



COMPLETE POLITY

QUESTION & ANSWER SET

What is a Constitution of a country?

- The constitution of a country is a set of written rules that are accepted by all people living together in a country.
- Constitution is the supreme law that determines the relationship among people living in a territory.
- And also the relationship between the people and government.

What Constitution does?

- It generates a degree of trust and coordination that is necessary for different kind of people to live together.
- It specifies how the government will be constituted, who will have power to take which decisions
- It lays down limits on the powers of the government and tells us what the rights of the citizens
- It expresses the aspirations of the people about creating a good society.

How Constitution Assembly came into being?

- In 1934 M N Roy of communist party floated the idea of Constitution Assembly
- In 1935 Indian National Congress demanded British Government for constituting Constitution Assembly.
- The demand was accepted in 1940 as “August Offer”

What was the strength of the Constitution Assembly? When the elections were held?

- The total strength was 389. British India: 296 ; Princely States : 93 Seats were among Muslims, Sikhs and General. Princely State were to nominate their representatives.
- The election of the Constitution Assembly for 296 seats were held in July-August 1946. The INC won 208 seats, The Muslim League 73 seats and others 15. Princely states decided to stay away from the Constitution Assembly later joined gradually. Final strength was 299 only.

When was the first meeting held of the Constituent Assembly?

- It's first meeting was held on 9 December 1946.

Who was elected as the President of the Assembly?

- Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha , the oldest member was elected as the President of the Assembly. Later Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly
- Mahatma Gandhi was not the member of the Assembly

Did Muslim League participate in the Constituent Assembly?

- Muslim League boycotted the assembly.
- After division of the country the Constituent Assembly was also divided.

When the Assembly adopted the Constitution?

- The Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26th November 1949 but came into effect on 26th January 1950. To mark this day we celebrate January 26 as Republic Day every year.

What was the methodology adopted for framing the Constitution?

- Number of Committees were Appointed with chairman to discuss out different issues
- Union Powers Committee- Jawahar Lal Nehru
Provincial Constitution Committee- Sardar Patel
Drafting Committee- Dr. B R Ambedkar
Rules of Procedure Committee- Dr. Rajendra Prasad
States Committee for Negotiating with States- Nehru
Steering Committee- Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- There were more than 20 Committees

What was drafting Committee?

- Drafting Committee had 7 members. First draft was ready and published in February 1948. There were three drafts .
- The Chairman of Drafting Committee was Dr. B R Ambedkar
- Draft Constitution was passed on 26th November, 1949. All members signed (284 present) the Constitution.

What was the symbol (Seal) of the Constituent Assembly?

- Elephant was adopted as the symbol (Seal) of the Constitution Assembly

The original version of Constitution was hand written. Who was the writer? And who did the decoration and beautification of the pages?

- Prem Behari Narain Raizada was the calligrapher of the Indian Constitution. The original Constitution was hand written by him in a flowing italic style.
- The original version was beautified and decorated by artists from Shantiniketan including Nand lal Bose and Beohar Rammanohar Sinha.
- The calligraphy of the Hindi version of the original constitution was done by Vasant Krishan Vaidya and elegantly decorated by Nand Lal Bose.

How big is Indian Constitution? Originally how many Articles and Schedules were there?

- Indian constitution is the longest written constitution.
- Originally it had Preamble, 395 Articles and 8 Schedules.

How much time it took to write the Constitution?

- The time taken for drafting the Constitution was 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- The Constitution was formerly adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.

Emergency provisions of the Constitution was adopted from which country?

- Germany

From which country we adopted Ideals of liberty, equality and concept of Fraternity?

- France

What features in our Constitution indicates Federal Concept?

- Separate Union List and State List
- State has powers of imposing Tax
- Constitution is Supreme. It is Rigid as well as Flexible

Who appoints State Election Commissioner?

- Governor of the State

Who supervises the elections of Panchayats in States?

- State Election Commissioner

What is the procedure of removing the State Election Commissioner?

- Same as of removal for a judge of a High Court

Does Prorogation of the House affect the bills before the House?

- Prorogation doesn't affect the bills pending before the House.

What shall lapse upon Prorogation of the House?

- All pending notices, other than notices of intention to move for leave to introduce a bill, shall lapse upon Prorogation of the House.

Does the Attorney General have a right of audience in High Courts of States?

- The Attorney General has the right of audience in all the courts on India.

Does the Attorney General have a right to participate in the proceedings of the parliament?

- Yes. The Attorney General has the right to participate in the proceedings of the parliament.

Do the Attorney General have a right to vote in the Parliament?

- No

Can Attorney General be part of Parliamentary Committees?

- Yes, he can be part of Parliament Committees.

Does Supreme Court of India have powers to repeal the Constitutional amendments passed by the Parliament?

- The Indian Supreme Court has the power to strike down or set aside constitutional amendments, but it has no power to repeal them.

Which schedule of Indian Constitution deals with anti-defection?

- Tenth Schedule

States which find mention in the Schedule 6 of the Indian Constitution?

- Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution prescribes distribution of seats in Rajya Sabha?

- Fourth Schedule

In the 8th Schedule which languages were added by 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003?

- Bodo, Mathili, Dogri and Santhali

Which Schedule of the Constitution contains provision as to disqualification of MPs and MLAs on the ground of defection?

- Tenth Schedule

8th Schedule of the Constitution of India deals with what subject?

- Recognized Official Languages

Who wrote German Ideology?

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Who called the Constituent Assembly of India as “Nation on Move”?

- Jawahar Lal Nehru

The first person to use word Sovereignty?

- Aristotle

Who wrote the book 'Republic'?

- Plato

Who said 'Imperialism is the last stage of Capitalism'?

- Lenin

Who has described politics as 'acting in concert'?

- Hannah Arendt

‘Rule of Law’ concept was given by whom?

- Dicey

Who is known as the father of Political Science?

- Aristotle

Who defined Freedom as the 'absence of opposition'?

- Thomas Hobbes

Which Schedule contains Union List, State List and Concurrent List?

- 7th Schedule of the Constitution

Who was the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly?

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Quasi Federal System and Strong Center concepts were incorporated in our constitution from which country?

- Canada

In our Constitution the concepts of Fundamental Rights, Judicial Review and Independent Judiciary were adopted from which country?

- USA

From USSR what was adopted in our Constitution?

- Fundamental Duties

From Ireland what was adopted in our Constitution?

- Directive Principles of State Policy.

What do you understand by statement 'Indian Constitution is Quasi Federal'?

- Quasi means both Unitary as well as Federal. Our Constitution has both Unitary features as well as Federal Features.

Is the Preamble part of the Constitution?

- Yes, it is part of our Constitution

Can Preamble be amended?

- Yes, it can be amended.

What is Preamble of the Constitution? What it tells about the Constitution?

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India is a introduction to the Constitution. It sets out:
 - guiding principles of the document
- -It highlights the entire Constitution
- -It is heart of the Constitution

Preamble

- We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a

SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
and to secure to all its citizens

JUSTICE social, economic and political

LIBERTY of thought , expression, belief, faith and worship

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

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and
integrity of the Nation

In OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THIS 26th day of November, 1949, do
HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT and GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

What the word Sovereign means?

- India is sovereign State
- Sovereign State means neither dependent on nor subjected to any other power or state.
- Sovereignty is the authority to govern a state that is self-governing .
- Sovereign means citizens elect their representatives and make their own laws.

What the word Socialist means?

- Socialism is an economic theory of social organization that believes that the means of making and trading wealth should be owned or controlled by the community as a whole.
- Socialism is an economic system where the ways of making a living (Factories, offices etc.) are owned by a society as a whole, meaning the value made belongs to everyone in that society, instead of a group of private owners.

What the word Secular means?

- Secular means not connected with religious matters
- Non-religious country
- Indifference to all religions
- Being Secular means religion should not be part of the affairs of the state or part of public education

What the word Democratic signify?

- A democratic country, government or political system is governed by representatives who are elected by the people
- Everyone should have equal rights
- Everyone should be able to be involved in making important decisions
- All eligible citizens have the right to participate, either directly or indirectly in making the decisions that affect them.
- Education is the basis of a democratic society.

What the word Republic signify?

- A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives
- A state which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch
- Power is not inherited
- Republic is a public matter and not the private concern or property of the rulers

What is the First Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- First Schedule contains the list of states and union territories
- The total number of states in the country will now be **28**, with effect from 26th January 2020, India has 8 union territories. The Union Territories of Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli have become a single union territory since January 26 through a Bill passed by the Parliament in the winter session.

What is the second Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The **second schedule** contains provisions of the President, Governors of States, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State, the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India

What is the third Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- Third Schedule contains Forms of Oaths or Affirmations

What is the Fourth Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- Allocation of seats in the Council of States, Rajya Sabha (the Upper House of Parliament) per State or Union Territory
- Total Seats allocated 233

What is the Fifth Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- **Provisions as to the Administration and Control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes**
- In Scheduled Areas declared so under the Fifth Schedule, the governor of the state has special responsibilities with respect to tribal populations in the area including issuing directives to the state government and limiting the effect of acts of the central or state legislature on the Schedule Area.

What are the main features of Fifth Schedule?

- It does not cover Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
- The Governor will submit report to the President of India regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas annually
- Tribes Advisory Council shall be established in each state having scheduled area.
- Tribes Advisory Council consisting of not more than twenty members of whom, as nearly as may be, three-fourths shall be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State:

What is the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The **Sixth Schedule** consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.
- It was passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are bodies representing a district to which the **Constitution** has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

What are the main features of Sixth Schedule?

- The governors of these states are empowered to reorganise boundaries of the tribal areas. In simpler terms, she or he can choose to include or exclude any area, increase or decrease the boundaries and unite two or more autonomous districts into one.
- They can also alter or change the names of autonomous regions without a separate legislation.

What are the main features of Sixth Schedule?

- Along with ADCs, the Sixth Schedule also provides for separate Regional Councils for each area constituted as an autonomous region.
- In all, there are 10 areas in the Northeast that are registered as autonomous districts - three in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram and one in Tripura.
- These regions are named as district council of (name of district) and regional council of (name of region).

What are the main features of Sixth Schedule?

- Each autonomous district and regional council consists of not more than 30 members, of which four are nominated by the governor and the rest via elections. All of them remain in power for a term of five years.
- The Bodoland Territorial Council, however, is an exception as it can constitute up to 46 members out of which 40 are elected. Of these 40 seats, 35 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and non-tribal communities, five are unreserved and the rest six are nominated by the governor from unrepresented communities of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD).

What are the main features of Sixth Schedule?

- The ADCs are empowered with civil and judicial powers, can constitute village courts within their jurisdiction to hear trial of cases involving the tribes. Governors of states that fall under the Sixth Schedule specifies the jurisdiction of high courts for each of these cases.
- The councils are also empowered to make legislative laws on matters like land, forests, fisheries, social security, entertainment, public health, etc. with due approval from the governor. The roles of the central and state governments are restricted from the territorial jurisdiction of these autonomous regions.

What is the seventh Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The **Seventh Schedule** to the **Constitution of India** defines and specifies allocation of powers and functions between Union & States. It contains three lists; i.e.
 - 1) Union List, 98 items
 - 2) State List and 59 items
 - 3) Concurrent List. 52 items

What is the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- Article 344(1) and 351
- The **Eighth Schedule to the Constitution** consists of the 22 languages:-

1967: Sindhi language was added

1992: Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included

2004: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili & Santhali were added

What is the 9th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The **Ninth Schedule** contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts. Currently, 284 such laws are shielded from judicial review. The **Schedule** became a part of the **Constitution** in 1951, when the document was amended for the first time.

What is the 10th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution (which talks about the anti-defection law) is designed to prevent political defections prompted by the lure of office or material benefits or other like considerations. The Anti-defection law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and reinforced in 2002 by 52nd Amendment

What is 11th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- The 11th Schedule of Indian Constitution was added in 1992 by the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act.
- This schedule contains 29 subjects.
This schedule covers important topics such as Panchayat's powers, rural development, poverty alleviation, market, roads and drinking water etc.

What is the 12th Schedule of Indian Constitution?

- **Twelfth Schedule** was added by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992. **Twelfth Schedule of the Indian constitution** contains the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. This schedule has 18 items.

12th Schedule (Article 243-W) Items

- Urban planning including town planning.
- 2. Regulation of land use and construction of buildings.
- 3. Planning for economic and social development.
- 4. Roads and bridges.
- 5. Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes.
- 6. Public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management,

12th Schedule (Article 243-W) Items

7. Fire services.

8. Urban forestry, protection of the environment and promotion of ecological aspects.

9. Safeguarding the interests of weaker sections of society, including the handicapped and mentally retarded.

10. Slum improvement and upgradation.

11. Urban poverty alleviation.

12. Provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, playgrounds.

12th Schedule (Article 243-W) Items

13. Promotion of cultural, educational and aesthetic aspects.

14. Burials and burial grounds, cremations, cremation grounds and electric crematoriums,

15. Cattle ponds; prevention of cruelty to animals.

16. Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths.

17. Public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public conveniences.

18. Regulation of slaughterhouses and tanneries.

Which was the first state carved out on linguistic criteria?

- In October 1953 Andhra Pradesh was carved out as 1st State creation on the lines of linguistic criteria.

Which was the 7th Amendment to the Constitution?

- State Reorganization Act 1956 came into being with 7th Amendment. It led to Formation of 14 states and 6 union territories.

When was Gujarat created/formed?

- In 1960, under Bombay Reorganization Act?

Which new State came into being in 2014?

- Telangana

What do you understand by Citizenship by descent?

- A person born outside India on or after January 26, 1950, shall be a citizen of India by descent if either of his parents is a citizen of India at the time of the person's birth.

What do you understand by Citizenship by registration?

- A person can acquire Indian citizenship by registering themselves before the prescribed authority, e.g. persons of Indian origin who are ordinarily resident in India and have been so for five years immediately before making the application for registration; persons who are married to citizens of India.

Can Citizenship of India be terminated?

- The situations for termination of Indian Citizenship:
 - Renunciation by Voluntary act
 - After acquiring the citizenship of another country
- Deprivation of citizenship by an order of the Government of India.

Executive powers vested in President shall be exercise on advice of Council of Ministers responsible to the Parliament. Is the advice of the Council of Minister is binding on the President?

- 42nd amendment made it obligatory for the President to accept the advice of Council of Ministers.

Which Article of the Constitution deals with the election of the President?

- Article 54

Among MPs and MLAs/MLCs who do not participate in Election of the President?

- Nominated members of both the houses of the parliament & of state legislative assemblies &
- All the members of legislative Council of States.

How the value of the vote of an MP is calculated in election of the President?

- $\left(\frac{\text{Total value of votes of MLA's of all states}}{\text{Total number of elected members parliament}} \right) \times 100$

What is Article 71?

- Article 71 deals with dispute in election of the President of India.
If there is a Dispute regarding election of president or vice president is inquired & decided by Supreme Court whose decision is binding.
Article 71 further states that no such disputes can be raised on the grounds of any vacancy in electoral college.

Which Article deals with Qualification for election of President? And what are the requirements for a candidate to be elected as President?

- Article 58 deals with Qualifications required.
Qualifications are:
Must be a citizen of India
- Must be of 35 years of age
- Must be qualified for election for member of house of the people (Lok Sabha)
- Must not hold any office of profit under Government of India or Government of any state or any local or other authority

Who administers the oath by President?

- President takes oath in presence of Chief Justice of Supreme Court “To preserve, protect & defend the constitution & law”

When the state of Nagaland created?

- Nagaland became the **16th** state of India on **1 December 1963**.

When the Union territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli created?

- They became UT in 1961. Both were under Portuguese administration since 1818. They were captured by pro-India forces in 1954 and were formally annexed to India on August 11 , 1961. The 10th Amendment of the Constitution was passed to incorporate Dadar and Nagar Haveli with Republic of India.

What was Carnation Revolution?

- Happened in Portugal in 1974. The revolution result in a democratic Portugal. There was no shot fired. Soldiers were offered Carnation flower by the population hence the name.

When the Union territory of Daman and Diu was created?

- In 1961, it was made an integral part of India. After conferring statehood on Goa on 30 May, 1987, **Daman and Diu** was made a separate Union Territory. Daman lies about 193 km away from Mumbai.

What is DNHDD?

- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu(DNHDD) is a union territory.
- It was created through the merger of the former union territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- Plans for the proposed merger were announced by the Government of India in July 2019 and the necessary legislation was passed in the Parliament of India in December 2019 and came into effect on 26 January 2020.

When the State of Manipur was created?

- The **Manipur State Constitution Act of 1947** established a democratic form of government, with the Maharaja continuing as the head of state.
- Thereafter, the legislative assembly was dissolved, and in October 1949 **Manipur** became part of India. It was made a Union Territory in 1956. and a fully-fledged State in 1972.

In which case/s of acquisition of citizenship does a citizen have to take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution of India?

- If the citizenship is acquired by by registration and by naturalization

How soon imposition of National Emergency should be approved by the Parliament?

- Initially, the approval of Parliament should have been done in 2 months but it was reduced to 1 month by 44th Constitution Amendment Act.

Under which article of Constitution National Emergency is imposed?

- Article 352
- National emergency could be declared on the basis of "external aggression or war" and "internal disturbance" in the whole of India or a part of its territory under Article 352.
- Now internal disturbance should be 'armed rebellion'

Once the Emergency is imposed, it must be approved by both the houses within one month. What majority approval is required?

- Approval in each house requires a special majority, which is the majority of total members of the house and two thirds of those present and voting.

What is Article 141 of The Indian Constitution?

- Article 141 of the Constitution says Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts. The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of **India**.

What is Article 142 of the Constitution?

- Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary to do “complete justice” in any case. “The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it

Give an example of Supreme Court acting under Article 142 of the Constitution?

- Lokayukta of UP was appointed by Supreme Court in December 2015 .
- The Supreme Court exercises its right under Article 142 of the Constitution to make the appointment of Lokayukta

Give recent case of Supreme Court giving orders under Article 142?

- The Supreme Court delivered a unanimous verdict Saturday in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case. The bench invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to hand over the disputed land to a trust to be formed by the central government in the next three months, under the Acquisition of Certain Area at Ayodhya Act, 1993.

The Whip and Budget are common words used in Parliament while conducting their business. Are they defined in the Constitution?

- No, they are not.

Under which Article the President can seek advice from Supreme Court of India?

- **Article 143** of the Indian Constitution confers upon the **Supreme Court** advisory jurisdiction. The **President** may seek the opinion of the **Supreme Court** on any question of law or fact of public importance on which he thinks it expedient to obtain such an opinion

Is the advise given by Supreme Court is binding on President of India?

- The opinion is only advisory, which the President is free to follow or not to follow

Give any case where the President of India has sought an advise from Supreme Court of India.

- In August then 2002, the President Dr. Abdul Kalam sought advice of the Supreme Court under Article 143 in connection with the controversy between the Election Commission and the Government on elections in Gujarat. The issues related to the limits on the powers of the Election Commission under Article 324, the impact of Article 174 on the jurisdiction and powers of the Commission and whether the Commission could recommend promulgation of President's rule in a State.

How chairman or member of UPSC is removed?

- As per *Art. 317*, the Chairman or any other member of a Public Service Commission shall only be removed from their office by order of the President on the ground of "misbehaviour" after the Supreme Court, on reference being made to it by the President, has, on inquiry reported that the Chairman or such other member ought to be removed. The President may suspend the Chairman or other member of the Commission until report of the Supreme Court is received.

For what reasons UPSC member or Chairman is removed?

- The President may also remove the Chairman or any other member of the commission if they:
 - is adjudged an insolvent or
 - engages during their term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of their office; or
 - is, in the opinion of the President, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body.
- The Chairman or any other member cannot hold an office of profit or otherwise they shall be deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour

Who decides the strength of Judges of High Court?

- In every High Court, there is a **Chief Justice** and many other judges whose number is defined by the President of India.
- According to the guidelines finalized in 1994 on the recommendation of the then **Chief Justice** of India, the required strength of permanent **Judges** in a High Court is worked out by dividing the average institution of main cases during the last five years by the national average or the average rate of disposal of cases.

How is chief Justice of High Court is appointed?

- The **Chief Justice** of a High Court is appointed by the President with the consultation of the **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court** and the Governor of the State.

Can Chief Election Commissioner of India be reappointed?

- CEC has a tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years which ever is earlier.
- He can be reappointed provided he has the age i.e. not completed 65 years of age.

Who all draw their salary from Consolidated Fund of India?

- **Salaries** and allowances of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. **Salaries**, allowances and pensions of the judges of the Supreme Court. Pensions of the judges of high courts.

Can Emergency be declared on oral communication / recommendation of Prime Minister to President of India ?

- The President can declare such an emergency only on the basis of a written request by the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister. Such a proclamation must be laid before both houses of Parliament and the state of emergency expires after one month unless approved within that time by both houses sitting and voting separately.

Give five examples of subjects listed in Union List?

- Defense
- Foreign Affairs
- Currency and coinage
- Atomic Energy
- Railways

Give five examples of subjects listed in State List?

- Police
- Public Order
- Roadways
- Health
- Agriculture

Give five examples of subjects listed in Concurrent list?

- Forests
- Protection of wild animals and birds
- Education
- Trade Unions
- Trade and Commerce

As per the State Reorganisation Act of 1956, how many Zonal Councils were created?

- **Zonal Councils** are advisory councils and are made up of the states of India that have been grouped into five zones to foster cooperation among them. These were set up vide Part-III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Which group of Government servants are not covered under Central Administrative Tribunal?

- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

When Finance Commission is appointed?

- The **Finance Commissions** periodically constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution to define the **financial** relations between the central government of India and the individual state governments.
- The **Finance Commission** has a five-year term.

Who appoints Finance Commission?

- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution

Why Finance Commission is appointed?

- Finance Commission is appointed to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves. Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the

Why a diplomat can't be held to the law of India, for a sexual offence in India?

- Article 29 of the Vienna Convention states that “the person of a diplomatic agent shall be inviolable,” and that “he shall not be liable to any form of arrest or detention.” This immunity is prompted by the principle that diplomats should be able to focus on their work without any fear or intimidation on foreign soil. Its objective was to protect diplomats, particularly, in times of international conflicts.

Who won the election of President as an unopposed candidate?

- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was **elected unopposed**, the only **President** to be **elected** thus, after being unanimously supported by all political parties including the opposition Congress party. At 64, he became the youngest ever person to be **elected President** of India.

Who administers oath to Speaker of the House?

- Lok Sabha Speaker is one of the members of Parliament. He/she takes the oath along with other members by the pro-tem Speaker. No separate oath of affirmation is administered to him separately. Technically speaking speaker does not take any oath alone like President and Prime Minister of the country.

What are the functions of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India?

- The CAG is appointed under Article 148 of the Constitution.
- He audits all receipts and expenditure of Government of India and State governments. He also audits all bodies and establishments which are financed by GOI.

How the Rajya Sabha members are elected?

- Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect; members representing States are elected by elected members of legislative assemblies of the States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

What is the number of elected members of 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.

What is Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act?

- PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the **Scheduled Areas** of India.

Who recommended for PESA?

- On the basis of the report of the Bhuria Committee submitted in 1995, the Parliament enacted the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)**

What is the National Human Rights Commission?

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India is a Statutory 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 (PHRA).
- The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India, 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 and enforceable by courts in India."

What is the composition of Human Rights Commission?

- A Chairperson (Ex Chief Justice of India or SC Judge).
+ 4 Members
- Ex Judge of Supreme Court or Chief Justice of High Court
- 3 Members one shall be a woman
- Ex office members Chairpersons of NCSC, NCST, NCW, NC for Minorities, NC for Backward Classes, NC for protection of Child Rights and Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

What is Money Bill?

- A **Money Bill** means a **Public Bill** which in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following subjects, namely, the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration, or regulation of taxation; the imposition for the payment of debt or other financial purposes of
- A Financial Bill is not a Money Bill unless it fulfils the requirements of Article 110.

Can Money Bill introduced in Rajya Sabha?

- No.
- Money Bills can be introduced only in Lok Sabha.

When the endorsement of the speaker is required for a Money Bill?

- There shall be endorsement of every Money Bill when it is transmitted to the Council of States under Article 109, and when it is presented to the President for assent under Article 111, the certificate of the Speaker of the House of the People signed by him that it is a Money Bill.

What is Finance Bill?

- Finance Bill is the Bill ordinarily introduced in each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary Financial proposals for any period.
- Money Bill is a type of Finance Bill.

What is a appropriation Bill?

- Appropriation Bill is the authority to government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the financial year.
- The government introduces the Appropriation Bill in the Lok Sabha. It is intended to give authority to the government to withdraw from the Consolidated Fund, the amounts so voted for meeting the expenditure during the financial year.

What is private member Bill?

- A **private member's bill** in a parliamentary system of government is a bill (proposed law) introduced into a legislature by a legislator who is not acting on behalf of the executive branch.
- A **Member of Parliament (MP)** who is not a Minister in the Union Cabinet is called a **Private Member**. Bills introduced by such members are called **Private Member's Bills**. A PMB can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. Bills introduced by ministers are called **Government Bills**.

How the Private Bill is introduced?

- Its introduction in the House requires **one month's notice.**
- Private member's bills can be introduced and discussed **only on Fridays.**
- The last time a private member's bill was passed by both Houses was in **1970.**
- It was the **Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968.**

What is the purpose of Private Member's Bill?

- Bill is a proposed Law. The intension is to draw attention of Government for need of a particular law and fill the gap.

What is the contempt of court of law?

- Contempt is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behaviour that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court
- There are broadly two categories of contempt: being disrespectful to legal authorities in the courtroom, or wilfully failing to obey a court order.
- A judge may impose sanctions such as a fine or jail for someone found guilty of contempt of court

The 'Basic Structure' doctrine in the context of the constitution of India was given by the legislature or Judiciary?

- Judiciary.

Who can become member of Gram Sabha?

- All persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.

What are the reserved constituencies in India?

- Reserved constituencies refer to electoral constituencies contested by candidates belonging to the group of Sc & ST.

With reference to the elections to the Constituent Assembly of India, the allotment of seats was done in what ratio of population?

- 1: 10,00,000

Does the Council of Ministers is responsible to Rajya Sabha?

- No, only Lok Sabha.

Dr. B R Ambedkar founded which party?

- The Republican Party of India.

Supreme Court guidelines famously known as 'Vishaka Guidelines' is related to which subject/area?

- The protection of women against sexual harassment at workplace

Parliament is the 'Supreme Legislative body of India'. It comprises of two Houses- Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and which body?

- The President of India.

The Preamble of Constitution is a feature inspired by which country's Constitution?

- Constitution of India

Can Gram Panchayat levy Local Taxes?

- Yes, can levy and collect local taxes.

Is Hindi recognized as a National language of India?

- No

What is the legal provision for providing creche at working place?

- Legal provision mandate Organizations to provide creche facilities when women employees are more than 30.

Which of the amendments can be attributed to the democratic decentralization in India?

- **73rd & 74th Amendments**
- The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 has added a new part IX consisting of 16 Articles and the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. The 73th Amendment envisages the Gram Sabha as the foundation of the Panchayat Raj System to perform functions and powers entrusted to it by the State Legislatures.
- The 74th constitutional amendment act mandated the setting up and devolution of powers to Urban local bodies (ULBs) or city governments as the lowest unit of governance in cities and towns.

What is the minimum age of member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

- Lok Sabha 25 years
- Rajya Sabha 30 years

Which Article of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250?

- Article 80.

Who was the Chairman of the Constitution Assembly?

- Dr. Rajendra Prasad

When was the declaration for Poorna Swaraj made and by whom?

- Declaration of Poorna Swaraj was made on 26th Jan in 1930 by Jawahar Lal Nehru.

List three things which indicate our Constitution is unitary or Central.

- Single Citizenship
- Common Election Commission
- Common Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Name 'Bharat' appears in which article of Constitution?

- Article 1 as Bharat, shall be a Union of States.

The names of States and Unions have been described in which Schedule of our Constitution?

- First Schedule

Which authority can alter boundaries & names of existing States?

- Power is vested only in Parliament.

Can a Central Cabinet Minister introduce a bill in Lok Sabha recommending the change in the name of a State?

- Such a bill can be introduced in the Parliament only on the recommendation of President of India.

Why there was a Linguistic Province Commission?

- There was a demand for demarcating the States on Linguistic basis. Hence Constituent Assembly formed LPC to look into the matter, in June 1948. Shri K K Dhar was the head of LPC. He supported the idea of reorganization of States on the basis of administrative convenience rather than on linguistic basis.

Which was the first State carved out on linguistic criteria?

- In October 1953, Andhra Pradesh was carved out as 1st State creation on the lines of linguistic criteria.

When State Reorganization Commission was set up? Who headed the Commission.

- PM J L Nehru appointed the state Reorganization Commission in December 1953. The commission was headed by the retired Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Fazal Ali. It's other two members were H N Kunzru and K M Parikkar.

What were the recommendations of the State Reorganization Commission?

- 16 States & 6 Centrally administered territories.

How the recommendations of the State Reorganization Commission were implemented?

- The State Reorganization Act 1956, came into effect from 1 November, 1956. The Act recommended organization of boundaries of the States based on Linguistic Lines.

How Indian Citizenship can be terminated?

- It can be terminated by
 - Renunciation by Voluntary Act
 - After acquiring the citizenship of another country
 - Deprivation of citizenship by an order of Govt. of India.

What is Citizenship by naturalization?

- A foreigner can acquire Indian citizenship on application for naturalization to the Govt. of India.
- A person can **acquire citizenship by naturalisation** if he/she is ordinarily resident of **India** for 12 years (throughout 12 months preceding the date of application and 11 years in the aggregate) and fulfils all qualifications in the third schedule of the **Citizenship Act**.

What is preventive detention?

- Preventive detention of a person is not for what he has done but to intercept him before he intend to does it, and prevent him from doing it.

Who is the guarantor and protector of all Fundamental Rights?

- Supreme Court of India.

Do Armed Forces have Fundamental Rights?

- Under Article 33, parliament by law can restrict Fundamental Rights available to member of Armed Forces or forces responsible for maintenance of public order to ensure they discharge their duty properly in the interest of the nation.
- Any law made under Article 33 by Parliament cannot be challenged in Court of Law.

How and when Fundamental Duties were added to the Indian Constitution?

- Fundamental Duties were added to Indian Constitution by 42nd amendment in 1976. They were added on recommendations of Swarn Singh Committee
- 10 FD were added under Article 51A
- 11th FD added in 2002 via 86th amendment

Are Fundamental Duties enforceable by Law?

- Violation of these duties can attract punishment as prescribed by legislature.

What was 11th Fundamental Duty?

- It states that every citizen who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child as the case may be, between the age of six and fourteen years.

Why was Swaran Committee formed?

- Sardar Swarn Singh committee was formed in 1976 to make recommendations about Fundamental Duties.
- Committee recommended to include FD as a separate chapter in the Constitution and stressed the need to make people aware of the duties they have to perform along with enjoying rights.
- The Committee had recommended 8FD but Govt. added two more. Committee's recommendation that 'Duty to pay taxes' as FD was not accepted.

What was Santhanam Committee?

- In 1962, Lal Bahadur Sastri appointed Santhanam to preside over the committee on anti-corruption. Because of its thorough investigative work and recommendations, the committee earned a reputation as Santhanam's Committee on anti-corruption.

How and why Central Vigilance Commission was formed?

- Santhanam Committee had suggested for CVC. It was created in 1964. CVC was conferred statutory status in 2003.

What are statutory body?

- Statutory bodies are established by acts passed by Parliament .
- These are set up by the government to consider the data and make judgements in some area of activity. Ex. RBI.

What are Constitutional bodies?

- Bodies like UPSC, (Art.315) the Election Commission, (Art 324) the CAG, National Commissions of SCs and STs etc. are Constitutional bodies.
- RBI is not a Constitutional body. RBI is not mentioned in Constitution. It is a Statutory body.

What is executive body?

- Niti Aayog is formed under a Executive Order. So it is not Constitutional body, and not a Statutory body.
- Ex. UIDAI is also Executive body.

What was Rajamannar Committee?

- In 1969, P V Rajamannar was appointed as the Chairman of a three member Committee to study State Autonomy and Centre-State relations by DMK Govt under its C M Karunanidhi.
- It recommended creation of an Inter-State Council, curb on misuse of Article 356 and abolition of IAS and IPS.

What was the Sarkaria Commission?

- Sarkaria Commission was set up in 1983 by the Central Govt. of India. It was headed by Justice Ranjit Singh Sarkaria, Retd. Judge of SC.
- The other members were
B Sivaraman - Cabinet Secretary
Dr. S R Sen - Former ED of IBRD (World Bank)
Rama Subramanian Member Secretary
- The final report had 247 specific recommendations. All were not implemented.

What were the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission on Appointment of Governor?

- Should be an eminent person
- Must be a person from outside the state
- Must not have participated in active politics at least for some time before his appointment
- He should be appointed in consultation with CM Vice President of India & the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

What was Punchhi Commission?

- It was appointed by the Govt. of India, Chairman of the Commission was Madan Mohan Punchhi. It was to study Centre State relations. Mr. Punchhi was Chief Justice of India
- It was appointed in 2007.
- The report was submitted in 2010. Gave 312 recommendations
- The commission dealt with the responsibility and Jurisdiction of the Centre during major outbreaks of communal and caste violence.
- Report is still under consideration by Home Ministry.
- The report was deliberated in Inter State Council
- The ISC meeting was held in 2016 after a gap of 10 years

Is reservation for SC/ST & OBC is fundamental Right?

- The Supreme Court has clarified that reservation is not a fundamental right.

Who is the Executive Head of India?

- The President of India. All the executive powers of the Union are vested in the President of India.

How President exercise the executive powers vested in him?

- Executive Powers are to be exercised on advise of Council of Ministers responsible to the Parliament.

Is it obligatory for the President of India to accept advice of Council of Ministers?

- 42nd amendment made it obligatory for the president to accept advice of Council of Ministers.

Which Article of the Constitution covers the Election of the President of India?

- Article 54

How the President of India is elected?

- The President of India is elected indirectly by the Electoral College by the secret ballot & the system of proportional representation through single transferable vote.

Who all constitute as Electoral College?

- The President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of:
Elected members of two Houses of Parliament & Legislative Assemblies of the States
State includes national capital territory of Delhi & Union territory of Puducherry.

Do the nominated members of both houses & State assemblies participate in the election of the President of India?

- No

Do the members of Legislative Council of States participate in the election of the President of India?

- No

How the value of vote of an MLA is calculated?

- Value of a vote of an MLA of a State :

Population of State divided by Total number of elected members of State Assembly multiplied by 100

Is the value of vote of an MLA of UP & Delhi same?

- No

Which year population of a State is taken into account while calculating the value of the vote of an MLA of the State?

- By 42nd amendment, census of 1971 was to be followed till 1st census after 2000, but in 2000 it has been extended till 1st census after 2026 by 81st amendment in 2001.

What is electoral quota?

- For a candidate to be elected as President he must fulfill electoral quota which is calculated as

Total number of valid votes polled divided by 2
+ 1

What is the requirement for nomination of a candidate for election to the office of President of India?

- Nomination must be subscribed by atleast 50 electors as proposers and 50 electors as seconders.

Who administer the Oath to President?

- President takes oath in the presence of Chief Justice of Supreme Court. Oath is to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of India and Law. (Article 60)

What is the term of Office of President?

- President holds the office for terms of 5 years from the date he assumes his office. Even after expiry of his term he shall continue in office until his successor enters upon his office.

What is the provision for impeachment of the President?

- Article 61 provides for impeachment of the President. Power of impeachment of President lies in Parliament for violation of the Constitution & can be removed from his office before the completion of period of 5 years.

How many terms a person serves as President of India?

- Maximum of two terms.
- 22nd Amendment sets the limit of the number of times an individual can be elected to presidency (two)

Can a person after serving as President go back to Politics?

- He can not return to politics.
- He can not hold any office of profit.

Nominated members of Parliament can not vote in election process of the President of India. Can they vote in the Impeachment of the President?

- Yes. They have the right to deliberate & vote in the process of impeachment.

Can President withhold or return any Bill for reconsideration?

- Yes. Except Money Bill & Constitutional Amendment Bill.

What happens if President withhold the assent to a bill?

- The Bill then ends & does not become an Act.

Can President issue ordinances on any subject?

- President can issue ordinances only on subjects Parliament can legislate or make laws.

When the ordinance is promulgated?

- When either or both the Houses of Parliament are not in Session & immediate action is needed.

What all emergencies powers the President have?

- National Emergency Article 352
- Presidential Rule. Article 356
- Financial Emergency Article 360

When the National Emergency is imposed/declared?

- On grounds of threat to Security of India or any part of it, by war, external aggression or armed rebellion.

When the Presidential Rule is imposed?

- Proclamation of Presidential Rule means taking over the administration of a state, when State Government can not carry out administration in State in accordance with provisions of the Constitution.

Who appoints/ constitutes Finance Commission after every five years?

- President of India.

Who appoints RBI Governor?

- RBI Governor and Deputy Governors are appointed by the Central Government. Their names are cleared by Cabinet Committee on Appointments.

What is Article 78(a) in the Constitution of India?

- It is the duty of PM to keep President informed of all Cabinet Decisions, concerning administration of affairs of the Union and proposals for Legislation

In case office of President fall vacant due to death resignation or removal, then who looks after the duties?

- Vice-President looks after, or in his absence Chief Justice of India or in his absence Senior most Judge of Supreme court becomes the President until next elections are held & new president assumes office.

For how long President's office can remain vacant?

- Maximum of 6 months

Which reports and statements President will make to be Laid before Parliament?

- Annual Financial Statement (Budget)
CAG Report
Recommendations made by Finance Commission
Report of UPSC
Report of National Commission for SC and ST
Report of Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities

Does President has the powers of dissolution of Lok Sabha?

- Yes. Dissolution of Lok Sabha on advice of Council of Ministers which have lost the support of majority members of Lok Sabha or against whom a motion of no-confidence is passed.

How Vice-President is elected?

- Vice-President is elected indirectly by Electoral College, consisting of all members of Parliament, but elected & nominated. Election is held in accordance with system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote & voting by a secret ballot.

How State Government contribute /play a role in Vice-President election?

- State Governments do not participate in Vice-President election.

Who administered the oath to Vice-President?

- Vice-President takes oath in the presence of President, 'to bear true faith & allegiance' to Constitution of India & to faithfully discharge duties of his office.

How the nomination of the candidate for Vice-President election is done?

- Nomination of a candidate for election to the office of VP must be subscribed by atleast 20 electors as proposers & 20 electors as seconders.

Vice-President holds office for how long?

- Vice-President holds office for 5 years. If his successor is unable to enter the office, he continues to hold office beyond the 5 years period. Election must be held no later than 60 days of expiry of the term of office of outgoing Vice-President.

How many terms can a Vice-President serve?

- The Vice-President can be reelected any number of times

Who is authorize to resolve disputes & doubts relating to election of Vice-President?

- Supreme Court has final & exclusive jurisdiction for resolving disputes & doubts relating to election of Vice-President.

How can Vice-President be removed from his office?

- Vice-President can be removed from his office by a resolution raised only in Rajya Sabha. The resolution can be passed by majority greater than 50% of (Total membership-Vacancy) & agreed upon by simple majority (Greater than 50% of total voting members) of the Lok Sabha.

Does a notice to be served to Vice-President before the removal process?

- Prior to passing the resolution in Rajya Sabha, a 14 days notice should be served to him.

Who appoints the Prime Minister?

- PM is appointed by the President.

Who appoints the Council of Ministers?

- On Prime Minister's advice Council of Ministers are also appointed by the President.

What can be the strength of Council of Ministers?

- The number of Ministers can not be more than 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.

Who administer the Oath of secrecy to ministers?

- Ministers are required to take Oath of secrecy administered by President.

What is the condition/s in regard to membership of Lok Sabha for becoming Prime Minister and a Minister?

- Prime Minister council of Ministers must be a member of either of the house of Parliament, if appointed as minister, he shall cease to be a minister after 6 months, unless, he manages to get elected to either of the two houses. A council of Minister can be chosen from either house of the Parliament.

A Minister of Council who is member on one house, can he take part in proceedings of other house & Vote?

- He can take part in proceedings of other house without any right to vote if he is not the member of that house

What is Cabinet?

- Cabinet is the real policy making body, core group of Council of Ministers.
- It is the cabinet, which meets on and when called by PM, for taking important decisions of the Govt.
- A cabinet Minister attends meetings of cabinet and discuss on all matters and not restricted to issues of his Ministry.

Which article of the Constitution deals with Cabinet?

- Original Constitution didn't specifically mention of word cabinet anywhere.
- It was through 44th amendment in 1978, word Cabinet was used under Article 352.
- As such word Cabinet is not defined anywhere in the Constitution.

There are how many categories of Ministers?

- Cabinet Ministers
Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Deputy Minister
Minister of State
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) normally heads a minor ministry.
- Deputy Minister is Junior minister generally to assist Cabinet Minister and Minister of State with Independent Charge
- Cabinet Ministers attend the Cabinet Meeting.
- Other Ministers may attend on specific invitation to attend from Cabinet.

What were the challenges India had at the time of Independence?

- A) India was a land of continental size and diversity
 - B) To establish democracy and develop democratic practices in accordance with the Constitution
 - C) To ensure the development and well-being of the entire society

Who had advanced 'two nation theory' during freedom struggle of India?

- The 'two-nation theory' was advanced by the Muslim League. They felt India consisted of not one but two 'people' Hindus and Muslims. That is why they demanded Pakistan, a separate country for the Muslims.

Did Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan support two-nation theory?

- Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, the undisputed leader of the North Western Frontier Province and known as 'Frontier Gandhi' was opposed to the two-nation theory.

What were the British Indian Provinces and Princely states at the time of Independence of India?

- British India was divided into British Indian Provinces and the Princely States.
- The British Indian Provinces were directly under the control of the British government.
- On the other hand, several large and small states ruled by princes, called the Princely States, enjoyed some form of control over their internal affairs as long as they accepted British supremacy.

What was announced by British for Princely States at the time of giving Independence to India?

- Just before Independence it was announced by the British that with the end of their rule over India, paramountcy of the British crown over Princely States would also lapse.
- This meant that all these states as many as 565 in all would legally become independent.
- The British government took the view that all these states were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent if they so wished.

Who was responsible for the integration of Indian princely states?

- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and V. P. Menon.** They were the political and administrative heads of the States Department, which was in charge of relations with the princely states.

Which Indian princely state was the first to sign the instrument of accession to the Indian Union?

- The accession of Jammu and Kashmir was accepted by Lord Mountbatten of Burma, Governor-General of India, on 27 October 1947. Accessions was executed by Maharaja Hari Singh, ruler of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on 26th October 1947.

What was the Instrument of Accession?

- The Instrument of Accession was a legal document first introduced by the Govt. of India Act 1935.
- It was used in 1947 to enable princely states to join Dominion of India
- The instruments of accession executed by the rulers, provided for the accession of states to the Dominion of India (or Pakistan) on three subjects, namely, defence, external affairs and communications.

Which was the largest princely state in India?

- **Hyderabad** was the biggest princely state at the time of Independence. It was a Hindu majority state with a Muslim ruler. The Nizam was given a year to accede to India.

What is our National Emblem? What it signify?

- The Ashoka Chakra is our National Emblem.
- The national emblem is symbolic of contemporary India's reaffirmation of its ancient commitment to the world peace and goodwill

What Ashoka Chakra depict? Why and how it has been adopted as National Emblem?

- The Ashoka Chakra is a depiction of the Buddhist Dharmachakra, represented with 24 spokes. It is so called because it appears on a number of edicts of Ashoka, most prominent among which is Lion Capital of Sarnath which has been adopted as the national Emblem of the Republic of India.

From where Ashoka Chakra was taken for National Emblem?

- The Emblem is based on the actual stone carving. The stone carving is called the 'Lion Capital' and originally it rested on top of a tall pillar.
- It was built in third century BC by Emperor Ashoka at Sarnath, near modern day Varanasi, to mark the spot where the Buddha gave his first sermon.
- This is the National Emblem of India and the motto 'Satyameva Jayate' below the emblem in Devanagari script means 'truth alone triumphs'
- The wheel from the circular base, the 'Ashoka Chakra,' is part of the national flag of the Republic of India. This was adopted on 22 July 1947 where it is rendered in a Navy-blue colour on a White background.

What the four lions in the National Emblem depicts?

- The four lions (one hidden from view) -symbolizing power, courage and confidence- rest on a circular abacus.
- The abacus is girded by four smaller animals- guardians of the four directions: the lion of the north, the elephant of the east, the horse of the south and the bull of the west.
- The abacus rests on a lotus in full bloom, exemplifying the fountain head of life and creative inspiration.
- The bell shaped lotus has been omitted.

What is our National Anthem?

- Jana Gana Mana is the national anthem of India. It was originally composed as Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata in Bengali by poet Rabindra Tagore in 1911. The first stanza of the song Bharoto BhgyoBidhata was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India as the National Anthem in hindi, on 24 January 1950

Who composed National Anthem?

- Captain Ram Singh Thakuri was an Indian Gorkha freedom fighter, musician and composer. He composed the Indian National Army a number of patriotic songs including Kadam Kadam Badaye Ja.
- He also composed, gave the tune of National anthem Jana Gana Mana.

What is the playing time of our Anthem?

- The full version of the Anthem and its playing time is approximately 52 seconds

When was the first occasion when National Anthem sung?

- It was first sung on 27th December 1911 at the Kolkata Session of the Indian National Congress
- The song Jana gana mana was first published in January 1912 under the title “Bharat Vidhata” in Tattva Bodhini Patrika.
- The song was translated in English in 1919 with the title “Morning Song of India”

What a National Flag represent?

- A National flag is a flag that represents and symbolizes a country.

Describe our National Flag.

- The National Flag of India is a horizontal rectangular tricolor of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre.
- Proportion: 2:3

Who designed our National Flag?

- Designed by : Pingali Venkayya

When was it adopted ?

- It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947. And it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947.

When was the Flag accepted for the first time?

- A tricolor flag was first accepted by the Indian National Congress in 1931, having Charkha in place of today's Chakra

Who first hoisted the flag and when?

- First hoisted by Sacchindra Prasad Bose in 1906 in Calcutta

What the colours of Flag signify? What Chakra signify?

- Deep Saffron: Stands for courage and prosperity
Dark Green: Is the symbol of life abundance and prosperity
White : shows truth and purity in thoughts
- A Wheel Chakra : symbol of progress and movement

Which song is National Song ?

- The song Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom.
- It was adopted on January 24, 1950.
- It has an equal status with jana-gana-mana.
- The song was a part of Bankimchandra's most famous novel Anand Math in 1882.

When the song was sung for the first time in a political meet?

- The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

What is our National Pledge? Who composed it? When is it recited?

- National Pledge is an oath of allegiance to Republic of India
- The pledge was composed by Pydimarri Venkata Subba Rao in 1962 in Telugu language
- The Pledge
India is my country.
All Indians are my brothers and sisters.
I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.
I shall always strive to be worthy of it.
I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders, respect and treat everyone with courtesy.
To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion.
In there well being and prosperity alone lies my happiness
- It is recited immediately after the National Anthem

What are the National Symbols of India?

- Indian National Bird: Indian Peacock decided on February 1, 1963 -Symbol of grace and beauty
- Indian National Fruit: Mango
- Indian National Animal: The Bengal Tiger since April 1973. Prior to this , the Lion was the national animal of India
- National Flower: Lotus. The lotus flower has a very significant position in Indian mythology. It is the flower of Goddess Laxmi and symbolizes wealth, prosperity, and fertility. It symbolizes purity, achievement, long life and good fate
- National River: The Ganga. The Ganga is the longest river of India flowing over 2,510 km.

National Symbols

- National Tree: The Banyan tree. Indian Banyan root themselves to form new trees and grow over large areas. Because of its characteristic and its longevity, this tree is considered immortal and is an integral part of the myths and legends of India.
- National Aquatic Animal: River Dolphin. Gangetic dolphin is said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga River as it can survive only in pure and fresh water
- National Heritage Animal: Elephant
- National Game: Hockey India won 8 Gold Medals
- National Calendar: Saka Calendar Adopted by Calendar Committee in 1957 usage started officially at Chaitra 1 1879, Saka Era (March 22, 1957)

What are the Directive Principle of State Policy?

- Directive Principle of State Policy provides guidelines to Central & State governments, to be kept in view while framing Laws and Policies

What are the objectives of guidelines to Central and State Governments?

- The Guidelines sets up the social & economic goals desired to be achieved before the Law makers.
- According to Guidelines the aim should be:
 - Fulfil the basic needs of the common man
 - Reshaping of the structure of Indian Society in direction of greater socio-economic equality

Are the Directive Principles of State Policy enforceable in court of Law?

- The Directive Principle of State Policy Principles are not enforceable in court of Law

Why Directive Principles are important?

- Directive Principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles while making laws

With 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 which four new Directive Principles added?

- 1. To secure opportunities for healthy development of children
- 2. To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor
- 3. To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries
- 4. To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life

With 44th Amendment Act of 1978 which Directive Principle was added?

- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 added one more directive Principle which requires the State to minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities

What changes were required in Directive Principles after the 86th Amendment of the Constitution?

- The 86th Amendment Act of 2002 changed the subject-matter of Article 45 and made elementary education a fundamental right under Article 21A. The amended directive requires the State to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

What new Directive Principle was added with 97th Amendment to the Constitution?

- The 97th Amendment Act of 2011 added a new Directive Principle relating to co-operative societies. It requires the state to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, domestic control and professional management of co-operative societies.

What is the importance of Directive Principles?

- The Directive Principles can be viewed as philosophy of social justice to ultimately move towards a welfare state looking after the welfare of its citizens
- The Directive Principles serves as common political manifesto for political parties irrespective of their political ideology.

What is Office of Profit?

- The term is used in Article 102 (1) (a) and 191 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution which bars a member of the Indian Parliament and MLA from holding an office that would give its occupant the opportunity to gain a financial advantage or benefit.
- This rule is to avoid any undue influence in administrative affairs.

Can an MP or MLA hold any office of profit?

- An MP or MLA will be disqualified if MP or MLA holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder

Who is Parliamentary Secretary? What work they do?

- A Parliamentary Secretary is a member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly who assist a Minister in their duties.
- Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers usually appoint parliamentary secretaries from their own parties.

What is Joint Session of Indian Parliament?

- The Constitution provides for joint sittings of both the houses to break this dead lock.
- The joint sitting is called by the President of India as per Article 108 of Constitution.
- The joint sitting is presided over by the Speaker of Lok Sabha

Why there is a need of Joint sitting?

- The Parliament of India is bicameral.
- Concurrence of both houses are required to pass any bill.
- If there is a deadlock, joint sitting is called to resolve the deadlock.

Who is Pro-tem Speaker?

- Pro-tem Speaker is the temporary speaker who presides over the first meeting after the election.
- A Pro-tem speaker is chosen with the agreement of the members of the Lok Sabha and Legislative assembly.
- Generally the senior most member is chosen to function as Pro-tem Speaker
- President of India on the recommendation of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs appoints Pro-tem Speaker for Lok Sabha and Governor in Legislative Assembly

What is a Constitutional Bench?

- Constitutional bench is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case 'involving a substantial question of law as to interpretation' of the Constitution of India.

What is a Political Party?

- a **political party** is an organized group of people who have the same political ideology of governance, rule of law and who field candidates for elections, in an attempt to get them elected and thereby implement their agenda.

Does each political party need to register, if yes, with which authority?

- Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission.
- Parties are given unique symbol by the Election Commission

How a Political party gets a status of a National Political Party?

- A party that secures at least six per cent of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four States and wins at least four seats in the Lok Sabha is recognized as a national party.

When a Political Party is recognized as a State Party?

- A party that secures at least 6 % of the total votes in an State in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least two seats is recognized as a State Party.

What is a Parliamentary Committee? Why are they formed?

- Parliamentary Committee is the Committee consisting of Members of Parliament.
- The Parliamentary Committees are established to study the functioning of executive branch

What are the types of Committees?

- The Parliamentary committees are of two types Standing Committees and Ad-hoc committees
- The Standing Committee is elected or appointed periodically and they work on continuous basis.
- The Ad hoc committees are created as per the needs arises

What are the different Standing Committees?

- Public Accounts Committee
- Estimate Committee
- Public Undertakings Committee
- 24 Department related Standing Committees
- 16 Other Committee

What is Outstanding Parliamentarian Award?

- The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is an award given by the **Indian Parliamentary Group** to an outstanding sitting Member of the **Indian Parliament** for overall contribution in the **Indian Parliament**. It was instituted in 1995 by Shivraj Patil, who was the Speaker of Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996.

Which Article deals with the Amendment of the Constitution?

- Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution deals with the powers of Parliament to the Constitution and its procedure.

What portion of Constitution can not be amended?

- The Parliament cannot amend those provisions which form the 'Basic Structure' of the Constitution.
- This came as a ruling from Supreme Court in the Kesvananda Bharthi case, 1973.

The Bill initiating Amendment of the Constitution, can it be introduced in Rajya Sabha?

- An amendment of the Constitution can be initiated by introducing of the bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament.

Does the approval of President required for the introduction of the Bill for Amendment of the Constitution?

- Introduction of Bill does not require prior approval of the President

Can there be Joint sitting of the House for passing Constitution Amendment Bill?

- There is no provision for holding Joint Sitting of the Houses.
- Each House must pass the Bill separately.

What is the condition for passing of Constitutional Amendment?

- The bill must be passed in each House by a special majority, that is, a majority more than 50% of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.

What is the provision for Amending Federal Structure of the Constitution?

- If the Bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must be ratified by the legislatures of half of the States by a simple majority, that is, a majority of members of the House present and voting

If Amendment Bill passed by both the houses and also ratified by state legislatures sent to President, can he withhold his assent or send the Bill back to Parliament houses for reconsideration?

- 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 the President grants his assent the Bill becomes an Act and Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

In how many ways the Constitution can be amended?

- The Constitution can be amended in three ways:
 1. Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament
 2. Amendment by Special Majority of the Parliament
 3. Amendment by majority of the Parliament and the ratification by half number of the State Legislatures

Are there any Amendment other than Article 368?

- Some article provide for the amendment of certain provisions of the Constitution by simple majority of Parliament that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting. That is similar to the ordinary bills.
- The above type of Constitutional Amendments are not counted as Amendments under Article 368.

Give Examples of Amendments possible by Simple Majority of Parliament.

- Establishment of new States
- Alteration of areas of States
- Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils of States
- Emoluments etc. of President, Governors, Judges etc.
- Quorum in Parliament
- Rules of Procedures in Parliament
- Salaries of MPs
- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its Committees
- Use of English in Parliament
- Use of official Language
- Union Territories
- 5th Schedule- Administration of Schedule areas and Scheduled Tribes
- 6th Schedule- Administration of Tribal Areas

Give Examples for Amendments by Special Majority.

- Fundamental Rights
Directive Principles
All the items not covered in First and Third Categories means other than Simple majority or and Special Majority with consent of States.

Give examples of Amendments by Special Majority of Parliament and Consent of States.

- Election of President

Extent of Executive Powers of the Union and the States

Distribution of Legislative powers of the Union and the States

Any of the List of in 7th Schedule

Representation of States in Parliament

Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself)

What all changes were made through 42nd Amendment (1976)

- It added the words SOCIALIST and SECULAR in the Preamble
- It provided that the Laws enacted for the implementation of Directive Principles could not be struck down by courts on the ground that they violated some Fundamental Rights.
- It added a set of 10 Fundamental Duties to the Constitution
- It asserted the Supremacy of Parliament with regard to amendment of Constitution
- It made it obligatory for the President to act on the advice of Council of Ministers.

When the subjects like Forests, Education Population control were transferred from State List to concurrent list?

- With 42nd Amendment, 1976

When was the Supreme Court inaugurated?

- The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on January 28, 1950.

What is the present strength of Judges in Supreme Court?

- 2019: The number of Judges increased from 30 to 34 including the Chief Justice of India.
- The number was increased because of huge backlog of cases.
- As on 1.7.2020 there were 60,444 cases

Who appoints Supreme Court Judges?

- President of India.

How Chief Justice is appointed?

- The Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consulting Judges of Supreme Court as he deems fit

What are the qualifications required for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court?

- A person to be appointed as judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:
 1. He should be a citizen of India
 2. He should have been a judge of a High Court for five years or He should have been an advocate of a High Court for 10 years or He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

What is the minimum age required for a Supreme Court Judge?

- There is no minimum age for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- He holds office until he attains the age of 65 years.

How a Supreme Court Judge is removed from his office?

- A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an order of the President.
- The President can issue the removal order only after an address by Parliament has been presented to him in the same session for such removal.
- The address must be supported by a special majority of each house of Parliament. Majority of the total membership of that house and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.
- The ground of removal are
 1. Proved misbehavior
 2. Incapacity

What is the procedure for removal of Supreme Court Judge?

- The Judges Enquiry Act (1968) regulates the procedure relating to the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court by the process of impeachment:
 1. A removal motion signed by 100 members in the case of Lok Sabha or 50 members in the case of Rajya Sabha is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman
 2. The Speaker/Chairman may admit the motion or refuse to admit it
 3. If it is admitted, then Speaker/Chairman is to constitute a three member committee to investigate into the charges
 4. The committee should consist of a) the chief justice or a judge of the Supreme Court and c) a distinguished jurist

Who is Amicus Curiae?

- An amicus curiae literally means ‘friend of the court’ is someone who is not a party to a case and may not have been solicited by a party and who assists a court by offering information, expertise or insight that has a bearing on the issues in the case, and is typically presented in the form of a brief.

Who is the guarantor of the Fundamental Rights of the citizens of India?

- Supreme Court Of India

Who prepares the budget of Supreme Court?

- The salaries, allowances and pensions of the judge and staff as well as all the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India. Thus they are non-votable by the Parliament.

Who is the final interpreter and guardian of the Constitution?

- Supreme Court of India.

What is Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court?

- 1. Original Jurisdiction Some cases no other Court can decide ex. Centre-State, State-state
- 2. Writ Jurisdiction
- 3. Appellate Jurisdiction
- 4. A court of Record
- 5. Advisory Jurisdiction
- 6. Power of Judicial Review

What matters Supreme Court can not decide?

- Supreme Court can not decide on
 - matters referred to the Finance Commission
 - Article 262 of the Constitution of India states that the Centre has the power to make any laws regarding the inter state water dispute and may bar the Supreme Court from exercising jurisdiction over such disputes

What is National Emergency?

- Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion
- A proclamation of national emergency may be applicable to the entire country or only a part of it.

Can President proclaim a national emergency on verbal communication from PM?

- The President can proclaim a national emergency only after getting a written recommendation from the cabinet.

What majority is required to pass the resolution of proclaiming emergency?

- Every resolution approving the proclamation of emergency or its continuance must be passed by either House Of Parliament by a special majority that is
 1. a majority of the total membership of that House and
 2. a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that house present and voting.

What is the rule for approval of Houses of Parliament in regard to proclamation of emergency?

- The proclamation of Emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue. In case Lok Sabha dissolved, 30 days after the reconstitution of Lok Sabha. Provided Rajya Sabha has already approved it

What is the maximum period for which emergency can be imposed?

- If 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.

Does the revocation of Emergency requires approval of Both the Houses?

- A proclamation of emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require the Parliamentary approval

Can President make laws on State Subject List during Emergency?

- During a national emergency, the Parliament becomes empowered to make laws on any subject mentioned in the State List. The Laws made by Parliament on the state subjects during a National Emergency become inoperative six months after the emergency has ceased to operate.
- While proclamation of national emergency is in operation, the President can issue ordinances on the state subjects also, if Parliament is not in session.

Can life of Lok Sabha extended during Emergency?

- While a proclamation of National Emergency is in operation, the life of the Lok Sabha may be extended beyond its normal term by a law of Parliament for one year at a time for any length of time.
- However this extension cannot continue beyond a period of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. Same is applicable for State Assembly.

Does Article 19 gets suspended during Emergency?

- Article 358 says during emergency rights under Article 19 gets suspended but when the emergency is imposed on account of external aggression and not when it is imposed on armed rebellion.

What happens to Article 21 and 22 during Emergency?

- Article 359 says President can suspend the right to move to court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights under Article 19 only Article 21 and 22 remain enforceable. But President can suspend this right by an order.

What is Article 355?

- Article 355: Centre to ensure that State Governments function in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

What happens in case of failure of Constitutional machinery in State?

- In case of failure of Constitutional machinery in State, Centre takes over the government of a state under Article 356. This is called as 'President Rule' It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'
- The President's Rule can be proclaimed on two grounds:
 1. When President is satisfied that government of the state cannot be carried on accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. There may and may not be Governor's report in this regard
 2. Whenever a state fails to comply with instructions of the Centre.

What approvals are required after the imposition of President's Rule?

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- Resolution is to be passed by the Parliament by a simple majority, a majority of the members of the House present and voting
- However if Lok Sabha has been dissolved or under dissolution, then the proclamation has to be approved by new Lok Sabha with in 30 days from their first sitting, provided the Rajya Sabha approves it already.

For how long the President's Rule can continue in the State?

- If 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.

What safeguards are added in the Constitution to avoid misuse of the provision of President's Rule?

- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced a safe guard for likelihood of misuse of the provision of the President's Rule:
- Beyond one year, the President's Rule can be extended by six months at a time only when the following two conditions are fulfilled:
 1. a proclamation of National Emergency should be in operation in the whole of India or in part of India
 2. The Election Commission must certify that the general elections to the legislative assembly of the concerned state can not be held on account of difficulties.

What powers are acquired by the President during President's Rule?

- During the President's Rule, the President acquires the extraordinary powers:
 1. He can take up the functions of the state government and powers vested in the governor or any other executive authority in the State
 2. He can declare that the powers of the State Legislature will be exercised by the Parliament
 3. He can take all other necessary steps including the suspension of the constitutional provisions relating to any body or authority in the state.
- President dismisses the state council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

How the expenditure is taken care of during President's Rule?

- The president can authorize, expenditure from the state consolidated fund when Parliament is not in session, pending sanction by the Parliament
- The President can promulgate, when the Parliament is not in session, ordinances for the governance of the state.

What happens to Fundamental Rights during President's Rule?

- The President's Rule has no effect on Fundamental rights of the citizens, High Court functioning.

What is Financial Emergency?

- In case the economic situation of the country becomes unstable or credit of India is threatened the financial emergency can be imposed
- It is imposed under Article 360 of the Constitution of India
- President of India can declare this emergency
- Such an emergency must be approved by the Parliament within two months.
- There is no maximum period prescribed for its operation
- The imposition of emergency is subject to judicial review
- It has never been declared.

Can the salaries of government staff and Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court be reduced during Financial Emergency?

- The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state / Union and of judges of Supreme Court and High Court.
- During the operation of a financial emergency, the Centre acquires full control over the states in financial matters.

What are the privileges enjoyed by MPs?

- They cannot be arrested during the session of Parliament and 40 days before the beginning and 40 days after the end of a session. This privilege is available only in civil cases and not in criminal cases or preventive detention cases.
- They have freedom of speech in Parliament. No member is liable to any proceedings in any court for anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or its committees. This freedom is subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament.

What is the contempt of the House?

- When any individual or authority disregards any of the privileges etc. it is considered as breach of privilege.
- Any act or omission which obstructs a House of Parliament, its member or its officer in the performance of their functions or which violates the dignity, authority and honour of the House is treated as a contempt of the House.
- Such acts are punishable by the House.

What are the Financial Committees?

- There are three financial Committees:
 1. Public Accounts Committee
 2. Estimates Committee
 3. Committee on Public Undertakings

What is Public Accounts Committee?

- **Public Accounts Committee**
This committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of Government of India Act of 1919
- At present , it consists of 22 members 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha.
- The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

What are main features of Public Accounts Committee?

- Thus all parties get due representation in it.
- The term of office of the members is one year.
- A minister can not be elected in the committee.
- The Chairman of the committee is appointed from amongst the members by the Speaker. By convention the Chairman is from Opposition
- The function of the committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)
- The CAG submits three audit reports to the President
 1. Audit report on appropriation accounts
 2. Audit report on finance accounts
 3. Report on Public Undertakings

What are the main focus areas of Public Accounts Committee?

- Examine Public Expenditure
- Appropriation and Finance Accounts
- Accounts of state corporations, manufacturing projects
- Examine the accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies whose audit was done by CAG
- Examine the money spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted by the Lok Sabha for that purpose
- Committee has evolved as a powerful force in the control of public expenditure. PAC conform to the highest traditions of a parliamentary democracy

What is the Estimate Committee?

- The First Estimate Committee was constituted in 1950 on the recommendation of John Mathai, the then Finance Minister
- Originally it had 25 members by in 1956 its membership was raised to 30. All the 30 members are from Lok Sabha
- These members are elected every year from amongst its own members ,according to the principles of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. Thus all parties get due representation in the committee.
- Minister can not be elected
- The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of the House, he is from Ruling Party

What are the functions of Estimate Committee?

- The function of the committee is to examine the estimates included in the budget and suggest 'economies' in public expenditure. Hence, it has been described as a 'continuous economy committee.'
- They suggest economies and improvements in organisation, efficiency and administrative reform, suggest alternative policies in order to bring efficiency and economy in the administration

Does Estimate Committee examines the budget estimates before they are put to vote?

- The committee examine the budget estimates only after they have been voted by the Parliament, and not before that. They do post-mortem.

What is the Committee on Public Undertakings?

- This committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.
- Originally it had 15 members 10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha. In 1974 it was increased to 22 as 15 Lok Sabha and 7 Rajya Sabha members.

What the Committee on Public Undertaking do?

- They examine the reports and accounts of public undertakings, examine CAGs reports on PSU, examine whether the affairs of the public undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices.

Are the recommendations of Committee on Public Undertakings are binding on ministries?

- It's recommendations are advisory and not binding on the ministries.

How many Departmental Standing Committees are there?

- There are in all 24 Departmental Standing Committees.

What is the objective of Departmental Standing Committees?

- The main objective of the standing committee is to secure more accountability of the Executive (i.e. the Council of Ministers) to the Parliament in debating the budget more effectively.

What is the composition of Departmental Standing Committee?

- Each standing committee consists of 31 members 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha members are nominated by Speaker and Rajya Sabha member are nominated by the Chairman from amongst its members.

What is the distribution of Standing Committees?

- Out of the 24 standing committees 8 work under Rajya Sabha and 16 under Lok Sabha.

What are the functions of the Departmental Committees?

- They look at the annual reports of the ministries
- The Standing Committee consider the demands for grants of the concerned ministries departments before they are discussed and voted in the Lok Sabha. Its report should not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions

What is the Committee on Petitions?

- The functions of this committee are semi-judicial in nature. It examines the cases of breach of privileges of the House and its members and recommends appropriate action.
- The Lok Sabha committee has 15 members while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members.

What is Ethics Committee in Parliament?

- This committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000.
- It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament.
- It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.
- Thus it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

What is the Committee on Government Assurances?

- This committee examines the assurances, promises and undertakings given by ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and reports on the extent to which they have been carried through.
- In the Lok Sabha, it consists of 15 members and in the Rajya Sabha, it consists of 10 members.
- It was constituted in 1953

What is the Committee on Subordination Legislation?

- This committee examines and reports the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament or conferred by the Constitution to the Executive are being properly exercised by it.
- In both the Houses, the committee consists of 15 members.
- It was constituted in 1953.

What is the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table?

- This committee was constituted in 1975.
- The Lok Sabha Committee has 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha Committee has 10 members.
- It examines all papers laid on the table of the House by ministers to see whether they comply with provisions of the Constitution, or the related Act or Rule.
- It does not examine statutory notifications and orders that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation

What is the Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs?

- This committee consists of 30 members : 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha
- Its functions are:-
- To consider the reports of the National Commission for the SCs and STs
- To examine all matters relating to the welfare of SCs and STs, like implementation of constitutional and statutory safeguards, working of welfare programmes, etc.

What is the Committee on Empowerment of Women?

- This committee was constituted in 1997
- Consists of 30 members -20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha
- It considers the reports of the National Commission for women and examines the measures taken by the Union Government to secure status, dignity and equality for women in all fields

What is the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit?

- It consists of 15 members -10 from Lok Sabha and 5 from Rajya Sabha
- The committee examines the issue of 'office of profit'
- They examine the composition and character of committees and other bodies appointed by the Central, State and Union Territory Governments.
- They recommend whether persons holding these offices should be disqualified from being elected as MP.

Is there any reservation for women in Lok Sabha?

- The Lok Sabha has a seating capacity of 550. A total of 131 seats 24.03% are reserved for representatives of Scheduled Castes 84 and Schedule Tribes 47
- There is no reservation for women at present.

What is the Women's Reservation Bill?

- The Bill was for 50% reservation for Women of all seats in Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the bill on March 2010. However, the Lok Sabha never voted on the Bill.
- The Bill is still Pending

What is Public Interest Litigation?

- PIL was introduced in India in early 1980s
- Justice V R Krishna Iyar and Justice P N Bhagwati were the pioneers of the concept of PIL
- Under the PIL any public-spirited citizen or a social organization can move the court for the enforcement of the rights of any person or group of persons who themselves unable to approach the court for remedies.

What subjects cases can not be entertained as PIL?

- Landlord-Tenant matters
Service matter and those pertaining to pension and gratuity
Complaints against Central/State Governments and Local Bodies
Admission to medical and other educational institution
Petition for early hearing of cases pending in High Courts and Subordinate Courts.

Can a letter be taken as a PIL?

- Yes, Even a letter can be taken as PIL when the issue of public importance, enforcement of fundamental rights of large number of people are raised
- The Court in special situations may appoint Commission or other bodies for the purpose of investigating into the allegations and finding out facts.

Who is the Chief Executive Head of the State?

- Governor is the chief executive head of the state.

Can a same person be Governor of more than one State?

- 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states

How a Governor is appointed?

- Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

What qualifications are required to be a Governor?

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should have completed the age of 35 years.
- Governor should not hold any other office of profit.

Can a person of a State can be appointed Governor of that State?

- As a Convention: He should not belong to the state where he is appointed, so that he is free from local politics
Second, while appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the chief minister of the state concerned.
- However both the conventions are not the force or mandatory.

Who administered the oath of office to the governor?

- The oath of office to the governor is administered by the chief justice of the concerned state high court.

What is the tenure of Governor?

- A governor holds office for a term of five years subject to pleasure of the President which is not justifiable

Can a Governor be transferred from one State to another?

- Governor can be transferred to other state, he can be reappointed after the tenure of 5 years.

What powers a Governor has?

- A Governor possesses executive, legislative, financial and Judicial powers more or less analogous to the President of India.

What are the executive powers of a Governor?

- He can make rules for transaction of the business of a state government
- He appoints the Chief Minister and other Ministers. They also hold office during his pleasure
- There should be a Tribal Welfare minister in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha appointed by him. Bihar was excluded from this provision by the 94th amendment Act of 2006.
- He appoints the Advocate General of a state and determines his salary. He appoints the state election commissioner,
- He appoints Chairman and members of the state public service commission but they can only be removed by the President of India and not by him

What are the Legislative powers of a Governor?

He can summon or prorogue the state legislature and dissolve the state assembly.

He can address the House at the commencement of the first session after each general election and the first session each year

He can nominate one member to the state assembly from the Anglo-Indian Community.

He nominates the one sixth of the members of the state legislative council from amongst the persons having special knowledge.

What are the powers of Governor with respect to Bills passed by State Legislature?

- Governor can give assent to the Bill passed by the legislature. He can withhold his assent to the Bill. He can return the Bill one time. He can reserve the Bill for the President. In case the Bill endangers the position of High Court the reservation is obligatory. Other cases of reserve of the Bill
Bill is against the Constitution
Opposed to Directive Principles
Of Grave National importance
Dealing with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution.

What is the power of a Governor with respect to Ordinances?

- 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.

What are the financial powers of a Governor?

- He ensures that the State Budget is laid
Money Bill can be introduced in the state legislature only with his prior recommendation
- He can draw funds from the Consolidated Funds for any expenditures he deems fit
- He constitutes a finance commission after every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayats and the municipalities.

What are the powers of Governor with respect to Money Bill?

- Every Money Bill after it is passed by the legislature it is presented to Governor for his assent:
 - He can give his assent.
 - He can not send it back to legislation for reconsideration.
 - The Money Bill is introduced in assembly with his prior approval
 - He may withhold his assent to the bill, the bill then ends and does not become an act.
 - He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president.

What is the Quorum for a meeting in Assembly, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha?

- **ASSEMBLY**

Quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present in the House before it can transact any business. It is ten members or one-tenth of the total number of members of the House including the presiding officer which ever is greater.

- **LOK SABHA**

The presence of at least 10% of the total strength of House or about 55 members makes the quorum.

- **RAJYA SABHA**

At least 10% members of the total strength so it is 25 members

What are Tribunals and what is their role?

- Administrative tribunals run parallel to the court system
- Tribunals are less formal, less expensive and a faster way to resolve disputes than by using the traditional court system.
- Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
- Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)
- Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT)
- National Green Tribunal (NGT)

What the 4 fold test advised by the Supreme Court with respect to Right to Privacy?

- Supreme Court has laid down 4 fold test
- Legality
- Need
- Proportionality
- Process

What is Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT)?

- VVPAT is a method of providing feedback to voters using a ballot less voting system.
- VVPAT is intended as an independent verification system for voting machines designed to allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly.

What is the record created and stored in VVPAT?

- The paper record is printed behind glass so that the voter may not take it or alter it.
- It contains name of the candidate (for whom vote has been casted) and symbol of the party.
- This is to detect possible election fraud or malfunction and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results.

What is NOTA?

- Electors have right to protest in an election rejecting all the candidates by registering 'none of the above' NOTA
- In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that the right to register a “none of the above” vote in elections should apply. Election Commission was directed to provide such a button in the Electronic Voting Machine
- In 2014 general election, NOTA polled 1.1% of the votes, counting to over 60,00,000.

What is the symbol of NOTA?

- NOTA has been given specific symbol.
- It is a ballot paper with a black cross across it.
- The symbol is designed by National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. The symbol was introduced in 2015 September.

From which country the concept of NOTA has been taken?

- NOTA originated in the United States in 1976.

What happens to NOTA votes?

- Through the usage of NOTA, a citizen can choose not to vote for any candidates who are contesting the election
- At present NOTA votes even if more they are not considered in counting of votes for candidates winning the election on getting the highest votes
- NOTA is considered as maturing of India's democracy

Which article is provided for election of President?

- The manner of election of President is provided by Article 55 of the Constitution.

Who is the returning officer in the election of the President of India?

- The returning officer for the election is the Secretary General of Lok Sabha.

What is EVM?

- Electronic Voting Machines are used in India for conducting elections
- EVMs have replaced paper ballots in local state and general elections in India
- EVMs were first used in November 1988 assembly election

How many votes can be taken by one EVM?

- 3840

How many voters are there in one polling station?

- Around 1500

One EVM can cater to how many candidates?

- Balloting Unit is attached to EVM.
- Each Balloting Unit can cater to 16 candidates.
- 4 Balloting units can be attached to one EVM
- So 64 candidates can be there for one EVM unit

What is Enemy Property Law

- During various conflicts with Pakistan many went to Pakistan leaving their property.
- These properties were vested with Indian Government
- The Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968 provided vesting of enemy property with Indian custody.

What is the estimation of value of enemy property spread across many states?

- About 1 lakh crore rupees
- Total 9280 properties left behind by Pakistani nationals and 126 by Chinese nationals

The Act of 1968 was Amended in 2017. Why?

- It makes the Custodian the owner of enemy property retrospectively from 1968.
- It voids the legal sales undertaken by enemies of enemy properties since 1968. This means that a person who may have bought an enemy property in good faith when such sale and purchase was legal, now stands to lose the property.
- It prohibits Indian citizens who are legal heirs of enemies from inheriting enemy property, and brings them within the definition of 'enemy'.
- It also prohibits civil courts and other authorities from hearing certain disputes relating to enemy property.

What is National Commission of Scheduled Castes?

- Constitution of India under Article 338 has assigned the following duties and functions to the Commission.
- To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes under the Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;
- To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the Scheduled Castes;

NCSC

- Annual report of NCSC is submitted to the President of India

5Th Commission formed in 2017

- Prof. (Dr) Ram Shankar Katheria - Chairperson
Shri L Murugan Vice- Chairperson
- It was established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes
- To promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests
- The Commission investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for SC under the Constitution

What is the status of CAG ?

- The status of CAG is as a judge of Supreme Court of India

How Attorney General is appointed? What is his role?

- He is appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- He must be a person qualified to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court, and also must have been a judge of some high court for 5 years or an advocate of some high court for 10 years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India.
- The Attorney General of India is the Indian Government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.

What is the role played by Attorney General?

- He represents the Government of India in any reference made by the President to Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution.
- A Solicitor General and four Additional Solicitor Generals assist the Attorney General. The Attorney General is to be consulted only in legal matters of real importance and only after Ministry of Law has been consulted.
- All references to the Attorney General are made by the Law Ministry. Attorney General can be member of Committee of Parliament.
- He can take part in Joint Sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

What is the role of Finance Commission?

- The Finance Commission is formed to define the financial relations between the Central Government and individual State governments.

Who appoints the Finance Commission?

- It is set up under Article 280 of Constitution of India
- The Commission is appointed every five years
- It consists of a Chairman and four other members
- It is formed by the President of India
- There have been fifteen commissions to date
- The 15th was constituted in 2017 and is chaired by N K Singh, a former member of Planning Commission

What is the The Order of Precedence?

- The order of **precedence** of the Republic of India is the protocol list (hierarchy of important positions) in which the functionaries, dignitaries and officials are listed according to their rank and office in the Government of India.
- It is not applicable for the day-to-day functioning of the Government of India.

Who issues Warrant of Precedence?

- Warrant of Precedence is issued by President's Secretariat with the approval of the President of India

Warrant of Precedence list

- President
- Vice-President
- Prime Minister
- Governor of States within their respective States
- Former Presidents
- Deputy Prime Minister
- Chief Justice of India
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- Cabinet Ministers of the Union
- CM of states within their states
- Deputy Chairman Planning Commission
- Former Prime Ministers
- Leaders of Opposition

What is the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015?

- The Juvenile Justice (care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 came into force from 15 January 2016. The bill allows for juveniles 16-18 years or older to be tried as adults for heinous offences like rape and murder. Heinous offences are those which are punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more.

What is Official Secret Act 1923?

- It states that actions which involve helping an enemy state against India are strongly condemned.
- It also states that one cannot approach, inspect, or even pass over a prohibited government site or area.
- Punishments under the Act range from three to fourteen years imprisonment.

What is declassification of files?

- Declassification is the process of documents that used to be classified as secret ceasing to be restricted, often under the principle of freedom of information

What is e Governance?

- E-Governance is the use of IT for delivering government services, exchange of information, communication transactions, integration of various stand-alone systems and services between government-to-citizen etc.

What are the advantages of E Governance?

- Through e-governance government services are made available to citizens in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner.
- E-governance strengthens the relationship between government and citizens using technology.
- E-governance is to bring more efficiency and transparency in various aspects.

What is Democracy Index?

- The democracy index is an index compiled by the UK based company the Economist Intelligence Unit that intends to measure the state of democracy in 167 countries.
The index is based on 60 indicators grouped in five different categories measuring pluralism, civil liberties and political culture.

What was Constitution 73rd Amendment?

- The Constitution Amendment (73rd) Act, 1992 provided for the establishment of Village Panchayat in all States.
- It was decided to have Panchayati Raj System to have three-tier structure:
GRAM PANCHAYAT at village level
BLOCK SAMITI at block level and
ZILA PARISHAD at the district level

What is Gram Panchayat?

- The Gram Panchayat functions at the village level. It comprises of three institutions
GRAM SABHA
GRAM PACHAYAT
NYAYA PANCHAYAT

What is Gram Sabha?

- Gram Sabha means the general assembly of the village
It comprises of all the adult members of the village
All adult men and women above the age of 18 years are the members of the Gram Sabha
The names of the members should be on the electoral rolls.
- The Gram Sabha meets twice in a year.
- The meetings of the Gram Sabha are presided over by the Sarpanch

What is the role of Gram Sabha?

- The meetings of the Gram Sabha are presided over by the Sarpanch
- The functions of the Gram Sabha are to approve the income and the expenditure estimates for the year
- To consider new taxes to levy
- The Gram Sabha also plays an important role in electing the Gram Panchayat and after the election, keeps a tab on their work by participating in the decision- making process.

How Gram Panchayat is established? What is its role?

- A Gram Panchayat is established in each Gram Sabha area.
- Its members are directly elected by the Gram Sabha from among themselves.
- They are elected for a five year term
- Each Gram Panchayat consists of a Gram Pradhan or Sarpanch and other members of Panchayat whose numbers are fixed by the government on the basis of the population of the village.
- Generally, there are 7 to 31 members in the Gram Panchayat.
- In Punjab, it comprises of 5 to 9 members, in Delhi 7-11, in Haryana 6-20, in UP 25-30 and in Rajasthan 5-15

Are the seats reserved for different categories?

- In every Gram Panchayat, seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes, ST, OBC and women.

Who convene the meeting of Gram Panchayat?

- The meeting of Gram Panchayat are convened and presided over by Sarpanch.
- He signs important documents and coordinates the activities of the Panchayat.
- An up-Pradhan is also elected who officiates in the absence of the Pradhan

What is the main function of Gram Panchayat?

- The Gram Panchayats functions for welfare of the villagers

How the District Administration helps and control Gram Panchayats?

- The government provides a Secretary to each Gram Panchayat. He gets his salary from the government. His job is to keep an account of income and expenditure. He also keep the records of the meetings and work done by Panchayat.

What are the compulsory Functions of Gram Panchayat?

- Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and health care facilities
- Constructions and maintenance of village roads and streets
- Management of cremation and burial ground
- Registration of births and deaths and maintenance of ward service
- Construction and repair of village wells and tanks
- Supervision of the work of the government employees in the village such as patwari , police constable, chowkidar etc.

Compulsory Functions continued:

- Supervision of primary schools and Panchayat Ghar and provision of books, radio television etc. at the Panchayat Ghar
- Promotion of family welfare and population control
- Checking unauthorised occupation of public land
- It also finalizes the list of below poverty line families so that they can benefit from the various development schemes

What are the optional Functions of a Gram Panchayat?

.Holding fairs and cattle shows

- To run small scale industries
- Providing facilities for treatment of cattle
- Maintenance of the hospitals and maternity centers
- To supply good quality of seeds and fertilizers to the farmers
- To carry out schemes for the improved methods of cultivation
- To organize village sports, maintain akharas and other social functions

What are the sources of income for Gram Panchayat?

- To discharge its functions the Gram Panchayat needs funds. It get funds from two main sources:
Grants
Taxes
- It levies taxes on property and land such as houses and shops.
- It also levies taxes on fairs, markets, sale and purchase of property and cattle etc.
- The income from these sources is limited and cannot meet its needs. So state government provides it the grants and loans.

What are Nyaya Panchayat? What is its role?

- It is the judicial wing of the Panchayat
- It has jurisdiction over two or three villages.
- The chief function of Nyaya Panchayat is to hear and decide petty civil cases. It also deals with minor criminal cases.
- It can impose fine, but it cannot send anybody to jail.

How the members of a Nyaya Panchayat elected?

- The members of the Nyaya Panchayat are elected by the Gram Panchayat.
- A person cannot be the member at the same time of Village Panchayat and the Nyaya Panchayat. And the candidate for the Nyaya Panchayat should be educated

What is a Block Samiti?

- Block Samiti is the local self-governing institution that exists over the Village Panchayat.
- It is known by different names in different states. In UP , it is called as Kshetra Samiti, in Gujarat as Taluka Panchayat, in MP as Janpada Samiti, in AP as Mandal Praja Parishad and in Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha etc Panchayat Samiti.
- It is a link between the Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad
- The tenure of the Block Samiti is fixed for 5 years.

What are the functions of Block Samiti?

- To help the villagers in obtaining improved seeds and fertilizers
- To arrange credit facilities for agricultural purposes
- To establish small enterprises in the rural areas
- To promote health and family welfare programmes
- To train the farmers in scientific methods of agriculture and animal husbandry
- Implementation of community development programmes sponsored by the state government

Functions Continued:

- To make the villagers aware of the need of immunization for their children which will protect them against many diseases
- To establish and maintain institutions like schools and industrial training institutes to educate the children
- To register births and deaths and to cremate unclaimed bodies.
- The BDO works in close cooperation with Block Samiti. He is the administrative head of Block Samiti. He ensures the implementation of the plans prepared by the Block Samiti. He is the link between a block and the concerned Zila Parishad

What is Zila Parishad?

- Zila Parishad provides assistance to the Village Panchayats and Block Samitis in their work.

What the Zila Parishad do?

- It approves the budgets of Block Samitis.
It prepares development plans for the district
It looks after the construction and maintenance of minor irrigation schemes
It maintains educational institutions and promotes technical and vocational education
It encourages the development of cottage industries in the area and imparts training to farmers
It provides relief in times of drought and scarcity

Who supervises the work of Zila Parishad?

- The work of Zila Parishad is supervised by District Collector

What are the sources of fund for Zila Parishad to function?

- Taxes, license fees and market fees. It levies taxes on fairs, shops, land and houses etc. Financial grants from the state government.
- Income from renting out its property and houses.
- Funds allotted by the central government under centrally sponsored schemes.

What is the Presidential Form of Government?

- America is having Presidential form of Government
- The American President is both the head of the State and the head of government. As the head of State, he occupies a ceremonial position. As the head of government, he heads the executive organ of government

How President functions?

- The President governs with the help of a cabinet. It is only advisory body and consists of non-elected departmental secretaries
- The President and his secretaries are not responsible to the Congress nor attend its sessions. The Legislative, executive and Judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in three independent organs of the government
- The president cannot dissolve the House of Representatives- the lower house of the Congress

What is Adjournment of Lok Sabha?

- "Adjournment" is a postponement of the sitting or proceedings of the House from one time to another specified for the reassembling of the House.
- During the course of a Session, the Lok Sabha may be adjourned from day to day or for more than a day.
- It may also be adjourned *sine die* which means the termination of a sitting of the House without any definite date being fixed for its next sitting.

What is Prorogation of Lok Sabha?

- "Prorogation" means the termination of a Session of the House by an order made by the President under article 85(2)(a) of the Constitution.
- The Prorogation of the House may take place any time, even while the House is sitting.
- However, usually, prorogation follows the adjournment of the sitting of the House *sine die*.

What is Dissolution of the House Lok Sabha?

- "Dissolution" of the House means the end of the life of the Lok Sabha either by an order made by the President under article 85 (2) (b) of the Constitution or on the expiration of the period of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting.
- Dissolution puts an end to the representative character of the individuals who at the time compose the Lok Sabha.

What happens to business on hand at the time of adjournment?

- On adjournment of the Lok Sabha or its adjournment *sine die*, the pending business does not lapse. Bills pending before either House or Select/Joint Committee, Motions, Resolutions, and amendments which have already been moved and pending in the House, and business pending before a Parliamentary Committee do not lapse on prorogation whereas all business pending before the House or any of its Committee lapse on dissolution.

What is Question Hour of Lok Sabha?

- Rule 32 of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” provides that unless the Speaker otherwise directs, the first hour of every sitting of the House shall be available for the asking and answering of Questions. Thus, it is taken up from 1100hrs to 1200 hrs in every sitting.

When the Question Hour is skipped ?

- Normally, there is no Question Hour
 - During the first Session of the new Lok Sabha
 - On the day when the President addresses both houses assembled together
 - On the day when General Budget is presented in Lok Sabha
 - On the sittings held during the extended period of session
 - On Saturdays/Sundays and Holidays

What are Parliamentary Questions?

- A Member may ask question for the purpose of obtaining information on a subject matter of public importance within the special cognizance of the minister to whom it is addressed
- Question is one of the important Parliamentary devices available to the Members

What are the guidelines in regard to Parliamentary Questions?

- The right to ask a question is governed by certain conditions like it should be pointed, specific and confined to one issue only. It should not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements.

What are the different types of Questions?

- Starred
- Un-starred
- Short Notice Question

What are Starred Questions?

- Starred: A Member who desires an oral answer to his question is required to distinguish it by an Asterix. Maximum 20 Questions are included in the list of Starred Questions for a particular day.
- This is printed on green paper. Minimum of 15 clear days notice is required for tabling Starred Questions

What are un-starred Questions?

- The Questions not orally answered in the Starred list of questions are treated as Un-starred Questions and their replies are laid on the Table of the House.

What are Short-Notice Questions?

- Short Notice Question: Question can also be asked on a matter of urgent public importance at a notice of less than ten clear days.
- The list of admitted SNQ is printed on a pink paper.
- The procedure of SNQ is regulated by Rule 54 and the basic test for its admissibility is the urgency of matter.
- SNQ is asked and answered soon after the Question Hour.

Is there any cap on Number of Questions in a day?

- The maximum number of Questions to be placed on the list of Questions for oral answers (Starred Question) on a particular day is 20, while the maximum number of questions to be placed on the list of Un-starred Question is 230.
- However, the number of Un-starred Questions may exceed by a maximum of 25 Questions pertaining to State/States under President's Rule.

What is Half-an-hour-discussion?

- Another instrument available to the Members of Lok Sabha for raising issue of public importance is the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Under this, a Member may raise discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question, Starred, Un-starred or Short Notice Question and the answer to which needs further elucidation on a matter of fact.

What is the procedure for Half-an-hour-discussion?

- The procedure regarding Half-an-Hour Discussion is regulated by Rule 55 of the 'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha' and Direction 19 of the 'Directions by the Speaker'. Under this, a Member may give notice to raise a discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance and which has been the subject of a recent question, Starred, Un-starred or Short Notice Question, and the answer to which needs further elucidation on a matter of fact.

What are the Stages of Passing a Bill?

- There are three stages of passing a Bill

Introduction of the Bill

Deliberations by select committee

Discussion on the motion and Voting

What is the first stage for passing of a Bill?

- A Bill while being considered has to undergo three stages in each House of Parliament. The *first stage* consists of the introduction of the Bill which is done on a motion moved by either a Minister or a Member.

What is the second stage of passing of Bill?

- During the *second stage*, any of the following motions can be moved: that the Bill be taken into consideration; that it be referred to a Select Committee of the House; that it be referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses; or that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. Thereafter, the Bill is taken up for clause-by-clause consideration as introduced or as reported by the Select/Joint Committee.

What is the third stage of passing of Bill?

- The *third stage* is confined to the discussion on the motion that the Bill be passed and the Bill is passed/rejected either by voting or voice vote (or returned to the Lok Sabha by the Rajya Sabha in the case of a Money Bill).

What is calling attention motion?

- Under this procedural device, a Member may, with the prior permission of the Speaker, call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief statement thereon.
- There shall be no debate on such a statement at the time it is made.
- After the statement, brief clarifications can be sought from the Minister by the Member who has initiated the Calling Attention and other Members whose names appear in the List of Business are called by the Speaker

What subjects matters can be raised in calling attention?
Is there voting after discussion?

- Only those matters which are primarily the concern of the Union Government can be raised through a Calling Attention notice.
- The Calling Attention procedure is an Indian innovation which combines asking a question with supplementary and making brief comments;
- the Government also gets adequate opportunity to state its case.
- The Calling Attention matter is not subject to the vote of the House.

What is meant by 'motion' in parliamentary parlance?

- The term 'motion' in parliamentary parlance means any formal proposal made to the House by a Member for the purpose of eliciting a decision of the House.
- It is phrased in such a way that, if adopted, it will purport to express the judgement or will of the House.
- Any matter of importance can be the subject matter of a motion.
- The mover of a motion frames it in a form in which he/she wishes it ultimately to be passed by the House and on which a vote of the House can conveniently be taken.

What is Adjournment Motion?

- *Adjournment Motion* is the procedure for adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, which can be moved with the consent of the Speaker.
- The Adjournment Motion, if admitted, leads to setting aside of the normal business of the House for discussing the matter mentioned in the motion

What can be raised in Adjournment Motion?

- To be in order, an adjournment motion must raise a matter of sufficient public importance to warrant interruption of normal business of the House and the question of public importance is decided on merit in each individual case.
- The purpose of an Adjournment Motion is to take the Government to task for a recent act of omission or commission having serious consequences. Its adoption is regarded as a sort of censure of the Government

What is Motion of No-Confidence?

- Rule 198 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha* lays down the procedure for moving a Motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers.
- The usual format of such a motion is that "this House expresses its want of confidence in the Council of Ministers".
- A Motion of No-confidence need not set out any grounds on which it is based.
- Even when grounds are mentioned in the notice and read out in the House, they do not form part of the No-confidence Motion.

What is Confidence Motion?

- The Government must always enjoy majority support in the popular House to remain in power.
- If need be, it has to demonstrate its strength on the floor of the House by moving a Motion of Confidence and winning the confidence of the House.

What is Discussion under Rule 193?

- Discussion under Rule 193 does not involve a formal motion before the House. Hence no voting can take place after discussion on matters under this rule.
- The Member who gives notice may make a short statement and such of the Members as have previously intimated to the Speaker, may be permitted to take part in the discussion.
- At the end of the discussion, the Minister concerned gives a brief reply.

What is Zero Hour?

- The time immediately following the Question Hour and laying of papers and before any listed business is taken up in the House has come to be popularly known as the 'Zero Hour'.
- As it starts around 12 noon, this period is euphemistically termed as 'Zero Hour'. For raising matters during the 'Zero Hour' in Lok Sabha, Members give notice between 8.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. everyday to the Speaker stating clearly the subject which they consider to be important and wish to raise in the House.
- It is, of course, for the Speaker to allow or not to allow for raising such matters in the House. The term 'Zero Hour' is not formally recognised in our parliamentary procedure.

What is an Address by the President?

- The Constitution provides for an Address by the President to either House or both Houses assembled together [Article 86(1)].
- The Constitution also makes incumbent upon the President to address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first Session after each General Election to the Lok Sabha and at the commencement of the first Session each year and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. [Article 87(1)].
- The matters referred to in the Address by the President to the Houses are discussed on a Motion of Thanks moved by a Member and seconded by another Member.

What is MPLAD Scheme?

- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) was introduced in December, 1993.
- Under this Scheme, a Member of Lok Sabha has the choice to recommend to the Head of the District, development works with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to the tune of Rupees five crore per year, to be taken up in his/her Constituency.

What you understand by Local government?

- Local government refers to governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state.
- India is a federal republic with three spheres of government: central, state and local
- Municipal corporations are also example of local self-government

What is the % of minority in India?

- As per the Census 2011, the **percentage of minorities** in the country is about 19.3% of the total population of the country.
- The population of Muslims are 14.2%; Christians 2.3%; Sikhs 1.7%, Buddhists 0.7%, Jain 0.4% and Parsis 0.006%.

Who all are minorities in India?

- Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 had granted minority status to five communities (Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis) based on their national population.

What are minority rights in India?

- Article 30 of the Indian Constitution states that, “(1) All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Does Jain come under minority?

- **Jainism** is considered to be a legally distinct religion in India. ... On 30 January 2014, the Government of India explicitly awarded the status of a "minority religion" to the Jain community in India, as per Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities(NCM) Act (NCM), 1992.

What is rule of law mean?

- **Rule of law** is a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are: Publicly promulgated. Equally enforced. Independently adjudicated. And consistent with international human rights principles.

Is National Scholarship portal only for minority?

- Students belonging to notified **minority** communities viz. Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi (Zoroastrian) studying in India **only** and fulfilling the Scheme guidelines are eligible to apply for these **scholarships**.

What are the rights given to Persons with disabilities?

- **Persons with disabilities** are entitled to a barrier- free and **disability-** friendly environment to enable them to have access to buildings, roads and other social amenities, and assistive devices and other equipment to promote their mobility.

What is Disability Act in India?

- The Rights of Persons with **Disabilities Act**, 2016 is the **disability** legislation passed by the Indian Parliament to fulfil its obligation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with **Disabilities**, which India ratified in 2007.

Is a person suffering from Thalassemia is considered Disable?

- Yes

What is the Consumer Protection Act?

- **Consumer protection** is the practice of safeguarding buyers of goods and services, and the public, against unfair practices in the marketplace.
- Such laws are intended to prevent businesses from engaging in fraud or specified unfair practices in order to gain an advantage over competitors or to mislead consumers.

What are the six rights provided to consumers by CPA, 2019?

The act provides 6 rights to the consumers;

- To be protected from hazardous goods and services.
- To have information about the quantity, quality, purity, potency, price, and standard of goods or services.
- To have a variety of goods or services at competitive prices
- To be heard and to be assured that consumer's interests will receive due consideration
- To be protected from unfair or restrictive trade practices.
- The right to consumer awareness

The act has the provision of the Establishment of the CCPA. What will be its role?

- It will protect, promote and enforce the rights of consumers. The CCPA will regulate cases related to unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements, and violation of consumer rights.
- The CCPA will have the right to impose a penalty on the violators and passing orders to recall goods or withdraw services, discontinuation of the unfair trade practices and reimbursement of the price paid by the consumers.
- The Central Consumer Protection Authority will have an investigation wing to enquire and investigate such violations. The CCPA will be headed by the Director-General.

What will be the punishment for false or misleading advertisement?

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will have the power to impose fine of Rs. 10 Lakh on the endorser or manufacturer, for misleading or false advertisement.
- The CCPA may also sentence them to imprisonment for up to 2 years for the same.
- In case of a subsequent offence, the fine may extend to Rs. 50 Lakh and imprisonment of up to 5 years.

The act has the provision of the establishment of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) at the national, state and district levels. What will be its role?

- The CDRCs will entertain complaints related to;
- Overcharging or deceptive charging
- Unfair or restrictive trade practices
- Sale of hazardous goods and services which may be hazardous to life.
- Sale of defective goods or services

What will be the Jurisdiction of Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission?

- The National CDRC will hear complaints worth more than Rs. 10 crores.
- The State CDRC will hear complaints when the value is more than Rs 1 crore but less than Rs 10 crore.
- While the District CDRC will entertain complaints when the value of goods or services is up to Rs 1 crore.

Do e-commerce sites come under purview of CPA Act?

- Consumer means any person who buys any goods, whether through offline or online transactions, electronic means, teleshopping, direct selling or multi-level marketing.
- So all E-Commerce sites will be covered

What is the suspension of MPs?

- Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says: “The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day’s sitting.”

What is the rule 374A ?

- This clause was incorporated in the Rule Book on December 5, 2001. The intention was to skirt around the necessity of moving and adopting a motion for suspension.
- According to Rule 374A: “(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 373 and 374, in the event of grave disorder occasioned by a Member coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and wilfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise, such Member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less: Provided that the House may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.
- “(2) On the Speaker announcing the suspension under this rule, the Member shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.”

What is the rule in Rajya Sabha for suspending an MP?

- the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to “direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.
- The Chairman may “name a Member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council by persistently and wilfully obstructing” business. In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

What are the powers of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

- The **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** conducts the business in house, and decides whether a bill is a money bill or not. They maintain discipline and decorum in the house and can punish a member for unruly behaviour by suspending them.

Can Lok Sabha brings a Bill for creation of All India Services?

- No Lok Sabha has no such powers.

How an All India Service is created?

- The Rajya Sabha has the power to create new All India Services by passing a resolution supported by not less than two-third members present and voting. The Lok Sabha does not enjoy any such power to create new All India Services.

- Thank You