

TNPSC Group I — Indian Polity

Revision Pack · quick notes + practice MCQs with answer key
Verified content · 100% free · no login · braingrain.in

A. Quick Revision Notes

Making of the Constitution

Constituent Assembly first met 9 Dec 1946. Drafting Committee chaired by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Constitution adopted 26 Nov 1949, came into force 26 Jan 1950. Framing took 2 years, 11 months, 18 days.

Preamble & salient features

Declares India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity' added by the 42nd Amendment (1976). Idea of a Preamble borrowed from the US Constitution; 'We, the People' = people are the source of authority.

Fundamental Rights

Part III, Articles 12–35. Six rights now (Right to Property removed by 44th Amendment). Equality (14–18), Freedom (19–22), Against Exploitation (23–24), Religion (25–28), Cultural & Educational (29–30), Constitutional Remedies (32 — 'heart and soul', Ambedkar). Five writs: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, Quo Warranto.

Directive Principles & Fundamental Duties

DPSP: Part IV, Articles 36–51, borrowed from Ireland, non-justiciable. Fundamental Duties: Part IV-A, Article 51A, added by 42nd Amendment (Swaran Singh Committee); originally 10, now 11 (11th added by 86th Amendment).

Union Executive

President (Art 52) elected by an electoral college of elected MPs + elected MLAs (Art 54), term 5 years. Real executive power with the PM and Council of Ministers, collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha (Art 75).

Parliament

President + Lok Sabha (max 552) + Rajya Sabha (max 250, permanent, 1/3 retire every 2 years). Money Bill (Art 110) starts only in Lok Sabha on the President's recommendation.

Judiciary & Supreme Court

Supreme Court under Art 124; High Courts under Art 214. Powers of judicial review and as guardian of Fundamental Rights (Art 32). Judges appointed via the collegium system.

Centre-State relations & federalism

7th Schedule: Union, State and Concurrent Lists. Residuary powers with the Union (Art 248). Art 356 = President's Rule in a State.

State Government

Governor (Art 153–155) appointed by the President. Chief Minister is the real head; Council of Ministers responsible to the Vidhan Sabha. States may have a Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council).

Local Self-Government & Panchayati Raj

73rd Amendment (1992): Panchayati Raj (Part IX, 11th Schedule, 29 subjects). 74th Amendment: Municipalities (Part IX-A, 12th Schedule, 18 subjects). Three-tier system recommended by the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957).

Constitutional & statutory bodies

Constitutional bodies: Election Commission (324), UPSC (315), CAG (148), Finance Commission (280), Attorney General (76). NITI Aayog (2015) is an executive body, not constitutional, replacing the Planning Commission.

Elections & Election Commission

Election Commission established 25 Jan 1950 (National Voters' Day). First CEC: Sukumar Sen. Universal adult franchise (Art 326); voting age lowered 21→18 by the 61st Amendment (1988).

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment procedure: Article 368. 42nd (1976) = 'Mini Constitution'. 44th (1978) removed Right to Property. 61st lowered voting age to 18. 73rd/74th = local bodies. 86th (2002) added Right to Education (Art 21A).

B. Practice MCQs (25)

1. The 'Basic Structure Doctrine' of the Indian Constitution was established by which Supreme Court case?

- (A) Golak Nath v. State of Punjab (1967)
- (B) Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)
- (C) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
- (D) Shankari Prasad v. Union of India (1951)

2. Which article of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability?

- (A) Article 21
- (B) Article 14
- (C) Article 15
- (D) Article 17

3. The 44th Constitutional Amendment (1978) significantly altered the Indian Constitution by:

- (A) Adding Fundamental Duties
- (B) Creating the National Commission for Minorities
- (C) Introducing the Emergency provisions
- (D) Restoring the original right to property and removing it from Fundamental Rights to a legal right

4. Under the Indian Constitution, the President can proclaim a National Emergency under Article 352 only on the written advice of:

- (A) The Cabinet (Council of Ministers headed by PM)
- (B) The Parliament by a two-thirds majority
- (C) The Prime Minister alone
- (D) The Supreme Court Chief Justice

5. The concept of 'Constitutional Morality' was invoked in which recent Supreme Court landmark ruling?

- (A) Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) — decriminalising homosexuality
- (B) Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015) — striking down Section 66A IT Act
- (C) NJAC judgment (2015) — striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission
- (D) Both A and C

6. The Panchayati Raj system in India was constitutionalised by which amendment?

- (A) 86th Amendment 2002
- (B) 73rd Amendment 1992
- (C) 42nd Amendment 1976
- (D) 74th Amendment 1992

7. Which Article of the Constitution empowers the Governor to reserve a bill for the President's consideration?

- (A) Article 356
- (B) Article 201
- (C) Article 254
- (D) Article 200

8. The Right to Information Act (RTI) 2005 is based on which fundamental right?

- (A) Article 21 — Right to Life
- (B) Article 32 — Right to Constitutional Remedies
- (C) Article 14 — Right to Equality
- (D) Article 19(1)(a) — Freedom of Speech and Expression

9. The Directive Principle in Article 44 (Uniform Civil Code) has been described by the Supreme Court as:

- (A) A dead letter that courts cannot enforce
- (B) A fundamental right that overrides personal laws
- (C) A constitutional imperative that should be actively pursued but cannot be judicially enforced against Parliament
- (D) Already implemented in Goa under the Portuguese Civil Code

10. The President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of:

- (A) All Members of Parliament only
- (B) All elected Members of Parliament and elected Members of State Legislative Assemblies
- (C) All elected Members of Parliament and both Houses of all State Legislatures
- (D) Elected Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and the Chief Ministers of all States

11. The NJAC (National Judicial Appointments Commission) was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 because it:

- (A) Violated the federal structure of the Constitution
- (B) Undermined judicial independence, which is part of the basic structure
- (C) Was passed without following the required special majority
- (D) Conflicted with an existing treaty obligation

12. Under the Indian Constitution, money bills can be introduced in:

- (A) State Legislative Assemblies with Central concurrence
- (B) Lok Sabha only
- (C) Rajya Sabha only with Presidential recommendation
- (D) Either House of Parliament

13. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is described as 'guardian of the public purse'. Which article provides for the CAG?

- (A) Article 148
- (B) Article 324
- (C) Article 153
- (D) Article 315

14. The 101st Constitutional Amendment (2016) is associated with:

- (A) Right to Education
- (B) Goods and Services Tax
- (C) Reservation for OBCs in central services
- (D) National Food Security

15. A no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers can be moved in:

- (A) Rajya Sabha
- (B) Lok Sabha
- (C) Either House
- (D) A joint sitting of both Houses

16. The principle of 'One Nation, One Election' as discussed in India primarily refers to:

- (A) Having a single political party contest all elections
- (B) Conducting Lok Sabha and all state assembly elections simultaneously
- (C) Holding elections only in January every five years
- (D) Creating a single electoral roll for all elections

17. Which body conducts the census of India, and under which Ministry does it function?

- (A) RBI under Ministry of Finance
- (B) NSSO under Ministry of Statistics
- (C) Planning Commission under NITI Aayog
- (D) Office of the Registrar General under Ministry of Home Affairs

18. Which of the following is NOT a ground for disqualification of a Member of Parliament under the Tenth Schedule?

- (A) Voting against the direction of the party whip on a confidence motion
- (B) Abstaining from voting against the whip
- (C) Being expelled from the party by an external authority (not the party itself)
- (D) Voluntarily giving up membership of the political party

19. The Tamil Nadu State Legislature consists of:

- (A) Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan Parishad, and a nominated Governor's council
- (B) Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad (bicameral)
- (C) Legislative Assembly and a separate Upper House for districts
- (D) Only Vidhan Sabha (unicameral)

20. The idea of a 'Concurrent List' in the Indian Constitution means:

- (A) Only the Centre can legislate on subjects listed
- (B) Only states can legislate on subjects listed
- (C) Both Centre and states can legislate, but Central law prevails in case of conflict
- (D) A joint parliamentary committee must pass all such laws

21. The Constituent Assembly of India held its first meeting on

- (A) 9 December 1946
- (B) 26 January 1950
- (C) 26 November 1949
- (D) 15 August 1947

22. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution was

- (A) B. N. Rau
- (B) B. R. Ambedkar
- (C) Rajendra Prasad
- (D) Jawaharlal Nehru

23. How long did the Constituent Assembly take to frame the Constitution?

- (A) 1 year and 6 months
- (B) 2 years, 11 months and 18 days
- (C) 5 years
- (D) Exactly 2 years

24. The words "Socialist", "Secular" and "Integrity" were added to the Preamble by which amendment?

- (A) 1st Amendment
- (B) 42nd Amendment (1976)
- (C) 44th Amendment (1978)
- (D) 73rd Amendment

25. The idea of the Preamble was borrowed from the Constitution of

- (A) United States of America
- (B) Ireland
- (C) Canada
- (D) United Kingdom

C. Answer Key & Explanations

1. **(C)** In Kesavananda Bharati (1973), a 13-judge bench held 7:6 that Parliament cannot amend the Constitution's basic structure, establishing judicial review as a constitutional safeguard.
2. **(D)** Article 17 abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form, making it a fundamental right enforceable against both state and private actors.
3. **(D)** The 44th Amendment (Janata Government) moved the right to property from Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31 to Article 300A, converting it from a Fundamental Right to a constitutional/legal right.
4. **(A)** After the 44th Amendment, the President can proclaim Emergency only on the written advice of the Cabinet (not just the PM), reducing scope for misuse as in 1975.
5. **(D)** Constitutional morality was explicitly invoked in both Navtej Singh Johar and the NJAC judgment to override popular morality.
6. **(B)** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) added Part IX and the 11th Schedule, giving constitutional status to Panchayats and mandating elections, reservation, and devolution of power.
7. **(D)** Article 200 provides that the Governor shall assent to a bill, withhold assent, return it for reconsideration, or reserve it for the President's consideration.

8. (D) The Supreme Court held that the right to information flows from Article 19(1)(a), treating informed citizenship as prerequisite to meaningful freedom of expression.
9. (C) Article 44 is a DPSP — aspirational, not justiciable. The Supreme Court has repeatedly directed Parliament to implement it without being able to compel.
10. (B) Under Article 54, the President is elected by elected MPs (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha) and elected MLAs of all state legislative assemblies (excluding nominated members and MLCs).
11. (B) In Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015), the bench held that the NJAC compromised judicial independence, a basic structure element.
12. (B) Article 110 defines Money Bills; Article 109 mandates they be introduced only in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments — Lok Sabha may accept or reject them.
13. (A) Article 148 establishes the CAG of India, who audits all accounts of the Union, states, and bodies substantially funded by government.
14. (B) The 101st Amendment introduced Articles 246A, 269A, and 279A, establishing the GST framework and constituting the GST Council.
15. (B) Article 75(3) makes the Council of Ministers collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. A no-confidence motion is therefore only meaningful and admissible in Lok Sabha.
16. (B) The concept proposes synchronising Lok Sabha and all state assembly elections to reduce costs, administrative disruption, and the continuous 'election mode' that policy-making suffers from.
17. (D) The Census of India is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
18. (C) Disqualification under the Tenth Schedule does not apply when a member is expelled by an outside authority — only voluntary giving up of membership or whip violation triggers it.
19. (D) Tamil Nadu has a unicameral legislature — only the Legislative Assembly (234 seats). The state abolished its Legislative Council in 1986.
20. (C) The Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule) allows both Parliament and state legislatures to make laws, but in case of repugnancy, the Central law prevails (Article 254).
21. (A) The Constituent Assembly first met on 9 December 1946; Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was its temporary chairman.
22. (B) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar chaired the seven-member Drafting Committee and is regarded as the chief architect of the Constitution.
23. (B) It took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days; the Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949.
24. (B) The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 added Socialist, Secular and Integrity to the Preamble.
25. (A) The concept of a Preamble was drawn from the US Constitution; the phrase "We, the People" echoes it.