



R.C.REDDY
IAS STUDY CIRCLE

45+ Years Director's Experience | 35+ Years Institute's History

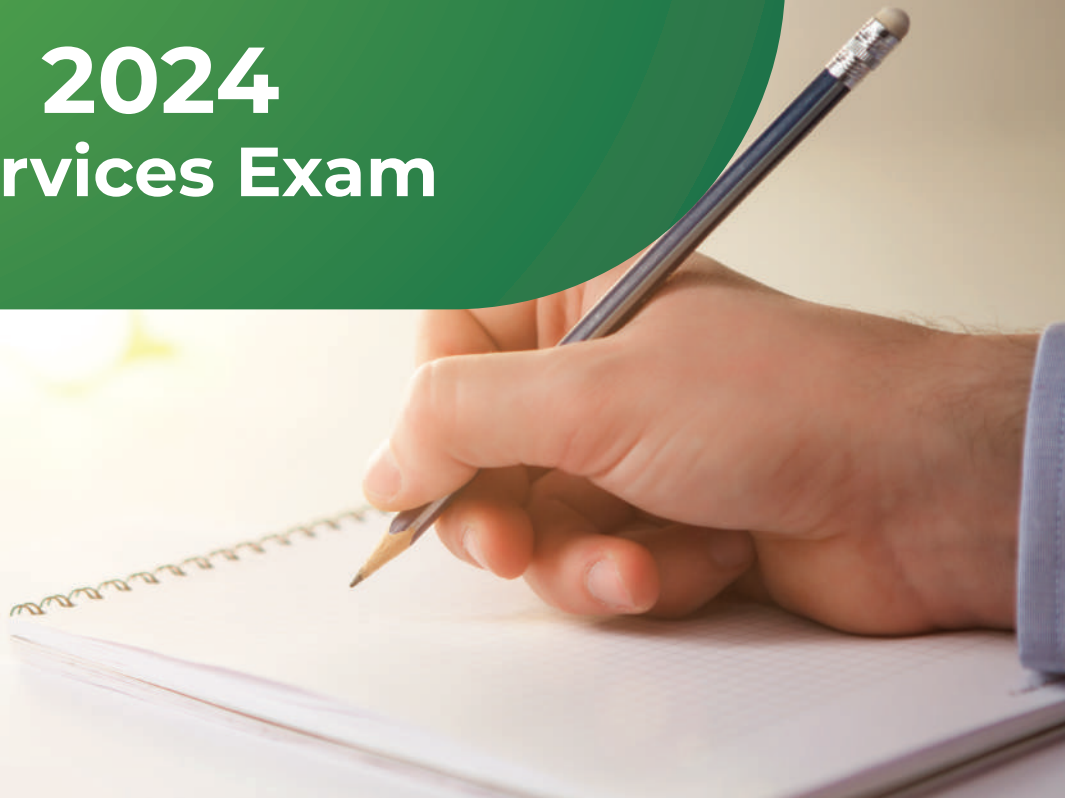
Value Addition Material

GS - 2 : Polity

Strategic Revision Program

MAINS 2024

UPSC Civil Services Exam



040-23228513 / 27612673 / 27668513 / 9346882593 / 9573462587

OUR BRANCHES

ASHOKNAGAR

Opp. Sub-Registrar Office,
Gandhinagar Road, Ashoknagar
cross Road, Hyderabad-500020

HIMAYATHNAGAR

Opp. Telangana Tourism Development
Corporation, Near Telugu Academy,
Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-500029

VISAKHAPATNAM

Vuda Complex, 2nd & 3rd floor, 2, MVP Main
Rd, Sector 7, MVP Colony,
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-530017

CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY

Introduction:

- **George Grote:Paramount reverence**
- **B.R .Ambedkar**

Case Laws:

- Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973):
- Naz Foundation v. Government of NCT of Delhi (2009):
- Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018):
- Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India (2018):

Challenges:

- Lack of clarity
- Can lead to judicial overreach
- Subjectivity
- Lack of popular legitimacy
- Selective application

Conclusion:

- Constitutional morality in India is a dynamic concept that plays a crucial role in shaping the country's legal and social landscape. The doctrine of Constitutional Morality acts as a guiding force in ensuring good governance, promoting social justice, and protecting individual rights.

RESERVATION:

Introduction:

- The reservation system in India is a **form of affirmative action** designed to improve the **representation of historically marginalized and underrepresented communities in education, employment, and political institutions.**

Provisions:

- **Article 15(4): Reservation in educational institution** for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), SCs and STs.
- **Article 15 (6) and 16(6):** 10% reservation for EWS for admission in educational institutions and public employment. (103rd Amendment Act 2019)
- **Article 16(4), 16(4A) and 16(4B):** Reservation in posts and services.
- **Article 46:** Promotion of educational and economic interests of SC, ST and other weaker sections of society.
- **Article 243D:** Reservation of Seats for SC and ST in Panchayats.
- **Article 330:** Reservation of seats for SC and ST in House of the People.
- **Article 332:** Reservation of seats for SC and ST in Legislative Assemblies of States.

Key Recommendations of the Sinho Commission (2010):

- Reservation for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs):
- Definition of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS):
- Educational and Economic Support:
- Inclusion of EWS in Welfare Schemes:
- Reservation in Private Sector:
- Monitoring and Implementation:
- Awareness Campaigns:
- Gradual Implementation:
- Review Mechanism:

Case Laws:

- **Dr Pradeep Jain v Union of India, 1984:** Legislation for sons of soil would be unconstitutional but did not expressly rule on it.
- **Indra Sawhney v Union of India, 1992:** Reservation under Article 16(4) should in no case exceed 50%, No reservation in promotions; Exclusion of creamy layer from OBCs.
- **M. Nagaraj v. Union of India, 2006:** 3 conditions for reservation in promotion i.e. State must show
 - Quantifiable data on backwardness of SCs/STs.
 - Facts about their inadequate representation in public employment.
 - Reservations are in the **interest of administrative efficiency**.
- **Ram Singh and Ors. vs Union of India case, 2015:** SC suggested need for a non-caste-based identification of backward classes.
- **Jarnail Singh v Lachhmi Narain Gupta, 2018:** Reservation in promotions does not require state to collect quantifiable data on backwardness of SCs and STs.
- **Janhit Abhiyan v Union of India, 2022:** SC upheld 103rd Constitution Amendment Act which provided for EWS reservation, based on economic criteria.

Conclusion:

- Effective identification
- Expanding employment opportunities
- Improving educational institutions

Views of Scholars:**Justice D.Y. Chandrachud**

- Justice Chandrachud, a current Supreme Court judge, has often highlighted the importance of reservations in ensuring social justice and equality. He has argued that the **Constitution's commitment to social justice is not fulfilled merely by the formal recognition of rights but requires affirmative action like reservations to address structural inequalities**. Justice Chandrachud also emphasizes that reservations should be seen as a means to achieve substantive equality, rather than as an exception to the principle of equality.

HATE SPEECH

Introduction:

- But we are far from powerless in the face of hate speech. We can and must raise awareness about its dangers, and work to prevent and end it in all its forms.”
- – UN Secretary-General António Guterres
- “We make it clear that any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of this court and appropriate action will be taken against the erring officers,” Supreme court
- “Dharm Sansad” in Uttarakhand’s Hardwar,
- Sudarshan News
- ‘Hindu Jan Aakrosh Morcha’ held in Mumbai
- Goshamahal MLA T Raja Singh calling for a boycott of Muslim owned businesses and for Hindus to ‘slit throats’

Statistics:

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there has been a huge increase in cases registered to promote hate speech as there were only 323 cases registered in 2014, which has jumped to 1,804 cases in 2020.

Provisions:

- **Legal Position of Hate Speech in India:**
 - **Freedom of Speech and Hate Speech:**
 - Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right for all citizens.
 - Article 19(2) imposes **reasonable restrictions on this right**, balancing its use and misuse.
 - Restrictions are allowed in the interests of sovereignty, integrity, security, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, dignity, morality, contempt of court, defamation, or instigation of an offence.
 - **Indian Penal Code:**
 - **Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC:**
 - Punish acts that cause enmity and hatred between groups.

- **Section 295A of the IPC:**
 - Deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons.
- **Sections 505(1) and 505(2):**
 - Make the **publication and circulation of content** that may cause ill will or hatred between different groups an offence.
- **Representation of People's Act (RPA), 1951:**
 - **Section 8 of the RPA, 1951:**
 - Prevents a person convicted of the illegal use of the freedom of speech from contesting an election.
 - **Sections 123(3A) and 125 of the RPA:**
 - Bars the promotion of feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of citizens of India on the grounds of race, religion, community, caste, or language in reference to elections and include it under corrupt electoral practices.
- **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:**
 - Prevents **hate speech targeting** Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe in any place within public view.
- **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:**
 - Penalises incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise.

Case Laws:

- **Shaheen Abdulla v. Union of India and Ors, 2022:**
 - The **Supreme Court (SC) of India** observed that there cannot be fraternity unless different religious communities are amenable to live in harmony.
 - The SC has expressed concern over the growing incidents of hate speeches in the country and has directed the governments and police authorities to take **suo motu action** in such cases without waiting for the lodging of formal complaints.
- **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India, 2014:**
 - The SC did not penalize hate speech as it does **not exist in any of the pre-existing legislation in India**. Instead, the Supreme Court requested the Law Commission to address this issue in order to avoid its stepping into the forum of judicial overreach.

- **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India, 2015:**

- Issues were raised about **Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000** relating to the fundamental right of free speech and expression guaranteed by **Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution**, where the Court differentiated between discussion, advocacy, and incitement and held that the first two were the essence of Article 19(1).

Way forward:

- Need **Legal definition**
- **Judicial measures** like ADR to prevent victimisation
- Non-legal measures like **involving religious heads** and **strategic interventions** to monitor hate speech

Conclusion:

1. Rabat Plan of Action (2012)
2. UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019)
3. UN Security Council Resolution 2686 (2023)

Stakeholder engagement

Ninth Schedule of Indian Constitution**Case 1:**

- The Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Amendment Act, 2023 and the Bihar Reservation (Admission in Educational Institutions) Amendment Act, 2023

Significant cases:

- **Keshavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973):** The Supreme Court held that any law which violates "**Basic structure of the Indian Constitution**" can be declared unconstitutional by the court.
- **Waman Rao v. Union of India (1981):** In this significant decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the amendments made after 24th April 1973 in Ninth Schedule can be challenged on the grounds of constitutionality.
- **I R Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu (2007):** The court ruled that any law enacted in Ninth Schedule after 24th April 1973 must be examined under Articles 14, 19, and 21. Furthermore, it stated that any act that is not in line with the basic structure of the constitution can be challenged and subjected to judicial review.

Appropriate use:

- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC):** only those laws which relate to agrarian reforms, reservations, and the implementation of Directive Principles specified in Article 39(b) and Article 39(c).
- **Reservation:** Reservation is a vital measure, but it should be subject to judicial review to prevent any arbitrary or unreasonable actions taken by the executive or legislature.
- Last resort:
- Transparent process:
- Limited protection:
- Review mechanism:

Conclusion: Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah

Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, a former Chief Justice of India, chaired the **Constitution Review Commission** (2002), which recommended that laws included in the Ninth Schedule after April 24, 1973, should be subject to judicial review. He supported the view that while the Ninth Schedule serves a purpose, it should not be used to shield unconstitutional laws, particularly those that violate fundamental rights or the basic structure of the Constitution.

Article 21

“The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society.” Illustrate with special reference to the **expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty**. (2023)

The Constitution of India, a "living document", adapts to the nation's evolving needs, with Public Interest Litigation (PIL) enhancing its impact. Its dynamism has broadened fundamental rights, empowered marginalized groups, and fostered a more inclusive society, affirming its foundational role in democratic India.

Constitutional Dynamism and the Expanding Horizons of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty

1. **Right to Live with Dignity:** In *Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India* (1978), the court expanded the concept of life beyond mere existence to living with dignity, reflecting the Constitution's progressive nature.
2. **Right to Livelihood:** *Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1985) underlined the essentiality of livelihood, equating it with the right to life, showcasing the Constitution's adaptability to socio-economic realities.
3. **Right to Health:** Through *State of Punjab vs. Mohinder Singh Chawla* (1997), the judiciary recognized health as crucial to life, reflecting a progressive approach to societal well-being.
4. **Right to Clean Environment:** The judgment in *C. Mehta vs. Union of India* embedded environmental rights within Article 21, underlining the Constitution's dynamic response to environmental challenges.

5. Right to Shelter: Shantistar Builders vs. Narayan Khimalal Totame (1990) affirmed shelter as integral to the right to life, showcasing the Constitution's evolution in recognizing basic human needs.
6. Right to Privacy: With Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs. Union Of India (2017), the Court integrated privacy within Article 21, adapting to contemporary challenges and societal demands.
7. Right against Bonded Labour: The judgment in Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs. Union of India (1984) illuminated the Constitution's commitment to eliminating archaic and dehumanizing practices, reinforcing its progressive essence.
8. Right to Food: In People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs. Union of India (2001), the Court highlighted food as essential, reflecting the Constitution's living nature by addressing fundamental human rights.

The continual broadening of Article 21's scope exemplifies the Constitution of India's dynamic character, ensuring every citizen's right to a dignified life and aligning with the evolving needs and challenges of contemporary times.

- Upendra Baxi (Legal Scholar and Human Rights Activist):
- On Judicial Activism and Article 21:
 - "Article 21 has been the fulcrum of judicial activism in India. The judiciary has used it as a tool to introduce socio-economic rights into the realm of justiciable rights, thereby transforming the landscape of constitutional jurisprudence."
- 7. Fali S. Nariman (Senior Advocate and Constitutional Expert):
- On the Evolution of Article 21:
 - "The evolution of Article 21 is one of the most remarkable aspects of Indian constitutional law. From a simple guarantee against arbitrary state action, it has grown to encompass a wide array of rights that are fundamental to human dignity and liberty."

FEDERALISM

Introduction:

The Supreme Court used scholarship by American law professors Jessica Bulman-Pozen and Heather K. Gerken for invoking uncooperative federalism. In their **seminal piece**, Bulman-Pozen and Gerken point out alternatives to the two dominant conceptions of imagining Centre-state relations.

One views states as 'autonomous policymakers' that subsequently act as 'potential rivals and challengers' to the central government;

another views states as 'supportive insiders', carrying out the mandates of the central government in the capacity of 'servants and allies'.

By connecting the two seemingly competing visions, Bulman-Pozen and Gerken offer a conception of 'uncooperative federalism'.

Cooperative federalism (something which the GST Council aspires to promote) may require non-cooperation as much as it may require active cooperation by state units. By this methodology, the Supreme Court interlinks federalism and democracy.

Examples:

- GST
- CAA,NRC

Cooperative federalism in India

7th Schedule demarcates central, state and concurrent lists.

Article 312 (All India Services).

Article 263 (Inter- State Council to discuss common interests of Centre and States).

Article 280 (Finance Commission recommending distribution of financial resources between Union and States).

- Share of states in central tax revenue has been increased to 41% (15th Finance Commission).
- States have freedom to plan their expenditure.
- Restructuring of centrally sponsored schemes.
- Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) for financial sector bailout.
- **GST Council:**
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Response:**
- **NITI Aayog:**

Competitive Federalism:

Some of the indices launched by NITI Aayog are

- Ease of Doing Business Rankings:
- Aspirational Districts Program
- State Reforms under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- School Education Quality Index
- State Health Index
- Composite Water Management Index
- Sustainable Development Goals Index
- India Innovation Index
- Export Competitiveness Index.

confrontational federalism:

- **Farm Laws Protests (2020-2021)**
- **Article 356 (President's Rule)**
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

Views of Scholars:**1. Balanced Federalism**

- **Example: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, emphasized the importance of a strong center but also recognized the need for state autonomy. Modern scholars, like Rajeev Bhargava, advocate for a balance that adapts to India's evolving socio-political context.**

2. Cooperative Federalism

- **Example: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been a proponent of cooperative federalism, arguing that it is essential for managing India's diversity and achieving inclusive growth. Similarly, institutions like NITI Aayog are seen as platforms for fostering cooperative federalism.**

3. Competitive Federalism

- **Expert View: Competitive federalism is also seen as a desirable model for India, particularly in encouraging states to improve governance and foster economic development. Experts like Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, have advocated for competitive federalism, where states compete to attract investment and enhance public services, thereby benefiting the country as a whole.**

5. Decentralized Federalism

- **Expert View:** Some experts advocate for greater decentralization within states, arguing that empowering local governments (panchayats and municipalities) is essential for effective governance. Decentralized federalism ensures that governance is closer to the people, leading to better service delivery and more responsive administration.
- **Example:** Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has highlighted the importance of decentralization in addressing local issues like healthcare, education, and social welfare. He argues that decentralized governance can lead to more equitable and inclusive development.

Way forward:

- **Inter-State Council's role**
- **Grant constitutional status to NITI Aayog**
- **Transfer financial allocations to a permanent Finance Commission**
- **Share best practices among states (e.g., Karnataka's "Bhoomi" project)**

Conclusion:

- This also adds truth to the proposition that one model of federalism is not sufficient to explain the complexities of different policies. Different models such as 'uncooperative federalism' can stake a claim to the label of federalism as much as the cooperative, collaborative and competitive models of federalism

FISCAL FEDERALISM

Introduction:

- Kerala, TN, Karnataka issues
- **Seventh Schedule:** Tax Bases Delineated in Union and State Lists (**Article 246**).
- **Distribution of Revenue:**
- **Article 269:** Taxes levied and collected by Centre, assigned to states.
- **Article 269-A:** GST in inter-state trade.
- **Article 270:** Taxes distributed between Union and states per Finance Commission.
- **Article 275:** Financial assistance to States in form of grants-in-aid charged to revenue of India.
- **Borrowings:**
- **Article 292:** Union can borrow domestically or internationally.
- **Article 293:** State can only borrow domestically.
- **Article 280: Finance Commission** constituted to adjudicate sharing of resources between Union and States.

Statistics:

- **Borrowing Limits:** States' borrowing limits have been restricted by the Centre to 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24, based on the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.
- **Vertical Fiscal Imbalance:** The Union government retains significant tax-raising powers (e.g., income tax, CGST), while states are limited to taxing goods and services consumption (SGST) post-GST.
- **Increased Developmental Expenditure:** States' combined developmental expenditure rose from 8.8% of GDP in 2004-05 to 12.5% in 2021-22, reflecting a significant increase.
- **Non-sharing of Cess Revenue:** Cess and surcharge collections, which are not shared with states, increased by 133% between 2017-18 and 2022-23, now comprising 25% of total tax revenue.
- **Decline in Grants-in-Aid:** Grants to states decreased from ₹1.95 lakh crore in 2015-16 to ₹1.65 lakh crore in 2023-24, indicating a reduction in direct financial transfers to states.
- **Reduced Financial Transfers to States:** The share of states in the gross tax revenue declined from 35% in 2015-16 to 30% in 2023-24.

- **Disproportionate Revenue Growth:** From 2015-16 to 2023-24, the Union government's tax revenue increased by 2.3 times, while states' share only doubled, showing disproportionate growth between Union and state revenues.
- **Increase in Non-Devolvable Cess and Surcharge:** The share of collected cess and surcharge, not shared with states, increased from ₹85,638 crore in 2015-16 (5.9% of Union tax revenue) to ₹3.63 lakh crore in 2023-24 (10.8% of Union tax revenue).
- **Centralisation of Public Expenditure:** Out of ₹19.4 lakh crore allocated for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes in 2023-24, only ₹4.25 lakh crore was devolved to states, with limited autonomy for states in planning expenditures.
- **Interstate Inequality in Public Finances:** CSS schemes compel states to commit equivalent resources, benefiting wealthier states while increasing liabilities for less wealthy states, thereby creating interstate inequality.
- **Increase in Conditional Transfers:** Several grants to states are contingent on fulfilling specific conditions, often reflecting Union government preferences over state priorities.
- **Erosion of State Taxation Autonomy:** The implementation of GST has significantly reduced states' ability to set tax rates on their revenue sources, such as the subsumption of State VAT under GST.
- **Issues with GST Compensation:** The discontinuation of GST compensation cess and inadequate compensation for revenue loss due to GST implementation have raised concerns among states.

Expert views:

- **Dr. M. Govinda Rao (Economist and Former Member of the 13th Finance Commission):** Advocates for equitable resource distribution and emphasizes fiscal discipline at both central and state levels.
- **Dr. N.K. Singh (Former Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission):** Supports a formula-based approach for revenue sharing and highlights challenges in GST implementation and compensation.
- **Dr. Shankar Acharya (Former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India):** Warns against increasing centralization and advocates for fiscal responsibility and state autonomy.
- **Dr. Indira Rajaraman (Economist and Former Member of the 13th Finance Commission):** Calls for transparency in intergovernmental transfers and supports increasing revenue autonomy for states.
- **Dr. Rathin Roy (Director, Institute of Social and Economic Change):** Advocates for fiscal federalism reforms and periodic reviews of the Finance Commission's recommendations.
- **Dr. Raghuram Rajan (Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India):** Emphasizes fiscal decentralization and prudent debt management for long-term fiscal health.

GOVERNOR

Introduction:

- Kerala, TN, West Bengal
- **Article 163: Governor is bound by aid and advice of CoM except when required to exercise his/her functions in his/her discretion.**
- **Article 200: Governor Assent is necessary for a bill to become a law.**

Case Laws:

- **Nabam Rebia case (2016):** If a governor exercised his discretion beyond his jurisdiction or power, it would fall
- under subject matter of judicial review.
- **State of Punjab Case (2023):** If a Governor decides to withhold assent to a Bill, then he/she has to return bill to
- legislature for reconsideration. Such bill cannot be kept with Governor indefinitely.
- **Tamil Nadu Governor case (2023):** SC stated that Governor cannot refer bills to President after Assembly has
- re-enacted the Bills following the Governor's declaration of withholding the assent.
- **Sarkaria Commission: Not act as an agent of President;** rarely use discretion, only if Bill contravenes
- Constitutional provisions, and reserve it for Presidential consideration etc.
- **Punchhi Commission:** Given a **fixed tenure of five years;** Take decision wrt Bill presented for assent within
- period of six months etc.
- **Sarkaria Commission:**
 - Governors should rarely use discretion, only if a Bill contravenes Constitutional provisions, and reserve it for Presidential consideration.
 - Governor appointee should be a **detached outsider** and a person of eminence in some walks of life.
 - Governor should **not act as an agent of President** and should not be removed from office merely on ground that the new government at Centre desires a Governor of its choice.

- **Punchhi Commission:**

- Governor should take a decision with respect to a Bill presented for his/her assent within a period of six months.
- Governors are expected to be **independent**, and to act in a manner devoid of any political consideration.
- Governor should have a **fixed term of five years**, and removal should be through a resolution passed by the state legislature.

- **Venkatachaliah Commission:** Governor should make use of advice of CoM in the day-today administration of state.

Conclusion:

“The spirit of constitutional statesmanship, not partisan brinkmanship, should be the mantra.” - B.V. Nagaratna



R.C.REDDY
IAS STUDY CIRCLE

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES

Introduction:

A seven-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud unanimously held that lawmakers do not enjoy parliamentary immunity under Articles 105(2) and 194(2) for acts of bribery.

The Bench overruled the 3:2 Constitution Bench decision in *P.V. Narasimha Rao v State* (1998) which held that lawmakers enjoy immunity from prosecution for accepting bribes to vote in Parliament or an Assembly.

The Court also laid down a two-fold test for when law-makers may enjoy immunity under Articles [105\(2\)](#) and [194\(2\)](#).

1. Immunity will apply if there is a collective function of the legislature that is involved
2. The act in question must be essentially related to the discharging of the function of the house.

Constitution provisions:

Article 105 and **Article 194** deals with **powers, privileges of members of Parliament and State legislature** respectively.

Right to Prohibit Publication of Proceedings (Article 105(2), Article 194(2)).

Article 121 restricts members from discussing conduct of judges of SC and HC. Case laws:

PV Narasimha Rao vs. State: SC stated that members need wider protection of immunity against all **civil and criminal proceedings** that bear a nexus to their speech or vote.

M.S.M. Sharma case: SC stated whenever there is a condition of imbalance between provision of Part V, Article 194(3) (privileges) and fundamental rights conferred by part III, **fundamental right will remain supreme over the others.**

▪ **The United Kingdom:**

- The Parliament at Westminster **enjoys similar privileges**, including freedom of speech, immunity from arrest, and the right to regulate its own proceedings.
- These privileges are established through a combination of statute, common law, and precedent.

▪ **Canada:**

- The Parliament of Canada also has **established privileges for its members**, including freedom of speech, immunity from arrest, and the right to punish breaches of privilege.
- These privileges are outlined in the Constitution Act, 1867 and the Parliament of

Canada Act.

▪ **Australia:**

- The Parliament of Australia follows similar principles, with privileges enshrined in its Constitution. Members enjoy freedom of speech, immunity from arrest, and the right to regulate their own proceedings.

Expert views:

Fali S. Nariman (Senior Advocate and Constitutional Expert):

- **On Codification:** Nariman has expressed that while codifying parliamentary privileges can bring clarity, it may also restrict the flexibility that Parliament currently enjoys in dealing with breaches of privilege. He suggests a cautious approach to codification, considering the potential consequences.

2. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer (Former Supreme Court Judge):

- **On Accountability:** Justice Iyer advocated for the codification of parliamentary privileges to ensure accountability and prevent misuse of power by legislators. He believed that codification would define the limits of these privileges and protect citizens' rights.

3. Soli Sorabjee (Former Attorney General of India):

- **On Legal Clarity:** Sorabjee has argued in favor of codification to avoid ambiguities and conflicts between the judiciary and legislature. He believes that clear laws governing privileges would reduce the chances of constitutional crises.

4. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah (Former Chief Justice of India):

- **On Judicial Review:** Justice Venkatachaliah has highlighted the need for codification to strike a balance between the autonomy of Parliament and the rights of citizens. He argues that codified privileges would be subject to judicial review, ensuring they are not misused.

5. Prof. Upendra Baxi (Legal Scholar and Human Rights Activist):

- **On Democratic Principles:** Baxi has voiced concerns that without codification, parliamentary privileges might be used arbitrarily. He supports codification as a means to uphold democratic principles and protect individual freedoms against potential legislative overreach.

6. Justice Markandey Katju (Former Supreme Court Judge):

- **On Transparency:** Justice Katju has supported the codification of parliamentary privileges to enhance transparency and public trust. He believes that codification would provide a clear framework for what is permissible, thus preventing abuses of privilege.

Anti -Defection law

52nd Amendment Act 1985.

Tenth Schedule also known as Anti-defection Law.

Disqualification:

- In **Ravi S. Naik versus Union of India (1994)**, the **Supreme Court** clarified that an **MP/MLA need not formally resign from their party to attract disqualification** under the anti-defection law.
 - The SC had said: "The expression 'voluntarily given up his membership' is **not synonymous with 'resignation'** ... Even in the **absence of a formal resignation from membership an inference can be drawn from the conduct** of a member that he has voluntarily given up his membership of the political party to which he belongs."
 - In **Rajendra Singh Rana vs. Swami Prasad Maurya and Others (2007)**, the SC held that the act of giving a letter requesting the governor to call on the leader of the other side to form a government would amount to an act of voluntarily giving up membership of the previous party.
- If any member who is **independently elected joins any political party**. In **Balchandra L. Jarkiholi Vs. B.S. Yeddyurappa (2010)**, the Supreme Court made it clear that **independent MLAs joining the Ministry in a coalition govt., without joining the ruling party, will not sacrifice their independent identity**. Hence joining Council of Ministers doesn't amount to disqualification.

Cases:

- **Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillu and Others, 1992**: SC said that judicial review is applicable on a Speaker's decision but cannot be available at a stage prior to making of a decision by Speaker/Chairman.
- **Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs. Hon'ble Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly & Ors. Case, 2020**: SC held that disqualification petitions under Tenth Schedule should be decided by Speakers within three months.
- 2nd ARC Report titled 'Ethics in Governance' and various other expert committees recommended that issue of disqualification of members on **grounds of defection should be decided by President/Governor on advice of Election Commission**.

Cases against legislators

Constitutional provisions:

- **Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, bans **convicted** politicians (for certain offences) from contesting. However, those facing trial, no matter how serious the charges, are free to contest.

- According to **Article 102 (1) of the Constitution**, Parliament is obliged to make a law on the matter.

Case:

- The Supreme Court, in *Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs. Union of India & Anr.*, issued guidelines to the High Courts across the country for deciding on cases against elected representatives.

Guidelines:

- (i) Learned Chief Justices of the High Courts shall register a suo-motu case with the title, "*In Re: designated courts for MPs/MLAs*" to monitor early disposal of criminal cases pending against the members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. The suo-motu case may be heard by the Special Bench presided by the Learned Chief Justice or a bench assigned by them.
- (ii) The Special Bench hearing the suo-motu case may list the matter at regular intervals as is felt necessary. The High Court may issue such orders and/or directions as are necessary for expeditious and effective disposal of the subject cases. The Special Bench may consider calling upon the Advocate General or the Public Prosecutor to assist the Court.
- (iii) The High Court may require the Principal District and Sessions Judge to bear the responsibility of allocating the subject cases to such court or courts as is considered appropriate and effective. The High Court may call upon the Principal District and Sessions Judge to send reports at such intervals as it considers expedient.
- (iv) The designated courts shall give priority:
 - (i) first to criminal cases against MP's & MLA's punishable with death or life imprisonment then to (ii) cases punishable with imprisonment for 5 years or more, and then hear (iii) other cases.The Trial Courts shall not adjourn the cases except for rare and compelling reasons.

- (v) The learned Chief Justices may list cases in which orders of stay of trial have been passed before the Special Bench to ensure that appropriate orders, including vacation of stay orders are passed to ensure commencement and conclusion of trial.
- (vi) The Principal District and Sessions Judge shall ensure sufficient infrastructure facility for the designated courts and also enable it to adopt such technology as is expedient for effective and efficient functioning.
- (vii) The High Courts shall create an independent tab on their website providing district-wise information about the details of the year of filing, number of subject cases pending and stage of proceedings. We make it clear that while monitoring the subject cases, the Special Bench may pass such orders or give such additional directions as are necessary for early disposal of the subject cases.

Key Points

- **Background:**

- In **2017**, the Supreme Court had **ordered that special courts be set up** across the country to **fast-track the long-pending trials of lawmakers**.
- Following this, **12 special courts were set up across 11 States** exclusively to try sitting MPs and MLAs.
 - The **special court in each State has jurisdiction over the entire State** while the two in Delhi cover cases within the precincts of Delhi or “partly Delhi”.
- In September 2020, **SC-appointed amicus curiae** (friend of the court), in his two reports, highlighted that despite the best efforts by the court to constitute special courts for trying cases against legislators, **close to 4,442 criminal cases involving 2,556 sitting members of Parliament (MP) and members of legislative assemblies (MLAs)** are pending. **Reasons** for delayed trial:

- **Stays** granted by various high courts,
 - **Insufficient special courts** to exclusively try cases against MPs/MLAs,
 - **Shortage of prosecutors and latches in prosecution,**
 - **Delayed investigation.**
- Considering the reports, the **SC passed an order** that **criminal trials involving elected representatives** will be **monitored by a special bench of each high court** and in cases where a trial has been stayed, the special bench will hear and decide on continuing or cancelling the stay, preferably within two months.
- Expediting cases against legislators is required not only because of the **rising wave of criminalization that is occurring in the politics** in the country, but also due to the **power that elected representatives** wield to influence or hamper effective prosecution.
- **Reservation of the Committee of the Madras High Court:** It has **questioned the constitutional validity** of setting up Special Courts to exclusively try MPs and MLAs for various crimes.
 - Special Courts can only be **constituted by a statute** and not by executive or judiciary.
 - The Special Courts **should be “offence-centric” and not “offender-centric.”**
 - For example, an MP/MLA, who commits an offence under the POCSO Act can only be tried by a Special Court created under the POCSO Act and there cannot be another Special Court exclusively for trial of an MP/MLA, who commits POCSO offence.
 - Further, it **questioned how one Special Court could cover the cases across all districts** of a State. Witnesses may face travelling and other issues.
 - It also referred to **how cases are filed and withdrawn in a State** when a government gets changed in that State.

Case:

In ***Union of India v Association for Democratic Reforms (2002)***, the Supreme Court of India held that electors have a fundamental right to know the criminal antecedents of candidates, directing the Election Commission to obtain affidavits from candidates disclosing such details. This right was interpreted as part of the freedom of speech and expression under the Indian Constitution.

In ***PUCI v Union of India (2004)***, the Supreme Court struck down Section 33B of the Representation of People (Third Amendment) Act as unconstitutional, which had nullified the requirement for candidates to disclose their criminal antecedents. The Court reaffirmed that the right of electors to know about candidates' criminal records is a component of the fundamental right to free speech and is essential for free and fair elections.

In ***K. Prabhakaran v P. Jayarajan (2005)***, the Supreme Court clarified the purpose of Section 8(3) of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, which disqualifies candidates convicted of certain offenses from running for office. The Court emphasized that this provision aims to prevent criminal elements from entering politics and to ensure fairness in elections, underscoring that those who break the law should not have the authority to make it.

In ***Lily Thomas v Union of India (2013)***, the Supreme Court ruled that MPs and legislators convicted of crimes with a minimum two-year sentence would be disqualified from holding office immediately upon sentencing. The Court struck down the provision allowing a three-month period for appeal, enforcing immediate disqualification for convicted members.

In ***Manoj Narula v Union of India (2014)***, the Supreme Court addressed whether individuals with criminal backgrounds should be appointed as Ministers. The Court determined that it could not impose additional disqualifications beyond those specified by statute under Article 75(1), leaving such decisions to the Prime Minister. However, the Court expected the Prime Minister to consider avoiding appointments of those with serious criminal charges or corruption allegations when forming a ministry.

In its **244th Report, the Law Commission (2014)** found that disqualification upon conviction had been ineffective in curbing the criminalization of politics. It recommended implementing disqualification at the charge-framing stage and enhancing penalties for filing false affidavits to a minimum of two years imprisonment, with such offenses also serving as grounds for disqualification. The Report also suggested that trials for these offenses be conducted on a day-to-day basis to expedite convictions and enforce disqualification.

In ***Public Interest Foundation v UOI (2018)***, the Supreme Court addressed whether individuals should be disqualified from legislative bodies when criminal charges are framed against them. The five-judge Bench unanimously held that it could not impose disqualification based solely on the framing of charges, as current law only disqualifies convicted individuals. The Court urged Parliament to enact legislation to prevent candidates accused of serious crimes from participating in elections.

In ***Rambabu Singh Thakur v Sunil Arora (2020)***, a two-judge Bench reiterated the Supreme Court's 2018 directions from the *Public Interest Foundation* case, addressing contempt petitions against the Election Commission of India. The Court directed the Election Commission to ensure compliance with the 2018 judgment and report any non-compliance by political parties to the Supreme Court.

Supreme court @75

**CHIEF JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD SAID THAT THE COURT WAS SET UP AS “
AN INSTITUTION OF RESOLUTION AND JUSTICE.”**

Introduction:

- The Indian judiciary has been essential in upholding democracy and protecting rights over 75 years.
- It faces ongoing issues like judicial appointments, backlog, and access to justice but remains a key guardian of the Constitution.
- **Constitutional Provisions: Articles 124 to 147 in Part V** of the Constitution deal with the **organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures** and so on of the Supreme Court.

Evolution:

1. First Phase:

- Focused on judicial review of legislative actions, adhering to constitutional text and avoiding ideological conflicts.
- **Kameshwar Prasad (1951):** Invalidated zamindari abolition but was overridden by the First Amendment.
- **Champakam Dorairajan (1951):** Struck down caste-based reservations in educational institutions, avoiding confrontation with Parliament.

2. Second Phase:

- Expanded interpretation of fundamental rights and challenged parliamentary sovereignty.
- **Golak Nath (1967):** Held that Parliament's amending power was subject to fundamental rights.
- **Keshavananda Bharati (1973):** Established the 'basic structure' doctrine, limiting Parliament's amending power.
- **ADM Jabalpur (1976):** Upheld suspension of Article 21 rights during Emergency, marking a low point in judicial independence.

3. Third Phase:

- Corrected course post-Emergency, expanding fundamental rights and embracing judicial activism.
- **Maneka Gandhi (1978):** Expanded the scope of Article 21 to include procedural fairness.
- **S.P. Gupta (1981):** Introduced Public Interest Litigation (PIL), allowing broader access to justice.

- **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) (2015):** Attempt to replace the collegium system was struck down, reaffirming judicial self-appointment.

4. Fourth Phase:

- Since 2014, the judiciary has been scrutinized for its stance amid an overwhelming majority executive.
- **Public Interest Foundation (2018):** Court could not impose disqualification based on charges; Parliament was urged to legislate on this issue.
- **Rambabu Singh Thakur (2020):** Reiterated the need for the Election Commission to ensure compliance with judicial directions on electoral disqualification.

Conclusion:

- The judiciary has played a critical role in defending democracy and the rule of law, despite challenges and perceived compromises.
- As India celebrates 75 years of independence, there is a need for introspection and reforms to ensure justice and strengthen institutional interactions

1. Judicial Independence and Constitutional Authority:

- **Establishment of Judicial Review:** The Supreme Court established the power of judicial review, which allows it to assess the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions.
- **Basic Structure Doctrine (1973):** The Court's landmark Keshavananda Bharati judgment defined the "basic structure" of the Constitution, ensuring core principles cannot be altered by amendments.

2. Protection of Fundamental Rights:

- **Expansion of Article 21:** The Court's Maneka Gandhi judgment (1978) expanded the right to life and personal liberty to include procedural fairness.
- **PIL Revolution:** The introduction and growth of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has allowed broader access to justice for the public, enabling the Court to address a wide range of social issues.

3. Landmark Cases and Reforms:

- **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973):** Established the basic structure doctrine, protecting the Constitution's fundamental principles.
- **Vineet Narain v. Union of India (1997):** Enhanced accountability in governance by directing the establishment of mechanisms to investigate corruption cases.
- **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018):** Decriminalized consensual homosexual relationships, affirming LGBTQ+ rights.

4. Judicial Efficiency and Reforms:

- **Introduction of E-Courts:** The Supreme Court has embraced technology, with the introduction of e-filing, virtual hearings, and case management systems to enhance efficiency.
- **National Judicial Data Grid:** Launched to provide data on case pendency and track judicial performance.

5. Access to Justice:

- **Legal Aid Programs:** The Supreme Court has established various legal aid programs to assist economically disadvantaged individuals in accessing justice.
- **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):** Established to provide free legal services and promote justice for the underprivileged.

6. Judicial Activism and Social Justice:

- **Environmental Jurisprudence:** The Court has been instrumental in shaping environmental law in India, issuing directives for pollution control and conservation.
- **Social Reforms:** The Court has played a role in various social reforms, including addressing issues related to women's rights, child labor, and educational access.

7. Judicial Appointments and Integrity:

- **Collegium System:** Developed to ensure the independence of the judiciary in the appointment of judges, aiming to minimize executive interference.

8. Suo Moto Actions:

- **Suo Moto Proceedings:** The Supreme Court has initiated several suo moto proceedings to address pressing national issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian crises.

Stats:

- **Pendency:** Over 85,000 cases in SC alone (National Judicial Data Grid).
- **Women in Judiciary: 13.4% and 9.3% of judges** are women in HCs and SC respectively (State of Judiciary Report 2023).

Recommendations

Splitting the Supreme Court:

- **Tenth Law Commission Recommendation:** Proposed dividing the Supreme Court into two divisions:
 - **Constitutional Division:** To handle matters related to constitutional law.
 - **Legal Division:** To address other legal matters.

- **Eleventh Law Commission (1988):** Supported splitting the Court to enhance access to justice and reduce litigants' fees.
- **229th Law Commission Report (2009):** Suggested establishing four regional benches in Delhi, Chennai or Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Mumbai to handle non-constitutional issues.

Enhanced Judicial Sitting:

- **Malimath Committee Proposal:** Recommended increasing the Supreme Court's working days to 206 and reducing vacation time by 21 days to address case backlog.
- **2009 Law Commission Report (230th):** Suggested reducing court vacations by 10-15 days across all levels of the judiciary to alleviate backlog.

Revisiting the Establishment of NJAC:

- **NJAC Act:** Amendments proposed to incorporate safeguards to ensure constitutionality and maintain majority control with the judiciary.

Enhancing Gender Diversity in the Judiciary:

- **Fixed Percentage of Female Judges:** Implementation suggested to develop a gender-inclusive judicial system.
- **Upcoming Appointment:** Justice B.V. Nagarathna is anticipated to become India's first female Chief Justice of India in September 2027, marking a significant step towards gender parity in the judiciary.

Article 142

Case 1: Chandigarh Mayoral Election

- Supreme Court's Intervention:
 - Invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to overturn the election results.
 - Action was taken to ensure justice and uphold electoral sanctity.
- Issue:
 - The presiding officer acted beyond his remit by invalidating eight votes for the opponent, leading to an incorrect declaration of the winner.

Case 2: High Court Bar Association Allahabad v. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

- Supreme Court's Ruling:
 - Overturned the 2018 Asian Resurfacing judgment.
 - Set aside the automatic stay vacation rule.
- Guidelines Issued:
 - Established crucial guidelines for the exercise of powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

(ii) Parameters for exercising powers under Article 142:

1. Jurisdiction: The powers under Article 142 can be exercised by the court to do complete justice for the parties before it, but in doing so the court shall not nullify valid judicial orders passed in favour of other litigants in other jurisdictions.
2. Substantive Rights: The powers of the court under Article 142 should not override substantive law. The court must respect litigants' substantive rights within its jurisdiction, preserving legal integrity.
3. Natural Justice: The powers of the court under Article 142 must not undermine principles of natural justice. Litigants have a right to be heard before adverse orders are passed, including vacating of stay orders, thus ensuring fairness.

1. *Union Carbide Corporation vs Union of India (1991):*

1. SC Ordered UCC to pay USD 470 million in **compensation for the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy**, highlighting the wide scope of Article 142(1) and clarifying that its powers are of a different quality and **not subject to express statutory prohibitions**.

2. *Supreme Court Bar Association vs Union of India (1998):*

1. The apex court emphasized that the powers under Article 142 **are supplementary and should not be used to override substantive laws**.
 1. The court stated that these powers are curative in nature and should not be used to **ignore the rights of litigants or bypass statutory provisions**.

3. *A. Jideranath vs Jubilee Hills Co-op House Building Society (2006):*

1. The SC emphasized that while exercising its power under Article 142, no injustice should be inflicted upon a person who is not a party to the case.

4. *State of Karnataka vs Umadevi (2006):*

1. SC clarified that "complete justice" under Article 142 means **justice according to law and not sympathy**, and that the court will not grant relief that perpetuates illegality encroaching into the legislative domain.

Expert views:

Justice Dipak Misra

- **View:** Former Chief Justice of India Justice Dipak Misra has utilized Article 142 in several landmark cases, including the Ayodhya land dispute, where he emphasized that the power under this article must be used to ensure that justice is done in its fullest sense. He believed that Article 142 allows the Court to step in where legal remedies are inadequate and where justice demands an extraordinary solution.

Prof. Upendra Baxi

- **View:** The constitutional scholar Prof. Upendra Baxi has discussed Article 142 in the context of judicial activism and judicial overreach. He acknowledges that the article allows the Court to do justice in a way that might not be possible under strict legal frameworks, but he also **warns against the potential for this power to be misused. Baxi argues for a balanced approach, where the judiciary uses Article 142 to fill gaps in the law while respecting the principles of constitutionalism and the separation of powers.**

Justice S.A. Bobde

- **View:** Former Chief Justice of India Justice Bobde has articulated that Article 142 is a vital tool in the Supreme Court's arsenal to uphold justice. He noted that the article's use must be guided by the principles of equity, fairness, and the necessity to maintain public confidence in the judiciary. **Justice Bobde emphasized the need for restraint and judicious use, ensuring that Article 142 complements rather than conflicts with existing laws.**

Panchayati Raj revenues:

Article 243H: Provides for finance for Panchayats by securing authorization from State Legislatures for grants-in-aid to Panchayats from Consolidated Fund of State. It empowers panchayats to impose, collect, and allocate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees.

Article 243-I: Setting up a State Finance Commission every 5 years to review financial position of Panchayats and make recommendations to improve their financial position.

Article 280(3) (bb): Mandates Central Finance Commission to recommend measures needed to augment Consolidated fund of state and supplement panchayat resources (on basis of recommendations made by Finance Commission of State) to President.

Key Highlights of the RBI Report on Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for FY 2022-23:

- **Revenue Composition:**
 - PRIs earn only 1% of their revenue from taxes.
 - 80% of revenue comes from Central government grants, 15% from State government grants.
- **Revenue Statistics:**
 - Total revenue for FY 2022-23: Rs 35,354 crore.

- Own tax revenue: Rs 737 crore.
- Non-tax revenue: Rs 1,494 crore.
- Central government grants: Rs 24,699 crore.
- State government grants: Rs 8,148 crore.
- **Revenue Per Panchayat:**
 - Average own tax revenue: Rs 21,000 per panchayat.
 - Average non-tax revenue: Rs 73,000 per panchayat.
 - Average Central government grants: Rs 17 lakh per panchayat.
 - Average State government grants: Rs 3.25 lakh per panchayat.
- **State Revenue Share and Disparities:**
 - PRIs' share in State's own revenue varies: 0.1% in Andhra Pradesh to 2.5% in Uttar Pradesh.
 - Highest average revenue: Kerala (Rs 60 lakh) and West Bengal (Rs 57 lakh) per panchayat.
 - Lowest average revenue: Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Mizoram, Punjab, Uttarakhand (less than Rs 6 lakh).
- **RBI Recommendations:**
 - Promote decentralization and enhance local financial autonomy.
 - Improve transparency, fiscal discipline, community involvement, and staff training.
 - Increase public awareness and citizen participation in local governance.

Chart 1 | The chart shows the revenue receipts of panchayats in 2022-23. Figures in ₹

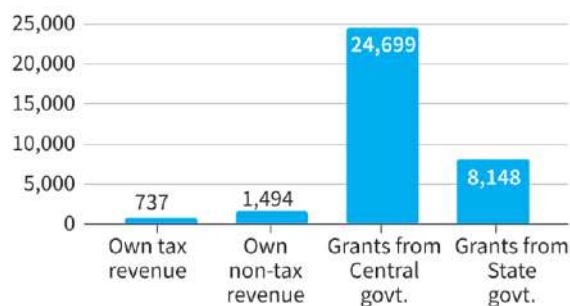


Chart 2 | The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ thousand

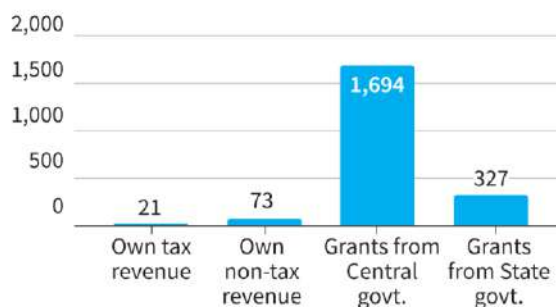


Chart 3 | The chart shows the revenue per panchayat in percentage terms in 2022-23.

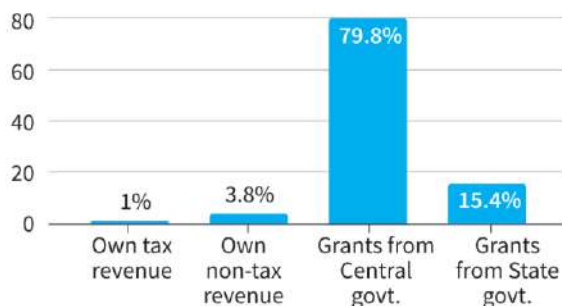


Chart 4 | The chart shows the average revenue per panchayat across States in 2022-23. Figures in ₹ lakh.

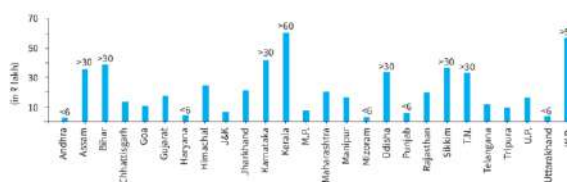
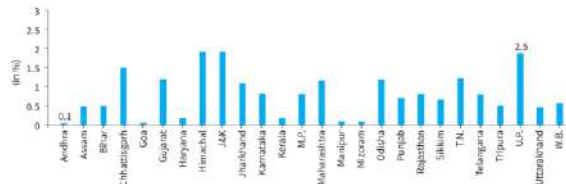


Chart 5 | The chart shows the revenue of panchayats as a share of the State's own revenue in 2022-2023. Figures in %.



Womens reservation

Article 330A and Article 332A Inserted: Reservation of 1/3rd seats for women in **Lok Sabha (LS)** and **State legislative assembly** respectively.

It also includes **reservation of 1/3rd seats for women belonging to SC/ST** under Article 330 and 332.

Articles 239AA amended: Reservation of nearly 1/3rd seats for women (including SC seats) in Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

Article 334A inserted: Reservations shall come into effect **after delimitation is undertaken** after relevant figures for **first census** (after commencement of act) have been published and cease to have effect after expiration of **15 years**.

Periodic rotation of seats reserved for women after each delimitation as Parliament may by law determine. Provisions of this act **shall not affect any representation in legislative assemblies and Lok Sabha until their dissolution**.

Key Statistics

- **Current Representation:** As of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024), women constitute approximately 15% (74 out of 543 members) of the Lok Sabha. This is a slight decrease from 2019 when 78 women were elected.
- **Historical Context:** The representation of women in the first Lok Sabha was only 5%, highlighting a significant increase over the years but still below the global average of 26.5%.
- **Comparative Representation:** Countries like Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), and Nicaragua (52%) have much higher female representation in politics. Bangladesh (21%) and Pakistan (20%) also surpass India.
- **Legislative Attempts:** The Women's Reservation Bill has been introduced multiple times since 1996, with significant attempts in 1998, 1999, and 2008, but it lapsed each time.
- **Constitutional Amendments:** The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992 mandated one-third reservation for women in local governance, which has been implemented in various states.

Significant Cases

- **2021 PIL:** The National Federation of Indian Women filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court seeking the reintroduction of the Women's Reservation Bill for 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. The government took two years to respond, leading to court rebukes.
- **Geeta Mukherjee Committee (1996):** This committee noted that while seats were reserved for women within SC/ST quotas, there were no provisions for OBC women and recommended extending reservations to them.
- **2013 Recommendations:** A committee constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development recommended at least 50% reservation for women in all decision-making bodies, including local bodies and legislative assemblies.

Legislative Progression

- **First Women's Reservation Bill:** Introduced on September 12, 1996, it aimed to reserve one-third of seats for women in Parliament and state legislatures but faced opposition and was sent to a Select Committee.
- **Recent Developments:** The Women's Reservation Bill was finally passed in a special session of Parliament, marking a significant milestone after years of advocacy and legislative attempts.



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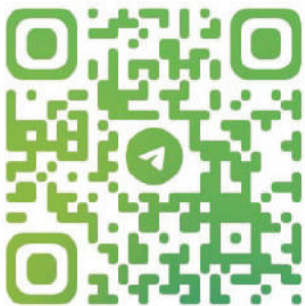
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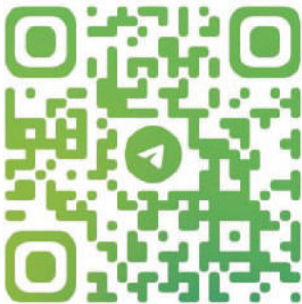
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