

IYACHAMY ACADEMY

Exam Intelligence Series



UPSC

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

TRENDMAP

INDIAN POLITY & GOVERNANCE

500+

PYQs

1995-2025

Span

15

Topics

200+

Concepts

COMPLETE TOPIC COVERAGE

Political Theory	Constitution	Fundamental Rights	DPSP & Duties	Executive
Legislature	Judiciary	Elections & ECI	Constitutional Bodies	Important Acts
Panchayati Raj	Post-Independence	International Relations	Amendments	Governance

Pattern Analysis | Concept Clusters | Rising Areas | Strategic Insights

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For UPSC Civil Services

PREFACE

“The question is not whether you know the answer. The question is whether you know what UPSC is really asking.”

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WHY THIS DOCUMENT EXISTS

Every year, lakhs of aspirants prepare for UPSC Civil Services and TNPSC Group-I examinations. They study from textbooks, attend coaching, solve practice sets, and hope for the best. But very few pause to ask the most important question: **What does the examiner actually want to know?**

This document is the answer to that question. It is not a textbook. It is not a set of notes. It is a **strategic intelligence report** built entirely from the one source that never lies: **the question paper itself.**

The **UPSC PYQ TrendMap for Indian Polity & Governance** deconstructs **425 Previous Year Questions** spanning **three decades (1995–2025)** across **14 major topics** and **200+ constitutional concepts**. Every question has been classified, clustered, and analysed to reveal the hidden architecture of how UPSC thinks about Polity.

WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT

Most PYQ compilations are merely chronological lists — questions arranged year by year, topic by topic, with answers at the end. They tell you **what** was asked. This document tells you **why** it was asked, **how** concepts connect to each other, and **where** the exam is heading next.

For every topic, this TrendMap provides a structured three-layer analysis:

- ▶ **MOST ASKED CONCEPTS** — The proven exam favourites that form the bedrock of your preparation.
 - ▶ **UNDER-ASKED BUT RISING** — Topics that UPSC has begun signalling interest in. These are your edge.
 - ▶ **CONCEPT CLUSTERS** — How UPSC connects multiple articles, doctrines, and institutions into a single question. This is where toppers win and average aspirants lose.
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After this strategic layer, every single PYQ is presented **theme-wise** — not year-wise — so that you see patterns, not isolated facts. When you read 4 questions on Constitutionalism back to back, you understand that UPSC is not testing a definition. It is testing whether you grasp that constitutionalism is the **philosophical foundation** that limits government power.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THIS TRENDMAP

The document covers 14 complete modules of Indian Polity & Governance, each structured identically for ease of use:

TOPIC	PYQs	KEY THEMES
Political Theory	27	State, Constitution, Democracy, Liberty, Rule of Law, Marxism, Elections
Indian Political System	11	Parliamentary System, Federalism, Citizenship, Precedence
Constitution of India	45	Amendments, Preamble, Basic Structure, Schedules, Articles, Sources
Fundamental Rights	24	Equality, Freedom, Privacy, Exploitation, Cultural Rights, RTE
DPSPs & Fundamental Duties	21	Philosophy, Specific Articles, Gandhian Principles, Comparative
The Executive	53	President, VP, Governor, PM & CoM, Ministries, Secretariat
Union & State Legislature	69	Speaker, Bills, Committees, Powers, Privileges, Motions
Judiciary & Judicial System	38	Supreme Court, High Courts, Subordinate Courts, Writs, PIL
Elections & ECI	18	ECI Structure, RPA, Delimitation, Political Parties, Reforms
Constitutional & Non-Constitutional Bodies	29	Finance Commission, AG, CAG, Lokpal, NITI, NHRC, NALSA
Important Acts & Amendments	27	Women's Reservation, Language, Judicial, Security, Aadhaar
Panchayati Raj & Local Governance	20	73rd & 74th Amendments, PESA, Municipalities, Gram Sabha
Post-Independence History	19	States Reorganisation, Parties, Events, Commissions
International Relations	24	Foreign Policy, Regional Orgs, Agreements, Geopolitics
TOTAL	425	14 Topics 75+ Themes 200+ Concepts 1995-2025

HOW TO USE THIS TRENDMAP

This is not a book to be read from cover to cover in one sitting. It is a **strategic companion** that you return to at every stage of your preparation:

- ▶ BEFORE starting a topic: Read the Most Asked Concepts and Concept Clusters to know what to prioritise.
- ▶ DURING preparation: Use the theme-wise PYQ arrangement to test yourself after completing each chapter.
- ▶ DURING revision: Focus on the Rising Areas and Concept Clusters for predictive preparation.

► **BEFORE** the exam: Use the Concept Clusters as a last-minute revision map to connect everything.

The **Concept Clusters** deserve special attention. UPSC increasingly frames questions that test your ability to connect multiple provisions, doctrines, or institutional relationships in a single question. A standalone knowledge of Article 356 is insufficient; you need to see it alongside Article 352, Article 360, the Bommai judgement, and the distinction between internal and external emergencies. The Clusters map these connections explicitly.

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THIS WORK

I have spent years studying not just the Indian Constitution, but the mind of the examiner. UPSC does not reward rote learning. It rewards **structured thinking**. It tests whether you can see the Constitution as a living, interconnected architecture — not as a collection of isolated articles and amendments.

This TrendMap is built on a simple conviction: **the question paper is the syllabus**. Everything UPSC has asked over three decades reveals a pattern — a pattern of what it values, what it repeats, what it has abandoned, and where it is heading. If you study this pattern, you do not just prepare for the exam. You begin to **think like the examiner**.

The “Under-Asked but Rising” sections represent my analysis of where the examination is evolving. When UPSC asked about Due Process of Law in 2023 after years of testing only Procedure Established by Law, it signalled a shift toward deeper judicial philosophy. When it introduced questions on Privacy after the Puttaswamy judgement, it demonstrated that the Constitution paper tracks Supreme Court evolution. These signals are your competitive advantage.

A NOTE TO THE ASPIRANT

If you are reading this, you have already made a decision that separates you from the majority: you have decided to study **smart**, not just hard. This document is your reward for that decision.

The journey of UPSC or TNPSC preparation is long, often lonely, and full of uncertainty. But the Constitution you are studying is also a document born of struggle, debate, and an extraordinary faith in the future. Let the spirit of the framers inspire your own journey.

“Study the pattern. Master the clusters. Think like UPSC. The question paper is your best teacher.”

Iyachamy Murugan
Chief Mentor, Iyachamy Academy

POLITICAL THEORY

State | Constitution | Democracy | Liberty | Rule of Law | Marxism | Elections
 27 PYQs | 1995–2023 | 6 Themes | 40+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: POLITICAL THEORY (1995–2023)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
State & Governance	2	2012–2021	MEDIUM
Constitution & Constitutionalism	4	2014–2023	VERY HIGH ↑
Democracy & Systems of Government	6	2017–2021	VERY HIGH
Liberty, Equality & Rights	4	2017–2019	VERY HIGH
Rule of Law & Judicial Concepts	2	2018–2023	HIGH ↑
Political Ideologies (Marxism/Gandhism)	4	1997–2020	HIGH
Elections, Party Systems & Political Action	5	1995–1997	MEDIUM

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2017–2023 produced 20 of 27 questions (74%) – Political Theory is a POST-2017 SURGE domain that barely existed before
- CONSTITUTIONALISM = ‘limited government’ tested FOUR TIMES (2014, 2020, 2021, 2023): THE single most repeated concept, tested more than any other in Political Theory
- 2017 alone had 6 QUESTIONS: Democracy’s virtue, Parliamentary form, Cabinet principle, Local self-govt, Equality, Rights – a one-year POLITICAL THEORY BLITZ
- ELECTIONS/PARTY SYSTEMS tested 1995–97 then DISAPPEARED for 25+ years: dormant but comparative politics is UPSC syllabus-listed and could return
- EVERY question is CONCEPTUAL: zero names, zero dates, zero facts – ONLY understanding of political science PRINCIPLES matters
- LIBERTY-EQUALITY-RIGHTS cluster appeared 2017–2019: 4 questions in 3 years testing the NORMATIVE TRINITY of democratic governance
- RULE OF LAW entered in 2018 and DEEPENED to Due Process in 2023: shows PROGRESSIVE REFINEMENT in testing sophistication
- MARXISM-GANDHISM appears once per decade (1997, 2011, 2020): IDEOLOGY COMPARISON is slow but PERSISTENT
- 2020–2023 pattern: Constitutional government (2020) → State + Constitutional government (2021) → Due Process + Constitution’s purpose (2023) = UPSC building a CONCEPTUAL LADDER year over year

- NCERT Class 11 Political Theory is the SINGLE PRIMARY SOURCE: every answer can be traced to specific NCERT chapters

PYQ TREND MAP**Most Asked Concepts**

- Constitutionalism = Limited Government (4 Qs – #1)
- Parliamentary Democracy: responsibility, accountability, cabinet (3 Qs)
- Liberty: positive definition, law-liberty relationship (2 Qs)
- Marxism-Gandhism comparison (2 Qs)
- Electoral systems: FPTP vs PR (3 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- RULE OF LAW deepening: Due Process (2023) signals more judicial philosophy questions
- RIGHTS DISCOURSE: only 'claims against state' tested – natural vs legal rights, positive vs negative rights UNASKED
- FEDERALISM as theory: only touched via local self-govt – fiscal federalism, cooperative federalism emerging
- SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY: Hobbes/Locke/Rousseau never directly tested – NCERT covers it
- JUSTICE (Rawls/Amartya Sen): capability approach, distributive justice – aligned with UPSC's equity focus
- SECULARISM as political concept: Western vs Indian models never tested in Political Theory section
- COMPARATIVE POLITICS: electoral systems, presidential vs parliamentary – dormant since 1997
- CITIZENSHIP: legal vs ethical, dual citizenship, statelessness – conceptually ripe for testing

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: CONSTITUTIONALISM SPECTRUM – Constitution (document) → Constitutionalism (limited govt) → Rule of Law (legal framework) → Due Process (fair application) = PROGRESSIVE REFINEMENT of governance limits
- CLUSTER 2: DEMOCRACY'S ARCHITECTURE – Parliamentary (responsible) vs Presidential (separated) + Cabinet (collective) + Local Self-Govt (decentralised) + Direct Democracy = STRUCTURAL OPTIONS
- CLUSTER 3: LIBERTY-EQUALITY-RIGHTS TRIANGLE – Liberty (develop oneself) + Equality (absence of privileges) + Rights (citizens against state) = the NORMATIVE FOUNDATION of democratic governance
- CLUSTER 4: IDEOLOGY COMPARISON – Marxism (dialectical materialism, class struggle) vs Gandhism (non-violence, stateless society) vs Liberalism (individual rights) vs Socialism (universalism) = PHILOSOPHICAL SPECTRUM
- CLUSTER 5: ELECTORAL MECHANICS – FPTP (distortion, two-party) vs PR (proportional, multi-party) vs Mixed (Italy) = INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN choices

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- Political Theory tests whether future civil servants understand the PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS of the system they will administer
- CONSTITUTIONALISM repeated 4 times because UPSC considers 'limited government' the FOUNDATIONAL principle of Indian governance
- Liberty as 'opportunity to develop oneself' (not absence of restraint) reflects UPSC's POSITIVE STATE philosophy
- Rights as 'citizens against state' ensures administrators understand they SERVE citizens, not rule them
- Parliamentary responsibility tested repeatedly because this is the DAILY REALITY of Indian governance
- Gandhism-Marxism comparison tests IDEOLOGICAL LITERACY: can aspirants compare frameworks analytically?
- Due Process (2023) signals UPSC is testing JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY alongside administrative philosophy
- FPTP distortion (1995) connects electoral theory to REAL Indian data (Karnataka 1994) – applied political science
- 2017's 6-question blitz suggests Political Theory can DOMINATE a paper when UPSC chooses to emphasize it
- Separation of powers (not judiciary alone) safeguards liberty = STRUCTURAL thinking over institutional dependence

The Hidden Syllabus

- CONSTITUTIONALISM AS GOVERNANCE PHILOSOPHY: not just 'limited government' but the entire chain – written constitution → separation of powers → rule of law → due process → judicial review = EACH is a DEEPER layer of the same principle
- POSITIVE vs NEGATIVE LIBERTY: UPSC consistently picks POSITIVE liberty (develop oneself, T.H. Green) over NEGATIVE (absence of restraint, Berlin) – reflects India's WELFARE STATE philosophy where state ENABLES freedom
- RIGHTS AS POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP: Rights = citizens AGAINST state is not just a definition but a POWER EQUATION – UPSC tests whether aspirants see governance as SERVICE not AUTHORITY
- DEMOCRACY'S FAITH IN ORDINARY PEOPLE: the 2017 answer ('intelligence and character of ordinary men and women') reveals UPSC's democratic faith – NOT in leaders/parties/executives but in CITIZENS
- PARLIAMENTARY vs PRESIDENTIAL AS DESIGN CHOICE: responsibility to legislature (parliamentary) vs separation (presidential) is not just a comparison but a GOVERNANCE DESIGN question – India chose responsibility over independence
- LAW AS ENABLER OF LIBERTY: 'no laws = no liberty' contradicts libertarian thinking but aligns with INDIA's constitutional philosophy where REGULATION creates the CONDITIONS for freedom
- IDEOLOGY AS ANALYTICAL TOOL: Gandhism-Marxism comparison tests whether aspirants can COMPARE ideologies as analytical frameworks (both want stateless society, differ on method) rather than memorise each separately
- ELECTORAL SYSTEMS AS INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN: FPTP's distortion (Karnataka 1994) is not trivia but a STRUCTURAL ARGUMENT about representation quality – connects to current debates on electoral reform

Top Conceptual Traps

- Constitutional govt = LIMITED (not representative/federal/nominal/real powers)
- Constitution's purpose = LIMITS powers (not makes laws/creates offices/secures social justice)
- Liberty = develop oneself fully (POSITIVE) – NOT absence of restraint (NEGATIVE)

- No laws = no liberty (law ENABLES freedom, doesn't restrict it)
- Rights = citizens AGAINST state (not state against citizens)
- Equality = absence of PRIVILEGES (not restraints/competition/ideology)
- Safeguard of liberty = SEPARATION OF POWERS (not committed judiciary)
- Local self-govt = democratic DECENTRALISATION (not federalism or direct democracy)
- Due Process = FAIR APPLICATION (substantive) – not just procedure established (procedural)
- Rule of Law: PEOPLE are NOT responsible TO government – it's the reverse
- Gandhism-Marxism common = STATELESS SOCIETY only (not class struggle/abolish private property)
- Parliamentary advantage = executive RESPONSIBLE to legislature (not independent/continuous/unchangeable)
- Inclusive Governance: NBFCs doing banking is NOT governance inclusion

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Constitutionalism & limited government	NCERT 11 Pol Theory + Laxmikanth	4 Qs
2	Parliamentary democracy: responsibility & accountability	NCERT 11 + Laxmikanth	6 Qs
3	Liberty, Equality, Rights definitions	NCERT 11 Pol Theory	4 Qs
4	Rule of Law + Due Process	Laxmikanth + NCERT	2 Qs (1)
5	Marxism vs Gandhism comparison	NCERT 11 + Spectrum	4 Qs
6	Electoral systems: FPTP vs PR	NCERT 12 + Laxmikanth	5 Qs
7	State definition & governance	NCERT 11 Pol Theory	2 Qs

- HIGH PROBABILITY FOR 2026 PRELIMS**
- SOCIAL CONTRACT: Hobbes (Leviathan) vs Locke (consent) vs Rousseau (general will) – NCERT covered, never tested
 - SECULARISM: Western (separation) vs Indian (equidistance/principled distance) – conceptually loaded
 - JUSTICE: Rawls' veil of ignorance, Amartya Sen's capability approach, distributive justice
 - FEDERALISM as theory: fiscal federalism, asymmetric federalism, cooperative vs competitive
 - CITIZENSHIP: legal vs ethical dimensions, universal vs differentiated citizenship
 - NATIONALISM: civic vs ethnic nationalism, Anderson's imagined communities
 - POWER & AUTHORITY: Weber's types of authority (traditional/charismatic/legal-rational)
 - FREEDOM OF SPEECH: harm principle (Mill), reasonable restrictions, hate speech limits
 - DEVELOPMENT as concept: GDP vs HDI vs capability, sustainable development as political idea

- COMPARATIVE SYSTEMS: presidential vs parliamentary advantages/disadvantages with global examples

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION -1995-2025**POLITICAL THEORY****THE CONCEPT OF STATE AND GOVERNANCE**

1. Which one of the following best defines the term 'State'? [2021]
 - a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organised government
 - b) A politically organised people of a definite territory and possessing an authority to govern them, maintain law and order, protect their natural rights and safeguard their means of sustenance
 - c) A number of persons who have been living in a definite territory for a very long time with their own culture, tradition and government
 - d) A society permanently living in a definite territory with a central authority, an executive responsible to the central authority and an independent judiciary
2. Which of the following can be said to be essentially the parts of Inclusive Governance? [2012]
 - 1) Permitting the Non-Banking Financial Companies to do banking
 - 2) Establishing effective District Planning Committees in all the districts
 - 3) Increasing the government spending on public health
 - 4) Strengthening the Mid-day Meal Scheme

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONALISM

3. Which one of the following statements best reflects the Chief purpose of the 'Constitution' of a country? [2023]
 - a) It determines the objective for the making of necessary laws.
 - b) It enables the creation of political offices and a government.
 - c) It defines and limits the powers of government.
 - d) It secures social justice, social equality and social security.
4. Constitutional government means: [2021]
 - a) A representative government of nation with federal structure
 - b) A government whose Head enjoys nominal powers
 - c) A government whose Head enjoys real powers
 - d) A government limited by the terms of the Constitution
5. constitutional government by definition is a: [2020]
 - a) Government by legislature
 - b) Popular government
 - c) Multi-party government
 - d) Limited government
6. Consider the following statements: A Constitutional Government is one which: [2014]
 - 1) Places effective restrictions on individual liberty in the interest of State Authority.

- 2) Places effective restrictions on the Authority of the State in the interest of individual liberty.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

DEMOCRACY AND SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT

7. Which one of the following factors constitutes the best safeguard of liberty in a liberal democracy? [2021]
- a) A committed judiciary
 - b) Centralization of powers
 - c) Elected government
 - d) Separation of powers
8. A Parliamentary System of Government is one in which: [2020]
- a) All political parties in the Parliament are represented in the Government
 - b) The Government is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by it
 - c) The Government is elected by the people and can be removed by them
 - d) The Government is chosen by the Parliament but cannot be removed by it before completion of a fixed term
9. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in: [2017]
- a) Federalism
 - b) Democratic decentralisation
 - c) Administrative delegation
 - d) Direct democracy
10. Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity: [2017]
- a) The intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
 - b) The methods for strengthening executive leadership.
 - c) A superior individual with dynamism and vision.
 - d) A band of dedicated party workers.
11. The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that: [2017]
- a) The executive and legislature work independently.
 - b) It provides continuity of policy and is more efficient.
 - c) The executive remains responsible to the legislature.
 - d) The head of the government cannot be changed without election.
12. Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government: [2017]
- a) An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all.
 - b) A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day.
 - c) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
 - d) A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND RIGHTS

13. In the context of polity, which one of the following would you accept as the most appropriate definition of liberty? [2019]
- Protection against the tyranny of political rulers
 - Absence of restraint
 - Opportunity to do whatever one likes
 - Opportunity to develop oneself fully
14. Which of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty? [2018]
- If there are more laws, there is less Liberty.
 - If there are no laws there is no liberty.
 - If there is liberty, laws have to be made by people.
 - If laws are changed too often liberty is in danger.
15. One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of: [2017]
- Privileges
 - Restraints
 - Competition
 - Ideology
16. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2017]
- Rights are claims of the State against the citizens.
 - Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State.
 - Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
 - Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many.

RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL CONCEPTS

17. In essence, what does 'Due Process of Law' mean? [2023]
- The principle of natural justice
 - The procedure established by law
 - Fair application of Law
 - Equality before law
18. Which of the following are regarded as the main feature of the "Rule of Law"? [2018]
- 1) Limitations of powers
 - 2) Equality before law
 - 3) People's responsibility to the Government
 - 4) Liberty and Civil Rights
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (MARXISM, GANDHISM, SOCIALISM)

19. One common agreement between Gandhism and Marxism is: [2020]
- The final goal of a stateless society
 - Class struggle
 - Abolition of private property
 - Economic determinism
20. Karl Marx explained the process of class struggle with the help of which one of the following theories? [2011]

- a) Empirical liberalism.
 - b) Existentialism.
 - c) Darwin's theory of evolution.
 - d) Dialectical materialism.
21. Who among the following wrote "The Communist Manifesto" along with Karl Marx? [2006]
- a) Emile Durkheim
 - b) Friedrich Engels
 - c) Robert Owen
 - d) Max Weber
22. Assertion (A): The emergence of economic globalism does not imply the decline of socialist ideology. [1997]
- Reason (R): The ideology of Socialism believes in universalism and globalism.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true

ELECTIONS, PARTY SYSTEMS, AND POLITICAL ACTION

23. Proportional representation is NOT necessary in a country where: [1997]
- a) There are no reserved constituencies
 - b) A two-party system has developed
 - c) The first past post system prevails
 - d) There is a fusion of Presidential and Parliamentary forms of governments
24. . In which one of the following countries are 75 percent of seats in both Houses of Parliament filled on the basis of first past the post system and 25 per cent on the basis of Proportional Representation system of elections? [1997]
- a) Germany
 - b) Italy
 - c) France
 - d) Russia
25. Of the four forms of political protests mentioned below, which one is derived from the name of the person who used it as a political weapon for the first time? [1996]
- a) Boycott
 - b) Gherao
 - c) Bandh
 - d) Hartal
26. Which one of the following countries has more or less evolved a two-party system? [1996]
- a) Sri Lanka
 - b) Bangladesh
 - c) Pakistan
 - d) Myanmar
27. Consider the table given below providing some details of the results of the election to the Karnataka State Legislative Assembly held in December 1994. [1995]
- | Political Party | Percentage of popular votes obtained | Number of seats secured |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Janata Dal | 36 | 116 |
| Congress | 31 | 35 |

| BJP | 20.4 | 40 |

In terms of electoral analysis, the voter seat distortion is to be explained as the result of the adoption of the:

- a) Hare system
- b) Cumulative vote system
- c) First past the post system
- d) Plural vote system

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Parliamentary System | Federalism | Citizenship | Protocol & Precedence
11 PYQs | 1998–2021 | 4 Themes | 25+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM (1998–2021)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Parliamentary System of Government	5	1998–2021	VERY HIGH
Federalism & Regional Provisions	3	2005–2021	VERY HIGH
Citizenship	1	2021	HIGH ↑
Order of Precedence & Protocol	2	2003–2004	MEDIUM

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2021 was the PEAK YEAR: 3 questions (Parliamentary + Federalism + Citizenship) in one paper – UPSC clustered the ENTIRE Indian Political System in a single year
- India vs Britain COMPARISON is the #1 testing format: judicial review, parliamentary sovereignty, limited legislature – UPSC wants aspirants to understand WHAT India chose and WHY
- FEDERALISM is tested through NEGATION ('what is NOT federal'): unequal RS representation + no agreement among units – tests DEEPER understanding than positive features
- Bureaucracy definition (2020) = IMPLEMENTATION of public policy – UPSC is defining the CIVIL SERVICE ROLE for aspirants through the question itself
- Citizenship questions test EXCEPTIONS: naturalised citizens CAN be deprived; Head of State = NOT birth-only – UPSC targets popular MISCONCEPTIONS
- Protocol/Precedence tested 2003–04 and went dormant – low probability but content is STATIC and easily testable
- PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM tested across TWO decades (1998–2021): India vs Britain + CoM responsibility + Cabinet principles = the FOUNDATIONAL governance framework
- This domain BRIDGES Political Theory (concepts) with Constitutional Provisions (articles) – it tests APPLIED understanding of theoretical principles
- Every question demands LAXMIKANTH-LEVEL PRECISION: not general awareness but EXACT constitutional provisions and distinctions

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked Concepts

- Parliamentary system: CoM responsibility + India-Britain comparison (5 Qs – #1)
- Indian federalism: features vs non-features (3 Qs)
- Judicial review as differentiator (2 Qs direct + indirect)
- Citizenship: single citizenship, deprivation rules (2 Qs combined)

Under-Asked but RISING

- ANTI-DEFECTION LAW: 10th Schedule, role of Speaker, judicial review of Speaker’s decision – NEVER tested in this section
- GOVERNOR’S ROLE in states: discretionary powers, Article 356, ordinance power – ZERO direct questions
- CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS: legislative, administrative, financial – tested in other sections but convergence here likely
- COALITION POLITICS: hung parliament, government formation, confidence motion – increasingly relevant
- OFFICE OF PROFIT: disqualification, exemptions – procedural polity rarely tested
- PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES: breach of privilege, committee powers – under-tested
- CARETAKER GOVERNMENT: conventions, limitations – no direct questions
- FISCAL FEDERALISM: GST Council, Finance Commission, grants-in-aid – economic-polity convergence

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: INDIA vs BRITAIN PARLIAMENTARY COMPARISON – Judicial Review (India) vs Parliamentary Sovereignty (Britain); Written Constitution vs Unwritten; Limited vs Unlimited legislature
- CLUSTER 2: FEDERALISM’S NATURE IN INDIA – NOT by agreement (top-down) + unequal representation + single citizenship + residuary to Centre + strong Centre = quasi-federal character
- CLUSTER 3: EXECUTIVE ARCHITECTURE – President (nominal) vs PM (real); CoM collectively responsible to Lok Sabha; Cabinet vs Council distinction; Bureaucracy = implementation arm
- CLUSTER 4: CITIZENSHIP FRAMEWORK – Single citizenship + single domicile; 5 ways of acquiring; deprivation possible for naturalised; no birth-only restriction for Head of State
- CLUSTER 5: INSTITUTIONAL HIERARCHY – Warrant of Precedence; Governor’s territorial supremacy; SC Judges > AG > Deputy Chairman RS > MPs

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- India-Britain COMPARISON tests whether aspirants understand what India BORROWED vs what it MODIFIED from Westminster model
- JUDICIAL REVIEW = the most consequential Indian modification: Parliament is NOT sovereign, Constitution is
- Federalism tested through NEGATION (‘not a feature’) because Indian federalism is UNIQUE and doesn’t fit standard models

- Indian federation NOT by agreement = the DEEPEST constitutional insight: states didn't come together voluntarily
- Bureaucracy = IMPLEMENTATION (not policy/democracy) tests whether aspirants understand the CIVIL SERVICE ROLE they're competing for
- Citizenship's deprivation clause tests LEGAL PRECISION: rights are NOT absolute even for citizens
- Governor's precedence WITHIN state tests CONSTITUTIONAL PROTOCOL – territorial hierarchy matters
- CoM responsible to LOK SABHA (not Parliament as a whole) tests PRECISE institutional accountability
- This domain bridges POLITY THEORY (Political Theory document) with APPLIED GOVERNANCE
- Every question can be answered from Laxmikanth + NCERT 11 Political Science alone

The Hidden Syllabus

- JUDICIAL REVIEW AS INDIA'S IDENTITY: India chose judicial review OVER parliamentary sovereignty – this single choice defines the ENTIRE constitutional structure and makes India fundamentally different from Britain
- FEDERALISM AS PRAGMATIC DESIGN: Indian federalism is NOT a theoretical model (like US) but a PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION – strong Centre for unity, state autonomy for diversity, not by agreement but by CONSTITUTIONAL FIAT
- BUREAUCRACY'S CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE: the 2020 question defines bureaucracy as IMPLEMENTATION – UPSC is telling aspirants what their job ACTUALLY is: not policy-making, not democracy-widening, but EXECUTING public policy
- SINGLE CITIZENSHIP AS NATIONAL UNITY TOOL: unlike US dual citizenship, India chose single citizenship to prevent STATE-LEVEL IDENTITY from overriding NATIONAL identity – a conscious nation-building choice
- NEGATION AS ANALYTICAL METHOD: UPSC tests federalism through 'what is NOT federal' because understanding LIMITS of a concept requires DEEPER knowledge than understanding its features
- CONVENTION vs CONSTITUTION: the Indian political system operates on BOTH written rules AND unwritten conventions – PM must be from LS (convention), CoM responsible to LS (constitutional), bureaucratic neutrality (convention)
- COMPARATIVE GOVERNANCE: India vs Britain is not just academic comparison but reveals WHY India made specific constitutional choices – each difference (judicial review, written constitution, limited legislature) has a REASON

Top Conceptual Traps

- Cabinet headed by PM (NOT President/Head of State) – executive structure confusion
- CoM responsible to LOK SABHA (not Rajya Sabha/Parliament generically)
- India has JUDICIAL REVIEW (Britain does NOT) – THE key difference
- Indian federation NOT by agreement (unlike US/Australia) – it was constitutionally imposed
- US has DUAL citizenship; India has SINGLE – federal comparison trap
- Naturalised citizens CAN be deprived of citizenship (not permanent)
- President need NOT be citizen by birth only – but practically always is
- Bureaucracy = implementation of policy (not widening democracy/strengthening federalism)
- Governor outranks former President WITHIN his state – territorial precedence
- Unequal Rajya Sabha representation = NOT federal (true federation = equal representation of units)
- Articles 371A-371I: special provisions for NE states + AP + Sikkim – regional accommodations
- British Parliament is SUPREME; Indian Parliament is LIMITED by Constitution

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Parliamentary system: India vs Britain	Laxmikanth Ch.3-4	5 Qs
2	Federalism: features + non-features	Laxmikanth Ch.13 + NCERT	3 Qs
3	Citizenship: types, deprivation, single	Laxmikanth Ch.6	2 Qs (†)
4	Executive: President, PM, CoM, bureaucracy	Laxmikanth Ch.17-20	2 Qs
5	Order of Precedence	Warrant of Precedence table	2 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026 Prelims

- Anti-Defection Law: 10th Schedule, Speaker's role, merger exception, judicial review
- Governor's discretionary powers: Article 356, assent to bills, university chancellor role
- Centre-State legislative relations: Article 249-254, residuary powers, repugnancy doctrine
- Coalition government conventions: largest party claim, floor test, caretaker limitations
- Parliamentary committees: PAC, Estimates, DRSCs – institutional effectiveness questions
- Fiscal federalism: Finance Commission vs NITI Aayog, GST Council voting, grants under Art 275/282
- Quasi-judicial bodies: tribunals, regulatory authorities, their constitutional status
- India vs US comparison: presidential vs parliamentary, separation vs fusion of powers
- Special provisions for states: Article 370 (now abrogated), 371 series, 6th Schedule
- Citizenship Amendment Act context: NRC, domicile, overseas citizenship

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

1. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model? [2021]
 - 1) As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.
 - 2) In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. In the context of India, which one of the following is the characteristic appropriate for bureaucracy? [2020]
 - a) An agency for widening the scope of parliamentary democracy
 - b) An agency for strengthening the structure of federalism
 - c) An agency for facilitating political stability and economic growth

- d) An agency or the implementation of public policy
3. There is a Parliamentary System of Government in India because the [2015]
- a) Lok Sabha is elected directly by the people
 - b) Parliament can amend the constitution
 - c) Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved
 - d) Council of Ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha
4. In the context of India, which of the following principles is/are implied institutionally in the parliamentary government? [2013]
- 1) Members of the cabinet are members of the parliament.
 - 2) Ministers hold the office till they enjoy confidence in the parliament.
 - 3) Cabinet is headed by the head of the state.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
5. The Indian parliamentary system is different from the British parliamentary system in that India has: [1998]
- a) Both a real and a nominal executive
 - b) A system of collective responsibility
 - c) Bicameral legislature
 - d) The system of judicial review

FEDERALISM AND REGIONAL PROVISIONS

6. Which one of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character? [2021]
- a) The independence of judiciary is safeguarded.
 - b) The Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units.
 - c) The Union Cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties.
 - d) The Fundamental Rights are enforceable by Courts of Law.
7. Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism? [2017]
- a) There is an independent judiciary in India.
 - b) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.
 - c) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
 - d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.
8. Consider the following statements: [2005]
- 1) Articles 371 A to 371 I were inserted in the Constitution of India to meet regional demands of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa.
 - 2) Constitutions of India and the United States of America envisage a dual policy (The Union and the States) but a single citizenship.
 - 3) A naturalised citizen of India can never be deprived of his citizenship.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 1 and 3
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 1 only

CITIZENSHIP

9. With reference to India, consider the following statements: [2021]
- 1) There is only 'one citizenship and one domicile'.
 - 2) A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
 - 3) A foreigner once granted the citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.
 - 4) Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 2 and 3

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE AND PROTOCOL

10. Which one of the following is the correct sequence in the descending order of precedence in the warrant of precedence? [2004]
- a) Attorney General of India, -Judges of the supreme Court, Members of Parliament, -Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
 - b) Judges of the Supreme Court, -Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Attorney General of India, -Members of Parliament
 - c) Attorney General of India, -Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Judges of the Supreme Court, -Members of Parliament
 - d) Judges of the Supreme Court, -Attorney General of India, -Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, -Members of Parliament
11. As per Indian Protocol, who among the following ranks highest in the order of precedence? [2003]
- a) Deputy Prime Minister
 - b) Former President
 - c) Governor of a State within his state
 - d) Speaker of Lok Sabha

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Amendments | Preamble | Basic Structure | Parts & Schedules | 5th/6th Schedules | Articles | Sources

45 PYQs | 1995-2025 | 6 Themes | 60+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: CONSTITUTION OF INDIA (1995-2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Amendment Procedure (Art 368)	6	1995-2025	VERY HIGH
Preamble, Making & Basic Structure	7	1996-2023	VERY HIGH
Parts, Schedules & Lists	11	1998-2024	VERY HIGH

5th & 6th Schedules (Tribal Areas)	5	2008-2025	VERY HIGH ↑↑
Important Articles & Provisions	14	1999-2020	VERY HIGH
Sources of the Constitution	2	1999-2003	HIGH

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2024-2025 added 4 NEW questions: Amendment (Art 368 modes), Parts numbering, 5th Schedule administration, ratification subjects – Constitution’s TEXT is being tested with unprecedented GRANULARITY
- 5TH SCHEDULE is the FASTEST RISING topic in entire Polity: 5 Qs in 7 years (2015-2025) from ZERO before 2008 – reflects UPSC’s growing TRIBAL WELFARE and LAND PROTECTION priority
- AMENDMENT PROCEDURE tested 6 TIMES across 30 years (1995-2025): ratification subjects, initiation, modes, special majority, assent – the ONLY constitutional topic tested in EVERY DECADE without exception
- NINTH SCHEDULE tested TWICE (2018, 2019) with EVOLVING answers: post-IR Coelho (2007), laws CAN be reviewed – shows UPSC tracks JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS and updates its answer key accordingly
- NEGATION as testing method: Constitution does NOT define ‘basic structure’ (2020) + does NOT define ‘backward classes’ (2006) + equal pay IS in Constitution (not absent, 2006) = testing what is NOT there requires DEEPER reading
- PREAMBLE tested through EVOLUTION: original text (Sovereign Democratic Republic) vs current text (added Socialist Secular) – aspirants must know BOTH versions and WHEN the change happened (42nd Amendment 1976)
- SCHEDULE IDENTIFICATION is a PERSISTENT format: 4th Schedule = RS seats (tested TWICE in same format), 10th = anti-defection, 1st = state territories – these are PURE RECALL facts that NEVER change
- Article-content matching (Art 54/75/155/164) and Subject-List matching (forests/mines/public health) test STRUCTURAL NAVIGATION: can aspirants FIND provisions in the Constitution text?
- 2017-2020 PREAMBLE CLUSTER: ‘not in Preamble’ (2017) + ‘mind of makers’ (2017) + ‘basic structure not defined’ (2020) + ‘Preamble’s legal status’ (2020) = 4 questions in 4 years on Preamble’s PHILOSOPHICAL STATUS
- EMERGENCY tested only via Art 356 (2017-2018) and Art 360 (2007): Art 352 (National Emergency) has ZERO direct questions – the most UNDER-TESTED major constitutional provision

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- Amendment procedure: ratification, initiation, modes (6 Qs)
- Articles & provisions: Art 356, judicial review, DPSP (14 Qs)
- Parts, Schedules & Lists identification (11 Qs)
- Preamble + Basic Structure (7 Qs)
- 5th Schedule: tribal land protection (5 Qs ↑↑)

Under-Asked but RISING

- 5TH SCHEDULE details: Tribes Advisory Council, Governor’s powers, PESA Act relationship – SURGING
- 6TH SCHEDULE: Autonomous District Councils, specific states covered – only tested via 5th-6th comparison
- BASIC STRUCTURE specific elements: which are included, landmark cases – tested only as ‘not defined’
- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS by number: 42nd, 44th, 73rd, 74th, 86th, 101st – specific provisions

- EMERGENCY PROVISIONS detail: Art 352 vs 356 vs 360 comparison – only Art 356 + 360 tested
- CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS Articles: Art 249-254, 256-263 – specific operative provisions
- 11TH & 12TH SCHEDULES: Panchayat/Municipality subjects – under-tested
- LANGUAGE PROVISIONS: Part XVII, 8th Schedule languages – rarely tested

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: AMENDMENT ARCHITECTURE – Simple majority vs Special majority vs Special + Ratification = THREE-TIER system; initiation in either House; no joint sitting; President must assent
- CLUSTER 2: SCHEDULE-CONTENT MAP – 1st (States/territories), 2nd (Salaries), 3rd (Oaths), 4th (RS seats), 5th (Scheduled Areas), 6th (Tribal), 7th (Lists), 8th (Languages), 9th (Land reform), 10th (Anti-defection), 11th (Panchayat), 12th (Municipality)
- CLUSTER 3: PREAMBLE EVOLUTION – Original (Sovereign Democratic Republic) → 42nd Amendment (added Socialist + Secular) → Basic Structure doctrine (Kesavananda) → Preamble is part but no independent legal effect
- CLUSTER 4: TRIBAL PROTECTION FRAMEWORK – 5th Schedule (Governor + Tribes Advisory Council + land transfer regulation) vs 6th Schedule (Autonomous District Councils + legislative powers) + PESA Act 1996
- CLUSTER 5: EMERGENCY COMPARISON – Art 352 (National: external/internal) vs Art 356 (State: constitutional machinery failure) vs Art 360 (Financial: never proclaimed) – scope, consequences, safeguards

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- AMENDMENT PROCEDURE tests whether aspirants understand India's SEMI-RIGID constitution: neither fully rigid nor fully flexible
- 5TH SCHEDULE's surge reflects UPSC's TRIBAL WELFARE priority: land protection, mining, administrative autonomy
- BASIC STRUCTURE as JUDICIAL DOCTRINE (not constitutional text) tests understanding of JUDICIAL CREATIVITY
- Preamble's 'no independent legal effect' tests LEGAL PRECISION: it's part but not enforceable alone
- Schedule-content matching tests STRUCTURAL LITERACY: civil servants must navigate the Constitution text
- Art 356: Assembly NOT automatically dissolved tests whether aspirants read CAREFULLY (suspension ≠ dissolution)
- 9th Schedule + judicial review (IR Coelho) tests EVOLVING INTERPRETATION: Constitution is LIVING document
- 'Constitution does not define basic structure/backward classes' = NEGATION testing: what is NOT in the text

The Hidden Syllabus

- AMENDMENT AS CONSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY: India's semi-rigid amendment process (three tiers) defines its character – neither too rigid (like US) nor too flexible (like UK) = a DESIGNED BALANCE between stability and adaptability
- 5TH SCHEDULE AS TRIBAL GOVERNANCE: the SURGE from zero to 5 questions reveals UPSC's TRIBAL WELFARE priority – land protection, mining consent, Governor's special role = a parallel governance framework within the Constitution
- BASIC STRUCTURE AS LIVING DOCTRINE: Constitution does NOT define basic structure (judicial creation) but it LIMITS amendment power – UPSC tests this because it represents the TENSION between democratic will (Parliament) and constitutional supremacy (judiciary)

- PREAMBLE AS PHILOSOPHICAL COMPASS: 'no independent legal effect' but 'mind of the makers' = Preamble guides INTERPRETATION without being directly enforceable – understanding this duality is key to constitutional reasoning
- SCHEDULES AS OPERATIONAL ARCHITECTURE: the 12 Schedules are not appendices but FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORKS – 1st (territories), 7th (power division), 9th (judicial review bypass), 10th (party discipline) each solves a specific governance problem
- CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION AS CONTINUOUS: 42nd Amendment adding 'Socialist Secular' + 9th Schedule's judicial review evolution (IR Coelho) + 5th Schedule's rising importance = the Constitution GROWS through interpretation and amendment
- NEGATION AS TESTING PHILOSOPHY: 'Constitution does NOT define basic structure', 'does NOT define backward classes', 'equal pay IS in Constitution (not absent)' = UPSC tests what is NOT there as rigorously as what IS

Top Conceptual Traps

- Amendment does NOT need President's PRIOR recommendation (money bills do, not amendments)
- Amendment can be initiated in EITHER House (not Lok Sabha only)
- Ratification by HALF of states (not ALL states) for federal changes
- Abolition of LC: simple majority + state resolution (NOT special majority + ratification)
- Basic Structure = JUDICIAL DOCTRINE (not defined in Constitution text)
- 26 Jan 1950 = Sovereign Democratic Republic (NOT Secular/Socialist – added 1976)
- Preamble: part of Constitution but NO INDEPENDENT legal effect
- Economic LIBERTY is NOT in Preamble (Economic JUSTICE is)
- Constitution has 25 Parts (not 20) and 448+ articles (not 390)
- 9th Schedule laws CAN be reviewed post-IR Coelho 2007
- 4th Schedule = RS seats (not 7th/Lists or 5th/Tribal)
- Art 356: Assembly NOT automatically dissolved (can be suspended)
- President's Rule: local bodies NOT dissolved
- Separation of judiciary = DPSP Art 50 (not Preamble)
- Equal pay for equal work IS in Constitution (DPSP Art 39d)
- 5th Schedule: State govt does NOT lose executive power

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Amendment procedure: all three tiers	Laxmikanth Ch.10	6 Qs
2	Important Articles: 356, 360, 257, 355, 50	Laxmikanth various	14 Qs
3	Schedules 1-12 identification	Laxmikanth Ch.1	11 Qs
4	Preamble + Basic Structure	Laxmikanth Ch.2-3	7 Qs
5	5th Schedule: tribal protection	Laxmikanth Ch.40	5 Qs (↑↑)
6	Lists (Union/State/Concurrent)	Laxmikanth Ch.14 + 7th Sch	4 Qs
7	Sources of Constitution	Laxmikanth Ch.1	2 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- 6th Schedule details: Autonomous District Councils, states covered (Assam/Meghalaya/Tripura/Mizoram)
- Specific Constitutional Amendments: 42nd (mini-constitution), 44th (safeguards), 73rd/74th (local bodies), 101st (GST)
- Art 352 vs 356 vs 360 comparison: grounds, approval, duration, consequences
- PESA Act 1996: relationship with 5th Schedule, Gram Sabha powers, mining consent
- 8th Schedule: current 22 languages, recent additions (Bodo/Dogri/Maithili/Santhal)
- Basic Structure elements: Kesavananda, Minerva Mills, specific elements listed by courts
- 11th & 12th Schedules: Panchayat/Municipality subjects in detail
- Art 370 abrogation: constitutional process, Art 35A, implications
- DPSPs vs FRs: justiciability, conflict resolution, Minerva Mills balance
- Concurrent List subjects: forests, education, trade unions, criminal law

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE 368 & SCHEME)

1. Consider the following subjects under the Constitution of India: [2025]

- I. List I–Union List, in the Seventh Schedule
- II. Extent of the executive power of a State
- III. Conditions of the Governor’s office

For a constitutional amendment with respect to which of the above, ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States is required before presenting the bill to the President of India for assent?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only
- c) I and III only
- d) I, II and III

2. As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of: [2024]

- 1) Addition
- 2) Variation
- 3) Repeal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Consider the following statements: [2022]

- 1) A bill amending the Constitution requires a prior recommendation of the President of India.
- 2) When a Constitution Amendment Bill is presented to the President of India, it is obligatory for the President of India to give his/her assent.
- 3) A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by a special majority and there is no provision for joint sitting.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only

- d) 1, 2 and 3
4. Consider the following statements: [2013]
- 1) An amendment to the constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in the Lok sabha only.
 - 2) If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the constitution, the amendment also requires it to be ratified by the legislature of all the states of India.
- Which of statements given is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. An amendment of the Constitution of India can be initiated by the: [1999]
- I. Lok Sabha.
 - II. Rajya Sabha.
 - III. State Legislatures.
 - IV. President.
- a) I alone
 - b) I, II and III
 - c) II, III and IV
 - d) I and II
6. Which of the following are matters on which a constitutional amendment is possible only with the ratification of the legislatures of not less than one half of the States? [1995]
- I. Election of the President
 - II. Representation of States in Parliament
 - III. Any of the Lists in the 7th Schedule
 - IV. Abolition of the Legislative Council of a State
- Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:
- a) I, II and III
 - b) I, II and IV
 - c) I, III and IV
 - d) II, III and IV

PREAMBLE, MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION & BASIC STRUCTURE

7. Consider the following statements in respect of the Constitution Day: [2023]
- Statement-I: The Constitution Day is celebrated on 26th November every year to promote constitutional values among citizens.
- Statement-II: On 26th November, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India set up a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to prepare a Draft Constitution of India.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
8. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950? [2021]

- a) A Democratic Republic
b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
9. Consider the following statements: [2020]
1) The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy.
2) The Constitution of India provides for 'judicial review' to safeguard the citizens' liberties and to preserve the ideals on which the Constitution is based.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. The Preamble to the Constitution of India is: [2020]
a) A part of the Constitution but has no legal effect
b) Not a part of the Constitution and has no legal effect either
c) A part of the Constitution and has the same legal effect as any other part
d) A part of the Constitution but has no legal effect independently of other parts
11. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India? [2017]
a) Liberty of thought
b) Economic liberty
c) Liberty of expression
d) Liberty of belief
12. The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following? [2017]
a) The Preamble
b) The Fundamental Rights
c) The Directive Principles of State Policy
d) The Fundamental Duties
13. Economic justice as one of the objectives of the Indian constitution has been provided in? [2013]
a) The preamble and the fundamental rights
b) The preamble and the directive principles of state policy
c) The fundamental rights and the directive principles of state policy
d) None of the above
14. In the following quotation, "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; In our Constituent Assembly this 'X' do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution." [1997]
'X' stands for:
a) Twenty sixth day of January, 1950
b) Twenty sixth day of November, 1949
c) Twenty sixth day of January, 1949

d) None of the above

PARTS, SCHEDULES & DIVISION OF SUBJECTS (LISTS)

15. Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India? [2024]

Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution.

Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution.

Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

16. Which one of the following statements is correct as per the Constitution of India? [2024]

a) Inter-State trade and commerce is a State subject under the State List

b) Inter-State migration is a State subject under the State List

c) Inter-State quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List

d) Corporation tax is a State subject under the State List

17. The Ninth Schedule was introduced in the Constitution of India during the prime ministership of:

[2019]

a) Jawaharlal Nehru

b) Lal Bahadur Shastri

c) Indira Gandhi

d) Morarji Desai

18. Consider the following statements: [2018]

1) The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

2) The validity of law placed in Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

19. Which one of the following subjects is under the Union List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India? [2006]

a) Regulation of labour and safety in mines and oilfields

b) Agriculture

c) Fisheries

d) Public Health

20. Consider the following statements: [2005]

1) The Constitution of India has 20 parts.

2) There are 390 articles in the Constitution of India in all.

3) Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules were added to the Constitution of India by the Constitution (Amendment) Acts.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2

- b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
21. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of India? [2004]
a) It contains the scheme of the distribution of powers between the Union and the States.
b) It contains the languages listed in the Constitution.
c) It contains the provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas.
d) It allocates seats in the Council of States.
22. With reference to the Constitution of India, which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2004]
a) Forests: Concurrent List
b) Stock Exchanges: Concurrent List
c) Post Office Saving Bank: Union List
d) Public Health: State List
23. Which one of the following schedules of the Indian Constitution lists the names of states and specifies their territories? [2003]
a) First
b) Second
c) Third
d) Fourth
24. If a new State of the Indian Union is to be created, which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution must be amended? [2001]
a) First
b) Second
c) Third
d) Fifth
25. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution of India? [2001]
a) It lists the distribution of power between the Union and the States
b) It contains the languages listed in the Constitution
c) It contains the provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas
d) It allocates seats in the Council of States
26. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding Anti-Defection Act? [1998]
a) Second Schedule
b) Fifth Schedule
c) Eighth Schedule
d) Tenth Schedule

SCHEDULED AND TRIBAL AREAS (5TH & 6TH SCHEDULES)

27. Consider the following statements: [2025]
With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a State is declared as Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule,
I. the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration.

II. the Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II
28. If a particular area is brought under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which one of the following statements best reflects the consequence of it? [2022]
- a) This would prevent the transfer of land of tribal people to non-tribal people.
 - b) This would create a local self-governing body in that area.
 - c) This would convert that area into a Union Territory.
 - d) The State having such areas would be declared a Special Category State.
29. Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void? [2019]
- a) Third Schedule
 - b) Fifth Schedule
 - c) Ninth Schedule
 - d) Twelfth Schedule
30. The provisions in the Fifth Schedule and Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India are made in order to: [2015]
- a) Protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes
 - b) Determine the boundaries between states
 - c) Determine the powers, authorities, and responsibilities of Panchayats
 - d) Protect the interests of all the border States
31. Which schedule of the Constitution of India contains special provisions for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas in several States? [2008]
- a) Third
 - b) Fifth
 - c) Seventh
 - d) Ninth

IMPORTANT ARTICLES & CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

32. In India, separation of judiciary from the executive is enjoined by: [2020]
- a) the Preamble of the Constitution
 - b) a Directive Principle of State Policy
 - c) the Seventh Schedule
 - d) the conventional practice
33. If President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular State, then [2018]
- a) The assembly of the State is automatically dissolved.
 - b) The powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.
 - c) Article 19 is suspended in that state.
 - d) The President can make laws relating to that state.
34. In India, Judicial Review implies: [2017]

- a) The power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.
b) The power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures.
c) The power of the Judiciary to review all the legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President.
d) The power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases.
35. Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State? [2017]
- 1) Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
 - 2) Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
 - 3) Dissolution of the local bodies
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
36. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India have a bearing on Education? [2012]
- 1) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - 2) Rural and Urban Local Bodies
 - 3) Fifth Schedule
 - 4) Sixth Schedule
 - 5) Seventh Schedule
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 & 2 Only
 - b) 3, 4, & 5 Only
 - c) 1, 2 & 5 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
37. The "Instrument of Instructions" contained in the Government of India Act 1935 have been incorporated in the Constitution of India in the year 1950 as: [2010]
- a) Fundamental Rights
 - b) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - c) Extent of executive power of State
 - d) Conduct of business of the Government of India.
38. Consider the following statements in respect of financial emergency under Article 360 of the Constitution of India: [2007]
- 1) A Proclamation of financial emergency issued shall cease to operate at the expiration of Two months, unless before the expiration of that period it has been approved by the resolution of both houses of Parliament.
 - 2) If any proclamation of financial emergency is in operation, it is competent for the president of India to issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in connection with the affairs of the Union but excluding the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2

- d) Neither 1 nor 2
39. Consider the following statements: [2006]
- 1) There is no provision in the Constitution of India to encourage equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
 - 2) The constitution of India does not define backward classes.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
40. Which one of the following Articles of the Constitution of India says that the executive power of every State shall be so exercised as not to impede or prejudice the exercise of the executive power of the Union? [2004]
- a) Article 257
 - b) Article 258
 - c) Article 355
 - d) Article 356
41. Which one of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution provides that 'It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance'? [2003]
- a) Article 215
 - b) Article 275
 - c) Article 325
 - d) Article 355
42. Match List I (Article of Constitution) with List II (Content) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2001]
- I - Art 54 : A) Election of the President of India
II - Art 75 : B) Appointment of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
III - Art 155 : C) Appointment of the Governor of a State
IV - Art 164 : D) Appointment of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers of a State
- Codes:
- a) I-A, II-B, III-C, IV-D
 - b) I-A, II-B, III-D, IV-E
 - c) I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-E
 - d) I-B, II-A, III-D, IV-C
43. Which Article of the Constitution provides that it shall be the endeavour of every State to provide adequate facility for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education? [2001]
- a) Article 349
 - b) Article 350
 - c) Article 350-A
 - d) Article 351
44. The Constitution of India recognises: [1999]
- a) Only religious minorities
 - b) Only linguistic minorities
 - c) Religious and linguistic minorities
 - d) Religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities

Sources of the Constitution

45. Match List I (Item in the Indian Constitution) with List II (Country from which it was derived) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the list. [2003]

- A. Directive Principles of State Policy : 3. Ireland
- B. Fundamental Rights : 5. USA
- C. Concurrent List in Union State Relations : 1. Australia
- D. India as a Union of States with Greater Powers to Union : 2. Canada

Codes (A B C D):

- a) 5 4 1 2
- b) 3 5 2 1
- c) 5 4 2 1
- d) 3 5 1 2

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Equality | Freedom | Privacy | Exploitation | Cultural Rights | Property | RTE | Remedies

24 PYQs | 1996–2024 | 8 Themes | 40+ Concepts

Senior Faculty Analysis | February 2026

OVERVIEW: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (1996–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Right to Equality (Art 14–18)	5	2002–2020	VERY HIGH
Right to Freedom & Privacy (Art 19–21)	5	1996–2024	VERY HIGH ↑↑
Right Against Exploitation (Art 23–24)	2	2002–2017	HIGH
Cultural & Educational Rights (Art 29–30)	2	2002–2011	HIGH
Right to Property	2	2005–2021	HIGH
Right to Education	2	2011–2018	HIGH
Right to Vote & Human Rights	2	1999–2017	HIGH
Judicial Custody, Parole & Special Provisions	4	2002–2023	HIGH ↑

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- RIGHT TO PRIVACY tested 4 TIMES in 7 years (2017–2024): Art 21 is UPSC’s FASTEST EXPANDING right
- Puttaswamy judgement (2017) made privacy a fundamental right and UPSC immediately started testing it

- ART 21 is the MOST VERSATILE article: privacy (4 Qs) + marriage choice (1 Q) + life/liberty (implicit in all) = UPSC places MORE rights under Art 21 than any other single article
- 2021 was a RIGHTS BLITZ YEAR: Privacy + Property position + Judicial Custody + Parole + Citizenship = 5 questions testing DIFFERENT aspects of rights in ONE paper
- ARTICLE-PROVISION matching (Art 14/15/16/17) tested TWICE in identical format (2002, 2004): UPSC REPEATS high-value matching questions because aspirants still get them wrong
- RIGHT TO PROPERTY's EVOLUTION: from FR (original) to legal right (44th Amendment) to 'available to any person' (2021 precision) = UPSC tracks a RIGHT'S ENTIRE JOURNEY
- UNTOUCHABILITY classification under EQUALITY (Art 17, not Exploitation Art 23) is tested specifically because most aspirants MISCLASSIFY it – UPSC corrects this confusion deliberately
- 2017-2019 CLUSTER: Privacy (2017) + Law-Liberty (2018) + Privacy again (2019) + Marriage (2019) = Art 21 tested EVERY YEAR for 3 consecutive years
- PROCEDURAL RIGHTS emerged in 2021: Judicial custody (jail not police station), Parole (discretionary not right) = UPSC entering CRIMINAL PROCEDURE territory within Polity
- RESERVATION under Art 16(4) + Art 335 efficiency (2023): signals UPSC testing SOCIAL JUSTICE provisions with LEGAL PRECISION, not just as policy debates
- British citizen's rights (1999) tests the CITIZENS vs ALL PERSONS framework: Art 19 = citizens only; Art 14/21/25 = all persons – this SCOPE DISTINCTION is the operating manual for administrators dealing with foreigners

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- Right to Privacy under Art 21 (4 Qs – #1 RISING)
- Art 14-18 matching: equality, non-discrimination, untouchability (5 Qs)
- Right to Property: legal right, any person (2 Qs)
- Judicial custody/parole: precision on procedures (3 Qs, 2021 cluster)

Under-Asked but RISING

- ART 21 EXPANSIONS: right to clean environment, shelter, livelihood, medical care – only privacy/marriage tested
- REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS under Art 19(2)-(6): specific grounds for each freedom – NEVER tested
- ART 32 vs ART 226: writ jurisdiction, SC vs HC, scope differences – 'heart and soul' tested but not mechanism
- PREVENTIVE DETENTION: Art 22, safeguards, advisory board – zero questions
- FRs vs DPSPs conflict: Minerva Mills, Champakam Dorairajan – under-tested landmark cases
- ART 15(3)/(4)/(5): special provisions for women/children/backward classes – reservation nuances
- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM details: Art 25-28, essential religious practices doctrine
- RIGHT TO INFORMATION as derivative of Art 19(1)(a) – conceptually linked but unasked

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: ART 21 EXPANDING UNIVERSE – Life + Liberty + Privacy + Marriage + Livelihood + Shelter + Dignity + Clean Environment = India's most dynamic constitutional provision
- CLUSTER 2: EQUALITY FRAMEWORK – Art 14 (general) + Art 15 (non-discrimination) + Art 16 (employment) + Art 17 (untouchability) + Art 18 (titles) = five-article architecture
- CLUSTER 3: CITIZENS-ONLY vs ALL PERSONS – Art 14/20/21/25 = all persons; Art 15/16/19/29/30 = citizens only; Property (Art 300A) = any person – SCOPE distinction
- CLUSTER 4: RIGHTS EVOLUTION – Property (FR→legal), Education (DPSP→FR via 86th Amdt), Privacy (implied→explicit via Puttaswamy) = LIVING Constitution
- CLUSTER 5: JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS – Art 32 (SC writs) + Art 226 (HC writs) + Judicial custody rules + Parole rules + Bail provisions = procedural protection framework

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- Art 21 tested repeatedly because it's India's MOST JUDICIALLY ACTIVE article: every expansion reflects evolving governance
- Privacy's 4 appearances signal UPSC tracks SUPREME COURT DEVELOPMENTS in real-time
- Art 14-18 MATCHING tests whether aspirants can navigate SPECIFIC article provisions (not just general awareness)
- Right to Property as LEGAL RIGHT (any person) tests 44th Amendment's precise legal consequences
- Right to Vote = CONSTITUTIONAL (not fundamental) tests CATEGORISATION precision
- British citizen's rights test CITIZENS vs ALL PERSONS distinction – operational for administrators
- Judicial custody in JAIL (not police station) tests PROCEDURAL knowledge essential for civil servants
- Parole as DISCRETIONARY (not right) tests whether aspirants confuse rights with administrative decisions
- Art 335 NOT defining 'efficiency' tests whether aspirants read articles PRECISELY or assume content

The Hidden Syllabus

- ARTICLE 21 AS EXPANDING UNIVERSE: privacy, marriage, livelihood, shelter, dignity, clean environment – Art 21 is India's MOST DYNAMIC constitutional provision because the Supreme Court continuously EXPANDS its scope through interpretation
- CITIZENS vs ALL PERSONS: Art 14/20/21/25 = all persons; Art 15/16/19/29/30 = citizens only – this SCOPE DISTINCTION is not just academic but defines who CAN and CANNOT claim specific rights in Indian courts
- RIGHTS AS EVOLVING: Property (FR→legal via 44th Amdt), Education (DPSP→FR via 86th Amdt), Privacy (implied→explicit via Puttaswamy) = Fundamental Rights are NOT fixed but EVOLVE through amendment and judicial interpretation
- POSITIVE vs NEGATIVE RIGHTS: Art 21's expansion from 'protection of life' (negative: state cannot take) to 'right to live with dignity' (positive: state must provide) mirrors India's transition from LIBERAL to WELFARE state
- PROCEDURAL vs SUBSTANTIVE PROTECTION: Art 21's 'procedure established by law' was EXPANDED by Maneka Gandhi case to include 'due process' – the MOST important judicial evolution in Indian constitutional history
- UNTOUCHABILITY UNDER EQUALITY (not Exploitation): this classification reveals that UPSC sees caste discrimination as an EQUALITY issue (structural) not just an exploitation issue (individual) – a deeper sociological understanding
- RIGHTS-DUTIES RECIPROCITY: Art 32 as 'heart and soul' (Ambedkar) means the RIGHT TO ENFORCE rights is itself a fundamental right – without remedies, rights are merely aspirations

Top Conceptual Traps

- Untouchability = RIGHT TO EQUALITY (Art 17), NOT Right against Exploitation
- Right to Privacy = ART 21 (not Art 19 or Art 15)
- Right to Property = legal right for ANY PERSON (not citizens only, not FR)
- Art 300A inserted by 44th Amendment (Morarji Desai's Janata Govt, NOT Congress)
- Right to Vote = CONSTITUTIONAL right (not fundamental/natural/legal)
- Art 19 freedoms = CITIZENS ONLY; Art 14/21 = ALL PERSONS including foreigners
- Judicial custody = accused in JAIL (not police station)
- Parole = DISCRETIONARY (not a matter of right)
- Art 335 does NOT define 'efficiency of administration'
- Child labour Art 24 (not Art 45 which is DPSP on education)
- National minority: NO automatic Lok Sabha nomination
- Education + public service access + food = ALL are UDHR human rights

- 90%+ teacher institutions = PRIVATE (not under State Govts)
- Art 32 = Heart & Soul of Constitution (Ambedkar) – not Art 14/21

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Art 21 expansions: privacy, marriage, life	Laxmikanth Ch.7 + SC cases	5 Qs (↑↑)
2	Art 14-18: equality articles matching	Laxmikanth Ch.7	5 Qs
3	Custody, parole, procedural rights	Laxmikanth + CrPC	4 Qs (↑)
4	Right to Property: legal position	Laxmikanth Ch.7	2 Qs
5	Exploitation: Art 23-24 scope	Laxmikanth Ch.7	2 Qs
6	Cultural/Educational: Art 29-30	Laxmikanth Ch.7	2 Qs
7	Right to Vote: constitutional right	Laxmikanth Ch.7	2 Qs
8	RTE Act + UDHR rights	RTE Act + UDHR text	2 Qs

- HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026**
- Art 21 further expansions: clean environment, medical care, shelter, education dignity
 - Reasonable Restrictions Art 19(2)-(6): specific grounds for each of 6 freedoms
 - Art 32 vs Art 226: writ types (habeas corpus/mandamus/certiorari/prohibition/quo warranto)
 - Preventive Detention Art 22: safeguards, advisory board, maximum period
 - Art 15(3)/(4)/(5): special provisions for women, backward classes, SC/ST admission
 - Religious Freedom Art 25-28: essential practices, temple administration, religious instruction
 - FRs vs DPSPs: Minerva Mills balance, Champakam Dorairajan, Art 31C
 - Right to Information as Art 19(1)(a) derivative
 - Art 20: protection against ex-post-facto laws, double jeopardy, self-incrimination
 - Creamy layer concept in Art 16(4) reservations

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

RIGHT TO EQUALITY (ARTICLES 14-18)

1. A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of application of law violates which one of the following articles of the Constitution of India? [2021]
 - a) Article 14
 - b) Article 28
 - c) Article 32
 - d) Article 44
2. Which one of the following categories of Fundamental Rights incorporates protection against untouchability as a form of discrimination? [2020]
 - a) Right against Exploitation
 - b) Right to Freedom

- c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- d) Right to Equality

3. Match List I (Articles of the Constitution of India) with List II (Provision) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2004]

List I:

- A) Art 14,
- B) Art 15,
- C) Art 16,
- D) Art 17

List II:

- 1) The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- 2) The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India.
- 3) 'Untouchability' is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden.
- 4) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.

Codes (A B C D):

- a) 2 4 1 3
- b) 3 1 4 2
- c) 2 1 4 3
- d) 3 4 1 2

4. Match List I (Article) with List II (Provisions) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]

Article	Provision
A) Art 16(2)	1. No person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law
B) Art 29(2)	2. No person can be discriminated against in the matter of public appointment on the ground of race, religion or caste
C) Art 30(1)	3. All minorities whether based on religion or language shall have the fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice
D) Art 31(1)	4. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State, or receiving State aid, on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

Codes (A B C D):

- a) 2 4 3 1
- b) 3 1 2 4
- c) 2 1 3 4
- d) 3 4 2 1

5. In the Indian Constitution, the Right to Equality is granted by Five Articles. They are: [2002]

- a) Article 16 to Article 20
- b) Article 15 to Article 19
- c) Article 14 to Article 18
- d) Article 13 to Article 17

RIGHT TO FREEDOM & PRIVACY (ARTICLES 19–21)

6. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy? [2024]
- Article 15
 - Article 16
 - Article 19
 - Article 21
7. 'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India? [2021]
- Article 15
 - Article 19
 - Article 21
 - Article 29
8. Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice? [2019]
- Article 19
 - Article 21
 - Article 25
 - Article 29
9. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statements? [2018]
- Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendments to the Constitution
 - Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State policy in Part IV
 - Article 21 and the freedom guaranteed in Part III
 - Article 24 and the provision under the 44th Amendments to the Constitution
10. Consider the following statements: No one can be compelled to sing the National Anthem since: [1996]
- It will be violative of the Right to freedom of speech and expression.
 - It will be violative of the Right to freedom of conscience and practise and propagation of religion.
 - There is no legal provision obliging any one to sing the National Anthem.
- Of these statements:
- I and II are correct
 - II and III are correct
 - I, II and III are correct
 - None is correct

RIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION (ARTICLES 23–24)

11. Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India? [2017]
- Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
 - Abolition of untouchability
 - Protection of the interests of minorities
 - Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1, 2 and 4 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - 1 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

12. Which Article of the Constitution of India says, 'No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment'? [2004]
- a) Article 24
 - b) Article 45
 - c) Article 330
 - d) Article 368

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS (ARTICLES 29–30)

13. In India, if a religious sect/community is given the status of a national minority, what special advantages is it entitled to? [2011]
- 1) It can establish and administer exclusive educational institutions.
 - 2) The president of India automatically nominates a representative of the community to Lok Sabha.
 - 3) It can derive benefits from the prime minister's 15-point programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

19. Match List I (Article) with List II (Provisions) [2002]:

Article Provision

A) Art 16(2) 1. No person shall be deprived of his property save by the authority of law

B) Art 29(2) 2. No person can be discriminated against in the matter of public appointment on the ground of race, religion or caste

C) Art 30(1) 3. All minorities whether based on religion or language shall have the fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice

D) Art 31(1) 4. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State, or receiving State aid, on grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

Codes (A B C D):

- a) 2 4 3 1
- b) 3 1 2 4
- c) 2 1 3 4
- d) 3 4 2 1

RIGHT TO PROPERTY (HISTORICAL & LEGAL POSITION)

14. What is the position of the Right to Property in India? [2021]
- a) Legal right available to citizens only
 - b) Legal right available to any person
 - c) Fundamental Right available to citizens only
 - d) Neither Fundamental Right nor legal right
15. Consider the following statements: [2005]
- 1) Article 301 pertains to the Right to Property.
 - 2) Right to Property is a legal right but not a fundamental right.

- 3) Article 300 A was inserted in the Constitution of India by the Congress Government at the Centre by the 44th Constitutional Amendment.

Which of the above statements are true?

- a) 2 only
- b) 2 & 3
- c) 1 & 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

RIGHT TO EDUCATION (RTE)

16. Consider the following statements: [2018]

- 1) As per the right to education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a state, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State council of Teacher education.
- 2) As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
- 3) In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 3 only

17. Consider the following: [2011]

- 1) Right to education.
- 2) Right to equal access to public service.
- 3) Right to food.

Which of the above is/are human rights/human rights under “universal declaration of human rights”?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

RIGHT TO VOTE & HUMAN RIGHTS

18. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a: [2017]

- a) Fundamental Right
- b) Natural Right
- c) Constitutional Right
- d) Legal Right

19. A British citizen staying in India cannot claim Right to: [1999]

- a) Freedom of trade and profession
- b) Equality before the Law
- c) Protection of life and personal liberty
- d) Freedom of religion

JUDICIAL CUSTODY, PAROLE & SPECIAL PROVISIONS

20. Consider the following statements: [2023]

Statement-I: The Supreme Court of India has held in some judgements that the reservation policies made under Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India would be limited by Article 335 for maintenance of efficiency of administration.

Statement-II: Article 335 of the Constitution of India defines the term 'efficiency of administration'.

Which of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is correct explanation.
 - b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not correct explanation.
 - c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
 - d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.
21. With reference to India, consider the following statements: [2021]
- 1) Judicial custody means an accused is in the custody of the concerned magistrate and such accused is locked up in a police station, not in jail.
 - 2) During judicial custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect without the approval of the court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
22. With reference to India, consider the following statements: [2021]
- 1) When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
 - 2) State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
23. Which one of the following rights was described by Dr B R Ambedkar as the heart and soul of the Constitution? [2002]
- a) Right to freedom of religion
 - b) Right to property
 - c) Right to equality
 - d) Right to Constitutional remedies

DPSPs & FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Nature & Philosophy | Specific Articles | Gandhian Principles | Fundamental Duties | Comparative

21 PYQs | 2002-2025 | 3 Themes | 35+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: DPSPs & FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES (2002–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Nature, Philosophy & Purpose of DPSP	7	2002–2020	VERY HIGH
Specific DPSP Articles & Amendments	7	2002–2021	VERY HIGH
Fundamental Duties	4	2011–2017	HIGH
Comparative & Cross-Cutting	3	2017–2025	HIGH ↑

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2017 was DPSP+FD YEAR: 4 questions across both topics in ONE paper – DPSPs as limitations (FALSE), 42nd Amendment addition, FDs’ enforcement, Rights–Duties relationship = a CONCEPTUAL BLITZ
- DPSP’s NON-ENFORCEABILITY tested 3 TIMES (2015, 2015, 2020) in almost IDENTICAL wording: ‘not enforceable by courts but fundamental for governance’ is UPSC’s most REPEATED Polity principle
- WELFARE STATE = DPSP tested TWICE in IDENTICAL format (2015 and 2020); UPSC sometimes REPLICATES questions when it considers a concept FOUNDATIONAL and worth re-testing
- FR vs DPSP CLASSIFICATION is the #1 confusion area: traffic in humans = FR Art 23 (NOT DPSP); intoxicating drinks = DPSP Art 47 (NOT FR) – UPSC deliberately places FR provisions as DPSP options
- 42ND AMENDMENT tested specifically: WORKER PARTICIPATION (Art 43A) was NEW; equal pay (Art 39d) was ORIGINAL – aspirants must know what was ADDED vs what was ALWAYS THERE
- 2025 introduced CROSS-CUTTING format: one question testing DPSP (judiciary separation) + FD (composite culture) + FR (child labour) simultaneously – this HOLISTIC testing format is likely the NEW STANDARD
- GANDHIAN DPSPs tested with EXCLUSION: village Panchayats✓ + cottage industries✓ but UCC was EXCLUDED (2012) – UPSC’s own classification differs from some textbooks
- FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES tested through NEGATION: voting is NOT an FD (2011), protecting weaker sections is NOT an FD (2012), no legislative enforcement (2017) – FDs are tested more by what they DON’T include
- Art 51 (international peace) tested TWICE (2002, 2014): the ONLY specific DPSP article number tested more than once – signals UPSC values INTERNATIONAL LAW within constitutional framework
- DPSP + FD questions appeared only from 2002 onwards (zero in 1995–2001); this is a POST-2002 domain that has grown steadily and peaked in 2017–2025

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- DPSP = non-enforceable but fundamental (3 Qs)
- Welfare State = DPSP (2 Qs, identical)
- FR vs DPSP classification (traffic = FR; drinks = DPSP) (3 Qs)
- Fundamental Duties: what is/isn’t included (3 Qs)

- Art 51 = international peace (2 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- DPSP vs FR CONFLICT: Champakam Dorairajan, Minerva Mills, Art 31C – ZERO direct questions
- DPSP IMPLEMENTATION: which DPSPs have been implemented via legislation – practical dimension
- 42ND AMENDMENT details: which specific articles added/modified – only worker participation tested
- FD'S 11TH DUTY (education of child 6-14) added by 86th Amendment – untested
- DPSP CLASSIFICATION: Socialistic (Art 38-39) vs Gandhian (Art 40-43) vs Liberal-Intellectual (Art 44-51) – only Gandhian tested
- VERMA COMMITTEE on FDs: recommendations for enforcement – under-tested
- CROSS-CUTTING 2025 format: DPSP/FD/FR provision matching – likely to REPEAT

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: DPSP NATURE – Not enforceable + fundamental for governance + Welfare State ideal + socio-economic democracy + influence law-making = the FIVE attributes
- CLUSTER 2: FR vs DPSP CLASSIFICATION – Traffic/forced labour=FR(23); child labour=FR(24); untouchability=FR(17); intoxicating drinks=DPSP(47); equal pay=DPSP(39d); international peace=DPSP(51)
- CLUSTER 3: DPSP CATEGORIES – Socialistic (Art 38-39: equitable distribution), Gandhian (Art 40-43: Panchayats/cottage industries), Liberal-Intellectual (Art 44-51: UCC/monuments/international law)
- CLUSTER 4: FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES SCOPE – 11 duties (Art 51A): composite culture✓, scientific temper✓, excellence✓, sovereignty✓; NOT: voting, protecting weaker sections (that's DPSP)
- CLUSTER 5: CONSTITUTIONAL TRINITY – FR (enforceable, individual) + DPSP (non-enforceable, state) + FD (non-enforceable, citizen) = THREE PILLARS with different legal status

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- DPSP's non-enforceability paradox tests whether aspirants understand ASPIRATIONAL vs JUSTICIABLE governance
- FR vs DPSP classification tests PRECISE constitutional placement: administrators must know which provision applies
- 42nd Amendment additions test whether aspirants track CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION over time
- Gandhian DPSP classification tests analytical categorisation of constitutional provisions
- FDs' 'no enforcement mechanism' tests understanding that MORAL obligations differ from LEGAL obligations
- Voting NOT being an FD tests whether aspirants confuse RIGHTS with DUTIES
- 2025's cross-cutting format (DPSP+FD+FR) tests HOLISTIC constitutional knowledge – likely new standard
- UDHR connection tests INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS awareness within domestic constitutional framework

The Hidden Syllabus

- DPSP's NON-ENFORCEABILITY PARADOX: not enforceable by courts BUT fundamental for governance – this paradox is UPSC's favourite because it tests whether aspirants understand that ASPIRATIONAL governance is as important as JUSTICIABLE rights
- FR vs DPSP AS CONSTITUTIONAL TENSION: the entire trajectory from Champakam Dorairajan (FRs prevail) to 25th Amendment (Art 31C) to Minerva Mills (balance) represents India's ONGOING negotiation between INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS and SOCIAL GOALS
- THREE CATEGORIES AS IDEOLOGICAL MAP: Socialistic (Art 38-39: redistribution), Gandhian (Art 40-43: village self-governance), Liberal-Intellectual (Art 44-51: UCC/international law) = the Constitution's IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM encoded in DPSPs
- DPSPs AS POLICY MANDATE: MGNREGA (Art 41), RTE (Art 45), Equal Remuneration Act (Art 39d), Wildlife Protection Act (Art 48A) = DPSPs are NOT dead letters but the CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS for India's welfare legislation
- FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES AS MORAL CONSTITUTION: no enforcement mechanism + not correlative to legal duties = FDs represent the ETHICAL dimension of citizenship that CANNOT be legally compelled but is EXPECTED of citizens
- CONSTITUTIONAL TRINITY: FR (enforceable, individual, against state) + DPSP (non-enforceable, state obligation, for society) + FD (non-enforceable, citizen obligation, for nation) = THREE PILLARS with different legal status but EQUAL constitutional weight
- CROSS-CUTTING 2025 FORMAT: DPSP (judiciary separation) + FD (composite culture) + FR (child labour) tested in ONE question – signals UPSC wants HOLISTIC knowledge not compartmentalised chapters

Top Conceptual Traps

- DPSPs are NOT limitations on legislature/executive – they are GUIDELINES
- Traffic in human beings = FR Art 23 (NOT DPSP) – #1 confusion
- Prohibition of intoxicating drinks = DPSP Art 47 (NOT FR)
- 42nd Amdt added WORKER PARTICIPATION (not equal pay – that was original)
- UCC (Art 44) is NOT classified as Gandhian by UPSC (debated)
- Protecting weaker sections = DPSP (NOT Fundamental Duty)
- Voting in elections = NOT a Fundamental Duty (it's a constitutional right)
- FDs have NO legislative enforcement mechanism (unlike FRs)
- FDs are NOT correlative to legal duties
- Concentration of wealth violates DPSP (NOT Right to Equality)
- Welfare State = DPSP (NOT Preamble, though Preamble mentions justice/equality)
- Art 51 = international peace (NOT in Preamble for this purpose)
- Reasonable leisure = NOT Gandhian DPSP (it's Socialist/Liberal)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	DPSP nature: non-enforceable + fundamental	Laxmikanth Ch.8	7 Qs
2	Specific DPSP articles: 39-51	Laxmikanth Ch.8	7 Qs
3	FR vs DPSP classification	Laxmikanth Ch.7-8 comparison	3 Qs

4	Fundamental Duties: what's included/excluded	Laxmikanth Ch.9	4 Qs
5	42nd Amendment DPSP additions	Laxmikanth Ch.8	1 Q (↑)
6	Cross-cutting DPSP/FD/FR matching	All chapters	1 Q (↑↑ 2025 format)

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- FR vs DPSP conflict: Minerva Mills balance, Art 31C, Champakam Dorairajan evolution
- DPSP implementation via legislation: MGNREGA (Art 41), RTE (Art 45), minimum wages (Art 43)
- DPSP Socialistic classification: Art 38 (minimise inequalities), Art 39 (equitable distribution)
- FD's 11th duty: parent/guardian to provide education (86th Amendment 2002)
- Cross-cutting 2025 format: more DPSP/FD/FR provision matching questions
- Liberal-Intellectual DPSPs: UCC (Art 44), protect monuments (Art 49), separation of judiciary (Art 50)
- Specific DPSP article numbers: Art 40 (Panchayats), Art 43 (cottage industries), Art 47 (nutrition/prohibition)
- Verma Committee recommendations on FD enforcement
- DPSP as basis for legislation: Equal Remuneration Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Wildlife Protection Act
- Comparative: Irish DPSP model vs Indian adaptation differences

DPSPS AND FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

NATURE, PHILOSOPHY, AND PURPOSE OF DPSP

1. Which part of the Constitution of India declares the ideal of a Welfare State? [2020]
 - a) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - b) Fundamental Rights
 - c) Preamble
 - d) Seventh Schedule
2. With reference to the provisions contained in Part IV of the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2020]
 - 1) They shall be enforceable by courts.
 - 2) They shall not be enforceable by any court.
 - 3) The principles laid down in this part are to influence the making of laws by the State.
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3 only
3. Consider the following statements: [2017]

With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon:

 - 1) Legislative function.
 - 2) Executive function.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2

- d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. The ideal of “Welfare State” in the Indian Constitution is enshrined in its: [2015]
- a) Preamble
 - b) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - c) Fundamental Rights
 - d) Seventh Schedule
5. Consider the following Statements regarding the DPSP/ Directive Principles of State Policy: [2015]
- The Principles spell out the socio-economic democracy in the country.
The provisions contained in these Principles are not enforceable by any court.
Which of the statements given below are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 & 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. According to the constitution of India, which of the following are fundamental for the governance of the country? [2013]
- a) Fundamental rights
 - b) Fundamental duties
 - c) Directive principles of state policy
 - d) Fundamental rights and fundamental duties
7. The purpose of the inclusion of Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution is to establish: [2002]
- a) Political democracy
 - b) Social democracy
 - c) Gandhian democracy
 - d) Social and economic democracy
- SPECIFIC PROVISIONS, ARTICLES, AND AMENDMENTS OF DPSP**
8. Under the Indian Constitution, concentration of wealth violates: [2021]
- a) The Right to Equality
 - b) The Directive Principles of State Policy
 - c) The Right to Freedom
 - d) The Concept of Welfare
9. Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution? [2017]
- a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
 - b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
 - c) Right to work, education and public assistance
 - d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers
10. In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the: [2014]
- a) Preamble to the constitution
 - b) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - c) Fundamental Duties
 - d) Ninth Schedule
11. Consider the following provisions under the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of India: [2012]
- 1) Securing for citizens of India a uniform civil code
 - 2) Organising village Panchayats
 - 3) Promoting cottage industries in rural areas
 - 4) Securing for all the workers reasonable leisure and cultural opportunities
- Which of the above Gandhian Principles are reflected in the Directive of State Policy?

- a) 1, 2 & 4 Only
b) 2 & 3 Only
c) 1, 3 & 4 Only
d) 1, 2, 3 & 4
12. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following: [2010]
1) Fundamental Rights.
2) Fundamental Duties.
3) Directive Principles of State Policy.
Which of the above provisions of the Constitution of India is / are fulfilled by the National Social Assistance Programme launched by the Government of India?
a) 1 only
b) 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
13. Which of the following is/are included in the Directive Principles of State policy? [2008]
Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
Prohibition of Consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of other drugs which are injurious to health
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 Only
b) 2 Only
c) Both 1 and 2 Only
d) Neither 1 nor 2
14. Which one of the following Articles of the Directive Principles of State Policy deals with the promotion of international peace and security? [2002]
a) 51
b) 48 A
c) 43 A
d) 41
- FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES**
15. Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen? [2017]
1) A legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties.
2) They are correlative to legal duties.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
16. “To uphold and protect the Sovereignty Unity and Integrity of India” is a provision made in the: [2015]
a) Preamble of the Constitution
b) Directive Principles of State Policy
c) Fundamental Rights
d) Fundamental Duties
17. Which of the following is/are among the Fundamental Duties, laid down in the Indian Constitution? [2012]
1) To preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
2) To protect the weaker sections from social injustice
3) To develop the scientific temper and spirit of inquiry
4) To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity
Select the correct answer, using the codes below:

- a) 1 & 2 Only
 - b) 2 Only
 - c) 1, 3, & 4 Only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 & 4
18. Under the constitution of India, which one of the following is not a fundamental duty? [2011]
- a) To vote in public elections.
 - b) To develop the scientific temper.
 - c) To safeguard public property.
 - d) To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals.

COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

19. Consider the following pairs: [2025]
- Provision in the Constitution of India – Stated under:
- I. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in the public services of the State : The Directive Principles of the State Policy
 - II. Valuing and preserving of the rich heritage of our composite culture : The Fundamental Duties
 - III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories : The Fundamental Rights
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All the three
 - d) None
20. Other than the Fundamental Rights, which of the following part(s) of the Constitution of India reflect the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)? [2020]
- 1) Preamble
 - 2) Directive Principles of State Policy
 - 3) Fundamental Duties
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
21. In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties? [2017]
- a) Rights are correlative with Duties.
 - b) Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
 - c) Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
 - d) Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

THE EXECUTIVE (UNION AND STATE)

President | VP | Governor | PM & CoM | Ministries | Secretariat | Precedence

53 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 8 Themes | 80+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: THE EXECUTIVE (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
President: Election, Status, Removal	10	1996–2023	VERY HIGH
President: Powers, Veto, Ordinances	4	1999–2025	VERY HIGH ↑↑
Vice President	2	2004–2008	MEDIUM
Governor of a State	11	2004–2025	VERY HIGH ↑↑
PM and Council of Ministers	10	1995–2022	VERY HIGH
Ministries & Administrative Structure	13	1999–2021	HIGH
Historical Executives	2	2007	MEDIUM
Protocols, Oaths & Precedence	3	1997–2012	MEDIUM

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2025 = GOVERNOR + PRESIDENT YEAR: 4 questions on Governor’s immunity/discretion + ordinance scope + pardoning power – the DEEPEST Executive testing in any single year
- GOVERNOR is the FASTEST RISING sub-topic in ENTIRE UPSC Polity: from 2 Qs (pre-2018) to 11 total, with 5 in the last 2 years alone – mirrors REAL-WORLD Centre-State friction over Governor’s role
- PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FORMULA tested 4 TIMES (1997, 2003, 2018, 2023): MLA vote value, census basis (1971), nominated exclusion, MP equality – MATHEMATICAL PRECISION is non-negotiable
- PM & CoM tested across 3 DECADES (1995–2022) with SAME core traps: 4-rank classification = convention not Constitution; executive power = President not PM; CoM responsible to LS not Parliament
- MINISTRY-DEPARTMENT matching was DENSE (13 Qs, 1999–2021) then SLOWED: this is ADMINISTRATIVE KNOWLEDGE that tests whether aspirants know the MACHINERY they’ll operate within
- GOVERNOR tested in 3 WAVES: 2004-09 (basic: tenure, concurrent administrator), 2013-18 (institutional: discretion, immunity, Sarkaria), 2024-25 (DEEP: immunity scope, discretion explicit, ST declaration, bill reservation) = PROGRESSIVE DEEPENING
- PRESIDENT’S POWERS expanded in 2025: ordinances can amend acts + abridge FRs + back-date; pardoning subject to limited judicial review – 2025 tested the FULL SCOPE of executive power for the first time
- VP is the LEAST TESTED executive office: only 2 questions in 30 years (2004, 2008) – low probability but RS role questions may increase
- PROTOCOL/PRECEDENCE tested 2000–2004 then DORMANT: Warrant of Precedence is STATIC content that could return as a single-fact question
- CONVENTION vs CONSTITUTION is the META-THEME: PM resignation (convention), minister ranks (convention), executive power in President (constitutional), CoM to LS (constitutional) – every Executive question implicitly tests this distinction

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- Presidential election: formula, electoral college, census (10 Qs)
- Governor: discretion, immunity, removal, ST declaration (11 Qs ↑↑)
- PM & CoM: appointment, responsibility, 15% cap (10 Qs)
- Ministry-Department matching (13 Qs)
- President’s powers: ordinances, pardoning, veto (4 Qs ↑)

Under-Asked but RISING

- ORDINANCE POWER expanded testing (2025): amendments, FR abridgement, back-dating – expect deeper
- PARDONING POWER nuances: Art 72 vs Art 161, Kehar Singh case, judicial review scope
- GOVERNOR-STATE RELATIONS: reservation of bills, returning bills, dissolving assembly – SURGING
- PRESIDENT'S RULE specifics: Art 356 consequences, dissolution vs suspension, Bommai case
- CABINET COMMITTEES: specific committees, their composition, PM's role
- CARETAKER GOVERNMENT conventions: limitations on major decisions
- ATTORNEY GENERAL: appointment, removal, duties, restrictions – ZERO questions

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION MECHANICS – Electoral college (elected MPs + MLAs) + MLA formula (Pop/1000×Elected MLAs) + MP formula (Total MLA votes/Total elected MPs) + 1971 census + single transferable vote
- CLUSTER 2: GOVERNOR'S DUAL ROLE – Constitutional head (acts on CM's advice) + discretionary powers (356 report, bill reservation, caretaker govt) + immunity (no court/no criminal proceedings) + NO removal procedure
- CLUSTER 3: PM's CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION – Appointed by President + need not be MP at appointment + 6-month window + full discretion on ministers + CoM responsible to LS + resignation on losing majority = convention
- CLUSTER 4: EXECUTIVE HIERARCHY – President (nominal, Art 53) → PM (real, Art 74-75) → CoM (collective) → Cabinet Secretariat (coordination) → Ministries/Departments (execution)
- CLUSTER 5: PRESIDENTIAL POWERS SPECTRUM – Executive (appointments) + Legislative (ordinances Art 123, assent, address) + Judicial (pardoning Art 72) + Emergency (352/356/360) + Diplomatic (treaties, ambassadors)

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- GOVERNOR'S SURGE reflects real-world Centre-State tensions: aspirants must understand this CONTENTIOUS role
- Presidential election FORMULA tests MATHEMATICAL PRECISION: civil servants must calculate vote values
- PM's 6-month window + convention-based resignation tests CONSTITUTIONAL vs CONVENTIONAL distinction
- Ordinance powers (2025) test EXECUTIVE LEGISLATION limits: can amend acts, abridge FRs, back-date
- Pardoning power's LIMITED judicial review tests separation of powers in SENSITIVE contexts
- Ministry-Department matching tests ADMINISTRATIVE LITERACY essential for civil service entrants
- Constitution NOT classifying 4 minister ranks tests CONVENTION vs CONSTITUTION awareness
- ST declaration by PRESIDENT (not Governor) tests PRECISE institutional roles
- Governor's discretion EXPLICITLY mentioned in Constitution counters common misconception

The Hidden Syllabus

- GOVERNOR AS CONSTITUTIONAL FLASHPOINT: the SURGE from 2 to 11 questions mirrors REAL-WORLD Centre-State tensions – Governor's discretion, bill reservation, 356 recommendations are not academic but CONTESTED political territory
- PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS FEDERAL BALANCE: the MLA vote formula (population/1000×elected MLAs) + 1971 census freeze + equal MP votes ensures BOTH population AND federal representation – the formula IS the federal compromise
- CONVENTION vs CONSTITUTION IN EXECUTIVE: PM resignation on losing majority (convention) + 4-rank minister classification (convention) + executive power in President not PM (constitutional) = the executive operates on TWO parallel systems

- ORDINANCE POWER AS LEGISLATIVE EXCEPTION: 2025 testing that ordinances CAN amend acts + abridge FRs + back-date shows UPSC wants aspirants to understand the FULL SCOPE of executive legislation – not just that it exists
- PARDONING POWER AS MERCY JURISDICTION: limited judicial review (Kehar Singh) + cannot act without Cabinet advice = pardoning is NEITHER purely discretionary NOR purely mechanical – it occupies a unique constitutional space
- GOVERNOR'S DUAL IDENTITY: constitutional head (acts on CM's advice) + discretionary agent (356 report, bill reservation) = Governor is simultaneously a STATE institution and a CENTRE's representative – this DUALITY explains all controversies
- MINISTRY AS GOVERNANCE MACHINERY: Department of Atomic Energy under PMO (not any ministry), Border Management under Home Affairs, Forest Rights under Tribal Affairs = the ADMINISTRATIVE MAP is as important as the constitutional map for civil servants
- NO REMOVAL PROCEDURE FOR GOVERNOR: unlike President (impeachment), Governor holds at PLEASURE – this asymmetry is DELIBERATE: Governor is the Centre's agent and can be recalled, President represents the nation and needs formal removal

Top Conceptual Traps

- Executive power = PRESIDENT (Art 53), NOT PM
- CoM responsible to LOK SABHA (not Parliament)
- 4-rank minister classification = CONVENTION (not Constitution)
- PM resignation on losing majority = CONVENTION
- MP vote: LS = RS (equal), NOT LS more than RS
- NOMINATED members EXCLUDED from presidential electoral college
- Census for MLA vote = 1971 (not any later census)
- PAC Report NOT laid by President (it's Parliament's committee)
- ST declaration by PRESIDENT (not Governor)
- Governor's discretion IS explicitly in Constitution
- No procedure for Governor's REMOVAL exists
- President CANNOT reserve state bill without Governor forwarding it
- Pardoning: President CANNOT act without Central Govt advice
- Ordinance CAN amend acts + abridge FRs + back-date
- VP removal = RAJYA SABHA alone
- Chief Secretary: NO fixed tenure + appointed by state govt
- Dept of Atomic Energy = PM's Office (not any ministry)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Governor: powers, discretion, immunity, removal	Laxmikanth Ch.27-28	11 Qs (↑↑)
2	President: election formula, electoral college	Laxmikanth Ch.17-18	10 Qs
3	PM & CoM: appointment, responsibility, 15%	Laxmikanth Ch.19-20	10 Qs
4	Ministry-Department-Programme matching	India Year Book + Laxmikanth	13 Qs
5	President: ordinances, pardoning, veto	Laxmikanth Ch.17	4 Qs (↑↑)
6	VP: election, removal, functions	Laxmikanth Ch.18	2 Qs

7	Oaths, Precedence, Protocol	Warrant of Precedence table	3 Qs
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HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- Governor's bill reservation: which bills must be reserved, President's options, time limits
- Art 356: Bommai case safeguards, dissolution vs suspension, Parliament's approval
- Pardoning power comparison: Art 72 (President) vs Art 161 (Governor), scope differences
- Cabinet Committees: CCEA, ACC, specific portfolios and functions
- Attorney General: Art 76, appointment, removal, duties, restrictions
- Ordinance promulgation limits: Krishna Kumar Singh case (2017)
- Governor as Chancellor: university powers, recent controversies
- President's veto types: absolute, suspensive, pocket veto
- Council of Ministers vs Cabinet: composition, functions, legal status differences
- Administrative machinery: DoPT, Cabinet Secretariat, PMO interrelationships

THE EXECUTIVE (UNION AND STATE)

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA: ELECTION, STATUS, AND REMOVAL

1. Consider the following statements in respect of election to the President of India: [2023]
 - 1) If the election of the President of India is declared void by the Supreme Court of India, all acts done by him/her in the performance of duties of his/her office of President before the date of decision become invalid.
 - 2) Election for the post of the President of India can be postponed on the ground that some Legislative Assemblies have been dissolved and election are yet to take place.
 - 3) When a Bill is presented to the President of India, the Constitution prescribes time limits within which he/she has to declare his/her assent.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All three
 - d) None
2. Consider the following statements in respect of election to the President of India: [2023]
 - 1) The members nominated to either House of the Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of States are also eligible to be included in the Electoral College.
 - 2) Higher the number of elective Assembly seats, higher is the value of vote of each MLA of that state.
 - 3) The value of vote of each MLA of Madhya Pradesh is greater than that of Kerala.
 - 4) The value of vote of each MLA of Puducherry is higher than that of Arunachal Pradesh because the ratio of total population to total number of elective seats in Puducherry is greater as compared to Arunachal Pradesh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) Only three
 - d) All four
3. With reference to the election of the President of India, consider the following statements: [2018]
 - 1) The value of the vote of each MLA varies from State to State.

- 2) The value of the vote of MPs of the Lok Sabha is more than the value of the vote of MPs of the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 and 2
4. To the Constitution of India, it is the duty of the President of India to cause to be laid before the Parliament which of the following? [2012]
- 1) The Recommendations of the Union Finance Commission
2) The Report of the Public Accounts Committee
3) The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General
4) The Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 Only
b) 2 & 4 Only
c) 1, 3 & 4 Only
d) 1, 2, 3 & 4
5. Who of the following shall cause every recommendation made by the Finance Commission to be laid before each House of Parliament? [2010]
- a) The President of India
b) The Speaker of Lok Sabha
c) The Prime Minister of India
d) The Union Finance Minister
6. Consider the following statements: In the electoral college for the Presidential Election in India. [2003]
- 1) The value of the vote of an elected Member of Legislative Assembly equals State Population / (1000 × total number of elected MLAs).
2) The value of the vote of an elected Member of parliament equals Total value of votes of all elected MLAs / total number of elected MPs.
3) There were more than 5000 members in the latest election.
- Which of these statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2
b) Only 2
c) 1 and 3
d) Only 3
7. Which one of the following amendments to the Indian Constitution empowers the President to send back any matter for reconsideration by the Council of Ministers? [2002]
- a) 39th
b) 40th
c) 42nd
d) 44th
8. The Presidential election in India, every elected member of the Legislative Assembly of a State shall have as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the

population of the State by the total number of the elected members of the Assembly. As at present (1997) the expression “population” here means the population as ascertained by the: [1997]

- a) 1991 Census
 - b) 1981 Census
 - c) 1971 Census
 - d) 1961 Census
9. Which one of the following are/is stated in the Constitution of India? [1997]
- I. The President shall not be a member of either House of Parliament.
 - II. The Parliament shall consist of the President and two Houses.
- Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:
- a) Neither I nor II
 - b) Both I and II
 - c) I alone
 - d) II alone
10. Which one of the following is part of the electoral college for the election of the President of India but does not form part of the forum for his impeachment? [1996]
- a) Lok Sabha
 - b) Rajya Sabha
 - c) State Legislative Councils
 - d) State Legislative Assemblies

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA: EXECUTIVE POWERS, VETO, AND ORDINANCES

11. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements: [2025]
- I. An Ordinance can amend any Central Act.
 - II. An Ordinance can abridge a Fundamental Right.
 - III. An Ordinance can come into effect from a back date.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- a) I and II only
 - b) II and III only
 - c) I and III only
 - d) I, II and III
12. Consider the following statements with regard to pardoning power of the President of India: [2025]
- I. The exercise of this power by the President can be subjected to limited judicial review.
 - II. The President can exercise this power without the advice of the Central Government.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II
13. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution did the President give his assent to the ordinance on electoral reforms when it was sent back to him by the Union Cabinet without making any changes (in the year 2002)? [2003]
- a) Article 121
 - b) Article 122
 - c) Article 123
 - d) Article 124

3. The Vice President of India
14. Who among the following have held the office of the Vice President of India? [2008]
- 1) Mohammad Hidayatullah
 - 2) Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
 - 3) Neelam Sanjiva
 - 4) Shankar Dayal Sharma
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - b) 1 and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 3 and 4 only
15. The resolution for removing the Vice President of India can be moved in the: [2004]
- a) Lok Sabha alone
 - b) Either House of Parliament
 - c) Joint Sitting of Parliament
 - d) Rajya Sabha alone

THE GOVERNOR OF A STATE

16. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements: [2025]
- I. The Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.
 - II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.
 - III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- a) I and II only
 - b) II and III only
 - c) I and III only
 - d) I, II and III
17. Consider the following statements: [2025]
- I. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.
 - II. The President of India can, of his/her own, reserve a bill passed by a State Legislature for his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) I only
 - b) II only
 - c) Both I and II
 - d) Neither I nor II
18. Consider the following statements: [2024]
- 1) It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
 - 2) A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
19. Which one of the following suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past? [2019]
a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)
c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)
d) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)
20. Consider the following statements: [2018]
1) No criminal proceeding shall be instituted against the Governor of a state in any court during his terms of office.
2) The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a state shall not be diminished during his terms of office.
Which of the statement given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
21. Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State? [2014]
1) Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule
2) Appointing the Ministers
3) Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India
4) Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
22. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2013]
a) In India, the same person cannot be appointed as governor for two or more states at the same time
b) The judges of the high court of the states in India are appointed by the Governor of the state just as the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president
c) No procedure has been laid down in the constitution of India for the removal of a governor from his/her post
d) In the case of a union territory having a legislative setup, the chief minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support
23. The following statements: [2009]
1) The Governor of Punjab is concurrently the administrator of Chandigarh
2) The Governor of Kerala is concurrently the administrator of Lakshadweep
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) Both 1 and 2

d) 1, 2 and 3

24. Article 156 of the Constitution of India provides that a Governor shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. Which of the following can be deduced from this? [1995]

I. No Governor can be removed from office till completion of his term.

II. No Governor can continue in office beyond a period of five years.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) I only
- b) II only
- c) Both I and II
- d) Neither I nor II

PRIME MINISTER AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

25. Consider the following statements: [2022]

- 1) The Constitution of India classifies the ministers into four ranks viz. Cabinet Minister, Minister of State with Independent Charge, Minister of State and Deputy Minister.
- 2) The total number of ministers in the Union Government, including the Prime Minister, shall not exceed 15 percent of the total number of members in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. Consider the following statements: [2015]

- 1) The Executive Power of the union of India is vested in the Prime Minister.
- 2) The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

27. Consider the following statements: [2013]

- 1) The council of Ministers in the centre shall be collectively responsible to the Parliament.
- 2) The Union Ministers shall hold the office during the pleasure of the president of India.
- 3) The Prime Minister shall communicate to the president about the proposals for legislation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

28. The Prime Minister of India, at the time of his/her appointment: [2012]

- a) Need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of one of the Houses within six months
- b) Need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament but must become a member of the Lok Sabha within six months
- c) Must be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament

d) Must be a member of the Lok Sabha

29. With reference to Union Government, consider the following statements: [2009]

- 1) The Constitution of India provides that all Cabinet Ministers shall be compulsorily the sitting members of Lok Sabha only.
- 2) The Union Cabinet Secretariat operates under the direction of the Ministry of Parliamentary affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Which one of the following Constitutional amendments states that the total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed fifteen percent of the total number of members of the House of the People? [2009]

- a) 90th
- b) 91st
- c) 92nd
- d) 93rd

31. Which one of the following statements is correct? [1996]

The Prime Minister of India:

- a) Is free to choose his ministers only from among those who are members of either House of the Parliament
- b) Can choose his cabinet colleagues after due counselling by the President of India in this regard
- c) Has full discretion in the choice of persons who are to serve as ministers in his cabinet
- d) Has only limited powers in the choice of his cabinet colleagues because of the discretionary power vested with the President of India

32. Which one of the following is not explicitly stated in the Constitution of India but followed as a convention? [1995]

- a) The finance minister is to be a Member of the Lower House
- b) The Prime Minister has to resign if he loses majority in the Lower House
- c) All the parts of India are to be represented in the Council of Ministers
- d) In the event of both the President and the Vice-president demitting office simultaneously, the Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament will officiate as the President

MINISTRIES, SECRETARIAT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

33. With reference to the Union Government, consider the following statements: [2021]

- 1) Gopaldaswamy Iyengar Committee suggested that a minister and a secretary be designated solely for pursuing the subject of administrative reform and promoting it.
- 2) In 1970, the Department of Personnel was constituted on the recommendation of the Administrative Reforms Commission, 1966, and this was placed under the Prime Minister's charge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

34. At the national level, which ministry is nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006? [2021]
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 - Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 - Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Tribal Affairs
35. Consider the following statements: [2016]
- The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the Governor of that State.
 - The Chief Secretary in a State has a fixed tenure.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
36. Consider the following pairs: [2014]
- Programme/Project : Ministry
- Drought-Prone Area Programme: Ministry of Agriculture
 - Desert Development Programme: Ministry of Environment and Forests
 - National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas: Ministry of Rural Development
- Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - None
37. Which of the following is/are the function/functions of the Cabinet Secretariat? [2014]
- Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
 - Secretariat assistance to Cabinet Committees
 - Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
38. With reference to Union Government, consider the following statements: [2009]
- The number of Ministries at the Centre on 15th August 1947 was 18.
 - The number of Ministries at the Centre at present is 36.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
39. With reference to Union Government consider the following statements: [2009]
- The Ministries and Departments of the Government of India are created by the Prime Minister on the advice of the Cabinet Secretary.

2) Each of the Ministries is assigned to a Minister by the President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
40. Under the administration of which one of the following is the Department of Atomic Energy? [2009]
- a) Prime Minister's Office
 - b) Cabinet Secretariat
 - c) Ministry of Power
 - d) Ministry of Science and Technology
41. Department of Border Management is a Department of which one of the following Union Ministries? [2008]
- a) Ministry of Defence
 - b) Ministry Of Home Affairs
 - c) Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
 - d) Ministry of Environment and Forests
42. MCA-21 is a major initiative taken up by the Government of India in which one of the following areas? [2007]
- a) Foreign direct investment in India
 - b) Attracting international tourists
 - c) e-governance
 - d) Modernization of airports
43. Under which one of the Ministries of the Government of India does the food and nutrition board work? [2005]
- a) Ministry of Agriculture
 - b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - d) Ministry of Rural Development
44. . Which of the following pairs is correctly matched? Department Ministry of the Government of India: [2004]
- Department of: Women and Child Development : Ministry of Health and Family
Department of: Official Language : Ministry of Human Resource
Department of: Drinking Water Supply : Ministry of Water Resources
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) None
45. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, whose permission is required for cultivation of any genetically modified crop such as Bt-Cotton in India, is under the Union Minister of: [2003]
- a) Agriculture
 - b) Environment and Forests
 - c) Commerce and Industry

d) Rural Development

46. Consider the following organisations: [2001]

I. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Research and Exploration

II. Heavy Water Board

III. Indian Rare Earths Limited

IV. Uranium Corporation of India

Which of these is/are under the Department of Atomic Energy?

a) I only

b) I and IV

c) II, III and IV

d) I, II, III and IV

47. Transchart is the: [1999]

a) Chartering wing of the Ministry of Surface Transport

b) Container service established by Indian Railways

c) Training institute of maritime studies and research

d) Passenger insurance scheme of Indian Railways

7. Historical Executives and Political Figures

48. Consider the following statements: [2007]

1) Jawaharlal Nehru was in his fourth term as the Prime Minister of India at the time of his death.

2) Jawaharlal Nehru represented Rae Bareilly constituency as a Member of Parliament.

3) The first non-Congress Prime Minister of India assumed the Office in the year 1977.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2

b) 3 only

c) 1 only

d) 1 and 3

49. Who among the following have been the Union Finance Ministers of India? [2007]

1) V.P. Singh

2) R. Venkattaraman

3) Y.B. Chavan

4) Pranab Mukherjee

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 1, 3 and 4 only

c) 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

PROTOCOLS, OATHS, AND PRECEDENCE

50. Consider the following functionaries: [2000]

I. Cabinet Secretary

II. Chief Election Commissioner

III. Union Cabinet Ministers

IV. Chief Justice of India

Their correct sequence, in the Order of Precedence is:

a) III, IV, II, I

b) IV, III, I, II

- c) IV, III, II, I
- d) III, IV, I, II

51. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [1997]

List I (Functionaries) : List II (Oaths or Affirmations)

I. President of India : C. Faith and Allegiance to the Constitution of India

II. Judges of Supreme Court : B. Faithful Discharge of Duties

III. Members of Parliament : D. Upholding the Constitution and the Law

IV. Ministers for the Union : A. Secrecy of Information

Codes:

- a) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B
- b) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
- c) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A
- d) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE & COMMISSIONS

52. Which of the following can be said to be essentially the parts of Inclusive Governance? [2012]

- 1) Permitting the Non-Banking Financial Companies to do banking
- 2) Establishing effective District Planning Committees in all the districts
- 3) Increasing the government spending on public health
- 4) Strengthening the Mid-day Meal Scheme

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

53. Match List I (Article of Constitution) with List II (Content) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2001]

I - Art 54 : A) Election of the President of India

II - Art 75 : B) Appointment of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

III - Art 155 : C) Appointment of the Governor of a State

IV - Art 164 : D) Appointment of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers of a State

Codes:

- a) I-A, II-B, III-C, IV-D
- b) I-A, II-B, III-D, IV-E
- c) I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-E
- d) I-B, II-A, III-D, IV-C

UNION & STATE LEGISLATURE

Speaker | Bills | Committees | Powers | Representation | State Legislature
 69 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 7 Themes | 100+ Concepts

OVERVIEW (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Presiding Officers (Speaker/Chairman)	11	2000–2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Bills & Legislative Procedures	15	2000–2024	VERY HIGH
Parliamentary Committees	10	2001–2024	VERY HIGH
Powers & Privileges of Houses	7	2002–2022	VERY HIGH
Representation, Composition & Elections	9	1995–2012	HIGH
State Legislature Specifics	3	1995–2019	HIGH
Executive–Legislature Relations & Misc	6	1997–2020	HIGH

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2024-2025 SURGE: 6 questions in 2 years on Speaker (removal procedure, party resignation myth, dissolution survival) + Money Bill (Art 109, lapsing rules, Finance Bill distinction) + Ethics Committee
- 2017-2018 CLUSTER: 8 questions testing Speaker’s status, Money Bill definition, bill lapsing on prorogation, Leader of Opposition, private member’s bill = INSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE blitz
- 1995-2004 FOUNDATION ERA: 15 questions on representation, composition, joint sitting, Appropriation Bill, committee structure = STRUCTURAL KNOWLEDGE
- MONEY BILL is the #1 sub-topic in ENTIRE UPSC Polity: tested 8+ times across 24 years with SAME core mechanics but increasingly NUANCED distinctions (Money vs Finance Bill, lapsing rules, President’s role)
- SPEAKER tested in 3 WAVES: 2000–2007 (basic facts), 2012–2018 (institutional status), 2022–2025 (DEEP procedural nuances like removal hearing rights)
- PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES evolved: early questions (2001–03) tested basic composition; recent (2019–24) test FUNCTIONAL SCOPE (ethics complaints, regulatory oversight)
- REPRESENTATION questions PEAKED in 1995-2008 then declined: seats, constituencies, eligibility are now considered BASIC – expect DEEPER questions if they return
- STATE LEGISLATURE is UNDER-TESTED (only 3 Qs) despite being a LARGE Laxmikant chapter: Legislative Council is the most likely expansion area
- EXEC-LEGISLATURE RELATIONS (MPLADS, Leader of Opposition) tested post-2017: signals PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE over constitutional text
- Joint sitting tested 4 TIMES with SAME answer (ordinary bills only): UPSC repeats CORE facts to ensure they’re learned

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- Money Bill procedures: introduction, RS role, Speaker, lapsing (15 Qs – #1)
- Speaker: powers, removal, dissolution, party (11 Qs)
- Parliamentary Committees: PAC, Estimates, Ethics (10 Qs)
- House composition: seats, nominations, eligibility (9 Qs)
- LS vs RS powers: exclusive and shared (7 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- ANTI-DEFECTION (10th Schedule): Speaker’s role, merger, judicial review – ZERO in this section
- QUESTION HOUR: starred/unstarred/short notice – procedure questions under-tested
- PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES: breach of privilege, contempt of House – conceptually rich
- BUDGET PROCEDURE: stages, Guillotine, vote on account, Consolidated Fund – only Demands tested
- COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: binding vs advisory nature – institutional effectiveness
- WHIP SYSTEM: three-line whip, free vote, conscience vote – party discipline mechanics
- STATE LEGISLATURES: LC composition, powers vs Assembly, abolition process – under-tested

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: MONEY BILL CHAIN – President recommends → Introduced in LS → Speaker certifies → RS gets 14 days → RS suggests (LS not bound) → No joint sitting → President assent (cannot return)
- CLUSTER 2: BILL LAPSING RULES – Pending in LS = lapses on dissolution; Passed by LS pending in RS = lapses; Joint sitting notified = does NOT lapse; PROROGATION = NO lapsing
- CLUSTER 3: SPEAKER'S CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS – Elected by LS + resigns to Deputy Speaker + continues after dissolution + removal by majority of ALL members + NOT at President's pleasure + does NOT resign from party
- CLUSTER 4: LS vs RS POWER COMPARISON – LS exclusive: Money Bill, no-confidence, Demands; RS exclusive: Art 249 (national interest), Art 312 (All-India Services); Equal: Amendment, impeachment, Emergency ratification
- CLUSTER 5: COMMITTEE ARCHITECTURE – Financial (PAC/Estimates/PU) + DRSCs (24 committees) + Ad hoc (JPC/Select) + Privilege/Ethics + Subordinate Legislation = FIVE categories

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- MONEY BILL = LS's financial supremacy is the CORNERSTONE of Indian parliamentary democracy – every civil servant handles budgets and must know the legislative chain
- SPEAKER's non-partisan role (2025: no party resignation) tests whether aspirants distinguish INDIAN practice from BRITISH convention – UPSC corrects borrowed assumptions
- Bill lapsing rules are tested because CIVIL SERVANTS DRAFT BILLS: knowing when your bill dies is operational, not academic
- PAC composition (both Houses + Speaker-appointed chairman from opposition) tests whether aspirants understand OVERSIGHT as distinct from GOVERNANCE
- RS's limited financial role (discuss but not vote on Demands) tests PRECISE institutional boundaries – 'discuss' ≠ 'vote' is a SUBTLE but critical distinction
- Ethics Committee's open complaint access (anyone, not just MPs) signals UPSC values ACCOUNTABILITY mechanisms over closed institutional processes
- Joint sitting for ORDINARY bills only (not Money/Amendment) tests EXCEPTION AWARENESS: knowing what a provision does NOT cover is harder than knowing what it covers
- 2024-2025's PROCEDURAL DEPTH (Speaker's hearing rights during removal, bill lapsing on joint sitting notification) shows UPSC is moving from WHAT to HOW
- Finance Bill vs Money Bill distinction tests CATEGORISATION PRECISION: both involve money, but legal treatment differs entirely
- Estimates Committee = ALL LS (no RS) while PAC = both Houses tests whether aspirants study EACH committee separately rather than generalising
- Private member's bill question (2017) corrects TWO misconceptions at once: not just nominated MPs + has been passed before = UPSC dismantles popular myths
- State Legislature questions test whether aspirants study BEYOND Union institutions – LC composition/Governor's role in state legislature is UNDERAPPRECIATED knowledge

The Hidden Syllabus

- BILL LIFECYCLE: from drafting to Presidential assent – UPSC tests EACH stage separately across different years
- SPEAKER AS INSTITUTION: not just a presiding officer but a CONSTITUTIONAL GUARDIAN – anti-defection adjudicator, Money Bill certifier, discipline enforcer
- COMMITTEE SYSTEM AS PARLIAMENT'S REAL WORK: 95% of Parliament's work happens in committees, not on the floor – UPSC reflects this reality
- LS vs RS DYNAMIC: not just power comparison but FUNCTIONAL COMPLEMENTARITY – RS as revising/delaying chamber, LS as decision chamber
- BUDGET AS LEGISLATIVE ACT: Demands for Grants + Appropriation Bill + Finance Bill = THREE distinct legislative steps in one budgetary process

- DISSOLUTION vs PROROGATION vs ADJOURNMENT: three different actions with entirely different consequences for bills, sessions, and committees
- CONVENTION vs CONSTITUTION: Leader of Opposition recognition, PM from LS convention, party whip system = the UNWRITTEN constitution of Parliament

Top Conceptual Traps

- Money Bill: LS ONLY (not either House) for introduction
- Speaker does NOT resign from party (UK convention, not Indian)
- During removal: Speaker cannot PRESIDE but CAN speak and CAN vote initially
- Bill passed by LS pending in RS ALSO LAPSES on dissolution
- Bill does NOT lapse on PROROGATION (only dissolution)
- Joint sitting notified bill does NOT lapse even on dissolution
- RS CAN discuss budget but CANNOT vote on Demands for Grants
- Finance Bill ≠ Money Bill: RS can amend/reject Finance Bill
- PAC has 22 members (15 LS + 7 RS), NOT 25
- Estimates Committee: ALL from LS (no RS members)
- Ethics Committee: complaint by ANYONE (not just MPs)
- State Assembly max: 500 (not 450)
- UTs ARE represented in RS (Delhi, Puducherry)
- CoM responsible to LOK SABHA only (not both Houses)
- LC cannot be larger than 1/3 of Assembly (not 1/2)
- Governor does NOT nominate LC Chairman
- Leader of Opposition: 10% of total strength (not 75 members)
- Private member's bill: by any non-minister MP (not just nominated)
- LS term extended by 1 YEAR at a time (not 6 months/2 years)
- President cannot return Money Bill to LS

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Money Bill: complete procedure chain	Laxmikanth Ch.22	15 Qs
2	Speaker: powers, removal, status	Laxmikanth Ch.22	11 Qs (†)
3	Parliamentary Committees: PAC, Estimates, Ethics	Laxmikanth Ch.22	10 Qs
4	LS vs RS: exclusive and shared powers	Laxmikanth Ch.22	7 Qs
5	Representation: seats, nominations, eligibility	Laxmikanth Ch.22 + India YB	9 Qs
6	State Legislature: Council, Assembly	Laxmikanth Ch.31	3 Qs
7	Exec-Legislature: MPLADS, Leader of Opposition	Laxmikanth + rules	6 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- ANTI-DEFECTION LAW (10th Schedule): Speaker's quasi-judicial role, Kihoto Hollohan case (no judicial review of Speaker's decision while pending), merger exception (2/3rds), recent controversies – ZERO questions so far despite HIGH syllabus weight
- BUDGET PROCEDURE in detail: General discussion → DRSCs → Demands for Grants → Guillotine → Appropriation Bill → Finance Bill = the complete chain; Vote on Account for interim period; Consolidated Fund vs Contingency Fund vs Public Account

- QUESTION HOUR mechanics: starred (oral, supplementary) vs unstarred (written) vs short notice; zero hour (not in rules); calling attention; adjournment motion – procedural vocabulary questions
- PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES: Art 105 (free speech), breach of privilege vs contempt of House, no arrest during session (40 days before/after), publication of proceedings
- WHIP SYSTEM: three-line whip binding; free vote rare; connection to anti-defection; Chief Whip’s role – party discipline as INSTITUTIONAL mechanism
- RS SPECIAL POWERS: Art 249 (Parliament to legislate on State List in national interest), Art 312 (creation of All-India Services) – RS’s unique constitutional contributions
- STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: composition formula (1/3 elected by MLAs, 1/3 by local bodies, 1/12 teachers, 1/12 graduates, 1/6 Governor nominated), powers vs Assembly, abolition by Parliament on state resolution
- PROROGATION vs ADJOURNMENT vs DISSOLUTION comparison: effects on bills (lapse vs survive), sessions (end vs pause), committees (continue vs terminate), Speaker’s status – THREE-WAY comparison likely
- JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE: composition rules, recent JPCs (data protection, pesticide), binding vs advisory recommendations – institutional effectiveness questions
- MONEY BILL CONTROVERSIES: Aadhaar as Money Bill debate, Speaker’s certification finality (Art 110(3)), judicial review scope – CURRENT AFFAIRS convergence with constitutional provisions
- RAJYA SABHA COMPOSITION: 12 nominated by President (literature/science/art/social service), state representation (4th Schedule), biennial elections (1/3 every 2 years)
- OFFICE OF PROFIT: disqualification under Art 102(1)(a), Joint Committee recommendations, exempted posts – tested zero times despite being a recurring political controversy

UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURE

PRESIDING OFFICERS (SPEAKER, DEPUTY SPEAKER, CHAIRMAN)

1. Consider the following statements: [2025]

- 1) On the dissolution of the House of the People, the Speaker shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.
- 2) According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, a member of the House of the People on being elected as Speaker shall resign from his/her political party immediately.
- 3) The Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his/her office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then Members of the House, provided that no resolution shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements: [2024]

While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration:

1. He/She shall not preside.
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak.
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, consider the following statements: [2022]

- 1) As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the election of Deputy Speaker shall be held on such date as the Speaker may fix.
- 2) There is a mandatory provision that the election of a candidate as Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha shall be from either the principal opposition party or the ruling party.
- 3) The Deputy Speaker has the same power as of the Speaker when presiding over the sitting of the House and no appeal lies against his rulings.
- 4) The well established parliamentary practice regarding the appointment of Deputy Speaker is that the motion is moved by the Speaker and duly seconded by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 1, 2 and 3
 - c) 3 and 4 only
 - d) 2 and 4 only
4. Consider the following statements: [2018]
- 1) The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly shall vacate his/her office if he/she ceases to be a member of the Assembly.
 - 2) Whenever the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, the Speaker shall vacate his/her office immediately.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 and 2
5. Consider the following statements: [2013]
- 1) The chairman and the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha are not the members of that house.
 - 2) While the nominated members of the two houses of the parliament have no voting right in the presidential election, they have the right to vote in the election of the vice President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Regarding the office of the Lok Sabha Speaker, consider the following statements: [2012]
- 1) He/She holds the office during the pleasure of the President.
 - 2) He/She need not be a member of the House at the time of his/her election but has to become a member of the House within six months from the date of his/her election.
 - 3) If he/she intends to resign, the letter of his/her resignation has to be addressed to the Deputy Speaker.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 2 Only
 - b) 3 Only
 - c) 1, 2, & 3
 - d) None
7. Who was the Speaker of the first Lok Sabha? [2007]
- a) Hukam Singh

- b) G.V. Mavalankar
c) K.M. Munshi
d) U.N. Dhebar
8. Consider the following statements: [2004]
- 1) The Speaker of Lok Sabha has the power to adjourn the House sine-die but, on prorogation, it is only the President who can summon the House.
 - 2) Unless sooner dissolved or there is an extension of the term, there is an automatic dissolution of the Lok Sabha by efflux of time, at the end of the period of five years, even if no formal order of dissolution is issued by the President.
 - 3) The Speaker of Lok Sabha continues in office even after the dissolution of the House and until 'immediately before the first meeting of the House'.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- a) 1 and 3
 - b) 2 and 3
 - c) 1 and 2
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
9. Who among the following was never the Lok Sabha Speaker? [2004]
- a) K. V. K. Sundaram
 - b) G. S. Dhillon
 - c) Baliram Bhagat
 - d) Hukum Singh
10. Speaker can ask a member of the House to stop speaking and let another member speak. This phenomenon is known as: [2000]
- a) Decorum
 - b) Crossing the floor
 - c) Interpellation
 - d) Yielding the floor

Answer: d

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES & TYPES OF BILLS

11. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament? [2024]
- 1) Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills.
 - 2) A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.
 - 3) The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it.
 - 4) Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1, 2 and 3
 - d) 1, 3 and 4
12. With reference to the Indian Parliament consider the following statements: [2024]
- 1) A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
 - 2) A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
 - 3) A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting, lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 3 only

13. With reference to Finance Bill and Money Bill in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements: [2023]

- 1) When the Lok Sabha transmits Finance Bill to the Rajya Sabha, it can amend or reject the Bill.
- 2) When the Lok Sabha transmits Money Bill to the Rajya Sabha, it cannot amend or reject the Bill, it can only make recommendations.
- 3) In the case of disagreement between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, there is no joint sitting for Money Bill, but a joint sitting becomes necessary for Finance Bill.

How many of the above statements are correct.

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

14. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct? [2018]

- a) A bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions relating to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
- b) A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.
- c) A Money Bill is concerned with the appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.
- d) A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the Government of India.

15. Which of the following statements is/are correct? [2016]

- 1) A Bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation.
- 2) A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. Consider the following statements: [2015]

- 1) The Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill
- 2) The Rajya Sabha cannot vote on the Demands for Grants.
- 3) The Rajya Sabha cannot discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

17. When a bill is referred to a joint sitting of both the Houses of the Parliament, it has to be passed by: [2015]

- a) A simple majority of members present and voting
b) Three-fourths majority of members present and voting
c) Two-thirds majority of the House
d) Absolute majority of the House
18. What will follow if a money bill is substantially amended by the Rajya Sabha? [2013]
a) The Lok Sabha may still proceed with the bill, accepting or not accepting the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha
b) The Lok Sabha cannot consider the bill further
c) The Lok Sabha may send the bill to the Rajya Sabha for reconsideration
d) The president may call a joint sitting for passing the bill
19. A deadlock between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha calls for a joint sitting of the Parliament during the passage of: [2012]
1) Ordinary Legislation
2) Money Bill
3) Constitution Amendment Bill
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
a) Only 1
b) 2 & 3 Only
c) 1 & 3 Only
d) 1, 2 & 3
20. With reference to the Indian Parliament, which one of the following is not correct? [2004]
a) The Appropriation Bill must be passed by both Houses of Parliament before it can be enacted into law.
b) No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under the appropriation made by the Appropriation Act.
c) Finance Bill is required for proposing new taxes but no another Bill/ Act is required for making changes in the rates of taxes which are already under operation.
d) No Money Bill can be introduced except on the recommendation of the President.
21. Which one of the following Bills must be passed by each House of the Indian Parliament separately, by special majority? [2003]
a) Ordinary Bill
b) Money Bill
c) Finance Bill
d) Constitution Amendment Bill
22. Consider the following statements: [2003]
1) The joint sitting of the two houses of the Parliament in India is sanctioned under Article 108 of the Constitution
2) The first joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was held in the year 1961
3) The second joint sitting of the two Houses of Indian Parliament was held to pass the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill
Which of these statements are correct?
a) 1 and 2
b) 2 and 3
c) 1 and 3
d) 1, 2 and 3

23. Which one of the following statements about a Money Bill is not correct? [2000]
- A Money Bill can be tabled in either House of Parliament
 - The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the final authority to decide whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not
 - The Rajya Sabha must return a Money Bill passed by Lok Sabha and send it for consideration within 14 days
 - The President cannot return a Money Bill to Lok Sabha for reconsideration

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

24. Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct? [2024]
- Initially it was an ad-hoc Committee.
 - Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha.
 - This Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
25. In India, which of the following review the independent regulators in sectors like telecommunications, insurance, electricity, etc.? [2019]
- Ad Hoc Committees set up by the Parliament
 - Parliamentary Department Related Standing Committees
 - Finance Commission
 - Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission
 - NITI Aayog

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2
 - 1, 3 and 4
 - 3, 4 and 5
 - 2 and 5
26. With reference to Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinises and reports to the House whether the power to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation? [2018]
- Committee on Government Assurances
 - Committee on Subordinate Legislation
 - Rules Committee
 - Business Advisory Committee
27. Which one of the following is the largest Committee of the Parliament? [2014]
- The committee on Public Accounts
 - The committee on Estimates
 - The Committee on Public Undertakings
 - The committee on Petitions

28. Consider the following statements: [2013]

The parliamentary committee on public accounts:

- Consists of not more than 25 members of the Lok Sabha

- 2) Scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the government
- 3) Examines the report of the comptroller and auditor general of India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

29. Consider the following statements: [2007]

- 1) The Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- 2) The Committee on Public Accounts comprises Members of Lok Sabha, Members of Rajya Sabha and a few eminent persons of industry and trade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

30. Consider the following statements: [2003]

- 1) While members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with Committees on Public Accounts and Public Undertakings, Members of Committee on Estimates are drawn entirely from Lok Sabha.
- 2) The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs works under the overall direction of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
- 3) The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs nominates members of Parliament on Committees, Councils, Boards and Commissions etc. set up by the Government of India in the various ministries.

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

31. The Consultative Committee of members of Parliament for Railway Zones is constituted by the: [2002]

- a) President of India
- b) Ministry of Railways
- c) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- d) Ministry of Transport

32. In what way does the Indian Parliament exercise control over the administration? [2001]

- a) Through Consultative Committees of various ministries
- b) Through Parliamentary Committees
- c) By making the administrators send periodic reports
- d) By compelling the executive to issue writs

POWERS, PRIVILEGES & JURISDICTION OF HOUSES

33. Which of the following is/are the exclusive power(s) of Lok Sabha? [2022]

- 1) To ratify the declaration of Emergency
- 2) To pass a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers
- 3) To impeach the President of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 3 only
34. Rajya Sabha has equal powers with Lok Sabha in: [2020]
- a) The matter of creating new All India Services
 - b) Amending the Constitution
 - c) The removal of the government
 - d) Making cut motions
35. The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the: [2016]
- a) Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
 - b) Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership
 - c) Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
 - d) Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting
36. The parliament can make any law for whole or any part of India for implementing international treaties: [2013]
- a) With the consent of all the states
 - b) With the consent of the majority of states
 - c) With the consent of the states concerned
 - d) Without the consent of any states
37. Which of the following special powers have been conferred on the Rajya Sabha by the Constitution of India? [2012]
- a) To change the existing territory of a State and to change the name of a State
 - b) To pass a resolution empowering the Parliament to make laws in the State List and to create one or more All India Services
 - c) To amend the election procedure of the President and to determine the pension of the President after his/her retirement
 - d) To determine the functions of the Election Commission and to determine the number of Election Commissioners
38. Consider the following statements: [2006]
- 1) The Rajya Sabha alone has the power to declare that it would be in national interest for the Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List.
 - 2) Resolutions approving the Proclamation of Emergency are passed only by the Lok Sabha.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: a
39. The Parliament can make any law for the whole or any part of India for implementing international treaties: [2000]
- a) with the consent of all the States
 - b) with the consent of the majority of States

- c) with the consent of the States concerned
- d) without the consent of any State

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS, SESSIONS & MOTIONS

40. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements: [2024]

- 1) Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers
- 2) Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
- 3) Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 3 only

Answer: c

41. Consider the following statements: [2020]

- 1) The President of India can summon a session of the Parliament at such a place as he/she thinks fit.
- 2) The Constitution of India provides for three sessions of the Parliament in a year, but it is not mandatory to conduct all three sessions.
- 3) There is no minimum number of days that the Parliament is required to meet in a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

42. The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through: [2017]

- 1) Adjournment motion
- 2) Question hour
- 3) Supplementary questions

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

43. Consider the following statements regarding a No-Confidence Motion in India: [2014]

- 1) There is no mention of a No Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India.
- 2) A motion of No-Confidence can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

44. In the Parliament of India, the purpose of an adjournment motion is: [2012]
- To allow a discussion on a definite matter of urgent public importance
 - To let opposition members collect information from the ministers
 - To allow a reduction of specific amount in demand for grant
 - To postpone the proceedings to check the inappropriate or violent behaviour on the part of some members
45. Which one of the following statements is not correct? [2004]
- In Lok Sabha, a no confidence motion has to set out the grounds on which it is based.
 - In the case of a no confidence motion in the Lok Sabha, no conditions of admissibility have been laid down in the Rules.
 - A motion of no confidence, once admitted, has to be taken up within ten days of the leave being granted.
 - Rajya Sabha is not empowered to entertain a motion of no confidence.
46. In which of the following countries will the no-confidence motion to bring down the government passed by the legislature be valid only when the legislature is able to simultaneously find a majority to elect a successor government? [1997]
- France
 - Germany
 - Italy
 - Portugal

ELECTIONS, QUALIFICATIONS & DISQUALIFICATIONS (MEMBERS)

47. Consider the following statements: [2025]
- I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the Tenth Schedule, the President's decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.
- II. There is no mention of the word 'political party' in the Constitution of India.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- I only
 - II only
 - Both I and II
 - Neither I nor II
48. With reference to anti-defection law in India, consider the following statements: [2022]
- The law specifies that a nominated legislator cannot join any political party within six months of being appointed to the House.
 - The law does not provide any time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
49. Consider the following statements: [2019]
- The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
 - The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.

3) The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

50. Consider the following statements: [2017]

- 1) In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
- 2) According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

51. Which one of the following Schedules of the Constitution of India contains provisions regarding anti-defection? [2014]

- a) Second Schedule
- b) Fifth Schedule
- c) Eighth Schedule
- d) Tenth Schedule

52. Consider the following statements: [2012]

- 1) Union Territories are not represented in the Rajya Sabha.
- 2) It is within the preview of Chief Election commissioner to adjudicate election disputes.
- 3) According to the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 & 3
- c) 1 & 3
- d) None

53. Consider the following statements: [2008]

The Constitution of India Provides that:

- 1) The Legislative Assembly of each State shall Consist of not more than 450 members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the State
- 2) A person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in the Legislative Assembly of a State if he/she is less than 25 years of age

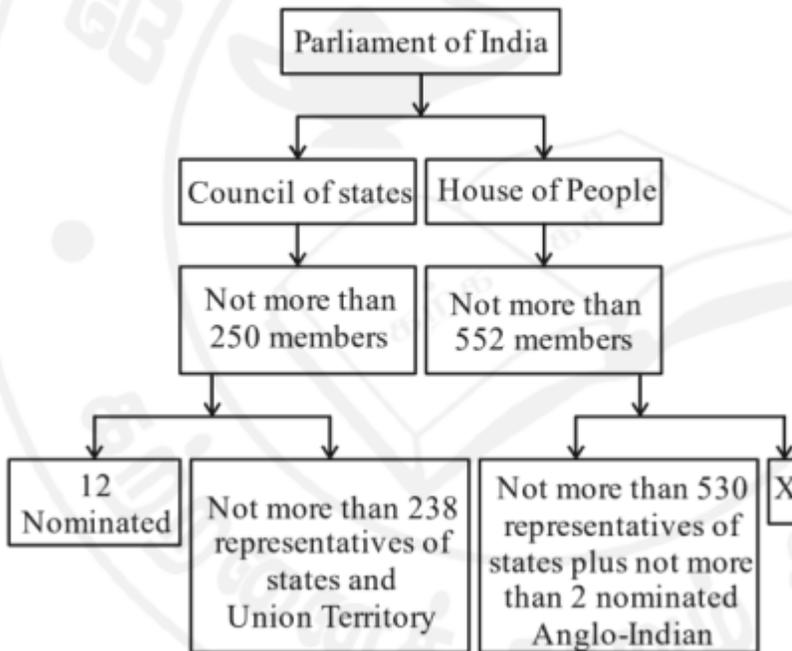
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

54. Which one of the following is the largest (area wise) Lok Sabha constituency? [2008]

- a) Kangra

- b) Ladakh
 - c) Kachchh
 - d) Bhilwara
55. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2003]
- a) Only the Rajya Sabha and not the Lok Sabha can have nominated members
 - b) There is a constitutional provision for nominating two members belonging to the Anglo-Indian community to the Rajya Sabha
 - c) There is no constitutional bar for a nominated member to be appointed Union minister
 - d) A nominated member can vote both in the Presidential
56. The State which has the largest number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha is: [2000]
- a) Bihar
 - b) Gujarat
 - c) Uttar Pradesh
 - d) Madhya Pradesh
57. If the number of seats allocated to a state in the Lok Sabha is 42, then the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes in that state will be: [1996]
- a) 21
 - b) 14
 - c) 7
 - d) 6
58. Consider the table given below: [1995]



Which one of the following will fit in the place marked 'X'?

- a) Ministers who are not Members of Parliament but who have to get themselves elected to either House of Parliament within six months after assuming office
- b) Not more than 20 nominated members
- c) Not more than 20 representatives of Union Territories

- d) The Attorney General who has the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House of Parliament
59. Who among the following have the right to vote in the elections to both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha? [1995]
- Elected members of the Lower House of the Parliament
 - Elected members of the Upper House of the Parliament
 - Elected members of the Upper House of the State Legislature
 - Elected members of the Lower House of the State Legislature
60. If in an election to a State Legislative Assembly the candidate who is declared elected loses his deposit, it means that: [1995]
- the polling was very poor
 - the election was for a multi member constituency
 - the elected candidate's victory over his nearest rival was very marginal
 - a very large number of candidates contested the election

STATE LEGISLATURE SPECIFICS

61. With reference to the Legislative Assembly of a State in India, consider the following statements: [2019]
- The Governor makes a customary address to Members of the House at the commencement of the first session of the year.
 - When a State Legislature does not have a rule on a particular matter, it follows the Lok Sabha rule on that matter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
62. Consider the following statements: [2015]
- The Legislative Council of a state in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular state.
 - The Governor of a state nominates the Chairman of the Legislative Council of that particular state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
63. Which one of the following States of India does not have a Legislative Council so far even though the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956 provides for it? [1995]
- Maharashtra
 - Bihar
 - Karnataka
 - Madhya Pradesh

EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATURE RELATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

64. With reference to the funds under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), which of the following statements are correct? [2020]

- 1) MPLADS funds must be used to create durable assets like physical infrastructure for health, education, etc.
- 2) A specified portion of each MP's fund must benefit SC/ST populations.
- 3) MPLADS funds are sanctioned on a yearly basis and the unused funds cannot be carried forward to the next year.
- 4) The district authority must inspect at least 10% of all works under implementation every year.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only

65. Consider the following statements: [2018]

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

66. . With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements: [2017]

1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.
2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

67. Assertion (A): The Council of Ministers in the Union of India is collectively responsible both to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Reason (R): The Members of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are eligible to be the Ministers of the Union Government. [2007]

- a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is True but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true

68. The term of the Lok Sabha: [2002]

- a) Cannot be extended under any circumstances
- b) Can be extended by six months at a time
- c) Can be extended by one year at a time during the proclamation of emergency
- d) Can be extended for two years at a time during the proclamation of emergency

69. If the Prime Minister of India belonged to the Upper House of Parliament: [1997]

- a) He will not be able to vote in his favour in the event of a no confidence motion
- b) He will not be able to speak on the Budget in the Lower House
- c) He can make statements only on the Upper House
- d) He has to become a member of the Lower House within six months after being sworn-in as the Prime Minister

JUDICIARY & JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Supreme Court | High Courts | Subordinate Courts | Lok Adalats | Writs | PIL | Contempt

38 PYQs | 1996–2024 | 7 Themes | 60+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: JUDICIARY & JUDICIAL SYSTEM (1996–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Supreme Court: Jurisdiction & Powers	16	1996–2021	VERY HIGH
High Courts	10	1996–2009	HIGH
Subordinate Courts & Lok Adalats	8	2004–2016	HIGH
Writs & Contempt of Court	5	1997–2024	VERY HIGH ↑↑
PIL (Public Interest Litigation)	3	1997–2008	MEDIUM
Advocates & Legal System	1	2022	MEDIUM ↑

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- SUPREME COURT tested in TWO WAVES: 1996–2005 (basic jurisdiction + enlargement + advisory) and 2012–2021 (autonomy safeguards + impeachment + SC not constrained by Parliament) = PROGRESSIVE DEEPENING from structure to power dynamics
- HIGH COURTS were DENSELY tested 2001–2009 (10 Qs in 8 years) then went QUIET: territorial jurisdiction, retirement restrictions, multi-state HCs, salaries charged to Consolidated Fund of STATE (not India) – may return as UPSC cycles topics
- 2022 was JUDICIARY BLITZ YEAR: 4 questions testing Contempt of Courts Act, Mandamus/Quo Warranto scope, Advocate recognition, and HC jurisdiction – the most judiciary questions in any single year
- LOK ADALATS tested 4 TIMES (2005–2010) with CONSISTENT focus: awards = decree of civil court, no appeal, covers ALL types of disputes (motor/pension/matrimonial/telecom) = ADR as ACCESS TO JUSTICE
- WRITS SURGED in 2022–2024: Mandamus won't lie against private org unless public duty✓ + Quo Warranto by any public-minded person✓ + Prohibition to lower court✓ = PROCEDURAL PRECISION testing
- ORIGINAL JURISDICTION (Centre vs State disputes) tested TWICE in IDENTICAL format (1996, 2014): UPSC REPEATS foundational jurisdiction questions because aspirants confuse original/appellate/advisory

- SC's ADVISORY JURISDICTION tested TWICE (2001, 2010) with SAME answer: President seeks advice (SC doesn't offer on its own) = SEPARATION OF POWERS in judicial function
- PARLIAMENT CAN enlarge SC jurisdiction (2003, 2005) is the KEY institutional fact: SC's power is NOT frozen in the Constitution but EXPANDABLE by legislation
- IMPEACHMENT of judges tested with PROCEDURAL DEPTH (2019): Judges Inquiry Act 1968, not just constitutional provision – shows UPSC moving from constitutional text to STATUTORY detail
- PIL tested ONLY 1997-2008 then DORMANT: P.N. Bhagwati as CJI, originated in USA, V.R. Krishna Iyer as progenitor (not CJI) = HISTORICAL knowledge, not current PIL jurisprudence

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- SC jurisdiction: original, appellate, advisory (16 Qs – #1)
- HC: territory, judges, retirement, salaries (10 Qs)
- Lok Adalats: scope, awards, appeal (4 Qs)
- Writs: Mandamus, Prohibition, Quo Warranto (3 Qs ↑↑)
- Contempt of Court: Act, constitutional power (2 Qs ↑)

Under-Asked but RISING

- COLLEGIUM SYSTEM: NJAC struck down, Memorandum of Procedure, judges appointing judges – ZERO direct questions despite being India's most debated judicial topic
- JUDICIAL ACTIVISM vs RESTRAINT: overreach debate, PIL abuse, court-monitored committees – tested only through PIL history
- TRIBUNALS: NCLAT, NGT, CAT, SAT – tribunal system under Art 323A/323B barely tested
- NATIONAL JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION (NJAC): 99th Amendment struck down – landmark case untested
- FAST TRACK COURTS: criminal justice reform, Gram Nyayalayas implementation – access to justice
- CONTEMPT LAW REFORM: truth as defence (2006 amendment), Prashant Bhushan case – evolving jurisprudence
- HABEAS CORPUS and CERTIORARI writs: only Mandamus/Prohibition/Quo Warranto tested – remaining 2 writs UNASKED
- SC BENCH SYSTEM: Constitution Bench, 2-judge/3-judge/5-judge benches, reference criteria – institutional mechanics
- LEGAL AID: Art 39A (DPSP) + NALSA + legal services authorities – links judiciary to social justice

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: SC JURISDICTION TRINITY – Original (Centre vs State/State vs State) + Appellate (civil/criminal/constitutional) + Advisory (President's reference only) = THREE distinct judicial functions with DIFFERENT triggers
- CLUSTER 2: JUDICIAL AUTONOMY ARCHITECTURE – Salaries on Consolidated Fund + CJI consulted + Impeachment only by Parliament + SC not bound by Parliament's laws = FOUR safeguards of independence
- CLUSTER 3: WRIT JURISDICTION MAP – Habeas Corpus (personal liberty) + Mandamus (duty enforcement) + Prohibition (to lower court) + Certiorari (quash order) + Quo Warranto (challenge office) = FIVE writs with DISTINCT targets
- CLUSTER 4: ADR FRAMEWORK – Lok Adalats (statutory, no appeal, decree status) + Gram Nyayalayas (civil + criminal) + Mediation + Arbitration = FOUR-TIER alternative dispute resolution
- CLUSTER 5: HC vs SC COMPARISON – SC salaries from Centre, HC from State; SC original for federal disputes, HC for fundamental rights writs; both can review, both can punish contempt; retired HC judge can practice in SC only

- CLUSTER 6: JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY – Impeachment (Art 124(4)) + Contempt power (Art 129/215) + In-house procedure + Judicial Standards Bill (pending) = accountability mechanisms for DIFFERENT levels

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- SC's ORIGINAL JURISDICTION (Centre vs State) is tested because it defines the judiciary's role as FEDERAL UMPIRE – the court that resolves the most fundamental governance disputes
- SC NOT constrained by Parliament's laws (2019) is the MOST POWERFUL judicial principle: it establishes that CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS transcend STATUTORY limitations – the judiciary's ultimate independence
- Parliament CAN enlarge SC jurisdiction: UPSC corrects the misconception that SC's power is FROZEN – the relationship between Parliament and SC is DYNAMIC, not static
- Advisory jurisdiction ONLY on President's reference tests SEPARATION OF POWERS: the judiciary does NOT volunteer opinions – it waits to be asked
- HC territorial jurisdiction (Andaman=Calcutta, multi-state HCs) tests ADMINISTRATIVE GEOGRAPHY that civil servants must navigate daily
- Lok Adalat awards as DECREE with NO APPEAL tests whether aspirants understand that ADR produces BINDING outcomes, not mere suggestions
- Writ of PROHIBITION to lower court (not government) tests PRECISE writ targets: each writ has a SPECIFIC addressee and aspirants must match correctly
- Mandamus against Govt company (CAN if public function) tests the EXPANDING scope of judicial review over government instrumentalities
- Contempt: Constitution EMPOWERS but does NOT DEFINE – tests the Constitution vs Statute distribution where Constitution grants POWER and statute provides DETAIL
- PIL's origin in USA (not UK) tests COMPARATIVE LEGAL KNOWLEDGE: India adapted American innovation through Indian judicial creativity (Bhagwati/Krishna Iyer)
- AG appointed by GOVERNOR (not President) tests whether aspirants confuse STATE and UNION appointment authorities
- Retired HC judge can practice in SC ONLY tests POST-RETIREMENT restrictions that balance judicial independence with preventing forum shopping

The Hidden Syllabus

- JUDICIARY AS GUARDIAN OF CONSTITUTION: SC as 'custodian' (2015) + SC not bound by Parliament (2019) + SC can review amendments (2019) = the judiciary is the ULTIMATE authority on constitutional interpretation, even above Parliament
- FEDERAL UMPIRE ROLE: original jurisdiction over Centre-State disputes makes SC the NEUTRAL ARBITER in India's federal structure – without this role, federalism would have no enforcement mechanism
- JUDICIAL POWER AS EXPANDABLE: Parliament can enlarge SC jurisdiction + Constitution doesn't freeze HC powers = judicial power is DESIGNED to grow with governance complexity, not remain static
- ADR AS ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Lok Adalats (binding, no appeal, covers all disputes) + Gram Nyayalayas (civil + criminal at village level) = UPSC sees ADR not as alternative but as PRIMARY justice delivery for most citizens
- WRITS AS PRECISION INSTRUMENTS: each writ has a SPECIFIC target (Mandamus=duty, Prohibition=lower court, Quo Warranto=office holder) – UPSC tests whether aspirants can MATCH instrument to situation
- CONTEMPT AS JUDICIAL SELF-DEFENCE: the power exists because without it, court orders become UNENFORCEABLE – but UPSC also signals the LIMITS (Act defines types, truth as defence exists)
- HC-SC RELATIONSHIP: HC judges can become SC judges but retired HC judges can only practice IN SC; HC salaries from state but appointment by President consulting CJI = a COMPLEX institutional relationship

- IMPEACHMENT’S RARITY AS DESIGN: the high threshold (majority of total + 2/3 present in EACH House) ensures judicial independence while preserving accountability – the process is DELIBERATELY difficult

Top Conceptual Traps

- AG appointed by GOVERNOR (not President on Governor’s recommendation)
- HC salaries from STATE Consolidated Fund (not India’s) – SC from India’s
- SC judges NOT removed by CJI (only by Parliament through impeachment)
- Parliament CAN enlarge SC jurisdiction (it’s NOT fixed/frozen)
- Advisory jurisdiction: ONLY on President’s reference (SC doesn’t offer unsolicited)
- Election disputes: NOT original jurisdiction (they start at HC level)
- GoI vs Union Territory: NOT original jurisdiction of SC
- HC CAN declare central law invalid (not just state laws)
- SC CAN review constitutional amendments (Kesavananda Bharati)
- Constitution does NOT define contempt types (the 1971 Act does)
- Writ of Prohibition: to LOWER COURT (not to government/legislature)
- Mandamus CAN lie against Govt company if performing public function
- Mandamus will NOT lie against private org UNLESS entrusted with public duty
- V.R. Krishna Iyer was NOT CJI (he was a SC judge; Bhagwati was CJI for PIL)
- PIL originated in USA (not UK/Australia/Canada)
- Lok Adalat: covers ALL disputes (civil + criminal compoundable + matrimonial + telecom)
- Gram Nyayalayas: BOTH civil AND criminal (not civil only)
- Retired HC judge: can practice in SC ONLY (not in any court)
- HC judge qualification: 10 years as advocate (not 5 years judicial office)
- Lok Adalat award = decree, NO appeal lies

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	SC jurisdiction: original, appellate, advisory	Laxmikanth Ch.26	16 Qs
2	HC: territory, salaries, judges, AG	Laxmikanth Ch.30	10 Qs
3	Lok Adalats + Gram Nyayalayas	Laxmikanth Ch.34 + Acts	8 Qs
4	Writs: all 5 types, scope, targets	Laxmikanth Ch.7/26	5 Qs (↑)
5	PIL: origin, CJI, Krishna Iyer	Laxmikanth Ch.26	3 Qs
6	Contempt: Act, constitutional power	Laxmikanth + 1971 Act	2 Qs (↑)
7	Advocates: Bar Council powers	Advocates Act 1961	1 Q

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- COLLEGIUM SYSTEM: three-judges cases (1993/1998/2015), Memorandum of Procedure, NJAC struck down – the MOST DEBATED judicial topic with ZERO questions so far
- HABEAS CORPUS writ: grounds, scope, emergency suspension (Art 359), ADM Jabalpur case vs K.S. Puttaswamy – 2 of 5 writs COMPLETELY UNTESTED
- CERTIORARI writ: to quash orders of lower courts/tribunals, grounds (lack of jurisdiction, error of law) – the other UNTESTED writ

- TRIBUNALS: Art 323A (administrative) + Art 323B (other matters) + NCLAT + NGT + CAT + SAT – tribunal proliferation is a governance reality
- JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: court-monitored committees, sealed cover jurisprudence, PIL overreach debate – tested only historically
- NATIONAL JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION: 99th Amendment + SC struck it down (2015) – Parliament vs Judiciary showdown
- CONTEMPT LAW REFORM: 2006 amendment (truth as defence), Prashant Bhushan case (2020), judicial criticism limits
- FAST TRACK COURTS: criminal justice reform, women-specific courts, commercial courts – access to justice dimension
- LEGAL AID: Art 39A + NALSA + district legal services authorities – links judiciary to DPSP implementation
- SC BENCH SYSTEM: when Constitution Bench is constituted, 2/3/5/7/9-judge bench protocol, reference criteria – institutional mechanics
- JUDICIAL REVIEW vs JUDICIAL OVERREACH: Marbury v Madison origin, Indian adaptation, basic structure review, ordinary law review – comparative perspective
- e-COURTS + VIRTUAL HEARINGS: post-COVID judicial reforms, digital case management, live streaming of proceedings – current affairs convergence

JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (JURISDICTION, POWERS & JUDGES)

1. With reference to Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: [2021]
 - 1) Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with prior permission of the President of India.
 - 2) A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements: [2019]
 - 1) The motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act 1968.
 - 2) The Constitution of India defines and gives details or what constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
 - 3) The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
 - 4) If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1 and 2
 - b) 3 only
 - c) 3 and 4 only
 - d) 1, 3 and 4
3. With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following? [2019]
 - a) The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.
 - b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by the laws made by Parliament.

- c) In the event of grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.
- d) State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of Union Legislature.
4. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements: [2019]
- 1) No High Court shall have the jurisdiction to declare any central law to be constitutionally invalid.
 - 2) An amendment to the Constitution of India cannot be called into question by the Supreme Court of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Who/Which of the following is the Custodian of the Constitution of India? [2015]
- a) The President of India
 - b) The Prime Minister of India
 - c) The Lok Sabha Secretariat
 - d) The Supreme Court of India
6. The power of the Supreme Court of India to decide disputes between the Centre and the States falls under its: [2014]
- a) Advisory jurisdiction
 - b) Appellate jurisdiction
 - c) Original jurisdiction
 - d) Writ jurisdiction
7. The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India is vested in: [2014]
- a) The President of India
 - b) The Parliament
 - c) The Chief Justice of India
 - d) The Law Commission
8. What is the provision to safeguard the autonomy of the Supreme Court of India? [2012]
- 1) While appointing the Supreme Court Judges, the President of India has to consult the Chief Justice of India.
 - 2) The Supreme Court Judges can be removed by the Chief Justice of India only.
 - 3) The salaries of the Judges are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India to which the legislature does not have to vote.
 - 4) All appointments of officers and staffs of the Supreme court are made by the Government only after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 & 3 Only
 - b) 3 & 4 Only
 - c) 4 Only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 & 4
9. Which of the following are included in the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court? [2012]
- 1) A dispute between the Government of India and one or more States
 - 2) A dispute regarding elections to either House of the Parliament or that of Legislature of a State
 - 3) A dispute between the Government of India and a Union territory
 - 4) A dispute between two or more States

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 & 2
- b) 2 & 3

- c) 1 & 4
d) 3 & 4
10. Consider the following statements: [2010]
The Supreme Court of India tenders advice to the President of India on matters of law or fact.
1) On its own initiative (on any matter of larger public interest).
2) If he seeks such an advice.
3) Only if the matters relate to the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1 and 2
11. Consider the following statements: [2005]
1) The Parliament cannot enlarge the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India as its jurisdiction is limited to that conferred by the Constitution.
2) The officers and servants of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the concerned Chief Justice and the administrative expenses are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
Which of the statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
12. The power to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India with respect to any matter included in the Union List of Legislative Powers rests with: [2003]
a) The President of India
b) The Chief Justice of India
c) The Parliament
d) The Union Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs
13. The Supreme Court of India tenders advice to the President on a matter of law or fact: [2001]
a) On its own initiative
b) Only if he seeks such advice
c) Only if the matter relates to the Fundamental Rights of citizens
d) Only if the issue poses a threat to the unity and integrity of the country
14. The power of the Supreme Court of India to decide disputes between the Centre and the States falls under its: [1996]
a) Advisory jurisdiction
b) Appellate jurisdiction
c) Original jurisdiction
d) Constitutional jurisdiction

HIGH COURTS

15. Consider the following statements: [2009]
1) The Advocate General of a State in India is appointed by the President of India upon the recommendation of the Governor of the concerned State.
2) As provided in Civil Procedure Code, High Courts have original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction at the State level.
Which of the above statements is/are true?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

16. How many High Courts in India have jurisdiction over more than one State (Union Territories not included)? [2008]
- 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
17. Consider the following statements: [2007]
- 1) The mode of removal of a Judge of a High Court in India is same as that of removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court.
 - 2) After retirement from the office, a permanent Judge of a High Court cannot plead or act in any court or before any authority in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
18. Assertion (A): In India, every state has a High Court in its territory.
Reason (R): The Constitution of India provides for a High Court in each state. [2006]
- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is True but R is false
 - A is false but R is true
19. Consider the following statements: [2006]
- 1) A person who has held office as a permanent Judge of a High Court cannot plead or act in any court or before any authority in India except the Supreme Court.
 - 2) A person is not qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court in India unless he has for at least five years held a judicial office in the territory of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
20. Consider the following statement: [2005]
- 1) There are 25 High Courts in India. (Note: Factually accurate as of current data, though false at the time of the exam)
 - 2) Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have a common High Court.
 - 3) National Capital Territory of Delhi has a High Court of its own.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 2 and 3
 - 1 and 2
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 3 only
21. Which one of the following High Courts has the Territorial Jurisdiction over Andaman and Nicobar Islands? [2003]
- Andhra Pradesh
 - Calcutta
 - Madras
 - Orissa
22. The salaries and allowances of the Judges of the High Court are charged to the: [2002]
- Consolidated Fund of India

- b) Consolidated Fund of the State
c) Contingency Fund of India
d) Contingency Fund of the State
23. Consider the following statements regarding the High Courts in India: [2001]
I. There are eighteen High Courts in the country.
II. Three of them have jurisdiction over more than one State.
III. No Union Territory has a High Court of its own.
IV. Judges of the High Court hold office till the age of 62.
Which of these statements is/are correct?
a) II and IV
b) II and III
c) I and IV
d) IV only
24. When the Chief Justice of a High Court acts in an administrative capacity, he is subject to: [1996]
a) The writ jurisdiction of any of the other judges of the High Court
b) Special control exercised by the Chief Justice of India
c) Discretionary powers of the Governor of the state
d) Special powers provided to the Chief Minister in this regard

SUBORDINATE COURTS & ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

25. With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct? [2016]
1) As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
2) The Act allows local social activists as mediators/conciliators.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
26. With reference to the Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is correct? [2010]
a) Lok Adalats have the jurisdiction to settle the matters at pre-litigation stage and not those matters pending before any court.
b) Lok Adalats can deal with matters which are civil and not criminal in nature.
c) Every Lok Adalat consists of either serving or retired judicial officers only and not any other person.
d) None of the statements given above is correct.
27. With reference to Lok Adalats, consider the following statements: [2009]
1) An award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and no appeal lies against thereto before any court.
2) Matrimonial/Family disputes are not covered under Lok Adalat.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
28. Consider the following: [2005]
1) Disputes with mobile cellular companies.
2) Motor accident cases
3) Pension cases
For which of the above are Lok Adalats held?
a) 1 only
b) 1 and 2

- c) 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
29. Consider the following statements: [2004]
- 1) The highest criminal court of the district is the Court of District and Sessions Judge.
 - 2) The District Judges are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.
 - 3) A person to be eligible for appointment as a District Judge should be an advocate or a pleader of seven years' standing or more, or an officer in judicial service of the Union or the State.
 - 4) When the Sessions Judge awards a death sentence, it must be confirmed by the High Court before it is carried out.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
 - b) 2, 3 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4
 - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4
30. According to the Constitution of India, the term 'district judge' shall not include: [1996]
- a) Chief presidency magistrate
 - b) Sessions judge
 - c) Tribunal judge
 - d) Chief judge of a small cause court

WRITS & CONTEMPT OF COURT

31. A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to: [2024]
- a) A government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
 - b) The Parliament or legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition.
 - c) The lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case.
 - d) The Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.
32. Consider the following statements: [2022]
- 1) Pursuant to the report of H.N. Sanyal Committee, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 was passed.
 - 2) The Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and the High Courts to punish for contempt of themselves.
 - 3) The Constitution of India defines Civil Contempt and Criminal Contempt.
 - 4) In India, the Parliament is vested with the powers to make laws on Contempt of Court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1, 2 and 4
 - c) 3 and 4 only
 - d) 3 only
33. With reference to the writs issued by the Courts in India, consider the following statements: [2022]
- 1) Mandamus will not lie against a private organisation unless it is entrusted with a public duty.
 - 2) Mandamus will not lie against a Company even though it may be a Government Company.
 - 3) Any public minded person can be a petitioner to move the Court to obtain the writ of Quo Warranto.

Which of the statements given is correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
34. Assertion (A): Willful disobedience or non-compliance of Court Orders and use of derogatory language about judicial behaviour amounts to Contempt of Court.
Reason (R): Judicial activism cannot be practised without arming the judiciary with punitive powers to punish contemptuous behaviour. [1997]

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
- c) A is true, but R is false
- d) A is false, but R is true

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL)

35. Consider the following statements: [2008]

- 1) Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer was the Chief Justice of India.
- 2) Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer is considered as one of the progenitors of public interest litigation (PIL) in the Indian judicial system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
36. Who was the Chief Justice of India when public interest litigation (PIL) was introduced to the Indian Judicial System? [2006]
- a) M. Hidayatullah
 - b) A.M. Ahmadi
 - c) A.S. Anand
 - d) P.N. Bhagwati
37. The concept of Public Interest Litigation originated in: [1997]
- a) The United Kingdom
 - b) Australia
 - c) The United States
 - d) Canada

MISCELLANEOUS (ADVOCATES & LEGAL SYSTEMS)

38. With reference to India, consider the following statements: [2022]

- 1) Government law officers and legal firms are recognised as advocates, but corporate lawyers and patent attorneys are excluded from recognition as advocates.
- 2) Bar Councils have the power to lay down the rules relating to legal education and recognition of law colleges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ELECTIONS, ELECTION COMMISSION & REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE ACT

ECI Structure | RPA | Nominations | Delimitation | Political Parties | Election Reforms

18 PYQs | 1995–2024 | 6 Themes | 35+ Concepts

OVERVIEW: ELECTIONS (1995–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
ECI: Structure, Powers & Functions	5	1995–2017	VERY HIGH
RPA, Qualifications & Disqualifications	3	1999–2021	HIGH
Electoral Process: Nominations & Deposits	2	2002–2017	MEDIUM
Delimitation Commission	2	2012–2024	HIGH ↑
Political Parties	2	1995–2001	MEDIUM
Election Reforms & Committees	4	1997–2003	HIGH

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- ELECTION COMMISSION tested in TWO ERAS: 1995–2006 (constitutional basis + functions) and 2017 (structure + dispute resolution) – a 11-year gap then RETURN with deeper institutional testing
- 1997 was ELECTION REFORM YEAR: 3 questions in ONE paper on state funding (Germany/Austria), Dinesh Goswami (govt funding recommendation), women’s reservation (needs constitutional amendment) – a REFORM BLITZ that hasn’t been repeated
- DELIMITATION returned in 2024 after 12-year dormancy: ‘how many commissions?’ (4) is a FACTUAL question signalling UPSC is refreshing this sub-topic for the upcoming delimitation exercise post-2026 Census
- RPA DISQUALIFICATIONS tested with INCREASING PRECISION: 1999 (offences list), 2020 (5-year sentence is NOT permanent disqualification – it’s 6 years after release), 2021 (multi-constituency rules) – LEGAL DETAIL deepening
- POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION tested only 1995–2001 then DORMANT: national party criteria have CHANGED (now 6% vote + 4 LS seats OR 2% LS seats from 3 states) – updated criteria could return
- ECI’s DISPUTE RESOLUTION power over party splits/mergers✓ (2017) signals UPSC testing ECI’s quasi-judicial role beyond just conducting elections
- NOMINATION rules (2017): ANY citizen of India whose name is in electoral roll CAN file – not just residents of constituency, not just anyone residing in India
- SECURITY DEPOSIT amounts (Rs 25,000/Rs 12,500 currently; Rs 10,000/Rs 5,000 at exam time) = STATIC FACT that could be retested with updated figures
- CEC removal = SAME as SC judge (impeachment)✓ but other Election Commissioners can be removed by President on CEC’s recommendation – this ASYMMETRY is the key institutional insight
- The domain has a BIMODAL distribution: heavily tested in 1995–2006 (12 Qs in 11 years) then sparse 2012–2024 (6 Qs in 12 years) – suggests a RESURGENCE may be due

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- ECI: structure, functions, autonomy, dispute resolution (5 Qs – #1)
- Election reforms: funding, committees, women's reservation (4 Qs)
- RPA: disqualifications, conviction rules, amendments (3 Qs)
- Delimitation: commissions count, unchallengeable orders (2 Qs)
- Political parties: recognition, registration (2 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- ECI APPOINTMENT: CEC/EC appointment by President on PM's advice (pre-2023); NEW law (CEC & Other ECs Act 2023) provides selection committee – ZERO questions on appointment mechanism
- ELECTORAL BONDS: introduced 2018, struck down by SC 2024 – the MOST significant recent electoral reform, completely untested
- EVM/VVPAT: legal challenges, SC's 2024 VVPAT verification order – tested zero times despite being India's most debated electoral mechanism
- MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT: legal status (convention, not statutory), ECI's enforcement powers – unasked
- NOTA: introduced 2013 (PUCL vs Union of India), legal effect (if NOTA wins, re-election NOT mandated) – untested
- ANTI-DEFECTION + ELECTIONS convergence: disqualification for defection affects election eligibility – cross-domain
- ONE NATION ONE ELECTION: recent committee recommendations, constitutional amendment required – current affairs overlap
- WOMEN'S RESERVATION: 106th Amendment passed 2023, delimitation prerequisite – the 1997 question's answer has CHANGED

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: ECI'S INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE – Constitutional body (Art 324) + 3-member (CEC + 2 ECs) + CEC removal = SC judge + EC removal = President on CEC's advice + autonomous schedule + dispute resolution = MULTI-LAYERED independence
- CLUSTER 2: ELECTORAL DISQUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK – Criminal conviction (RPA s.8) + Office of Profit (Art 102) + Defection (10th Schedule) + Corrupt Practices (RPA s.123) + Unsound Mind/Undischarged Insolvent = FIVE grounds, different sources
- CLUSTER 3: DELIMITATION AS REPRESENTATION – 4 Commissions (1952/1963/1973/2002) + orders unchallengeable + based on census + 84th Amendment froze seats till 2026 + upcoming post-2026 Census exercise = representation DESIGN
- CLUSTER 4: ELECTION REFORM TRAJECTORY – Dinesh Goswami (govt funding) → Indrajit Gupta (partial state funding) → 170th Law Commission (state funding) → Electoral Bonds (2018-2024) → SC struck down = FUNDING remains India's central reform debate
- CLUSTER 5: POLITICAL PARTY REGULATION – Registration (RPA s.29A) + Recognition (ECI criteria) + Symbol allocation + Financial disclosure + Inner-party democracy (absent) = regulatory framework with GAPS

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- ECI as CONSTITUTIONAL body (not statutory) tests whether aspirants understand the HIERARCHY of institutions: constitutional bodies have stronger protection than statutory ones

- ECI does NOT adjudicate election disputes (courts do) tests FUNCTIONAL BOUNDARIES: ECI conducts, courts adjudicate, Parliament legislates = THREE different roles
- CEC vs EC removal asymmetry tests WHETHER aspirants read PRECISE provisions: CEC has SC-judge-level protection, ECs do not = DELIBERATE constitutional design
- Criminal disqualification as TEMPORARY (not permanent) tests LEGAL PRECISION: RPA provides rehabilitation after sentence completion, not permanent exclusion
- Delimitation orders' UNCHALLENGEABLE status tests understanding of FINALITY in constitutional design: some decisions are placed BEYOND judicial review by design
- Women's reservation NEEDING amendment (1997) and NOW HAVING been amended (2023, 106th) shows how UPSC questions track CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION over decades
- Dinesh Goswami's SPECIFIC recommendation (govt funding) tests whether aspirants study COMMITTEE REPORTS in detail, not just names
- National party criteria test whether aspirants study CURRENT ECI guidelines or rely on outdated textbook information
- Nomination requiring ELECTORAL ROLL presence (not just citizenship/residence) tests PROCEDURAL ELIGIBILITY with precision
- State funding in Germany/Austria (not UK/US) tests COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL KNOWLEDGE that most aspirants lack

The Hidden Syllabus

- ECI AS DEMOCRACY'S GUARDIAN: Art 324 gives ECI PLENARY power over elections – 'superintendence, direction, and control' is the BROADEST mandate given to any constitutional body, wider than even the judiciary's
- ELECTIONS AS INSTITUTIONAL PROCESS: UPSC tests elections not as politics but as PROCESS – nomination rules, security deposits, delimitation, counting procedures = the MACHINERY that makes democracy work
- DISQUALIFICATION AS DEMOCRATIC FILTER: criminal conviction + office of profit + defection = the Constitution creates MULTIPLE FILTERS to ensure only qualified persons enter legislatures – each filter has DIFFERENT logic
- DELIMITATION AS REPRESENTATION DESIGN: constituency boundaries determine WHO gets represented and HOW MUCH – freezing seats till 2026 was a POPULATION POLICY incentive (states that controlled population shouldn't lose seats)
- ELECTION FUNDING AS DEMOCRACY'S ACHILLES HEEL: from Dinesh Goswami to Electoral Bonds to SC's 2024 strike-down, FUNDING remains the UNRESOLVED structural problem – UPSC tested it in 1997 and the issue is MORE relevant today
- POLITICAL PARTY REGULATION GAP: India requires registration but NOT inner-party democracy – this DESIGN CHOICE means parties are regulated EXTERNALLY (ECI) but not INTERNALLY, creating democratic deficit at the party level
- ECI's DISPUTE RESOLUTION POWER: resolving party splits/mergers (tested 2017) places ECI in a QUASI-JUDICIAL role that goes beyond mere election conduct – ECI becomes the ARBITER of party identity itself

Top Conceptual Traps

- ECI is 3-member (NOT 5-member) – CEC + 2 ECs
- Election schedule decided by ECI (NOT Home Ministry)
- ECI does NOT adjudicate election disputes (courts do)
- CEC salary = SC judge✓; CEC removal = like SC judge✓
- CEC and ECs have EQUAL powers but CEC has STRONGER removal protection
- Term: 6 years OR 65 years age (NOT 5 years/62 years)
- Criminal conviction: NOT permanent disqualification (6 years after release)

- Max 2 constituencies per election (not 3; not unlimited)
- Nomination requires name in ELECTORAL ROLL (not just citizenship)
- Delimitation orders CANNOT be challenged in court
- 4 Delimitation Commissions constituted (not 2 or 3)
- Women’s 33% reservation NEEDS constitutional amendment (now 106th Amdt)
- State funding: Germany & Austria (not UK/US/France)
- Dinesh Goswami = govt funding (not list system/state ECs/ban independents)
- None of Muslim League/RSP/Forward Bloc/PWP were national parties (1995)
- ECI is CONSTITUTIONAL body (Art 324), not statutory

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	ECI: structure, functions, Art 324	Laxmikanth Ch.39	5 Qs
2	Election reforms: committees, funding	Laxmikanth + reports	4 Qs
3	RPA: disqualifications, conviction rules	RPA 1951 + Laxmikanth	3 Qs
4	Delimitation: commissions, unchallengeable	Laxmikanth Ch.39	2 Qs (†)
5	Political parties: recognition, registration	ECI guidelines + RPA	2 Qs
6	Nominations, deposits, process	RPA + ECI rules	2 Qs

- HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026**
- ECI APPOINTMENT REFORM: CEC & Other ECs (Appointment) Act 2023 – selection committee (PM + LoP + CJI nominee), replacing PM-only advice system – the MOST significant recent reform
 - ELECTORAL BONDS: introduced 2018, SC struck down Feb 2024 (Association for Democratic Reforms case) – right to information vs donor anonymity debate
 - EVM/VVPAT: SC’s 2024 order on VVPAT verification of 5 machines per constituency – technology + democracy convergence
 - 106TH AMENDMENT (Women’s Reservation): Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023, linked to delimitation, 1/3 seats reserved – updates the 1997 question entirely
 - ONE NATION ONE ELECTION: Ram Nath Kovind Committee report, constitutional amendments needed, simultaneous elections debate
 - NOTA: PUCL vs Union of India (2013), legal effect on results, comparison with international practice
 - MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT: legal basis (convention not law), ECI’s enforcement powers, SC’s view on its binding nature
 - NATIONAL PARTY CRITERIA (current): 6% vote in 4 states in LS/Assembly elections OR 2% LS seats from 3 states OR recognition in 4 states – updated from older ‘4 states’ criterion
 - INNER-PARTY DEMOCRACY: absence in Indian law, international comparisons, ECI’s limited role in party governance

- ELECTION EXPENDITURE LIMITS: current limits for LS/Assembly, monitoring mechanism, SC observations on level playing field
- CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICS: SC directions on disclosure, pending criminal cases for candidates, fast-track courts for MP/MLA cases
- POST-2026 DELIMITATION: upcoming exercise after Census, implications for Southern states' representation, Art 82-based process

**ELECTIONS, ELECTION COMMISSION, AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA: STRUCTURE, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS**

1. Consider the following statements: [2017]
- 1) The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
 - 2) Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
 - 3) Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 3 only
2. Which one among the following commissions was set up in pursuance of a definite provision under an Article of the Constitution of India? [2006]
- a) University Grants commission
 - b) National Human Rights Commission
 - c) Election Commission
 - d) Central Vigilance Commission
3. Consider the following tasks: [2004]
- 1) Superintendence, direction and conduct of free and fair elections.
 - 2) Preparation of electoral rolls for all elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures and the Office of the President and the Vice President.
 - 3) Giving recognition to political parties and allotting election symbols to political parties and individuals contesting the election.
 - 4) Proclamation of final verdict in the case of election disputes.

Which of the above are the functions of the Election Commission of India?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 2, 3 and 4
 - c) 1 and 3
 - d) 1, 2 and 4
4. Consider the following statements with reference to India: [2002]
- 1) The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners enjoy equal powers but receive unequal salaries.
 - 2) The Chief Election Commissioner is entitled to the same salary as is provided to a judge of the Supreme Court.
 - 3) The Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
 - 4) The term of office of the Election Commissioner is five years from the date he assumes his office or till the day he attains the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2

- b) 2 and 3
c) 1 and 4
d) 2 and 4
5. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the commencement of the election process in India? [1995]
- a) The recommendation for election is made by the government and the notification for election is issued by the Election Commission.
b) The recommendation for election is made by the Election Commission and the notification for election is issued by the Home Ministry at the Centre and Home Departments in the States.
c) The recommendation for election is made by the Election Commission and the notification for election is issued by the President and Governors of the States concerned.
d) Both the exercises of making a recommendation for election and that of issuing a notification in respect of it are done by the Election Commission.

RPA, QUALIFICATIONS, AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

6. Consider the following statements: [2021]
- 1) In India, there is no law restricting the candidates from contesting in one Lok Sabha election from three constituencies.
2) In 1991 Lok Sabha Election, Shri Devi Lal contested from three Lok Sabha constituencies.
3) As per the existing rules, if a candidate contests in one Lok Sabha election from many constituencies, his/her party should bear the cost of bye-elections to the constituencies vacated by him/her in the event of him/her winning in all the constituencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3
d) 2 and 3
- (Note: this question was dropped by UPSC)
7. Consider the following statements: [2020]
- 1) According to the Constitution of India, a person who is eligible to vote can be made a minister in a State for six months even if he/she is not a member of the Legislature of that State.
2) According to the Representation of People Act, 1951, a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for five years is permanently disqualified from contesting an election even after his release from prison.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Consider the following statements about the recent amendments to the Election Law by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996: [1999]
- I. Any conviction for the offence of insulting the Indian National flag or the Constitution of India shall entail disqualification for contesting elections to Parliament and State Legislatures for six years from the date of conviction.
II. There is an increase in the security deposit which a candidate has to make to contest the election to the Lok Sabha.
III. A candidate cannot now stand for election from more than one Parliamentary constituency.
IV. No election will now be countermanded on the death of a contesting candidate.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) II and III
b) I, II and IV

- c) I and III
- d) I, II, III and IV

ELECTORAL PROCESS: NOMINATIONS AND SECURITY DEPOSITS

9. For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by: [2017]
- a) Anyone residing in India.
 - b) A resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
 - c) Any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
 - d) Any citizen of India.
10. In the case of election to the Lok Sabha, the amount of Security deposited for general category candidates and SC/ST category candidates respectively is: [2002]
- a) Rs 5,000 and Rs 2,500
 - b) Rs 10,000 and Rs 2,500
 - c) Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000
 - d) Rs 15,000 and Rs 7,500

DELIMITATION COMMISSION

11. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023? [2024]
- a) One
 - b) Two
 - c) Three
 - d) Four
12. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements: [2012]
- 1) The orders of the Delimitation Commission cannot be challenged in a Court of Law.
 - 2) When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, they cannot affect any modifications in the orders.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

POLITICAL PARTIES

13. Consider the following statements regarding the political parties in India: [2001]
- I. The Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the registration of political parties.
 - II. Registration of political parties is carried out by the Election Commission.
 - III. A national level political party is one which is recognised in four or more States.
 - IV. During the 1999 general elections, there were six National and 48 State level parties recognised by the Election Commission.

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) I, II and IV
- b) I and III
- c) II and IV
- d) I, II, III and IV

14. Which of the following political parties is/are national political parties? [1995]

- I. Muslim League
- II. Revolutionary Socialist Party
- III. All India Forward Block
- IV. Peasants and Workers Party of India

Codes:

- a) I, II and III
- b) II and IV

- c) III only
- d) None of the above

ELECTION REFORMS AND COMMITTEES

15. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution did the President make a reference to the Supreme Court to seek the Court’s opinion on the Constitutional validity of the Election Commission’s decision on deferring the Gujarat Assembly elections (in the year 2002)? [2003]
 - a) Article 142
 - b) Article 143
 - c) Article 144
 - d) Article 145
16. Assertion (A): The reservation of thirty-three per cent of seats for women in Parliament and State Legislatures does not require Constitutional amendment. [1997]
Reason (R): Political parties contesting elections can allocate thirty-three per cent of seats they contest to women candidates without any Constitutional amendment.
 - a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true
17. State Funding of elections takes place in: [1997]
 - a) USA and Canada
 - b) Britain and Switzerland
 - c) France and Italy
 - d) Germany and Austria
18. The Dinesh Goswami Committee recommended: [1997]
 - a) The constitution of state level election commissions
 - b) List System of election to the Lok Sabha
 - c) Governmental funding of parliamentary elections
 - d) A ban on the candidature of independent candidates in the parliamentary elections

**CONSTITUTIONAL &
NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES**

Finance Commission | AG/SG | CAG | Lokpal | NITI | NHRC | NALSA | Inter-State Councils | Agencies

29 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 6 Themes | 50+ Concepts

OVERVIEW (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Finance Commission	4	2000–2025	VERY HIGH ↑↑
Attorney General & Solicitor General	3	2000–2022	HIGH

CAG (Comptroller & Auditor General)	2	2001-2012	HIGH
Statutory Bodies (Lokpal/NITI/NHRC/NALSA/CAT)	8	1999-2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Inter-State & Regional Councils	4	1995-2025	HIGH ↑
Agencies, Consumer Forums & Personalities	8	1995-2025	HIGH

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2025 was the BODIES YEAR: 4 questions in ONE paper (15th FC criteria, Lokpal scope, Inter-State Council constitutional status, Enforcement Directorate matching) – the HIGHEST single-year density in this domain’s 30-year history
- FINANCE COMMISSION testing EVOLVED: 2000 (basic function), 2015 (14th FC: 42% devolution), 2023 (15th FC: horizontal criteria), 2025 (15th FC: specific grants/incentives) = each question gets PROGRESSIVELY MORE DETAILED
- ATTORNEY GENERAL tested 3 TIMES (2000, 2013, 2022) with SAME core facts but INCREASING nuance: speaks in Parliament✓ but cannot vote, appointed by President, NOT required to be MP, AG resignation when govt changes = CONVENTION not constitutional
- CONSTITUTIONAL vs NON-CONSTITUTIONAL classification tested THRICE (1995, 2013, 2025): NDC + Planning Commission + Zonal Councils = NOT constitutional; Inter-State Council = CONSTITUTIONAL (Art 263) – the CLASSIFICATION ITSELF is the test
- NHRC tested TWICE (1999, 2004) with identical core: Chairman = retired CJI; powers = RECOMMENDATORY only; formation in states = NOT mandatory (states can but don’t have to)
- LOKPAL appeared in 2025 after ZERO previous questions: testing Lokpal Act 2013 provisions (applies to public servants abroad too, PM IS included, age 45+, retired judges eligible) = NEW entrant likely to recur
- CAG tested only TWICE (2001, 2012) but the 2012 question was DEEP: CAG does NOT exercise exchequer control, does NOT have judicial powers, reports discussed by PAC✓ – tests what CAG CANNOT do
- NALSA/Legal Services tested TWICE (2013, 2020) with ELIGIBILITY focus: who qualifies for free legal aid (income criteria + categories like SC/ST/women/disabled/transgender)
- INTER-STATE COUNCILS tested with CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS precision: Inter-State Council = Art 263✓ (constitutional); Zonal Councils = States Reorganisation Act 1956 (statutory); NDC = executive resolution (non-constitutional) = THREE DIFFERENT legal bases
- Person-Position MATCHING (2007, 2008) tests ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORY: K.C. Pant = 10th FC is FALSE (he was Deputy Chairman Planning Commission) – aspirants must verify each pair independently

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- Finance Commission: devolution, criteria, grants (4 Qs ↑↑)
- Statutory bodies: NHRC, NALSA, Lokpal, NITI, CAT (8 Qs)
- Inter-State/Regional Councils: constitutional status (4 Qs)
- AG: powers in Parliament, appointment, qualifications (3 Qs)
- Consumer forums + agency matching (4 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- LOKPAL implementation: cases filed, investigations completed, PM's inclusion scope – entered 2025 after 12-year statutory existence
- GST COUNCIL: Art 279A, voting mechanism, dispute resolution – India's most important NEW constitutional body, ZERO questions
- NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SC/ST/BC: Art 338/338A/338B + reporting to President – tested only via President's tabling duty
- STATE FINANCE COMMISSIONS: Art 243-I, role in local body finance – panchayati raj convergence
- UPSC/SPSC: appointment, removal, functions – surprisingly under-tested for a body aspirants interact with directly
- NITI AAYOG: governing council, specific initiatives (Aspirational Districts, SDG monitoring) – only replacement fact tested (2015)
- CBI: legal status (Delhi Special Police Establishment Act), general consent requirement, recent SC observations
- NIA/ED/DRI: jurisdictional details, reporting ministry – 2025's Directorate matching signals this is RISING

Concept Clusters

- **CLUSTER 1: BODY CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY** – Constitutional (ECI, FC, CAG, UPSC, ISC) > Statutory (NHRC, NALSA, Lokpal, NCM, CIC) > Executive/Non-Constitutional (NITI, NDC, Zonal Councils) = THREE tiers with different LEGAL PROTECTION
- **CLUSTER 2: FINANCE COMMISSION AS FISCAL UMPIRE** – Vertical (Centre:State ratio) + Horizontal (among states: population, area, income distance, forest, tax effort) + Grants (sector-specific, performance-based) = THREE dimensions of fiscal federalism
- **CLUSTER 3: AG'S UNIQUE STATUS** – Constitutional post + SC-judge qualifications + participates in Parliament but cannot vote + holds at President's pleasure + convention-based resignation = a role that straddles executive AND legislative domains
- **CLUSTER 4: INTER-STATE COORDINATION SPECTRUM** – Inter-State Council (Art 263, constitutional) + Zonal Councils (SRA 1956, statutory) + NDC (executive resolution) + NEC (Act of Parliament) = FOUR mechanisms with FOUR different legal bases
- **CLUSTER 5: ACCESS TO JUSTICE BODIES** – NHRC (human rights) + NALSA (legal aid) + Consumer Forums (consumer protection) + Lok Adalats (ADR) + Lokpal (anti-corruption) = FIVE bodies serving DIFFERENT vulnerability dimensions

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- FINANCE COMMISSION's progressive granularity (function → percentage → criteria → specific grants) mirrors how UPSC expects aspirants to DEEPEN their knowledge over preparation years

- CONSTITUTIONAL vs STATUTORY vs EXECUTIVE classification tests whether aspirants understand the LEGAL HIERARCHY: constitutional bodies have the STRONGEST protection, executive bodies the WEAKEST
- AG's 'cannot vote' tested THREE TIMES because it defines the BOUNDARY between participation and decision-making in Parliament – AG participates but does not DECIDE
- CAG's lack of EXCHEQUER CONTROL (unlike British model) tests whether aspirants understand that India ADAPTED the Westminster model but didn't COPY it
- Lokpal's 2025 entry tests SPECIFIC ACT PROVISIONS (age, PM inclusion, overseas jurisdiction) – UPSC waited 12 years after the Act to test, confirming its MATURATION principle
- Inter-State Council as the ONLY constitutional body among ISC/NSC/Zonal tests whether aspirants can distinguish bodies that SOUND similar but have DIFFERENT legal foundations
- NALSA's eligibility criteria test whether aspirants know WHO gets free legal aid – civil servants must CONNECT citizens to entitlements
- Consumer Forum jurisdiction + procedures test DISPUTE RESOLUTION knowledge essential for district-level administrators
- Enforcement Directorate under FINANCE (not Home Affairs) tests ADMINISTRATIVE MAPPING – which agency reports to which ministry matters for governance
- Person-Position matching (K.C. Pant trap) tests whether aspirants VERIFY each pair or assume based on partial knowledge

The Hidden Syllabus

- **FINANCE COMMISSION AS FEDERALISM'S FINANCIAL BACKBONE:** without FC's devolution formula, India's fiscal federalism would have no INSTITUTIONAL mechanism – FC is to finances what SC is to constitutional disputes
- **BODY CLASSIFICATION AS GOVERNANCE LITERACY:** knowing whether a body is constitutional/statutory/executive tells you its VULNERABILITY to political interference – constitutional bodies are HARDEST to tamper with
- **AG'S STRADDLE POSITION:** participates in Parliament but cannot vote, appointed by executive but needs judicial qualifications, convention-based resignation but no constitutional mandate = AG exists in a DELIBERATE grey zone
- **CAG AS POST-FACTO GUARDIAN:** India's CAG audits AFTER money is spent (unlike British model which controls BEFORE) – this design choice means CAG catches MISUSE but cannot PREVENT it, making PAC's review role critical
- **LOKPAL AS ANTI-CORRUPTION ARCHITECTURE:** PM inclusion, overseas jurisdiction, age criteria = the Lokpal Act's SPECIFIC provisions reveal how India designed ACCOUNTABILITY for the highest offices
- **INTER-STATE COOPERATION AS FEDERAL NECESSITY:** ISC (constitutional) + Zonal Councils (statutory) + NDC (executive) = India created MULTIPLE coordination mechanisms because federalism needs ONGOING negotiation, not just constitutional text
- **ACCESS TO JUSTICE AS GOVERNANCE MISSION:** NHRC + NALSA + Consumer Forums + Lok Adalats + Lokpal = FIVE bodies serving FIVE different dimensions of citizen protection, each with different jurisdiction and powers
- **DIRECTORATE MATCHING AS ADMINISTRATIVE REALITY:** which enforcement body reports to which ministry determines HOW investigations are conducted and WHERE political accountability lies

Top Conceptual Traps

- 15th FC devolution = 41% (NOT 45%) – 14th FC was 42%
- AG CANNOT vote in Parliament (can speak/participate/be committee member)
- AG resignation when govt changes = CONVENTION (not constitutional requirement)
- AG need NOT be MP (no parliamentary membership required)
- AG NOT removed by impeachment (holds at President's pleasure)
- CAG does NOT exercise exchequer control in India (British model only)
- CAG has NO judicial/prosecution powers
- Lokpal CAN inquire into PM (PM IS included – not excluded)

- Lokpal applies to public servants ABROAD too (not just in India)
- CAT set up under RAJIV GANDHI (NOT Lal Bahadur Shastri)
- NCBC is NOW constitutional (102nd Amdt); NHRC remains STATUTORY
- Inter-State Council = CONSTITUTIONAL (Art 263); Zonal Councils = STATUTORY
- NDC + Planning Commission + Zonal Councils = NOT in Constitution
- Enforcement Directorate = Dept of Revenue, Ministry of FINANCE (not Home Affairs)
- NHRC Chairman = retired CJI only; NHRC powers = recommendatory only
- Senior Citizens NOT automatically eligible for free legal services (income criteria apply)
- K.C. Pant was NOT Chairman of 10th Finance Commission
- 'Minority' NOT defined in Constitution; NCM is statutory not constitutional

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Finance Commission: devolution + criteria	Laxmikanth Ch.35 + FC Reports	4 Qs (1↑)
2	Statutory bodies: Lokpal/NHRC/NALSA/NITI	Laxmikanth various + Acts	8 Qs (1)
3	Inter-State/Regional Councils	Laxmikanth Ch.16	4 Qs
4	AG: powers, appointment, Parliament role	Laxmikanth Ch.26	3 Qs
5	CAG: audit role, NOT exchequer control	Laxmikanth Ch.36	2 Qs
6	Consumer forums + agency matching	Consumer Protection Act + India YB	4 Qs
7	Body classification: constitutional vs statutory	Laxmikanth throughout	3 Qs

- HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026**
- GST COUNCIL: Art 279A, composition (FM + state FMs), voting (Centre=1/3, States=2/3, 3/4 majority), dispute resolution – India’s NEWEST major constitutional body with ZERO questions
 - 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION: constituted 2024, terms of reference, likely devolution changes – current affairs convergence with constitutional provisions
 - UPSC/SPSC: Art 315-323, appointment, removal, functions, advisory role, additional functions – the body aspirants interact with but rarely study for exams
 - NITI AAYOG specifics: Governing Council, Aspirational Districts Programme, SDG India Index, cooperative federalism role – only replacement fact tested so far
 - NATIONAL COMMISSIONS: NCSC (Art 338) + NCST (Art 338A) + NCBC (Art 338B) comparison: appointment, functions, reporting – all three are NOW constitutional
 - CBI: DSPE Act 1946, general consent requirement for states, recent SC observations on autonomy, Vineet Narain case guidelines
 - STATE FINANCE COMMISSIONS: Art 243-I, role in panchayat/municipality finance – local governance convergence
 - LOKPAL + LOKAYUKTA comparison: central vs state anti-corruption, appointment, jurisdiction, removal
 - INFORMATION COMMISSIONS: CIC/SIC under RTI Act, appointment, powers, penalty provisions
 - NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY: NIA Act 2008, jurisdiction, special courts, scheduled offences – internal security convergence
 - ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL: AFT Act 2007, jurisdiction over service matters, appeal to SC only – military justice system

- CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019: new provisions, e-commerce coverage, product liability, Central Consumer Protection Authority – updates the 2010/2012 questions entirely

CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON-CONSTITUTIONAL POSTS AND BODIES**FINANCE COMMISSION (CONSTITUTIONAL BODY)**

1. Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct? [2025]
 - I. It has recommended grants of ₹4,800 crores from the year 2022–23 to the year 2025–26 for incentivizing States to enhance educational outcomes.
 - II. 45% of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States.
 - III. ₹45,000 crores are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all States for carrying out agricultural reforms.
 - IV. It reintroduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance.Select the correct answer using the code given below.
 - a) I, II and III
 - b) I, II and IV
 - c) I, III and IV
 - d) II, III and IV
2. Consider the following: [2023]
 - 1) Demographic performance
 - 2) Forest and ecology
 - 3) Governance reforms
 - 4) Stable government
 - 5) Tax and fiscal effortsFor the horizontal tax devolution, the Fifteenth Finance Commission used how many of the above as criteria other than population area and income distance?
 - a) Only two
 - b) Only three
 - c) Only four
 - d) All five
3. With Reference to the Fourteenth Finance Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2015]
 - 1) It has increased the share of States in the central divisible pool from 32 percent to 42 percent
 - 2) It has made recommendations concerning sector-specific grantsSelect the correct answer using the code given below.
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. The primary function of the Finance Commission in India is to: [2000]
 - a) Distribute revenue between the Centre and the States
 - b) Prepare the Annual Budget
 - c) Advise the President on financial matters
 - d) Allocate funds to various ministries of the Union and State Governments

ATTORNEY GENERAL & SOLICITOR GENERAL (CONSTITUTIONAL BODY)

5. Consider the following statements: [2022]
 - 1) Attorney General of India and Solicitor General of India are the only officers of the Government who are allowed to participate in the meetings of the Parliament of India.

- 2) According to the Constitution of India, the Attorney General of India submits his resignation when the Government which appointed him resigns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Consider the following statements: [2013]

Attorney general of India can

- 1) Take part in the proceedings of lok sabha
- 2) Be a member of a committee of the lok sabha
- 3) Speak in the lok sabha
- 4) Vote in the lok sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3 only

7. Consider the following statements about the Attorney General of India: [2000]

- I. He is appointed by the President of India.
- II. He must have the same qualifications as are required for a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- III. He must be a member of either House of Parliament.
- IV. He can be removed by impeachment by Parliament.

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) I and II
- b) I and III
- c) II, III and IV
- d) III and IV

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG) (CONSTITUTIONAL BODY)

8. In India, other than ensuring that public funds are used efficiently and for intended purpose, what is the importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)? [2012]

- 1) CAG exercises exchequer control on behalf of the Parliament when the President of India declares national emergency/financial emergency.
- 2) CAG reports on the execution of projects or programmes by the ministries are discussed by the Public Accounts Committee.
- 3) Information from CAG reports can be used by investigating agencies to press charges against those who have violated the law while managing public finances.
- 4) While dealing with the audit and accounting of government companies, CAG has certain judicial powers for prosecuting those who violate the law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1,3 & 4 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 2 & 3 Only
- d) 1,2, 3 & 4

9. Which one of the following duties is NOT performed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India? [2001]

- a) To audit and report on all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India
- b) To audit and report on all expenditure from the Contingency Funds and Public Accounts
- c) To audit and report on all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts

d) To control the receipt and issue of public money, and to ensure that the public revenue is lodged in the exchequer

STATUTORY AND EXECUTIVE BODIES (LOKPAL, NITI AAYOG, NHRC, NALSA)

10. Consider the following statements about Lokpal: [2025]
- I. The power of Lokpal applies to public servants of India, but not to the Indian public servants posted outside India.
 - II. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a Member of the Parliament or a Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory, and only the Chief Justice of India, whether incumbent or retired, has to be its Chairperson.
 - III. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a person of less than forty-five years of age on the date of assuming office as the Chairperson or Member, as the case may be.
 - IV. Lokpal cannot inquire into the allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) III only
 - b) II and III
 - c) I and IV
 - d) None of the above statements is correct
11. Consider the following organizations/bodies in India: [2023]
- The National Commission for Backward Classes
 - The National Human Rights Commission
 - The National Law Commission
 - The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
- How many of the above are constitutional bodies?
- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) Only three
 - d) All four
12. In India, Legal Services Authorities provide free legal services to which of the following type of citizens? [2020]
- Person with an annual income of less than Rs. 1,00,000
 - Transgender with an annual income of less than Rs. 2,00,000
 - Member of Other Backward Classes (OBC) with an annual income of less than Rs. 3,00,000
 - All Senior Citizens
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 3 and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1 and 4 only
13. The Government of India has established NITI Aayog to replace the: [2015]
- a) Human Rights Commission
 - b) Finance Commission
 - c) Law Commission
 - d) Planning Commission
14. With reference to National Legal Service Authority, consider the following statements: [2013]
- 1) Its objective is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society on the basis of equal opportunity.
 - 2) It issues guidelines for the state legal services authorities to implement the legal programmes and schemes throughout the country.
- Which of the statement given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only

- c) both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
15. Consider the following statements: [2009]
- 1) Central administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up during the Prime Minister ship of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
 - 2) The Members of CAT are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
16. According to the National Human Rights Commission Act, 1993, who amongst the following can be its Chairman? [2004]
- a) Any serving Judge of the Supreme Court
 - b) Any serving Judge of the High Court
 - c) Only a retired Chief Justice of India
 - d) Only a retired Chief Justice of High Court
17. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission of India: [1999]
- I. Its Chairman must be a retired Chief Justice of India.
 - II. It has formations in each state as State Human Rights Commission.
 - III. Its powers are only recommendatory in nature.
 - IV. It is mandatory to appoint a woman as a member of the Commission.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- a) I, II, III and IV
 - b) II and IV
 - c) II and III
 - d) I and III

INTER-STATE & REGIONAL COORDINATION (COUNCILS AND NDC)

18. With reference to India, consider the following: [2025]
- I. The Inter-State Council
 - II. The National Security Council
 - III. Zonal Councils
- How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the Constitution of India?
- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All the three
 - d) None
19. The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971. Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members? [2024]
- 1) Governor of the Constituent State
 - 2) Chief Minister of the Constituent State
 - 3) Three Members to be nominated by the President of India
 - 4) The Home Minister of India
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 4 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
20. Which of the following bodies does not/do not find mention in the constitution? [2013]

- 1) National Development Council
- 2) Planning Commission
- 3) Zonal Councils

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Which of the following is/are extra constitutional and extra legal device(s) for securing cooperation and coordination between the States in India? [1995]

- I. The National Development Council
- II. The Governors' Conference
- III. Zonal Councils
- IV. The Inter-State Council.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) I, II and III
- b) I, III and IV
- c) III and IV
- d) IV only

AGENCIES AND SPECIALIZED STATUTORY BODIES

22. With reference to the Government of India, consider the following information: [2025]

| Organization | Some of its functions | It works under |

| Directorate of Enforcement | Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 | Internal Security Division-I, Ministry of Home Affairs |

| Directorate of Revenue Intelligence | Enforces the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 | Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance |

| Directorate General of Systems and Data Management | Carrying out big data analytics to assist tax officers for better policy and nabbing tax evaders | Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

In how many of the above rows is the information correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All the three
- d) None

23. With reference to consumers' rights/privileges under the provisions of law in India, which of the following statements is/are correct? [2012]

- 1) Consumers are empowered to take samples for food testing.
- 2) When a consumer files a complaint in any consumer forum, no fee is required to be paid.
- 3) In case of death of a consumer, his/her legal heir can file a complaint in the consumer forum on his / her behalf.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 & 3 Only
- c) 1 & 3 Only
- d) 1,2 & 3

24. With reference to the Consumer Disputes Redressal at district level in India, which one of the following statements is not correct? [2010]

- a) A State Government can establish more than one District Forum in a district if it deems fit.
- b) One of the members of the District Forum shall be a woman.
- c) The District Forum entertains the complaints where the value of goods or services does not exceed rupees fifty lakhs.

- d) A complaint in relation to any goods sold or any service provided may be filed with a District Forum by the State Government as a representative of the interests of the consumers in general.
25. Which of the following are the States in which the Lok Ayukta Act includes the Chief Minister in its ambit? [1995]
- a) West Bengal and Kerala
 - b) Gujarat and Maharashtra
 - c) Madhya Pradesh and Orissa
 - d) Rajasthan and Karnataka

MINORITIES & OTHERS

26. Consider the following statements about the minorities in India: [2001]
- I. The Government of India has notified five communities, namely, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians as Minorities.
 - II. The National Commission for Minorities was given statutory status in 1993.
 - III. The smallest religious minority in India are the Zoroastrians.
 - IV. The Constitution of India recognises and protects religious and linguistic minorities.
- Which of these statements are correct?
- a) II and III
 - b) I and IV
 - c) II, III and IV
 - d) I, II, III and IV
27. Assertion (A): The word 'minority' is not defined in the Constitution of India. [1996]
Reason (R): The Minorities Commission is not a constitutional body.
- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
 - b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A
 - c) A is true, but R is false
 - d) A is false, but R is true
28. Match list-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the list: [2008]
- List I (Person) : List II (Position)
- A. Nagender Singh : 2. President, ICJ
 - B. A.N. Ray : 3. Chief Justice of India
 - C. R.K. Trivedi : 1. Chief Election Commissioner
 - D. Ashok Desai : 4. Attorney General of India
- Codes (A B C D):
- a) 1 4 2 3
 - b) 2 3 1 4
 - c) 1 3 2 4
 - d) 2 4 1 3
29. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2007]
- a) T.S Krishnamurthy: Former Chief Election Commissioner of India
 - b) K.C. Pant: Chairman, Tenth Finance Commission of India
 - c) A.M. Khusro: Former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission
 - d) R.C. Lahoti: Former Chief Justice of India

IMPORTANT ACTS & CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Women's Reservation | Language Amendments | Judicial Amendments | Security Acts | Aadhaar | Forest Rights | Education

OVERVIEW (1995–2024)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Women-Related Legislation & Reservation	2	2007–2024	HIGH ↑
Language Amendments (8th Schedule)	2	2006–2024	MEDIUM
Judicial & Structural Amendments	4	2003–2023	VERY HIGH
Internal Security, Prisons & Police	5	2023	VERY HIGH ↑↑
Aadhaar & Digital Governance	3	2007–2020	HIGH
Forest, Environment & Tribal Rights	3	2012–2019	HIGH
Education, Social Reservation & Misc	8	1995–2023	HIGH

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2023 was LEGISLATION YEAR: 6 questions in ONE paper covering prisons (State subject + 1894 Act), preventive detention (Art 22 exemptions), Home Guards (state rules not central), Act-action matching (Arms Act/Official Secrets/Evidence Act), Flag Code (3:2 ratio), 1st Amendment (overcome judicial interpretation) – the most DIVERSE single-year legislation testing ever
- INTERNAL SECURITY emerged as a NEW CLUSTER in 2023: 5 questions on prisons, detention, Home Guards, police powers, Act-action pairs – this was ZERO before 2023, suggesting a PERMANENT new sub-domain
- AADHAAR tested TWICE (2018, 2020) after SC's Puttaswamy judgement: NOT citizenship proof, CAN be deactivated, metadata 3-month limit, states can't share with private corps – each question reflects POST-JUDGEMENT legal position
- AMENDMENT-NUMBER testing is a PERSISTENT format across 3 decades: aspirants must know what each numbered amendment DID – 71st (languages), 86th (RTE), 92nd (languages), 93rd (education reservation), 98th (judicial appointments), 99th (NJAC), 104th (SC/ST reservation extension)
- FOREST RIGHTS ACT tested 3 TIMES (2012–2019): Gram Sabha as initiating authority, bamboo as MFP, ownership of MFP – TRIBAL RIGHTS is a RISING cross-domain topic (also tested in Constitution + 5th Schedule sections)
- 1st AMENDMENT tested in 2023 as 'overcoming judicial interpretation of FRs' – UPSC connecting AMENDMENT HISTORY with JUDICIAL REVIEW history for the first time
- WOMEN'S RESERVATION (106th/Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) entered in 2024: provisions from delimitation exercise (NOT 18th LS immediately), 15-year sunset, SC women sub-reservation✓ – CURRENT AFFAIRS meets constitutional amendment
- LANGUAGE AMENDMENTS tested TWICE with SPECIFIC amendment numbers: 71st (Konkani/Manipuri/Nepali) and 92nd (Bodo/Dogri/Maithili/Santhali) – 8th Schedule additions are STATIC facts
- 44th Amendment (2019): did NOT place PM election beyond judicial review (that was 39th, now repealed); 99th NJAC struck down by SC✓ – UPSC tests PRECISE amendment contents
- The domain has a BIMODAL pattern: amendment-number matching (2001-2006) + current-affairs-linked legislation testing (2018-2024) = TWO distinct testing eras with different approaches

PYQ TREND MAP**Most Asked**

- Internal security Acts: prisons, detention, Home Guards, police powers (5 Qs ↑↑)
- Amendment-number identification (8 Qs across all themes)
- Forest Rights Act: Gram Sabha, MFP, bamboo (3 Qs)
- Aadhaar: legal status, limitations, SC judgement position (3 Qs)
- Judicial/structural amendments: 1st, 44th, 99th (4 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- NEW CRIMINAL LAWS: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) – replaced IPC/CrPC/Evidence Act in 2023, ZERO questions yet
- DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT 2023: consent framework, Data Protection Board, cross-border transfer – India's first comprehensive data law
- MEDIATION ACT 2023: statutory framework for mediation, online mediation, cross-border disputes – ADR formalization
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 2023: replaces Indian Telegraph Act 1885, spectrum management, interception powers – modern regulatory framework
- CAA 2019 + CITIZENSHIP: amended Citizenship Act provisions, excluded religions, constitutional challenges – politically charged but testable on LEGAL provisions
- ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS: state-level legislation, Freedom of Religion Acts, judicial observations – Art 25 convergence
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT 2005: used extensively during COVID, NDMA powers, state-centre coordination – emerged as governance tool
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE (POSH Act 2013): Internal Complaints Committee, provisions, coverage – workplace governance

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: AMENDMENT AS JUDICIAL RESPONSE – 1st (overcome Champakam/Romesh Thapar) → 24th (Parliament can amend FRs) → 25th (property compensation) → 42nd (comprehensive rewrite) → 44th (restore balance) → 99th (NJAC, struck down) = Constitution-Judiciary DIALOGUE through amendments
- CLUSTER 2: INTERNAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE – Prisons (State subject + 1894 Act) + Police (State subject + Police Act 1861) + Home Guards (state rules) + Armed Forces (Central) + NIA/NSA/UAPA (Central security laws) = FEDERAL SECURITY DIVISION
- CLUSTER 3: TRIBAL RIGHTS LEGISLATIVE CHAIN – 5th Schedule (constitutional) + FRA 2006 (statutory: Gram Sabha, MFP ownership) + PESA 1996 (panchayat extension) + IFA 1927 (amended for bamboo) = MULTI-LAYERED tribal protection
- CLUSTER 4: DIGITAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK – Aadhaar Act 2016 (identity, not citizenship) + IT Act 2000/2008 + DPDP Act 2023 (data protection) + Telecom Act 2023 = India's evolving DIGITAL LAW architecture
- CLUSTER 5: SOCIAL LEGISLATION SPECTRUM – DV Act 2005 (women) + RTE 2009 (education) + FRA 2006 (tribal) + Consumer Protection Act 2019 + POSH Act 2013 = legislation as SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION tool

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- 2023's INTERNAL SECURITY cluster signals UPSC considers security legislation as ESSENTIAL knowledge for civil servants who will administer districts and maintain law and order
- 1st Amendment 'overcoming judicial interpretation' (2023) tests whether aspirants understand the PARLIAMENT-JUDICIARY DYNAMIC that has shaped India's constitutional evolution
- AMENDMENT-NUMBER precision tests LEGISLATIVE LITERACY: civil servants draft and implement amendments and must know exactly what each numbered amendment changed
- Aadhaar's POST-JUDGEMENT legal position (not proof of citizenship, can be deactivated) tests whether aspirants track JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS that change legal status of major programmes
- GRAM SABHA as forest rights authority tests DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION at the deepest level: the village assembly, not bureaucrats, determines forest rights
- PRISONS as STATE SUBJECT tests FEDERAL DIVISION knowledge: who administers what in India's governance structure determines accountability
- HOME GUARDS under STATE rules (not central) tests whether aspirants understand that even SECURITY forces can be STATE-LEVEL institutions
- POTA reference despite its REPEAL tests whether aspirants know the CURRENT legal status of security laws (POTA repealed 2004, replaced by UAPA amendments)
- Flag Code's 3:2 ratio tests SYMBOLIC GOVERNANCE: civil servants must know National Flag specifications as protocol officers
- NARI SHAKTI VANDAN linked to delimitation (not immediate implementation) tests whether aspirants read ACTUAL amendment provisions or just headlines

The Hidden Syllabus

- AMENDMENTS AS CONSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE: every major amendment is a RESPONSE to a judicial interpretation or political crisis – 1st (overcome SC), 24th (assert amending power), 42nd (parliamentary supremacy), 44th (restore balance), 99th (judiciary's last word) = the Constitution is a LIVING CONVERSATION between Parliament and courts
- INTERNAL SECURITY AS FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE: prisons (State) + police (State) + Home Guards (State) + CRPF/BSF (Centre) + NIA (Centre) = security in India is DIVIDED between Centre and States, and knowing WHO controls WHAT determines how security is administered
- AADHAAR AS GOVERNANCE TOOL vs RIGHTS ISSUE: Aadhaar is IDENTITY (not citizenship), VOLUNTARY (not mandatory for most), and LIMITED (metadata 3 months, no private sharing) = the SC judgement REDEFINED Aadhaar's legal character from universal ID to limited identity tool
- TRIBAL RIGHTS AS LEGISLATIVE STACK: Constitution (5th Schedule) + Parliament (FRA 2006, PESA 1996) + State (IFA amendment for bamboo) = tribal protection requires MULTIPLE legislative layers working together
- SOCIAL LEGISLATION AS CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION: DV Act implements Art 15(3) protection, RTE implements Art 21A, FRA implements Art 46 DPSP = statutes are the BRIDGE between constitutional principles and citizen entitlements
- REPEALED LAWS AS TESTING TRAPS: POTA (repealed 2004), old criminal laws (replaced 2023), planning commission (replaced by NITI) = UPSC tests whether aspirants know what NO LONGER EXISTS
- CURRENT AFFAIRS TO CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CONVERGENCE: Nari Shakti Vandan (2024), Electoral Bonds SC judgement (2024), New Criminal Laws (2023), DPDP Act (2023) = recent legislation is IMMEDIATELY testable as amendment/act knowledge

Top Conceptual Traps

- 39th (NOT 44th) Amendment placed PM election beyond judicial review
- 86th (NOT 76th) Amendment made education 6-14 a Fundamental Right
- 71st Amendment: Konkani/Manipuri/Nepali (NOT Maithili – that's 92nd)
- Aadhaar is NOT proof of citizenship or domicile (identity only)
- Aadhaar CAN be deactivated (not permanent once issued)
- Aadhaar NOT mandatory for insurance products
- Home Guards raised under STATE rules (NOT Central Act)
- POTA was REPEALED in 2004 – its provisions are no longer in force

- Prisons = STATE SUBJECT under State List
- 9th Schedule added by 1st Amendment (not 9th/42nd)
- Nari Shakti Vandan: NOT from 18th LS immediately (linked to delimitation)
- Gram Sabha (NOT forest department/DC) initiates forest rights process
- NGT Act based on Art 21 (NOT Art 275 or Art 243)
- 104th Amendment: SC/ST reservation extension (NOT private education quotas)
- 98th Amendment: National Judicial Appointments (Hyderabad-Karnataka HC)
- Goa has Uniform Civil Code (Hindu + Muslim both limited to one wife)
- Denotified tribes = formerly classified as CRIMINAL tribes

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Internal security Acts: prisons/Home Guards/police	Laxmikanth + security compilations	5 Qs (↑↑)
2	Amendment-number identification	Laxmikanth Appendix + compilations	8 Qs
3	Aadhaar: legal status post-SC judgement	Aadhaar Act + SC judgement summary	3 Qs
4	Forest Rights Act: Gram Sabha, MFP, bamboo	FRA 2006 + Laxmikanth	3 Qs
5	Judicial amendments: 1st/44th/99th	Laxmikanth Ch.10	4 Qs
6	Education/reservation amendments	Laxmikanth + NCERT	3 Qs
7	Women’s legislation + language amendments	Acts + Laxmikanth	4 Qs (↑)

- HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026**
- NEW CRIMINAL LAWS (2023): BNS replacing IPC, BNSS replacing CrPC, BSA replacing Evidence Act – India’s most comprehensive criminal law overhaul, ZERO questions yet
 - DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT 2023: consent framework, Data Protection Board, children’s data, cross-border transfer rules – India’s first data law
 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 2023: replaces 1885 Telegraph Act, spectrum assignment, interception/surveillance provisions, OTT regulation debate
 - CAA 2019 provisions: which religions included, cutoff date (31 Dec 2014), which countries, constitutional challenges under Art 14
 - 106th AMENDMENT (Women’s Reservation) details: 1/3 seats, linked to delimitation, 15-year duration, rotation of reserved seats, SC/ST sub-reservation
 - MEDIATION ACT 2023: statutory recognition, online mediation, community mediation, cross-border enforcement
 - DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT 2005: NDMA composition, state/district DMA, used during COVID, relationship with Art 352
 - POSH ACT 2013: Internal Complaints Committee, coverage (organized + unorganized sector), penalties, recent amendments
 - JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT 2015 (amended 2021): age determination, serious offences, adoption provisions, Child Welfare Committees
 - 42nd vs 44th AMENDMENT comparison: what 42nd added and what 44th reversed – India’s most important constitutional CORRECTION

- SCHEDULED CASTES/TRIBES (Prevention of Atrocities) Act: 2018 SC judgement + legislative response, anticipatory bail debate
- WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 2014: coverage, competent authority, penalties – anti-corruption infrastructure

IMPORTANT ACTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**WOMEN-RELATED LEGISLATION AND RESERVATION**

1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam': [2024]
 - 1) Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
 - 2) This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
 - 3) There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 1 and 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1 and 3 only
2. Consider the following statements: [2007]
 - 1) The Judge (Inquiry) Bill 2006 contemplates establishing a Judicial Council which will receive complaints against Judges of the Supreme Court including Chief Justices of India, High Court Chief Justice and Judges.
 - 2) Under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, a woman can file a petition before a 1st class Judicial magistrate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

LANGUAGE-RELATED AMENDMENTS (EIGHTH SCHEDULE)

3. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages? [2024]
 - 1) Konkani
 - 2) Manipuri
 - 3) Nepali
 - 4) Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
 - b) 1, 2 and 4
 - c) 1, 3 and 4
 - d) 2, 3 and 4
4. Under which one of the following Constitution Amendments Acts, four languages were added to the languages under the Eighth schedule of the Constitution of India, thereby raising their number to 22? [2008]
 - a) Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Act
 - b) Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Act
 - c) Constitution (Ninety-second Amendment) Act
 - d) Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act

JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS AND STRUCTURAL AMENDMENTS

5. In India, which one of the following Constitutional Amendments was widely believed to be enacted to overcome the judicial interpretations of the Fundamental Rights? [2023]
- 1st Amendment
 - 42nd Amendment
 - 44th Amendment
 - 86th Amendment
6. Consider the following statements: [2019]
- 1) The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
 - 2) The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
7. The Ninth Schedule to the Indian Constitution was added by: [2003]
- First Amendment
 - Eighth Amendment
 - Ninth Amendment
 - Forty second Amendment

INTERNAL SECURITY, PRISONS, AND POLICE POWERS

8. Consider the following statements: [2023]
- Statement-I: In India, prisons are managed by State governments with their own rules and regulations for the day-to-day administration of prisons.
- Statement-II: In India, prisons are governed by the Prison Act, 1894 which expressly kept the subject of prisons in the control of Provisional Governments.
- Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.
9. Consider the following statements: [2023]
- 1) According to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has a duty to protect States from internal disturbances.
 - 2) The Constitution of India exempts the States from providing legal counsel to a person being held for preventive detention.
 - 3) According to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, confession of the accused before the police cannot be used as evidence.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
10. With reference to Home Guards, consider the following statements: [2023]
- 1) Home Guards are raised under the Home Guards Act and Rules of the Central Government.
 - 2) The role of the Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary force to the police in maintenance of internal security.

- 3) To prevent infiltration on the international border/coastal areas, the Border Wing Home Guards Battalions have been raised in some States.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

11. With reference to India, consider the following pairs: [2023]

Action : The Act under which it is covered

- 1) Unauthorized wearing of police or military uniforms : The Official Secrets Act, 1923
- 2) Knowingly misleading or otherwise interfering with a police officer or military officer when engaged in their duties : The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- 3) Celebratory gunfire which can endanger the personal safety of others : The Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

AADHAAR AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

12. Consider the following statements: [2020]

- 1) Aadhaar metadata cannot be stored for more than three months.
- 2) States cannot enter into any contract with private corporations for sharing Aadhaar data.
- 3) Aadhaar is mandatory for obtaining insurance products.
- 4) Aadhaar is mandatory for getting benefits funded out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 4 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3 only

13. Consider the following statements: [2018]

- 1) Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
- 2) Once issued, an Aadhaar card cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. MCA-21 is a major initiative taken up by the Government of India in which one of the following areas? [2007]

- a) Foreign direct investment in India
- b) Attracting international tourists
- c) e-governance
- d) Modernization of airports

FOREST, ENVIRONMENT, AND TRIBAL RIGHTS

15. Consider the following statements: [2019]

- 1) As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
- 2) As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.

- 3) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
16. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both? [2013]
- a) State forest department
b) District collector / Deputy Commissioner
c) Tahsildar / Block development officer / mandal revenue officer
d) Gram Sabha
17. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 was enacted in consonance with which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India? [2012]
- 1) Right to healthy environment, construed as a part of Right to life under Article 21
2) Provision of grants for raising the level of administration in the Scheduled Areas for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under Article 275(1)
3) Powers and functions of Gram Sabha as mentioned under Article 243(A)
- Select the correct answer:
- a) 1 Only
b) 2 & 3 Only
c) 1 & 3 only
d) 1, 2 & 3

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL RESERVATION AMENDMENTS

18. Consider the following statements: [2006]

- 1) Free and compulsory education to the children of 6-14 years age group by the state was made a Fundamental Right by the 76th Amendment to the Constitution of India.
2) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan seeks to provide computer education even in rural areas.
3) Education was included in the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 to the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
b) 1 and 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only
19. The 93rd Constitutional Amendment Bill deals with the: [2002]
- a) continuation of reservation for backward classes in government employment
b) free and compulsory education for all children between the age of 6 and 14 years
c) reservation of 30 per cent posts for women in government recruitments
d) allocation of more number of parliamentary seats for recently created States

STATE-SPECIFIC AND STRUCTURAL AMENDMENTS

20. What does the 104th Constitution Amendment Bill relate to? [2006]

- a) Abolition of Legislative Councils in certain States
b) Introduction of dual citizenship for persons of Indian origin living outside India
c) Providing quota to socially and educationally backward classes in private educational institutions.
d) Providing quota for religious minorities in the services under the Central Government.

21. The Constitution (98th Amendment) Act is related to: [2005]

- a) Empowering the Centre to levy and appropriate service tax

- b) The constitution of the National Judicial Commission
c) Readjustment of electoral constituencies on the basis of the Population Census 2001
d) The demarcation of new boundaries between States
22. Which of the following Constitutional Amendments are related to raising the number of Members of Lok Sabha to be elected from the States? [2003]
- a) 6th and 22nd
b) 13th and 38th
c) 7th and 31st
d) 11th and 42nd
23. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2001]
- List I (Amendments) : List II (Contents)
- I. Sixty Ninth Amendment Act, 1991 : E) According the status of National Capital Territory to Delhi
II. Seventy Fifth Amendment Act, 1994 : A) Establishment of State level Rent Tribunals Act, 1991
III. Eightieth Amendment Act, 2000 : D) Accepting the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission
IV. Eighty Third Amendment Act, 2000 : B) No reservations for Scheduled Castes in Panchayats in Arunachal Pradesh
- Codes:
- a) I E, II A, III D, IV B
b) I A, II E, III C, IV D
c) I E, II A, III C, IV D
d) I A, II E, III D, IV B

MISCELLANEOUS SECTORAL AND SOCIAL ACTS

24. Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002: [2023]
- Statement-I: One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm x 400 mm.
Statement-II: The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
25. Consider the following statements: The Draft Electricity Bill, 2001 seeks to replace: [2002]
- 1) Indian Electricity Act, 1910
2) Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948
3) Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998
4) State Electricity Boards
- Which of these statements are correct?
- a) 1, 2 and 3
b) 2, 3 and 4
c) 1, 2 and 4
d) 1, 3 and 4
26. In the Indian context the term 'Denotified tribes' refers to: [1996]
- a) Tribes which are aboriginals
b) Nomadic tribes
c) Tribes practising shifting cultivation
d) Tribes which were earlier classified as criminal tribes

27. In which one of the following States of India is it legal for a Hindu male and illegal for a Muslim male to have more than one living wife? [1995]

- a) Nagaland
- b) Mizoram
- c) Goa
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

PANCHAYATI RAJ & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

73rd & 74th Amendments | PESA Act | Municipalities | Gram Sabha | Democratic Decentralisation

20 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 5 Themes | 35+ Concepts

OVERVIEW (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
73rd & 74th Amendment Provisions	9	1995–2025	VERY HIGH
PESA Act & Scheduled Areas	3	2000–2013	HIGH
Municipalities & Urban Governance	3	2000–2011	HIGH
General Concepts & History	4	1998–2015	HIGH
Government Programmes	1	2006	MEDIUM

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 73rd AMENDMENT tested across ENTIRE 30-year span (1995–2025): from basic 3-tier structure (1996) to specific provisions (elections within 6 months, women’s 1/3 reservation, State FC) to 2025’s NEGATION format (all statements incorrect) = PROGRESSIVE DEEPENING over three decades
- 2025 RETURNED after 9-year gap (last was 2016): tested intermediate level panchayats (NOT in all states), age (21 NOT 30), finance commission (GOVERNOR not CM constitutes) – ALL THREE wrong = UPSC’s HARDEST panchayat question ever
- PESA ACT’s Gram Sabha powers tested in 2012 with ALL THREE correct (land alienation prevention✓ + MFP ownership✓ + mining consent✓): this is one of the RARE ‘all correct’ answers in UPSC Polity, showing PESA’s comprehensive empowerment
- MUNICIPALITIES (74th Amdt) are UNDER-TESTED relative to Panchayats: only 3 questions in 30 years vs 9 for 73rd Amendment – urban governance is the most NEGLECTED constitutional topic

- 1995–2000 was the FOUNDATION ERA: 6 questions in 5 years testing basic structure (3-tier), women's reservation (1/3), elections (6 months), history (Rajasthan 1959), State control limits – the INITIAL testing burst after 73rd Amendment implementation
- PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS within 6 months tested TWICE (2009, 2016): the MOST REPEATED panchayat provision, reflecting UPSC's emphasis on MANDATORY democratic renewal
- AGE ELIGIBILITY = 21 years (NOT 25 or 30) tested via NEGATION in 2016 and 2025: UPSC repeatedly uses WRONG age as trap option because aspirants confuse panchayat age with LS/RS age requirements
- 73rd Amendment's WHAT IT DOES vs WHAT IT DOES NOT: DOES provide State EC + State FC + mandatory elections; does NOT provide regular remuneration to members or two-child disqualification (those are state-level) – tested through 'not proposed' format
- Part IX (Panchayats) and Part IX-A (Municipalities) tested for IDENTIFICATION (2005): Art 243Q envisages THREE types of municipalities (Nagar Panchayat + Municipal Council + Municipal Corporation, not TWO) – structural knowledge
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT is NOT an independent tier in federal system (1995): this FOUNDATIONAL constitutional insight means local bodies exist WITHIN the state tier, not alongside it

PYQ TREND MAP**Most Asked**

- 73rd Amendment provisions: SEC, SFC, elections, age, reservation (9 Qs – #1)
- General concepts: object, history, state control (4 Qs)
- PESA Act: Gram Sabha powers, objectives (3 Qs)
- Municipalities: MPC, first corporation, eligibility (3 Qs)
- Government programmes: Nirmal Gram Puraskar (1 Q)

Under-Asked but RISING

- 11TH SCHEDULE (Panchayat subjects): 29 subjects listed – specific subjects NEVER tested despite being testable static content
- 12TH SCHEDULE (Municipality subjects): 18 subjects listed – same as 11th, zero questions on specific subjects
- WARD COMMITTEES: Art 243S, mandatory for municipalities with 3 lakh+ population – urban governance mechanism untested
- OBC/SC/ST RESERVATION in panchayats: Art 243D provisions, rotation of reserved seats – only women's reservation tested
- DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE: Art 243ZD, composition (4/5 elected from panchayat + municipality), planning process – tested only via 73rd attribution debate
- STATE ELECTION COMMISSION independence: appointment, removal, autonomy debates, recent SC observations – tested only as 'provision exists'
- SMART CITIES + AMRUT + URBAN MISSIONS: urban governance programmes linking to 74th Amendment – scheme-constitutional provision convergence
- GRAM SABHA vs GRAM PANCHAYAT distinction: Sabha = all voters, Panchayat = elected body – fundamental distinction NEVER directly tested

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: 73RD AMENDMENT ARCHITECTURE – Three tiers (village/block/district) + Gram Sabha + State EC + State FC + 5-year tenure + 6-month election deadline + 1/3 women's reservation + 21-year age = the COMPLETE institutional framework
- CLUSTER 2: PESA AS TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE – Extends panchayats to 5th Schedule areas + Gram Sabha owns MFP + prevents land alienation + mining consent + traditional rights = the STRONGEST village-level empowerment in India
- CLUSTER 3: URBAN GOVERNANCE (74TH AMDT) – Three types of municipalities (Nagar Panchayat/Council/Corporation) + Metropolitan Planning Committee + Ward Committees + 12th Schedule subjects + State FC for local finance = urban parallel to rural 73rd
- CLUSTER 4: DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION CHAIN – Union → State → District (DPC) → Block (Panchayat Samiti) → Village (Gram Panchayat) → Gram Sabha (all voters) = SIX levels of democratic governance, each with defined roles
- CLUSTER 5: LOCAL GOVERNANCE + TRIBAL PROTECTION CONVERGENCE – 73rd Amdt (general panchayats) + PESA (5th Schedule panchayats) + 6th Schedule (NE autonomous councils) + FRA 2006 (forest rights via Gram Sabha) = FOUR overlapping frameworks for local + tribal governance

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- 73rd Amendment's MANDATORY ELECTIONS within 6 months (tested TWICE) reflects UPSC's belief that DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL cannot be postponed – panchayats are not optional governance but CONSTITUTIONAL obligation
- PESA's Gram Sabha as the MOST EMPOWERED village institution tests whether aspirants understand that India's deepest democracy happens at the VILLAGE level, not Parliament
- Age eligibility (21, NOT 25/30) tested via NEGATION because aspirants CONFUSE panchayat age with LS (25)/RS (30) requirements – UPSC exploits this cross-contamination
- GOVERNOR (not CM) constituting State Finance Commission tests PRECISE institutional authority: even in local governance, the Governor has CONSTITUTIONAL roles
- Metropolitan Planning Committee's constitutional status tests whether aspirants know that urban PLANNING has CONSTITUTIONAL backing (not just executive programmes)
- First Municipal Corporation = MADRAS (not Calcutta) tests HISTORICAL PRECISION in institutional development – India's municipal history predates independence by centuries
- Fundamental object as ALL FOUR (participation + accountability + decentralisation + financial mobilisation) tests whether aspirants see local governance as COMPREHENSIVE, not just 'village democracy'
- PESA ≠ autonomous regions (that's 6th Schedule) tests whether aspirants DISTINGUISH two similar-sounding but DIFFERENT tribal governance mechanisms
- State NOT controlling citizens' grievances tests the BOUNDARY of state supervision: local bodies are supervised but NOT micromanaged
- 2025's 'all incorrect' format (first time in panchayat domain) signals UPSC is making local governance questions HARDER after years of straightforward provision-testing

The Hidden Syllabus

- PANCHAYATI RAJ AS CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION: the 73rd and 74th Amendments transformed local bodies from STATE WHIM to CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE – before 1992, states could abolish panchayats at will; after, they MUST hold elections within 6 months
- GRAM SABHA AS DEEPEST DEMOCRACY: the Gram Sabha (all registered voters of a village) is India's MOST DIRECT democratic institution – PESA elevates it further by giving it OWNERSHIP of resources (MFP) and VETO over land alienation and mining

- THREE-TIER AS FEDERAL DESIGN CHOICE: village-block-district mirrors Union-State-Local – India deliberately created a HIERARCHICAL local governance structure rather than flat, single-tier system
- LOCAL GOVERNANCE IS NOT FEDERAL: local bodies exist WITHIN the state tier (1995 question) – this means they depend on STATE LEGISLATION for powers, unlike states which have CONSTITUTIONAL powers
- PESA vs 6TH SCHEDULE AS TRIBAL GOVERNANCE MODELS: PESA extends panchayats TO tribal areas (5th Schedule); 6th Schedule creates SEPARATE autonomous councils FOR tribal areas (NE) – extension vs creation = fundamentally different approaches
- STATE FINANCE COMMISSION AS FISCAL DECENTRALISATION: just as Union FC distributes between Centre-States, SFC distributes between State-Local bodies – this MIRROR DESIGN ensures fiscal federalism reaches the LOCAL level
- WOMEN'S 1/3 RESERVATION AS SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: 73rd Amendment's women's reservation has produced more elected women representatives than ANY other democratic mechanism in the world – UPSC tests the PROVISION but the IMPACT is the hidden lesson
- URBAN GOVERNANCE'S NEGLECT: only 3 questions on 74th Amendment vs 9 on 73rd reflects not just UPSC's rural focus but India's ACTUAL governance gap – urban local bodies remain weaker than rural panchayats despite 74th Amendment

Top Conceptual Traps

- Age for panchayat membership = 21 (NOT 25 or 30) – aspirants confuse with LS (25)/RS (30)
- Intermediate level panchayats NOT in all states (exempted for <20 lakh population)
- State Finance Commission constituted by GOVERNOR (not CM)
- Women's reservation = 1/3 (33.3%), NOT 30%
- Elections within 6 MONTHS if dissolved (not 1/3/12 months)
- Reconstituted panchayat serves only REMAINDER period (not fresh 5 years)
- Regular REMUNERATION for members = NOT proposed by 73rd Amendment (state-level decision)
- Two-child DISQUALIFICATION = NOT in 73rd Amendment (some states adopted voluntarily)
- PESA does NOT create autonomous regions (that's 6th Schedule)
- Art 243Q: THREE types of municipalities (not two)
- First Municipal Corporation = MADRAS 1688 (not Calcutta/Bombay)
- MPC does NOT have sole implementation responsibility (it PLANS, doesn't implement)
- Local government is NOT an independent tier in federal system (within state tier)
- District Planning Committee attribution: 74th Amendment Art 243ZD (not 73rd)
- Nirmal Gram Puraskar = incentive for PRIs (not scholarships/sports/computers)
- Panchayati Raj first in RAJASTHAN 1959 (not Tamil Nadu/Kerala/Karnataka)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	73rd Amendment: all provisions	Laxmikanth Ch.37	9 Qs
2	PESA: Gram Sabha powers, objectives	Laxmikanth Ch.40 + PESA Act	3 Qs
3	74th Amendment: municipalities, MPC	Laxmikanth Ch.38	3 Qs
4	General: history, object, state control	Laxmikanth Ch.37-38	4 Qs

5	Government programmes	India Year Book	1 Q
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HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- 11TH SCHEDULE subjects: specific subjects assigned to panchayats (agriculture, health, education, drinking water, poverty alleviation etc.) – 29 subjects NEVER tested individually
- 12TH SCHEDULE subjects: specific subjects for municipalities (urban planning, regulation of land use, public health, fire services etc.) – 18 subjects untested
- OBC/SC/ST RESERVATION in panchayats: Art 243D, proportional to population, rotation of reserved seats – only women’s reservation tested so far
- DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE: Art 243ZD, composition (4/5 elected members from panchayat + municipality), plan consolidation, spatial planning
- STATE ELECTION COMMISSION: appointment by Governor, independence debates, SC observations on autonomy, removal procedure
- GRAM SABHA vs GRAM PANCHAYAT distinction: Sabha (all voters, quorum requirements, mandatory meetings) vs Panchayat (elected body, standing committees)
- WARD COMMITTEES: Art 243S, mandatory for 3 lakh+ municipalities, composition, area sabhas in some states
- SMART CITIES + AMRUT: urban governance programmes, SPV model, convergence with 74th Amendment constitutional provisions
- PESA implementation status: which states have enacted conformity legislation, compliance gaps, SC observations
- BALWANT RAI MEHTA + ASHOK MEHTA + L.M. SINGHVI committee recommendations: historical evolution of panchayati raj thinking
- DEVOLUTION INDEX: measuring actual devolution to local bodies across states, 3F (functions, funds, functionaries) framework
- 74TH AMENDMENT’S UNDER-IMPLEMENTATION: urban local bodies’ weak fiscal position, dependence on state grants, municipal bond market potential

**PANCHAYATI RAJ AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE
73RD & 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACTS**

1. Consider the following statements: [2025]
 - I. Panchayats at the intermediate level exist in all States.
 - II. To be eligible to be a Member of a Panchayat at the intermediate level, a person should attain the age of thirty years.
 - III. The Chief Minister of a State constitutes a commission to review the financial position of Panchayats at the intermediate levels and to make recommendations regarding the distribution of net proceeds of taxes and duties, leviable by the State, between the State and Panchayats at the intermediate level.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

 - a) I and II only
 - b) II and III only
 - c) I and III only
 - d) I, II and III
2. Consider following statements: [2016]
 - 1) The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
 - 2) A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. The constitution (seventy third amendment) act, 1992, which aims at promoting the panchayati raj institutions in the country, provides for which of the following? [2011]
- 1) Constitution of district planning committees.
 - 2) State election commissions to conduct all panchayat elections.
 - 3) Establishment of state finance commission.
- State the correct answer using the codes given below:
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3
4. If a Panchayat is dissolved, elections are to be held within: [2009]
- a) 1 month
 - b) 3 months
 - c) 6 months
 - d) 1 year
5. Consider following statements: [2005]
- 1) Part IX of the Constitution of India contains provisions for Panchayats and was inserted by the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.
 - 2) Part IX A of the Constitution of India contains provisions for municipalities and the Article 243 Q envisages two types of municipalities - a Municipal Council and a Municipal Corporation for every State.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 refers to the: [2000]
- a) Generation of gainful employment for the unemployed and the underemployed men and women in rural area
 - b) Generation of employment for the able-bodied adults who are in need and desirous of work during the lean agricultural season
 - c) Laying the foundation for strong and vibrant Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country
 - d) Guarantee of right to life, liberty and security of person, equality before law and equal protection without discrimination
7. In the new Panchayati Raj Bill enacted in 1993, there are several fresh provisions deviating from the past. Which one of the following is not such provision? [1999]
- a) A number of added responsibilities in the area of agriculture, rural development, primary education and social forestry among others.
 - b) Elections being made mandatory for all posts at the time they are due.
 - c) A statutory representation for women in the panchayats, up-to a third of the strength.
 - d) Regular remuneration to the panchayat members, so as to ensure their punctuality and accountability.
8. Which one of the following was NOT proposed by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in the area of Panchayati Raj? [1997]
- a) Thirty per cent seats in all elected rural local bodies will be reserved for women candidates at all levels
 - b) The States will constitute their Finance Commissions to allocate resources to Panchayati Raj Institutions

- c) The Panchayati Raj elected functionaries will be disqualified to hold their offices if they have more than two children
d) The elections will be held in six months' time if Panchayati Raj bodies are superseded or dissolved by the State government
9. What is the system of governance in the Panchayati Raj setup? [1996]
a) Single tier structure of local self-government at the village level
b) Two tier system of local self-government at the village and block levels
c) Three tier structure of local self-government, at the village, block and district levels
d) Four tier system of local self-government at the village, block, district and state levels
10. Which of the following is incorrect respect to Indian Local Government? [1995]
a) According to the Indian Constitution, local government is not an independent tier in the federal system
b) 30% of the seats in local bodies are reserved for women
c) Local government finances are to be provided by a Commission
d) Elections to local bodies are to be determined by a Commission

SCHEDULED AREAS & PESA ACT, 1996

11. The government enacted the Panchayat extension to scheduled areas (PESA) act in 1996, which one of the following is not identified as its objectives? [2013]
a) To provide self-governance
b) To recognise traditional rights
c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
d) To free tribal people from exploitation
12. In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. What is the role/power of Gram Sabha? [2012]
1) Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
2) Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
3) Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
b) 1 and 2 Only
c) 2 & 3 Only
d) 1, 2, & 3
13. Match List I (Local bodies) with List II (States as in 1999) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2000]
List I:
I. Zila Parishads at the sub divisional level,
II. Mandal Praja Parishad,
III. Tribal Councils,
IV. Absence of Village Panchayats
List II:
A) Andhra Pradesh,
B) Assam,
C) Mizoram,
D) Meghalaya
Codes (I II III IV):
a) I-B, II-A, III-D, IV-C
b) I-A, II-B, III-D, IV-C
c) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D
d) I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-D

MUNICIPALITIES AND URBAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

14. Consider the following statements: [2011]
- 1) In India, a Metropolitan Planning Committee:
 - 2) Is constituted under the provisions of the Constitution of India.
 - 3) Prepares the draft development plans for the metropolitan area.
 - 4) Has the sole responsibility for implementing government sponsored schemes in the metropolitan area.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 1, 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
15. In India, the first Municipal Corporation was set up in _____ ? [2009]
- a) Calcutta
 - b) Madras
 - c) Bombay
 - d) Delhi
16. A college student desires to get elected to the Municipal Council of his city. The validity of his nomination would depend on the important condition, among others, that: [2000]
- a) He obtains permission from the principal of his college
 - b) He is a member of a political party
 - c) His name figures in the Voters' List
 - d) He files a declaration owing allegiance to the Constitution of India

GENERAL CONCEPTS, HISTORY AND STATE CONTROL

17. The fundamental object of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? [2015]
- 1) People's participation in development
 - 2) Political accountability
 - 3) Democratic decentralization
 - 4) Financial mobilization
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - b) 2 and 4 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
18. In which one of the following areas does the State Government NOT have control over its local bodies? [2001]
- a) Citizen's grievances
 - b) Financial matters
 - c) Legislation
 - d) Personnel matters
19. Panchayati Raj was first introduced in India in October, 1959 in: [1998]
- a) Rajasthan
 - b) Tamil Nadu
 - c) Kerala
 - d) Karnataka

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

20. With reference to the Government of India's various programmes, what is Nirmal Gram Puraskar? [2006]
- a) It is an incentive scheme of scholarships for the single girl child in families in villages.

- b) It is an incentive scheme of scholarships for female sportspersons from villages.
- c) It is an incentive scheme for schools in the villages for computer education.
- d) It is an incentive scheme for Panchayati Raj institutions.

POST-INDEPENDENCE HISTORY

States Reorganisation | Political Parties | Major Events Chronology | Commissions | Books & Movements

19 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 4 Themes | 40+ Concepts

OVERVIEW (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
States Reorganisation & Indian Union	6	1999–2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Political Parties, Leadership & Elections	3	1998–2024	HIGH ↑
Chronology of Major Events	3	2004–2018	HIGH
Commissions & Enquiries	4	1995–2008	HIGH
Books, Movements & Miscellaneous	3	2007	MEDIUM

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- STATES REORGANISATION tested across 26 years (1999–2025): from Kacchativu/Tin Bigha transfers (1999) to Goa statehood (2000) to Gujarat mistake (2006) to NE state chronology (2007) to Andhra capital (2008) to 2025’s complex Arunachal/Nagaland/Tripura matching = PROGRESSIVELY more complex territorial knowledge
- 2024-2025 RESURGENCE after 10-year dormancy (2008–2018 sparse): party-leader matching (BJS=Mukherjee✓, Congress for Democracy=Jagjivan Ram✓, Socialist≠Rajagopalachari, Swatantra≠Narendra Dev) + NE state descriptions = Post-Independence History is BACK
- 2007 was POST-INDEPENDENCE YEAR: 4 questions in ONE paper covering state formation chronology, V.P. Menon’s book, Bhoodan at Pochampalli, Ayodhya book by P.V. Narasimha Rao = a KNOWLEDGE BLITZ
- CHRONOLOGICAL ORDERING is the SIGNATURE format: 3 questions requiring exact year-sequencing of events like SLV-3 launch (1980), Bangladesh formation (1971), Sikkim statehood (1975), Pokharan I (1974), Communist govt in Kerala (1957), SBI renaming (1955), Air India nationalisation (1953), Goa liberation (1961)
- COMMISSIONS peaked 2002–2008 then WENT SILENT: Liberhan (Ayodhya demolition), Veerappa Moily (2nd ARC), Dinesh Goswami (electoral reforms), Jain (Rajiv assassination), Sri Krishna (Mumbai riots), Wadhwa (Graham Staines) = COMMISSION-MATTER matching
- PARTY-LEADER matching returned in 2024 after ZERO questions since 1998: tests whether aspirants know FOUNDERS of parties that shaped India’s multi-party democracy

- TERRITORIAL KNOWLEDGE is tested with TRAP precision: Gujarat became state in 1960 (NOT 1966 as stated); Dadra & Nagar Haveli were under PORTUGUESE (not French); Diu is in Gulf of KHAMBHAT✓; Goa statehood 1987✓
- 2025's NE STATE matching tests DEEP state-specific knowledge: Nagaland via constitutional amendment✓, Tripura's Part C→UT→full state journey✓, Arunachal's capital (Itanagar, named after Ita Fort) and 2 National Parks✓
- BHOODAN MOVEMENT (Pochampalli, 1951) and V.P. Menon's book tested in 2007 = post-independence SOCIAL MOVEMENTS and INTEGRATION HISTORY are valued by UPSC
- The domain has a CLEAR cyclical pattern: intense 1998–2008, dormant 2009–2017, returning 2018–2025 = approximately 10-year cycles

PYQ TREND MAP**Most Asked**

- States reorganisation: formation, capitals, territories (6 Qs – #1)
- Commissions: Liberhan, Moily, Goswami, Jain (4 Qs)
- Chronological ordering of post-1947 events (3 Qs)
- Political parties and founders (3 Qs)
- Books and social movements (3 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- PRINCELY STATES INTEGRATION: Sardar Patel + V.P. Menon strategy, Instrument of Accession, Hyderabad/Junagadh/Kashmir holdouts – only V.P. Menon's book tested
- LINGUISTIC REORGANISATION: SRC 1955, Potti Sriramulu's fast, Andhra formation, subsequent demands – only Andhra's capital tested
- NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: India's founding role, Bandung, NAM summits – zero questions in post-independence domain
- GREEN REVOLUTION + WHITE REVOLUTION: Borlaug, Kurien, institutional changes – post-independence socio-economic transformation
- EMERGENCY (1975-77): constitutional provisions used, civil liberties curtailed, 42nd/44th Amendments – India's most consequential post-independence political event, ZERO direct questions
- RECENT STATE FORMATION: Jharkhand/Uttarakhand/Chhattisgarh (2000), Telangana (2014) – only older formations tested
- COALITION ERA (1989-2014): hung parliaments, minority governments, alliance politics – only United Front briefly tested
- ECONOMIC REFORMS 1991: liberalisation, globalisation, privatisation – the MOST transformative post-independence economic event, untested in this domain

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: TERRITORIAL EVOLUTION – Princely states integration (1947-49) → States Reorganisation (1956) → New states carved out (1960s-2000s) → UT status changes (Goa 1987, Delhi NCT 1991) = India's POLITICAL MAP is continuously redrawn
- CLUSTER 2: PARTY SYSTEM EVOLUTION – Congress dominance (1947-67) → Opposition emerges (BJS/Socialist/Swatantra) → Janata experiment (1977) → Coalition era (1989-2014) → Current system = India's party system has TRANSFORMED through 5 phases

- CLUSTER 3: POST-INDEPENDENCE CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK – 1950s (Constitution/SBI/AIR/Kerala) → 1960s (wars/new states/Green Revolution) → 1970s (Bangladesh/Pokharan/Sikkim/Emergency) → 1980s (SLV-3/Punjab/Bhopal) → 1990s (reforms/Ayodhya/coalition) = DECADE-WISE mastery needed
- CLUSTER 4: COMMISSION-EVENT MAPPING – Each major commission was a RESPONSE to a crisis: Liberhan (Ayodhya 1992), Sri Krishna (Mumbai 1993), Jain (Rajiv 1991), Wadhwa (Staines 1999), Moily (governance reform) = commissions as India's CRISIS RESPONSE mechanism
- CLUSTER 5: NE STATES AS SPECIAL CATEGORY – Each NE state has a UNIQUE formation path: Nagaland (constitutional amendment), Meghalaya/Tripura/Manipur (1972), Mizoram/Arunachal (1987), Sikkim (merger 1975) = NE requires SEPARATE study from peninsular India

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- STATES REORGANISATION tests whether aspirants understand how India's POLITICAL MAP was constructed – not by accident but through deliberate constitutional and political processes
- NE STATE-DESCRIPTION matching (2025) tests DEEP REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE: capital names, constitutional basis, administrative evolution – civil servants may be posted ANYWHERE in India
- CHRONOLOGICAL ORDERING tests TEMPORAL FRAMEWORK: can aspirants place 20+ post-independence events on a precise timeline? This is ESSENTIAL for understanding causation
- PARTY-LEADER matching tests India's DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM: BJS/Socialist/Swatantra/Congress for Democracy represent DIFFERENT ideological responses to Congress dominance
- COMMISSION-MATTER matching tests INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY: civil servants must know which commissions investigated which events because commissions are India's primary ENQUIRY mechanism
- TERRITORIAL TRAPS (Portuguese not French for Dadra; Gujarat 1960 not 1966) test whether aspirants VERIFY facts or rely on assumptions
- BHOODAN at Pochampalli tests whether aspirants know that India's post-independence SOCIAL MOVEMENTS began in specific LOCATIONS with specific events
- V.P. MENON's book tests INTEGRATION HISTORY: the process by which 565 princely states became part of India is among the most CONSEQUENTIAL administrative achievements in world history
- P.V. NARASIMHA RAO writing about Ayodhya tests whether aspirants know that political leaders were also AUTHORS who documented their experiences
- The 10-year CYCLICAL pattern (intense → dormant → intense) means this domain requires CONTINUOUS study, not last-minute cramming

The Hidden Syllabus

- INDIA'S TERRITORIAL CONSTRUCTION: the modern Indian map was built through FOUR processes: princely state integration (Patel/Menon), linguistic reorganisation (SRC 1955), new state creation (1960s-2000s), and UT management – each process used DIFFERENT constitutional mechanisms
- PARTY SYSTEM AS DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION: India's multi-party democracy wasn't GIVEN but EVOLVED: Congress dominance → Opposition parties → Coalition era = each phase required different governance skills
- CHRONOLOGY AS CAUSATION: UPSC's chronological ordering isn't mere date-memorisation but tests whether aspirants see that events CAUSED other events: Bangladesh (1971) → Shimla Agreement (1972); Pokharan I (1974) → Nuclear sanctions → self-reliance

- COMMISSIONS AS CRISIS RESPONSE: India's approach to crises is to APPOINT a commission – understanding this institutional pattern means understanding how India PROCESSES trauma and failure
- NE STATES AS SPECIAL GOVERNANCE: each NE state's unique path to statehood reflects DIFFERENT challenges: insurgency (Nagaland), merger (Sikkim), tribal identity (Mizoram/Arunachal) – NE governance requires SPECIALISED knowledge
- POST-INDEPENDENCE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: Bhoodan (land redistribution), Chipko (environment), Narmada (displacement) = India's civil society developed PARALLEL to its political institutions
- INTEGRATION AS ADMINISTRATIVE MIRACLE: transforming 565 independent states into a UNIFIED nation within 2 years is among the most consequential ADMINISTRATIVE achievements in world history – V.P. Menon's book documents this process

Top Conceptual Traps

- Dadra & Nagar Haveli = PORTUGUESE (NOT French) colonial rule
- Gujarat became state in 1960 (NOT 1966; Haryana = 1966)
- Andhra capital in 1953 = KURNOOL (not Hyderabad which came later)
- State formation: Nagaland (1963) → Haryana (1966) → Sikkim (1975) → Arunachal (1987)
- Socialist Party founder = Jayaprakash Narayan/Acharya Narendra Dev (NOT Rajagopalachari)
- Swatantra Party = C. RAJAGOPALACHARI (not Narendra Dev)
- Kacchativu to SRI LANKA; Tin Bigha corridor to BANGLADESH
- Liberhan = AYODHYA (not match-fixing/Best Bakery/Tehelka)
- Bhoodan began at POCHAMPALLI (not Udaygiri/Rapur/Venkatagiri)
- 'Ayodhya: 6 December 1992' = P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (not Shourie/Jaswant/Chandra Shekhar)
- Communist Kerala govt (1957) = FIRST democratically elected Communist govt in world
- SBI renamed from Imperial Bank in 1955 (not 1947 or 1950)
- Goa statehood = 1987 (liberation from Portugal was 1961)
- Roman script for Hindi = SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE (not Nehru/Gandhi/Azad)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	States reorganisation: formation, capitals	Laxmikanth Ch.5 + atlas	6 Qs (↑)
2	Post-independence chronology: decade-wise	India Year Book + compilations	3 Qs
3	Commission-matter matching	Current affairs compilations	4 Qs
4	Political parties: founders, ideology	Spectrum + Bipin Chandra	3 Qs (↑)
5	Books + social movements	Spectrum + compilations	3 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- PRINCELY STATES INTEGRATION: Patel-Menon strategy, Instrument of Accession, Hyderabad (Operation Polo), Junagadh (plebiscite), Kashmir (accession + Art 370) – the MOST consequential post-independence event with zero questions
- EMERGENCY 1975-77: Art 352 proclamation, civil liberties suspended, press censorship, 42nd Amendment during Emergency, Janata victory 1977, 44th Amendment rollback – India’s most significant political crisis UNASKED
- ECONOMIC REFORMS 1991: Manmohan Singh as FM, LPG reforms, Rao’s leadership, WTO accession, disinvestment – transformative economic event
- RECENT STATE FORMATION: Jharkhand/Uttarakhand/Chhattisgarh (2000) + Telangana (2014) – newer formations untested; Art 3 process
- NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: Nehru’s role, Bandung 1955, NAM principles, evolution post-Cold War – India’s foreign policy identity
- GREEN REVOLUTION: Norman Borlaug, M.S. Swaminathan, Punjab/Haryana focus, environmental consequences – agricultural transformation
- WHITE REVOLUTION: Verghese Kurien, Operation Flood, AMUL, cooperative model – dairy transformation
- LANGUAGE MOVEMENTS: Potti Sriramulu (Andhra), anti-Hindi agitation (Tamil Nadu), 3-language formula – linguistic identity politics
- KASHMIR: accession, Art 370, wars (1947/1965/1999), abrogation 2019 – India’s most complex territorial issue
- POST-INDEPENDENCE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: Chipko, Narmada Bachao, Total Revolution (JP), anti-dowry, RTI movement – civil society evolution
- COALITION POLITICS (1989-2014): V.P. Singh, Deve Gowda, Vajpayee, UPA – governance under coalition constraints
- NE INSURGENCY + ACCORD HISTORY: Naga accord, Mizo accord, AFSPA, Look East policy – NE as governance challenge

POST-INDEPENDENCE HISTORY**REORGANIZATION OF STATES AND EVOLUTION OF THE INDIAN UNION**

1. Consider the following pairs: [2025]

State – Description

I. Arunachal Pradesh : The capital is named after a fort, and the State has two National Parks.

II. Nagaland : The State came into existence on the basis of a Constitutional Amendment Act.

III. Tripura : Initially a Part 'C' State, it became a centrally administered territory with the reorganization of States in 1956 and later attained the status of a full-fledged State.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one
 - b) Only two
 - c) All the three
 - d) None
2. Which was the Capital of Andhra state when it was made a separate State in the year 1953? [2008]
- a) Guntur
 - b) Kurnool
 - c) Nellore
 - d) Warangal
3. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the formation as full States of the Indian Union? [2007]
- a) Sikkim - Arunachal Pradesh - Nagaland - Haryana
 - b) Nagaland - Haryana - Sikkim - Arunachal Pradesh
 - c) Sikkim - Haryana - Nagaland - Arunachal Pradesh
 - d) Nagaland - Arunachal Pradesh - Sikkim - Haryana

4. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2006]
- States Reorganisation Act: Andhra Pradesh
 - Treaty of Yandabu: Assam
 - State of Bilaspur: Himachal Pradesh
 - Year 1966: Gujarat becomes a State
5. Which one of the following statements is incorrect? [2000]
- Goa attained full statehood in 1987
 - Diu is an island in the Gulf of Khambhat
 - Daman and Diu were separated from Goa by the 56th Amendment of the Constitution of India
 - Dadra and Nagar Haveli were under French colonial rule till 1954
6. Which one of the following statements is correct? [1999]
- Kacchativu and Tin Bigha were territories acquired by the Indian Republic from the French
 - Kacchativu and Tin Bigha are territories handed over to Sri Lanka and Bangladeshi sovereignty respectively by the Government of India
 - Kacchativu and Tin Bigha are areas that were annexed by the Chinese in the 1962 Sino-Indian War
 - Kacchativu and Tin Bigha are enclaves which were transferred to India by lease arrangements with Sri Lanka and Pakistan respectively

POLITICAL PARTIES, LEADERSHIP, AND ELECTIONS

7. Consider the following pairs: [2024]
- Party – Its Leader
- Bharatiya Jana Sangh – Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
 - Socialist Party – C. Rajagopalachari
 - Congress for Democracy – Jagjivan Ram
 - Swatantra Party – Acharya Narendra Dev
- How many of the above are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
8. While delivering the presidential address, the Congress President who advocated the introduction of Roman script for Hindi language was: [2000]
- Mahatma Gandhi
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Abul Kalam Azad
 - Subhas Chandra Bose
9. Which of the following Parties were not a part of the United Front which was in power during '96-97'? [1998]
- Bahujan Samaj Party
 - Samata Party
 - Haryana Vikas Party
 - Asom Gana Parishad
- Codes:
- I, II, III and IV
 - I, II and III
 - III and IV
 - I and II

CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC MILESTONES

10. Consider the following events: [2018]
- The first democratically elected communist party government formed in a State in India.
 - India's then largest bank, "Imperial Bank of India" was renamed "State Bank of India".

- 3) Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.
- 4) Goa became a part of independent India.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

- a) 4-1-2-3
 - b) 3-2-1-4
 - c) 4-2-1-3
 - d) 3-1-2-4
11. Which is the correct chronological sequence of the major events given below? [2006]
- 1) SLV 3 Launch
 - 2) Formation of Bangladesh
 - 3) Sikkim becomes 22nd State of the Indian Union
 - 4) Pokharan I test.

Codes:

- a) 2, 4, 3, 1
 - b) 3, 1, 2, 4
 - c) 2, 1, 3, 4
 - d) 3, 4, 2, 1
12. Consider the following events: [2004]
- 1) Fourth general elections in India
 - 2) Formation of Haryana State
 - 3) Mysore named as Karnataka State
 - 4) Meghalaya and Tripura become full States

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the above?

- a) 2 1 4 3
- b) 4 3 2 1
- c) 2 3 4 1
- d) 4 1 2 3

COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND ENQUIRIES

13. For which one of the following reforms was a Commission set up under the Chairmanship of Veerappa Moily by the Government of India? [2008]
- a) Police Reforms
 - b) Tax Reforms
 - c) Reforms in Technical Education
 - d) Administrative Reforms
14. Which one of the following was probed by the Liberhan Commission? [2005]
- a) Test Cricket match fixing
 - b) Best Bakery Case
 - c) Tehelka Tapes Case
 - d) Demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya
15. Match List I (Commission) with List II (Matter of Enquiry) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2002]
- List I: A. Wadhwa Commission, B. Liberhan Commission, C. Sri Krishan Commission, D. Jain Commission
- List II: 1. The assistance of Rajiv Gandhi, 2. Killing of Graham Staines, 3. Demolition of a religious structural at Ayodhya, 4. Riots in Mumbai in 1993
- Codes (A B C D):
- a) 3 2 4 1
 - b) 2 3 4 1
 - c) 3 2 1 4
 - d) 2 3 1 4

16. The Dinesh Goswami Committee was concerned with: [1995]
 a) De-nationalisation of banks
 b) Electoral reforms
 c) Steps to put down insurgency in the North East
 d) The problem of the Chakmas

BOOKS, MOVEMENTS, AND MISCELLANEOUS

17. Who wrote the book- ‘The Story of the Integration of the Indian States’? [2007]
 a) B. N. Rao
 b) C. Rajagopalachari
 c) Krishna Menon
 d) V. P. Menon
18. Which one of the following places was associated with Acharya Vinoba Bhave’s Bhoodan Movement at the beginning of the movement? [2007]
 a) Udaygiri
 b) Rapur
 c) Pochampalli
 d) Venkatagiri
19. Who among the following wrote the book "Ayodhya: 6 December 1992"? [2007]
 a) Chandra Shekhar
 b) P. V. Narasimha Rao
 c) Jaswant Singh
 d) Arun Shourie

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Foreign Policy | Regional Orgs | Membership | Agreements | Geopolitics | Bilateral Relations

24 PYQs | 1997–2025 | 5 Themes | 50+ Concepts

OVERVIEW (1997–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
India’s Foreign Policy & Strategic Doctrines	3	1997–2016	HIGH
Regional Organizations & Groupings	6	2009–2025	VERY HIGH ↑↑
International Institutions & Membership	2	2008–2022	HIGH
Agreements, Conventions & Declarations	9	2010–2021	VERY HIGH
Geopolitics & Connectivity + Bilateral	4	1999–2025	HIGH ↑

DOMAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS

- 2016 was IR's DEFINING YEAR: 6 questions in ONE paper covering India-Africa Summit, GCC membership (Iran NOT member), RCEP (ASEAN context), TPP (neither statement correct), ISA (launched at COP21✓, not all UN members), Belt & Road (China) = UPSC tested India's ENTIRE multilateral landscape in one shot
- 2025 brought CURRENT MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: BIMSTEC (7 members, Dhaka Declaration debated, founding members, tourism sector), BRICS (16th Summit Kazan✓, Indonesia member✓, theme), INSTC (India to Central Asia to Europe via Iran) = UPSC is testing LIVE geopolitics
- AGREEMENTS cluster (9 Qs, 2010–2021) is the MOST DIVERSE: Panchsheel (India-China), UNCAC/UNTOC (anti-corruption), GDPR (EU data), ISA (solar), IAEA Additional Protocol (nuclear), Alma-Ata (health), CRC (child rights), Talanoa (climate), Right to City (urban) = UPSC tests agreements across ALL sectors
- INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP tested with BINARY PRECISION: India IS member of AIIB✓ + MTCR✓ + SCO✓ + ADB✓ + Colombo Plan✓; India is NOT member of APEC/OECD = aspirants must maintain an IS/IS NOT membership table
- REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS evolved from basic identification (GCC, ASEAN) to OPERATIONAL DETAIL (BIMSTEC sectors, BRICS expansion, ASEAN FTA partners) = testing moved from 'what is it' to 'how does it work'
- CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS appeared as NEW sub-domain: INSTC (2025: India-Iran-Central Asia-Europe), Chabahar (2017: bypasses Pakistan for Afghanistan access), BRI (2016: China) = India's INFRASTRUCTURE DIPLOMACY is now testable
- FOREIGN POLICY DOCTRINES tested only 3 TIMES in 28 years: Panchsheel (non-alignment NOT a principle, 1997), Look East (all three objectives correct, 2011), India-Africa Summit (3rd summit✓, not Nehru-initiated, 2016) = DOCTRINE testing is RARE but HIGH-VALUE
- NAM tested ONCE (2009: which President was NAM Secretary General) – NAM has been virtually ABANDONED as a testing topic despite being India's foundational foreign policy
- 2018–2019 INTERNATIONAL LAW cluster: IAEA Additional Protocol (civilian reactors under safeguards), UNCAC/UNTOC (UNODC mandated for both✓), GDPR (EU, 2018 implementation) = UPSC testing India's INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS
- The domain has SURGED post-2016: 18 of 24 questions (75%) came after 2010, with 12 after 2016 = IR is a POST-2016 GROWTH DOMAIN

PYQ TREND MAP

Most Asked

- International agreements/conventions: UNCAC, ISA, IAEA, GDPR, CRC (9 Qs – #1)
- Regional organisations: BIMSTEC, BRICS, ASEAN, GCC, RCEP (6 Qs ↑↑)
- Connectivity & geopolitics: INSTC, Chabahar, BRI (4 Qs ↑)
- Foreign policy doctrines: Panchsheel, Look East, India-Africa (3 Qs)
- India's institutional membership: AIIB/MTCR/SCO/ADB (2 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING

- QUAD: India-US-Japan-Australia, Malabar exercises, Indo-Pacific strategy – India's most significant NEW strategic alignment, ZERO questions
- I2U2: India-Israel-UAE-US, food/energy/tech corridor – NEW minilateral completely untested
- INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE CORRIDOR (IMEC): announced at G20 2023 – alternative to BRI, ZERO questions
- SCO specifics: India's role, China-Pakistan axis within SCO, counter-terrorism cooperation

- INDIA-CHINA boundary: LAC, Galwan, disengagement, buffer zones – India’s most consequential bilateral, only Panchsheel tested
- NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP: India’s membership bid, waiver (2008), current status – only IAEA protocol tested
- CLIMATE AGREEMENTS: Paris Agreement specifics, NDCs, COP outcomes, Loss & Damage Fund – only ISA + Talanoa tested
- NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST: India’s relations with Sri Lanka/Maldives/Nepal/Bangladesh/Bhutan – ZERO specific bilateral questions

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: INDIA’S MULTILATERAL WEB – UN system + BRICS + SCO + BIMSTEC + ASEAN + SAARC + G20 + QUAD + NAM = India operates in 9+ multilateral frameworks, each serving DIFFERENT strategic purposes
- CLUSTER 2: CONNECTIVITY AS STRATEGY – INSTC (Iran route to Europe) + Chabahar (Afghanistan access) + IMEC (Middle East-Europe) + Kaladan (Myanmar-NE India) vs BRI (China’s alternative) = India’s COUNTER-CONNECTIVITY to Chinese BRI
- CLUSTER 3: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK – UNCAC (anti-corruption) + UNTOC (organised crime) + CRC (child rights) + GDPR (data) + Paris Agreement (climate) + IAEA (nuclear) = the TREATIES that bind India internationally
- CLUSTER 4: REGIONAL ORG ARCHITECTURE – BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal) + ASEAN (SE Asia) + SAARC (South Asia) + GCC (Gulf) + SCO (Central/West Asia) + BRICS (emerging economies) = each covers a DIFFERENT geographic/thematic space
- CLUSTER 5: INDIA’S STRATEGIC DOCTRINES – Panchsheel (1954, peaceful coexistence) → NAM (1961, non-alignment) → Look East (1991, SE Asia engagement) → Act East (2014, upgraded) → Neighbourhood First → Multi-alignment (current) = DOCTRINAL EVOLUTION over 70 years

HOW UPSC THINKS**Why UPSC Frames Such Questions**

- 2016’s 6-question IR BLITZ signals UPSC considers India’s GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT as core GS knowledge: civil servants implement foreign policy at border districts, ports, and international meetings
- AGREEMENT-CONVENTION matching tests whether aspirants can navigate the INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ARCHITECTURE that India operates within – UNCAC vs UNTOC confusion is DELIBERATE
- MEMBERSHIP IS/IS NOT testing ensures aspirants know India’s EXACT institutional footprint: being in AIIB but not APEC has strategic CONSEQUENCES
- CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS (INSTC/Chabahar) test whether aspirants understand India’s INFRASTRUCTURE DIPLOMACY: ports and corridors are as strategic as armies
- Non-alignment NOT being a Panchsheel principle (1997) tests whether aspirants DISTINGUISH bilateral frameworks from multilateral doctrines
- GCC without Iran tests GEOPOLITICAL KNOWLEDGE: Iran’s exclusion from GCC despite being a Gulf country reflects Sunni-Shia + monarchy-theocracy divides
- BIMSTEC founding members tested in 2025 reflects UPSC’s ‘Bay of Bengal’ priority: BIMSTEC is India’s preferred alternative to SAARC (Pakistan factor)
- BRICS EXPANSION (2025) tests whether aspirants track REAL-TIME geopolitical changes: new members, summit themes, evolving architecture
- IAEA Additional Protocol = CIVILIAN only tests the SOVEREIGNTY BOUNDARY: India keeps military nuclear outside international inspection
- ISA’s non-universal membership tests whether aspirants READ carefully: ‘launched at COP21’ ≠ ‘all UN members’

The Hidden Syllabus

- INDIA'S MULTI-ALIGNMENT: India is simultaneously in BRICS (with China/Russia), QUAD (with US/Japan/Australia), SCO (with China/Pakistan), and BIMSTEC (without Pakistan/China) = India's foreign policy is NOT aligned with any single bloc but STRATEGICALLY placed in MULTIPLE frameworks
- CONNECTIVITY AS NEW COLD WAR: INSTC/Chabahar/IMEC (India's corridors) vs BRI/CPEC (China's corridors) = the 21st century's great power competition is fought through INFRASTRUCTURE, not armies
- AGREEMENT PROLIFERATION: India is signatory to hundreds of agreements (UNCAC/UNTOC/CRC/Paris/IAEA etc.) – each creates LEGAL OBLIGATIONS that civil servants must implement domestically
- REGIONAL ORG REDUNDANCY: BIMSTEC, SAARC, ASEAN, SCO all have overlapping members – India uses DIFFERENT organisations for DIFFERENT purposes (BIMSTEC bypasses Pakistan; SCO engages China; ASEAN accesses SE Asia)
- FOREIGN POLICY EVOLUTION: from Panchsheel (idealism) to NAM (non-alignment) to Look/Act East (pragmatism) to Multi-alignment (strategic autonomy) = India's doctrine EVOLVED from ideology to interest-based engagement
- CIVILIAN-MILITARY NUCLEAR DIVIDE: IAEA inspects civilian✓ but NOT military = India's nuclear sovereignty is LEGALLY protected while allowing international cooperation
- DIASPORA AS STRATEGIC ASSET: Operation Sukoon (Lebanon) tests India's OBLIGATION to protect citizens abroad – diaspora protection is now a ROUTINE foreign policy function
- GLOBAL SOUTH LEADERSHIP: India-Africa Summit, ISA, BRICS, G20 presidency = India positioning itself as VOICE of developing world, not just South Asian power

Top Conceptual Traps

- NON-ALIGNMENT is NOT a Panchsheel principle (Panchsheel = 5 bilateral principles)
- Iran is NOT a GCC member (GCC = 6 monarchies of Arabian Peninsula)
- India is NOT a member of APEC or OECD
- BIMSTEC founding members: BIST (Bangladesh/India/Sri Lanka/Thailand) – NOT Nepal initially
- RCEP = ASEAN context (not G20/SCO/SAARC)
- TPP: NOT all Pacific Rim countries; NOT just maritime security – BOTH false
- ISA does NOT include all UN members (expanded but not universal)
- IAEA Additional Protocol: CIVILIAN reactors only (NOT military)
- UNCAC ≠ Smuggling Protocol (that's UNTOC)
- Under2 Coalition = CLIMATE (NOT child rights)
- Alma-Ata = HEALTHCARE (not disarmament/trade)
- India-Africa Summit NOT initiated by Nehru in 1951 (first was 2008)
- INSTC: via IRAN (not China or Bangladesh-Myanmar)
- Chabahar: bypasses PAKISTAN (not reduces China dependence directly)
- BRICS 16th Summit theme: Multilateralism (NOT Multiculturalism)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Concept	Source	Freq
1	Agreements/conventions: UNCAC/ISA/IAEA/GDPR	Current affairs + treaties	9 Qs
2	Regional orgs: BIMSTEC/BRICS/ASEAN/GCC	Current affairs + Laxmikanth	6 Qs (11)

3	Connectivity: INSTC/Chabahar/BRI	Current affairs + MEA	4 Qs (↑)
4	Foreign policy doctrines: Panchsheel/NAM/Look East	NCERT + Rajesh Rajagopalan	3 Qs
5	India's membership: IS/IS NOT table	MEA website + compilations	2 Qs

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026

- QUAD: India-US-Japan-Australia, Malabar exercises, Indo-Pacific vision, vaccine initiative, tech cooperation – India's most significant NEW alignment with ZERO questions
- G20 INDIA PRESIDENCY (2023): New Delhi Declaration, African Union admission, One Earth-One Family-One Future, digital public infrastructure – India's biggest multilateral hosting
- INDIA-MIDDLE EAST-EUROPE CORRIDOR (IMEC): announced at G20 New Delhi, railway + shipping + digital, alternative to BRI, India-UAE-Saudi-EU partners
- SCO SPECIFICS: India's presidency 2023, Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), energy cooperation, China-Pakistan dynamics within SCO
- INDIA-CHINA: LAC, Galwan (2020), disengagement, buffer zones, trade despite tensions, border infrastructure – defining bilateral relationship
- NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP: India's membership bid, 2008 waiver, consensus requirement, China's block – nuclear diplomacy
- PARIS AGREEMENT: India's NDC update, net-zero 2070 target, Panchamrit pledges, climate finance – India's climate commitments
- I2U2: India-Israel-UAE-US, food security corridor, space cooperation, clean energy – NEW minilateral
- COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT): India's position, Annex-2 states, entry into force requirements
- NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST: India-Sri Lanka (economic crisis), India-Maldives, India-Nepal (border), India-Bangladesh (Teesta) – specific bilateral issues
- VACCINE MAITRI + pandemic diplomacy: India's vaccine exports, WHO pandemic treaty negotiations
- INDO-PACIFIC: concept definition, strategic significance, freedom of navigation, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY & STRATEGIC DOCTRINES

1. Consider the following statements: [2016]

- 1) The India-Africa Summit
- 2) Held in 2015 was the third such Summit.
- 3) Was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. With reference to the Look East policy of India, consider the following statements: [2011]

- 1) India wants to establish itself as an important regional player in the east Asian affairs.
- 2) India wants to plug the vacuum created by the termination of the cold war.
- 3) India wants to restore the historical and cultural ties with its neighbours in southeast and east Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
3. Which one of the following is NOT a principle of “Panchsheel”? [1997]
- a) Non alignment
 - b) Peaceful Co-existence
 - c) Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty
 - d) Mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPINGS (BIMSTEC, BRICS, ASEAN, ETC.)

4. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC: [2025]
- I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.
 - II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.
 - III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.
 - IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of tourism is being led by India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) I and II
 - b) II and III
 - c) I and IV
 - d) I only
5. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS: [2025]
- I. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.
 - II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
 - III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) I and II
 - b) II and III
 - c) I and III
 - d) I only
6. Consider the following countries: [2018]
Australia, 2. Canada, 3. China, 4. India, 5. Japan, 6. USA
Which of the above are among the ‘free trade partners’ of ASEAN?
- a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
 - b) 3, 4, 5 and 6
 - c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
 - d) 2, 3, 4 and 6
7. Which of the following is not a member of ‘Gulf Cooperation Council’? [2016]
- a) Iran
 - b) Saudi Arabia
 - c) Oman
 - d) Kuwait
8. The term ‘Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership’ often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as: [2016]
- a) G20
 - b) ASEAN
 - c) SCO
 - d) SAARC
9. Among the following Presidents of India, who was also the Secretary General of Non-aligned Movement for some period? [2009]

- a) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- b) Varahagiri Venkatagiri
- c) Giani Zail Singh
- d) Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS & MEMBERSHIP

10. Consider the following: [2022]

- 1) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- 2) Missile Technology Control Regime
- 3) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India is a member of which of the above?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

11. India is a member of which of the following? [2008]

- 1) Asian Development Bank
- 2) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- 3) Colombo Plan
- 4) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, CONVENTIONS & DECLARATIONS

12. Consider the following statements: [2021]

- 1) 'Right to the City' is an agreed human right and the UN-Habitat monitors the commitments made by each country in this regard.
- 2) 'Right to the City' gives every occupant of the city the right to reclaim public spaces and public participation in the city.
- 3) 'Right to the City' means that the State cannot deny any public service or facility to the unauthorised colonies in the city.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 2 and 3

13. Consider the following pairs: [2020]

International Agreement/set-up : Subject

- 1) Alma-Ata Declaration : Healthcare of the people
- 2) Hague Convention : Biological & chemical weapons
- 3) Talanoa Dialogue : Global climate change
- 4) Under2 Coalition : Child rights

Which of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

14. Consider the following statements: [2019]

- 1) The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a 'Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air'.
- 2) The UNCAC is the ever-first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument.
- 3) A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.
- 4) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 4 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
15. Which of the following adopted a law on data protection and privacy for its citizens known as 'General Data Protection Regulation' in April 2016 and started implementation of it from 25th May, 2018? [2019]
- a) Australia
 - b) Canada
 - c) The European Union
 - d) The United States of America
16. In the Indian Context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'? [2018]
- a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
 - b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
 - c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
 - d) The country automatically becomes the member of NSG.
17. With reference to the 'Trans-Pacific Partnership', consider the following statements: [2016]
- 1) It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
 - 2) It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
18. Consider the following statements: [2016]
- 1) The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
 - 2) The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
19. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, consider the following: [2010]
- 1) The Right to Development.
 - 2) The Right to Expression.
 - 3) The Right to Development.
- Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?
- a) 1 only

- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

GEOPOLITICS & CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS

20. India is one of the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transportation corridor, which will connect: [2025]
- a) India to Central Asia to Europe via Iran
 - b) India to Central Asia via China
 - c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar
 - d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan
21. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India? [2017]
- a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
 - b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
 - c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
 - d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.
22. 'Belt and Road Initiative' is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of: [2016]
- a) African Union
 - b) Brazil
 - c) European Union
 - d) China

BILATERAL RELATIONS & OPERATIONS

23. What was the purpose of the Operation Sukoon launched by the Government of India? [2007]
- a) Helping Indonesia in its efforts to rehabilitate the victims of earthquake in that country
 - b) Evacuating the Indian Nations from Lebanon during the conflict in the Middle East.
 - c) Assisting United Nations in its efforts to help the civil war victims in the Darfur region of North Africa
 - d) Providing a relief package to farmers after a spate of suicides by other farmers in Andhra Pradesh
24. In the November 1998 Composite Dialogue Process between India and Pakistan, three contentious issues listed below as 1, 2 and 3 were discussed. Contentious Issues: [1999]



- 1) Disengagement of troops
- 2) Settlement of boundary dispute
- 3) Sharing river water

Match the issues with the areas marked in the map as A, B and C and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) A 2, B 1, C 3
- b) A 2, B 3, C 1
- c) A 1, B 3, C 2
- d) A 3, B 2, C 1



POLITY MIRROR

Your Complete Guide to Indian Polity
for UPSC & TNPSC – Prelims and Mains

About This Book

Polity Mirror is not just another textbook on Indian Polity. It is a comprehensive, exam-oriented, and deeply accessible companion designed specifically for UPSC Civil Services and TNPSC aspirants preparing for both Prelims and Mains examinations.

Spanning **84 chapters** and approximately **1,200+ pages**, this book covers the entire spectrum of Indian Polity – from the very foundations of what a constitution means, all the way to contemporary debates on electoral reforms, anti-corruption bodies, human rights, and administrative reform commissions. Whether you are a beginner stepping into the world of Indian governance for the first time, or a serious aspirant revising for your final attempt, Polity Mirror is built to serve you at every stage of your preparation.

What Makes This Book Different?

1. Written in Simple, Conversational English

The single biggest barrier for most aspirants is not the subject itself – it is the language in which it is presented. Most polity books are written in dense, legalistic, academic prose that feels like reading a law textbook rather than learning a subject. Polity Mirror breaks this pattern entirely. Every concept, every article, every amendment, and every landmark judgment is explained the way a patient, knowledgeable teacher would explain it to you in a classroom – in clear, simple, everyday English. Complex constitutional provisions are unpacked with relatable language and real-world context, ensuring that you actually understand what you are reading, not merely memorise it.

2. The Constitution in Your Daily Life

One of the most unique features of Polity Mirror is how it consistently connects the Constitution to everyday life. Before diving into the technical details of any chapter, the book shows you *how that topic actually affects you*. When you read a newspaper critical of the government, that is Article 19(1)(a) at work. When you travel freely from Tamil Nadu to Kashmir without a passport, that is Article 19(1)(d). When your child receives free education till age 14, that is Article 21A. When India refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, that is sovereignty in action. This approach transforms the Constitution from an abstract legal document into a living, breathing reality that you can see, feel, and relate to.

3. Learning Outcomes at the Start of Every Chapter

Every single chapter begins with a structured **Learning Outcomes** section that tells you exactly what you will learn. This serves as both a roadmap before you begin reading and a checklist after you finish. You know precisely what the chapter expects you to understand – definitions, distinctions, constitutional provisions, landmark cases, and critical analysis points – before you even start. This is especially valuable for revision: you can glance at the Learning Outcomes and instantly assess whether you have mastered the chapter.

4. Exam Alerts and Exam Traps

Throughout the book, you will find strategically placed **Exam Alert** and **Exam Trap** boxes. Exam Alerts highlight the most important points that frequently appear in competitive examinations — the facts, distinctions, and provisions that examiners love to test. Exam Traps, on the other hand, specifically warn you about common misconceptions and tricky statements designed to confuse you. For instance, the book flags common traps like “A Constitution must be a single written document” (FALSE — the UK has an unwritten constitution) or “Only democracies have constitutions” (FALSE — China and North Korea also have constitutions). These alerts and traps are born from a deep understanding of how competitive exam questions are framed.

5. Exhaustive and Comprehensive Coverage

Polity Mirror covers the entire Indian Polity syllabus in extraordinary depth. The 84 chapters include foundational concepts (State, Nation, Sovereignty, Forms of Government), the historical evolution of the Indian Constitution (from the Regulating Act of 1773 through every Government of India Act to the Constituent Assembly debates), every Part and Schedule of the Constitution, detailed treatment of Fundamental Rights with individual chapters for each right, the complete federal structure including legislative, administrative, and financial relations, the entire Union and State executive and legislature, the judiciary from Supreme Court down to grassroots-level courts and tribunals, local government including both rural and urban bodies, elections and electoral reforms, political parties and pressure groups, and every major constitutional and statutory body. There is no topic in the UPSC or TNPSC polity syllabus that this book leaves untouched.

6. Landmark Judgments and Supreme Court References

Indian Polity cannot be understood without understanding the judiciary’s role in shaping the Constitution. Polity Mirror integrates **landmark Supreme Court judgments** directly into the flow of each topic. From the Kesavananda Bharati case (Basic Structure Doctrine) to Navtej Singh Johar (Section 377), from S.R. Bommai (limits on President’s Rule) to Maneka Gandhi (expanded scope of Article 21), every crucial judgment is explained in context — not as a separate appendix, but woven into the narrative where it naturally belongs. This helps you understand not just what the Constitution says, but how it has been interpreted, challenged, and evolved through judicial decisions.

7. Perspectives of Key Thinkers and Philosophers

Polity Mirror does not restrict itself to bare provisions and dry facts. It enriches every topic with the views and theories of great thinkers — Aristotle, Bodin, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Dicey, Austin, Ambedkar, Nehru, Ernest Renan, Benedict Anderson, Max Weber, and many others. When you study sovereignty, you do not just learn the definition — you trace its intellectual evolution from Bodin in 1576 through Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Austin, and Dicey, all the way to modern international law. This philosophical depth is invaluable for Mains answer writing, where examiners reward analytical thinking and the ability to cite diverse perspectives.

8. Structured Comparison Tables

The book is rich with **comparison tables** that place contrasting concepts side by side for instant clarity. State vs. Nation, Parliamentary vs. Presidential, Federal vs. Unitary, Fundamental Rights vs. Directive Principles, Lok Sabha vs.

Rajya Sabha, Supreme Court vs. High Court – every major distinction that examiners test is presented in a clear, visual, tabular format. These tables are designed for quick revision and last-minute recall, making your preparation both efficient and effective.

9. Critical Analysis and Current Relevance

Polity Mirror goes beyond describing what the Constitution says. It asks *why it matters today*. Each chapter includes critical analysis sections and current relevance discussions that connect constitutional provisions to contemporary issues – the CAA-NRC debate, Centre-State tensions during COVID-19, the GST Council's federal implications, digital sovereignty, the R2P doctrine, and more. This is exactly the kind of analytical depth that UPSC Mains demands and that sets apart a 100-mark answer from a 60-mark answer.

10. Storytelling and Analogies That Make Concepts Stick

Rather than simply stating facts, Polity Mirror uses vivid analogies and storytelling to make concepts memorable. Fundamental Rights are described as the “traffic lights of democracy.” The Constitution is presented not as a dusty legal text but as a “civilizational project.” A busy city intersection without traffic rules becomes the metaphor for understanding why we need rights and limits on government power. These narrative techniques ensure that what you read stays with you long after you close the book – which is exactly what you need in an examination hall.

Who Is This Book For?

Polity Mirror is written for every serious aspirant of competitive examinations in India. It is designed for UPSC Civil Services (IAS, IPS, IFS) aspirants preparing for both Prelims and Mains, TNPSC Group I, II, and IV aspirants, State PCS aspirants across India, law students and judicial services aspirants who need a strong constitutional foundation, and anyone who simply wants to understand how India's democracy works. Whether you are studying in English as your first language or your second, the simple and clear writing style ensures that language is never a barrier between you and the knowledge you need.

Why Should You Choose Polity Mirror?

Because this book was written with one simple belief: ***Indian Polity should not be difficult to understand. It should be difficult to forget.***

Most polity books give you information. Polity Mirror gives you understanding. It does not just tell you that Article 21 protects the right to life – it makes you feel why those right matters, how it has been expanded by the Supreme Court over decades, and how it affects the life of every Indian citizen every single day. It does not just list the features of a federal system – it shows you those features playing out in real Centre-State conflicts that you read about in the newspaper.

With 84 meticulously crafted chapters, Learning Outcomes that guide your study, Exam Alerts that sharpen your focus, Exam Traps that protect you from mistakes, landmark judgments woven into every topic, the wisdom of great

thinkers enriching every discussion, and a writing style that feels like a conversation rather than a lecture – Polity Mirror is the only Indian Polity book you will ever need.

Read it. Understand it. Reflect it.

That is what a mirror does.

**HOW TO USE
POLITY MIRROR
TO CRACK UPSC PRELIMS**

A PYQ-Based Study Guide (1995–2025)

Based on 30 Years of UPSC Prelims Questions – Mapped to Polity Mirror Chapters

Why This Guide Matters

Between 1995 and 2025, UPSC has asked approximately **285 questions** on Indian Polity in the Prelims examination alone. These questions are not random. They follow clear patterns, favour certain topics, and repeatedly test specific constitutional provisions, landmark judgments, and conceptual distinctions.

This guide does something no other resource does: it maps **every single PYQ topic** directly to the chapters of **Polity Mirror**, showing you exactly where to find the answer, how the book prepares you for that question, and what patterns to watch for. Think of this as your battle plan – a strategic bridge between your book and the exam paper.

Section 1: UPSC Prelims – Topic Weightage & Chapter Mapping

The table below shows how UPSC distributes questions across 15 polity topics, and which chapters of Polity Mirror cover each topic. Use this to **prioritise your study time**.

	PYQ Topic	Qs	2011–25	2022–25	Polity Mirror Chapters
A	Political Theory	27	9%	3%	Ch 1–7
B	Indian Political System	11	3%	0%	Ch 3–6
C	Indian Constitution	45	11%	13%	Ch 8–14, 25, 28–30
D	Fundamental Rights	23	7%	3%	Ch 16–24
E	DPSPs & Fundamental Duties	21	8%	2%	Ch 26–27
F	Ministers & Secretariat	29	4%	2%	Ch 39
G	Executive – union- State	29	6%	12%	Ch 37–38, 50
H	Union & State Legislature	51	18%	18%	Ch 36, 41–49, 53
I	Judiciary & Judicial System	38	6%	7%	Ch 54–59
J	Elections & ECI	18	3%	2%	Ch 66–68
K	Const. & Non-Const. Bodies	32	7%	13%	Ch 40, 52, 75–79
L	Important Acts & Amendments	30	6%	13%	Ch 28, 80–83

M	Panchayati Raj & Local Govt	12	3%	2%	Ch 60–63
N	Post-Independence History	5	1%	3%	Ch 8–9
O	International Relations	29	8%	7%	Ch 2 (Sovereignty)

Key Insight: Union & State Legislature (18%) and President/VP/Governor (12% in recent years) together account for nearly one-third of all polity questions. The recent trend (2022–2025) shows a sharp rise in questions on Constitutional Bodies (13%), Important Acts & Amendments (13%), and the Indian Constitution (13%). Polity Mirror covers all of these in dedicated chapters.

Section 2: Topic-Wise PYQ Analysis with Polity Mirror Examples

Below, we take each major PYQ topic, show you actual UPSC questions, and demonstrate exactly how Polity Mirror prepares you to answer them.

A) Political Theory – Chapters 1–7

UPSC loves to test foundational concepts like State, Constitution, Rule of Law, Liberty, and forms of government. These questions test your conceptual clarity, not memorisation.

► PYQ Example 1: UPSC 2023

"Which one of the following statements best reflects the chief purpose of the 'Constitution' of a country?" Answer: (c) It defines and limits the powers of government.

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 1 (Introduction to Constitution) opens with the line: **"A constitution is the fundamental law of the land – the supreme legal document from which all other laws derive their authority."** It then explains K.C. Wheare's five functions of a constitution, including "To Limit Power and prevent its abuse." The Exam Alert box in this chapter specifically warns: **"The primary purpose of a constitution is to LIMIT government power, not just to organize it."** A student who reads Chapter 1 would pick the correct answer instantly.

► PYQ Example 2: UPSC 2021

"Which one of the following best defines the term 'State'?" Answer: (a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organised government.

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 2 (State, Nation & Sovereignty) dedicates an entire section to the **Montevideo Convention (1933)** and its four criteria: defined territory, permanent population, government, and sovereignty. It even includes a comparison table of **State vs. Nation** – a distinction UPSC has tested multiple times. The book makes it unforgettable by noting: **"A State is an institutional fact. A Nation is a psychological fact."**

► PYQ Example 3: UPSC 2020

"A Parliamentary System of Government is one in which..." Answer: (b) The Government is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by it.

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 3 (Government – Forms, Systems & Classifications) contains a detailed **Parliamentary vs. Presidential** comparison table covering executive type, accountability, tenure, separation of powers, and checks & balances. It highlights **collective responsibility to the legislature** as THE defining feature. The book even explains **why India chose the Parliamentary System** – familiarity, daily accountability, avoiding deadlock, and Ambedkar's reasoning – which is essential for Mains.

C) Indian Constitution – Chapters 8–14, 25, 28–30

This is a **high-weightage** topic (13% in recent years). UPSC tests Schedules, amendment procedures, federal provisions, Basic Structure, Preamble, and sources.

▶ **PYQ Example 1: UPSC 2024**

"As per Article 368, Parliament may amend any provision by way of: (1) Addition (2) Variation (3) Repeal." Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3 – All three.

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 28 (Constitutional Amendments) covers Article 368 in exhaustive detail, including the exact wording that amendment can be by way of **addition, variation, or repeal**. The book's Exam Alert box flags this precise three-part formula as a frequently tested point.

▶ **PYQ Example 2: UPSC 2022**

"A bill amending the Constitution requires prior recommendation of the President – True or False?" A Constitution Amendment Bill must be passed by special majority with no provision for joint sitting – True or False?" Answer: (b) Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 28 explicitly states: "**No prior recommendation of the President is required for introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill**" – and marks this as an **Exam Trap**. It also explains that **there is no provision for a joint sitting** on amendment bills, unlike ordinary bills. These are exactly the kind of tricky distinctions the Exam Trap boxes are designed to catch.

▶ **PYQ Example 3: UPSC 2020**

"The Constitution of India defines its 'basic structure' in terms of federalism, secularism, fundamental rights and democracy – True or False?" Answer: Statement 1 is FALSE (the Constitution does NOT define basic structure; the Supreme Court did in Kesavananda Bharati, 1973).

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 25 (Basic Structure Doctrine) is an entire chapter dedicated to this topic. It clearly states: "**The term 'Basic Structure' is NOT mentioned anywhere in the Constitution. It is a judicial doctrine evolved by the Supreme Court.**" This is exactly the kind of trap UPSC sets – and the kind Polity Mirror's Exam Trap boxes are built to expose.

D) Fundamental Rights – Chapters 16–24

UPSC consistently tests Article numbers, the scope of rights, citizen-only vs all-person rights, and landmark judgments expanding rights.

► PYQ Example 1: UPSC 2024

"Under which Article has the Supreme Court placed the Right to Privacy?" Answer: (d) Article 21.

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 19 (Right to Freedom) extensively covers how **Article 21** has been expanded by the Supreme Court to include Right to Privacy (K.S. Puttaswamy, 2017), Right to Live with Dignity, Right to Livelihood, and many more. The book traces this expansion through multiple landmark judgments, making it impossible to forget that privacy falls under Article 21.

► PYQ Example 2: UPSC 2020

"Which category of Fundamental Rights incorporates protection against untouchability?" Answer: (d) Right to Equality.

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 18 (Right to Equality) covers Articles 14–18 in individual detail. **Article 17 (Abolition of Untouchability)** is explained as a right available against both the State AND private individuals – one of the rare “horizontal” rights. The comparison table matching each Article to its provision is exactly what UPSC tests in match-the-following questions (like PYQ 2004).

E) DPSPs & Fundamental Duties – Chapters 26–27

► PYQ Example: UPSC 2017

"Which principle was added to DPSPs by the 42nd Amendment?" Answer: (b) Participation of workers in management of industries.

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 26 (Directive Principles of State Policy) categorises DPSPs into **Socialist, Gandhian, and Liberal-Intellectual** principles and marks which ones were added by the **42nd and 44th Amendments**. The book’s structured categorisation makes it easy to remember that worker participation in management was a **42nd Amendment addition** – a favourite UPSC question.

G) President, Vice-President & Governor – Chapters 37–38, 50

This topic has **surged to 12%** in recent years (2022–2025). UPSC is increasingly testing Governor’s discretion, ordinance power, pardoning power, and Presidential election.

► PYQ Example 1: UPSC 2025

"An Ordinance can amend any Central Act / abridge a Fundamental Right / come into effect from a back date – which are correct?" Answer: (c) I and III only (Ordinance cannot abridge Fundamental Rights).

→ How Polity Mirror Prepares You:

Chapter 37 (The President) covers ordinance-making power under **Article 123** in meticulous detail, including the landmark **D.C. Wadhwa case** on repeated re-promulgation. The book explicitly notes that ordinances have the **same force as an Act of Parliament** but are subject to **judicial review** and cannot violate Fundamental Rights. This is exactly the distinction UPSC tested.

► **PYQ Example 2: UPSC 2025**

"Governor's discretionary powers / President reserving bills without Governor forwarding" – tested extensively.

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 50 (The Governor) contains a dedicated section on **discretionary powers**, including reserving bills for the President, reporting to the President for President's Rule, and appointing the CM when no party has a clear majority. The book references the **Sarkaria Commission** and the **Punchhi Commission** recommendations – both of which have appeared in PYQs.

H) Union & State Legislature – Chapters 36, 41–49, 53

The **single biggest topic** at 18% weightage. UPSC tests parliamentary procedures, money vs finance bills, joint sittings, committee functions, anti-defection, question hour, and legislative process.

► **PYQ Pattern:**

Questions repeatedly test: **Money Bill vs Finance Bill** distinctions, **powers exclusive to Lok Sabha vs Rajya Sabha**, the **Anti-Defection Law (10th Schedule)**, **Parliamentary Committees** (PAC, Estimates, etc.), and **Sessions of Parliament** (prorogation vs adjournment vs dissolution).

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Polity Mirror dedicates **9 separate chapters** (41–49) to Parliament alone – covering Anti-Defection (Ch 42), Officers of Parliament (Ch 43), Sessions (Ch 44), Parliamentary Devices like Question Hour and Zero Hour (Ch 45), Legislative Procedure including Money Bill vs Ordinary Bill (Ch 46), Budget (Ch 47), and Parliamentary Committees (Ch 49). Each chapter contains comparison tables and Exam Alerts targeted at the exact distinctions UPSC loves to test.

K-L) Constitutional Bodies & Important Acts – Chapters 28, 40, 52, 75–83

These two topics have **combined to 26% in recent years** – the fastest-growing segment. UPSC now heavily tests bodies like Lokpal, Finance Commission, NHRC, CAG, ECI, and recent Acts.

► **PYQ Example: UPSC 2025**

"Statements about Lokpal: power applies to public servants, Chairperson qualifications, age requirement, inquiry against PM." This required deep knowledge of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

→ **How Polity Mirror Prepares You:**

Chapter 78 (Lokpal and Lokayuktas) covers the Lokpal Act 2013 in comprehensive detail – composition, jurisdiction, qualifications, powers over PM, and comparison with international ombudsman models. Chapter 75 covers all Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies in a systematic manner, making revision efficient. Chapters 80–83 cover RTI Act, Human Rights, Consumer Protection, and Administrative Reform Commissions.

Section 3: How to Use Polity Mirror for Prelims – A Step-by-Step Strategy

Step 1: First Reading – Build the Foundation (4–6 weeks)

Read Polity Mirror cover to cover in chapter order. Do not skip any chapter. Pay special attention to the **Learning Outcomes** at the start of each chapter – they tell you exactly what the chapter expects you to know. Read actively: underline key Article numbers, highlight Exam Alerts, and mark Exam Traps with a special symbol. The book's simple English means you can cover 2–3 chapters per day without fatigue.

Step 2: Focus on High-Weightage Topics (2 weeks)

Using the weightage table in Section 1, prioritise revision of the top 5 topics: **Legislature (18%)**, **President/VP/Governor (12%)**, **Indian Constitution (13%)**, **Constitutional Bodies (13%)**, and **Important Acts (13%)**. These five topics alone account for nearly **75% of recent PYQ questions**. Re-read the relevant chapters and focus on comparison tables, Exam Alerts, and Exam Traps.

Step 3: PYQ Practice with the Book Open (2 weeks)

Attempt PYQs from 2015–2025 topic by topic. For every question you get wrong, go back to the exact chapter in Polity Mirror and find where the answer is covered. Mark that paragraph with a star. After this exercise, every starred paragraph becomes a **priority revision point**. You will find that over 90% of PYQ answers are directly covered in the book.

Step 4: Rapid Revision (1 week before exam)

In the final week, revise using three tools from the book: **(1) Learning Outcomes** – read only the Learning Outcomes of all 84 chapters as a self-test checklist; **(2) Exam Alerts** – re-read all 38 Exam Alert boxes; **(3) Comparison Tables** – glance through every comparison table in the book. This three-pass revision can be done in 2–3 days and will lock in the most exam-critical information.

Step 5: Last-Day Strategy

On the day before the exam, read only the **Exam Traps**. These 16 boxes contain the most commonly confused facts and tricky statements – exactly the kind of options UPSC uses as distractors. If you can avoid falling into these traps, you protect 10–15 marks that most aspirants lose.

The Polity Mirror Advantage

Here is what sets Polity Mirror apart when measured against 30 years of UPSC Prelims questions:

100% Syllabus Coverage: Every topic that UPSC has ever tested in Polity Prelims – from Political Theory to International Relations – is covered in dedicated chapters.

1,268 Article References: The book references constitutional Articles over 1,200 times, ensuring you encounter every important provision in context, not in isolation.

84 Landmark Judgments: Every significant Supreme Court judgment that UPSC tests – Kesavananda Bharati, Maneka Gandhi, S.R. Bommai, Puttaswamy, Navtej Johar – is explained where it naturally belongs.

38 Exam Alerts + 16 Exam Traps: Strategically placed throughout the book, these boxes directly protect you from the most common mistakes in UPSC Prelims.

Learning Outcomes in Every Chapter: Your built-in self-test checklist – 84 chapters, 84 checklists.

Simple English Throughout: No jargon, no legalese, no confusion. Just clear, exam-ready understanding.

UPSC does not test how much you have read.

It tests how well you have understood.

Polity Mirror is built for understanding.

HOW TO USE
POLITY MIRROR
TO MASTER UPSC MAINS GS PAPER 2

A PYQ-Based Approach Guide (2013–2025)

13 Years × 100+ Mains Questions – Every Topic Mapped to Polity Mirror Chapters

Why Mains Is a Different Game

In Prelims, UPSC tests whether you **know** the fact. In Mains, UPSC tests whether you **understand** the concept, can **analyse** it from multiple dimensions, and can **apply** it to real-world governance challenges. A Prelims question asks: "Under which Article is the Right to Privacy protected?" A Mains question asks: "Right to Privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty. Explain. Discuss the law relating to DNA testing to establish paternity."

This is precisely where **Polity Mirror** gives you an unmatched advantage. While most polity books give you bare provisions and dry facts, Polity Mirror gives you **conceptual depth, critical analysis, thinker perspectives, landmark judgments, current relevance, and real-life connections** – exactly the eight dimensions that a Mains answer demands.

The UPSC Mains Formula: Constitutional Provision + Judicial Interpretation + Comparative Perspective + Critical Analysis + Current Relevance + Reform Suggestions = High-Scoring Answer

Section 1: Mains Topic Frequency & Chapter Mapping

After analysing **100+ Mains questions** from 2013 to 2025, the following 15 topic clusters emerge as the backbone of GS Paper 2 (Polity & Constitution). The table maps each cluster to exact Polity Mirror chapters.

#	Mains Topic Cluster	Qs	Polity Mirror Chapters	Years
1	Centre-State Relations & Federalism	11	Ch 4, 30–35	2013–2025
2	Electoral Reforms & RPA 1951	11	Ch 66–69	2013–2025
3	Judiciary: Independence, Activism & Collegium	10	Ch 54–58	2013–2025
4	Parliament: Amending Power & Basic Structure	9	Ch 25, 28, 41–49	2013–2025

5	Fundamental Rights: Expanding Horizons	9	Ch 16–24	2013–2025
6	Local Governance: Panchayats & ULBs	8	Ch 60–63	2013–2025
7	Constitutional & Statutory Bodies	8	Ch 75–83	2013–2025
8	Executive: President, Governor, AG	7	Ch 37, 39–40, 50–52	2013–2025
9	Constitutional Morality & Constitutionalism	5	Ch 6	2021–2025
10	Separation of Powers & Checks & Balances	5	Ch 5	2013–2025
11	Secularism (India vs USA/France)	4	Ch 7	2017–2024
12	Comparative Constitutional Studies	6	Ch 5, 10, 11	2013–2025
13	Tribunals & Alternative Dispute Resolution	5	Ch 59	2015–2025
14	Pressure Groups & Party System	4	Ch 69–70	2013–2017
15	Important Acts & Recent Legislation	5	Ch 28, 80–83	2015–2025

Key Mains Insight: The top 4 topics – Federalism, Electoral Reforms, Judiciary, and Parliament/Amendments – together account for over **40 questions** in 13 years. If you deeply understand these four areas from Polity Mirror, you have a strong foundation for nearly half the paper.

Section 2: The 8-Dimension Mains Answer Framework

UPSC Mains does not reward one-dimensional answers. Every high-scoring Polity answer weaves together multiple dimensions. Here is the framework, and how Polity Mirror equips you for each dimension:

Dimension 1: Constitutional Text (Articles & Provisions)

Every Mains answer must cite specific Articles. When the question is about pardoning power, your answer must mention Article 72 (President) and Article 161 (Governor), the five types of clemency, and the differences in scope.

Polity Mirror's Edge: The book references **1,268 Articles** throughout its 84 chapters. Every provision is explained in context with its exact scope and application. Chapter 37 alone covers the President's pardoning power with all five types (pardon, commutation, remission, respite, reprieve) and the specific case-law on its scope.

Dimension 2: Judicial Interpretation (Landmark Cases)

UPSC expects you to cite **3–4 landmark judgments** per answer. For a question on Basic Structure, you need Kesavananda Bharati (1973), Minerva Mills (1980), I.R. Coelho (2007), and NJAC (2015).

Polity Mirror's Edge: The book integrates **84 landmark judgments** directly into the narrative – not as a separate appendix. When you read about Article 21, you naturally encounter Maneka Gandhi, Vishaka, Puttaswamy, and Navtej Johar. By the time you finish the book, you have absorbed case-law organically.

Dimension 3: Comparative Perspective (India vs Other Countries)

UPSC has asked India vs USA comparisons **6 times** (pardoning power, political systems, right to equality, secularism, judicial appointments, constitutional amendments). India vs UK appears **3 times** (parliamentary sovereignty, judicial systems). India vs France appears **twice** (secularism, presidential election).

Polity Mirror's Edge: Chapter 5 (Organs of Government & Comparison) and Chapter 10 (Sources of the Indian Constitution) provide systematic comparisons of India's Constitution with USA, UK, France, Canada, Australia, and others. Chapter 7 (Secularism) compares Indian and Western models of secularism. Chapter 3 compares Parliamentary vs Presidential systems with global examples.

Dimension 4: Critical Analysis & Reform Suggestions

UPSC loves the words "Critically examine", "Assess", and "Comment." These demand you go beyond description and offer a balanced evaluation with suggestions for improvement.

Polity Mirror's Edge: Every chapter includes a **Critical Analysis and Current Relevance** section. Chapter 4 (Federal Structure) does not just describe federalism – it analyses Centre-State tensions during COVID-19, GST Council disputes, and the farm laws controversy. Chapter 56 (Judicial Activism) critically evaluates both the benefits and overreach of judicial intervention.

Dimension 5: Thinker Perspectives & Philosophical Depth

For Mains, quoting a relevant thinker transforms a good answer into an excellent one. UPSC has asked about Constitutional Morality (a concept from Ambedkar) multiple times.

Polity Mirror's Edge: The book integrates perspectives of **Aristotle, Bodin, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Dicey, Austin, Ambedkar, Nehru, Renan, Weber, Anderson** and many others. Chapter 6 (Constitutionalism & Constitutional Morality) provides the philosophical depth needed for these questions.

Dimensions 6–8: Current Relevance, Real-Life Connect, Practical Governance

UPSC wants you to connect constitutional provisions to ground realities. The question on local governance (2020) specifically asks about "functionality" – not just constitutional provisions but how well panchayats actually work.

Polity Mirror's Edge: The book's unique **"In Your Daily Life"** sections and current relevance discussions provide exactly this bridge. Chapter 60–63 on Local Government do not just list Articles 243A–243O – they discuss the **3Fs (Functions, Functionaries, Funds)** challenge, actual devolution gaps, and the 73rd/74th Amendment's implementation reality.

Section 3: Topic-Wise Mains Approach with Polity Mirror

1. Centre-State Relations & Federalism (11 Questions, 2013–2025)

The Most Tested Mains Topic. UPSC has asked about cooperative federalism, fiscal federalism, centralising tendencies, Centre-State conflicts, and inter-state disputes almost every year.

Sample Questions:

- "How far have cooperation, competition, and confrontation shaped federalism in India?" (2020)
- "Examine the evolving Centre-State financial relations. How have recent reforms impacted fiscal federalism?" (2025)

- "Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies... discuss in perspective of Epidemic Diseases Act, DM Act, and Farm Acts." (2020)

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapter 4 (Federal Structure & Cooperative Federalism) – provides the theoretical foundation: K.C. Wheare's "quasi-federal" analysis, federal vs unitary features, and the "Union of States" concept.

Chapters 30–35 are the core: Legislative Relations (Ch 31) covers Articles 245–255 with the three Lists; Administrative Relations (Ch 32) covers Articles 256–263; Financial Relations (Ch 33) covers Articles 268–293 and the Finance Commission; Issues & Tensions (Ch 34) covers Governor's role, Article 356 misuse, river water disputes; Inter-State Relations (Ch 35) covers Zonal Councils and Inter-State Council.

How to Approach Federalism Answers Using Polity Mirror:

Step 1: Open with the constitutional framework – cite Article 1 ("Union of States"), the Seventh Schedule's three Lists, and Article 246 (from Ch 31). **Step 2:** Add judicial interpretation – use S.R. Bommai (1994) on Article 356, the GST case on fiscal federalism (from Ch 33–34). **Step 3:** Bring current relevance – the book's discussion of COVID-era Centre-State tensions, GST Council disputes, and farm laws (from Ch 34). **Step 4:** Add comparative perspective – use the book's comparison with USA, Canada, and Australian federalism (from Ch 4). **Step 5:** Close with reform suggestions – use Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission recommendations (from Ch 34).

2. Electoral Reforms & RPA 1951 (11 Questions, 2013–2025)

UPSC's second most-tested Mains topic. Questions range from corrupt practices and disqualification to EVM challenges, one nation-one election, and election commission reforms.

Sample Questions:

- "Discuss the 'corrupt practices' under RPA 1951. Would disproportionate asset increase constitute 'undue influence'?" (2025)
- "Examine the need for electoral reforms with reference to 'one nation-one election'." (2024)
- "Discuss the role of ECI in light of Model Code of Conduct evolution." (2022)

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapter 66 (Election Commission of India) covers ECI's composition, powers, independence, and the landmark T.N. Seshan era. **Chapter 67** (Electoral Systems) covers FPTP vs PR with global comparisons. **Chapter 68** (Electoral Reforms) covers all major committee recommendations: Dinesh Goswami, Indrajit Gupta, Vohra Committee, Law Commission reports, and recent reforms. **Chapter 69** (Political Parties) covers recognition, registration, inner-party democracy, and the anti-defection context.

The Mains Answer Formula for Electoral Questions:

Constitutional basis (Art 324–329) + **Statutory framework** (RPA 1951 provisions from Ch 66–68) + **Committee recommendations** (at least 2–3 committees from Ch 68) + **Judicial pronouncements** (Lily Thomas, NOTA judgment, Ramesh Dalal) + **Comparative global practice** (from Ch 67) + **Your reform suggestion**.

3. Judiciary: Independence, Activism & Collegium (10 Questions, 2013–2025)

UPSC is fascinated by the tension between judicial independence and accountability. Collegium vs NJAC, PIL growth, judicial activism vs overreach – these appear repeatedly.

Sample Questions:

- "Discuss the evolution of the collegium system. Critically examine advantages and disadvantages vs USA's system." (2025)
- "Constitutional morality... explain its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and accountability." (2025)
- "PIL growth in India – has the Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary?" (2024)

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapter 54 (Supreme Court) covers composition, jurisdiction, independence, and appointment. **Chapter 55** (Judicial Review) covers the doctrine in depth with comparison to USA. **Chapter 56** (Judicial Activism) covers PIL evolution from S.P. Gupta to modern day, the activism-vs-overreach debate, and judicial legislation concerns. **Chapter 6** (Constitutional Morality) provides the philosophical foundation for questions on judicial accountability.

The book's treatment of the **Three Judges Cases** (First, Second, Third) in Chapter 54 traces the complete collegium evolution – from executive supremacy (pre-1993) to judicial supremacy (1993 onwards) to the NJAC attempt (2014) and its striking down (2015). This is exactly the narrative UPSC 2025 tested.

4. Fundamental Rights: Expanding Horizons (9 Questions, 2013–2025)

UPSC loves testing how Article 21 has been expanded by the Supreme Court. Questions also cover freedom of speech (Art 19), right to equality (Art 14), and comparative perspectives.

Sample Questions:

- "Right to Privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty under Art 21. Explain. Discuss the law relating to DNA testing." (2024)
- "Illustrate the expanding horizons of right to life and personal liberty." (2023)
- "Freedom of speech and expression – does it cover hate speech?" (2014)

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapters 16–24 cover every Fundamental Right with individual chapters. The key is **Chapter 19** (Right to Freedom) which traces how Article 21 has been expanded from mere "right to life" to include **right to livelihood** (Olga Tellis), **right to dignity** (Francis Coralie), **right to privacy** (Puttaswamy), **right to clean environment** (M.C. Mehta), **right to education** (Unnikrishnan → 86th Amendment), and more. Each expansion is explained through the relevant Supreme Court judgment.

Chapter 18 (Right to Equality) provides the foundation for comparative questions on equality (India vs USA), covering both formal equality (Art 14) and substantive equality, reasonable classification doctrine, and protective discrimination under Art 15–16.

5. Local Governance: Panchayats & ULBs (8 Questions, 2013–2025)

Almost every year, UPSC asks about the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of local government institutions.

The Recurring Theme:

"Are local bodies truly empowered, or do they remain politically useful but governmentally weak?" UPSC wants you to go beyond Articles 243A–243O and discuss ground realities: the **3F problem** (Functions, Functionaries, Funds), state reluctance to devolve, the role of MPs and MLAs in undermining local bodies, and the urban-rural divide.

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapter 60 (Local Government – Panchayats) covers the 73rd Amendment, three-tier structure, reservation provisions, and the evolution from Balwant Rai Mehta (1957) through Ashok Mehta (1977) to the L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986). **Chapter 61** (Urban Local Government) covers the 74th Amendment and municipal bodies. **Chapter 62** covers the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994 – especially valuable for **TNPSC aspirants**. The Critical Analysis section in Ch 60 discusses the functionality gap between constitutional promise and ground reality – exactly what UPSC asks about.

6. Executive: President, Governor & AG (7 Questions, 2013–2025)

Questions focus on pardoning power (asked 3 times), Governor's discretion and ordinance power, Attorney General's role, and the Delhi LG controversy.

Polity Mirror Chapters to Master:

Chapter 37 (President) covers election, powers, pardoning power (Art 72), ordinance power (Art 123), and the constitutional position. **Chapter 50** (Governor) covers appointment, discretionary powers, ordinance power (Art 213), and the contentious areas. **Chapter 40** (Attorney General) covers appointment, duties, rights, and limitations – exactly what UPSC 2025 and 2019 asked. **Chapter 64** (Administration of Union Territories) covers the LG's role and the Delhi governance dispute.

Section 4: Mastering Comparative Questions

UPSC has asked **12 comparative questions** in 13 years. These are high-scoring opportunities because most aspirants do not prepare comparisons systematically. Here is every comparison UPSC has tested and where Polity Mirror covers it:

Comparison Asked	Year(s)	Key Differences	Polity Mirror Source
Pardoning Power: India vs USA	2025	India: Art 72 (advice of CoM) USA: Absolute, includes preemptive India: Judicial review exists	Ch 37 (President) covers both systems with comparison table
Judicial Appointments: India vs USA	2025	India: Collegium (judiciary-led) USA: President nominates, Senate confirms Both ensure independence differently	Ch 54 (Supreme Court) covers Three Judges Cases + global comparison

Secularism: India vs USA/France	2019, 2024	India: Principled distance (Sarva Dharma Sambhav) USA: Wall of separation France: Laïcité (strict exclusion)	Ch 7 (Secularism & Socialism) compares all three models systematically
Parliamentary Sovereignty: India vs UK	2023	UK: Parliament supreme, no judicial review India: Constitution supreme, Basic Structure limits	Ch 3 (Government Systems) + Ch 11 (Salient Features) + Ch 25 (Basic Structure)
Right to Equality: India vs USA	2021	India: Formal + Substantive equality, Protective discrimination USA: Equal Protection Clause, Affirmative Action debate	Ch 18 (Right to Equality) covers Art 14–16 with comparative analysis
Political Systems: India vs USA	2018	Parliamentary vs Presidential Written Constitution in both Judicial Review scope differs	Ch 3 (Government Forms) has detailed comparison table

Section 5: How to Use Polity Mirror for Mains – A 6-Step Strategy

Step 1: Conceptual Reading (6–8 weeks)

Read Polity Mirror from Chapter 1 to 84 in sequence. Unlike Prelims, where you can skip-read, Mains requires **deep understanding**. Pay special attention to: the **Critical Analysis** sections at the end of each chapter (these give you the analytical content Mains demands), the **Thinker Perspectives** sections (quoting Ambedkar, Dicey, or Wheare in your answer adds intellectual depth), and the **Current Relevance** discussions (UPSC increasingly frames questions around recent events).

Step 2: Build a Judgment Bank from the Book

As you read, maintain a list of every **Supreme Court judgment** mentioned in the book, organised by topic. By the end, you will have 80+ judgments with their context, year, and significance – all drawn from the book itself. This becomes your **case-law ready reckoner** for Mains. For example, from Chapter 25 (Basic Structure) alone, you get: Shankari Prasad (1951), Sajjan Singh (1965), Golak Nath (1967), Kesavananda Bharati (1973), Indira Gandhi (1975), Minerva Mills (1980), Waman Rao (1981), I.R. Coelho (2007), and NJAC (2015).

Step 3: Master the Comparative Chapters

Polity Mirror's chapters on Sources (Ch 10), Salient Features (Ch 11), Government Forms (Ch 3), Secularism (Ch 7), and Comparison of Indian Constitution (Ch 5) are your secret weapons for the **12+ comparative questions** UPSC has asked. Read these chapters twice. Make a comparison chart for each pair: India vs USA, India vs UK, India vs France.

Step 4: PYQ-Based Answer Practice (4 weeks)

Take each Mains PYQ from 2018–2025 and write answers using **only Polity Mirror** as your source. For each answer, follow the 8-Dimension Framework: cite the Article, mention the judgment, add the comparative perspective, bring

the critical analysis, and close with a reform suggestion. You will find that the book provides enough content for a complete, high-scoring answer on virtually every PYQ.

Step 5: Revision Using Learning Outcomes

In the revision phase, use each chapter's **Learning Outcomes** as a **self-test**. Read each Learning Outcome point and check: Can I explain this in 3–4 sentences? Can I cite the relevant Article? Can I mention a judgment? If the answer is no, go back and re-read that section. The Learning Outcomes are your built-in revision checklist for all 84 chapters.

Step 6: Day-Before Exam — Exam Alerts + Comparison Tables

On the final day, skim through all **Exam Alert** boxes (for factual accuracy) and all **comparison tables** (for quick recall of distinctions). For Mains specifically, also review the **Critical Analysis** sections of the top 5 topics: Federalism, Judiciary, Parliament, Fundamental Rights, and Local Governance. These provide the analytical ammunition your answer needs.

The Polity Mirror Mains Advantage

Here is what Polity Mirror uniquely provides for Mains answer writing:

Depth, Not Just Coverage: Most books cover topics. Polity Mirror explains them. When it discusses Article 356, it does not just list the provisions — it traces the evolution from misuse (pre-1994) to the S.R. Bommai safeguards, analyses the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission recommendations, and connects it to recent Governor-State tensions. This is Mains-ready depth.

84 Landmark Judgments in Context: Not in a table at the back, but woven into the narrative. When you read about Fundamental Rights, you naturally encounter the judgments that expanded, limited, or redefined them. This organic integration means you learn case-law as part of the story, not as separate memorisation.

Comparative Constitutional Analysis: Chapters 3, 5, 7, 10, and 11 provide systematic India-vs-World comparisons that directly answer UPSC's favourite comparative questions.

Critical Analysis + Current Relevance: Every chapter ends with analysis that goes beyond description. These sections are essentially ready-made analytical paragraphs for your Mains answers.

Thinker Perspectives: Quoting Ambedkar, Dicey, Wheare, Locke, or Rousseau in your answer is not just impressive — it demonstrates the conceptual depth UPSC rewards with higher marks. Polity Mirror provides these perspectives naturally throughout the text.

Simple English Throughout: Clear thinking produces clear writing. When your understanding is crystal clear (because the book explained it simply), your answer writing automatically becomes clearer, more structured, and more persuasive.

Prelims tests your knowledge.

Mains tests your understanding.

Polity Mirror is built for both.

Read. Understand. Reflect. Write. Score.

POLITY MIRROR

CHAPTER INTENT INDEX

What's Inside Each Chapter

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Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION TO CONSTITUTION

This chapter introduces the fundamental concept of a constitution as the supreme law of a nation. It explores the meaning, importance, and scope of constitutions, distinguishing between written and unwritten, rigid and flexible, federal and unitary types. Key topics include the Rule of Law, hierarchy of laws in India, and the essential elements of a good constitution.

Chapter 2: STATE, NATION & SOVEREIGNTY – FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS OF POLITY

This chapter examines the foundational political concepts of State, Nation, and Sovereignty. It distinguishes between a state (legal-political entity) and a nation (socio-psychological community), explores the Indian context as a state-nation, and analyzes the concept of sovereignty—its types, constitutional basis, the federalism puzzle, and modern challenges to sovereignty.

Chapter 3: GOVERNMENT – FORMS, SYSTEMS & CLASSIFICATIONS

This chapter explores the forms, systems, and classifications of government. It covers the distinction between State and Government, parliamentary vs. presidential systems, and why India chose the parliamentary model. Key topics include India's Westminster-style governance, deviations from the British model, and comparative analysis of different governmental systems worldwide.

Chapter 4: FEDERAL STRUCTURE & COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

This chapter examines India's federal structure and the concept of cooperative federalism. It analyzes the division of powers between the Centre and States under Parts XI and XII of the Constitution, the "quasi-federal" debate, unitary features, India as a constitutional republic, and the working principle of cooperative federalism where Centre and States collaborate for governance.

Chapter 5: ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT & SEPARATION OF POWERS / CONSTITUTION TYPES / COMPARISON OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter analyzes the three organs of government—Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary—and the doctrine of separation of powers. It covers the system of checks and balances, compares different constitutional types worldwide, and examines the unique features of the Indian model as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic with a parliamentary and quasi-federal structure.

Chapter 6: CONSTITUTIONALISM, CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY & NEW CONSTITUTIONALISM

This chapter explores constitutionalism as a political philosophy emphasizing limited government and rule of law. It covers the pillars of constitutionalism, constitutional morality as commitment to constitutional values beyond mere text, the distinction between Due Process of Law and Procedure Established by Law, New Constitutionalism, and landmark Supreme Court judgments on constitutional morality.

Chapter 7: FOUNDATIONAL IDEOLOGIES – SECULARISM & SOCIALISM

This chapter examines the foundational ideologies embedded in the Indian Constitution—Secularism and Socialism. It covers India’s unique model of secularism (equal respect for all faiths vs. Western separation), socialist provisions in DPSPs and Fundamental Rights, the evolution of Indian socialism from Nehru to liberalisation, and the tension between socialist goals and individual liberties.

Chapter 8: EVOLUTION OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION (1773–1947)

This chapter traces the historical evolution of the Indian Constitution from 1773 to 1947. It covers key legislative milestones including the Regulating Act (1773), Charter Acts, Indian Councils Acts, Morley-Minto Reforms, Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, Government of India Acts (1919 and 1935), and the Indian Independence Act (1947), showing how colonial governance gradually shaped constitutional ideas.

Chapter 9: THE MAKING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter details the making of the Indian Constitution, covering the Constituent Assembly’s formation, composition, and working process. It examines the role of key figures like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Drafting Committee, the debates and deliberations, the time taken (2 years, 11 months, 18 days), and how the Assembly balanced diverse interests to create a comprehensive constitutional framework.

Chapter 10: SOURCES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter identifies the various sources from which the Indian Constitution drew its provisions. It covers borrowings from the British Constitution (parliamentary system, rule of law), US Constitution (fundamental rights, judicial review), Irish Constitution (DPSPs), Canadian Constitution (federal structure), and other constitutions, along with indigenous sources like the Government of India Act, 1935.

Chapter 11: SALIENT FEATURES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter outlines the salient features that make the Indian Constitution unique. Key features include: longest written constitution, blend of rigidity and flexibility, parliamentary form of government, unique federal structure with unitary bias, judicial review, synthesis of fundamental rights and directive principles, universal adult suffrage, single citizenship, and special provisions for vulnerable groups.

Chapter 12: PARTS AND SCHEDULES OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of how the Indian Constitution is structured into Parts and Schedules. It explains the original vs. current constitutional framework (growth through amendments), the content and purpose of each Part (from the Preamble to Article 395), and the 12 Schedules that contain detailed data and lists supporting the main constitutional text.

Chapter 13: PHILOSOPHY AND PREAMBLE OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

This chapter explores the philosophy underlying the Indian Constitution and decodes the Preamble. It covers the four pillars—Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity—the welfare state philosophy, and India’s unique contributions to constitutional thought. The Preamble analysis covers each keyword (Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic), the 42nd Amendment changes, judicial status, and comparative study with other nations.

Chapter 14: THE UNION AND ITS TERRITORY

This chapter covers Articles 1–4 dealing with the Union and its Territory. It explains India as a “Union of States,” the power to admit or establish new states (Article 2), formation of new states and alteration of boundaries (Article 3), the distinction between States and Union Territories, the history of States Reorganisation, cession and acquisition of territory, and special provisions under Articles 371–371J.

Chapter 15: CITIZENSHIP

This chapter examines citizenship under Articles 5–11 (Part II) of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act. It covers India's single citizenship model, the five modes of acquiring citizenship (birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, incorporation of territory), three modes of losing citizenship (renunciation, termination, deprivation), and the rationale behind single citizenship for national integration.

Chapter 16: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS – BASICS

This chapter introduces the basics of Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution. It covers the nature, scope, and significance of Fundamental Rights, the evolution of Indian socialism and its relationship with individual rights, the tension between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles, and how the State pursues socialist policies while balancing individual liberty.

Chapter 17: THE FRAMEWORK OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (ARTICLES 12 & 13)

This chapter examines the framework provisions of Fundamental Rights under Articles 12 and 13. Article 12 defines “State” for the purpose of Part III, determining who is bound by fundamental rights obligations. Article 13 establishes the doctrine of judicial review by declaring laws inconsistent with fundamental rights as void, covering both pre-constitutional and post-constitutional laws.

Chapter 18: RIGHT TO EQUALITY

This chapter covers the Right to Equality under Articles 14–18. It examines equality before law and equal protection of laws (Article 14), prohibition of discrimination (Article 15), equality of opportunity in public employment (Article 16), abolition of untouchability (Article 17), and abolition of titles (Article 18). Key concepts include the Rule of Law, reasonable classification, and affirmative action.

Chapter 19: RIGHT TO FREEDOM

This chapter examines the Right to Freedom under Articles 19–22. It covers the six freedoms under Article 19 (speech, assembly, association, movement, residence, profession), protection in respect of conviction (Article 20), right to life and personal liberty (Article 21), right to education (Article 21A), and protection against arrest and detention (Article 22), along with reasonable restrictions.

Chapter 20: RIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION

This chapter covers the Right against Exploitation under Articles 23 and 24. These unique provisions protect individuals from both State and private exploitation. Article 23 prohibits traffic in human beings, begar (forced labour), and similar forms of forced labour. Article 24 prohibits employment of children below 14 years in factories, mines, and other hazardous occupations.

Chapter 21: FREEDOM OF RELIGION

This chapter examines Freedom of Religion under Articles 25–28. It covers freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion (Article 25), freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26), freedom from taxation for promotion of any religion (Article 27), and freedom from attending religious instruction in certain educational institutions (Article 28), along with the secular framework.

Chapter 22: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

This chapter covers Cultural and Educational Rights under Articles 29–30. Article 29 protects the interests of minorities by safeguarding their distinct language, script, and culture, and prohibits denial of admission to educational institutions on grounds of religion, race, caste, or language. Article 30 grants minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Chapter 23: RIGHT TO CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDIES

This chapter examines the Right to Constitutional Remedies under Article 32, described by Dr. Ambedkar as the “heart and soul” of the Constitution. It covers the five writs (Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, Quo Warranto), the evolution from strict writs to flexible Public Interest Litigation (PIL), and the Supreme Court’s role as guardian of fundamental rights.

Chapter 24: EXCEPTIONS & LIMITATIONS ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

This chapter examines the exceptions and limitations on Fundamental Rights. It covers martial law provisions, parliamentary privileges, restrictions during emergencies, the doctrine of reasonable restrictions under Article 19, the State’s power to make special provisions for backward classes, and the balance between individual rights and collective welfare through constitutional limitations.

Chapter 25: BASIC STRUCTURE DOCTRINE

This chapter explores the Basic Structure Doctrine—the judicial innovation that limits Parliament’s amending power. It traces the evolution from Shankari Prasad to Kesavananda Bharati (1973), identifies the features recognized as basic structure (supremacy of Constitution, rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review, federalism, secularism), and examines criticisms and defences of the doctrine.

Chapter 26: DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

This chapter covers Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) under Part IV (Articles 36–51). It examines the welfare state framework, classification of DPSPs (socialist, Gandhian, liberal-intellectual), their non-justiciable nature, relationship with Fundamental Rights, landmark amendments (25th, 42nd, 44th), and how DPSPs serve as the moral and political mandate guiding state policy.

Chapter 27: FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

This chapter examines Fundamental Duties under Part IVA (Article 51A), added by the 42nd Amendment (1976) on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee. It covers the original 10 duties and the 11th duty added by the 86th Amendment (2002), the comparison between Fundamental Duties, Rights, and DPSPs, their non-justiciable nature, and their role in promoting civic responsibility.

Chapter 28: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

This chapter covers the constitutional amendment process under Article 368. It examines the three methods of amendment (simple majority, special majority, special majority plus state ratification), whether the Indian Constitution is rigid or flexible (synthesis of both), landmark amendments, the Basic Structure Doctrine as a limitation on amending power, and the evolution of amendment jurisprudence.

Chapter 29: EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

This chapter examines Emergency Provisions under Articles 352–360 (Part XVIII). It covers three types of emergencies: National Emergency (Article 352), President’s Rule/State Emergency (Article 356), and Financial Emergency (Article 360). Key topics include the 1975 internal emergency, constitutional safeguards added by the 44th Amendment, effects on fundamental rights, and historical instances.

Chapter 30: THE FEDERAL SYSTEM

This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the Federal System in India. It examines the constitutional division of powers between Centre and States, federal and unitary features, the quasi-federal nature of Indian governance, the role of the Seventh Schedule (Union, State, Concurrent Lists), and how Indian federalism balances national unity with regional autonomy.

Chapter 31: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS (ARTICLES 245–255)

This chapter covers Legislative Relations between Centre and States under Articles 245–255 (Part XI). It examines the Seventh Schedule distribution of legislative subjects (Union, State, Concurrent Lists), Parliament’s power to legislate on State subjects, residuary powers, the doctrine of pith and substance, repugnancy under Article 254, and special legislative provisions.

Chapter 32: ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS (ARTICLES 256–263)

This chapter examines Administrative Relations between Centre and States under Articles 256–263. It covers the obligation of States to comply with Union laws, the Centre’s power to give directions to States, deployment of central forces, all-India services, Inter-State Council, and the administrative machinery that maintains coordination in India’s federal framework.

Chapter 33: FINANCIAL RELATIONS (ARTICLES 268–293)

This chapter covers Financial Relations between Centre and States under Articles 268–293 (Part XII). It examines the distribution of tax revenues, grants-in-aid, the Finance Commission, the GST framework, borrowing powers, and the financial architecture that determines how resources are shared between the Union and State governments to ensure fiscal federalism.

Chapter 34: ISSUES AND TENSION AREAS IN CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

This chapter analyzes the key issues and tension areas in Centre-State relations. It covers the evolution of these relations, the role of Governors as central agents, misuse of Article 356 (President’s Rule), demands for greater state autonomy, the Sarkaria Commission and Punchhi Commission recommendations, and the political dynamics that shape federal governance in practice.

Chapter 35: INTER-STATE RELATIONS

This chapter examines Inter-State Relations covering inter-state water disputes, inter-state councils, zonal councils, and inter-state trade and commerce. It covers constitutional provisions for resolving disputes between states, mechanisms for cooperation and coordination, the role of the Inter-State Council under Article 263, and freedom of trade across state boundaries.

Chapter 36: PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM & BICAMERALISM IN INDIA

This chapter explores the Parliamentary System and Bicameralism in India. It provides a detailed comparison between parliamentary and presidential systems, explains why India chose the parliamentary model, examines the bicameral structure (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), and analyzes the constitutional framework governing the composition, powers, and functioning of both Houses of Parliament.

Chapter 37: THE UNION EXECUTIVE – THE PRESIDENT

This chapter covers the President of India as the Union Executive under Part V. It examines the President’s election, qualifications, term, removal (impeachment), powers (executive, legislative, judicial, emergency, diplomatic), discretionary situations, the debate between “rubber stamp” and “constitutional guardian,” and key constitutional articles governing the presidential office.

Chapter 38: THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

This chapter examines the Vice-President of India, covering the dual role as Chairman of Rajya Sabha (Article 64) and Acting President (Article 65). It covers election procedure, qualifications, term, removal, emoluments, comparison with the US Vice-President, contemporary relevance and emerging issues, and all key constitutional articles governing the office.

Chapter 39: THE PRIME MINISTER & COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

This chapter covers the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. It examines the PM's appointment, powers, and functions, the evolution of the PM's office from Nehru to present, the "primus inter pares" debate, the distinction between Council of Ministers and Cabinet, the 91st Amendment, collective and individual ministerial responsibility, Cabinet Committees, and informal advisory structures.

Chapter 40: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA

This chapter examines the Attorney General of India—the highest law officer of the country. It covers appointment, qualifications, powers, functions, and duties under Article 76, the legal officers hierarchy (AG vs. Solicitor General vs. Additional Solicitor General), comparison with the state-level Advocate General, reform proposals, and key constitutional provisions.

Chapter 41: THE UNION LEGISLATURE – PARLIAMENT

This chapter covers the Union Legislature—Parliament of India. It examines the constitutional framework (Articles 79–122, Part V), the composition of Parliament (President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha), special powers of each House, qualifications for membership, comparison between the two Houses, and the overall role of Parliament in India's democratic governance.

Chapter 42: ANTI-DEFECTION LAW (10TH SCHEDULE)

This chapter examines the Anti-Defection Law under the Tenth Schedule, added by the 52nd Amendment (1985). It covers the grounds for disqualification, the role of the Speaker/Chairman in deciding defection cases, the exception for mergers, the impact on party discipline and parliamentary democracy, judicial review of Speaker's decisions, and reform proposals.

Chapter 43: OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

This chapter covers the Officers of Parliament—the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. It examines their constitutional roles, election and removal procedures, powers and privileges, the Speaker's role in certifying Money Bills, adjudicating defection disputes, and maintaining order and dignity in the House.

Chapter 44: SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

This chapter examines the Sessions of Parliament—summoning, prorogation, and dissolution. It covers the three sessions (Budget, Monsoon, Winter), quorum requirements, adjournment vs. prorogation vs. dissolution, lapsing of bills, the role of the President in summoning Parliament, and the constitutional provisions ensuring regular functioning of the legislature.

Chapter 45: DEVICES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

This chapter covers the Devices of Parliamentary Proceedings used to ensure executive accountability. It examines Question Hour (starred, unstarred, short notice questions), Zero Hour, calling attention motion, adjournment motion, no-confidence motion, censure motion, and other procedural devices that enable Members of Parliament to scrutinize government actions.

Chapter 46: LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

This chapter examines the Legislative Procedure in Parliament. It covers India's five-track legislative system for different types of Bills (Ordinary, Money, Financial, Constitution Amendment, and Ordinance-replacing Bills), the three readings/stages, the role of each House, Joint Sitting provisions under Article 108, and the special procedure for Money Bills under Articles 109–110.

Chapter 47: THE BUDGET

This chapter covers the Union Budget and the financial procedures in Parliament. It examines the constitutional provisions governing the Annual Financial Statement (Article 112), the budget-making process, types of funds (Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund, Public Account), voting of demands, appropriation and finance bills, and Parliament's control over public expenditure.

Chapter 48: THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF PARLIAMENT

This chapter examines the multifunctional role of Parliament beyond legislation. It covers Parliament's functions in executive oversight, financial control, representation, constituent power (amending the Constitution), judicial functions (impeachment, breach of privilege), deliberative functions, and its role as the forum for national debate and policy discussion.

Chapter 49: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

This chapter covers Parliamentary Committees—the backbone of legislative scrutiny. It examines Standing Committees (including Departmentally Related Standing Committees), Financial Committees (PAC, Estimates Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings), ad hoc committees, their composition, functions, powers, and role in ensuring detailed examination of legislation and government performance.

Chapter 50: THE STATE EXECUTIVE — GOVERNOR

This chapter examines the Governor as the State Executive. It covers the Governor's appointment, qualifications, term, removal, constitutional powers (executive, legislative, financial, judicial), discretionary powers, the role in state politics, controversial use of powers, the debate on gubernatorial autonomy, and comparison with the President's position at the Centre.

Chapter 51: CHIEF MINISTER AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

This chapter covers the Chief Minister and the State Council of Ministers. It examines the CM's appointment, powers, and functions as the real executive head of the state, the formation and composition of the Council of Ministers, collective responsibility, the CM's relationship with the Governor, and the parallel between the state and union executive structures.

Chapter 52: ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE STATE

This chapter examines the Advocate General of the State—the highest law officer at the state level (Article 165). It covers appointment, qualifications, duties, rights (including appearing in courts and attending state legislature), comparison with the Attorney General of India, and the role in advising the state government on legal matters.

Chapter 53: THE STATE LEGISLATURE

This chapter covers the State Legislature, including both unicameral (Vidhan Sabha only) and bicameral (Vidhan Sabha + Vidhan Parishad) structures. It examines composition, election, qualifications, sessions, legislative procedure at the state level, the Governor's role in legislation, comparison with Parliament, and the creation or abolition of Legislative Councils.

Chapter 54: THE JUDICIARY IN INDIA — SUPREME COURT

This chapter examines the Supreme Court of India as the apex judicial body. It covers the Court's establishment, composition, appointment of judges (including the collegium system), jurisdiction (original, appellate, advisory), powers of judicial review, landmark judgments, the role as guardian of the Constitution and fundamental rights, and judicial independence.

Chapter 55: JUDICIAL REVIEW

This chapter provides a detailed analysis of Judicial Review—the power of courts to examine the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions. It covers the constitutional basis (Articles 13, 32, 226), scope and limitations, comparison with the American and British models, the relationship between judicial review and parliamentary sovereignty, and landmark cases.

Chapter 56: JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

This chapter examines Judicial Activism—the proactive role of the judiciary in expanding rights and ensuring justice. It covers the evolution of PIL (Public Interest Litigation), judicial overreach vs. judicial activism, the expanding scope of Article 21, the judiciary's role in environmental protection, governance reforms, and the debate on separation of powers and democratic legitimacy.

Chapter 57: HIGH COURTS

This chapter covers the High Courts under Part VI (Chapter V) of the Constitution. It examines the establishment, composition, appointment of judges, jurisdiction (original, appellate, writ, supervisory), powers of judicial review, the relationship with subordinate courts, transfer of judges, and the High Court's role as the highest court within each state's judicial hierarchy.

Chapter 58: JUDICIARY AT THE GRASSROOTS

This chapter examines the judiciary at the grassroots level—District Courts, Subordinate Courts, and other lower courts. It covers the constitutional and statutory framework, the hierarchy of civil and criminal courts, the appointment and service conditions of judges, Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalayas, Fast Track Courts, and the challenges of pendency and access to justice.

Chapter 59: TRIBUNALS

This chapter covers Tribunals under Articles 323A and 323B, added by the 42nd Amendment. It examines the establishment of administrative tribunals (CAT, SAT), their jurisdiction, the National Green Tribunal, Armed Forces Tribunal, and other specialized tribunals, the constitutional validity of the tribunal system, the relationship with High Courts, and reform proposals.

Chapter 60: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This chapter examines Local Government (Panchayati Raj) under Part IX of the Constitution, introduced by the 73rd Amendment (1992). It covers the three-tier structure (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti/Block, Zila Parishad), constitutional provisions (Articles 243–243O), reservations, the Eleventh Schedule, State Election Commissions, State Finance Commissions, and grassroots democracy.

Chapter 61: URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This chapter covers Urban Local Government under Part IXA, introduced by the 74th Amendment (1992). It examines Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Nagar Panchayats, their constitutional framework (Articles 243P–243ZG), the Twelfth Schedule, composition, reservations, functions, finance, elections, and the role of urban local bodies in city governance and planning.

Chapter 62: LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE & TN PANCHAYATS ACT, 1994

This chapter focuses on local government structure with special emphasis on the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994. It covers the implementation of the 73rd Amendment in Tamil Nadu, the three-tier Panchayat system, election procedures, powers and functions of village panchayats, block-level and district-level bodies, and the specific provisions of the TN Panchayats Act.

Chapter 63: CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

This chapter examines Co-operative Societies under Part IXB of the Constitution, introduced by the 97th Amendment (2011). It covers the constitutional provisions (Articles 243ZH–243ZT), the right to form cooperative societies, democratic management, election of board members, supersession safeguards, audit requirements, and the role of cooperatives in India's economic development.

Chapter 64: ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORIES

This chapter covers the Administration of Union Territories under Articles 239–241 (Part VIII). It examines the constitutional framework, the role of the President and appointed administrators/Lieutenant Governors, the legislative assemblies of certain UTs (Delhi, Puducherry, J&K), the special status of Delhi under Article 239AA, and the distinction between UTs with and without legislatures.

Chapter 65: SCHEDULED AND TRIBAL AREAS

This chapter examines the constitutional provisions for Scheduled and Tribal Areas under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules. It covers the administration of Scheduled Areas (Fifth Schedule), the autonomous councils in tribal areas of Northeast India (Sixth Schedule), the Governor's special powers, the role of Tribes Advisory Councils, and the balance between tribal autonomy and national integration.

Chapter 66: THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI)

This chapter covers the Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324. It examines the composition, appointment, tenure, and removal of Election Commissioners, the ECI's powers and functions in conducting free and fair elections, the Model Code of Conduct, delimitation, voter registration, use of EVMs, and the role of ECI in safeguarding Indian democracy.

Chapter 67: ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA — FPTP VS. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

This chapter examines the electoral systems used in India—First Past the Post (FPTP) and Proportional Representation. It compares the merits and demerits of both systems, explains why India chose FPTP for direct elections and PR for indirect elections (President, Vice-President, Rajya Sabha), and analyzes debates on electoral system reform.

Chapter 68: ELECTORAL REFORMS

This chapter covers Electoral Reforms in India. It examines key reforms including introduction of EVMs, voter ID (EPIC), NOTA option, criminalization of politics, election expenditure limits, paid news regulation, simultaneous elections debate, state funding of elections, and recommendations of various committees and commissions on improving the electoral process.

Chapter 69: POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

This chapter examines Political Parties in India—their recognition, classification (national, state, registered), the role of the Election Commission, the anti-defection law's impact on party discipline, inner-party democracy, funding and transparency, coalition politics, and the evolution of India's multi-party system from single-party dominance to the current era of alliances.

Chapter 70: PRESSURE GROUPS

This chapter covers Pressure Groups and their role in Indian democracy. It examines different types of pressure groups (business, trade unions, agrarian, professional, religious, caste-based), their methods of influence (lobbying, agitation, media), the distinction between pressure groups and political parties, and their impact on policy-making and governance in India.

Chapter 71: SERVICES UNDER THE UNION AND THE STATES – THE STEEL FRAME OF INDIA

This chapter examines the Civil Services—the “Steel Frame” of India. It covers the constitutional provisions for All-India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS), Central Services, and State Services, the role of UPSC and State PSCs, recruitment processes, service conditions, the doctrine of pleasure, safeguards against arbitrary dismissal (Articles 310–311), and civil service reform proposals.

Chapter 72: SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN CLASSES

This chapter covers Special Provisions relating to certain classes under Part XVI. It examines reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, the National Commissions (NCSC, NCST, NCBC), the Anglo-Indian community provisions, special officers, and the constitutional framework for affirmative action and protective discrimination to ensure social justice.

Chapter 73: MISCELLANEOUS, TEMPORARY, TRANSITIONAL & SPECIAL PROVISIONS

This chapter covers miscellaneous, temporary, transitional, and special provisions in the Constitution. It examines provisions like Article 370 (now abrogated), special provisions for various states under Articles 371–371J, temporary provisions for Jammu & Kashmir, and other transitional arrangements that addressed specific historical and political circumstances during constitution-making.

Chapter 74: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

This chapter examines the Official Language provisions under Part XVII (Articles 343–351). It covers Hindi as the official language, the language of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the three-language formula, the Eighth Schedule (22 scheduled languages), the Official Languages Act, the role of the Official Language Commission, and the sensitive politics of language policy in India.

Chapter 75: CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

This chapter provides an overview of Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies. Constitutional bodies (created by the Constitution) include the Election Commission, UPSC, Finance Commission, CAG, and National Commissions. Non-constitutional/statutory bodies (created by law) include NITI Aayog, NHRC, CIC, and others. It examines their composition, powers, functions, and role in governance.

Chapter 76: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL (CAG)

This chapter examines the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India under Articles 148–151. It covers the CAG’s appointment, independence, duties and powers, the role in auditing government accounts (Union, State, and public enterprises), the relationship with the Public Accounts Committee, and the CAG’s significance as the guardian of the public purse.

Chapter 77: CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC LIFE

This chapter examines corruption in public life and the institutional framework to combat it. It covers the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), whistleblower protection, the Benami Transactions Act, and the need for institutional integrity to ensure transparent and accountable governance.

Chapter 78: LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS

This chapter covers the Lokpal and Lokayuktas—India’s anti-corruption ombudsman institutions. It examines the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013), the long journey from the first Lokpal Bill (1968) to its enactment, the composition and jurisdiction of Lokpal, the state-level Lokayuktas, their powers, limitations, and role in combating corruption at the highest levels.

Chapter 79: CBI AND CVC

This chapter examines the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). It covers the CBI's establishment (under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act), jurisdiction, types of cases, the controversy over "caged parrot" characterization, the CVC's role as the apex vigilance institution, and reforms needed for independence and effectiveness.

Chapter 80: RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI) ACT, 2005

This chapter covers the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. It examines the constitutional basis (Article 19), the Act's provisions including the right to seek information, obligations of public authorities, the role of Central and State Information Commissions, exemptions under Section 8, the relationship with the Official Secrets Act, and the impact of RTI on transparency and accountability.

Chapter 81: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

This chapter examines Human Rights in India, covering the constitutional framework (Fundamental Rights, DPSPs), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commissions, international human rights instruments ratified by India, the Protection of Human Rights Act (1993), and the challenges in protecting human rights including custodial deaths, torture, and marginalized communities.

Chapter 82: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

This chapter covers Women Empowerment in India and the constitutional, legal, and institutional mechanisms promoting gender equality. It examines constitutional provisions (Articles 14, 15, 16, 39, 42, 51A), the National Commission for Women, women's reservation in Panchayats and Parliament, laws against domestic violence, dowry, and sexual harassment, and the road to substantive gender equality.

Chapter 83: CONSUMER PROTECTION IN INDIA

This chapter examines Consumer Protection in India. It covers the Consumer Protection Act (2019, replacing the 1986 Act), consumer rights, the three-tier redressal mechanism (District, State, National Commissions), e-commerce consumer protection rules, product liability, misleading advertisements, and the framework for safeguarding consumer interests in the modern marketplace.

Chapter 84: NCRWC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COMMISSIONS

This chapter examines the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) and the Administrative Reform Commissions (First ARC, 1966 and Second ARC, 2005). It covers their recommendations on constitutional governance, judicial reforms, Centre-State relations, decentralization, e-governance, ethics in governance, and strengthening democratic institutions.