

MPPSC

State Civil Services

Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission

Volume - 2

Indian Polity



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1 CHAPTER

Constituent Assembly

A constitution is a set of fundamental principles or established precedents that constitute the legal basis of a polity, organization, or other type of entity. It outlines the powers and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people. Constitutions can be written or unwritten. A written constitution is a formal document that outlines the structure and functions of the government. An unwritten constitution is a set of laws, customs, and traditions that have evolved over time.

Roles and Functions of a Constitution

- To provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.
- 2. To specify who has the power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted.
- 3. To set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them.
- 4. To enable the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.
- To define identity (political and moral) of a person by defining and agreeing to basic norms and principles.

Sayings

- "The Constitution's framework was crafted not only to establish legal structures but also to promote social and economic justice." - Granville Austin
- "Indian constitution itself is 'cornerstone' of a nation. The nation is existing because of the constitution." Granville Austin
- "Indian constitution is a unique experiment in the field of constitutionalism. Indian constitution is not an ordinary document unlike other constitutions." P. Bhanu Mehta
- "It is sacrosanct. Unlike other countries, where revolutions led to the formation of the constitution, Indian constitution is itself revolutionary." P. Bhanu Mehta
- "The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, It is a vehicle of life and its spirit is always the spirit of age." - B.R. Ambedkar
- > "Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment; it has to be calculated." B.R. Ambedkar

- "A Constitution, like a machine, is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them." Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- "A Constitution if it is out of touch with the people's life, aims and aspirations, becomes rather empty." Jawaharlal Nehru

Important Books Related to the Constitution and their Authors

- > The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation Granville Austin
- Working a Democratic Constitution: A History of the Indian Experience Granville Austin
- > The Constitution of India P.M. Bakshi
- > The Indian Constitution: A Historical Perspective V.D. Mahajan
- > The Republic of India: Development of its Laws and Constitution Penderal Moon
- > The Constitution of India: A Critical Commentary H.M. Seerval
- > An Introduction to the Constitution of India D.D. Basu
- > The Indian Constitution: A Case Study in Implementation S.N. Maheshwari
- > The Making of the Constitution of India B. Shiva Rao
- > The Federal Structure of the Indian Union M.P. Jain
- > India's Constitution: A Political Analysis Rajeev Dhavan
- Constitutional Government in India M.V. Pylee
- > The Indian Constitution: A Comparative Study M.C. Setalvad
- Gandhian Constitution for Free India V.K. Krishna Menon
- Divide and Quit; Democracy and Discontent Atul Kohli
- > The idea of India Suni Khilnani
- > The Success of India's Democracy Granville Austin
- India After Gandhi R. Guha
- State against Democracy Rajni Kothari

1. <u>Constituent Assembly</u>

The Constituent Assembly was the body responsible for drafting the Constitution of India. It was formed in 1946 under the scheme formulated by the Cabinet Mission Plan and comprised elected representatives from various provinces and nominated representatives of various princely states. The Assembly deliberated extensively over the principles and provisions of the Constitution, drawing inspiration from various sources.

Total meetings of Constituent Assembly - II meetings

- ✓ First meeting 9 December 1946
- ✓ Eleventh meeting 24 January 1950

Sayings

- "The Constituent Assembly alone can produce a Constitution indigenous to the country and truly and fully representing the will of the people." - Mahatma Gandhi
- Constituent Assembly was 'a body of Hindus' Lord Viscount Simon
- The Constituent Assembly represented 'only one major community in India." Winston Churchill
- "The Constituent Assembly was a one-party body in an essentially one-party country. The Assembly was the Congress and the Congress was India" - Granville Austin

FORMATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA TIMELINE

06-12-1946

09-12-1946

11-12-1946

13-12-1946

22-01-1947

22-07-1947

Formation of the Constituent Assembly

- The first meeting was held in the Constitution Hall (present-day Central Hall of Parliament).
- Addressed by J.B Kriplani

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY • President - Dr Rajendra Prasad

- Vice Chairman HC Mookerjee
- Constitutional & legal advisor - B.N Rau

Objective Objective Resolution Resolution was presented by JL unanimously adoptedNehru

National flag adopted

26-01-1950

Constitution of India came into force (it took 2 years, 11 months, 18 days)

24-01-1950

· Last meeting of Constituent Assembly.

'Constitution of India' signed & accepted with 395 Articles, 8 Schedules, 22 Parts

26-11-1949

'The Constitution of India' was passed and adopted by the assembly.

16-07-1948

Along with HC Mookerjee, V.T Krishnamachari was also elected as the second VP of the Constituent Assembly 29-08-1947

Drafting committee appointed.

15-08-1947 Independence

achieved. India split into Dominion of India & Dominion of Pakistan

Cabinet Mission Plan provisioned to set up a Constituent Assembly of India:

- Total strength = 389 partly elected and partly nominated
 - ✓ 296 seats were allotted to British India
 - 292 members from the II governors' provinces
 - 4 from the 4 chief commissioners' provinces
 - √ 93 seats to the Princely States.
- Allotted seats in proportion to their respective population.
- Seats allocated to each British province were to be divided among Muslims, Sikhs and General (others), in proportion to their population.
- > Representatives of each community were to be elected by members of that community in the provincial legislative assembly by proportional representation using a single transferable vote.
- Representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.

- Election for British Indian Provinces (296 seats) was held in July-August 1946.
 - ✓ Indian National Congress won 208 seats,
 - ✓ Muslim League won 73 seats
 - ✓ Independent players held 15 seats
- > Seats of princely states (93) were not filled as they refrained from the Assembly.
- > Mahatma Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly.
- > On April 28, 1947 representatives of the 6 Princely states became part of the assembly (Baroda, Bikaner, Jaipur, Patiala, Rewa, Udaipur)
- > After the Mountbatten Plan of June 3, 1947, most of the princely states entered the assembly.
- > Later Muslim League from the Indian dominion also joined the assembly.

1.1 Working of the Constituent Assembly

- > First meeting: December 9, 1946.
 - ✓ Muslim League boycotted and demanded a separate state of Pakistan.
 - Only 211 members attended the first meeting.
 - ✓ Dr Sachchidananda Sinha was elected as the temporary President of the Assembly, (French practice)
 - ✓ Later on December II, 1946, Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President of the Assembly
 - H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari (elected Vice President on July 16, 1948) Vice-President
 - Frank Anthony Deputy Chairman (nominated)
 - H. V. R. Iyengar Secretary

1.2 Objective Resolution

- Presented on Dec 13, 1946 (Third meeting of the Constituent Assembly), by JL Nehru in the Constituent Assembly, unanimously adopted by the assembly on January 22, 1947.
- > Important provisions:
 - ✓ Proclaim India as the Independent Sovereign Republic.
 - ✓ India, shall be a Union of territories of British India that join it.
 - ✓ Boundaries determined by the Constituent Assembly which shall possess residuary powers and exercise all powers and functions of the Government and administration implied in the Union.
 - ✓ Power and authority of Independent India derived from the people
 - ✓ Shall guarantee to all the people of India
 - Justice, social, economic and political;
 - Equality of status of opportunity, and before the law;
 - Freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, association and action

- ✓ Adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas and depressed and other backward classes
- ✓ Maintain integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilized nations
- ✓ Attains its rightful and honoured place in the world and makes its full and willing contribution
 to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.

1.3 Changes after the Indian Independence Act, 1947

- Assembly became a fully sovereign body to frame the Constitution and also became the legislative body.
 - ✓ Responsible for framing the Constitution (When working as the constituent assembly) and
 enact ordinary laws (when working as the Legislative body) for the country.
 - Worked as the Constitutional body chaired by Dr Rajendra Prasad
 - As a legislative body G.V. Mavlankar became chairman (till Nov 26, 1949).
- Muslim League members (hailing from the areas included in the Pakistan) withdrew from the assembly
 - ✓ Reduced the total strength of the assembly to 299 from 389.
 - ✓ Strength of Indian provinces reduced to 229 from 296
 - ✓ Princely states to 70 from 93.

1.4 Other Functions Performed by the Assembly

- > Ratified India's membership of the Commonwealth in May 1949
- Adopted National Flag of India on July 22, 1947
- > Adopted National Anthem and National Song on January 24, 1950
- Elected Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950
- > On January 24, 1950, the Constituent Assembly held its final session but continued as the provisional parliament from January 26, 1950, till the first general elections in 1951-52 were held.

2. Committees of the Constituent Assembly

	Committee	Headed by
	Union Powers Committee	J.L. Nehru
Major	Union Constitution Committee	J.L. Nehru
Committee	Provincial Constitution Committee	Sardar Patel
	Drafting Committee	Dr B.R. Ambedkar

	Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights,	Sardar Patel
	Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas	
	Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee	J.B. Kriplani
	Minorities Sub-Committee	H.C. Mukherjee
	North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded	Gopinath Bardoloi
	& Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee	
	Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Other than	A.V. Thakkar
	those in Assam) Sub-Committee	
	Rules of Procedure Committee	Dr Rajendra Prasad
	States Committee (for Negotiation with states)	J.L. Nehru
	Steering Committee	Dr Rajendra Prasad
	Finance and Staff Committee	Dr Rajendra Prasad
	Credentials Committee	A.K. Ayyar
	House Committee	B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
	Order of Business Committee	Dr K.M. Munshi
	Ad-hoc Committee on National Flag	Dr Rajendra Prasad
	Committee on Functions of the Constituent Assembly	G.V. Mavalankar
Minor	Ad-hoc Committee on the Supreme Court	S. Varadachari
Committee	Committee on Chief Commissioners' Provinces	B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
	Expert Committee on the Financial Provisions of the Union Constitution	Nalini Ranjan Sarkar
1.1	Linguistic Provinces Commission	S.K. Dar
	Special Committee to Examine the Draft Constitution	J.L. Nehru
	Press Gallery Committee	Usha Nath Sen
	Ad-hoc Committee on Citizenship	S. Varadachari

2.1 Drafting Committee

- > On August 29, 1947, set up to prepare a draft of the new Constitution.
- > Seven-member committee with
 - ✓ Dr B.R. Ambedkar Chairman
 - ✓ N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar
 - ✓ Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar
 - ✓ Dr K.M. Munshi
- > First draft published in February 1948
- > Second draft published in October 1948.

- ✓ Syed Mohammad Saadullah
- ✓ N.M. Rau
- ✓ T.T. Krishnamachari

- S.N. Mukherjee Chief Draftsman of the Constitution
- Prem Behari Narain Raizada Calligrapher
 - ✓ Handwritten the original text of the constitution in a flowing italic style.
- Beautified and decorated by artists from Shanti Niketan including Nand Lal Bose and Beohar Rammanohar Sinha.
- Calligraphy of the Hindi version = Vasant Krishan Vaidya
 - ✓ Decorated and illuminated = Nand Lal Bose.
- Elephant = symbol of the Constituent Assembly.
 - ✓ Elephant figurine carved on the seal of the assembly.
- Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision concerning an authoritative text of the Constitution in the Hindi Language.
 - ✓ Made by the 58th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1987 which inserted a new Article 394-A in the last part of the constitution.

2.2 Enactment of the Constitution

- Dr B.R. Ambedkar introduced the final draft on Nov 4, 1948, for first reading.
- Second reading started on November 15, 1948,
- > Third reading started on November 14, 1949.
- Draft was passed on November 26, 1949 (Constitution Day).
- > Constitution as adopted on November 26, 1949, contained
 - ✓ Preamble
 - √ 395 Articles
 - √ 8 Schedules.
- Provisions of citizenship, elections, provisional parliament, temporary and transitional provisions and short title contained in Article 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 324, 366, 367, 379, 380, 388, 391, 392 and 393 came into force on November 26, 1949. The remaining provisions came into force on January 26, 1950.
- > With the adoption of the Constitution, all the provisions under the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935 were repealed.
- Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act (1949) continued.

Members of the Interim Government

The Cabinet of the Interim Government of India was composed of the following members:

Members of the Interim Government

- President of the Executive Council (Viceroy and Governor-General of India): Viscount Wavell (till February 1947); Lord Mountbatten (from February 1947)
- > Vice President: Jawaharlal Nehru
- > Commander-in-Chief: Sir Claude Auchinleck

Name	Portfolio
Jawaharlal Nehru (INC)	External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (INC)	Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting
Rajendra Prasad (INC)	Agriculture and Food
Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar (ML)	Commerce
Baldev Singh (INC)	Defence
Liaquat Ali Khan (ML)	Finance
C Rajagopalachari (INC)	Education and Arts
Ghazanfar Ali Khan (ML)	Health
Jagjivan Ram (INC)	Labour
Jogendra Nath Mandal (ML)	Law
Abdur Rab Nishtar (ML)	Railways and Communications, Post and Air
C H Bhabha (INC)	Works, Mines and Power

First Cabinet of Independent India

Name	Portfolio
Jawaharlal Nehru	Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	Minister of Education
Dr. Rajendra Prasad	Minister of Food and Agriculture
John Mathai	Minister of Finance
Sardar Baldev Singh	Minister of Defence
Jagjivan Ram	Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation
Rafi Ahmed Kidwai	Minister of Communications
C. Rajagopalachari	Minister of Information and Broadcasting
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	Minister of Law
Sardar Surjeet Singh	Minister of Railways

2 CHAPTER

Salient Features of Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution, a cornerstone of our democracy, is a dynamic document that has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of the nation. It serves as a blueprint for governance, ensuring the protection of fundamental rights, the separation of powers, and the rule of law.

1. Features of the Indian Constitution

1.1 Lengthiest Written Constitution

- > Originally (1949), had a Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules.
 - ✓ Presently (2024), it consists of a Preamble, 25 Parts, 448 Articles and 12 Schedules. (There have been 106 Constitutional Amendments till date.)

1.2 Features Borrowed from Several Sources and Constitutions in the World

Countries	Borrowed Features of Indian Constitution	
Australia	> Concurrent list	
	> Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse	
	> Joint-sitting of the two Houses of Parliament	
Canada	> Federation with a strong Center	
	> Vesting of Residuary Powers with the Parliament	
	> Appointment of state Governors by the Centre	
	> Advisory jurisdiction of the SC	
Ireland	> Directive Principles of the State Policy (Ireland copied from Spain)	
	> Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha	
	> Method of election of the President	
Japan	> Procedure Established by law (Article 21)	
USSR/Russia	> Fundamental Duties	
	> Ideal of Justice (Social, Economic and Political) in the Preamble	
Britain / United	> Parliamentary Government > Cabinet system	
Kingdom	> Rule of Law > Prerogative writs	
	> Legislative procedure > Parliamentary privileges	
	> Single Citizenship > Bicameralism	

USA	> Fundamental Rights > Removal of SC and HC Judges		
	> Independence of judiciary > Post of vice-President		
	> Judicial Review > President as Executive Head		
	> Impeachment of the President > Preamble		
Germany (Weimar)	> Suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency		
South Africa	Procedure for Amendment in the Indian Constitution (Article 368)		
	Election of members of Rajya Sabha		
France	Republic (Elected Head)		
	Ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in the Preamble		
Government of India	> 50-60% of the present > Judiciary		
Act, 1935	constitution has been borrowed > Public Service Commission		
	from here. > Emergency Provisions		
	 Federal Structure Office of Governor 		

1.3 Other Salient Features

Feature	Description	
Rigidity and Flexibility	Some parts amendable by ordinary laws, others by a two- thirds majority and ratification by half of states.	
Secular State	No official state religion in India.	
Parliamentary System	Based on British model; Executive accountable to legislature; President is nominal head, PM is real executive.	
Single Citizenship	Union-provided single citizenship recognized across all states.	
Universal Adult Franchise	Political equality through "One Person, One Vote" for all citizens 18+ (voting age reduced by 61st Amendment).	
Independent, Integrated	Hierarchical judiciary with SC as apex, enforcing both	
Judiciary	central and state laws.	
Fundamental Rights, Duties, DPSPs	Rights enforceable by law; DPSPs guide governance; Duties are moral obligations (added by 42nd Amendment).	
Federation with Strong Center	Indestructible Union, destructible states; unitary in emergencies.	
Parliamentary Sovereignty &	Independent judiciary with judicial review; Parliament can	
Judicial Supremacy	amend the Constitution.	
Independent Bodies	Bodies like ECI, CAG, UPSC, and SPSC ensure unbiased governance.	

Emergency Provisions	Safeguards for unity, integrity, sovereignty, and security.
Three-tier Government	73rd & 74th Amendments established local governance in Part IX and IX-A.
Co-operatives	Added as a fundamental aspect of governance by the 97th Amendment Act.

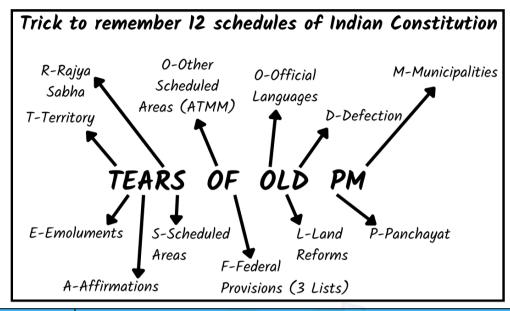
2. Parts of the Indian Constitution

Parts	Subject Matter	Articles Covered
1	The Union and its territory	1 to 4
11	Citizenship	5 to 11
111	Fundamental Rights	12 to 35
IV	Directive Principles of State Policy	36 to 51
IV-A	Fundamental Duties	51(A)
V	The Union Government	52 to 151
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	Chapter V - CAG of India	148 to 151
VI	The State Governments	152 to 237
	Chapter 1 - General	152
	Chapter II - The Executive	153 to 167
	Chapter III - The State Legislature	168 to 212
	Chapter IV - Legislative Powers of Governor	213
	Chapter V - The High Courts	214 to 232
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VII	The States in the Part B of the First Schedule (Repealed	238 (Deleted)
	by 7th Constitutional Amendment Act)	
VIII	The Union Territories	239 to 242
IX	The Panchayats	243 to 243(0)
IX-A	The Municipalities	243(P) to 243(ZG)
IX-B	The Co-operative Societies	243(ZH) to 243(ZT)
X	The Scheduled and Tribal Areas	244 to 244(A)

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and Repeals		and Repeals	

3. Schedules of the Indian Constitution

The Schedules of the Constitution are lists in the Indian Constitution that categorize and detail government policies, powers and administration across various domains.



Numbers	Subject Matter	
First Schedule	1. Names of the States and their territorial jurisdiction.	
First Schedule	2. Names of the Union Territories and their extent.	
Provisions relating to the emoluments, allowances, privileges and 1. President of India 2. Governors of States 3. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha 4. Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha 5. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Ass 6. Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the State Legislative 7. Judges of the Supreme Court 8. Judges of the High Courts 9. Comptroller and Auditor-General of India		
	Forms of Oaths or Affirmations for:	
	I. Union ministers 6. Comptroller and Auditor-General	
	2. Candidates for Election to the of India	
Third Schedule	Parliament 7. State ministers	
	3. Members of Parliament 8. Candidates for Election to the	
	4. Judges of the Supreme Court State Legislature	
	5. Judges of the High Courts 9. Members of the State Legislature	

Fourth Schedule	Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to the States and the Union Territories.
Fifth Schedule	Provisions relating to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and
	Scheduled Tribes.
Sixth Schedule	Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam,
	Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
Seventh Schedule	Division of powers between the Union and the States in terms of List I (Union
	List), List II (State List) and List III (Concurrent List).
	> Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97)
	> State List contains 61 subjects (originally 66)
	> Concurrent List contains 52 subjects (originally 47)

Union List	State List	Concurrent List	Residuary Powers
Union legislation alone can make laws on these matters. Defense Atomic Energy Foreign Affairs War & Peace Banking Railways Post & Telegraph Airways Ports Foreign Trade Currency & Coinage Citizenship Standards of weight and measure	State legislature has exclusive power to make laws on Agriculture Police Prison Local Government Public Health Land Liquor Trade & Commerce Livestock & Animal Husbandry State Public Services Betting & Gambling Election of the	Both Union & State can make laws on these matters ☑ Education ☑ Transfer of Property other than Agricultural land ☑ Forests ☑ Trade Unions ☑ Adoption & Succession ☑ Criminal Law ☑ Electricity ☑ Archaeological Sites ☑ Marriage & Divorce	✓ Article 248 ✓ Include all matters not mentioned in any of the lists ✓ Union legislature alone has the power to legislate on such matters ✓ It includes power to levy residuary taxes ✓ Computer Software ✓ Space Technology ✓ Information Technology ✓ E-commerce

	Languages recognized by the Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but
	presently there are 22 languages. They are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri
	(Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili),
	Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi,
	Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.
Eighth Schedule	> Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967;
	> Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali by the 71st Amendment Act, 1992;
	> Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali by the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.
	NOTE - There are demands for inclusion of several more languages in the
	Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. These are Mizo (Lushai), Chhattisgarhi,
	Bhojpuri, Pahari (Himachali), Tulu, Rajasthani, Bhotia, Nagpuri, Nagpuri etc.

Ninth Schedule	Acts and Regulations of the state legislatures dealing with land reforms and abolition of the zamindari system and of the Parliament dealing with other matters. > Added by the 1st AA (1951) to protect the laws included in it from judicial scrutiny on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights. > However, in 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that the laws included in this schedule after April 24, 1973, are now open to Judicial Review.
Tenth Schedule	Provisions relating to disqualification of the members of Parliament and State Legislatures on the ground of defection. > Added by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985, also known as Anti-defection Law.
Eleventh Schedule	Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats. It has 29 matters. > Added by the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992.
Twelfth Schedule	Specifies the powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities. It has 18 matters. > Added by the 74th Amendment Act of 1992.