

TNPSC Group IV — Indian Polity

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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 Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on which date?

- (A) 15 August 1947
- (B) 26 January 1950
- (C) 26 November 1949
- (D) 2 September 1946

2. Which Fundamental Right is described as the 'heart and soul' of the Indian Constitution by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

- (A) Right to Equality (Article 14)
- (B) Right to Freedom (Article 19)
- (C) Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- (D) Right to Life (Article 21)

3. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are enshrined in which Part of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Part II
- (B) Part III
- (C) Part IV
- (D) Part V

4. Who appoints the Governor of a state in India?

- (A) The Chief Minister of the state
- (B) The Prime Minister
- (C) The President of India
- (D) The Election Commission of India

5. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 relates to:

- (A) Anti-defection law
- (B) Reservation for OBCs
- (C) Panchayati Raj institutions
- (D) Right to Education

6. How many Fundamental Duties are listed in the Indian Constitution (as amended)?

- (A) 10
- (B) 11
- (C) 12
- (D) 9

7. Which schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the subjects under which Parliament and State Legislatures can make laws?

- (A) Second Schedule
- (B) Seventh Schedule
- (C) Fifth Schedule
- (D) Tenth Schedule

8. The concept of 'Secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by which amendment?

- (A) 44th Amendment
- (B) 42nd Amendment
- (C) 52nd Amendment
- (D) 25th Amendment

9. Under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, President's Rule in a state can initially be imposed for:

- (A) 6 months
- (B) 1 year
- (C) 2 years
- (D) 3 years

10. The Tamil Nadu legislature is a:

- (A) Bicameral legislature with Legislative Council
- (B) Unicameral legislature with only Legislative Assembly
- (C) Bicameral legislature with Rajya Sabha
- (D) Tricameral legislature

11. Which Article of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability?

- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 15
- (C) Article 17
- (D) Article 16

12. The minimum age to become a member of the Rajya Sabha is:

- (A) 21 years
- (B) 25 years
- (C) 30 years
- (D) 35 years

13. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the:

- (A) Prime Minister
- (B) Finance Minister
- (C) President of India
- (D) Parliament

14. Which of the following is NOT a Directive Principle of State Policy?

- (A) Equal pay for equal work for men and women
- (B) Protection of environment and wildlife
- (C) Right to freedom of religion
- (D) Promotion of cottage industries

15. The Election Commission of India is a:

- (A) Statutory body created by Parliament
- (B) Constitutional body under Article 324
- (C) Body created by Executive order
- (D) Quasi-judicial body under the Judiciary

16. Which Fundamental Right was originally in the Indian Constitution but was later removed by the 44th Amendment (1978)?

- (A) Right to Education
- (B) Right to Property
- (C) Right to Privacy
- (D) Right to Work

17. The 'Zero Hour' in Indian Parliament refers to:

- (A) The first hour of Parliamentary proceedings
- (B) The time period starting at noon when members can raise urgent matters without prior notice
- (C) A special session held at midnight
- (D) The time allocated for Question Hour

18. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution begins with the words 'We, the People of India' — this signifies that:

- (A) Only elected representatives drafted the Constitution
- (B) The ultimate source of authority is the citizens of India
- (C) All citizens must participate in governance directly
- (D) The Constitution was approved by a referendum

19. Under which article does the Supreme Court have the power of 'original jurisdiction' to settle disputes between the Union and States?

- (A) Article 136
- (B) Article 131
- (C) Article 143
- (D) Article 226

20. Who among the following is the constitutional head of the Tamil Nadu state government?

- (A) Chief Minister
- (B) Chief Justice of the Madras High Court
- (C) Governor
- (D) Home Minister

21. 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)

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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

25. 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

C. Answer Key & Explanations

1. **(C)** The Constituent Assembly formally adopted the Constitution of India on 26 November 1949, which is celebrated as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas). It came into force on 26 January 1950.
2. **(C)** Dr. Ambedkar called Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies) the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution because it empowers citizens to approach the Supreme Court directly for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
3. **(C)** The Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in Part IV (Articles 36–51) of the Indian Constitution and are borrowed from the Irish Constitution.
4. **(C)** Under Article 155 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor of a state is appointed by the President of India by warrant under his hand and seal.
5. **(C)** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 added Part IX to the Constitution (Articles 243–243O) and the 11th Schedule, providing constitutional status and a framework for Panchayati Raj institutions.
6. **(B)** Originally there were 10 Fundamental Duties (added by the 42nd Amendment, 1976), and an 11th was added by the 86th Amendment, 2002, making the current total 11.

7. **(B)** The Seventh Schedule (Article 246) contains three lists: Union List (97 subjects), State List (66 subjects), and Concurrent List (47 subjects), defining legislative jurisdiction.
8. **(B)** The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 (during the Emergency) added the words 'Socialist', 'Secular', and 'Integrity' to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.
9. **(A)** Under Article 356, President's Rule is initially imposed for 6 months. It can be extended with Parliamentary approval, but cannot exceed 3 years in total.
10. **(B)** Tamil Nadu has a unicameral legislature consisting only of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). The Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) was abolished in 1986.
11. **(C)** Article 17 of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form, making its enforcement a punishable offence under the Protection of Civil Rights Act.
12. **(C)** According to Article 84 of the Indian Constitution, a person must be at least 30 years of age to become a member of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).
13. **(C)** Article 148 of the Indian Constitution states that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is appointed by the President of India.
14. **(C)** Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28) is a Fundamental Right in Part III of the Constitution, not a Directive Principle in Part IV.
15. **(B)** The Election Commission of India was established under Article 324 of the Constitution, which vests in it the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
16. **(B)** The Right to Property was originally a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31. The 44th Amendment Act, 1978 removed it from the Fundamental Rights and made it a legal right under Article 300A.
17. **(B)** Zero Hour begins at noon (hence 'zero') immediately after Question Hour. Members can raise urgent matters of public importance without prior notice during this time.
18. **(B)** 'We, the People of India' in the Preamble reflects the principle of popular sovereignty — that the Constitution derives its authority from the people, not from any external or hereditary power.
19. **(B)** Article 131 grants the Supreme Court original (exclusive) jurisdiction over disputes between the Government of India and one or more states, or between states themselves.
20. **(C)** The Governor is the constitutional head of a state under Article 153, analogous to the President at the Union level. The Chief Minister is the real executive head.
21. **(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.
22. **(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.
23. **(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.
24. **(D)** Constitutional morality was explicitly invoked in both Navtej Singh Johar and the NJAC judgment to override popular morality.
25. **(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.