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PSC, Bank (Clerk/PO), SSC, Railways, S.I., Classes

Director - Rajeev Sir, Mob. & WhatsApp No.  9826072042

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CONSTITUTION

Important Parliamentary Terms

- (1) **Act**--A Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President.
- (2) **Ad hoc Committee**- A Committee constituted by the House or by the Chairman or by the presiding officers of both the Houses jointly to consider and report on specific matter and becomes *functus officio* as soon as the task is completed.
- (3) **Adjournment of Debate**-Adjournment on a motion adopted by the House, of the debate on a Motion/Resolution/Bill on which the House is then engaged until a future day or sine die as specified in the motion.
- (4) **Adjournment of the sitting of the House**- Termination of the sitting of the House which meets again at the time appointed for the next sitting.
- (5) **Adjournment sine die**-Termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for the next sitting.
- (6) **Appropriation Bill**- A Money Bill passed annually (or at various times of the year) providing for the withdrawal or appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of moneys, voted by Lok Sabha and moneys charged on the Consolidated Fund for the services of a financial year or a part of a financial year.
- (7) **Ballot**- A process to determine *inter se* priority of more than one notice through a draw of lot.
- (8) **Bill**--The draft of a legislative proposal put in the proper form which, when passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President becomes an Act.
- (9) **Budget**-Annual financial statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in respect of a financial year. The Budget is laid in Rajya Sabha in two parts *viz.*, the Railway Budget and the General Budget.
- (10) **Bulletin**-Bulletin means the Bulletin of Rajya Sabha. It is published in two parts. Part I contains a brief record of the proceedings of the House at each of its sittings; and Part II contains information on any matter relating to or connected with the business of the House or Committees or other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman may be included therein.
- (11) **"Calendar of Sittings"**- A calendar showing the provisional days on which Rajya Sabha is to sit and the nature of business to be transacted by it on those days.
- (12) **"Calling Attention"** – A procedure whereby a Member calls the attention of a Minister to a matter of urgent public importance, the Minister makes a brief statement thereon and thereafter the Members seek clarifications.
- (13) **"Casting Vote"**-The vote cast by the Chairman, or a Member acting as such in the House and by the

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Chairman or a Member acting as such in a Committee, in the case of an equality of votes on a matter.

(14) "*Crossing the floor*"--Passing between the member addressing the House and the Chair which is considered breach of Parliamentary etiquette.

(15) "*Demand for Grants*"--Earmarking of budgetary allocation for meeting the plan and non-plan expenditure of a Ministry/Department.

(16) "*Division*"--The mode of arriving at a decision on a proposed measure or question before the House by recording votes for or against it.

(17) "*Draw of lot*" - A method applied to determine the relative precedence of private members' Bills and Resolutions, notices of questions, half-an-hour discussions or any other notice given by more than one member simultaneously for being taken up on the same day.

(18) "*Expunction*"--Deletion of words, phrases or expressions from the proceedings or records of Rajya Sabha by an order of the Chairman for being defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified.

(19) "*Finance Bill*"--A Bill ordinarily introduced every year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period.

(20) "*Financial Business*" - The financial business of the House consists of the laying of the Railway and General Budgets and statements of supplementary Demands for Grants on the Table after they are presented to the Lok Sabha, general discussion on the General and Railway Budgets, consideration and return of connected Appropriate Bills and Finance Bills, laying of Budgets, etc. of States which are under the President's Rule.

(21) "*Gazette*"--The Gazette of India.

(22) "*Half-an-Hour Discussion*"--A Member with the permission of the Chairman may raise a discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent oral or written question and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.

(23) "*Leader of the Council*"--The Prime Minister, if he is a member of the Council or a Minister who is a member of the Council and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the Council.

(24) "*Leader of the Opposition*"--A Member of the House, who is, for the time being, the leader in that House of the Party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman.

(25) "*Leave of absence*"--A member wishing to obtain permission of the House for remaining absent from its sittings is required to make an application stating the reasons and the period for which he may be permitted to be absent from the sittings of the House.

(26) "*Legislative Business*" - Introduction, consideration and passing of a bill, piloted by a Minister or a Private Member, in the House.

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- (27) "*List of Business*"- A list of items of business scheduled to be taken up in Rajya Sabha on a particular day of the sittings in the order in which they stand on it.
- (28) "*Lobby*"-The covered corridor immediately adjoining the Chamber and co-terminus with it.
- (29) "*Maiden Speech*"-The first speech of a member after his election/nomination to the Rajya Sabha in the House.
- (30) "*Matters raised with permission*"- Immediately after the Question Hour and laying of papers, a Member may raise an issue of urgent public importance with the prior permission of the Chairman.
- (31) "*Member in charge of the Bill*"-The Minister/Private Member who has introduced the government/Private Members' Bill.
- (32) "*Memorandum of business*" – It is meant for the use of the Chair to help him while calling the items listed in the Agenda paper of the day.
- (33) "*Message*"-A communication from the President to a House or Houses of Parliament under articles 86(2) and 111 of the Constitution and a communication sent from one House of Parliament to the other House.
- (34) "*Motion*"-A formal proposal made to the House by a Minister or a member that the House do something, order something to be done or express an opinion with regard to some matter, and is so phrased that, if adopted, it will purport to express the judgment or will of the House.
- (35) "*Motion of Thanks*"-A formal motion moved in the House, expressing its gratitude to the President for the Address delivered by him/her under article 87(1) of the Constitution to both Houses of Parliament assembled together.
- (36) "*Naming a Member*"-The drawing of attention of the House by the Chairman to the conduct of a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the Rules of the House by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof, with a view to action being taken to suspend him from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
- (37) "*Ordinance*"-A law made by the President in exercise of the powers vested in him under article 123 of the Constitution.
- (38) "*Panel of Vice-Chairmen*"- A panel of six members of Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, any one of whom may preside over the House in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.
- (39) "*Papers laid on the Table*"-The papers or documents laid on the Table of the House for purpose of bringing them on the record of the House by a Minister or by a private member or by the Secretary-General with the permission of the Chairman in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure of Rajya Sabha or an Act of Parliament and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.
- (40) "*Personal explanation*" - A Member or a Minister against whom comments or criticism of a personal nature are made on the floor of the House is entitled to make, with the consent of the Chairman, personal explanation in his defence.

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- (41) "*Point of Order*"- A point relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of Procedure or such articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House raised in the House and submitted for the decision of the Chair.
- (42) "*Precincts of Rajya Sabha*"-This includes the Chamber, the Lobbies, the Galleries and such other places as the Chairman may from time to time specify.
- (43) "*Private Members' Resolution*"- A resolution, on a matter of general public interest, a Member, other than a Minister, on a day allotted for Private Members Resolutions which is in the form of a declaration of opinion by the House or in such other form as the Chairman may consider appropriate.
- (44) "*Prorogation*"-The termination of a session of Rajya Sabha by an order made by the President under article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution.
- (45) "*Putting the Question*"-When debate on a question is closed, the Chairman, rising from the Chair, states or reads the question to the House, beginning with "The question is, that".
- (46) "*Question Chart*"-A chart circulated to members, along with the Summons for a Session, which indicates the dates for answering questions and the last date for receiving notices of questions pertaining to various Ministries/ Departments.
- (47) "*Question Hour*"-The first hour of a sitting of the House allotted for asking and answering of questions.
- (48) "*Question of Privilege*"-A question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a Committee thereof or a contempt of the House.
- (49) "*Quorum*"-The minimum number of members required to be present at a sitting of the House or a Committee for valid transaction of its business, which is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, as provided under article 100(3) of the Constitution.
- (50) "*Rajya Sabha debate*" – A verbatim record of everything said in the House is reported by the official Reporter for each of the sittings of the Rajya Sabha, except certain words, phrases and expression, if any, ordered by the Chair to be expunged or ordered by the Chairman not to be recorded, when Members speak without his permissions.
- (51) "*Roll of Members*"-A register in which newly elected members sign, after making and subscribing the oath or affirmation and before taking their seats for the first time in the House.
- (52) "*Session*"-A session of Rajya Sabha comprises the period commencing from the date and time mentioned in the order of the President summoning Rajya Sabha and ending with the day on which the President prorogues Rajya Sabha.
- (53) "*Short Duration Discussion*"-For raising a discussion on a matter of urgent public importance for which a notice has to be given by a Member supported by two other Members specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised.

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(54) "*Short Notice Question*"-A question relating to a matter of urgent public importance asked for oral answer by a Member with shorter notice than fifteen clear days by giving the reasons for asking the question with short notice.

(55) "*Sitting of the House*"-A sitting of the House is duly constituted when it is presided over by the Chairman or a member competent to preside over a sitting of the House under the Constitution or the Rules of Procedure of Rajya Sabha.

(56) "*Special Mention*"-A procedure available to a Member who wishes to mention a matter of public importance in the House by reading out from the text not exceeding 250 words.

(57) "*Standing Committee*"- Committee constituted by election by the House or nomination by the Chairman every year or from time to time which are permanent in nature.

(58) "*Starred Question*"-A question to which a member wishes to have an oral answer on the floor of the House and which is distinguished by an asterisk.

(59) "*Statutory Resolution*"-A resolution in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament.

(60) "*Subordinate Legislation*"--Rules, regulations, orders, schemes, bye-laws, etc. having the force of law, framed by the Executive or other subordinate authority in pursuance of the power conferred on it by the Constitution or delegated to it by an Act of Parliament.

(61) "*Summons*"--An official communication issued by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha under the orders of the President to the Members of Rajya Sabha informing them of the place, date and time of the commencement of a session of Rajya Sabha.

(62) "*Supplementary question*" – A Question asked by any member when called by the Chairman for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given during the question hour.

(63) "*Table of the House*"--The Table just in front of the desk of the Secretary-General below the Chairman's Chair, on which papers which are required to be laid on the Table of the House, are deemed to be placed.

(64) "*Unstarred Question*"--A question which is not called for oral answer in the House and the written answer to such a question is deemed to have been laid on the Table.

(65) "*Valedictory remarks*"-It is customary in every Session for the Chair to make the Valedictory remarks at the end of Session thanking Members and leaders of parties and groups for their cooperation in the conduct of business of the House.

(66) "*Whips*" – Members drawn from the party in power and the parties/groups in opposition to perform specified functions and form vital links in the internal organization of a party inside Parliament.

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constitution of India

The present constitution of India was framed by the Constitution Assembly of India setup under Cabinet Mission Plan of May 16, 1946.

Composition of Constituent Assembly:-

- The Constituent Assembly consisted of 385 members, of which 292 were elected by the elected members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies while 93 members were nominated by the Princely States. To these were to be added a representative each from the four Chief Commissioners Provinces of Delhi, Ajmer-Marwar, Coorg and British Baluchistan.
- Each Province and each Indian State or group of States were allotted the total number of seats proportional to their respective population roughly in the ratio of one to a million.
- B N Rao was appointed the Constitutional Advisor of the Assembly.
- The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly took place on Dec 9, 1946 with Dr. Sachidanand Sinha as its interim President. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as its President on Dec 11, 1947.
- The Assembly framing the Constitution had 13 Committees.
- The all-important Drafting Committee, which bore the responsibility of drafting the Constitutional document during the recess of the Constituent Assembly, from July 1947 to September 1948, was formed on August 29, 1947. Its members were:
 1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 2. N. Gopalaswami Ayyar
 3. K.M. Munshi
 4. Syed Mohd. Saadulla
 5. N. Madhav Rao
 6. D.P. Khaitan (T Krishnamachari, after Khaitan's Death in 1948)
- It was finally passed and accepted on Nov 26, 1949. The session of the Assembly was held on Jan 24, 1950, which unanimously elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the President of India. In all the 284 members of the Assembly signed the official copies of the Indian Constitution which came into effect on Jan 26, 1950, known and celebrated as the Republic Day of India.

Preamble of Constitution

The Indian Constitution starts with the preamble which outlines the main objectives of the Constitution. It reads:

" WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC and to secure all its citizens."

JUSTICE, social economic and political.

LIBERTY, of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship.

EQUALITY, of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all.

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation.

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, this twenty sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, "ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES HIS CONSTITUTION".

Idea of preamble borrowed from Constitution of US.

The words '**SOCIALIST**', '**SECULAR**' and '**UNITY**' & '**INTEGRITY**' were added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. Preamble is not justifiable.

BORROWED FEATURES OF CONSTITUTION

Following are the borrowed features of constitution from different countries.

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From U.K.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominal Head – President (like Queen) Cabinet System of Ministers Post of PM Parliamentary Type of Govt. Bicameral Parliament Lower House more powerful Council of Ministers responsible to Lower House Speaker in Lok Sabha
From U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Constitution Executive head of state known as President and his being the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Vice- President as the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha Fundamental Rights Supreme Court Provision of States Independence of Judiciary and judicial review Preamble Removal of Supreme court and High court Judges
From USSR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental Duties Five year Plan
From AUSTRALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concurrent list Language of the preamble Provision regarding trade, commerce and intercourse
From JAPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law on which the Supreme Court function
From WEIMAR CONSTITUTION OF GERMANY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspension of Fundamental Rights during the emergency
From CANADA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme of federation with a strong centre Distribution of powers between centre and the states and placing Residuary Powers with the centre
From IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept of Directive Principles of States Policy (Ireland borrowed it from SPAIN) Method of election of President Nomination of members in the Rajya Sabha by the President

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SCHEDULES IN CONSTITUTION

Followings are the schedules in Constitution of India

First Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of States & Union Territories
Second Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Salary of President, Governors, Chief Judges, Judges of High Court and Supreme court, Comptroller and Auditor General
Third Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Forms of Oaths and affirmations
Fourth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allocate seats for each state of India in Rajya Sabha
Fifth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Administration and control of scheduled areas and tribes
Sixth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provisions for administration of Tribal Area in Asom, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram & Arunachal Pradesh
Seventh Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gives allocation of powers and functions between Union & States. It contains 3 lists<ol style="list-style-type: none">Union List (For central Govt) 97 Subjects.States List (Powers of State Govt) 66 subjectsConcurrent List (Both Union & States) 47 subjects.
Eighth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of 22 languages of India recognized by Constitution<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assamese2. Bengali3. Gujarati4. Hindi5. Kannada6. Kashmiri7. Manipuri8. Malayalam9. Konkani10. Marathi11. Nepali12. Oriya13. Punjabi14. Sanskrit15. Sindhi16. Tamil17. Telugu18. Urdu19. Santhali20. Bodo21. Maithili22. DogriSindhi was added in 1967 by 21 AmendmentKonkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added in 1992 by 71 amendment Santhali, Maithili, Bodo and Dogri were added in 2003 by 92 amendment
Ninth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added by 1st amendment in 1951. Contains acts & orders related to land tenure, land tax, railways, industries. {Right of property not a fundamental right now}
Tenth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added by 52nd amendment in 1985. Contains provisions of disqualification of grounds of

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Schedule	defection
Eleventh Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 73rd amendment in 1992. Contains provisions of Panchayati Raj.
Twelfth Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 74th amendment in 1992. Contains provisions of Municipal Corporation.

NEW STATES IN INDIA CREATED AFTER 1950

Following are the new states in India created after 1950.

Andhra Pradesh	Created by the State of Andhra Pradesh Act 1953 by carving out some areas from the State of Chennai
Gujarat and Maharashtra	The State of Mumbai was divided into two States i.e. Maharashtra and Gujarat by the Mumbai (Reorganisation) Act 1960
Kerala	Created by the State Reorganisation Act, 1956. It comprised Travancor and Cochin areas
Karnataka	Created from the Princely State of Mysuru by the State Reorganisation Act, 1956. It was renamed Karnataka in 1973
Nagaland	It was carved out from the State of Assam by the State of Nagaland Act, 1952
Haryana	It was carved out from the State of Punjab by the Punjab (Reorganisation) Act, 1966
Himachal Pradesh	The Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh was elevated to the status of State by the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970
Meghalaya	First carved out as a sub-State within the State of Assam by 23 Constitutional Amendment Act, 1969. Later in 1971, it received the status of a full-fledged State by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act 1971
Manipur and Tripura	Both these States were elevated from the status of Union-Territories by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act 1971
Sikkim	Sikkim was first given the Status of Associate State by the 35th Constitutional Amendment Act 1974. It got the status of a full State in 1975 by the 36th Amendment Act, 1975
Mizoram	It was elevated to the status of a full State by the State of Mizoram Act, 1986
Arunachal Pradesh	It received the status of a full state by the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986
Goa	Goa was separated from the Union-Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu and was made a

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	full-fledged State of Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act 1987. But Daman and Diu remained as Union Territory
Chhattisgarh	Formed by the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 by dividing Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000
Uttarakhand	Formed by the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 by dividing Uttar Pradesh on November 9, 2000
Jharkhand	Formed by the Constitutional Amendment Act, 2000 by dividing Bihar on November 15, 2000

Part I

Art. 1 - the Name and territory of Union

1. India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.
2. The States and the territories thereof shall be as specified in the First Schedule.
3. The territory of India shall comprise —
 - a. the territories of the States;
 - b. the Union territories specified in the First Schedule; and
 - c. such other territories as may be acquired.

Art. 2 - Admission or establishment of new States

Parliament may by law admit into the Union, or establish, new States on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

Art. 2A - Sikkim to be associated with the Union

Art. 3- Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States

Parliament may by law –

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;

- a. increase the area of any State;
- b. diminish the area of any State;
- c. alter the boundaries of any State;
- d. alter the name of any State;

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Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.

Part-II- Citizenship

Granting the citizenship in India

- Citizenship by birth
- Citizenship by descent
- Citizenship by registration
- Citizenship by naturalisation
- Citizenship by accuaring any and in Indian boundary.

Art. 5- At the commencement of this Constitution, every person who has his domicile in the territory of India and

- who or either of whose parents was born in the territory of India; or
- who has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately preceding such commencement, shall be a citizen of India.

Art. 6- Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan.

Art. 7- Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan.

Art. 8- Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin residing outside India.

Art. 9 -Persons voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens.

Art. 10- Continuance of the rights of citizenship.

Art. 11- Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law.

Part-III

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN INDIA

The Fundamental Rights in Indian constitution acts as a guarantee that all Indian citizens can and will live their lives in peace as long as they live in Indian democracy. They include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, such as equality before the law, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, freedom of religion, and the right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil right.

Originally, the right to property was also included in the Fundamental Rights, however, the Forty-Fourth Amendment, passed in 1978, revised the status of property rights by stating that "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law."

Following are th

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6 Fundamental Rights in India

Right to Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 14 :- Equality before law and equal protection of law• Article 15 :- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.• Article 16 :- Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment• Article 17 :- End of untouchability• Article 18 :- Abolition of titles, Military and academic distinctions are, however, exempted
Right to Freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 19 :- It guarantees the citizens of India the following six fundamentals freedoms:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Freedom of Speech and Expression2. Freedom of Assembly3. Freedom of form Associations4. Freedom of Movement5. Freedom of Residence and Settlement6. Freedom of Profession, Occupation, Trade and Bussiness• Article 20 :- Protection in respect of conviction for offences• Article 21 :- Protection of life and personal liberty• Article 22 :- Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases
Right Against Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 23 :- Traffic in human beings prohibited• Article 24 :- No child below the age of 14 can be employed
Right to freedom of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 25 :- Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion• Article 26 :- Freedom to manage religious affairs• Article 27 :- Prohibits taxes on religious grounds• Article 28 :- Freedom as to attendance at religious ceremonies in certain educational institutions
Cultural and Educational Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 29 :- Protection of interests of minorities• Article 30 :- Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions• Article 31 :- Omitted by the 44th Amendment Act
Right to Constitutional Remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article 32 :- The right to move the Supreme Court in case of their violation (called Soul and heart of the Constitution by BR Ambedkar)• Forms of Writ check• Habeas Corpus :- Equality before law and equal protection of law

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Part IV - Directive Principles of State Policy

- 1 Article 36- Definition
- 2 Article 37 -Application of the principles contained in this Part
- 3 Article 38 -State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people
- 4 Article 39- Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State
- 5 Article 40 -Organisation of village panchayats
- 6 Article 41- Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases
- 7 Article 42- Provision for just and human conditions of work and maternity relief
- 8 Article 43- Living wage, etc., for workers
- 9 Article 44- Uniform civil code for the citizen
- 10 Article 45- Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years.
- 11 Article 46- Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.
- 12 Article 47- Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health
- 13 Article 48- Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry
- 14 Article 49- Protection of monuments and places and objects of national importance
- 15 Article 50- Separation of judiciary from executive
- 16 Article 51- Promotion of international peace and security

Fundamental Duties

The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, upon the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee that was constituted by the government earlier that year.

Originally ten in number, the Fundamental Duties were increased to eleven by the 86th Amendment in 2002, which added a duty on every parent or guardian to ensure that their child or ward was provided opportunities for education between the ages of six and fourteen years.

The following are the Eleven Fundamental Duties of every citizen of India:

- (a) To abide by the Constitution and respect the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- (j) 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."
- (k) to provide opportunities for education by the parent the guardian, to his child, or a ward between the age of 6-14 years as the case may be.

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President of India

- Article 52** The President of India.
Article 53 Executive power of the Union
Article 54 Election of President
Article 55 Manner of election of President
Article 56 Term of office of President.
Article 57 Eligibility for re-election
Article 58 Qualifications for election as President
Article 59 Conditions of President's office
Article 60 Oath or affirmation by the President
Article 61 Procedure for impeachment of the President
Article 62 Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of president and the term of office or person elected to fill casual vacancy

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be a citizen of India• Completed 35 years of age• Eligible to be a member of Lok Sabha• Must not hold any government post. Exceptions are:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. President and Vice-President2. Governor of any state3. Minister of Union State
Art. 54 Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indirectly elected through 'Electoral College' consisting of Elected members of both the Houses of Parliament & Elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. (No nominated members)• Security deposit of Rs 15,000/-• Supreme court inquires all disputes regarding President's Election.• Takes OATH in presence of Chief Justice of India, or in his absence, senior-most Judge of Supreme Court
Art. 56 Terms and Emoluments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 year term• Article 57 says that there is no upper limit on the number of times a person can become President• Can give resignation to Vice-President before full-term• Present Salary- Rs. 1,00,000/month (including allowances & emoluments)
Impeachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quasi-judicial procedure• Can be impeached only on the ground of violation of constitution• The impeachment procedure can be initiated in either House of the Parliament
Vacancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In case of office falls vacant due to death, resignation or removal, the Vice-President act as President. If he is not available then Chief Justice, if not then senior-most Judge of the Supreme court shall act as the President of India• The election is to be held within 6 months of the vacancy

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Powers

- Appoints PM, Ministers, Chief Justice & judge of Supreme Court & High Court, Chairman & members of UPSC, Comptroller and Auditor General, Attorney General, Chief Election Commissioner and other members of Election Commission of India, Governors, Members of Finance Commission, Ambassadors, etc
- Can summon & prorogue the sessions of the 2 houses & can dissolve Lok Sabha
- Appoints Finance Commission (after every 5 years) that recommends distribution of taxes between Union & State governments
- The President can promulgate 3 types of Emergencies:-
 1. National Emergency (Article 352)
 2. State Emergency (President's Rule) (Article 356)
 3. Financial Emergency (Article 360)
- He is the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces of India
- President appoints Chief of Army, Navy and Air force
- Declares wars & concludes peace subject to the approval of the Parliament
- No money bill or demand for grant can be introduced or moved in Parliament unless it has been recommended by the President
- He has the power to grant pardon, reprieve or remit of punishment or commute death sentences

All Presidents of India and their Tenure

Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha should consist of not more than 250 members - 238 members representing the States and Union Territories, and 12 members nominated by the President.

Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.

However, one third of the members retire every second year, and are replaced by newly elected members.

Each member is elected for a term of six years.

The Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The House also elects a Deputy Chairman from among its members.

Besides, there is also a panel of "Vice Chairmen" in the Rajya Sabha.

The senior most minister, who is a member of Rajya Sabha, is appointed by the Prime Minister as Leader of the House.

Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage.

Maximum strength of the House is 552 members - 530 members to represent the States, 20 members to represent the Union Territories, and 2 members to be nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian Community.

At present, the strength of the House is 545.

The term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved, is five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.

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However, while a proclamation of emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.

The Lok Sabha (House of the People) was duly constituted for the first time on 17 April 1952 after the first General Elections held from 25 October 1951 to 21 February 1952.

The first Session of the First Lok Sabha commenced on 13 May 1952.

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage. That is why it is called the popular chamber

The quorum to constitute a sitting of the House is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House under article 100(3) of the Constitution

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are the Presiding Officers of the Lok Sabha.

The Speaker holds office from the date of his/her election till the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after the dissolution of the one to which he/she was elected.

The Deputy Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha when the Speaker is absent from the sitting of the House.

When the Offices of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker fall vacant, the duties of the Office of the Speaker are performed by such member of the Lok Sabha as the President may appoint for the purpose. The person so appointed is known as the **Speaker pro tem**.

In the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, two members, i.e. Smt. Ingrid McLeod and Shri Charles Dias are the nominated members.

Normally three Sessions of the Lok Sabha are held in a year, viz.,

- Budget Session - February - May
- Autumn or Monsoon Session - July - August
- Winter Session - November - December

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Article 63 The Vice-President Of India

Article 64 The Vice-President to be ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States

Article 65 The Vice-President to act as President or to discharge his functions during casual vacancies in the office, or during the absence, of President

Article 66 Election of Vice-President

Article 67 Term of office of Vice-President

Article 68 Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of Vice-President and the term of office of person elected to fill casual vacancy

Article 69 Oath or affirmation by the Vice-President

Article 70 Discharge of President's functions in other contingencies

Article 71 Matters relating to, or connected with, the election of a President or Vice-President

Article 72 Power of President to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases

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Following is the information about Vice President of India

Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elected by both the houses (Electoral College) in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the vote being secret. Nominated members also participate in his election• The Supreme court has the final and exclusive jurisdiction for resolving disputes and doubts relating to the election of the Vice President of India
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizen of India• More than 35 years of Age• Posses the qualification of membership of Rajya Sabha• Not hold any office of profit under union, state or local authority. However, for this purpose, the President, Vice-President, Governor of a State and a Minister of the Union or a State, are not held to be holding an office of profit
Other Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holds office for 5 years. Can be re-elected• Term can be cut short if he resigns or by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by a majority of all the then members of the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha• He is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Since he is not a member of Rajya Sabha, he has no right to vote• Being the Vice-President of India, he is not entitled for any salary, but he is entitled to the salary and allowances payable to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha• All bills, resolution, motion can be taken in Rajya Sabha after his consent• Can discharge the function of the President, the Vice-President shall not perform the duties of the office of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and shall not be entitled to receive the salary of the Chairman. During this period, he is entitled for the salary and privileges of the President of India• Present salary is Rs. 85,000/month

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Prime Minister of India

The Constitution envisages a scheme of affairs in which the President of India is the head of the executive in terms of Article 53 with office of the prime minister as heading the Council of Ministers to assist and advise the president in the discharge of the executive power. To quote, Article 53 and 74 provide as under;

The executive powers of the Union shall be vested in the president and shall be exercised either directly or through subordinate officers, in accordance with the Constitution.

Article 53(1), Constitution of India

There shall be a Council of Ministers with the prime minister at the head to aid and advise the president who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.

Article 74(1), Constitution of India

The prime minister leads the functioning and exercise of authority of the Government of India.

He is invited by the President of India in the Parliament of India as leader of the majority party to form a government at the federal level (known as *Central or Union Government* in India) and exercise its powers.

In practice the prime minister nominates the members of their Council of Ministers to the president. They also work upon to decide a core group of Ministers (known as the Cabinet) as in-charge of the important functions and ministries of the Government of India.

The prime minister is responsible for aiding and advising the president in distribution of work of the Government to various ministries and offices and in terms of the *Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961*.

The co-ordinating work is generally allocated to the Cabinet Secretariat While generally the work of the Government is divided into various Ministries, the prime minister may retain certain portfolios if they are not allocated to any member of the cabinet.

Union Council of Ministers of India

The **Cabinet of India** (officially called the **Union Council of Ministers of India**) is the collective decision-making body of the Government of India, consists of the Prime Minister and 35 Cabinet Ministers, the most senior of the government ministers.

The Cabinet is the ultimate decision-making body of the executive within the Westminster system of government in traditional constitutional theory.

The Union Cabinet of the Government of India Indian general election, 2009 held in five phases in 2009: on 16 April, 22/23 April, 30 April, 7 and 13 May 2009.

The results of the election were announced on 16 May 2009 and led to the formation of the 15th Lok Sabha. Dr Manmohan Singh took oath as the 14th Prime Minister of India on 22 May 2009, followed by the oath-taking

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ceremonies of the present 'Council of Ministers' in two phases. Most of the cabinet functions from Cabinet Secretariat, at Secretariat Building, New Delhi.

Cabinet Secretariat

The **Cabinet Secretariat** is responsible for the administration of the Government of India. It functions from the Secretariat Building, New Delhi, where most of Cabinet of India sits. It comprises a set of two buildings on opposite sides of Rajpath that are home to some of the most important ministries of the Government of India, situated on Raisina Hill, New Delhi, India.

The Secretariat Building consists of two buildings: the North Block and the South Block. Both the buildings flank the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- The **South Block** houses the Prime Minister Office, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The **North Block** primarily houses the Ministry of Finance and the Home Ministry.

The terms 'North Block' and 'South Block' are often used to refer to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs respectively.

Attorney general

In most common law jurisdictions, the **attorney general** or **attorney-general** is the main legal advisor to the government, and in some jurisdictions he or she may also have executive responsibility for law enforcement, public prosecutions or even ministerial responsibility for legal affairs generally.

The term is originally used to refer to any person who holds a general power of attorney to represent a principal in all matters. In the common law tradition, anyone who represents the state, especially in criminal prosecutions, is such an attorney. Although a government may designate some official as the permanent attorney general, anyone who comes to represent the state in the same way may, in the past, be referred to as such, even if only for a particular case. Today, however, in most jurisdictions the term is largely reserved as a title of the permanently appointed attorney general of the state.

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** is an authority, established by the Constitution of India under Chapter V, who audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.

The CAG is also the external auditor of government-owned companies.

The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees, which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures.

The CAG is also the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, which has over 58,000 employees across the country.

The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.

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The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence. The current CAG of India is Shashi Kant Sharma,^[3] who was appointed on 23 May 2013. He is the 12th CAG of India.

State Governments in India

State governments in India are the governments ruling States of India and the main ministers in the state are the chief ministers. Power is divided between central government and state governments. While central government handles military, external affairs etc., the state government controls internal police security etc. Income for central govt. are through customs duty, excise tax, income tax etc., while state government income comes from sales tax (VAT), stamp duty etc.

Sarkaria Commission was set up to review the balance of power between states and the union. The centre can dissolve state government in favour of President's rule if necessary. The state of Jammu and Kashmir has higher autonomy compared to other states by Article 370.

The Governors

The **governors** and **lieutenant-governors** of the states and territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level.

Governors exist in the states while lieutenant-governors exist in union territories and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The governor acts as the nominal head whereas the real power lies in the hand of the chief ministers of the states and the chief minister's Council of Ministers.

In India, a lieutenant governor is in charge of a Union Territory. However the rank is present only in the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi and Puducherry (the other territories have an administrator appointed, who is an IAS officer).

Lieutenant-governors hold the same rank as a governor of a state in the list of precedence.

The governors and lieutenant-governors are appointed by the president for a term of 5 years.

Article 157 and Article 158 of the Constitution of India specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor.

They are as follows:

A governor must:

- be a citizen of India;
- be at least thirty-five (35) years old;
- not be a member of the either house of the parliament or house of the state legislature.
- not hold any other office of profit.

Legislative Assembly

The **Vidhan Sabha** or the '**Legislative Assembly**' is the lower house (in states with bicameral) or the sole house (in unicameral states) of the provincial (state) legislature in the different states of India.

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The same name is also used for the lower house of the legislatures for two of the union territories, Delhi and Puducherry.

The upper house in the six states with a bicameral legislature is called the Legislative Council, or Vidhan Parishad.

Members of a Vidhan Sabha are direct representatives of the people of the particular state as they are directly elected by an electorate consisting of all adult citizens of that state.

Its maximum size as outlined in the Constitution of India is not more than 500 members and not less than 60.

However, the size of the Vidhan Sabha can be less than 60 members through an Act of Parliament, such is the case in the states of Goa, Sikkim and Mizoram. The Governor can appoint 1 member to represent minorities, e.g. the Anglo-Indian community, if he finds that minority to not be adequately represented in the House.

Each Vidhan Sabha is formed for a five-year term after which all seats are up for election. During a State of Emergency, its term may be extended past five years or it may be dissolved.

The term of the Legislative Assembly is five years. But it may be dissolved even earlier than five years by the Governor on the request of Chief Minister.

The term of the Legislative Assembly may be extended during an Emergency, but not more than six months at a time.

It can also be dissolved if a motion of no confidence is passed within it against the majority party or coalition.

Chief Minister

A **Chief Minister** is the elected head of government of a state of India. The chief minister is the head of the state (governor is the nominal head (de jure executive) and does every thing under the guidance of the chief minister) Cabinet, and the leader of the state Legislature.

By the Constitution of India, the chief minister is appointed by the Governor of the state (article 164).

The parliamentary system in India follows the Westminster system. Hence the chief ministers of the states are elected by the members of the legislature.

The people do not elect the head of the government, rather they elect their representatives only.

In turn their representatives select the head of the government. But once the head of the government is elected, he or she enjoys almost exclusive executive powers.

This is in contrast with the head of the state, the Governor, who is the ceremonial head of state.

The Constitution of India sets the principle qualifications one must meet to be eligible to the office of the Chief Minister. A Chief Minister must be:

- a citizen of India.
- should be a member of the state legislature. If a person is elected chief minister who is not a member of the legislature, then he/she must become a member within six months.
- of 25 years of age or more

he chief minister is elected through a majority in the state legislative assembly. This is procedurally established by the vote of confidence in the legislative assembly, as suggested by the governor of the state who is the appointing authority.

By Article 164 of the constitution of India, remuneration of the chief minister as well as other ministers are to be decided by the respective state legislatures.^[2] Hence this varies from state to state.

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Advocate General

An **Advocate General** is a senior law officer of the law in another jurisdiction, usually charged with advising the courts or Government on legal matters.

In India, an Advocate General is a legal adviser to a state government. The post is created by the Constitution of India and corresponds to that of Attorney General of India at the federal or central or union government level.

Supreme Court of India

The **Supreme Court of India** is the highest judicial forum and final court of appeal as established by Part V, Chapter IV of the Constitution of India.

According to the Constitution, the role of the Supreme Court is that of a federal court and the guardian of the Constitution.

Articles 124 to 147 of the Constitution of India lay down the composition and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India.

The Supreme Court has Original jurisdiction in disputes involving between the Government of India and one or more States or between the Government of India and any State or States on one side and one or more States on the other or between two or more States.

The Supreme Court is meant to be the last resort and highest appellate court which takes up appeals against the verdicts of the High Courts and other courts of the states and territories. Also, the Supreme court has the power of Judicial review as per Article 32 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India held its inaugural sitting on 28 January 1950.

Panchayati Raj

The **panchayati raj** is a South Asian political system mainly in India.

It is the oldest system of local government in the Indian subcontinent.

The word "panchayat" literally means "assembly" (*ayat*) of five (*panch*) wise and respected elders chosen and accepted by the local community.

However, there are different forms of assemblies. Traditionally, these assemblies settled disputes between individuals and villages.

Modern Indian government has decentralized several administrative functions to the local level, empowering elected gram panchayats. Gram panchayats are not to be confused with the unelected khap panchayats (or caste panchayats) found in some parts of India.

Panchayat Raj is a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of administration. It has 3 levels: Gram (village, though it can comprise more than one village), Janpad (block) and Zilla (district).

The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was a committee appointed by the Government of India in January 1957 to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952)

Municipal Corporation

A **municipal Corporation** is the legal term for a local governing body, including (but not necessarily limited to) cities, counties, towns, townships, charter townships, villages, and boroughs.

Municipal incorporation occurs when such municipalities become self-governing entities under the laws of the state or province in which they are located. Often, this event is marked by the award or declaration of a municipal charter.

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With the notable exceptions of the City of London Corporation and the Laugharne Corporation, the term has fallen out of favour in the United Kingdom, but the concept remains central to local government in the United Kingdom, as well as former British colonies such as India and Canada.

Election Commission of India

The **Election Commission of India** is an autonomous, constitutionally established federal authority responsible for administering all the electoral processes in the Republic of India.

Under the supervision of the commission, free and fair elections have been held in India at regular intervals as per the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

The Election Commission has the power of superintendence, direction and control of all elections to the Parliament of India and the state legislatures and of elections to the office of the President of India and the Vice-President of India.

The commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners (EC), appointed by the President of India.

The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from his office by Parliament with two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity. Other Election Commissioners can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The Chief Election Commissioner and the two Election Commissioners draw salaries and allowances at par with those of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India as per the *Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1992*.^[3] The current CEC is V Sundaram Sampath.

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

The **Union Public Service Commission** is India's central agency authorized to conduct the Civil Services Examination. The agency's charter is granted by the Constitution of India. Articles 315 to 323 of Part XIV of the constitution, titled *Services Under the Union and the States*, provide for a Public Service Commission for the Union and for each state.

The Commission consists of a Chairman and ten Members. The terms and conditions of service of Chairman and Members of the Commission are governed by the Union Public Service Commission (Members) Regulations, 1969.

The Chairman and other members of the UPSC are appointed by the President of India.

At least half of the members of the Commission are Civil Servants (working or retired) with minimum ten years of experience either in Central or State service.

Planning Commission

The **Planning Commission** is an institution in the Government of India, which formulates India's Five-Year Plans, among other functions.

The composition of the Commission has undergone a lot of change since its inception. With the prime minister as the *ex officio* Chairman, the committee has a nominated Deputy chairman, who is given the rank of a full Cabinet Minister. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is presently the Deputy Chairman of the Commission.

Cabinet Ministers with certain important portfolios act as *ex officio* members of the Commission, while the full-time members are experts of various fields like Economics, Industry, Science and General Administration.

The Planning Commission's functions as outlined by the Government's 1950 resolution are following:

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1. To make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, including technical personnel, and investigate the possibilities of augmenting those are related
2. resources which are found to be deficient in relation to the nation's requirement.
3. To formulate a plan for the most effective and balanced utilisation of country's resources.
4. To define the stages, on the basis of priority, in which the plan should be carried out and propose the allocation of resources for the due completion of each stage.
5. To indicate the factors that tend to retard economic development.
6. To determine the conditions which need to be established for the successful execution of the plan within the incumbent socio-political situation of the country.
7. To determine the nature of the machinery required for securing the successful implementation of each stage of the plan in all its aspects.
8. To appraise from time to time the progress achieved in the execution of each stage of the plan and also recommend the adjustments of policy and measures which are deemed important vis-a-vis a successful implementation of the plan.
9. To make necessary recommendations from time to time regarding those things which are deemed necessary for facilitating the execution of these functions. Such recommendations can be related to the prevailing economic conditions, current policies, measures or development programmes. They can even be given out in response to some specific problems referred to the commission by the central or the state governments.

Finance Commission of India

The **Finance Commission of India** came into existence in 1951.

It was established under *Article 280* of the Indian Constitution by the President of India.

It was formed to define the financial relations between the centre and the state.

The Finance Commission Act of 1951 states the terms of qualification, appointment and disqualification, the term, eligibility and powers of the Finance Commission.

As per the Constitution, the commission is appointed every five years and consists of a chairman and four other members.

Since the institution of the first finance commission, stark changes have occurred in the Indian economy causing changes in the macroeconomic scenario.

This has led to major changes in the Finance Commission's recommendations over the years. Till date, Thirteen Finance Commissions have submitted their reports.

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Functions of the Finance Commission can be explicitly stated as:

1. Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Centre and the States, to be divided as per their respective contributions to the taxes.
2. Determine factors governing Grants-in Aid to the states and the magnitude of the same.
3. to make recommendations to president as to the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the panchayats and municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the state.

National Human Rights Commission

The **National Human Rights Commission** (NHRC) of India is an autonomous public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993.

It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA).^[2] The NHRC is the national human rights institution, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants".

Since late 2011, the organization has been embroiled in a controversy where leading jurists have sought the resignation of its Chairman, ex-Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, pending investigation into charges of assets disproportionate to his income.^{[3][4]} In response, NHRC has uploaded details of Justice Balakrishnan's

Ad hoc Commissions

No.	Commission	Year	Objectives
1	Mukherjee Commission	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the death of Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945
2	Nanavati commission	2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the 1984 anti-Sikh riots
3	Khosla Commission	1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the death of Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945
4	Narendran Commission	2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study and report the representation of Backward Classes in the State public services.
5	Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities	2004	
6	States Reorganisation Commission	1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend the reorganization of state boundaries