

INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION – IMPORTANT POINTS

- The ancient Greeks thought of Political Science as Political Philosophy. They laid stress on the ethical aspects of Politics.
- During the Middle Ages, Political Science became a branch of the Church, subordinating political authority to the authority of the Church.
- In modern times, Political Science acquired a realistic and secular approach. As a result of the emergence of capitalism following the Industrial Revolution, the role of the State underwent considerable changes.
- The subject of Political Science became a specialized science of the state. It studied about different forms of government and its organs like Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.
- Laski stated that the study of Political Science concerned itself with the life of men or women in relation to organized states.
- In the twentieth century, the behavioural approach shifted the focus of study from political institutions to their functions and to the study of political activities and behavior of men and women.
- The scope of Political Science includes the study of the role of the State, functions of Government and its relationship with citizens.
- Political Science is distinct from Politics. While the former deals with the study of Politics, the latter refers to the problems of man and woman which interact with political power and conflict with each other.
- Power is the ability to control others. It is the capacity to get things done as one would like others to do. Power in combination with legitimacy is called authority.
- Generally, freedom is defined as absence of restraints in the behavior of a person. But positive freedom means self-realization and that individual should be free to act only to the extent that others' freedom is not curtailed. Law protects freedom.
- Generally it is considered that there is Justice in society if it rewards people on the basis of merit without being oblivious of the needs of the worst-off. Further, freedom and equality are considered important pillars of Justice.
- A Constitution symbolises independence of a country. Framework and structure for the governance of a free country are provided in the Constitution. The Constituent Assembly prepared the draft of the Constitution by keeping the 'Objectives Resolution' as the backdrop which reflected the aspirations of the people of India.

- The framing of the Constitution was completed on November 26, 1949 when the Constituent Assembly formally adopted the new Constitution. The Constitution came into force with effect from January 26, 1950.
- The Constitution begins with a Preamble which declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic. The Preamble also mentions the goals of securing justice, liberty and equality for all its citizens and promotion of national unity and integrity on the basis of fraternity among the people assuring dignity of the individual.
- The Constitution of India has several distinctive features. It is the lengthiest Constitution in the world and it is a combination of rigidity and flexibility. The Constitution provides for a quasi-federal set up with a strong centre. There is a clear division of powers between the Centre and the States.
- The Supreme Court of India, is the apex court of India which will resolve the disputes between the centre and state or between the states.
- India has a parliamentary democracy. The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister enjoys the real powers and is responsible to the Parliament.
- The Indian Constitution provides for Fundamental Rights which are justiciable. Eleven Fundamental Duties have also been added to the Constitution.
- The Directive Principles of State Policy give a concrete shape to the welfare concept.
- Fundamental Rights have been incorporated in part III of our Constitution from article 14 - 32.
- These rights protect and safeguard the dignity and status of the citizens. These rights are justiciable i.e. are enforceable by the court of law.
- At present there are six Fundamental Rights. Recently by an Amendment Act of the Constitution, Right to Education has been added.
- These Rights are not absolute, reasonable restrictions can be imposed on these rights in the interest of peace, national defence, morality, common good and good relations with other countries.
- The first right that comes under Fundamental Rights is the Right to Equality.

- Under the Constitution, all are equal before law and the state can not discriminate between citizens on the basis of religion, race, sex, place of birth or any of them.
- Untouchability has been abolished and made an offence punishable by law. The state has been forbidden from conferring honorary titles on citizens that create social disparities.
- Right to Freedom has been granted for the all round development of the body, mind and spirit of all the citizens. It provides six freedoms to citizens. This Right helps protection of life and personal liberty. It also protects the individual from arbitrary arrest and detention.
- Our Constitution prohibits traffic in human beings and forced labour. Employment of children below the age of fourteen years in mines, factories and hazardous jobs is banned.
- India is a multi religious country. Our Constitution neither promotes nor interferes in their religious affairs. India believes in secularism. Every religious community is free to establish, maintain and run its own religious institutions. Every citizen has been granted freedom to profess and propagate his/her religion.
- Cultural and Educational rights provide the right to conserve our culture. Educational institutions maintained by the state cannot refuse admission to children on the grounds of religion, race, caste, language or any of them. The minorities have been given the right to establish and manage institutions of their own for the preservation and propagation of their language and culture. While giving financial aid to any institution, the state will not discriminate on the basis of religion or language.
- Lastly the Constitution guarantees enjoyment of Fundamental Rights by citizens under the Right to Constitutional Remedies. The Supreme Court and High Courts have been given powers to issue orders, directions and writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights .
- Dr. B.R Ambedkar has rightly called the writs as the “ Soul of the part III of the Constitution”
- The Directive Principles of State Policy are included in Part IV of the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution included them with a special purpose of bringing about social and economic equality.
- These principles give directions to the state for making laws and policies for the collective good of the people. These Principles are

non justiciable and are not enforceable by the Courts of law. But they are nevertheless fundamental to the governance of country.

- For the sake of convenience, they were classified into four categories
 - (1) Socio-economic principles
 - (2) Gandhian
 - (3) International peace and Security
 - (4) Miscellaneous
- The Directive Principles lay stress on universalisation of education, abolition of child labour and improvement of the status of women.
- They provide a framework for establishing welfare state and achieving economic and social democracy.
- There are important differences between the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.
- The former are justiciable and positive in nature. At the same time, there is close relationship between the two. They are equally important to bring social and economic democracy in practice. The Courts have been laying stress on the implementation of Directive Principles.
- Rights and Duties are two sides of the same coin. In the interest of the well being and progress of the society, Rights and Duties must be adhered to equally by all.
- In a federal system of government there is a need for clear cut division of power between the Union and States. This also requires a written and rigid constitution and an independent judiciary to decide disputes between the Union and the States. Though the Indian Constitution has all such features of a federal state, it is indeed difficult to put the Indian Constitution in the category of true federations.
- The framers of the Constitution have incorporated certain non federal features in it such as single citizenship, single judiciary, a strong centre, appointment of the Governor by the President, unequal of representation in the Rajya Sabha and so on. All these indicate a tilt towards strong centre. The states have to work in close co-operation with the centre.
- The constitution is federal in form but unitary in spirit. The study of Center-State relationship in legislative, administrative and financial spheres also clearly shows that the Centre is stronger as compared to the states.
- The Centre has been assigned a dominant role which became necessary keeping in view the dangers to the unity and integrity of

the nation. Therefore, there are provisions for a co-operative federalism.

- The working of the Indian Constitution over the year indicates that relations between the center and the States have not remained very co-ordinal. The states have started demanding more autonomy. Various commissions have been appointed by the Government of India to review the centre- state relations. The Sarkaria Commission examined the problem and recommended changes in the area of federal, legislative, administrative and financial relations.
- According to the Indian Constitution, the President has been given extraordinary powers to deal with certain abnormal situations in order to protect the security, integrity and stability of the country. For this purpose, there are three types of emergencies which can be proclaimed by the President of India on the written advice of the Union Cabinet.
- These three types of emergencies are :
 - (a) National emergency (Article 352).
 - (b) Emergency due to the breakdown of constitutional machinery in a State (Article 356).
 - (c) Financial emergency (Article 360).
- National emergency under Article 352 has been declared three times so far. Twice it was imposed due to the external aggression once by China and another time by Pakistan, whereas it was declared only once on the basis of the fear of internal disturbances. This emergency was imposed on 25 June 1975.
- Emergency on account of failure of Constitutional machinery has been declared in most of the States some time or the other.
- But Financial Emergency has not been declared so far.
- Emergency, when imposed, affects the Fundamental Rights of the citizens. It also affects the autonomy of the State Governments. The powers of the Union Government increase and it can make laws even on the subjects included in the State List. The Centre gives directions to the State Governments. Practically speaking, the federal nature of the Constitution changes into a unitary form. So much so that when the proclamation of national emergency is in operation, some of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution remain suspended.
- The second type of emergency under Article 356 is the most frequently imposed emergency.
- Under this, a State is put under the President's Rule if the elected representatives fail to form or run the government in a State

according to the Constitution of India. This is the most misused form of emergency which has been vehemently criticised by many.

- The third type of emergency is Financial Emergency which has not been declared so far.
- During this type of emergency, the President of India may give directions to the Union as well as State Governments to reduce the salaries and allowances of their employees including the judges. The purpose of declaring this type of emergency is to solve the financial crises.
- The proclamation of each type of emergency is made by the President on the written advice of the Union Cabinet. Such a proclamation has to be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month in case of National Emergency and within two months in case of the remaining two types of emergencies, from the date of imposition of such emergency.
- The Proclamation of national emergency as well as the imposition of President's Rule, if approved by the Parliament, will continue to be in operation for six months from the date of proclamation. In case it is to be extended beyond six months, a subsequent prior resolution has to be passed by the Parliament to this effect.
- In case of Financial Emergency once proclaimed, it continues to operate as long as it is required.
- The Emergency Provisions provide the President with sweeping powers to deal with abnormal and extraordinary situations. Any misuse of these powers can easily lead to subversion of democracy. But the actual working of the Constitution for more than five decades has demonstrated that emergency powers were generally used in the interest of the country barring a few cases where emergency was imposed due to political considerations.
- In spite of misuse of emergency provisions in some of the States, there is a broad consensus that emergency provisions still have a role to play under the conditions prevailing in India.
- India has adopted parliamentary form of government where the President is the constitutional head of state. The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is the real executive.
- The President of India is indirectly elected by an Electoral College consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies (Vidhan Sabhas) by means of single transferable vote system of proportional representation.

- The President is elected through a complicated system which ensures equal voice (value of votes) of the national Parliament on the one side and all the State Legislative Assemblies on the other.
- The President is elected for a term of five years. The President is eligible for reelection.
- The President may resign before the expiry of his/her term or can be removed from office by impeachment.
- The President enjoys vast powers. His/her powers can be classified into Legislative, Executive, Financial and Judicial. But his/her powers are exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The President enjoys numerous privileges and immunities, and exerts influence in the field of administration. The President possesses the right to be informed, to be consulted and to warn. The President is a guide and advisor of the Council of Ministers.
- The Prime Minister is the real head of the Government. The President appoints the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has to appoint the leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha or leader of a group of parties as the Prime Minister.
- The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister aids and advises the President in the exercise of his functions. The Council of Ministers consists of two levels of Ministers– Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State. The President appoints the Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The Prime Minister is the leader of the nation. He/she is responsible for administration of the country. He/she presides over the meetings of the Cabinet. The Council of Ministers works under his/her.
- The President represents the nation at all national and international forums.
- The Prime Minister is the link between the President and the Council of Ministers.
- He/she supervises and co-ordinates the working of different Ministries. He/she remains in office as long as he/she enjoys the support of the majority of members in the Lok Sabha.
- All important appointments are made by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.
- The Council of Ministers consists of all category of Ministers, while the Cabinet is a smaller group consisting of senior Ministers. The Council of Ministers as a whole rarely meets.

- It is the Cabinet which determines the policies and programmes of the Government. All the Ministers are collectively as well as individually responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- The Council of Ministers can be removed from office by Lok Sabha if a vote of no-confidence is adopted by it.
- The Cabinet formulates the external and internal policies of the government. It coordinates the working of various departments. It has full control over the national finance.
- A money bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha by a Minister.
- The Parliament is country's central legislative body. It has two Houses-Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha and the President is an integral part of the Parliament.
- Rajya Sabha is a permanent body, which can never be dissolved. Each member of Rajya Sabha enjoys a term of six years and one-third of its member retire after every two years.
- The Rajya Sabha represents the States in Indian Union.
- In contrast, the Lok Sabha or the lower House has a fixed term of five years and the President before the expiry of stipulated five years can also dissolve it.
- Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by people on the basis of universal adult franchise.
- While the Vice-President chairs the meetings of Rajya Sabha, the Lok Sabha is presided over by the Speaker.
- The quorum of both the Houses is one-tenth of the total membership. Without the quorum, no meeting of the House/Houses can take place.
- The salient feature of Indian Judiciary is that it has a single integrated and unified judicial system.
- The Supreme Court is the highest court of the country. It consists of a Chief Justice with 25 other judges. The President of India appoints them.
- Their names are decided upon and recommended by a Collegium of the Supreme Court judges. They remain in office till the age of 65.
- They can be removed only through a complicated process
- The Supreme Court hears cases under its original and appellate jurisdictions.
- It is the guardian of the Constitution and protector of fundamental rights.
- It acts as a Court of Record and can punish for its contempt.

- Under Judicial Review the Supreme Court can declare any law null and void if it goes against the law of the land. It interprets the Constitution to explain the provisions which are not very clear.
- Public Interest Litigation is very helpful to the people in getting justice. It has resulted in judicial activism.
- The Head of the State is Governor who is approved and appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet.
- His/her tenure is of five years but can be removed from his office even prior to the expiry of the term.
- He/She also exercises legislative, financial, judicial and discretionary powers. He/She performs his/her functions as the executive head but is guided and advised by the Council of Minister's headed by the Chief Minister.
- The discretionary powers which he/she exercises have made him/her a controversial person. Efforts have been made by Administrative Reforms Commission and Sarkaria Commission to make him/her impartial but nothing concrete has come out.
- The Chief Minister is the real head of the Government at the State level. The Governor appoints the Chief Minister.
- The person who commands the support of majority in the State Legislative Assembly is appointed as the Chief Minister by the Governor. Other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- The Chief Minister presides over the Cabinet meetings. He/she lays down the policies of the State Government. He/she is the sole link between his ministers and the Governor. He/she Coordinates the functioning of different ministries.
- During normal times, the Governor exercises his/her powers on the advice of the Chief Minister but when there is a breakdown of constitutional machinery in the State, the Governor advises the President to proclaim constitutional emergency in his discretion. He/she administers the State, during constitutional emergency, on behalf of the President.
- The State Legislature consists of the Governor, the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) and the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). In most of the States there are unicameral Legislatures. These State Legislatures consist of the Governor and the Legislative Assembly.
- The Parliament is empowered to set up or abolish the Vidhan Parishad in a State. The Vidhan Parishad is partly indirectly elected and partly nominated. It is permanent House like the Rajya Sabha.

It is never dissolved. The tenure of its members is six year. One third members retire after every two years.

- The minimum age for the membership of the Vidhan Parishad is 30 years, it is 25 years for Vidhan Sabha. Member of the Vidhan Sabha are directly elected by the people of the State on the basis of universal adult franchise. Its tenure is five years, but the Governor can dissolve it earlier on the advice of the Chief Minister. In case of constitutional breakdown it may be dissolved by the President.
- The powers of the State Legislature are law-making, control over the finances, and the executive, electoral functions and constitutional functions.
- The Vidhan Sabha occupies a dominant position. The Vidhan Parishad enjoys less powers as compared to the Vidhan Sabha in relation to ordinary bills, money bills, control over the executive and powers in regard to the election of the President, etc.
- The distinct feature of our judiciary is that it has a single integrated and unified judicial system.
- The High Court is the highest court in a State. The number of judges varies from State to state. The President appoints them. They hold office up to the age of 62 years. They may be removed earlier by the President on receipt of a request from both Houses of Parliament.
- It has original and appellate jurisdiction. It is the protector of the fundamental rights. It is also court of record, and can punish for its contempt.
- There are 21 High Courts for 29 States and seven Union Territories.
- In every district there are subordinate civil, family, criminal and revenue Courts. Appeals against the decisions of the lower courts are taken to the High Court of the State.
- There are three types of urban local bodies: Municipal Corporations in big cities, Municipalities in medium and small towns and Nagar Panchayats in semi-urban localities.
- All types of urban local governments are democratically elected by the people on the basis of electoral wards. Urban local bodies frame policies for the cities and towns, raise revenue and pass their own budgets. The most important source of revenue of urban local bodies is the property tax imposed on land and buildings. Grants-in-aid from the Government constitute another major source of revenue.

- Urban local government is the major supplier of essential civic services and facilities in our urban areas and it represents grassroots democracy at the local level.
- Panchayat is the most ancient institution at the village level in our country. Panchayats have been functioning as primary institutions of democracy at the grassroots level. The 73rd amendment gave them constitutional status. The task of rural development now rests on panchayati raj institutions.
- The involvement of hitherto underprivileged sections, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and women in the participatory process will further strengthen the grassroots institutions.
- Although the panchayat raj system in the entire country is not the same but, by and large, most of the States have the three-tier structure: zila parishad at the district level, Panchayat samiti at the intermediate or block level and gram panchayat at the bottom or village level.
- Active participation and vigilance on the part of the rural public is a must for the sustenance of democratic decentralisation.
- Universal adult franchise is the foundation of a representative democracy. It means that each man or woman after attaining a prescribed age (such as 18 years in India) is entitled to vote in the elections without any discrimination on grounds of caste, creed, religion, language or sex.
- The citizens exercise their right to vote in order to choose their representatives in elections. Elections are, in fact, the bedrock of democracy and express the sovereign will of the people through the exercise of their free and equal vote.
- There are two alternative systems of representation – Territorial and Functional. Under the territorial system, the country is divided into territorial constituencies and voters of each constituency elect their representatives. Territorial system is quite popular, and in India, the elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are held on territorial basis. Functional representation implies that the people elect their representatives on the basis of their different occupational and professional affiliations. Thus, teachers, managers, industrialists, traders, workers, etc. elect their respective representatives.
- The simple majority system is usually followed in single-member constituencies where the candidate simply securing the highest number of votes is declared elected. This system does not ensure

adequate representation to all sections of the electorate. The system of proportional representation is followed to provide representation to the minorities in proportion to their voting strength.

- Minority representation is also secured through some other methods such as cumulative vote system and limited vote plan.
- In order to conduct free and fair elections in India, Election Commission as an impartial body has been established by the Constitution itself. It is a three-member body. The main functions of the Election Commission are to delimit the constituencies, recognise the political parties, allot the symbols, and appoint officials to conduct and supervise the elections.
- The electoral process begins with the issue of notification by the President. The Election Commission releases the schedule for election and, issues model code of conduct to be followed during elections. The contesting candidates file their nomination papers. Their papers are scrutinised by the concerned Returning Officers after which they are either accepted or rejected. The candidates can also withdraw their nominations.
- During the election campaign, political parties and their candidate release their respective Election Manifestos. A large number of public meetings, and door-to-door campaign are organized and the electronic media, TV and Radio etc. are used to win the people's confidence.
- On the polling day the Election Commission ensures that voters cast their votes in free and fair manner. The candidate who secures highest number of votes in a constituency is declared elected.
- Recently Electronic Voting Machine has been introduced, it has replaced the use of ballot papers and ballot boxes. This change has yielded positive outcomes, as no bogus voting, rigging or booth capturing can happen now, and the counting can be completed in no time.
- Though Election Commission tries its best to conduct free and fair elections our electoral system is faced with the problems like use of money and muscle powers, and other corrupt practices. To avoid all this certain electoral reforms have been introduced from time to time.
- Regionalism means strong attachment to a particular region or a state as against the country as a whole. This feeling arises either due to the continuous neglect of a particular area or because the people of a particular region become politically aware and seek to fight perceived discrimination.

- Regionalism is a problem because it threatens the unity and integrity of the country.
- The two prominent manifestations of regionalism are:
 - (a) agitation for separate statehood. Examples, demand for Telengana, Bodo-land (Assam), Gorkha land etc., and
 - (b) Secession from the Indian Union, for example – demand for Khalistan, demand for Nagaland, etc.
- Public opinion is a social product due to the interaction of many minds. It has been defined as the collectivity of individual opinions of a designated public. Public opinion may change with the circumstances, time and new information.
- Public opinion is considered to be the essential element for successful working of democratic communication in the system.
- The governmental policies are invariably affected by public opinion on various issues.
- The agencies like electronic and print media, opinion polls, political socialization, political parties etc. play a very effective role in the formation of public opinion. Public opinion will not be a true reflection of the ideas of public until the hindrances like indifferent attitude, illiteracy, poverty, dishonest and partial press are removed.
- Unlike political parties, there exist some voluntary organised groups to protect the special interests of the individuals in the society. They put pressure on the government through various techniques and are called pressure groups.
- The pressure groups adopt various democratic and undemocratic methods to set their demands fulfilled by the government. But they play significant role in moulding the policies of the government.
- Communalism has divided Hindus and Muslims on religious lines and thwarted communal harmony. The British during the colonial rule and the self centred political class promoted religious extremism. As a result communal violence has disrupted normal life in the country practically. The criminal forces also caught on to this. Minority communalism and majority communalism alike are harmful to healthy democracy and economic progress.
- In light of the historically accumulated backwardness of the backward classes and the need to bring them at par with the rest of the society, constitution provided for protective discrimination. Protective discrimination is not an exception but integral to the Right to Equality. While the SCs and STs got the benefit of reservation from the state and central governments since the

inception of Indian Republic, the OBCs could get the benefits of reservation in central services much later in 1993. No reservation in legislative Representation is provided to the OBCs.

- Environment is the surrounding we live in.
- Unplanned human activities cause environmental degradation.
- Sustainable development is a concept, which says that development should be environment oriented, i.e., it should be such that it does not harm natural order.
- Different types of pollution such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, pesticides, sewage, smoke, noise cause environmental degradation.
- Awareness is now growing to conserve the nature. To conserve or to perish has become the slogan of the hour.
- The United Nations, through its agencies is making all efforts to conserve the environment, so that future generations do not face consequences of what the present generation is doing.
- The India Government has also introduced laws and has taken measures which go on to promote environmental awareness and also helps in preserving the nature.
- 'Human rights' in practice have been defined to encompass every aspect of dignified human existence which makes every human being an equal member of the human family.
- Human dignity is the essence of human rights. It is the wide comprehension of this aspect and appreciation of the range of dignity of the individual which must define the true scope of human rights.
- The core values of our constitutional philosophy indicated in the Preamble and in the chapter on Fundamental Rights to the Constitution of India are '*dignity of the individual*' and '*unity and integrity of the nation*'. These represent both the social and individual aspects of human rights.
- The National Human Rights Commission protects the basic human rights of the individuals. It examines and investigates the complaints and cases of gross violations of human rights in India.
- India and the US are two great democracies. But for a long time the relationship between them was far from smooth. The containment of communism was the major goal of the US policy during the Cold War. But India did not want to join the Cold War politics. So India followed the independent policy of non-alignment. And this was not to the liking of the Americans. The relations between the two got strained when the US supplied arms to Pakistan in the mid-1950s,

despite the fact that the US was providing the bilateral economic aid including PL 480 food assistance to India.

- The American support to India in the early sixties during the Chinese invasion did bring about goodwill for the Americans. But it was short-lived. The conditions attached to the food aid later in the decade created problems in Indo-US relations.
- The open support for Pakistan in the Bangladesh War and the sending of *USS Enterprise* to the Bay of Bengal brought about the lowest point in the relationship.
- The post-Cold War period saw a change in the relationship, especially when America pressurized Pakistan to withdraw troops from the Indian side of the LOC during the Kargil War in 1999.
- Further, American acceptance of India as a responsible state with nuclear weapons did lift up the relationship.
- Indo-Soviet Union relationship was based on a number of common grounds from the beginning. The support of the Soviet Union on the Kashmir issue added depth to the relationship. Further, the Soviet aid came in for the building of a self-reliant economy including infrastructure projects like the Bhilai steel plant. Indian armed forces received a lot of Soviet arms and ammunition.
- The Soviet Union allowed the production of fighter aircraft like the MiG in India. The high point of Indo-Soviet relationship was reached during the Bangladesh crisis in 1971 when India and the Soviet Union signed the friendship treaty. The immediate post-Cold War period did see some downturn in the relationship but recently it has been put on track.
- Conflictual issues between India and China pertain to Tibet and the border dispute.
- India recognised Chinese suzerainty over Tibet which is stated in the 1954 Agreement between India and China. But the border dispute that escalated into a war in 1962 in which India lost territory to China, still remains. After years of distance, India and China are normalising relations by first improving economic ties, and now starting border talks.
- Kashmir is a bone of contention between India and Pakistan which has brought the two countries into open clash in 1947, 1965, 1971, 1999. Cross border terrorism is a major irritant. India tried to bring a positive change in the relationship of the two countries through Shimla agreement, Lahore Declaration, etc. leading to increased cultural and academic exchange. A composite dialogue is being pursued with Pakistan.

- Relations between India and Sri Lanka can generally be termed as friendly, except for the brief spell in which the Tamil ethnic problem cast its shadow on the relations of the two countries. Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) sent to Sri Lanka was a bitter experience to India. After their withdrawal in 1990, India preferred to keep its hands off the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka, letting room for other countries like Norway to initiate substantial peace process to the problem. But growing economic ties between India and Sri Lanka are a symbol of mutual trust.
- Multi-ethnic states with differences in size and capabilities have traditionally constituted the bulk of world order. The few powerful countries have played significant role in shaping the world order by setting certain rules and principles to guide relations among countries.
- Peace and development have become the most important goals of the world order for the past century. But these goals have been ill served by the Cold War and the emergence of the bipolar world for nearly half a century during 1945 – 1990. During this period, however, the European Union and the Nonaligned Movement gained some influence and tried to make the world multipolar.
- The end of the Cold War and the emergence of the United States as the most powerful country made the world unipolar. This shift in the world order has only added problems especially in the context of political instability in different parts of the world. The economic globalisation, which has swept the world like a hurricane, has only induced income inequalities between peoples and countries.
- The United Nations was formed on 24th October 1945 with the objective of maintaining world peace and security. It has six main organs, the General assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat, the Trusteeship Council and International Court of Justice to achieve its multiple aims and objectives: played a key role in maintaining world peace.
- The UN tried to create better conditions for peace by working for ending colonialism and racism and also its efforts to promote human rights in the world have brought about encouraging results. Over the years, the UN acquired a moral status.
- The UN is engaged in promoting peace and progress through diplomatic and non-violent means; strong actions like sanctions and use of military force are rare.
- The UN has its advantages & limitations too. Yet it remains the unique forum available to humanity as a whole to pursue the ultimate goal of building a world of peace, prosperity, equality and

justice. Six decades are too short to realize these ideals; but with the support of the people and governments it can be made more effective to meet the challenges of the twenty first century.

- The United Nations has come up with major initiatives not only for the maintenance of international peace and security but also for the economic and social development of the developing countries.
- The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the UN Secretariat coordinate the various activities and programmes for the promotion of economic and social development. The United Nations is the main instrument of multilateral aid for tackling development problems. Various UN development agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank raise and contribute funds and assist for development programmes and projects.
- There are independent and expert bodies called Public Service Commission which recruit the civil servants and advise the government about their appointment, promotion and transfer.
- Union Public Service Commission, State Public Service Commission and a Joint Public Service Commission are the three categories of Public Service Commission.
- The chairman and the members of the UPSC are appointed by the President.
- State Public Service Commission members are appointed by the Governor of the state concerned.
- In the Constitution adequate provisions have been made to ensure independence of public service commission.
- These commissions in general have proved to be quite useful in maintaining impartiality and objectivity in the recruitment of civil servants, particularly at the higher level.
- Political executive and bureaucracy are the two pillars of the government. Whereas political executive is temporary and usually represent the party in power, bureaucracy is a permanent fixture. Theoretically they play different roles, for instance, politicians make policies and administrators implement them. But, in practice their roles often conflict and overlap because the line separating development of policy and its implementation is quite blurred and hazy.
- Bureaucracy is a body of permanent, paid and skilled officials. It aids and advises the government to make plans and carry them out. The role of bureaucracy has changed. It no longer performs only the regulatory functions but actively engages in development and welfare activities.

- Conventional image of civil servant has been that of an anonymous servant of the minister who is committed to efficient discharge of his duties and who offers his sincere advice to his master, irrespective of his political ideology. This advice may or may not be accepted by the minister, but once the decision is made, he is duty bound to implement it effectively.
- This concept of anonymous and neutral bureaucracy was considered impractical and unsuited to meet the goals of social justice. Therefore, Mrs. Gandhi sought a 'Committed Bureaucracy'. But commitment has degenerated into politicization of bureaucracy and the relationship between political executive and bureaucracy has deteriorated.
- The administrators blame the politicians for their irrational, partisan and idealistic approach and for disturbing their service conditions through transfers and promotions. The politicians blame the administrators for their prejudice and flair for creating procedural difficulties.
- Such irritants have led to deterioration of administrative efficiency. The Administrative Reforms Commission was set up in 1966 to suggest measures to streamline their relationship. The relationship between the two elite is crucial to the smooth functioning of the government.
- The grievances of citizens against government machinery needs to be heard and redressed.
- Otherwise, citizens will withdraw their loyalty to the government. Hence, every democracy sets up appropriate machinery for the redressal of citizens' grievances. In India, a citizen can move the court to seek remedy for any wrong done against him by a public servant or a public agency in the course of discharge of public duty. This is called judicial remedy.
- Secondly, there are Parliamentary procedures to raise questions in Parliament, also there is a Parliamentary Committee called the Committee on Petitions. Thirdly, departmental as well as public enquiries can be instituted against public servants for their misconduct.
- Again complaint forums have been set up at different levels to deal with public complaints.
- The Administrative Reforms Commission (1966) recommended the setting up of Lokpal and Lokayukta for dealing with complaints against the administrative acts of ministers or secretaries to government, both at the Centre and in the States. Although, no

institution of Lokpal and Lokayukta has yet been established at the Centre, some States have appointed Lokayukta. There is a Central Vigilance Commission for several government departments and public sector undertakings to deal with increasing corruption. Thus, there are varied institutional devices to deal with redressal of public grievances.

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