



**SPM IAS ACADEMY**  
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

# APSC MAINS

## GS-2 SYLLABUS



- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.
- Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.
- Separation of Powers between various organs Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries.
- Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.
- Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity.
- Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.
- Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.
- Development Processes and the Development Industry — the Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.
- Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the population by the Centre and States and the Performance of these Schemes; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections.
- Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/ Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
- Issues relating to Poverty and Hunger.
- Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency and Accountability, E-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; Citizens Charters, Transparency & Accountability and institutional and other measures.

- Role of Civil Services in a Democracy.
- India and its Neighborhood- Relations.
- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.
- Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India’s interests, Indian Diaspora.
- Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

POLITY

INDIAN CONSTITUTION	
Historical Underpinning & Evolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulating Act (1773) to Independence Act (1947)</li><li>• Constituent Assembly</li><li>• Objective Resolution</li></ul> Enactment & Enforcement of Constitution
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written</li><li>• Flexible &amp; Rigid</li><li>• Federal &amp; Unitary</li><li>• Parliamentary Form of Government (Presidential vs. Parliamentary Type of Government)</li></ul>
Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• List of Significant Amendments &amp; Their Provisions</li><li>• Procedure for Amending Constitution</li></ul>

<b>Significant Provisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundamental Rights</li> <li>• Directive Principles of State Policy</li> <li>• Judicial Review</li> <li>• Universal Adult Franchise</li> <li>• Single Citizenship</li> <li>• Separation of Powers</li> </ul>
<b>Basic Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Doctrine</li> <li>• Judgments &amp; Cases</li> </ul>

## FUNCTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNION & STATES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7th Schedule</li> <li>• Legislative Functions</li> <li>Financial Functions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Functions</li> <li>• Administrative &amp; Quasi-Judicial Functions</li> </ul>
--	--

## ISSUES & CHALLENGES PERTAINING TO THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE

<b>Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?</b>	
<b>Cooperative &amp; Competitive Federalism</b>	
<b>Centre-State Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Relations</li> <li>• Administrative Relations</li> <li>• Financial Relations</li> <li>• Trends in Centre-State Relation</li> </ul>

<b>Inter-State Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-state Water Disputes</li> <li>• Inter-State Councils</li> <li>• Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings</li> <li>• Inter-State Trade and Commerce</li> <li>• Zonal Councils</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Provisions</b>	
<b>Reports of Various Commissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.</li> </ul>

## DEVOLUTION OF POWERS & FINANCES TO LOCAL LEVELS & CHALLENGES THEREIN

- Role of State Government
- Role of State Finance Commission
- 11th & 12th Schedule
- Reasons for Ineffective Performance
- Panchayat Devolution Index (NITI Aayog)
- Steps That Can Be Taken to Improve Their Performance

## SEPARATION OF POWERS BETWEEN VARIOUS ORGANS

- Doctrine of Separation of Power
- Separation of Power in Indian Constitution
- Doctrine of Checks & Balances
- Provisions for Checks & Balances in Indian Constitution
- Related Judgments –
- Golaknath case, Kesavananda Bharati, Indira Gandhi Vs Raj Narain, Ram Jawaya vs Punja

## DISPUTE REDRESSAL MECHANISMS AND INSTITUTIONS

- RTI
- PIL
- Tribunals, etc.

## COMPARISON OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL SCHEME WITH THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES PARLIAMENT & STATE LEGISLATURES

### Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges

- Written Constitution
- Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility
- Federal System with Unitary Bias
- Parliamentary Form of Government
- Synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy
- Integrated and Independent Judiciary
- Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties
- Secular State
- Universal Adult Franchise
- Single Citizenship
- Emergency Provisions
- Three-tier Government
- Due Process of Law vs. Procedure Established by Law
- Impeachment of President, etc

STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION & FUNCTIONING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIARY

Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Union:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-President</li><li>-Prime Minister</li><li>-Council of Ministers</li><li>-Cabinet Secretariat</li></ul></li><li>• State:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Governor</li><li>-Chief Minister</li><li>-Council of Ministers</li><li>-Secretariat</li></ul></li></ul>
Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three-Tier Structure</li><li>• Chief Justice of India</li><li>• SC &amp; HC Judges</li><li>• Jurisdiction</li></ul>

MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cabinet Ministries</li><li>• Other Ministries</li><li>• Parliamentary Secretaries</li></ul>
Salient Features of Representation of People's Act

## APPOINTMENT TO VARIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL POSTS

**Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of:**

- Election Commission
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commission
- Finance Commission
- National Commission for SCs
- National Commission for STs
- Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- Attorney General of India
- Advocate General of the State

## STATUTORY, REGULATORY & QUASI-JUDICIAL BODIES

- NITI Aayog
- RBI
- National Human Rights Commission
- State Human Rights Commission
- Central Information Commission
- Central Vigilance Commission
- Central Bureau of Investigation
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas



- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for Backward Classes
- National Commission for Minorities
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- Securities and Exchange Board of India
- Competition Commission of India
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
- Central Pollution Control Board
- Medical Council of India
- Inland Waterways Authority of India
- Central Ground Water Authority
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- Bar Council of India
- University Grants Commission
- Financial Stability and Development Council
- All India Council for Technical Education
- National Green Tribunal
- Competition Appellate Tribunal
- Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal
- Cyber Appellate Tribunal
- Intellectual Property Appellate Board

## INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD – RELATIONS

### India's Relations With

- China
- Pakistan
- Myanmar
- Bhutan
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Maldives

## BILATERAL, REGIONAL & GLOBAL GROUPINGS & AGREEMENTS INVOLVING INDIA AND/OR AFFECTING INDIA'S INTERESTS

### India's Major Foreign Policy Doctrines Since 1947

- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Nuclear Doctrine
- Gujral Doctrine
- Look East to Act East
- Think West, etc.

### Bilateral Relations With

- Major Powers Like – USA, Russia, Japan
- Central Asian Countries
- West Asian Countries
- African Countries
- Australia & New Zealand
- EU & European Countries
- Latin American Countries
- Pacific Countries

**Regional & Global Groupings**

- SAARC
- BRICS
- BBIN & BCIM
- BIMSTEC
- IBSA
- ASEAN & RCEP
- India-Africa Forum
- SCO
- Ashgabat Agreement
- FIPIC
- IOR-ARC

**EFFECT OF POLICIES & POLITICS OF DEVELOPED & DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS**

- One Belt One Road
- International North-South Transport Corridor
- Global Trade War
- Global Currency War
- Syrian Crisis
- UN Reforms
- WTO Reforms
- South China Sea Conflict
- Brexit
- Deglobalisation & Protectionism – US Sanctions on Iran, US Pullout from Paris Agreement, H-1B Visa Issue etc.
- OPEC Oil Prices Manipulation, etc.

## INDIAN DIASPORA

- Spread of Indian Diaspora
- India's Diaspora Policy & Engagement Initiatives
- OCI
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- Know India Programme, etc.
- LM Singhvi High Level Committee on the Diaspora
- Role played by Indian Diaspora
- Issues Concerning the Diaspora:
  - Dual Nationality
  - Remittances, etc.

## IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- UN & its Agencies
- WTO
- World Bank
- IMF
- World Economic Forum
- Commonwealth of Nations, etc.