

IC-CHEAT\_SHEET

INDIAN CONSTITUTION EXAM CHEAT SHEET

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Significance
26 November 1949	Constitution of India adopted
26 January 1950	Constitution of India enforced
1947	Indian Independence Act passed
1946	Cabinet Mission Plan sent to India
1946	Constituent Assembly formed
1919	Government of India Act (introduced dyarchy)
1935	Government of India Act
1950	Supreme Court of India established

KEY FIGURES

Person	Position/Role
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Chairman of Drafting Committee
Dr. Rajendra Prasad	President of Constituent Assembly
B.N. Rau	Constitutional Advisor

CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

PREAMBLE

- Declares India as: **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic**
- Was amended by the **42nd Amendment**

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (PART III)

Article	Right	Key Points
Article 14	Equality before Law	Basic equality provision
Article 15	Prohibition of Discrimination	Based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth
Article 16	Equality of Opportunity	In public employment
Article 17	Abolition of Untouchability	Social equality
Article 19	Right to Freedom	Six freedoms including speech, assembly, etc.

Article	Right	Key Points
Article 21	Protection of Life and Personal Liberty	Most fundamental right
Article 21A	Right to Education	Added through 86th Amendment
Article 32	Right to Constitutional Remedies	Allows approach to Supreme Court

## UNION EXECUTIVE

Position	Key Points	Articles
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Head of State</li> <li>- Elected by Electoral College</li> <li>- 5-year term</li> <li>- Minimum age: 35 years</li> </ul>	Article 52-62 <b>Article 54:</b> Election
Vice President	- Chairperson of Rajya Sabha	
Prime Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Real executive</li> <li>- Appointed by President</li> <li>- Heads Council of Ministers</li> </ul>	
Council of Ministers	- Advises President	<b>Article 74</b>

## STATE EXECUTIVE

Position	Key Points	Articles
Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive head of state</li> <li>- Appointed by President</li> <li>- 5-year term</li> </ul>	<b>Article 153:</b> One Governor for each state
Chief Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appointed by Governor</li> <li>- Heads State Council of Ministers</li> <li>- Responsible to State Legislative Assembly</li> </ul>	

## PARLIAMENT (UNION LEGISLATURE)

House	Key Points	Term
<b>Parliament</b>	Consists of President, Rajya Sabha, and Lok Sabha	
Rajya Sabha (Council of States)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent body</li> <li>- 1/3 members retire every 2 years</li> <li>- Members elected for 6 years</li> </ul>	6 years
Lok Sabha (House of People)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum strength: 552</li> <li>- Minimum age for membership: 25 years</li> <li>- Money Bills can only be introduced here</li> <li>- Speaker elected by its members</li> </ul>	5 years

**Important Points:**

- Joint sitting presided by Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Budget presented in Lok Sabha
- Lok Sabha more powerful in financial matters
- President can summon or dissolve Lok Sabha
- Bill becomes law after President's signature

## JUDICIARY

Court	Key Points	Articles
Supreme Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guardian of Constitution</li> <li>- Established in 1950</li> <li>- Chief Justice appointed by President</li> <li>- Retirement age: 65 years</li> </ul>	<b>Article 124:</b> Establishment
High Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highest court at state level</li> </ul>	<b>Article 214:</b> Establishment

### Important Writs:

- Habeas Corpus
- Mandamus
- Prohibition
- Certiorari
- Quo Warranto

## FEDERALISM

- Division of powers between Centre and States
- **Part XI** deals with Centre-State relations
- **7th Schedule** lists Union, State, and Concurrent subjects
- Residuary powers rest with Union Government

## EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

Type	Article	Purpose
National Emergency	<b>Article 352</b>	External aggression, armed rebellion
President's Rule	<b>Article 356</b>	State constitutional machinery failure
Financial Emergency	<b>Article 360</b>	Threat to financial stability

## LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

Amendment	Focus	Structure
<b>73rd Amendment</b>	Panchayati Raj	3-tier: Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad
<b>74th Amendment</b>	Urban Local Bodies	Municipalities, Municipal Corporations

### Panchayati Raj:

- Based on principle of decentralization
- Given constitutional status by **Article 243**
- 5-year term
- Elections conducted by State Election Commission
- Panchayat Samiti deals with block-level administration
- Zila Parishad prepares district development plan

#### Urban Local Bodies:

- Municipality formed in area with population of 100,000+
- Nagar Panchayat in transitional areas
- Mayor is chairman of Municipal Corporation

## HIGH-PROBABILITY ANSWERS

### Common Amendment Questions

If asked about amendments without knowing the answer, these are the most frequent answers:

- **42nd Amendment:** Most recurring (3 questions mention it)
  - Known as "Mini Constitution"
  - Amended the Preamble
- **73rd Amendment:** Panchayati Raj
- **74th Amendment:** Urban Local Bodies

### Other High-Probability Answers

If unsure about:

- **Important Articles:** Article 32, Article 356, Article 14, Article 21
- **Terms of Office:** 5 years (President, Lok Sabha, Panchayats)
- **Emergency Types:** National, State (President's Rule), Financial

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS TO AVOID

- Constitution was **adopted** on 26 November 1949, but **enforced** on 26 January 1950
- Lok Sabha maximum strength is 552, not 545 (which is elected members)
- Rajya Sabha is permanent, 1/3 members retire every 2 years
- Money Bills can **ONLY** be introduced in Lok Sabha
- Prime Minister is the real executive, President is nominal head

## MODULE-WISE KEY CONCEPTS

### Module 1: Historical Background

- Focus on dates, key figures, and acts leading to Constitution

### Module 2: Preamble & Fundamental Rights

- Know all key articles (14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 32)

- Remember Preamble contents and amendment

## Module 3: Union & State Executive

- Roles, appointments, terms of President, PM, Governor, CM
- Key articles defining their powers

## Module 4: Union & State Legislature

- Structure, terms, powers of Parliament
- Financial powers especially important

## Module 5: Judiciary & Federalism

- Supreme Court establishment, powers
- Types of emergencies and relevant articles

## Module 6: Local Self Government

- 73rd & 74th Amendments
- Three tiers of Panchayati Raj
- Urban local body types

Dates given in materials:

- **Before 1947:** Britishers were ruling India.
- **1857:** Sepoy Mutiny occurred, after which the decentralization process slowly started.
- **1927:** The British Government sent the Simon Commission to India.
- **29 parties:** Participated in an all-party meeting under Pandit Motilal Nehru.
- **25 times:** The Nehru Committee met.
- **1935:** The British Government enacted the 'Government of India act 1935', which gave provincial autonomy.
- **II World War:** Broke out, and the British Government declared India as its supporter and made it a party without consulting the provincial government.
- **1945:** After the II World War, the 'Labour Party' came to power in UK under Clement Atlee.
- **1946:** Clement Atlee constituted the 'Cabinet Mission'.
- **1946:** The 'Cabinet Mission' visited India.
- **2nd September 1946:** An Interim Government was constituted under the leadership of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- **8th December 1946:** The 'Constituent Assembly' was formulated.
- **December 9th 1946:** The Constituent Assembly met for the 1st time.
- **18th December 1946:** Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru presented the 'Objectives resolution'.
- **22nd January 1947:** The Objectives resolution was adopted.
- **29th August 1947:** The Drafting Committee was formed.
- **21st February 1948:** The 'Drafting Committee' submitted the 1st draft of the constitution to the 'Constituent Assembly'.
- **26th November 1949:** The final form of the constitution was passed and adopted by the assembly.
- **26th January 1950:** The constitution was inaugurated. This day was chosen to commemorate the pledge taken by the country twenty years earlier in the name of 'Poorna Swaraj' at Lahore conference.

The Supreme Court of India was also started along with the implementation of the Constitution on this date.

- **1951-52:** The first general elections under the new Constitution were held.
- **April, 1952:** The first elected Parliament came into being.
- **1952:** The Central Legislature which was known as Constituent Assembly (Legislative) and later Provisional Parliament was unicameral till the first elections were held in 1952.
- **April, 1957:** The Second Lok Sabha came into being.
- **April, 1962:** The Third Lok Sabha came into being.
- **March, 1967:** The Fourth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **March, 1971:** The Fifth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **March, 1977:** The Sixth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **January, 1980:** The Seventh Lok Sabha came into being.
- **December, 1984:** The Eighth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **1986:** President Zail Singh exercised the pocket veto over the postal act.
- **1988:** The minimum age to vote was reduced from 21 years to 18 years according to the 62nd amendment.
- **December, 1989:** The Ninth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **June, 1991:** The Tenth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **May, 1996:** The Eleventh Lok Sabha came into being.
- **March, 1998:** The Twelfth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **October, 1999:** The Thirteenth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **2000:** Chhattisgarh High Court was established.
- **2000:** Jharkhand High Court was established.
- **2000:** Uttarakhand High Court was established.
- **May, 2004:** The Fourteenth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **May 2004:** The government of India vested the NHRC with the power to grant interim relief.
- **May, 2009:** The Fifteenth Lok Sabha came into being.
- **1961:** The Dowry Prohibition Act was passed at a joint session of Parliament.
- **1978:** The Banking Service Commission Repeal Bill was passed at a joint session of Parliament.
- **2002:** The Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act (POTA) was passed at a joint session of Parliament.
- **2002:** The 11th fundamental duty (providing education to children aged six to fourteen) was included as per the 86th Amendment.
- **1976:** The 'Swaran Singh Committee' was appointed.
- **1976:** The 42nd Amendment was made to the constitution. Through this amendment, three terms: 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity of Nation' were added to the Preamble.
- **2 years 11 months and 18 days:** The time taken by the Constituent Assembly to write and enact the constitution.
- **atleast twice a year:** Lok Sabha should meet.
- **3 sessions:** Lok Sabha conducts three sessions - Budget session (Feb to May); Monsoon session (June-Sep); Winter session (Oct-Jan).
- **6 months:** The maximum time gap between two sessions of Lok Sabha. Any member absent for 6 months or more without permission will be removed. Also the maximum period Rajya Sabha can withhold consent for a bill (except money bills) before a joint session can be summoned in case of a deadlock. Also the maximum duration a person should be under preventive detention according to a recommendation of the Constitution Review Commission.
- **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.:** Normal business hours for Lok Sabha sittings.

- **First hour of every sitting:** Called the Question Hour in Lok Sabha.
- **10 clear days:** Minimum period of notice for a starred/unstarred question in Lok Sabha.
- **after the Question Hour:** Miscellaneous items of work are taken up in Lok Sabha.
- **between 12 – 1 o'clock:** Zero hour is provided for members to ask questions in Lok Sabha.
- **5 years:** The usual term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved. It can be extended by Parliament by law for not exceeding one year at a time during a Proclamation of Emergency.
- **6 years:** The term of Rajya Sabha members.
- **once in two years:** 1/3rd of Rajya Sabha members retire.
- **at least twice a year:** Rajya Sabha should meet.
- **6 months:** The maximum time gap between two meetings of Rajya Sabha. Also the maximum duration the Vice-President can function as 'Acting President'.
- **three times in a year:** Rajya Sabha meets along with Lok Sabha sessions at present.
- **6 months:** Maximum period Rajya Sabha can withhold consent for an ordinary bill before a joint session can be summoned. Also the period after which a minister not attending sessions will lose their candidature. Also the period within which a non-member assuming office as Prime Minister must be elected to either house.
- **14 days:** Maximum period Rajya Sabha can delay its approval for a financial bill/money bill.
- **one year:** The maximum period a resolution passed by Rajya Sabha (by 2/3rd majority) for Parliament to make a law on a State List matter in the national interest remains in force. This period can be extended by one year at a time.
- **5 years:** The usual term of a State Legislative Assembly. It may be extended for one more year during national emergencies.
- **3 months:** The maximum time a State Legislative Council (Vidhana Parishad) can delay approval for a bill (other than financial bills) from the Legislative Assembly the first time.
- **1 month:** The maximum time a State Legislative Council (Vidhana Parishad) can delay approval for a bill (other than financial bills) from the Legislative Assembly the second time.
- **4 to 6 months before the preparation of the Budget:** Estimates of expenditures and income reach the Finance Minister.
- **last week of February:** The budget is usually presented by the Finance Minister.
- **three or four days of the introduction of the budget:** A general discussion on the budget takes place.
- **one year:** The term of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House. Also the term of the Select Committee and the Joint Committee. Also the term of the Committee on Estimates. Also the term of the Committee on Public Undertakings. Also the term of the Committee on Public Accounts. Also the term of the Committee on Empowerment of Women.
- **since 1954:** The General Purpose Committee has been in existence.
- **April, 1997:** The Committee on Empowerment of Women came into being.
- **8th March, 1996:** Identical Resolutions were adopted by both Houses of Parliament on the occasion of International Women's Day, leading to the formation of the Committee on Empowerment of Women.
- **April, 1993:** A full-fledged system of 17 Departmentally Related Standing Committees came into being.
- **26th January 1950:** The Supreme Court of India was established and started functioning.
- **62:** The age until which High Court Judges hold office.
- **at least ten years:** A person must have held a judicial office in India or been an advocate of a High Court or courts in succession to qualify as a High Court Judge.
- **1866:** Allahabad High Court was established.

- **1954:** Andhra Pradesh High Court was established.
- **1862:** Bombay High Court, Calcutta High Court, and Madras High Court were established. The Calcutta High Court is the oldest High Court in the country.
- **1960:** Gujarat High Court was established.
- **1966:** Delhi High Court was established.
- **1948:** Gauhati High Court and Orissa High Court were established.
- **1971:** Himachal Pradesh High Court was established.
- **1943:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court was established.
- **1884:** Karnataka High Court was established.
- **1956:** Kerala High Court was established.
- **1936:** Madhya Pradesh High Court was established.
- **1916:** Patna High Court was established.
- **1947:** Punjab and Haryana High Court was established.
- **1949:** Rajasthan High Court was established.
- **1975:** Sikkim High Court was established.
- **1978:** The Environment Impact Assessment Programme was introduced in India. The National Museum of Natural History was set up in New Delhi.
- **January 1994:** A notification was issued making the Environment Impact Assessment Programme statutory for 29 categories of developmental projects.
- **1985:** The activities of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) were initiated.
- **August 1992:** The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board was set up.
- **20 year:** The duration of the comprehensive National Action Programme to combat desertification.
- **every year:** A National Environmental Awareness Campaign is organised.
- **1956:** The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act (SITA) was passed.