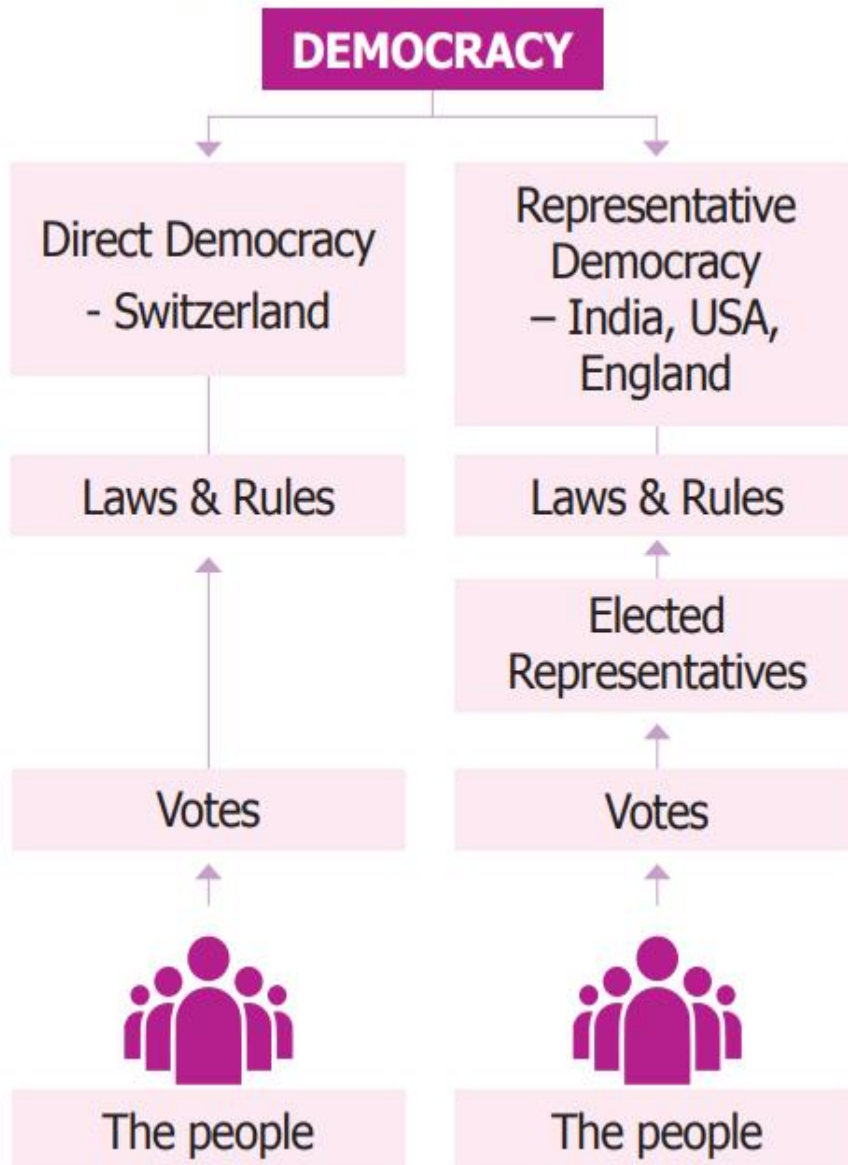
- Multiple types of democracy exist

Direct Democracy vs Representative Democracy

- **Direct Democracy:**

  - o People have power to frame laws directly

  - o Each member's perspective is considered

  - o Decisions made by majority vote

  - o Suitable for smaller groups

- **Representative Democracy:**

  - o Used when direct participation is impractical (e.g., large populations)

- o Members elect representatives

- o Representatives make decisions on behalf of others

- o Winners determined by maximum votes

- o Representatives have power to make democratic decisions

- **Examples:**

  - o Sports club as analogy for direct democracy

  - o Large-scale democracy (e.g., countries) typically use representative model

- **Key differences:**

  - o Scale of participation

  - o Decision-making process

  - o Power distribution

DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy - Switzerland	Representative Democracy – India, USA, England
↑ Laws & Rules	↑ Laws & Rules
	↑ Elected Representatives
↑ Votes	↑ Votes
↑ The people	↑ The people

Decision Making and Governance

- **Democratic decision making:**
  - Power not concentrated in a single leader
  - Group holds power, adhering to rules and regulations
  - Open discussions among all members
  - Decisions made when consensus is reached

- **Governance in a democracy:**
  - Rules and regulations exist for the country
  - Essential for peaceful coexistence in populous nations like India
  - Citizens must follow rights and duties

- Role of the Constitution:
    - Guides citizens on rules, regulations, rights, and duties
    - Plays crucial role in maintaining law and order
    - Serves as the framework for democratic governance
- Comparison:
    - Similar principles apply from small groups to entire countries
    - Scale and complexity increase for national governance

Key Features of the Indian Constitution

- Fundamental principles:
    - Ensures freedom, equality, and justice for all
- Structure and content:
    - Defines political principles
    - Outlines government institutions
    - Specifies methods to follow rules and regulations
    - Establishes powers and responsibilities
    - Fixes rights and duties of citizens
    - Includes directive principles
- Unique characteristics:
    - Longest written constitution in the world
    - Provides comprehensive structure for governance
- Creation process:
    - Drafted by Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee
    - Led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chief Architect of the Constitution)
- Significance:
    - Fundamental to India's democratic system
    - Guides all aspects of governance and citizenship

Democracy - Principles and Evolution

- Definition:
    - "Government of the people, for the people and by the people"
    - Power vested in the hands of the people
- Key features:
    - Representative government elected by people

- o Voting rights given to citizens aged 18 and above
- o Representatives responsible for people's welfare

- **Evolution of voting rights:**
  - o New Zealand: First to allow women to vote (1893)
  - o UK: Women's suffrage in 1918
  - o USA: Women's suffrage in 1920
  - o India: Initially limited to wealthy, now universal

- **Universal Adult Franchise in India:**
  - o Advocated by leaders like Mahatma Gandhi
  - o Now applies to all citizens 18 years and older

- **Significance:**
  - o Ensures equal participation in democratic process
  - o Represents progress in political equality

Sl. No.	Democracy	Period	Location	Significance
1	Greek Democracy	5th century BC (BCE)	Greece	Foundation of political philosophy
2	Roman Empires Democracy	300 BC - 50 BC (BCE)	Italian Peninsula, Rome	Loads of expansions of the growth of civilization
3	San Merinos Democracy	AD (CE) 301	Italy	Earliest written constitution still in effect
4	The Iceland Democracy	AD (CE) 930	Thingvellir	The oldest and longest functioning parliament in the world.
5	The Isle of Man's Democracy	AD (CE) 927	Between Great Britain and Ireland	Self governing possessions of the crown
6	British Democracy	13th Century AD (CE)	England	Magna Carta of 1215
7	US Democracy	AD (CE) 1789	United States of America	The oldest standing democracy

Box Facts

- **Definition:** "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" - Abraham Lincoln

- **Origin:**

  o Birthplace: Greece

  o Etymology: Greek words "Demos" (people) and "Cratia" (power/rule)

- **Direct Democracy:**

  o Citizens make laws directly

  o All changes require citizen approval

  o Politicians oversee parliamentary procedure

  o Example: Switzerland's long history of successful direct democracy

- **International recognition:**

  o UN General Assembly: 15th September as International Day of Democracy (since 2007)

- **India's democratic standing:**

  o 79% of Indian citizens have faith in the democratic system

  o Ranks first among democratic countries worldwide

Local Bodies – Rural and Urban

Structure of Local Government Bodies in India

- **Urban Local Bodies:**

  1. City Municipal Corporations

  2. Municipalities (population > 1 lakh)

  3. Town Panchayats (population ~10,000)

- **Rural Local Bodies:**

  1. Village Panchayats

  2. Panchayat Unions

  3. District Panchayats

- **Key Points:**

  o Tamil Nadu: First state to introduce Town Panchayat in India

  o City Municipal Corporation: Led by Commissioner (IAS officer)

  o Municipality: Led by Commissioner (government official)

  o Town Panchayat: Led by Executive Officer (EO)

- **Village Panchayat Structure:**
  - Divided into wards based on population
  - Representatives elected by people
  - Elected roles: Panchayat President, Ward members, Councillor, District Panchayat Ward Councillor

- **Panchayat Union:**
  - Formed by multiple Village Panchayats
  - Chairperson and Vice Chairperson elected by Councillors
  - Block Development Officer (BDO) as administrative head
  - Provides services at Panchayat Union level

District Panchayat and Local Body Governance

- **District Panchayat:**
  - Formed in every district
  - District divided into wards (1 ward per 50,000 population)
  - Ward members elected by Village Panchayats
  - District Panchayat Committee Chairperson elected by members

- **Functions of District Panchayat:**
  - Provide essential services to rural population
  - Plan and execute district development programs

- **Local Body Governance:**
  - Representatives elected by people
  - Constituencies called wards
  - People elect ward members

- **Urban Local Body Leadership:**
  - Mayor (City Municipal Corporation) elected by people
  - Municipal Chairperson elected by people
  - Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairperson elected by ward councillors

- **Service Categories:**
  - Obligatory functions
  - Discretionary functions

Functions and Revenue Sources of Local Bodies

- **Village Panchayat Functions: Obligatory:**

- o Water supply

- o Street lighting

- o Road cleaning

- o Drainage & sewage system

- o Road construction

- o Implementation of government schemes

Discretionary:

- o Parks

- o Libraries

- o Playgrounds

- **City Municipal Corporation Functions:**

  - o Drinking water supply

  - o Street lighting

  - o Environmental maintenance

  - o Primary healthcare

  - o Road construction and maintenance

  - o Flyover construction

  - o Market spaces

  - o Drainage system

  - o Solid waste management

  - o Corporation schools

  - o Parks and playgrounds

  - o Birth and death registration

- Execution of Works:

  - o Decisions made in Council meetings

  - o Commissioner/officers assign tasks to subordinates

- Funding:

  - o Government allocations

  - o Local body revenue collection

- Village Panchayat Revenue Sources:

  - o House tax

  - o Professional tax

- o Shop tax

- o Water charges

- o Property transfer fees

- o Government funds

- City Municipal Corporation Revenue Sources:

  - o House tax

  - o Water tax

  - o Shopping complex tax

  - o Professional tax

  - o Entertainment tax

  - o Vehicle charges

  - o Government funds

Grama Sabha - Grassroots Democracy in India

- **Definition:**

  - o Formed in every Village Panchayat

  - o Only permanent unit in Panchayat Raj System

  - o Grass root level democratic institution

- **Participation:**

  - o Open to residents aged 18+ listed in Panchayat electoral roll

- **Meeting frequency:**

  - o Four times a year (January 26, May 1, August 15, October 2)

  - o Special meetings as needed or during emergencies

- **Attendees:**

  - o Local residents

  - o Officials (District Collector, Block Development Officer)

  - o Elected representatives (Panchayat President, Vice President, Ward Members)

- **Purpose:**

  - o Platform for people to express needs and grievances

  - o Discuss important matters and make decisions

- **Historical context:**

  - o Advocated by Mahatma Gandhi as foundation of India's political system

  - o Envisioned village self-governance

- Legal framework:

    o Panchayat Raj Act enacted on April 24, 1992

Key Aspects of Local Self-Government in India

- **Special features of Panchayat Raj:**

    - Grama Sabha

    - Three-tier local body governance

    - Reservations

    - Panchayat Elections

    - Fixed tenure

    - Finance Commission

    - Account and Audit systems

- **Women's role in Local Self-Government:**

    - Minimum 33% reservation for women in all local bodies

    - 38% seats won by women in 2011 Local Bodies election

    - Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Act, 2016: 50% reservation for women in Panchayat Raj institutions

- **Local Body Elections:**

    - Tenure: 5 years for representatives

    - Conducted by State Election Commission

    - Each state has its own Election Commission

    - Tamil Nadu State Election Commission located in Koyambedu, Chennai

Box Fact

-

    April 24: National Panchayat Raj Day

- Nilgiris and Perambalur Districts: Lowest number of Panchayat Unions (4 each)

- Walajahpet Municipality: First Municipality in Tamil Nadu

- Chennai Corporation:

    - Founded in 1688

    - Oldest local body in India

Equality:

Equality:

- Ensuring individuals/groups are not treated differently or less favorably based on protected characteristics like race, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, age

- Absence of social privilege and provision of adequate opportunities for all (Prof. Laski)

Importance:

- Powerful moral and political ideal

- All humans have equal worth regardless of caste, color, gender, race, nationality

- Democratic ideals like liberty and equality require justice for effectiveness

Types of equality:

Social equality

- All citizens entitled to equal status in society

Civil equality

- Equal enjoyment of civil rights for all citizens

- No discrimination based on status, wealth, caste, etc.

- Rule of law applies equally to all

Political equality

- Equal political rights for all citizens, including:

- Right to vote

- Right to hold public office

- Right to criticize government

- Universal adult franchise

- Equal opportunity to participate in political life

Gender equality

- Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women

- Access to economic opportunities and decision-making

- Not about making men and women the same

- UN Sustainable Development Goal as of 2017

Key facts:

- India gave women right to vote from first election in 1952

- Switzerland gave women voting rights in 1971

- 50% reservation for women in local bodies in India

- Voting age is 18 years in India

- Minimum age to contest elections is 25 years in India

Human Dignity:

- Means self-respect
- Most important human right, from which other fundamental rights derive
- Quality of being honorable, noble, and excellent
- Every human should be valued as an important community member

Equality of Opportunity and Education:

- All individuals should have similar chances for education
- Equal opportunities to develop personality
- Equality needed for equal treatment in society
- Treating others equally earns respect and dignity

Equality in Indian Constitution:

- Guaranteed by Articles 14-18
- Equality before law and equal protection strengthened by Article 21

Promoting Equality:

- Treating all fairly
- Creating an inclusive culture
- Ensuring equal access to opportunities
- Enabling development of full potential
- Making appropriate laws and policies
- Education

Importance of Equality:

- Pillar of democracy along with justice
- Preserves individual dignity
- Essential for society to function

Box Facts

Rule of Law:

➢ Advocated by A.V. Dicey, a British legal luminary

Women's Rights Movement in India:

➢ Began in the 19th century

➢ Notable champions included:

- Raja Rammohan Roy
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

- Dayanand Saraswati

- Mahadev Govind Ranade

- Tarabai Shinde

- Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain

- Savitribai Phule

Constitutional Articles on Equality in India:

Article	Right
Article 14	Equality before the law and equal protection of the laws
Article 15	Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth
Article 16	Equality of opportunity in public employment
Article 17	Abolition of untouchability
Article 18	Abolition of titles conferred by the state

Political Parties

Definition

- Voluntary associations with broad ideological identity

- Seek to implement policies by winning elections

- Three basic components: leader, active members, followers

Importance:

- Backbone of democracy

- Essential for forming government

- Formulate public opinion

- Serve as intermediaries between citizens and policymakers

Recognition Criteria:

- Engaged in political activity for five years

- Candidates secure at least 6% of total votes in last general election

Characteristics:

- Common goals and shared values

- Own ideology and program
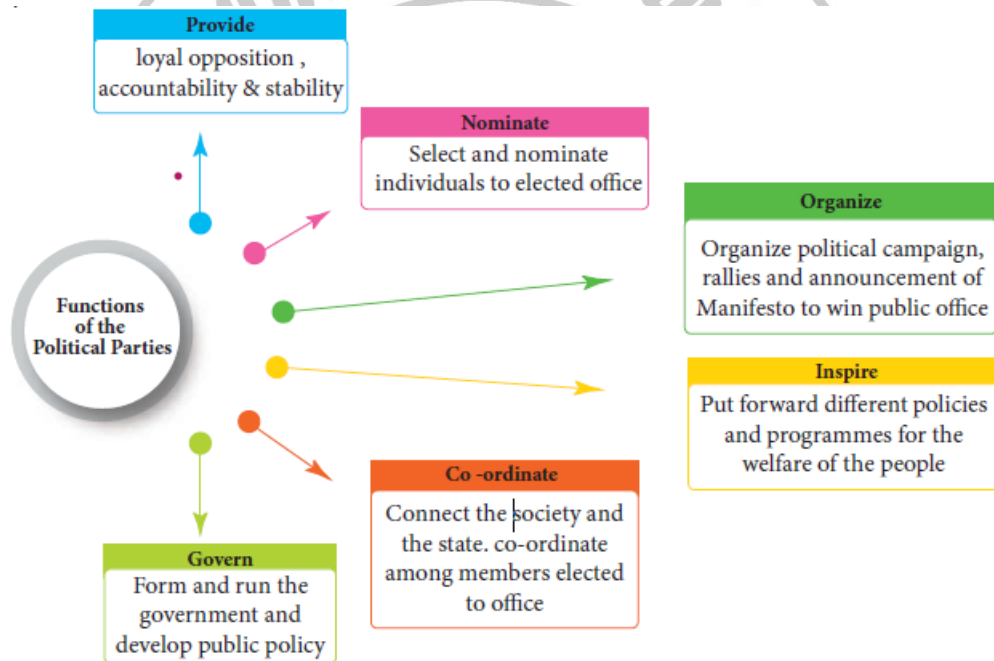
- Capture power through constitutional means

- Promote national interest and welfare

Types of Party Systems:

- Single Party System (e.g., China, North Korea, Cuba)

- Bi-Party System (e.g., UK, USA)

- Multi-Party System (e.g., India, France, Sweden, Norway)

Party System in India:

- Originated in late 19th century

- Largest number of political parties in the world

- Three levels: National parties, regional parties, Registered but unrecognized parties

- Federal system with parties at different levels

- All parties must register with Election Commission

Provide
loyal opposition, accountability & stability

Nominate
Select and nominate individuals to elected office

Organize
Organize political campaign, rallies and announcement of Manifesto to win public office

Functions of the Political Parties

Inspire
Put forward different policies and programmes for the welfare of the people

Co-ordinate
Connect the society and the state. co-ordinate among members elected to office

Govern
Form and run the government and develop public policy

Criteria for Recognition

The Election Commission of India has some criteria for the recognition of political parties in India.

National Parties

- Secure at least 6% of valid votes in Lok Sabha election or assembly elections in four states.

- Win at least four seats in Lok Sabha from any state/states.

- Win at least 2% of seats in Lok Sabha from at least three different states in the latest general election.

Regional/State Parties

- Secure at least 6% of valid votes in the state legislative assembly election.

- Win one Lok Sabha seat for every 25 seats or at least two seats in the legislative assembly.

- Win a minimum of 3% of the total number of seats in the legislative assembly.

Independent Candidate

- A candidate who wishes to contest in either the parliamentary or state assembly election but does not have an affiliation with any other party may contest as an independent candidate.

Recognized Parties:

- Meet specific criteria set by Election Commission

- Given a unique symbol by the Election Commission

- Can contest elections using their own symbol

Unrecognized Parties:

- Registered but do not meet recognition criteria

- Cannot contest elections using their own symbol

- Must choose a symbol from the 'free symbol poll panel' provided by Election Commission

Majority Party:

- The party with the most elected candidates

- Forms and runs the government

- Selects and appoints ministers

- Plays a decisive role in lawmaking

Minority Party:

- Parties with fewer elected candidates than the majority party

Opposition Party:

- Party with the second-largest number of seats

- Essential for successful operation of democracy

- Checks autocratic tendencies of the ruling party

- Critically examines government policies and bills

- Raises voice on failures and wrong policies

- Highlights important issues not addressed by the government

- Leader of opposition enjoys rank of Cabinet Minister

Coalition Government:

- Formed when no single party secures a majority

- Multiple parties join together to form the government

Electoral Symbols:

- Standardized symbols allocated to political parties

- Important for easy identification and recognition by voters

- Election Commission has stopped allotting animals as symbols (except lion and elephant)

- Symbols for nationally recognized parties are standard throughout India

- State parties may use the same symbol in different states

Importance of Parties:

- Both national and regional parties contribute to nation's growth

- Work for the welfare of the people

Feature	National Parties	Regional/State Parties
Participation	Participate in different elections all over India.	Participate in different elections but only within one state.
Strength	Strong enough in at least four states.	Strong enough in at least one or two states.
Symbol	Has an exclusive symbol throughout the country.	A symbol is reserved for it in the state in which it is recognized. But the same symbol can be allotted to different parties in different states.
Focus	Resolves State, National and International issues.	Promotes regional and state interest.

Box Facts

Party Manifesto:

- Announced during the election campaign

- Contains programs and policies the party promises to implement if elected

Election Commission of India:

- Autonomous, constitutional authority

- Responsible for administering elections

- Headquarters located in New Delhi

Election Symbols:

- Governed by the Election Symbols Order 1968

- Two types of symbols:

a) Reserved symbols:

- Meant for recognized political parties

b) Free symbols:

- Reserved for unrecognized parties

- Part of the 'Poll panel'

<center>STATE GOVERNMENT</center>

Central Government:

- India has a parliamentary democratic republic system

- The President of India is the Head of the Indian Union

- The Prime Minister and ministers run the central government

- Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to the central legislature

State Government:

- Each state has its own government for administration

- Include the Governor, Chief Minister, and Council of Ministers

- Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected by people in state elections

- Some states have bicameral legislatures with Legislative Assembly (lower house) and Legislative Council (upper house)

- Tamil Nadu has a unicameral legislature with only a Legislative Assembly

Key Features of India's Governmental Structure

Federal System

- India follows a federal system with power divided between central and state governments

Electoral Process

- States are divided into constituencies for elections

- The party with majority MLAs forms the state government

Executive Leadership

- The Governor is appointed by the President

- The Chief Minister is the leader of the majority party

- There are specific eligibility criteria for becoming a Governor or Chief Minister

Judicial Branch

- The judiciary, including High Courts and District Courts, is an independent branch

Ministerial Responsibility

- The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the state legislature

Structure of State Government in India

Administrative Division

- India is divided into 28 states and 8 Union territories
- Each state has a legislative assembly

State Executive

- Comprises the Governor and the Chief Minister with his Council of Ministers

The Governor is the head of the state

- Appointed by the President for a period of five years
- An integral part of the State Legislature

The Chief Minister holds the real executive power

- Leader of the majority party is appointed as Chief Minister
- The Chief Minister and Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the State Legislature

State Judiciary

- High courts are the highest judicial organ at the state level
- State High courts have jurisdiction over the whole state

Media and Democracy

Definition and Types of Media

- Media is the agency for inter-personal communication
- Includes broadcasting and narrowcasting mediums

Types of communication:

- Personal communication (letters, telephone, email, fax)
- Mass communication (newspapers, radio, TV)

Media as the Fourth Pillar of Democracy

- Four pillars: Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, and Media
- Ensures transparency in the other three systems

- Informs people about national events

- Vehicle for information, knowledge, and communication

Power and Influence of Media

- Mirror of social, political, and economic activities

- Source of entertainment and information

- Instrument of social change

- Exposes government strengths and weaknesses

- Advertises products

- Creates awareness

- Fights against socio-political evils and injustice

Media and Public Opinion

- Shapes understanding and perception of events

- Provides accounts of events

- Reflects public response to government policies

- Helps people express opinions on social issues

Ethics and Responsibility in Media

- Follows a code of ethics

- Serves people with news, views, and information

- Aims for fair, accurate, and unbiased reporting

- Collects information from authentic sources

- Responsible for factual coverage

Role of Media in Democracy

- Backbone of democracy

- Driving force of public opinion

- Strengthens democratic values

- Educates and empowers people

- Ensures government transparency and accountability

- Arranges debates on current affairs

- Reminds government of unfulfilled promises

- Acts as a bridge between state and public

- Watchdog of democratic government

Local vs. National/Global Media

- National/global media reports on broader issues

- Local media addresses public locality concerns

Box Facts

Types of Media

Category	Examples
Narrowcast Media	- Cable Television - Direct mail - Seminar
Broadcast Media	- Films - Television - Radio
Print Media	- Newspapers - Magazines - Journals - Books - Posters - Reports
Web Media	- Google website - Blogs

Social media	• Twitter
	• Facebook
	• WhatsApp
	• Instagram

Printing Press

- Invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1453

All India Radio (AIR)

- Launched in 1936

- Officially known as Akashvani since 1956

- Means "voice from the sky"

- Radio broadcaster of the Government of India

Women Empowerment

Introduction

- Feminism aims to change perceptions of women's strength, not to make women stronger.

- The struggle for women's equality is a collective effort involving all who care about human rights.

- Educating women has a generational impact, potentially educating entire families and communities.

- Calling women the "weaker sex" is unjust and a misrepresentation of their capabilities.

- Women's empowerment and autonomy are important goals in themselves.

- Improving women's political, social, economic, and health status is crucial for societal progress.

- Women's empowerment is essential for achieving sustainable development.

- Gender equality is necessary for a country's sustainable development.

- The fight for women's rights and empowerment is interconnected with broader human rights issues.

- Empowering women benefits not just women, but society as a whole

Social Aspects of Gender

Distinction between sex and gender:

- Sex is a biological trait used to categorize people as male or female.

- Gender is a social construct that shapes our understanding of these biological categories.

Fluidity of gender:

- Gender is more fluid than sex and may not always depend on biological traits.

- It encompasses how societies determine and manage sex categories.

Cultural meanings of gender:

- Gender involves the cultural meanings attached to men's and women's roles in society.

- It includes how individuals understand their own identities, including but not limited to being a man, woman, or transgender.

Social norms and attitudes:

- Gender involves social norms and attitudes about behaviors deemed more appropriate for one sex over another.

- These norms influence individual feelings and actions.

Sociology of gender:

- Examines how society influences our understanding of differences between masculinity and femininity.

- Explores how societal views of appropriate behavior for men and women affect identity and social practices.

Gender as a broader concept:

- Goes beyond the binary of male and female to include various gender identities and expressions.

Individual and societal interplay:

- Gender is determined both by societal expectations and individual feelings and actions.

Impact on identity and practices:

- Our understanding of gender influences personal identity formation and social behaviors.

Woman's Education

Importance of education for women:

- Education is a vital tool for empowering women.

- It provides women with knowledge, skills, and self-confidence.

Participation in development:

- Education enables women to fully participate in the development process.

Universal right to education:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, over 40 years ago, declared education as a universal right.

Intergenerational impact:

- Educating girls leads to educated mothers.
- Educated mothers are more likely to educate their own children.

Family care and support:

- Educated women are better equipped to care for their families.
- They can provide better support to their children.

Personal advancement:

- Education gives girls the knowledge and skills needed to advance their social status.

Social interactions:

- Education improves a girl's ability to engage in social interactions.

Self-improvement:

- Education is a key factor in a woman's personal growth and self-improvement.

Cycle of empowerment:

- Educating girls creates a positive cycle of empowerment that extends to future generations.

Societal benefits:

- The education of women and girls has broader implications for society's overall development

Importance of Female Education

- Increased Literacy: Female education helps reduce global illiteracy rates, especially among youth.
- Human Trafficking Prevention: Education provides skills and opportunities that reduce women's vulnerability to trafficking.
- Political Representation: Education empowers women to participate more in politics and voting.
- Child Survival: Children of educated mothers are twice as likely to survive past age five.
- Delayed Marriage: More years of education correlate with later marriage ages for girls in underdeveloped countries.
- Income Potential: Even a single year of primary education can increase a girl's future wages by 20%.
- GDP Growth: Increasing female education by 10% can lead to a 3% average increase in GDP.

- Poverty Reduction: Equal access to education for women leads to increased economic participation and reduced poverty levels.

Pioneering Women in Various Fields:

- First woman Prime Minister: Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Sri Lanka
- First woman in space: Valentina Tereshkova, USSR
- First woman to scale Mt. Everest: Junko Tabei, Japan
- First woman to win an Olympic gold medal: Charlotte Cooper, England

Pioneering Women in India:

- First Women's University: Maharshi Karve started SNDT University in Pune (1916)
- First woman to hold a Union Cabinet post: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
- First woman to hold Union Foreign Minister's post: Sushma Swaraj (2014)
- Youngest woman state minister: Sushma Swaraj (Haryana, age 25)
- First woman governor of Independent India: Sarojini Naidu (United Provinces)
- First woman president of UN General Assembly: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1953)
- First woman Prime Minister: Indira Gandhi (1966)
- First woman IPS Officer: Kiran Bedi (1972)
- First Indian woman to win Nobel Peace Prize: Mother Teresa (1979)
- First Indian woman to climb Mount Everest: Bachendri Pal (1984)
- First Indian woman to win Booker Prize: Arundhati Roy (1997)
- First woman President: Pratibha Patil (2007)
- First woman Speaker of Lok Sabha: Meira Kumar (2009)
- First woman judge in Supreme Court: Meera Sahib Fatima Bibi
- First woman President of Indian National Congress: Annie Besant
- First woman Chief Minister: Sucheta Kripalani
- First woman Director General of Police (DGP): Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya
- First woman Defence Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- First woman Finance Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman

Factors Responsible for Poor Female Literacy Rate:

- Gender-based inequality
- Social discrimination and economic exploitation
- Occupation of girl child in domestic chores
- Low enrollment of girls in schools

- Low retention rate and high dropout rate

Role of Women in Economic Development:

- Women's economic empowerment is essential for sustainable development
- It's central to realizing women's rights and gender equality

Benefits of Economic Empowerment of Women:

- Contributes to gender equality
- Key to achieving sustainable development goals
- Leads to economic growth
- Improves organizational performance in companies

Need for Economic Empowerment of Women:

- Persistent gender differences in laws globally
- Lower labour market participation for women
- Higher unemployment rates for women
- Over-representation in informal and vulnerable employment
- Global gender pay gap
- Disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work
- Less likely to be entrepreneurs
- Limited access to financial institutions
- Less access to social protection
- Vulnerability to workplace violence and harassment

Indian Society and Inequality:

- Known for unity in diversity, but social inequality persists
- Weaker sections include women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, children, poor, and landless farmers
- These groups have faced socio-economic and political discrimination historically
- Their struggle for rights and justice continues

Box Facts:

- Education: Empowers people to think wisely and make thoughtful decisions.
- Gender Discrimination: A society that discriminates between genders cannot be truly empowered.
- Other Discrimination: Discrimination based on caste, creed, religion, etc. also hinders empowerment.

- Global Progress: The sustainability and progress of all regions depend on the success of women worldwide.
- Equal Opportunities: Former President Obama emphasized that girls should have the same opportunities to live their dreams as boys do.

Pioneers in Women's Education:

- Jyotirao Phule is often remembered as a champion of women's education in India.
- Savitribai Phule was a tradition breaker and the first female teacher at the first girls' school.
- Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule together opened the first school for girls in India in 1848.

Census Year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-Female Gap in Literacy Rate
1951	18.33%	27.16%	8.86%	18.30%
1961	28.30%	40.40%	15.35%	25.05%
1971	34.45%	45.96%	21.97%	23.98%
1981	43.57%	56.38%	29.76%	26.62%
1991	52.21%	64.13%	39.29%	24.84%
2001	64.83%	75.26%	53.67%	21.59%
2011	74.04%	82.14%	65.46%	16.68%

Market and Consumer Protection

Economic definition of a market:

- An arrangement where buyers and sellers come into contact to exchange goods and services, not necessarily tied to a physical location.

Key elements of a market:

- Buyers and sellers
- Exchange of goods, services, or information
- Business relationships between parties

Features of a Market:

- Can be for a single commodity or set of related commodities
- Not restricted to one physical location
- Requires multiple buyers and sellers for competition
- Participants should have access to market information

- Ideally, one price prevails for a good/service at a given time (in perfect competition)

Classification of Markets

Product Market

- Factor market (for factors of production like land, labor, capital)

Classifications of Markets:

- ➢ Based on Geographic Location:
  - Local Markets
  - Regional Markets
  - National Market
  - International Market
- ➢ Based on Time:
  - Very Short Period Market
  - Short Period Market
  - Long Period Market
- ➢ Based on Nature of Transaction:
  - Spot Market
  - Future Market
- ➢ Based on Regulation:
  - Regulated Market
  - Unregulated Market
- ➢ Based on Nature of Competition:
  - Monopoly
  - Monopolistic Competition
  - Oligopoly

Definition of a Consumer:

- A person who purchases a product or service for consideration
- Consideration can be paid, promised, or partly paid and partly promised
- Includes beneficiaries of goods/services when used with approval

Who is not a Consumer:

- Someone who receives goods/services free of charge
- Purchases goods or services for commercial purposes
- Avails a service under a contract of service

Unfair Trade Practices:

- These are methods used to promote sales, use, or supply of goods/services that are unfair or deceptive.

- False representations about quality, grade, or standards

- Selling renovated goods as new

- Misleading claims about product usefulness or benefits

- False warranty or guarantee claims

- Misleading pricing

- False advertisements about bargain prices

- Offering fake gifts or prizes

- Selling goods that don't meet safety standards

- Hoarding or destroying goods to manipulate prices

- Offering spurious goods or adopting deceptive service practices

Consumer Protection:

- A set of laws designed to protect consumer rights, ensure fair trade, promote competition, and provide accurate market information.

- Aims to prevent businesses from gaining unfair advantages through deceptive practices.

- May provide additional protection for vulnerable members of society.

- Involves government regulations requiring businesses to disclose detailed product information, especially in areas concerning safety or public health.

- Linked to consumer rights and the formation of consumer organizations.

Promoted by various entities including:

- Government organizations

- Self-regulating business organizations

- Consumer organizations

Examples of regulatory bodies:

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (COPRA):

- Enacted to protect consumer interests

- Established consumer councils and authorities for grievance settlement

- Came into force on December 24, 1986

- Known as the 'Magna Carta' of consumer protection in India

- Led to a network of consumer forums and appellate courts

- Significantly impacted how businesses handle consumer complaints

Consumer Protection Councils:

- Established at national, state, and district levels

- Aim to increase consumer awareness

- Supported by consumer organizations and NGOs

Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies:

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

- Established by the Central Government

- Handles cases valued at more than ₹10 million

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC):

- Established by State Governments

- Handles cases valued less than ₹10 million

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (DCDRF):

- Established by State Governments in each district

- Handles cases valued up to ₹2 million

Consumer Protection Act of 2019:

- Passed in August 2019

- Aims to provide timely and effective administration and settlement of consumer disputes in the Digital Age

- Intended to replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- To be implemented on a date notified by the Central Government

Highlights of the New Act:

E-Commerce Transactions:

- Expanded definition of 'consumer' to include online transactions.

Enhanced Pecuniary Jurisdiction:

- District Forum: Up to INR 10,000,000

- State Commission: INR 10,000,000 to INR 100,000,000

- National Commission: Over INR 100,000,000

E-Filing of complaints:

- Allows electronic filing and video-conferencing for hearings.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

- New regulatory body with wide enforcement powers.

Unfair Trade Practices:

- Broadened definition, including misuse of personal information.

Penalties for Misleading Advertisement:

- Up to INR 1,000,000 fine and 2 years imprisonment

- Subsequent offences: Up to INR 5,000,000 fine and 5 years imprisonment

- Endorsers can be prohibited from endorsing for up to 3 years

Consumer Courts in India:

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

- National level court

- Handles cases exceeding INR 1 crore

- Apex body and highest appellate court

- Headed by a sitting or retired Supreme Court judge

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC):

- State level court

- Handles cases between INR 20 lakhs and INR 1 crore

- Has appellate jurisdiction over District Forum

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (DCDRF):

- District level court

- Handles cases up to INR 20 lakhs

Box Facts:

The Eight Basic Consumer Rights

- The Right to Basic Needs.

- The Right to Safety.

- The Right to Information.

- The Right to Choose.

- The Right to Representation.

- The Right to Redress.

- The Right to Consumer Education.

- The Right to a Healthy Environment

Important Acts

- The Consumer Protection Act, 1986

- The Legal Metrology Act, 2009

- The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986

- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955

- The prevention of Black Marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential

- Commodities Act, 1980

Structure of Central and State Governments in India

- Two sets of government: Central government and State governments

- 28 state governments in the country

- Each state has its own government for administration

- States have their own:
    - Executive
    - Legislature
    - Judiciary

- State executive comprises:
    - Governor
    - Council of Ministers headed by Chief Minister

- Governor is an integral part of the State legislature

The Governor of an Indian State

- Constitution establishes Governor as Head of State

- Appointed by President of India

- Serves as constitutional Head of State

- Term of office:
    - Appointed for 5 years

- o Can be removed by President before term completion

- o May resign voluntarily

- o Term can be extended

- o Can be transferred to another State

- State Government cannot remove the Governor

- Eligibility criteria:

  - o Must be an Indian citizen

  - o Minimum age: 35 years

  - o Cannot be a member of Parliament or State legislature

  - o Cannot hold any office of profit

Powers and Functions of the Governor

- Nominal Executive of the State

- All executive powers vested in Governor

- Decisions taken in Governor's name

- Appoints Chief Minister and Council of Ministers

- Makes important state appointments:

  - o Advocate General

  - o Chairman and members of State Public Service Commission

  - o Other key positions

- Provides report to President for imposing emergency under Article 356

- Acts as Chancellor of State Universities

- Legislature-related powers:

  - o Summons and prorogues state legislature sessions

  - o Can dissolve Legislative Assembly

  - o Approves introduction of money bills

  - o Can promulgate ordinances when legislature not in session

- Nomination powers:

  - o Can nominate one Anglo-Indian member to Legislative Assembly if community underrepresented

  - o Can nominate 1/6 members to Legislative Council from experts in various fields

- Financial powers:

  - o Approves annual state budget before presentation

o Must give assent to all bills, including money bills

o Controls State Contingency Fund

Position of the Governor

- Compared to President of India as nominal executive

- Not always a nominal executive; can exercise real powers in certain situations

- Acts as an agent of the Central Government in the State

- Responsible for maintaining Central-State Government relations

- Can advise Council of Ministers in difficult situations

- Provides report to President on law and order for emergency declaration

- Exercises independent decision-making with discretionary powers

- May seek information from Council of Ministers on government activities.

The Chief Minister

- Appointed by Governor

- Leader of majority party in State Legislative Assembly

- Head of State Council of Ministers

- No fixed term of office

- Remains in power with majority support in Legislative Assembly

- Must resign if loses majority support

- Resignation leads to resignation of entire Council of Ministers

- Must be a member of State Legislature

- If not a member when appointed, must become one within six months

Powers and Functions of the Chief Minister

- Real executive of the State

- Leads major State Government decisions

- Key role in Council of Ministers formation:

    o Advises Governor on appointment of other Ministers

- Supervises and coordinates activities of different ministries

- Central in State Government policy-making:

    o Ensures policies align with public interest

    o Has final say in policy decisions

- Influential in higher State Government appointments:

- o Advises Governor on appointments of higher officials

The Legislative Council

- Part of State Legislature along with Governor and Legislative Assembly

- Upper house of State Legislature

- Membership:
    - o Total strength between 40 and 1/3 of Legislative Assembly
    - o Members elected indirectly

- Composition:
    - o 1/3 elected by local government bodies
    - o 1/3 elected by Legislative Assembly members
    - o 1/12 elected by graduates
    - o 1/12 elected by teachers
    - o 1/6 nominated by Governor

- Characteristics:
    - o Permanent house
    - o 1/3 members retire every two years
    - o Members elected for 6-year terms

- Eligibility criteria:
    - o Indian citizen
    - o Minimum age: 30 years
    - o Cannot be member of Legislative Assembly or Parliament

- Leadership:
    - o Chairman as presiding officer
    - o Deputy Chairman in Chairman's absence
    - o Both elected from among members

Legislative Assembly

- Composition:
    - o Members called MLAs (Members of Legislative Assembly)
    - o State divided into legislative constituencies
    - o One MLA elected from each constituency

- Election process:
    - o Political parties nominate candidates

- o Independent candidates can also contest

- o Minimum age to contest: 25 years

- o Candidates can contest from multiple constituencies

- o Each party and independent candidate assigned a symbol

- Voter eligibility:

  - o Direct election by people

  - o Voters must be 18 years or older

  - o Must reside in the constituency

- Assembly strength:

  - o Maximum 500 members

  - o Minimum 60 members

  - o Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

  - o Governor can nominate one Anglo-Indian member

- Term and dissolution:

  - o Elected for 5-year term

  - o Governor can dissolve house before term expiry

- Leadership:

  - o Speaker presides over meetings

  - o Deputy Speaker conducts meetings in Speaker's absence

  - o Both elected from among Assembly members

States Council of Ministers in Tamil Nadu

- Chief Minister selection:

  - o Leader of majority party chosen as Chief Minister

- Tamil Nadu specifics:

  - o 234 legislative constituencies

  - o Party with over 118 MLAs invited to form government

- Government formation:

  - o Chief Minister must be an MLA

  - o Chief Minister selects ministers from party MLAs

  - o Ministers assigned various departments

  - o Chief Minister heads the Council of Ministers

- State Government definition:

o Comprises Chief Minister and ministers of various departments

- Majority rule:

  o Party with majority seats forms the government

Working of the State Government

- Legislative Assembly meetings:

  o MLAs expected to participate regularly

  o Assembly meets 2-3 times a year

- Primary function:

  o Making laws for the state

  o Can legislate on state list and concurrent list subjects

  o Legislative power restricted during state emergency

- Control over State Council of Ministers:

  o Ministers answerable to Assembly

  o Can pass no-confidence motion against Council of Ministers

- Financial control:

  o Money bills can only be introduced in Assembly

  o Approval required for tax-related decisions

- Other important roles:

  o Elected members participate in President of India election

  o All members elect Rajya Sabha members from the state

  o Participates in certain constitutional amendments

- Three basic functions of government:

  ✓ Making laws

  ✓ Executing laws

  ✓ Ensuring justice

Law-Making Process in State Government

- Background:

  o Various rules and laws exist for all citizens

  o Examples: gun licensing, marriage age restrictions

  o Laws made by elected government after careful consideration

  o Both state and central governments make laws

- Legislative Assembly meetings:

    o MLAs discuss various topics: • Public works • Education • Law and order • State problems

    o MLAs can question ministers about their ministries' activities

    o Ministers must respond to these questions

- Law-making process in Legislative Assembly:

    o Introduction of bill

    o Discussion and debate on the bill

    o Voting on the bill

    o If passed, sent to Governor for approval

    o Upon Governor's assent, bill becomes law

- Note: The specific steps of the law-making process were not provided in the given text. The above points are a general outline of the typical process in most state legislatures.

Women's Rights Legislation in India

- Social reform movements work for women's development in India

- Laws enacted to provide women equal legal status with men

- Women can seek legal redress when denied rights

Key legislations:

- Sati Abolition Act (1829):

    - Prohibited burning of widows on husband's funeral pyre

- Widow Remarriage Act (1856):

    - Allowed widows to remarry

- Prevention of Child Marriage Act (1929) / Sarada Act:

    - Banned child marriage practice

- Hindu Succession Act (1956):

    - Ensured daughters' right to inherit parents' property

    - Did not cover inheritance rights in Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) property

    - Led to dowry practice and women's suffering

- Hindu Succession (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act (1989):

    - Introduced in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

    - Amended 1956 Act to give women equal rights in HUF property

    - Enacted by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi

- Served as example for national legislation
- Indian Parliament Act (2005):
  - Similar to Tamil Nadu's 1989 amendment
  - Passed at national level

Scheme/Act	Description	Key Features	Year Started	Relevant Facts
Mid-day Meal Scheme	A school meal program designed to improve the nutritional status of school-age children nationwide.	Provides free lunches on working days for children in government and government-aided schools.	1995	Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to introduce this scheme, starting in 1955. The Supreme Court mandated its implementation in all states in 2001. It is one of the largest such programs globally.
Self Respect Marriage Act	Legalizes marriages conducted without a Brahmin priest, promoting self-affirmation and breaking from traditional rituals.	Allows couples to marry by simply declaring their intent in front of witnesses, removing the need for religious ceremonies.	1967	Championed by the Dravidian movement, this Act aimed to simplify marriage procedures and challenge caste hierarchies. It was a landmark step towards social reform and individual autonomy.
Abolition of Hand Pulled Rickshaws	Banned the use of hand-pulled rickshaws, a practice considered exploitative and dehumanizing.	Aimed to improve the living conditions of rickshaw pullers and provide them with alternative	1972	This ban reflected a commitment to social justice and the dignity of labor.

		livelihood opportunities.		
Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme	Essentially the same as the Mid-day Meal Scheme, with a focus on providing nutritious meals to school children.	Aims to combat malnutrition and increase school enrollment and attendance, particularly among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.	1982	Launched in Tamil Nadu by M. G. Ramachandran (MGR), this scheme has been highly successful in improving child nutrition and education.
Kannoli Kappom Scheme	Provides free spectacles to visually impaired students in government schools.	Ensures that poor eyesight doesn't hinder a child's education.	N/A	This scheme demonstrates a commitment to inclusive education and ensuring equal opportunities for all students.
Free Bicycle Scheme	Provides free bicycles to students in government schools, particularly girls, to encourage school attendance and reduce dropout rates.	Aims to improve access to education, especially in rural areas where transportation can be a barrier.	2001	This initiative has been successful in promoting girls' education and empowering them.
Pudhumai Penn Scheme	Provides a monthly stipend to girl students from economically weaker sections pursuing higher education	Aims to incentivize girls to continue their education beyond the school level and improve	2022	This recently launched scheme by the Tamil Nadu government reflects a strong focus on women's empowerment and education. It helps bridge

after completing school education.	their economic prospects.		the gender gap in higher education and improve the socio-economic status of women.

Execution of Laws

- State council of ministers is responsible for executing laws

- Tamilnadu's legislative assembly is located in Chennai

- The capital of a state is where its legislative assembly and council of ministers function

- State government employs several lakhs of government employees to execute laws, including:

    o Collectors

    o Tahsildars

    o Block Development Officers

    o Revenue officers

    o Village Administrative Officers

    o Policemen

    o Teachers

    o Doctors

- All government employees receive salaries from the state government

- Government employees must follow state government orders

High Court in the Indian Judiciary

- High Court is the highest judicial authority at the state level

- Constitution mandates a High Court for each state

- Possibility of a common High Court for two or more states and Union Territories

- Composition:

    o Chief Justice

    o Other judges appointed by the President as needed

- Number of judges in High Courts varies and is not fixed

- Appointment process:

    o President appoints Chief Justice of High Court

    o Consultation with Chief Justice of India and state Governor required

- Qualifications for High Court Judge:

  o Must be a citizen of India

  o Minimum ten years' experience as an advocate in one or more High Courts

- Tenure:

  o Judge holds office until age 62

- Removal process:

  o Only for proven misbehaviour or incapacity

  o Procedure same as for removal of Supreme Court Judge

Powers and Functions of the High Court in India

- Empowered to issue writs for enforcing fundamental rights and other purposes:

  o Habeas corpus

  o Mandamus

  o Prohibition

  o Certiorari

  o Quo Warranto

- General superintendence over lower courts and tribunals within its jurisdiction

  o Exception: Military courts and tribunals

- Can take up cases from subordinate courts involving substantial constitutional questions

- Controls all subordinate courts in the state

- Acts as a Court of Record, similar to the Supreme Court

- State judicial administration:

  o States divided into districts

  o Each district under a district judge's jurisdiction

  o District court judges appointed by the Governor

- High Court has full powers and freedom within its jurisdiction

- Constitutional safeguards ensure independent functioning of the High Court

Feature	Acts	Schemes
Enactment	Passed by the legislature (Parliament or State Assembly) and	Introduced by the government through resolutions passed by the council of ministers.

	signed by the President/Governor. Involves debates and amendments.	
Legal Standing	Have the force of law. Citizens can seek legal remedies if their rights under an Act are violated.	Not legally binding in the same way as Acts. While they have policy force, individuals usually cannot sue the government for not providing benefits under a scheme.
Duration	Generally long-term, remaining in effect until repealed or amended.	Can be short-term or long-term, depending on the government's policy objectives and budget allocations.
Beneficiaries	Can apply to all citizens or specific groups, as defined in the Act.	Designed to benefit all people or specific sections of society, as determined by the government's policies.
Access to Benefits	Individuals may have to meet certain eligibility criteria or follow procedures to claim benefits under an Act.	To avail benefits, individuals usually need to apply through designated government departments or agencies.
Examples	**National Food Security Act, 2013:** Provides subsidized food grains to eligible households. **Right to Education Act, 2009:** Guarantees free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14.	**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** Guarantees 100 days of wage employment to rural households. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):** Provides health insurance coverage to vulnerable families. **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):** Offers financial assistance to elderly, widows, and disabled persons.

Box facts

State legislature procedure:

- Similar to Parliament for passing ordinary and money bills
- Legislative Assembly (lower house) more powerful than Legislative Council (upper house)

States with Legislative Council:

- Only six states have bicameral legislatures

- Bihar

- Uttar Pradesh

- Maharashtra

- Karnataka

- Andhra Pradesh

- Telangana

Governor appointment process:

- President appoints based on Union Cabinet's advice

- State Government is consulted

- Generally, a person is not appointed Governor in their home state

Citizens and Citizenship

Civics defined as the study of government

Etymology of 'Citizen':

- Derived from Latin word 'Civis'

- Original meaning: resident of a City State in Ancient Rome

- Current meaning: member of the State (after disappearance of City State system)

Citizens of a state:

- Enjoy full civil rights

- Enjoy full political rights

Citizen and Citizenship

Citizen and Citizenship

- Citizen defined:

    o Person of a country

    o Entitled to enjoy all legal rights and privileges granted by the state

    o Obligated to obey state laws

    o Required to fulfill duties

- Citizenship defined:

    o Status given to citizens

    o Provides right to legally live in a country indefinitely

- Types of Citizens:

1. Natural citizens

- Citizens by birth

2. **Naturalised citizens**

- Acquire citizenship

Acquisition of Indian Citizenship

1. By Birth

   o Born in India between 26 Jan 1950 and 1 Jul 1987

   o Born in India after 1 Jul 1987 (with conditions)

   o Born in India after 3 Dec 2004 (with conditions)

2. By Descent

   o Born outside India between 26 Jan 1950 and 10 Dec 1992

   o Born outside India after 10 Dec 1992

   o Born outside India after 3 Dec 2004 (with registration requirement)

3. By Registration

   o Person of Indian origin residing outside undivided India

   o Person of Indian origin residing in India for 7 years

   o Person married to an Indian citizen and residing in India for 7 years

4. By Naturalisation

   o Not a citizen of a country preventing Indian citizenship

   o Renounce citizenship of other country

   o Resided in India or served Indian government for 12 months

   o Good character and knowledge of a scheduled language

5. By Incorporation of Territory

   o When foreign territory becomes part of India

Loss of Indian Citizenship

1. Renunciation

   o Voluntary act

   o Giving up Indian citizenship after acquiring citizenship of another country

2. Termination

   o Occurs by operation of law

   o Automatic cessation of Indian citizenship upon voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship

3. Deprivation

- o Compulsory termination

- o Based on government order

- o Reasons:

  - Acquisition of citizenship by fraud

  - False representation

  - Disloyalty to the Constitution

Single Citizenship in India

- Indian Constitution provides only single citizenship

- All citizens have same rights throughout the country

- Contrast with federal states like USA and Switzerland

  These countries have dual citizenship (national and state)

- In India:

  - o No state-specific citizenship

  - o Equal political and civil rights for all citizens nationwide

  - o Birthplace or residence state does not affect citizenship rights

Rights and Duties of Indian Citizens

Rights:

- Fundamental Rights

- Right to vote in Lok Sabha and State Legislature elections

- Right to hold certain public offices

- Right to become Member of Parliament and State Legislature

Duties:

- Fundamental Duties (prescribed by 42nd Amendment) Examples:

  - o Paying taxes honestly

  - o Respecting others' rights, beliefs, and opinions

  - o Defending the country

  - o Respecting and obeying state and local laws

Overseas Citizenship of India

1. **Non-Resident Indian (NRI)**

   - o Indian citizen residing outside India

   - o Holds an Indian passport

2. **Person of Indian Origin (PIO)**

- o Person whose ancestors were Indian nationals

- o Currently holds citizenship of another country (excluding Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan, China, and Nepal)

- o PIO scheme rescinded on 09-01-2015

3. **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card Holder**

- o Immigration status for foreign citizens of Indian origin

- o Allows living and working in India indefinitely

- o Excludes citizens of Pakistan and Bangladesh

- o No voting rights for OCI card holders

Qualities of a Good Citizen

- Loyalty to the Constitution

- Obeys laws

- Contributes to society and community

- Performs civic duty

- Possesses qualities of goodness and justice

- Respects diversity

Global Citizenship

- Concept of worldwide community membership

- Transcends national citizenship

- Universal rights and civic responsibilities

- Enables youth participation in shaping modern society

- Emphasizes global interconnectedness

- Promotes broader perspective beyond national boundaries

Conclusion

- Indian Constitution establishes single citizenship

- Provides uniform rights for all Indian citizens

- Aims to promote:

  - o Feeling of fraternity

  - o Unity among people

- Goal: Building an integrated Indian nation

Box Facts

Key Concepts in Indian Citizenship and Immigration

1. Indian Citizenship Act, 1955

   o Governs acquisition and termination of Indian citizenship

2. Nationality vs. Citizenship

   o Nationality: Ethnic/racial concept, unchangeable

   o Citizenship: Legal status, can be changed

3. First Citizen

   o President of India is the first citizen

4. Non-nationals in a country

   o Alien: All non-citizens (e.g., tourists, foreign students)

   o Immigrant: Alien with permanent residency rights

5. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

   o Overseas Indians' Day

   o Celebrated biennially on January 9

   o Commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa

   o Recognizes contributions of overseas Indian community

   o Sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs

Understanding Secularism

o India's religious diversity: Birthplace of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism

o Historical peaceful coexistence of diverse religions and beliefs

o Modern nation-states as multi-religious entities

o Need for religious tolerance in diverse societies

o Secularism as a concept promoting harmony among people of different faiths or no faith

o Notable contributors to Indian secularism:

   • Rajaram Mohan Roy

   • Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

   • Rabindranath Tagore

   • Mahatma Gandhi

   • B.R. Ambedkar

o Importance of secularism in India's religiously diverse society.

Understanding Secularism

- o Attitude of tolerance towards other religions

- o Peaceful co-existence of citizens from different faiths

- o State policy of neutrality and equality towards all religious communities

- o Principle of separation between state and religion

- o Non-interference of state in religious matters and vice versa

- o Freedom for citizens to:

  - Propagate their faith

  - Practice their faith

  - Profess their faith

  - Change their faith

  - Choose not to have a faith

- o Individual conscience as the guiding factor in religious choices.

Objectives of Secularism

- o Prevention of religious group domination:

  - No religious group should dominate another

- o Intra-religious equality:

  - No members within a religious community should dominate others

- o State neutrality in religious matters:

  - State does not enforce any specific religion

  - State does not infringe on individual religious freedom

- o Secular perspective illustrated by poet Iqbal's statement:

  - "Religion does not teach us animosity"

  - "We are Indians and India is our home!"

Characteristic Features of a Secular State

- o Principle of Liberty:

  - State permits practice of any religion

- o Principle of Equality:

  - No preferential treatment to any religion

- o Principle of Neutrality:

  - State remains neutral in religious matters

- o No official state religion

- o Equal treatment of all religions

- Rights granted to citizens:
  - Equal right to freedom of conscience
  - Right to profess, practice, and propagate any faith
- State's attitude of neutrality and impartiality towards all religions
- Non-discrimination based on religious practices and beliefs
- Equal eligibility for government service regardless of faith
- Absence of religious instructions in educational institutions
- No taxes to support any particular religion

Importance of Secularism

- Evolution of secularism in India as equal treatment of all religions
- Necessity for maintaining peace and harmony among people with diverse religious ideologies
- Integral part of democracy
- Grants equal rights to all citizens.

Constitution and Secularism in India

- Secularism as part of Indian Constitution
- Constitutional makers' awareness of religious freedom's importance for national unity
- Secularism as a fundamental tenet for Indian democracy
- Initial absence of the word "secular" in the 1950 Constitution
- Incorporation of "secular" in the Preamble through 42nd Amendment in 1976
- India defined as "Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic"
- Constitutional aim: Promote national unity, integrity, and individual dignity
- No state religion in India
- State's neutrality towards all religions
- Freedom of religion extends to both citizens and aliens
- Supreme Court case: Ratilal Panchand V State of Bombay (1954) affirming religious freedom for aliens.

Distinguishing Features of Indian Constitution Regarding Secularism

- State's non-identification with any religion:
  - State not controlled by any religion
- Guaranteed right to profess any religion:
  - Freedom of religious choice for all individuals
- No preferential treatment to any religion:

- Equal treatment of all religions by the state

o Non-discrimination based on religious faith:

- State does not discriminate against individuals due to their religious beliefs

o Promotion of national unity and individual dignity:

- Creation of fraternity among Indian people

- Assurance of individual dignity

- Emphasis on unity of the nation

Mosaic of Constitutional Provisions Supporting Secularism

o Article 15: Prohibition of discrimination based on religion, caste, sex, or place of birth

o Article 16: Equality of opportunity in public employment

o Article 25(1): Freedom of conscience and right to profess, practice, and propagate religion

o Article 26: Freedom to manage religious affairs

o Article 27: No compulsory taxation for promotion of any particular religion

o Article 28: Regulations on religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions

o Article 29(2): Ban on discrimination in state-aided educational institutions.

The Need for Secular Education

o Definition: Public education free from religious dominance

o Goal: Character and moral development of children regardless of religious affiliation

o Benefits of secular education:

- Removes narrow-mindedness

- Promotes dynamic and enlightened views

- Develops moral and humanistic outlook

- Trains youth to be good citizens

- Strengthens democratic values (liberty, equality, fraternity)

- Encourages cooperative living

- Provides wider vision towards life

- Develops appreciation and understanding of others' viewpoints

- Fosters spirit of love, tolerance, cooperation, equality, and sympathy

- Synthesizes materialism and spiritualism

The Significance of Secularism in India

o Indian State's secular nature

o State's efforts to prevent religious domination

- o Secularism's role in enabling citizens to enjoy life, liberty, and happiness

- o Constitutional guarantee of fundamental rights based on secular principles

- o Secularism as an achievement of Indian democracy

- o Promotion of civility through secularism

- o Encourages respect for other religions

- o Grants equal rights regarding religious faith

- o Desirability of secularism for India's diverse society.

Box facts

- o Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of India as a land of many faiths with one national outlook

- o Etymology of "secularism":

  - • Latin word 'saeculum' meaning 'an age' or 'the spirit of an age'

  - • Coined by British newspaper editor George Jacob Holyoake

- o Distinction between atheism and secularism:

  - • Atheism: lack of belief in god(s)

  - • Secularism: non-interference between state and religious affairs

- o Emperor Ashoka's 12th Rock Edict (3rd century BC):

  - • First announcement of state non-prosecution of religious sects

  - • Appeal for tolerance and respect towards all religious sects

- o Mughal Emperor Akbar's policies:

  - • Religious toleration

  - • Propagation of Din-i-Illahi (Divine Faith)

  - • Sulh-e-Kul (Peace and harmony among religions)

- o Modern India's secular practices:

  - • Public holidays for festivals of all religions

- o Architectural examples of religious syncretism:

  - • 19th century Hindu temple in Khajuraho incorporating elements from Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Muslim architecture

  - • Akbar's mausoleum design incorporating elements from different religions

Human Rights and UNO

- o Equality at birth for all individuals

- o Right to lead a dignified life of one's choice

o Human rights as inherent to individuals and society

o Human rights ensure freedom and ability to exercise choices

o State's responsibility to ensure equal rights for all people

Definition of Human Rights

o Inherent rights for all human beings

o Universal regardless of:

- Race

- Sex

- Nationality

- Ethnicity

- Language

- Religion

o Human rights include:

- Freedom from slavery

- Freedom from torture

- Freedom of opinion and expression

- Right to fair trial

- Right to life

- Right to work

- Right to education

Where do Human Rights come from?

o Written Precursors of Human Rights Documents

- Magna Carta (1215, England)

- Petition of Right (1628, England)

- Habeas Corpus Act (1679, England)

- English Bill of Rights (1689)

- French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)

- US Constitution and Bill of Rights (1791)

o The Birth of United Nations

- Stronger emergence of human rights idea after World War II

- Establishment of the United Nations (October 24, 1945)

- UN's focus on human rights in various policy areas

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
  - Created by UN Commission on Human Rights
  - Adopted by UN General Assembly in 1948
  - Led by Eleanor Roosevelt
  - Observed annually on December 10 as Human Rights Day
  - Incorporated into constitutions of over 185 nations
  - Translated into more than 500 languages

Human Rights are based on the values of:

- Dignity
  - Right to life
  - Right to integrity
  - Prohibition of enforced labour
  - Prohibition of slavery
  - Prohibition of degrading punishment
- Justice
  - Right to fair trial
  - Proportional punishment to crime
  - Right not to be tried more than once for the same crime
- Equality
  - Equality before law
- No discrimination based on:
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Ability/disability

Basic Characteristics of Human Rights:

- Inherent
  - Not granted by any person or authority
- Fundamental
  - Essential for meaningful life and dignity
- Inalienable

- Cannot be taken away from the individual

o Indivisible

- Cannot be denied even when other rights have been enjoyed

o Universal

- Apply irrespective of origin or status

- Enforceable without national borders

o Interdependent

- Fulfillment of one human right depends on the realization of others.

Kinds of Human Rights:

Civil Rights

- Basic rights afforded by laws of government

- Right to be treated equally

- Includes rights to life, liberty, freedom from slavery and arbitrary arrest

Political Rights

- Exercised in formation and administration of government

- Related to modern democracy

- Protect from misuse of political power

- Include freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, voting, speech, and obtaining information

Social Rights

- Necessary for full participation in society

- Include rights to education, health care, food, clothing, shelter, and social security

Economic Rights

- Right to participate in beneficial economy and desirable work

- Include rights to employment, fair wage, reasonable work hours, shelter, education, adequate living standard, and property

Cultural Rights

- Freedom of religion

- Right to speak language and practice community's cultural life

- Right to share in scientific advancement

- Right to protection of moral and material interests

The Difference between Human Rights and Civil Rights

Feature	Human Rights	Civil Rights
Belong to	Everyone, everywhere, regardless of nationality, sexuality, gender, race, religion or age.	Those rights that one enjoys by virtue of citizenship in a particular nation or state.
Universality	Considered universal to all human beings and universal in all countries.	Vary greatly from country to country or government to government. Related to the Constitution.
Deprivation	No nation may rightfully deprive an individual of human rights.	Different nations can grant or deny different civil rights and liberties.
Source	Basic rights inherent with birth.	Creation of the society.

Human Rights Commission:

1. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

    o Empowered to set up commission for promotion of human rights

2. **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

    o Established: October 12, 1993

    o Nature: Independent statutory, non-constitutional body

    o Headquarters: New Delhi

    o Structure: Multi-member body with Chairperson and other members

    o Appointment: By President

    o Term: 5 years or till age 70, whichever earlier

    o Divisions: Law, Investigation, Policy Research & Programmes, Training, Administrative

    o Purpose: Protection and promotion of human rights in India

Structure of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

Chairperson

    o Retired Chief Justice of India

Members

    o One Member: who is or has been a judge of Supreme Court

    o One Member: who is or has been a judge of High Court

    o Two Members: from amongst persons having knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to Human Rights

Deemed Members

o   Chairpersons of the following National Commissions:

  ▪   National Commission for Minorities

  ▪   National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

  ▪   National Commission for Scheduled Castes

  ▪   National Commission for Women

This structure shows a diverse composition of the NHRC, combining judicial experience with expertise in human rights and representation from various national commissions focused on specific demographic groups.

State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

  o   Example: Tamil Nadu SHRC formed on April 17, 1997

  o   Function: At state level

  o   Structure: Three members including Chairperson

  o   Jurisdiction: Subjects under State list and Concurrent list of Indian Constitution

  o   Limitation: Cannot inquire into matters already being investigated by NHRC

Human Rights Organizations:

Purpose:

  o   Protect human rights

  o   End human rights abuses

Nature:

  o   Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Functions:

  o   Monitor actions of governments

  o   Pressure governments to act according to human rights principles

Examples of organizations:

  o   Amnesty International

  o   Children's Defense Fund

  o   Human Rights Watch

Global scope:

  o   Organizations operate around the world

Child Rights:

Definition:

o According to UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989: Child is every human being below 18 years

Importance:

o Children considered as important national asset

o Future of nation depends on children's development

Objective:

o Protection of children from exploitation and abuses

2. **Laws in India protecting child rights:**

Right to Education Act (Article 21A):

o Free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14 years

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986:

o Prohibits employment of children under 15 years

Juvenile Justice Act 2000 (Care and Protection of Children):

o Protects deprived children

o Aims to reform children using child-friendly approach

POCSO Act 2012 (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences):

o Considers best interest of the child as paramount in every state

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

o Proclaimed on November 20, 1989

Women's Rights:

Fundamental principle:

o Women and girls' rights are human rights

o Women entitled to full and equal enjoyment of all human rights

o Freedom from all forms of discrimination

Importance:

o Essential for achieving human rights, peace, security, and sustainable development

UN Charter:

o Guarantees equal rights to women and men

International documents and events:

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):

o Adopted in 1979 by UN General Assembly

o Described as International bill of rights for women

Fourth World Conference of Women (Beijing, 1995):

o Developed Platform for Action

o Aimed to recognize women's rights and improve livelihood worldwide

o Follow-up meetings to monitor progress

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM):

o Working since 1995 to implement Beijing Platform for Action

Goal:

o True equality will exist only when women and girls have full access to their rights.

Essence of Human Rights:

• About equality and fairness for everyone

• Ensures everyone is treated with dignity and respect

Responsibility:

• Protection of human rights is everyone's responsibility

Importance:

• Understanding and respect for human rights provides foundation for: a. Peace b. Harmony c. Security d. Freedom in community

Legislation	Provision
The Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856	Legalised widow remarriage.
The Hindu Marriage Act 1955	States that the marriageable age for women is 21.
The Hindu Succession Act 1956	Ensures the right to women to inherit their parental property.
The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961	Provides drastic punishments for those ill-treating the bride in the name of dowry.
The Eve Teasing Act 1997	Gives relief to women.
Indecent Representation Act 1999	Prohibits the indecent representation of women in magazine, newspapers etc.
The Factory Act 1948, The Plantation Labour Act 1951, The Mines Act 1952	Protects the women workers.
The Maternity Benefit Act 1961	Act provides maternity benefits to women workers
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005	Protects women from harassment by husband and family members.

Box content

1. **The Cyrus Cylinder (539 BC/BCE):**

- Created by Cyrus the Great, first king of ancient Persia

- Freed slaves, declared religious freedom, established racial equality

- Recorded on baked-clay cylinder in Akkadian language with cuneiform script

- Translated into six official UN languages

- Parallels first four Articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

2. **UDHR Preamble:**

   o All men born free and equal in status and rights

   o Endowed with intelligence and conscience

   o Obliged to promote spirit of common brotherhood

3. **Human Rights Day:**

   o Celebrated annually on December 10th

   o Honors UN General Assembly for declaring universal human rights

4. **UN International Years:**

   o 1978: International Year of Women

   o 1979: International Year of Children

5. **Indian Constitution Articles on Child Rights:**

   o Article 24: Prohibits child labor

   o Article 39(f): Provides for healthy development of children

   o Article 45: State to provide early childhood care and education until age six

6. **Child Line 1098:**

   o India's 24-hour free emergency phone service for children

   o Focuses on vulnerable children affected by labor, marriage, and abuse

7. **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007:**

   o Legal obligation for children to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents

   o Recognizes protection and support during old age as human rights

Defence & Foreign Policy

Defence

India's Approach to International Relations and Defence

- India is a peace-loving country

- Maintains cordial relationships with other countries

- Focuses on good relations with neighboring countries

- Recognizes the need to strengthen security

- Aims to defend borders from foreign aggression

- Government prioritizes the defence sector

- Importance of understanding India's various defence forces

Need for Defence System

National security is essential for:

- Political development

- Social development

- Economic development

  National security is important for growth

Indian Defence Services

Force Category	Governing Body	Constituent Forces	Roles/Responsibilities
Indian Armed Forces	Ministry of Defence	* Indian Army * Indian Navy * Indian Air Force * Indian Coast Guard	* Primary defenders of the nation *Protect against external aggression * Maintain territorial integrity
Paramilitary Forces	Ministry of Home Affairs	* Assam Rifles * Special Frontier Force	* Counter-insurgency operations * Border security (in specific regions) * Specialized roles (e.g., intelligence gathering)
Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)	Ministry of Home Affairs	* Border Security Force (BSF) * Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) * Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	* Border guarding * Internal security * Counter-terrorism * Maintaining law and order * Assisting the Army and Police as needed

		* Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) * Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	

Indian Army

- Land-based branch of Indian Armed Forces

- Largest volunteer army in the world

- Commanded by Chief of Army Staff (COAS), a four-star general

- Primary missions:

  o Ensure national security and unity

  o Defend against external aggression

  o Counter internal threats

  o Maintain peace and security within borders

- Additional responsibilities:

  o Conduct humanitarian rescue operations during natural disasters and calamities

- Organizational structure:

  o Follows a regimental system

  o Operationally and geographically divided into seven commands

Indian Navy

- **Primary objectives:**

  o Safeguard nation's maritime borders

  o Work with other Armed Forces to deter or defeat threats

  o Protect against aggression towards: • Territory • People • Maritime interests of India

- **Leadership:**

  o Commanded by Chief of Naval Staff

  o Chief is a four-star Admiral

- **Structure:**

  o Organized into three Naval Commands

Indian Air Force

- Air arm of the Indian armed forces

- **Primary missions:**

    o Secure Indian airspace

    o Conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict

- **Leadership:**

    o Commanded by Chief of Air Staff

    o Chief is an Air Chief Marshal (four-star officer)

    o Responsible for bulk of operational command

- **Structure:**

    o Organized into seven commands

Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

- Established in 1978

- Created by Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India

- Independent Armed force of India

- Operates under the Ministry of Defence

- Collaborations:

    o Works in close cooperation with:

        • Indian Navy

        • Department of Fisheries

        • Department of Revenue (Customs)

        • Central police forces

        • State police forces

Paramilitary Defence Forces

- **Assist in:**

    o Maintaining internal security

    o Protecting coastline

    o Supporting the army

- **Responsibilities:**

    o Securing important locations: • Railway stations • Oil fields and refineries • Water reservoirs and lines

    o Participating in disaster management (natural or man-made)

    o Protecting international borders during peacetime

- **Composition:** a) Assam Rifles (AR) b) Special Frontier Force (SFF)

Assam Rifles (AR):

- Established: 1835

- Original name: Cachar Levy

- Founded by: British

- Initial location: Assam region

- Current strength: 46 battalions

- Governing body: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Special Frontier Force (SFF):

- Established: 1962

- Type: Paramilitary special force

- Initial oversight: Intelligence Bureau

- Current oversight: Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF):

- Reclassification: March 2011

- Previous classification: Paramilitary forces

- Governing body: Ministry of Home Affairs

- Reason for reclassification: To avoid confusion

Forces included in CAPF:

1. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

2. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

3. Border Security Force (BSF)

4. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

5. Special Service Bureau (SSB)

Force	Mission/Roles	Specializations/Key Features
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	Maintain rule of law, public order, and internal security Preserve national integrity Promote social harmony and development	Rapid Action Force (RAF) wing for riot control, rescue, and relief operations

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	Border guarding High altitude operations	Deployed along the India-China border (Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh)
Border Security Force (BSF)	Border guarding Prevent transnational crime	Guards India's land borders during peacetime
Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	Guarding sensitive government buildings Providing airport security Protecting vital infrastructure (e.g., Delhi Metro)	Set up under an Act of Parliament in 1969
Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	Border guarding	Responsible for Nepal and Bhutan borders
Home Guard	Auxiliary to the Indian Police Community service Protection and guarding	Voluntary force Recruits from various civilian backgrounds Members serve 3-5 years

Foreign Policy of India

Foreign Policy:

- Definition: Set of political goals for international interactions
- Purpose: Secure best interests of country's people, territory, and economy
- Scope: Defines interactions with other countries

India's Foreign Policy:

- Basis: Principles and policies
- Influence: Shaped by colonial experiences
- Focus: External relations

Basic Principles of Foreign Policy:

- Preservation of national interest
- Achievement of world peace
- Disarmament
- Abolition of Colonialism, Racism and Imperialism
- Increasing the number of friendly nations
- Economic development

Panchsheel:

- Architect: Jawaharlal Nehru (First Prime Minister of India)
- Focus: World peace
- Definition: Five principles of peace

Principles of Panchsheel:

1. Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty
2. Mutual non-aggression
3. Mutual non-interference in internal affairs
4. Equality and mutual benefit
5. Peaceful co-existence.

Non-Alignment:

- Term coined by: V.K. Krishna Menon
- Significance: Key feature of India's foreign policy
- Objective: Maintain national independence in foreign affairs

Characteristics:

- Not joining military alliances (USA or Soviet Union)
- Not neutrality, non-involvement, or isolationism
- Dynamic concept
- Independent stand on international issues

Non-Aligned Movement Founding Fathers:

- Jawaharlal Nehru (India)
- Tito (Yugoslavia)
- Nasser (Egypt)
- Sukarno (Indonesia)
- Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana)

India's Relations with Neighbouring Countries:

- India's position: Unique in its neighbourhood
- Approach: Favours international and regional cooperation
- Belief: Cooperation can resolve disputes peacefully
- Foreign policy principle: Developing friendly relations with neighbours

India's Neighbouring Countries:

- North-west: Pakistan and Afghanistan

- North: China, Nepal, Bhutan

- East: Bangladesh

- Far east: Myanmar

- South-east: Sri Lanka

- South-west: Maldives

Neighbourhood First Policy:

- Focus: Improving ties with immediate neighbours

- Support: Resources, equipment, training

- Goal: Greater connectivity and integration

Act East Policy:

- Focus: South East Asia, starting with North East India

- Key connection: Myanmar as land bridge to ASEAN

- Purpose: Stable multipolar balance in Indo-Pacific

Regional Economic Diplomacy:

1. SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation):

- Members: India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan

2. BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor):

- Goal: Formation of economic belt

- Focus: Cross-border transport, energy, telecommunication networks

3. BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation):

- Objectives: Strengthen technological economic cooperation, international trade, foreign direct investment

- Members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal

4. BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal):

- Purpose: Enable movement of passengers, cargo vehicles, energy development

Summary of India's Foreign Policy:

- Maintain peace, freedom, mutual cooperation

- High status in South East Asia

- Not in major military alliances

- Strategic depth in relations with major powers

Box content

National War Memorial:

- Location: Near India Gate, New Delhi

- Area: 40 acres

- Purpose: Honor Indian Armed Forces

- Feature: Names of martyrs inscribed on walls

Military Ranks and Notable Officers:

- Field Marshal: Highest rank in Indian Army

- First Field Marshal: Sam Manekshaw

- Second Field Marshal: K. M. Cariappa

- First and only Marshal of Indian Air Force: Arjan Singh

Madras Regiment:

- Established: 1758

- Regimental Centre: Wellington, Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu

Officers Training Academy (OTA):

- Established: 1962 (post Sino-Indian War)

- Original name: Officers Training Schools (OTS)

- Locations: Pune and Chennai

- Renamed: Officers Training Academy in 1988

Historical Naval Expedition:

- Year: 1025 AD (CE)

- Leader: Rajendra Chola I

- Target: Srivijaya (Southeast Asia)

- Significance: Unique event in India's history

National Cadet Corps (NCC):

- Type: Tri-Services Organization

- Purpose: Grooming youth into disciplined and patriotic citizens

- Recruitment: High schools, colleges, universities

- Training: Basic military training in small arms and parades

Important Military Days:

- Army Day: 15th January

- Coast Guard Day: 1st February

- Central Industrial Security Force Day: 10th March

- Rapid Action Force Day: 7th October

- Air Force Day: 8th October

- Navy Day: 4th December

- Armed Forces Flag Day: 7th December

Nelson Mandela and Apartheid:

- Role: Leader of African National Council of South Africa

- Significance: Fighter against apartheid

- India's stance: Opposed racial discrimination

- Outcome: End of racialism in South Africa in 1990

India's Borders:

- Land borders: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Burma

- Sea border: Sri Lanka

The Judiciary

Introduction to Indian Judicial System:

- Type: Single unified and integrated system

- Role: Important organ of government

Functions of Judiciary:

- Administers justice

- Settles disputes

- Interprets laws

- Protects fundamental rights

- Acts as guardian of the Constitution

Key Definitions:

- Law: System of rules imposed by government to govern people

- Judiciary: System of courts administering justice in the name of the State

Evolution of Indian Judiciary:

Ancient Period:

- Justice linked with religion

- King as fountain head of justice

- Courts dispensed justice according to 'dharma'

- Ganas had Kulika courts

- Vajjis had board of eight Kulikas for criminal cases

- Appeal system: Kula courts to Gana Courts

Medieval Period:

- Tughlaq period: Fiqha-e-Feroze Shahi (civil procedure code)

- Aurangzeb period: Fatawa-i-Alamgiri (1670)

Modern Period (British Era):

- 1727: Mayor's courts in Madras, Bombay, Calcutta

- 1773: Regulating Act, Supreme Court at Fort Williams, Calcutta

- 1801 & 1824: Supreme Courts in Madras and Bombay

- 1862: High Courts replace Supreme Courts

Warren Hastings' reforms:

- Mofussil Diwani Adalat (civil disputes)

- Mofussil Fauzdari Adalat (criminal disputes)

- Sadar Diwani Adalat (civil court of appeal)

- Sadar Nizamat Adalat (criminal court of appeal)

Lord Cornwallis' reforms:

- District Fauzdari court abolished

- Circuit Courts established

William Bentinck's period:

- Four Circuit courts abolished

Later developments:

- Sadar Diwani Adalat and Sadar Nizamat Adalat in Allahabad

- Macaulay's Law Commission

- 1859: Civil Procedure Code

- 1860: Indian Penal Code

- 1861: Criminal Procedure Code

- 1935: Federal Court (Government of India Act)

- 1949: Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction

- 1950: Supreme Court of India inaugurated

Judiciary and Constitution:

- 'Justice' given highest priority in Constitution

- Independence of Courts ensured

- Courts given power of Judicial review

Supreme Court:

- Regulated by Supreme Court Rules, 1966

- Rules framed under Article 145 of Constitution

- Highest court of the land

Constitutional provisions:

- Part V, Chapter IV: 'The Union Judiciary'

- Part VI, Chapter VI: 'Subordinate Courts'

- Articles 124 to 147: Composition and jurisdiction of Supreme Court

Historical context:

- British period: No Indian laws or courts

- Post-independence: Indian-framed Constitution and judicial system

Structure of courts in India

- **Hierarchy of courts:**

  o Supreme Court at apex

  o High Courts at state level

  o District Courts at district level

  o Subordinate Courts at bottom

- **Supreme Court powers:**

  o Binding decisions

  o Judge transfers

  o Case transfers

  o Inter-High Court case movement

- **High Court functions:**

  o Lower court appeals

  o Fundamental Rights protection

  o State jurisdiction cases

  o Lower court oversight

- **District Court duties:**

  o Local case handling

  o Lower court appeal reviews

  o Serious criminal case judgments

- **Subordinate Courts:**

  o Civil and criminal case consideration

- Interconnected system:
  - Appeals flow upward
  - Higher courts exercise control downward

Court Type	Jurisdiction	Purpose/Function	Key Features
District Courts	Civil cases at the district level	Handles civil disputes	
Sessions Court	Criminal cases at the district level	Handles criminal offenses	
Panchayat Courts	Civil and Criminal cases at the village level	Resolves minor local disputes	
Revenue Courts	Land-related matters	Maintains land records, assesses and collects land revenue	
Lok Adalat	Civil and minor criminal cases	Provides speedy justice through mediation and conciliation	Cases are solved through mutual consent; presided over by a retired judge, lawyer, and social worker
Fast Track Courts	Sessions and other lower judicial cases	Expedites the resolution of long-pending cases	Established in 2000
Tele Law Initiative	Provides legal aid in rural areas	Offers legal advice through video conferencing	Launched by the Ministry of Law and Justice in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Family Courts	Family law matters (e.g., child custody, divorce, adoption)	Resolves family disputes	Civil courts

Mobile Courts	Rural areas	Provides accessible justice, raises legal awareness	Brings court services to remote locations
E-Courts	All courts	Computerizes court processes, provides online information	Established in 2005; includes Judicial Service Centers for case status and hearing information

Supreme Court of India

- Highest court in India
- Located in New Delhi
- Guardian of the Constitution
- Highest court of appeal
- Established by Constitution of India

Jurisdiction of Supreme Court

- Original Jurisdiction
  - First-time disputes
  - Union-State conflicts
  - Inter-State disputes
- Appellate Jurisdiction
  - Appeals from High Court decisions
  - Requires High Court certificate
- Advisory Jurisdiction
  - Opinion on matters referred by President
  - Public importance questions
- Writs Jurisdiction
  - Article 32 for Supreme Court
  - Article 226 for High Courts
- Court of Record
  - Maintains proceedings records
  - Decisions binding on lower courts
- Special Powers

o Supervises lower courts

High Court

- Highest court in each state

- Some states share a High Court

    o Example: Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh

- Jurisdictions:

    o Original

    o Appellate

    o Writs

- Hierarchy:

    o Below Supreme Court

    o Above Subordinate courts

- Example given: High Court of Madras

Role of the Judiciary

Role	Description	Examples
Dispute Resolution	Provides a mechanism for resolving disputes between various parties.	* Citizen vs. Citizen * Citizen vs. Government * State Government vs. State Government * Central Government vs. State Government
Judicial Review	Has the power to declare a law unconstitutional if it violates the basic structure of the Constitution.	A court striking down a law passed by Parliament because it infringes on freedom of speech.
Upholding the Law and Enforcing Fundamental Rights	Protects citizens' fundamental rights and allows them to approach higher courts for redress.	A citizen petitioning the Supreme Court for violation of their right to equality.

Independent and impartial function of Judiciary

- Constitution established independent judiciary

- Importance of judicial independence for fair justice

- Judiciary as custodian of citizens' rights

- Framers' concern for judiciary's structure

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's emphasis on independence and competence

- Need for both independence and accountability

- Judicial independence defined as unbiased function

- Freedom from external influence in judicial decisions

- Democratic importance of independent judiciary

Feature	Civil Law	Criminal Law
Deals with	Disputes over money, property, and social matters	Conducts or acts defined as offenses
Examples	Disputes relating to land, rent, marriage	Theft, murder, harassment
Initiation	Affected party files a petition in court	Lodging an FIR (First Information Report) with the police
Process	Court proceedings focus on resolving the dispute between the parties	Police investigation followed by court proceedings
Outcome	Sentences in the form of monetary compensation or specific relief as per the petitioner's claim	Punishment if proven guilty, such as imprisonment

Conclusion

- Crucial role of judiciary in democracy

- Judiciary as Constitution's custodian

- Protector of fundamental rights

- India's status as largest representative democracy

- Well-structured judicial system in India

- Independence of Indian judiciary

Box content

- Judiciary excellence reflects government quality

- Ancient Indian legal texts (Smritis)

- Examples: Manusmriti, Naradasmriti, Yajnavalkya smriti

High Court milestones:

- Calcutta High Court: Oldest (est. 1862)

- Allahabad High Court: Largest

Montesquieu's influence:

- Advocated independent judiciary

- Separation of powers theory

NALSA (National Legal Service Authority):

- Established under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

- Provides free legal services to weaker sections

- Organizes Lok Adalats for dispute settlement

Public Interest Litigation (PIL):

- Introduced by Supreme Court

- Allows individuals to approach court for public interest

- Reasons include: human rights violations, religious rights, pollution, road safety

- Can be filed through written letter

- Unique to Indian judiciary

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