

UPSC Mains GS-2 syllabus

(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations)

- 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"> ■ Regulating Act (1773) to Independence Act (1947) ■ Constituent Assembly ■ Objective Resolution ■ Enactment & Enforcement of Constitution
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Written ■ Flexible & Rigid ■ Federal & Unitary ■ Parliamentary Form of Government (Presidential vs. Parliamentary Type of

	Government)
Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ List of Significant Amendments & Their Provisions ■ Procedure for Amending Constitution
Significant Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fundamental Rights ■ Directive Principles of State Policy ■ Judicial Review ■ Universal Adult Franchise ■ Single Citizenship ■ Separation of Powers
Basic Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Doctrine ■ Judgments & Cases
Functions & Responsibilities of Union & States	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7th Schedule ■ Legislative Functions ■ Financial Functions ■ Administrative & Quasi-Judicial Functions 	
Issues & Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure	
Federal Structure in India - Is India truly Federal?	
Cooperative & Competitive Federalism	
Centre-State Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Legislative Relations ■ Administrative Relations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial Relations ■ Trends in Centre-State Relations
Inter-State Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inter-state Water Disputes ■ Inter-State Councils ■ Public Acts, Records and Judicial Proceedings ■ Inter-State Trade and Commerce ■ Zonal Councils
Emergency Provisions	
Role of Governor	
Reports of Various Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2nd ARC, Punchhi, Sarkaria, etc.
Devolution of Powers & Finances to Local Levels & Challenges Therein	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	■ Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President ○ Prime Minister ○ Council of Ministers ○ Cabinet Secretariat ■ State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governor ○ Chief Minister ○ Council of Ministers ○ Secretariat
Judiciary	■ Three-Tier Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chief Justice of India ■ SC & HC Judges ■ Jurisdiction
Ministries and Departments of the Government	
■ Cabinet Ministries ■ Other Ministries ■ Parliamentary Secretaries	
Salient Features of Representation of People's Act	
Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts	

<p>Appointment, Powers, Functions & Responsibilities of:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
<p style="text-align: center;">Statutory, Regulatory & Quasi-Judicial Bodies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Non-aligned Movement (NAM) ■ Nuclear Doctrine ■ Gujral Doctrine ■ Look East to Act East ■ Think West, etc.
Bilateral Relations With	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SAARC ■ BRICS ■ BBIN & BCIM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BIMSTEC ■ IBSA ■ ASEAN & RCEP ■ India-Africa Forum ■ SCO ■ Ashgabat Agreement ■ FIPIC ■ IOR-ARC ■ Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) ■ Raisina Dialogue ■ Heart of Asia Conference ■ East Asia Summit ■ G-20 ■ Asian Development Bank ■ National Security Summit ■ Multilateral Nuclear Export Regulatory Regimes: Wassenaar, MTCR, Australia Group ■ Asian Development Bank ■ APEC, etc
Effect of Policies & Politics of Developed & Developing Countries on India's Interests	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.

