

### **1. Federalism & Centre–State Relations**

- Cooperative federalism
- Competitive federalism
- Centralising tendencies
- Fiscal federalism (vertical & horizontal devolution)
- Finance Commission recommendations
- Inter-State Council (Art. 263)
- Zonal Councils
- Statehood demands / reorganisation
- President's Rule (Art. 356)
- GST Council as new federal body

### **2. Constitutional Provisions & Fundamental Rights**

- Basic Structure Doctrine (Kesavananda 1973)
- Right to Privacy (Puttaswamy 2017)
- Freedom of Speech (Art. 19(1)(a)) & reasonable restrictions (Art.19(2))
- Article 21 – expanded interpretation
- RTI Act 2005
- Representation of the People Act 1951 (RPA)

- 101st Constitutional Amendment (GST)
- 106th Constitutional Amendment (Women's Reservation)
- Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA)
- Doctrine of Eclipse / Severability

### **3. Separation of Powers & Constitutional Organs**

- Judicial Review
- Judicial Activism vs Judicial Overreach
- Doctrine of Separation of Powers
- Checks & Balances
- Ordinance Making Powers (Art.123)
- Tribunalisation
- Appointments to Constitutional Posts (SC/ST commissions, EC)
- NJAC & Collegium Debate
- Quasi-judicial bodies
- Accountability of Independent Regulators

#### **4. Parliament & Legislature Functioning**

- Parliamentary Committees (DRSCs, PAC, Estimates, Ethics)
- Anti-defection Law (10th Schedule)
- Speaker's Role / Neutrality
- Private Member's Bills
- Money Bill Certification (Art.110)
- Question Hour / Zero Hour / Short Duration Discussion
- No-Confidence Motion vs Censure Motion
- Delegated Legislation / Subordinate Legislation
- Ordinance scrutiny
- Parliamentary Privileges

#### **5. Local Governance & Decentralisation**

- 73rd & 74th Amendments
- Gram Sabha / Ward Sabha
- Functional Devolution (29 subjects)
- State Finance Commission (Art.243I)
- District Planning Committee (Art.243ZD)
- Reservation for Women (up to 50%)
- Urban Local Bodies & Smart Cities

- Digital Panchayat / e-GramSwaraj
- Fifth & Sixth Schedules (Tribal areas)
- Performance Grants (14th & 15th FC)

#### **6. Governance, Transparency & E-Governance**

- RTI 2005 & RTI (Amendment) 2019
- Citizen Charter & Sevottam Model
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- Aadhaar & Digital Identity
- Digital India Programme 2015
- Open Government Data (OGD) Platform
- e-Courts / e-Office / CPGRAMS
- Good Governance Index
- Social Audit
- Privacy & Data Protection (DPDP Act 2023)

#### **7. Role of Non-State Actors**

- NGOs / CBOs / SHGs
- DAY-NRLM (90 million women in SHGs)
- FCRA 2010 restrictions
- Think Tanks & Advocacy Groups
- Public-Private Partnerships in Social Sector

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR 2%)
- Self-Help Group Bank Linkage Programme
- Community Participation / Social Capital
- Accountability & Transparency of NGOs
- Microfinance & Financial Inclusion

#### **8. Social Sector & Human Development**

- NHM / Ayushman Bharat / HWC
- NEP 2020 (Education)
- Samagra Shiksha
- Skill India / PM-KVY
- National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA)
- Poshan Abhiyaan
- Human Development Index (HDI)
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)
- SDGs (Goals 1,3,4,5)
- Health & Education Expenditure as % of GDP

#### **9. Important Legislation & Judicial Pronouncements**

- Kesavananda Bharati 1973 (Basic Structure)
- Indira Sawhney 1992 (Mandal / 27% OBC)
- Coelho 2007 (9th Schedule review)
- Puttaswamy 2017 (Right to Privacy)
- Joseph Shine 2018 (Adultery struck down)
- Sabarimala 2018 (Gender equality)
- EWS Quota upheld 2022
- Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act 2013
- Data Protection Act 2023
- Women's Reservation 106th Amendment 2023

## 1. Federalism & Centre–State Relations

### Core ideas / keywords:

Cooperative federalism (Centre + States work together); Competitive federalism (States compete for investment); Centralising tendencies (use of Art. 356, centrally sponsored schemes); Inter-State Council (Art. 263 consultative body); Finance Commission (tax-sharing); GST Council (consensus decision-making); Zonal Councils; Asymmetric federalism (Art. 370/371); Statehood demands (UT to State transitions – Ladakh, Delhi).

### Recent facts / examples:

- 16th Finance Commission (2024) set up for devolution 2026–31.
- SC Delhi Services judgment (2023) reaffirmed elected government's powers under federal principles.
- Frequent Governor–CM tussles in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal flagged by Punchhi Commission.

**Answer use:** In PYQs like “Discuss the need for revitalising the Inter-State Council” or “Is India moving towards unitary bias?” — start with constitutional intent (federal), give

current examples of tensions, end with reforms: clear guidelines for Art. 356, strengthening ISC, predictable transfers, transparent scheme design.

## 2. Constitutional Provisions & Fundamental Rights

### Core ideas / keywords:

Article 19 freedoms with reasonable restrictions; Article 21 expanded to privacy, environment, health (Puttaswamy 2017, Vishaka 1997); Basic Structure Doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati 1973); 73rd & 74th Amendments (decentralisation); 101st Amendment (GST); RTI Act 2005; Representation of People Act reforms; Doctrine of proportionality.

### Recent facts / examples:

- Right to Internet recognised by Kerala HC (2019).
- SC on freedom of speech of MPs/MLAs (2023).
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023) as an extension of privacy jurisprudence.

**Answer use:** UPSC asks on “Expanding scope of FRs” or “RTI's role in

deepening democracy.” Show the evolution through judgments + legislative acts, include a recent example, and end with balancing rights with state’s regulatory role.

### **3. Separation of Powers & Constitutional Organs**

#### **Core ideas / keywords:**

Doctrine of separation of powers (no watertight compartments but checks and balances); Judicial review (Art. 13, 32, 226); Judicial activism vs restraint; Ordinance-making powers (Art. 123/213) and criticisms; Tribunalisation (Finance Act 2017 reforms); Collegium vs NJAC (2015 judgment); Removal processes of judges/constitutional authorities; All-India Judicial Service debate.

#### **Recent facts / examples:**

- SC (2023) struck down Delhi Ordinance on Services citing federalism.
- Over 4.5 crore cases pending; Law Commission recommended tribunal reforms.
- New Bill (2024) to merge multiple tribunals for efficiency.

**Answer use:** For PYQs like “Evaluate the tribunal system” or “Ordinances as a tool to bypass legislature,” start with constitutional design, mention recent controversies, then give balanced reform suggestions (pre-legislative scrutiny, transparent appointments, code of ethics for activism).

### **4. Parliament & Legislature Functioning**

#### **Core ideas / keywords:**

Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs, 1993); Financial Committees (PAC, Estimates, Public Accounts); Anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule); Speaker’s neutrality; Question Hour/Zero Hour; Private Member’s Bills; Budget scrutiny; Parliamentary disruptions; Declining number of sitting days.

#### **Recent facts / examples:**

- PRS data: 80+ Bills passed in 2023 Monsoon Session with minimal debate.
- SC (2024) asked Parliament to frame law on Speaker’s neutrality in disqualification cases.

– Lok Sabha sitting days down from 120+ in 1950s to ~60 annually now.

**Answer use:** UPSC PYQs on “Role of Committees in strengthening accountability,” “Decline of deliberative function,” “Reforms to anti-defection.” Show trend with data, highlight committees as the backbone, and suggest automatic referral to DRSCs, digital record of debates, capacity building for MPs.

## 5. Local Governance & Decentralisation

### Core ideas / keywords:

73rd & 74th Amendments (1992) gave constitutional status to PRIs & ULBs; Gram Sabha as foundation of participatory democracy; State Finance Commissions (Art. 243I); District Planning Committees; Functional devolution (29 subjects); Reservations for women & SC/ST; Urban reforms under JNNURM/AMRUT; Smart Cities Mission; Digital Panchayat.

### Recent facts / examples:

– Women’s reservation: 50% in 20+ States (Kerala, Bihar).

– 6th SFCs set up in some States but delays common.

– Less than 40% of 29 subjects devolved in most States (MoPR data 2022).

**Answer use:** In PYQs like “Discuss the effectiveness of PRIs in rural development” or “Why is functional devolution lagging?” — start with constitutional intent, show gaps with data, end with reforms: predictable funds, social audits, training elected representatives, integrated planning.

## 6. Governance, Transparency & E-governance

### Core ideas / keywords:

RTI Act 2005; Citizen Charters; Sevottam Model; DBT; Aadhaar-linked service delivery; Digital India (2015); Public Financial Management System (PFMS); e-Courts / e-Office; Open Government Data; Good Governance Index.

**Recent facts / examples:**

- Over ₹6 lakh crore transferred via DBT in FY24 (MoF).
- RTI pendency rising: 4.2 million cases (2023 CIC report).
- India ranked 42/139 in World Justice Project “Open Government” indicator.

**Answer use:** UPSC asks on “Shortcomings of RTI” or “Evaluate Digital India.” Use facts on coverage & efficiency gains, but also privacy/exclusion issues. Conclude with reforms: robust grievance redress, accessibility for digital-poor, strengthening Information Commissions.

**7. Role of Non-State Actors**

**Core ideas / keywords:**

NGOs, Civil Society, SHGs, Microfinance, Think Tanks, CSR, FCRA regulation, Community Based Organisations (CBOs); Public–Private Partnerships in social sector; Accountability & transparency challenges.

**Recent facts / examples:**

- 16,000+ NGOs lost FCRA registration since 2015.
- SHGs under DAY-NRLM: 90 million women members (MoRD 2023).
- 2% CSR mandatory for large companies (Companies Act 2013); ₹25,000+ crore spent in FY23.

**Answer use:** For PYQs like “Evaluate the role of SHGs in inclusive development” or “Impact of FCRA restrictions on civil society.” Begin with their contribution in service delivery, add latest numbers, end with balanced regulation + capacity building.

**8. Social Sector & Human Development**

**Core ideas / keywords:**

Health: NHM, Ayushman Bharat, Health & Wellness Centres; Education: NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha; Skill Development: PM-KVY, Skill India; Nutrition: Poshan Abhiyaan, ICDS; Poverty: NFSA 2013, PM-Awas Yojana; International: SDGs (Goal 3, 4), Human Development Index (HDI),



Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Recent facts / examples:

– India's HDI rank 134 (UNDP 2023); MPI 11.4% poor (NITI 2023).

– Ayushman Bharat: 32 crore e-cards issued.

– NEP 2020 aims 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio in HE by 2035.

**Answer use:** For “Human development lags behind economic growth” or “Critically examine India's health policy” — start with schemes + outcomes, insert recent indicators, conclude with governance & financing reforms.

## 9. Important Legislation & Judicial Pronouncements

### Core ideas / keywords:

Key judgments: Kesavananda Bharati (basic structure), NJAC 2015 (appointment of judges), Coelho 2007 (9th Schedule review), Puttaswamy 2017 (privacy), Joseph Shine 2018 (Adultery), Sabarimala 2018 (gender equality).

Important Acts/Amendments: RPA 1951, RTI 2005, Lokpal Act 2013, DPDP Act 2023, One Nation One Election debates, CITIZENSHIP Amendment Act (CAA), GST 101st Amendment, Women's Reservation 106th Amendment 2023.

### Recent facts / examples:

– SC Constitution Bench upheld 10% EWS quota (2022).

– Women's Reservation Bill cleared both Houses 2023.

**Answer use:** When a question asks “Discuss the significance of X judgment” or “Evaluate recent amendments,” briefly state the doctrine involved, quote case name & year, and link to governance outcomes or rights protection.