

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

INDIA GK PDF

INDIAN POLITY

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- The **Constituent Assembly** was formed on the recommendation of the **cabinet mission** in 1946
- The Constituent Assembly held its first meeting on **December 9, 1946**
- **Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha**, the oldest member was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly
- **Dr. Rajendra Prasad** was elected as the First President of the Assembly
- On December 13, 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru moved the historic Objectives Resolution in the Assembly
- The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by Pandit Nehru, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly
- Constituent Assembly as the provisional parliament of India from January 26, 1950 till the formation of new Parliament after the first general elections in 1951–52.
- The total expenditure incurred on making the Constitution amounted to 64 lakhs
- The Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained a Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules and 22 parts.
- Dr BR Ambedkar known as chief architect of Indian Constitution
- Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee is **Dr BR Ambedkar**
- **Prem Behari Narain Raizada** was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution. The original constitution was handwritten by him in a flowing italic style.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- It ratified the India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949.
- It adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947.
- It adopted the national anthem on January 24, 1950.

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- It adopted the national song on January 24, 1950.
- It elected Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950

MAJOR COMMITTEES AND ITS CHAIRMEN

- Union Powers Committee – **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- Union Constitution Committee – **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- Provincial Constitution Committee – **Sardar Patel**
- Drafting Committee – **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**
- Rules of Procedure Committee – **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**
- States Committee – **Jawaharlal Nehru**
- Steering Committee – **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CONSTITUTION

- **Longest Written Constitution:** The Indian Constitution is considered to be the longest written constitution in the world. It contains different provisions for states and centre and their inter-relationship. The framers of the Constitution have borrowed provisions from several sources and several other Constitutions of the world.
- **Single Constitution** for both the Centre and the states
- **A unique blend of rigidity and flexibility:** Indian Constitution may be called rigid as well as flexible based on its amending procedure.
- **Article 368** in part XX of the constitution deals with the powers of parliament to amend the constitution and its procedure
- The Supreme Court ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution
- The 42nd Amendment Act (1976) known as '**Mini-Constitution**' due to the important and large number of changes made by it in various parts of the Constitution.
- The term **socialist, secular and integrity** added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976**
- **Parliamentary System of Government:** Parliament controls the functioning of the Council of Ministers, and hence it is called the Parliamentary system.
- India has a Parliamentary Form of Government. India has a Bicameral Legislature with two houses named **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
- **Single Citizenship:** Indian Constitution has the provision for single citizenship provided by the union and recognized by all the states across India.
- The Indian Constitution is federal and envisages a dual polity (Centre and states) it provides for **only a single citizenship**, that is the Indian citizenship

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- **Universal Adult Franchise:** The universal adult franchise, which operates with the principle of 'one person one vote.' All Indians who are eighteen years of age or above is entitled to vote in the elections. There is no discrimination in voting rights for the citizens of India based on caste, religion, gender, race or status.
- The **voting age** was reduced to **18 years from 21 years** in 1989 by the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988
- **Fundamental Duties:** The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976 on the recommendation of the **Swaran Singh Committee**
- **The Part IV-A** of the Constitution (which consists of only one Article—51-A) specifies the eleven **Fundamental Duties**
- **Fundamental Rights:** The Constitution of India asserts the basic principle that every individual is entitled to enjoy certain essential rights. The provisions for Fundamental Rights are mentioned in Part III of the Indian Constitution.
- **Part III** of the Indian Constitution guarantees six **fundamental rights** to all the citizens
 1. Right to Equality (Articles 14–18),
 2. Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22),
 3. Right against Exploitation (Articles 23–24),
 4. Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28),
 5. Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30)
 6. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- Fundamental rights can also be suspended during the operation of a National Emergency except the rights guaranteed by **Articles 20 and 21**
- The **Supreme Court** is a federal court, the highest court of appeal, the guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens and the guardian of the Constitution.
- **Federal or Unitary:** India is an indestructible Union with destructible states which means it acquires a unitary character during the time of emergency. The Union is not strictly a federal polity but a quasi-federal polity with some vital elements of unitariness.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** One of the unique provisions of the Indian Constitution is the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles are like directives to the government to implement them for establishing social and economic justice in India.
- **Balancing Parliamentary Supremacy with Judicial Review:** Subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament or any rules made by the Supreme Court under Article 145, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgment pronounced or made by it. The independent judiciary in India with the power of judicial review is a prominent feature of our constitution

Other Important Points

- The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (1992)** have added a third-tier of government.
- The 73rd Amendment Act of 1992 gave constitutional recognition to the panchayats (rural local governments) by adding a new Part IX and a new Schedule 11 to the Constitution.

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- The 74th Amendment Act of 1992 gave constitutional recognition to the municipalities (urban local governments) by adding a new Part IX-A and a new Schedule 12 to the Constitution
- The **constitution of India** provides for a parliamentary form of government
- **Article 74 and 75** deals with the parliamentary system at the Centre and article 163 and 164 in the states
- In 1947, Indian Civil Service (ICS) was replaced by IAS and the Indian Police (IP) was replaced by IPS and were recognised by the Constitution as All-India Services
- In 1966, the **Indian Forest Service (IFS)** was created as the third All-India Service
- **Article 312** of the Constitution authorises the **Parliament** to create new **All-India Services** on the basis of a **Rajya Sabha** resolution
- **Article 280** provides for a **Finance Commission** as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the President every fifth year or even earlier

PARTS OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Part	Contains	Articles Covered
PART I	The union and its territory	1 to 4
PART II	Citizenship	5 to 11
Part III	Fundamental Rights	12 to 35
Part IV	Directive Principles of State Policy	36 to 51
Part IV A	Fundamental Duties	51A
Part V	The Union Government	52 to 151
Part VI	The State Governments	152 to 237
Part VIII	The Union Territories	239 to 242
Part IX	The Panchayats	243 to 243-O
Part IX A	The Municipalities	243-P to 243Z-G
Part IX B	The Co-operative Societies	243Z-H to 243-ZT
Part X	The scheduled and Tribal Areas	244 to 244-A
Part XI	Relations between the Union and the States	245 to 263
Part XII	Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits	264 to 300-A
Part XIII	Trade and Commerce within the territory of India	301 to 307
Part XIV	Services Under the Union, the States	308 to 323

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Part XIV A	Tribunals	323-A to 323-B
Part XV	Elections	324 to 329-A
Part XVI	Special Provisions Relating to certain Classes	330 to 342
Part XVII	Languages	343 to 351
Part XVIII	Emergency Provisions	352 to 360
Part XIX	Miscellaneous	361 to 367
Part XX	Amendment of the Constitution	368
Part XXI	Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions	369 to 392
Part XXII	Short title, Commencement, Authoritative Text in Hindi and Repeals	393 to 395

IMPORTANT ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Articles	Deals with
PART I	The union and its territory
Article 1	Name and territory of the Union
Article 2	Admission and establishment of the state.
Article 3	Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states
PART II	Citizenship
Article 5-11	Citizenship
PART III	Fundamentals Rights
Article 13	Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights
Article 14	Equality before law
Article 15	The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth
Article 16	Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment
Article 17	Abolition of untouchability
Article 18	Abolition of titles

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Article 19	Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc
Article 20	Protection in respect of conviction for offences
Article 21	Protection of life and personal liberty
Article 21 A	Right to elementary education
Article 23	Prohibition of traffic human beings and forced labor
Article 24	Prohibition of employment of children in factories, Etc.
Article 25	Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion
Article 26	Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs
Article 29	Any section of the citizens shall have the right to conserve its distinct language, script or culture
Article 30	Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions
Article 31 C	Saving of laws giving effect to certain directive principles
Article 32	Remedies for enforcement of fundamental rights including writs
PART IV	Directive principles of state policy
Article 38	State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people
Article 40	Organisation of village panchayats
Article 41	Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases
Article 44	Uniform civil code for the citizens
Article 45	Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of 6 years
Article 46	Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections
Article 50	Separation of judiciary from executive
Article 51	Promotion of international peace and security
PART IV A	
Article 51 A	Fundamental duties
PART V	The union
Article 52	The president of India

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Article 54	Election of president
Article 61	Procedure for impeachment of the president
Article 63	The vice president of India
Article 64	The vice president of India to be ex officio chairman of the council of states
Article 66	Election of vice president
Article 72	Pardoning powers of president.
Article 74	Council of ministers to aid and advise the president
Article 76	Attorney-General for India
Article 79	Constitution of parliament
Article 80	Composition of the Rajya sabha
Article 81	Composition of the Lok sabha
Article 83	Duration of houses of parliament
Article 86	Right of president to address and sent messages to houses
Article 87	Special address by the president
Article 88	Rights of ministers and attorney general as respects houses
Article 93	The speaker and deputy speaker of the lok sabha
Article 98	Secretariat of parliament
Article 99	Oath of affirmation by members
Article 107	Provisions as to introduction and passing of bills
Article 108	Joint sitting of both houses in certain cases
Article 109	Special procedure in respect of money bills
Article 110	Definition of Money Bills
Article 111	Assent to bills
Article 112	Annual financial statement (Budget)
Article 116	Votes of account, votes of credit and exceptional grants
Article 117	Special provisions as to financial bills
Article 123	Power of president to promulgate ordinances during recess of Parliament
Article 124	Establishment and construction of supreme court

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Article 137	Review of judgments or orders by the supreme court
Article 141	Law declared by supreme court to be binding on all courts
Article 143	Power of president to consult Supreme Court
Article 148	Comptroller and auditor-General of India
Article 149	Duties and powers of the comptroller and auditor-general
PART VI	The states
Article 155	Appointment of governor
Article 161	Power of governor to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases
Article 163	Council of ministers to aid and advise the governor
Article 167	Duties of chief minister with regard to the furnishing of information to governor, etc
Article 169	Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states
Article 200	Assent to bills by governor (including reservation for President)
Article 213	Power of governor to promulgate ordinances during recess of the state legislature
Article 226	Power of high courts to issue certain writs
Article 239AA	Special provisions with respect to Delhi
Article 239 to 242	The Union Territories
Article 243 to 243-0	The Panchayats
Article 243-P to 243-ZG	The Municipalities
Article 243 K	State Election Commission
Article 249	Power of Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest
Article 262	Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers or

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	river valleys
Article 263	Provisions with respect to an inter-state council
Article 265	Taxes not to be imposed save by authority of law
Article 275	Grants from the Union to certain states
Article 280	Finance Commission
Article 300	Suits and proceedings
Article 300 A	Right to property
Article 307	Inter-State Trade and Commerce Commission
Article 311	Dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a state
Article 312	All-India Services
Article 315	Public service commissions for the Union and for the states
Article 320	Functions of Public service commissions
Article 323 A	Administrative tribunals
Article 324	Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission
Article 330	Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the House of the People
Article 335	Claims of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to services and Posts
Article 343	Official languages of the Union
Article 352	Proclamation of Emergency (National Emergency)
Article 356	Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in states (President's Rule)
Article 360	Provisions as to financial emergency.
Article 365	Effect of failure to comply with, or to give effect to, directions given by the Union (President's Rule)
Article 368	Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution
Article 370	Temporary provisions with respect to the state of Jammu and Kashmir

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SCHEDULES OF THE CONSTITUTION

FIRST SCHEDULE

1. Names of the States and their territorial jurisdiction.
2. Names of the Union Territories and their extent

SECOND SCHEDULE

- Provisions relating to the emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of
 1. The President of India
 2. The Governors of States
 3. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha
 4. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
 5. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the states
 6. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council in the states
 7. The Judges of the Supreme Court
 8. The Judges of the High Courts

THIRD SCHEDULE

- Forms of Oaths or Affirmations of members of legislatures, ministers and judges

FOURTH SCHEDULE

- Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and the union territories

FIFTH SCHEDULE

- Provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes

SIXTH SCHEDULE

- Administration of tribal areas of north-eastern states

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

- Distribution of powers between the Union and the States government in terms of Union List, State List and Concurrent List.

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

- Languages recognized by the Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are 22 languages

NINTH SCHEDULE

- Validation of certain acts and regulations
- This schedule was added by the 1st Amendment (1951)

TENTH SCHEDULE

- Provisions relating to disqualification of the members of Parliament and State Legislatures on the ground of defection.
- This schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985, also known as Anti defection Law

ELEVENTH SCHEDULE

- Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats. It has 29 matters.

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- This schedule was added by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992

TWELFTH SCHEDULE

- Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. It has 18 matters
- This schedule was added by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992

SOURCES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Sources	Features Borrowed
Government of India Act of 1935	▪ Judiciary ▪ Public Service Commissions ▪ Federal Scheme ▪ Office of governor ▪ Emergency provisions ▪ Administrative details
Constitution of Britain	▪ Parliamentary government ▪ Rule of Law ▪ Legislative procedure ▪ Single citizenship ▪ Cabinet system ▪ Prerogative writs ▪ Parliamentary privileges and bicameralism ▪ Office of comptroller & auditor general
Constitution of USA	▪ Fundamental rights ▪ Independence of judiciary ▪ Judicial review ▪ Impeachment of the president ▪ Removal of Supreme Court and high court judges ▪ Post of vice president
Constitution of Ireland	▪ Directive Principles of State Policy ▪ Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha ▪ Method of election of president
Constitution of Canada	▪ Federation with a strong Centre ▪ Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre ▪ Appointment of state governors by the

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	Centre ▪ Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
Australian Constitution	▪ Concurrent List ▪ Freedom of trade, commerce and inter course ▪ Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament
Weimar Constitution of Germany	▪ Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency
French Constitution	▪ Republic and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble
South African Constitution	▪ Procedure for amendment of the Constitution ▪ Election of members of Rajya Sabha
Japanese Constitution	▪ Procedure established by Law
Constitution of USSR(Russia)	▪ Fundamental duties ▪ The ideal of justice in the Preamble

PREAMBLE

- The term '**preamble**' refers to the introduction or preface to the Constitution. It consists of the ideals, objectives and **basic principles of the Constitution**. It has great value and has been described as the 'key to the Constitution'.
- The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the '**Objective Resolution**', drafted by **Jawaharlal Nehru**, which was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **January 22, 1947**. It has been amended once by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976**, which added three new words - **socialist, secular and integrity**.
- The Preamble begins with the phrase '**We, the People of India**'. Thus, we can say that the people of India are the source of our Constitution.
- The Preamble of our Constitution states that India is a **Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic**. Its aim is to secure to all Indian citizens Social, economic and political justice.
- The objectives stated by the Preamble are to secure **justice, liberty, equality to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation**.
- The date is mentioned in the preamble when it was adopted i.e. **November 26, 1949**
- The concept of **Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity** in our **Preamble** was adopted from the French Motto of the **French Revolution in 1789**.

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KEY WORDS IN THE PREAMBLE

- **Key words**-Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

Sovereign

- The word '**sovereign**' implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation, but an independent state. There is **no authority above it**, and it is free to conduct its own affairs (both Internal and external).

Socialist

- The term Socialist added in the Preamble by 42nd Amendment, 1976. Indian brand of socialism is Democratic Socialism that holds faith in a mixed economy where both the private and public sectors co-exist side by side.

Secular

- The term Secular was incorporated in the Preamble by 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976
- The Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism ie, all religions in our country have the same status and support from the state

Democratic

- The term implies that the Constitution of India has an established form of Constitution which gets its authority from the will of the people expressed in an election.

Republic

- The term indicates that the head of the state is elected by the people.
- A democratic polity can be classified into two categories
 1. Monarchy (Ex: Britain)
 2. Republic (Ex: India, USA).
- In India, the President is the head of the state and he is elected indirectly by the people of India.

CITIZENSHIP

- The **Constitution of India** provides for a **single** and **uniform citizenship** for the whole of India.
- **Articles 5 to 11** under **Part II** of the Constitution deals with the citizenship.
- **The Citizenship Act of 1955** provides for acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.
- This Act has been amended so far six times by the following Acts:
 1. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1986.
 2. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1992.
 3. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.
 4. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005.
 5. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2015.
 6. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

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- **Parliament** shall have the power to make any provision with respect to **the acquisition and termination of citizenship** and all other matters relating to citizenship (**Article 11**).
- **Citizens** are full members of the Indian State. They enjoy all civil and political rights
- **Aliens**, on the other hand, are the citizens of some other state and hence, do not enjoy all the civil and political rights. They are of two categories—friendly aliens and enemy aliens. Enemy aliens enjoy lesser rights than the friendly aliens, Eg, they do not enjoy protection against **arrest and detention (Article 22)**
- The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India (**and denies the same to aliens**):
 1. Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
 2. Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
 3. Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).
 4. Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).
 5. Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.
 6. Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.

Acquisition of Citizenship

- According to the Citizenship Act, 1955, the citizenship could be acquired through any of the following methods.
 1. **By Birth:** All persons born in India on or after January 26, 1950 are treated as citizens by birth.
 2. **By Descent:** A person born outside India on or after January 26, 1950 shall be a citizen of India by descent, if his father is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.
 3. **By Registration:** A person can acquire citizenship of India by registration with appropriate authority.
 4. **By Naturalisation:** A foreigners can acquire Indian citizenship, on application for naturalization to the Government of India.
 5. **By Incorporation of Territory:** In the event of a certain territory being added to the territory of India, the Government of India shall specify the persons of that territory who shall be citizen of India

Loss of Citizenship

- The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes three ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution, viz, renunciation, termination and deprivation.
 1. **By Renunciation:** It can be voluntarily renounced by a citizen
 2. **By Termination:** When an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country, his Indian citizenship automatically terminates. This provision, however, does not apply during a war in which India is engaged.
 3. **By Deprivation:** It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government, if:
 - (i).The citizen has obtained the citizenship by fraud.
 - (ii).The citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalization, been imprisoned in any country for two years.
 - (iii) The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war;

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FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- The **Fundamental Rights** are enshrined in **Part III** of the Constitution from **Articles 12 to 35**.
- **Part III** of the Constitution is rightly described as the **Magna Carta** of India
- **Originally**, the Constitution provided for **seven Fundamental Rights**. The right to property was deleted from the list of Fundamental Rights So at presently only six Fundamental Rights
- The **right to property (Article 31)** was **deleted** from the list of Fundamental Rights by the **44th Amendment Act, 1978**. It is made a legal right under **Article 300-A in Part XII** of the Constitution.
- **Part III** of the Indian Constitution guarantees **six fundamental rights** to all the citizens
 1. Right to Equality (Articles 14–18),
 2. Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22),
 3. Right against Exploitation (Articles 23–24),
 4. Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28),
 5. Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30)
 6. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- Fundamental rights can also be suspended during the operation of a **National Emergency except** the rights guaranteed by **Articles 20 and 21**
- **Article 17** abolishes ‘**untouchability**’ and forbids its practice in any form.
- **Article 21 A** declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years. This provision was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002
- **Article 24** prohibits the employment of children below the age of **14 years** in any factory, mine or other hazardous activities like construction work or railway
- **Article 16** provides for equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment or appointment to any office under the state
- **Article 33** empowers the Parliament to restrict or abrogate the fundamental rights of the members of armed forces, paramilitary forces, police forces, intelligence agencies and analogous forces

Right to constitutional remedies (Articles - 32)

- A **writ** is an order or command issued by a court in writing under its seal. It is in the nature of a command or prohibition from performing certain acts that are specified in the orders of the court. Both the Supreme Court and the High Courts are empowered to issue five kinds of writs. That is why the **Supreme Court** is called the “**Guardian of the Constitution**”.
 1. **Habeas Corpus**: Safeguards people from illegal arrests.
 2. **Mandamus**: It protects the petitioner who requires legal help to get his work done by respective public authorities.
 3. **Prohibition**: It prohibits a subordinate court from acting beyond its jurisdiction.
 4. **Certiorari**: It quashes an order issued by a subordinate court by overstepping its jurisdiction
 5. **Quo Warranto**: It prevents usurpation of public office through illegal manner.
- The **Supreme Court (under Article 32)** and the **high courts (under Article 226)** can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto.

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- According to **Dr. Ambedkar**, **Article 32** is “**the heart and soul of the Constitution**”.

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

- The **Directive Principles of State Policy** are enumerated in **Part IV** of the Constitution from **Articles 36 to 51**.
- The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the **Irish Constitution** of 1937, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution.
- The Constitution of India does not contain any classification of Directive Principles. However, on the basis of their content and direction, they can be classified into three broad categories, viz, **socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual**. These principles are not enforceable by the courts.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described these principles as ‘**novel features**’ of the Indian Constitution.
- The 86th Amendment Act of 2002 changed the subject -matter of Article 45 and made elementary education a fundamental right under Article 21 A.
- The **Parliament** can **amend** the **Fundamental Rights** for **implementing** the **Directive Principles**, so long as the amendment **does not damage or destroy the basic structure of the Constitution**.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

- The Fundamental Duties in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of former USSR.
- In 1976, the Government of India set up the **Swaran Singh Committee** to make recommendations on fundamental duties. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added some responsibilities of citizens to our Constitution called the Fundamental Duties. This amendment added a new part, namely, **Part IVA** to the Constitution.
- The Part IV-A** of the Constitution (which consists of only one Article—51-A) specifies the eleven **Fundamental Duties**

LIST OF FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

- According to **Article 51 A**, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India
 - To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
 - To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired the national struggle for freedom
 - To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India
 - To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so
 - To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
 - To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture

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7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures
8. To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform
9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence
10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement
11. To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

National Emergency (Article 352)

- Emergency due to war, external aggression or armed rebellion (**Article 352**). This is popularly known as **National Emergency**.
- The proclamation of Emergency must be approved by both the Houses of **Parliament within one month** from the date of its issue.
- Emergency approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the emergency **continues for six months**, and can be **extended to an indefinite period** with an approval of the Parliament for every six months
- A proclamation of emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.
- Articles 358 and 359 describe the effect of a National Emergency on the **Fundamental Rights**. Article 358 deals with the suspension of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by Article 19, while Article 359 deals with the suspension of other Fundamental Rights (except those guaranteed by **Articles 20 and 21**).
- This type of emergency has been declared three times so far: in 1962, 1971 and 1975

State emergency (Article 356)

- Emergency due to the failure of the constitutional machinery in the states (Article 356). This is popularly known as **President's Rule**
- A proclamation imposing President's Rule (Article 356) must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within **two months** from the date of its issue
- **President's rule (Article 356)** approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for **six months**. It can be extended for a **maximum period of three years** with the approval of the Parliament every six months
- A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.
- The State is governed by the Governor on behalf of the President. For the first time, the President's Rule was imposed in **Punjab in 1951**.

Financial emergency (Article 360)

- **Article 360** empowers the president to proclaim a **Financial Emergency** if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within **two months** from the date of its issue.
- Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency **continues indefinitely** till it is revoked.
- A proclamation of Financial Emergency may be revoked by the president at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.
- This type of emergency has not been declared in India so far

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF INDIA

- Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Article 343 to 351.
- Article 343 (1) has mentioned that “**The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.**”
- English is an additional official language for union government along with Hindi
- The Eighth Schedule to the Indian Constitution contains a list of 22 scheduled languages (Originally 14 languages). These are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967; Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.
- The legislature of a state may adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the official language of that state. Until that is done, English is to continue as the official language of that state. Under this provision, most of the states have adopted the major regional language as their official language

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure
- The Supreme Court ruled that the constituent power of Parliament under Article 368 does not enable it to alter the ‘basic structure’ of the Constitution (In the 1973, **Kesavananda Bharati Case**, the Supreme Court ruled that Parliament cannot alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution)
- **The procedures for amendment of the constitution are as follows**
 1. An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament and not in the state legislatures.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

2. The bill can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member and does not require prior permission of the president.
3. The bill must be passed in each house by a special majority, that is, majority by more than 50 percent of the total membership of the house and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the house present and voting. Each house must pass the bill separately.
4. After duly passed by both the houses of parliament and ratified by the state legislatures wherever necessary, the bill is forwarded to the President for assent. The President must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. After President's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e., A Constitutional Amendment Act)

Types of Amendments

- The constitution can be amended in three ways
 1. Simple majority of the parliament
 2. Special majority of the parliament
 3. Special majority of the parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures.

UNION AND ITS TERRITORY

- Article 1 describes India that is Bharat as a Union of States
- The 100th Constitutional Amendment Act (2015) was enacted to give effect to the acquiring of certain territories by India and transfer of certain other territories to Bangladesh
- Article 3 authorises the Parliament to: form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state, increase the area of any state, diminish the area of any state, alter the boundaries of any state, and alter the name of any state
- Andhra Pradesh was the first linguistic state in India by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state
- The 36th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975) was enacted to make Sikkim a full-fledged state of the Indian Union
- India currently having 28 states and 8 union territories
- In 1987 Goa was conferred a statehood and become a 25th state of union of India

STATES AND ITS FORMATION YEARS

State	Formation years
Andhra Pradesh	1953
Gujarat	1960
Maharashtra	1960
Kerala	1956
Nagaland	1963

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

Haryana	1966
Karnataka	1956
Himachal Pradesh	1971
Manipur, Tripura	1972
Meghalaya	1972
Sikkim	1975
Mizoram	1987
Arunachal Pradesh	1987
Goa	1987
Uttarakhand	2000
Chhattisgarh	2000
Jharkhand	2000
Telangana	2014

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SOME STATES

S.No	States	Articles
1	Jammu and Kashmir	Article 370 (Abrogated)
2	Maharashtra	Article 371
3	Gujarat	Article 371
3	Nagaland	Article 371-A
4	Assam	Article 371-B
5	Manipur	Article 371-C
6	Andhra Pradesh	Article 371-D and 371-E
7	Sikkim	Article 371-F
8	Mizoram	Article 371-G
9	Arunachal Pradesh	Article 371-H
10	Goa	Article 371-I

CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

1. ELECTION COMMISSION

- **Article 324** of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to **parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice president of India** shall be vested in the election commission.
- The Election Commission is a permanent and an independent body established by the Constitution of India. It ensures free and fair elections in the country.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The president of India appoints Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. They hold office for a term of **six years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier
- The powers and functions of the Election Commission with regard to elections to the Parliament, state legislatures and offices of President and Vice-President can be classified into three categories
 1. Administrative
 2. Advisory
 3. Quasi-Judicial
- It must be noted here that the election commission is not concerned with the elections to **panchayats and municipalities in the states**. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**. . It conducts elections to Panchayats Bodies and Urban Local Bodies in accordance with **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments**.

2. UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution contain elaborate provisions regarding the composition, appointment and removal of members along with the independence, powers and functions of the UPSC
- A chairman and other members of UPSC appointed by the president of India
- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of **six years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier

3. STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- Articles 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Constitution deal with the composition, appointment and removal of members, power and functions and independence of a SPSC
- A chairman and other members of State Public Service appointed by the governor of the state. They can be removed only by the president
- The chairman and members of the Commission hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years.
- The **Constitution** makes a provision for the establishment of a **Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC)** for two or more states. While the **UPSC** and the **SPSC** are created directly by the **Constitution**, a **JSPSC** can be created by an act of **Parliament** on the request of the state legislatures concerned.
- Article 315 - Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the states
- Article 316 - Appointment and term of office of members
- Article 317 - Removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission
- Article 320 - Functions of Public Service Commissions

4. FINANCE COMMISSION

- Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body
- Chairman and four other members of Finance Commission to be appointed by the president
- It is constituted by the **president of India every fifth year** or at such earlier time as he considers necessary

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The constitution of India envisages the Finance commission as the balancing wheel of fiscal federalism in India
- Articles Related to Finance Commission
Article 280- Finance Commission
Article 281- Recommendations of the Finance Commission

5. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is a constitutional body. It is directly established by Article 338 of the Constitution.

6. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULES CASTES

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) is a constitutional body. It is directly established by Article 338-A of the Constitution.

7. SPECIAL OFFICER FOR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

- Article 350-B of the Constitution, the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957. He is designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities

8. COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

- The Constitution of India (**Article 148**) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- He is the **guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system** of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is appointed by the **president of India**

9. ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA

- The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India
- He is the **highest law officer in the country**
- The Attorney General of India is appointed by the **president**. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court
- He has the **right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament** of which he may be named a member **but without a right to vote**
Article 88- Rights of Attorney-General as respects the Houses of Parliament and its Committee

10. ADVOCATE GENERAL FOR THE STATE

- The Constitution (Article 165) has provided for the office of the advocate general for the states
- He is the **highest law officer in the state**

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The advocate general of state is appointed by the **governor** of respective state. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court.
- He has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the **Houses of the state legislature or any committee of the state legislature** of which he may be named a member but **without a right to vote**

NON-CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

1. NITI Aayog

- On the 13th of August, 2014 Government of India scrapped the 65-year-old Planning Commission and announced that it would be replaced by a new body
- **On January 1, 2015**, the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established
- It is a non-constitutional or extra-constitutional body and a non-statutory body
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy '**Think Tank**' of the Government of India providing both directional and policy inputs
- The **Prime Minister** of India is ex officio chairman of **NITI Aayog**
- Governing Council comprises the Chief Ministers of all the States, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with Legislatures (Delhi and Puducherry) and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories
- Vice-Chairman is appointed by the Prime Minister. He enjoys the **rank** of a **Cabinet Minister**

2. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- The National Human Rights Commission is a statutory and not a constitutional body
- It was established in 1993 under a legislation enacted by the Parliament namely, **the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. This Act was amended in 2006**
- The chairman and members of National Human Rights Commission are appointed by the president of India.
- The chairman and members hold office for a term **of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years. Whichever is earlier.**
- The **chairman should be a retired chief justice of India**, and **members** should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court

3. STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- The Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993 provides for the creation of State Human Rights Commission at the state level
- **Twenty-five states** have constituted the State Human Rights Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications
- The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years whichever is earlier

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The chairperson and members of a **State Human Rights Commission** are appointed by the governor, they can be **removed only by the President**
- The **chairperson** should be a **retired Chief Justice of a High Court**

4. CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

- The **Central Information Commission** was established by the **Central Government in 2005**
- It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is **not a constitutional body**
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the **President of India**.
- Right to Information Act (RTI Act) was passed by Parliament of India on **15 June 2005** and came fully into force on **12 October 2005**.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner hold office for a term **of 5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier

5. STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

- The **Right to Information Act of 2005** provides for the creation of a State Information Commission at the state level
- All the states have constituted the State Information Commissions through Official Gazette Notifications
- The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the Governor of respective states
- The State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner hold office for a term of **5 years or until they attain the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier

6. CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government
- Its establishment was recommended by the **Santhanam Committee** and established in **1964**
- The CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. Later in 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC
- The CVC is a multi-member body consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner and not more than two vigilance commissioners. They are appointed by the president of India
- They hold office for a term of four years or until they attain the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier

7. CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs
- CBI founded on **1 April 1963**
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The CBI Academy is located at **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** and started functioning in **1996**

8. LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS

- The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) of India (1966–1970) recommended the setting up 'Lokpal' and 'lokayukta' for the redressal of citizens' grievances
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) Bill as passed by both Houses has received the assent of the President on 01.01.2014. The Act has been brought into force with effect from 16th January, 2014
- The institution of lokayukta was established first in Maharashtra in 1971

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENT

- The Union executive consists of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the council of ministers and the attorney general of India
- The **President** is the head of the Indian State. He is the **supreme commander of the armed forces**.
- He is the **First Citizen of India** and acts as the symbol of Unity, Integrity and Solidarity of the Nation.
- According to **Article 53** of the constitution, the **executive power of the Union shall be vested in the President** which shall be exercised by him directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with Constitution
- A **person to be eligible for election as President** should fulfill the following qualifications:
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He should have completed 35 years of age.
 3. He should be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.
 4. He should not hold any office of profit under the Union government or any state government or any local authority or any other public authority
- The President is elected by an electoral college in accordance with the **system of proportional representation** by means of **single transferable vote**.
- The **President is elected not directly by the people but by members of electoral college** consisting of
 1. The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament,
 2. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states,
 3. The elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry
- The President holds office for a **term of five years**
- The **oath of office to the President** is administered by the **Chief Justice of India** and in his absence in the presence of the **senior most judge of the Supreme Court**.
- The **President can resign** from his office at any time by addressing the **resignation letter to the Vice-President**.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- When a **vacancy occurs in the office of the President** due to his resignation, removal, death or otherwise, the **Vice-President acts as the President** until a new President is elected.
- In case the office of **Vice-President** is **vacant**, the **Chief Justice of India** or if his office is also vacant, the **senior most judge of the Supreme Court acts as the President** or discharges the functions of the President.
- He can declare war or conclude peace, subject to the approval of the Parliament
- **Article 123** of the Constitution empowers the President to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament
- The **President** has been made only a **nominal Executive**, the real executive being the council of ministers headed by the prime minister.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE POWERS

- Article 77 requires that every executive action of the Union shall be taken in the name of the President
- He appoints the Prime Minister and the other members of the Council of Ministers, distributing portfolios to them on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- He is **responsible** for making a wide **variety of appointments**. These include the appointment of Governors of States, the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court and high Courts, the Attorney General, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners the Chairman and other Members of the Union Public Service Commission ,Ambassadors and High Commissioners to other countries
- He can declare any area as scheduled area and has powers with respect to the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

- He inaugurates the session of the Parliament by addressing it after the general election and also at the beginning of the first session each year.
- He may send messages to either House of the Parliament with respect to a bill pending in the House.
- A **bill passed by the Parliament** can become an act only if it receives the **assent of the President**
- **President terminates** the sessions of both or any of the **Houses of Parliament**. He can even dissolve the **Lok Sabha** before the **expiry of the term** of the House.
- He nominates **12 persons** who are eminent in literature, science, sports, art and social service to the **Rajya Sabha**. He can also nominate **two** persons belonging to Anglo-Indian Community to the **Lok Sabha**
- He **can promulgate ordinances** when the Parliament is not in session. These ordinances must be approved by the **Parliament within six weeks** from its **reassembly**. He can also withdraw an ordinance at any time.

FINANCIAL POWER

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- Annual Budget of the Central Government is presented before the **Lok Sabha** by the **Union Finance Minister** only with the **permission of the President**. He causes to be laid before the Parliament the annual financial statement (the Union Budget)
- Money bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with his prior recommendation.
- He constitutes a **finance commission** after **every five years**.
- The **Constitution of India** places the Contingency Fund of India is at the disposal of the President. No demand for a grant can be made except on his recommendation. He can make advances out of the contingency fund of India to meet any **unexpected expenditure**.

JUDICIAL POWERS

- Article 72 confers on the President power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment, or to commute the sentence of any person convicted of an offence.
- He appoints the Chief Justice and the judges of Supreme Court and high courts.

MILITARY POWERS

- Article 53(2) lays down that “the supreme command of the Defence Force of the Union shall be vested in the President and the exercise thereof shall be regulated by law”.

DIPLOMATIC POWERS

- The international treaties and agreements are negotiated and concluded on behalf of the President
- The President appoints Indian diplomats to other countries and receives foreign diplomats posted to India.

EMERGENCY POWERS

- The President has been empowered by the Constitution to proclaim National Emergency under Article 352, State Emergency under Article 356 and Financial Emergency under Article 360.
- The **emergency powers** of the **President of India** are specified in **Part XVIII** of the Indian Constitution.

REMOVAL OF THE PRESIDENT

- Article. 61 of the Constitution lays down a detailed procedure for the impeachment of the President.
- The impeachment charges can be initiated by **either House of Parliament**. These charges should be signed by one-fourth members of the House (that framed the charges), and a **14 days’ notice** should be given to the President.

VICE-PRESIDENT

- **Article 63** of the constitution provides for a **Vice President** of India. This office has been created to maintain the political continuity of the state.
- The Vice-President of India occupies the second highest office in the country.
- Qualification for the election as Vice President
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He must have completed the age of 35 years.
 3. He must not hold any office of profit under the Union, State or local Government.
 4. He should have the other qualifications required to become a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The Vice-President of India is elected by the elected members of both Houses of Parliament by secret ballot on the basis of **proportional representation system**, by means of the **single transferable vote**.
- The **term of office of the Vice President is five years**. He is eligible for re-election.
- The **Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Article 64 of the Indian Constitution). He presides over the meetings of the Rajya Sabha.
- He acts as President when a vacancy occurs in the office of the President due to his resignation, removal, and death or otherwise.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- Article 75 says only that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the president
- Prime Minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of parliament Lok shaba or Rajya shaba
- Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, V.P. Singh, P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda and Narendra Modi—became Prime Ministers after being Chief Ministers of their respective States
- The **council of ministers headed by the prime minister**
- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, while the other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister
- A person who is **not a member of the Parliament can be appointed as a minister** but he has to get himself elected to the Parliament within **six months**.
- A minister who is a member of one House of Parliament has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of the other House also, but he **can vote only in the House** of which he is a member.
- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the **Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha**. This provision was added by the **91st Amendment Act of 2003**
- **Article 75** clearly states that the council of ministers is collectively responsible to the **Lok Sabha**

PARLIAMENT

- The parliament is the legislative organ of the Union government.
- The Parliament of India consists of three parts, the President, the Council of States (Rajya sabha) and the House of the People (Lok sabha)

RAJYA SABHA

- The maximum **strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250**, out of which, 238 are to be the representatives of the states and union territories and 12 are nominated by the president
- Presently the Rajya Sabha has 245 members. Of these, 229 members represent the states, 4 members represent the union territories and **12 members are nominated by the president**
- Members of Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the ‘**State Legislative Assemblies**’ in accordance with the system of **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote**. This process of election is called “**indirect election**” as they are not elected by the people directly.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the Rajya sabha
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He should not be less than **30 years of age**.
 3. He should not hold any office of profit under any Government
- The **Fourth Schedule** of the Constitution of India deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the states and union territories
- The **Rajya Sabha (first constituted in 1952)** is a **continuing chamber**, It is a permanent body and not subject to dissolution. However, one-third of its members retire every second year
- Representation of the People Act (1951) provided that the term of office of a member of the Rajya Sabha is **six years**
- Rajya sabha cannot reject or amend a money bill
- The **vice-president** of India is the **ex-officio Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha
- The **Deputy Chairperson** of the **Rajya Sabha** is elected by the members of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Rajya sabha authorise** the Parliament to **create new All-India Services** common to both the Centre and states

LOK SABHA

- The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 552. Out of this, 530 members are to be the representatives of the states, 20 members are to be the representatives of the union territories and 2 members are to be nominated by the president from the Anglo-Indian community.
- Presently the Lok Sabha has **545 members**. Of these, **530 members** represent the states, **13 members** represent the union territories and **2 Anglo-Indian members** are nominated by the President
- Lok Shaba normal **term is five years** from the date of its **first meeting after the general elections**, after which it automatically dissolves
- The Constitution lays down the following qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the Lok sabha
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He should not be less than 25 years of age.
 3. He should not hold any office of profit under the Union or State Government.
- The **Speaker and deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha** is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha
- Lok sabha speaker does not vote in the first instance. But he can exercise a casting vote in the case of a tie. In other words, only when the House is divided equally on any question, the Speaker is entitled to vote. Such vote is called **casting vote**, and its purpose is to resolve a deadlock
- **Lok sabha speaker** presides over a **joint setting of the two Houses of Parliament**. Such a sitting is summoned by the President to settle a deadlock between the two Houses on a bill.
- **Lok sabha speaker** appoints the **chairman of all the parliamentary committees** of the Lok Sabha and supervises their functioning

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- Lok Sabha is dissolved; the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.
- In the following cases, a **member of Parliament vacates his seat**:
 - House can declare the seat of a member vacant if he is absent from all its meetings for a period **of sixty days without its permission**
 - Person cannot be a member of both the Parliament and the state legislature at the same time. If a person is so elected, his seat in Parliament becomes vacant if he does not resign his seat in the state legislature within **14 days**.
 - If a person is elected to both the Houses of Parliament, he must intimate within **10 days** in which House he desires to serve. In default of such intimation, his seat in the Rajya Sabha becomes vacant

ZERO HOUR

- The **zero hour starts immediately after the question hour** and lasts until the agenda for the day
- It is an **Indian innovation** in the field of parliamentary procedures and has been in existence since **1962**

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT PARLIMENT

- The **Non confidence motion** needs the support of **50 members** to be admitted
- **Ordinary Bill** can be **introduced either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha**. It can be introduced either by a minister or by a private member
- **Money bill** can be introduced **only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha**. It can be introduced only by a **minister**
- Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject a Money Bill. It should return the bill to the **Lok Sabha within 14 days**, either with recommendations or without recommendations
- The **Speaker of Lok Sabha** presides over a **joint sitting of the two Houses**
- The **final power to decide whether a particular bill is a Money Bill or not** is vested in the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**.
- The maximum gap between **two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months**. In other words, the Parliament should meet at least twice a year
- **Parliament Sessions**
 1. Budget Session- February to May
 2. Monsoon Session- July to September
 3. Winter Session- November to December
- Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar is first speaker of Lok sabha
- Parliament is also vested with **powers to impeach** the President and to remove Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Chief Election Commissioner and Comptroller and Auditor General of India in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Constitution.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

COMMITTEES OF THE PARLIAMENT

- Broadly, parliamentary Committees are of two kinds - **Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committees**. The former are permanent (constituted every year or periodically) and work on a continuous basis, while the latter are temporary and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- On the basis of the nature of functions performed by them, standing Committees can be classified into the following six categories:

1. Financial Committees

- a) Public Accounts Committee
- b) Estimates Committee
- c) Committee on Public Undertakings

2. Departmental Standing Committees (24)

3. Committees to Inquire

- a) Committee on Petitions
- b) Committee of Privileges
- c) Ethics Committee

4. Committees to Scrutinise and Control

- a) Committee on Government Assurances
- b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- c) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
- d) Committee on Welfare of SC's and ST's
- e) Committee on Empowerment of Women
- f) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

5. Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House

- a) Business Advisory Committee
- b) Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions
- c) Rules Committee
- d) Committee on Absence of Members from Sitzings of the House

6. House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees

- a) General Purposes Committee
- b) House Committee
- c) Library Committee
- d) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members.

Ad Hoc Committee

- Ad Hoc Committees can be divided into two categories, that is, Inquiry Committees and Advisory Committees.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

SUPREME COURT

- The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on **January 28, 1950**. It succeeded the Federal Court of India, established under the **Government of India Act of 1935**.
- The Supreme Court of India has been established by **Part V, Chapter IV** of the Constitution of India. **Articles 124 to 147** of the Constitution lays down the composition and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Article 124** states the establishment and constitution of supreme court
- Presently supreme court of 34 judges including chief justice of India
- Indian Constitution has established an **integrated judicial system** with the Supreme Court at the top and the high courts below it
- The single system of courts adopted from the Government of India Act 1935 enforces both central and state laws
- The parliament can increase the number of judges of supreme court of India
- The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president
- Senior most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed to the office of the chief justice of India by president of India
- Supreme court judge holds office until he attains the **age of 65 years**
- The judges of the Supreme Court can resign before their term by giving their **resignation in writing** to the **President**. The **Parliament** also has power to **remove** the Judges by invoking **impeachment** provisions
- Under Article 124 a person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. (a) He should have been a judge of a High Court for five years; or
(b) He should have been an advocate of a High Court for ten years; or
(c) He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.
- Supreme Court is the **guarantor of the fundamental rights of the citizens** and **guardian of the Constitution**
- Under **Article 130** the Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the **Supreme Court**.
- The Supreme Court of India has more powers than any other Supreme Court in any part of the world.

JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF SUPREME COURT

- The jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court can be classified into the following
 1. Original Jurisdiction.
 2. Writ Jurisdiction.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

3. Appellate Jurisdiction.
4. Advisory Jurisdiction.
5. A Court of Record.
6. Power of Judicial Review

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

- The cases which are brought directly in the first instance to the Supreme Court come under original jurisdiction
- The Supreme Court decides the disputes between
 1. The Centre and one or more states; or
 2. The Centre and any state or states on one side and one or more states on the other; or
 3. between two or more statesIn the above disputes the Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction

WRIT JURISDICTION

- Every individual has the right to move the supreme court directly by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of his fundamental rights through the issuance of writs

APPELLATE JURISDICTION

- The Supreme Court is the final appellate court in the country
- The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeal and hears appeals against the judgments of the lower courts.
 1. Appeals in constitutional matters.
 2. Appeals in civil matters. (Article 133)
 3. Appeals in criminal matters. (Article 134)
 4. Appeals by special leave (Article 136)

ADVISORY JURISDICTION

- The Constitution (Article 143) authorizes the president to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court. It is duly bound to give its opinion, which is not binding on president

COURT OF RECORD

- As a court of record, Supreme court has two powers
 1. Judgments, Proceedings and acts of supreme court are recorded for perpetual memory and testimony
 2. It can punish for contempt of court

POWER OF JUDICIAL REVIEW

- Judicial review is the power of the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of legislative enactments and executive orders of both the Central and state governments
- On examination, if they are found to be violative of the Constitution they can be declared as illegal, unconstitutional and invalid by the Supreme Court
- Some of the famous cases in which supreme court used the power of judicial review are
Golakanath case (1967)
Bank Nationalization case (1970)

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

Privy purse Abolition case (1971)
Keshavananda bharati caase (1973)
Minera mills case (1980)

STATE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNOR

- Articles **153 to 167 in Part VI** of the Constitution deal with the state executive
- The governor is the chief executive head of the state. The governor also acts as an agent of the central government
- Governor is appointed by the **president of India**
- The Legislature of a State or a High Court has no role in the removal of a Governor.
- The Constitution lays down only two qualifications for the appointment of a person as a governor
 1. He should be a citizen of India
 2. He should have completed the age of 35 years

Additionally, he should **not belong to the state** where he is appointed.

- A governor holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, this term of five years is subject to the pleasure of the President
- According to **Article 158 (3A)**, where the same person is appointed as Governor of two or more States, the emoluments and allowances payable to the Governor shall be allocated among the States in such proportion as the President may by order determine.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR

- The Governor is the head of the state executive and he has enormous powers. In the exercise of functions and powers, the Governor, except in certain cases, is to be guided by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister (under Article 163).

EXECUTIVE POWERS

- He appoints the leader of the majority party in the State Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister of the State.
- He appoints other members of the Council of Ministers on the recommendation of the Chief Minister.
- He acts as the **chancellor of universities** in the state. He also appoints the vice-chancellors of universities in the state.
- He **appoints** the advocate general of a state, state election commissioner and chairman and members of the state public service commission
- He directly rules a State when there is the imposition of the President's rule in the State.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

- **Under Article 175** Right of the Governor to address and send messages to the house or houses of state legislature

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- **Under Article 213** he can promulgate ordinances when the state legislature is not in session. These ordinances must be approved by the state legislature within six weeks from its reassembly
- He can nominate one member to the State Legislative Assembly from the Anglo-Indian Community.
- Every bill passed by the state legislature will become law only after his signature. But, when a bill is sent to the Governor after it is passed by the legislature, he has the options to give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for the reconsideration of the legislature.

FINANCIAL POWERS

- **Money bills** can be introduced in the state legislature only with his prior Recommendation
- He can make advances out of the **state Contingency Fund** to meet any unforeseen expenditure.
- He constitutes a **finance commission after every five years** to review the financial position of the panchayats and the municipalities

JUDICIAL POWERS

- He appoints the advocate -General of the State.
- He makes appointment, postings and promotions of the District Judges in consultation with the State High Court
- He can pardon, commute or reprieve punishment on receipt of appeals for mercy except death sentence.

STATE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- Article 164 clearly states that council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the state Legislative Assembly
- The chief minister is appointed by the governor. The other ministers are appointed by the governor on the advice of the chief minister
- All the members of the Council of Ministers must be the members of the State Legislature. Those who are not the members at the time of their appointment, must secure their seats in the Legislature within a period of 6 months

STATE LEGISLATURE

- The state legislature consists of the governor and the legislative assembly
- If the states having bicameral system the state legislature consists of the governor, the legislative council and the legislative assembly
- Some of the states have a unicameral system, while others have a bicameral system
- Presently only six states have two Houses (bicameral). These are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka
- The twenty-two states have unicameral system
- The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states. Accordingly, the Parliament can abolish a legislative council or create it
- The legislative assembly consists its **maximum** strength is fixed at **500 and minimum strength at 60**. It means that its strength varies from 60 to 500 depending on the population size of the state

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa, the minimum number is fixed at 30 and Mizoram is 40 and Nagaland is 46
- Duration of the legislative assembly is **5 years**
- The legislative council is a continuing chamber, it is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution
- A person must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the legislative council and not less than 25 years of age in the case of the legislative assembly.
- **Article 169** deals with the creation or abolition of Legislative Council in a State. Article 169 holds that if the state Legislative Assembly passes a resolution by a majority of not less than 2/3rd of the members present and voting and by the majority of total strength of the House, requesting the Parliament to create or abolish the state Legislative council then the **Parliament** may by law provide for the **abolition and creation of the Legislative Council**.
- Presiding officer of legislative assembly is Speaker and a Deputy Speaker
- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the assembly and not in the council. The council cannot amend or reject a money bill. It should return the bill to the assembly within **14 days**

HIGH COURT

- The high court operates below the Supreme Court but above the subordinate courts
- Presently there are **25 high courts** in the country. Out of them, four are common high courts. Delhi is the only union territory that has a own high court
- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory.
- The judges of a high court are appointed by the President. The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the respective state
- The judges of a high court hold office until he attains the age of **62 years**.
- The **President** can transfer a judge from one high court to another after consulting the Chief Justice of India
- **Parliament** can extend the jurisdiction of a High Court
- **Under Article 226** of the constitution, the High Courts are given powers of issuing writs not only for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights, but also for other purposes. In exercise of this power, a Court may issue the same type of writs, orders or directions which the Supreme Court is empowered to issue under Article 32.

CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

- The Constitution of India, being federal in structure, divides all powers (legislative, executive and financial) between the Centre and the states.
- The Centre-state relations are divided into three parts, which are mentioned below:
 1. Legislative Relations (Article 245-255)

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

2. Administrative Relations (Article 256-263)

3. Financial Relations (Article 268-293)

Legislative Power Distribution

- Articles 245 to 255 in Part XI of the Constitution deal with the legislative relations between the Centre and the states. These include:
 - Territorial extent of Central and state legislation
 - Distribution of legislative subjects
 - Parliamentary legislation in the state field;
 - Centre's control over state legislation.

Territorial extent of Central and state legislation:

- The powers are distributed between the union and State governments territorially. The Union Government possess the powers over the entire territory of India while the States have jurisdiction over their own territories.
- The Central Government has extra territorial jurisdiction that means that its laws govern not only persons and property within India but also Indian citizens and their properties located in any corner of the world

Subject Distribution

- The Constitution distributes the legislative subjects between the Union Government and States in an elaborate scheme. There are three Lists of distribution.
 - List I (Union List)** contains the subjects and powers exclusively allotted to the union parliament. There are 100 subjects here including defense, foreign affairs, banking, currency
 - List II (State List)** contains the subjects that are exclusively allotted to the State governments. There are 59 items including public order, and police, public health, local government, agriculture, forests, fisheries
 - List III (Concurrent List)** contains 52 items including criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage, education. This list is called as Concurrent List. Both the union and State governments have powers over these subjects. But when there occurs a clash between the union and State governments the law of the parliament will prevail
 - There is also another category called residuary powers. Any subject not mentioned in the above three lists will automatically come under the jurisdiction of the Union Government.

Administrative Relations

- Articles 256 to 263 in Part XI of the Constitution deal with the administrative relations between the Centre and the states.

Financial Relations

- Articles 268 to 293 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with Centre-state financial relations.
- Finances are very fundamental in the successful operation of federal system. Indian Constitution distributes financial powers between the union and States in a comprehensive arrangement that is broadly modeled on the 1935 Government of India Act. There are two sources of revenue distributed by the Constitution namely Tax Revenue and Non-tax Revenue.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The president of India constitutes a Finance Commission once in every five years. The article 280 of the Constitution describes the composition of the Finance Commission

VENKATACHALIAH COMMISSION

- The **National Commission to review the working of the Constitution** (NCRWC) also known as Justice **Manepalli Narayana Rao Venkatachaliah** Commission was set up by a resolution of the NDA Government of India led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee on **22 February 2000** for suggesting possible amendments to the Constitution of India.

INDIAN POLITY ONE LINERS

- An amendment of the constitution may be initiated by the introduction of a bill in either House of Parliament
- The Directive Principles of State Policy has been adopted from Irish Constitution
- Speaker of Lok Sabha has the right to decide whether a Bill is a money bill or not
- Attorney General of India is the first law officer of the country
- The President can advance money to meet unforeseen expenses from the Contingency Fund
- Article 352 of Indian Constitution has the provision for National Emergency
- Article 66 deals with the election of the Vice-president
- Parliament can remove the Vice-President from his office
- The salary and allowances of the Governor are charged from the Consolidated Fund of the State
- G V K Rao committee on Panchayat raj is constituted on 1985
- A member of the council of ministers can hold office without being a member of the state legislature for a maximum period of six months
- Six fundamental Rights are mentioned in Indian constitution
- President of India is the executive head of state in India
- Article 124 of the constitution of India provides the composition and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India
- Sharad Arvind Bobde is the 47th chief justice of India
- Article 72 deals with the pardoning power of the President
- The impeachment of the President is carried by parliament of India
- Article 56 deals with the tenure of the President
- Article 61 deals with the impeachment of the President
- Supreme Court held that the Preamble is not a part of the constitution in Berubari Union case (1960)
- 42th amendment acts amended the Preamble of the Indian constitution
- In a parliamentary form of Government, the real powers of the state are vested in the Council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The independence of Judiciary in Indian constitution is taken from USA
- Preamble of the constitution describes India as a secular state
- The first Parliamentary Forum on Youth constituted on 2006
- Shri Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Aayog
- **Rajiv Kumar** is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog
- Arvind Panagariya was the first Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog
- Think tank of Government of India that replaced the Planning commission is NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog came into effect from 1 January 2015
- The Panchayat Raj system exists in all the states except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and in all the Union territories except Delhi
- The Panchayat Raj system was first adopted by the state of Rajasthan
- The panchayat system was adopted to decentralize the power of democracy
- Part IX of the constitution deals with the panchayat
- Rajasthan was the first state to establish Panchayat raj institutions
- Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 makes provisions for a 3-tier system of Panchayat Raj for all the States having population of above 20 Lakhs
- NITI Aayog came into effect from 1 January 2015
- The Prime Minister of India is chairman of NITI Aayog
- High courts issue writs under Article 226
- Governor of the state appoints the Lokayukta and Upalokayukta
- Karnataka Lokayukta's office is considered to be the strongest in terms of power and scope
- The fundamental rights are provided in part III of the Indian Constitution
- Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes Untouchability
- Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of law for all individuals residing within the territory of India
- Articles 25 to 28 contain the right to religious freedom
- **Swaran singh committee** suggested to incorporate fundamental duties in the constitution
- Article 51 A of the Constitution contains fundamental duties
- The fundamental duties are mentioned in Part-IV A of the Constitution
- The fundamental duties are included in the constitution by 42nd Amendment in 1976
- Article 153 of the Constitution deals with the Governor of States
- The Governor of the State can be removed by President of India
- Financial emergency is imposed under Article 360
- National emergency proclamation is issued in Armed rebellion, External aggression and War
- Members of Election Commission are appointed by President of India
- The number of seats reserved for scheduled caste in the Lok sabha is 79
- **President of India** appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of Election Commission

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- Article 324 in the Indian Constitution provides for an Election Commission in India
- Article 44 of the Constitution is directed to establish Uniform Civil Code
- Articles 36 to 51 of the Indian Constitution contains Directive principles of State policy
- Directive principles of State Policy is mentioned in of the Indian constitution
- Indian constitution taken the concept of single citizenship from UK
- Article 5 to 11 part II of Indian constitution deals with Citizenship
- Article 148 in the Constitution on India provides for the post of Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Constitution of India came into effect on 26th January, 1950
- The constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949
- Right to property according to the constitution is Legal right
- The total number of Schedules in the constitution are 12
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) comes under the administrative control of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel
- The headquarters of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) located in **New Delhi**
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy located in **Ghaziabad**
- Central Bureau of Investigation was established in year of 1963
- Anti-Defection law passed in the year of 1985
- Article 83 lays down the qualifications for membership of the two Houses of Parliament
- The current limit of creamy layer (for OBC) in India to decide the benefits of the reservation is 8 lakhs per annum
- National Commission for Other Backward Class came into effect from 1993
- Procedure for the amendment of the Constitution is taken from **South Africa**
- Farming is mainly served by the Co-operative Societies in India
- State reorganisation committee was appointed on 1953
- Central Vigilance Commission established on 1964
- Central Information Commission is established by the central government under the Right to Information Act 2005
- Article 76 of Indian Constitution dealt with the appointment of attorney general of India
- The Attorney General of India is the highest law officer of the country
- Jawahar Lal Nehru prepared the preamble of the Indian Constitution
- Preamble of the Constitution describes India as a secular state
- Article 368 of Indian constitution deals with constitutional amendments
- 42nd constitutional Amendment of was passed during the emergency
- 92nd constitutional amendment Bill added Bodo, Dogri, Maithali and Santhali languages in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution
- Government of India act 1935 is called the mini constitution of India
- The council of ministers is responsible to the Lok Sabha

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The Ninth Schedule to the Indian Constitution was added by First Amendment
- Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has the right to remove the incompetent, inefficient and unproductive All India Service officers after 15 years of service
- Article 83 of the Constitution says that Rajya Sabha shall not be dissolute
- The representative from states in Rajya Sabha is elected by the Elected members of the state legislative Assembly
- Article 249 of Indian constitution says that Parliament has the power to make laws on any matter in the state list if a proclamation of emergency is in operation
- Article 275 has the provision that the union government will provide grants-in-aid to state government
- Article 280 of the Indian Constitution has the provision of Finance Commission in India
- Joint session of the parliament is arranged under the Article 108
- The Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) must be Retired Judge of Supreme Court
- National Human Rights Commission was established in the year of 1993
- The term of Comptroller and Auditor General of India is 6 years
- Andhra Pradesh was the first linguistic state
- Sarojini Naidu was the first woman governor in independence India
- The Estimates Committee is the largest Committee of the Parliament
- The salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court drawn from Consolidated Fund
- The strategy of Rolling plan was adopted during prime ministership of Morarji Desai
- Constitution describes India as Union of states
- Right to education is a human right as well as a fundamental right under the Constitution of India
- The United Nations declared 4th week of September is peace week
- The first session of the Constituent Assembly held at New Delhi
- Proclamation of National Emergency automatically suspends Right to freedom
- President decides the number of Judges in a High Court
- Malhotra committee was assigned to recommend reforms in the insurance sector\
- During the proclamation of National Emergency articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended
- Central pollution control bureau works under Environment and Forest ministry
- The year of the Shimla pact between India and Pakistan is 1972
- Liberty, Equality, Fraternity was a popular slogan of French revolution
- The Union Public Service Commission presents its report to President
- The maximum number of elected members in a State Assembly is 500
- First woman to become a Chief Minister of any State in India is Sucheta Kripalani
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first President of the Indian Union
- Radhakrishnan was the first President of the Indian Union
- Bibek Debroy committee report is related to Restructuring the railways
- Right against exploitation guaranteed that the Constitution prohibits traffic in human beings

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a term of six years
- President in consultation with Election Commission is authorised to decide a dispute regarding the disqualification of members of Parliament
- The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house but one-third of its members retire every two years
- The Supreme Court tender's advice to the President on a matter of law or fact. if he seeks such advice
- The objective of 97th Amendment Act is encourage economic activities of cooperatives which in turn help progress of rural India
- The States Reorganisation Commission was set up in 1953 to consider the demand for linguistic states was headed by Fazl Ali
- The legislative council in a state can be abolished by the Parliament on the recommendation of the state legislative assembly
- The Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, who is the chief of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, is appointed by speaker of Lok Sabha
- The Comptroller and Auditor General can be removed from his office before expiry of his term by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament
- The writ of Habeas Corpus is issued in the form of an order calling upon a person who has detained another person to bring that person before court and show authority for such detention
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha addresses his letter of resignation to the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- The Comptroller and Auditor General holds office for a term of six years
- The Government of India instituted Bharat Ratna and Padma Shri awards under Article 18 of the Constitution
- Impeachment proceedings against the President of India can be initiated in either House of Parliament
- The doctrine of judicial review is adopted in India to ensure smooth functioning of the Constitution
- The salary and allowances of the Comptroller and Auditor General are paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India
- The Presiding officer of Rajya Sabha is not a member of that house
- The Prime Minister of India occupies a superior position than the British Prime Minister because his office has been created by the Constitution
- In India power of judicial review is restricted because the Constitution is supreme
- The 42nd Amendment increased the term of the Lok Sabha from five years to six years
- The Election Commission of India has a Quasi-Judicial Power
- The President of India is elected through an electoral college consisting of the elected members of Parliament and state legislative assemblies
- Money bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior approval of the President
- The Parliament of India consists of the President, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- The Lok Sabha can be dissolved before the expiry of its term by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister
- The maximum gap between the two sessions of Parliament is six months
- Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singh never attended the Parliament during his tenure

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The power to form new states or change the boundaries of existing states rests with the Parliament
- The office of the Prime Minister in India has been created by the Constitution
- The government resigns if a no-confidence motion is passed in Lok sabha
- The pension of the judges of the High Court is charged from the Consolidated Fund of India
- Article 137 of the Constitution permits the Supreme Court to review its own judgement or order
- The Supreme Court of India was set up by the Constitution
- The States Reorganization Act, 1956, divided the entire country into 14 states and 6 union territories
- The titles and special privileges of the former rulers of the princely states were abolished by the 26th Amendment
- The president of India constitutes a Finance Commission once in every five years. The article 280 of the Constitution describes the composition of the Finance Commission. It will have one Chairman and four other members.

IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. First Amendment Act 1951

- Added Ninth Schedule to protect the land reform and other laws included in it from the judicial review
- Empowered the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward classes

2. Fourth Amendment Act, 1955

- Authorized the state to nationalize any trade

3. Seventh Amendment Act 1956

- It was necessitated on account of reorganization of states on a linguistic basis and changed first and fourth schedules
- Provided for the establishment of a common high court for two or more states
- Extended the jurisdiction of high courts to union territories

4. Eighth Amendment Act, 1960

- Extended reservation of SC, ST & Anglo Indians in Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies for a period of 10 years

5. Ninth Amendment Act, 1960

- Transferred certain territories to Pakistan following September 1958 Indo-Pak Agreement

6. Tenth Amendment Act, 1961

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- Incorporated Dadra and Nagar Haveli in the Indian Union

7. Twelfth Amendment Act, 1962

- Incorporated Goa, Daman and Diu in the Indian Union

8. Thirteenth Amendment Act, 1962

- Gave the status of a state to Nagaland and made special provisions for it

9. Fourteenth Amendment Act, 1962

- Incorporated Puducherry in the Indian Union

10. Fifteenth Amendment Act, 1963

- Enabled the high courts to issue writs to any person or authority even outside its territorial jurisdiction if the cause of action arises within its territorial limits.
- The retirement age of high court judges from 60 to 62 years

11. Seventeenth Amendment Act, 1964

- Amended right to property and Added more provisions in 9th schedule

12. Nineteenth Amendment Act, 1966

- Abolished the system of Election Tribunals and vested the power to hear election petitions in the High Courts

13. Twenty-First Amendment Act, 1967

- Included sindhi as the 15th language in the Eight Schedule

14. Twenty-Second Amendment Act, 1969

- Created a sub state of Meghalaya within Assam

15. Twenty-Fifth Amendment Act, 1971

- Curtailed the fundamental right to property

16. Twenty-Sixth Amendment Act, 1971

- Abolished titles and special privileges of former rulers of princely states

17. Twenty-Seventh Amendment, 1971

- Made certain special provisions for new Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram

18. Thirty-First Amendment Act, 1972

- Increased the number of Lok Sabha seats from 525 to 545

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

19. **Thirty-Fifth Amendment Act, 1974**

- Terminated the protectorate status of Sikkim and conferred on it the status of an associate state of the Indian Union

20. **Thirty-Sixth Amendment Act, 1975**

- Made Sikkim a full-fledged State of the Indian Union

21. **Forty-First Amendment Act, 1976**

- Increase in retirement age of members of State Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission from 60 to 62

22. **Forty-Second Amendment Act, 1976**

- Added three new words (socialist, secular and integrity) in the Preamble
- Added Fundamental Duties by the citizens (new Part IV A).
- Froze the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies on the basis of 1971 census till 2001
- Provided that the laws made for the implementation of Directive Principles cannot be declared invalid by the courts on the ground of violation of some Fundamental Rights

23. **Forty-Fourth Amendment Act, 1978**

- Provided that the fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended during a national emergency
- Deleted the right to property from the list of Fundamental Rights and made it only a legal right

24. **Fifty-Second Amendment Act, 1985**

- Provided for disqualification of members of Parliament and state legislatures on the ground of defection and added a new Tenth Schedule containing the details in this regard

25. **Fifty-Sixth Amendment Act, 1987**

- Goa was made full-fledged State
- Fixed the strength of the Goa Legislative Assembly at a minimum of 30 members

26. **Sixty-First Amendment Act, 1989**

- Reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years for the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections

27. **Sixty-Fifth Amendment Act, 1990**

- Establishment of National Commission for SCs & STs

28. **Sixty-Ninth Amendment Act, 1991**

- Special status to the Union Territory of Delhi by designing it as the National Capital Territory of

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

29. Seventy-First Amendment Act, 1992

- Included konkani, manipuri and nepali languages in the Eight Schedule

30. Seventy-Third Amendment Act, 1992

- Granted constitutional status and protection to the panchayat raj institutions
- The Amendment has added a new Part-IX entitled as 'the panchayats' and added new 11th Schedule

31. Seventy-Fourth Amendment Act, 1992

- Granted constitutional status and protection to the urban local bodies
- The Amendment has added a new Part IX-A entitled as 'the municipalities' and a new 12th Schedule

32. Eighty-Sixth Amendment Act, 2002

- Made elementary education a fundamental right. The newly-added Article 21-A declares that "the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may determine"
- Added a new fundamental duty under Article 51-A which reads— "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years"

32. Eighty-Ninth Amendment Act, 2003

- Bifurcated the erstwhile combined National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into two separate bodies

33. Ninety-First Amendment Act, 2003

- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha
- The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the legislative Assembly of that state

34. Ninety-Second Amendment Act, 2003

- Included four more languages in the Eighth Schedule. They are Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Mathilli (Maithili) and Santhali

35. One Hundredth Amendment Act, 2015

- Land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh and Amended 1st schedule of constitution

36. 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) has commenced with the enactment of the 101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016
- Articles 246A, 269A and 279A were added in the constitution

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

37. 102th constitutional amendment Act 2018

- Grant constitutional status to National Commission on Backward classes

38. 103th constitutional amendment Act 2019

- 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Section.

FEDERALISM

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.
- The exact balance of power between the central and the state government varies from one federation to another. This balance depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed
 1. The first route involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security. This type of **‘coming together’ federations** include the **USA, Switzerland and Australia**. In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.
 2. The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government. **India, Spain and Belgium** are examples of this kind of **‘holding together’ federations**. In this second category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States. Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

Key features of federalism

- There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

- The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy

Political parties

- Political parties are easily one of the most visible institutions in a democracy.
- A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.

Single-party system

- A single-party system is a type of sovereign state in which only one political party has the right to form the government
- .Examples: North Korea, Cuba, and China.

Two-party system

- A two-party system is a system where two major political parties dominate voting in nearly all elections at every level of government and, as a result, nearly all elected officials are members of one of the two major parties.
- The United States of America and the United Kingdom are examples of two-party system

Multiparty system

- If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, we call it a multiparty system.
- In this system, the government is formed by various parties coming together in a coalition. When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an alliance or a front
- Examples of multiparty system: India, Argentina, Brazil, Iceland, France.

Important Notes on Indian Polity for SSC & Railway Exams

List of all the National Parties in India

S.No	Recognized National Parties
1	All India Trinamool Congress
2	Bahujan Samaj Party
3	Bharatiya Janata Party
4	Communist Party of India
5	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
6	Indian National Congress
7	Nationalist Congress Party
8	National People's Party (NPP)

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