



STATIC GK COMPENDIUM · UPSC PRELIMS

Static GK Compendium

Complete reference for UPSC Prelims — 28 chapters covering Polity, History, Geography, Awards, Science & Environment. All facts verified to 2 April 2026.

28 CHAPTERS · ALL GS PAPERS · UPSC PRELIMS 2025-26



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How to Use This Compendium

WHAT THIS IS

A single-file reference covering all major **Static GK** topics tested in UPSC Prelims — constitutional facts, historical firsts, geographical data, awards, science & environment. Every figure is verified against official sources as of 2 April 2026.

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HOW EACH CHAPTER IS STRUCTURED

- Fact tables** — Oxford booktabs style; scan vertically to compare entries, horizontally for full details.
- Key Firsts & Records** — highest-frequency UPSC question type; memorise these before anything else.
- Exam Traps** — the last section of every chapter, on a distinct grey page. This is the cheat-sheet. Read it once before every mock test. 30 minutes through all 28 chapters on revision day.

SUGGESTED 7-DAY REVISION PLAN

DAY	FOCUS AREA	CHAPTERS TO COVER
1-2	Polity Core	Constitutional Provisions · Schedules · Presidents · Prime Ministers · Lok Sabha Speakers · Chief Justices
3	Governance	Constitutional & Statutory Bodies · Committees & Commissions · Five Year Plans & NITI Aayog · Viceroys & Governors-General
4	India Facts	National Symbols · States & Capitals · Geographical Facts · India's Firsts · Rivers of India
5	Awards & Culture	Bharat Ratna · Padma Awards · Gallantry Awards · Classical Languages · Classical Dance Forms · Important Days
6	Science & World	ISRO & Space Missions · Nuclear Programme · Major Ports · UNESCO Heritage Sites · Protected Areas · International Organisations
7	Full Revision	Read only the Exam Traps page of every chapter. 30 minutes total. Highest ROI revision session.

VISUAL LEGEND



Grey page — Exam Traps cheat-sheet (last section of every chapter). Print or screenshot this page for quick revision.



Shaded table row — alternating row in a standard fact table; no special significance.



Boxed note (left-border box) — additional context or clarification; not always directly examinable.

Contents

POLITY & CONSTITUTION

- 1 [Constitutional Provisions](#) GS2
- 2 [Schedules of the Constitution](#) GS2
- 3 [Constitutional & Statutory Bodies](#) GS2
- 4 [Committees & Commissions](#) GS2
- 5 [Five Year Plans & NITI Aayog](#) GS3
- 6 [Presidents of India](#) GS2
- 7 [Prime Ministers of India](#) GS2
- 8 [Lok Sabha Speakers](#) GS2
- 9 [Chief Justices of India](#) GS2

HISTORY & GOVERNANCE

- 10 [Viceroys & Governors-General](#) GS1

INDIA — FACTS & IDENTITY

- 11 [Rivers of India](#) GS1 GS3
- 12 [Bharat Ratna](#) GS1
- 13 [Padma Awards](#) GS1
- 14 [National Symbols](#) GS1
- 15 [States & Capitals](#) GS1
- 16 [Geographical Facts](#) GS1
- 17 [India's Firsts](#) GS1 GS2

18 [International Organisations](#) GS2

19 [Gallantry Awards](#) GS3

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

20 [Classical Languages](#) GS1

21 [Scheduled Languages \(8th Schedule\)](#) GS1

22 [Important Days](#) GS1

23 [Classical Dance Forms](#) GS1

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

24 [ISRO & Space Missions](#) GS3

25 [Nuclear Programme](#) GS3

ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE

26 [Major Ports of India](#) GS3

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

27 [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) GS1

28 [Protected Areas](#) GS3

GS Paper Index

Chapters grouped by their primary GS paper — use this to plan paper-specific revision sessions.
Chapters appearing under multiple papers are cross-listed.

GENERAL STUDIES I · HISTORY, CULTURE, SOCIETY, GEOGRAPHY

- Viceroy & Governors-General
- Rivers of India
- Bharat Ratna
- Padma Awards
- National Symbols
- States & Capitals
- Geographical Facts
- India's Firsts
- Classical Languages
- Scheduled Languages (8th Schedule)
- Important Days
- Classical Dance Forms
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites

GENERAL STUDIES II · POLITY, CONSTITUTION, GOVERNANCE, IR

- Constitutional Provisions
- Schedules of the Constitution
- Constitutional & Statutory Bodies
- Committees & Commissions
- Presidents of India
- Prime Ministers of India
- Lok Sabha Speakers
- Chief Justices of India
- India's Firsts
- International Organisations

GENERAL STUDIES III · ECONOMY, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT

- Five Year Plans & NITI Aayog
- Rivers of India
- Gallantry Awards
- ISRO & Space Missions
- Nuclear Programme
- Major Ports of India
- Protected Areas

Constitutional Provisions

STATIC GK · POLITY & CONSTITUTION · 2 APRIL 2026

How to use this page: The Constitution has **448 articles** (as amended) in 25 Parts and 12 Schedules. UPSC Prelims tests ~60–80 key articles repeatedly. This cheat sheet covers the highest-frequency articles — learn the article number, the subject, and the exam-critical note column.

□ Parts of the Constitution — Overview

PART	SUBJECT	ARTICLES	KEY NOTE
I	The Union and its Territory	1–4	Art 3: Parliament (not states) can form new states, alter boundaries. Requires President's recommendation.
II	Citizenship	5–11	Parliament has exclusive power to legislate on citizenship (Art 11). Citizenship Act 1955 governs it.
III	Fundamental Rights	12–35	6 Fundamental Rights. Originally 7 — Right to Property (Art 31) removed by 44th Amendment 1978, moved to Art 300A as legal right.
IV	Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)	36–51	Non-justiciable but fundamental to governance (Art 37). Borrowed from Irish Constitution.
IVA	Fundamental Duties	51A	Added by 42nd Amendment 1976 (10 duties). 11th duty added by 86th Amendment 2002. Borrowed from USSR Constitution.
V	The Union (President, Parliament, SC, CAG)	52–151	Chapter I: Executive (52–78), Chapter II: Parliament (79–122), Chapter III: Leg. powers of President (123), Chapter IV: Union Judiciary (124–147), Chapter V: CAG (148–151).
VI	The States	152–237	Chapter I: General, Chapter II: Executive (Governor, CM, AG), Chapter III: State Legislature, Chapter V: HCs, Chapter VI: Subordinate Courts.
VII	Abolished	—	Part VII (States in Part B of 1st Schedule) abolished by 7th Amendment 1956.
VIII	Union Territories	239–242	Art 239AA: Special provisions for Delhi (NCT). Art 239AB: Failure of constitutional machinery in UT.
IX	The Panchayats	243–243O	Added by 73rd Amendment 1992. 3-tier Panchayati Raj system. Art 243D: Reservation for SC/ST/women (1/3 minimum for women).
IXA	The Municipalities	243P–243ZG	Added by 74th Amendment 1992. 18 functions (12th Schedule). Art 243T: 1/3 seats reserved for women.
IXB	Co-operative Societies	243ZH–243ZT	Added by 97th Amendment 2011. Struck down in part by Supreme Court (2021) — Part III (state co-ops) void; Part II (multi-state) valid.
X	Scheduled and Tribal Areas	244–244A	Art 244(1): 5th Schedule — Scheduled Areas. Art 244(2): 6th Schedule — Tribal Areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.
XI	Relations between Union and States	245–263	Art 246: 3 lists (Union, State, Concurrent). Art 248: Residuary powers with Parliament. Art 263: Inter-State Council.
XII	Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits	264–300A	Art 280: Finance Commission. Art 300A: Right to Property (legal right). Art 279A: GST Council (101st Amendment 2016).
XIII	Trade, Commerce and Intercourse	301–307	Art 301: Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse. Parliament and States can impose reasonable restrictions.

PART	SUBJECT	ARTICLES	KEY NOTE
XIV	Services under Union and States	308–323	Art 312: Parliament can create All India Services by Rajya Sabha resolution (Special Majority). Art 315–323: UPSC and SPSCs.
XIVA	Tribunals	323A–323B	Added by 42nd Amendment 1976. Art 323A: Administrative Tribunals (CAT). Art 323B: Other tribunals (tax, industrial disputes).
XV	Elections	324–329A	Art 324: Election Commission. Art 326: Universal Adult Franchise. Art 329: Bar on courts in electoral matters (except SC/HC Election Petitions).
XVI	Special Provisions for Certain Classes	330–342A	Art 338: NCSC. Art 338A: NCST (89th Amendment 2003). Art 338B: NCBC (102nd Amendment 2018). Art 330/332: Reservation in Parliament/Assemblies (extended every 10 years).
XVII	Official Language	343–351	Art 343: Hindi in Devanagari = Official Language of Union (NOT national language). Art 351: Directive to develop Hindi.
XVIII	Emergency Provisions	352–360	Art 352: National Emergency. Art 356: President's Rule. Art 360: Financial Emergency. None declared since 1977 (National), 1977 (State), never (Financial).
XIX	Miscellaneous	361–367	Art 368: Power to amend Constitution (in Part XX). Art 366: Definitions. Art 370: Special status of J&K — abrogated 5 August 2019 by Presidential Order.
XX	Amendment of Constitution	368	Art 368: Three methods of amendment — Simple majority, Special majority, Special majority + ratification by half states.
XXI	Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions	369–392	Art 370 was here (abrogated 2019). Art 371–371J: Special provisions for specific states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, AP, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal, Goa, Karnataka).
XXII	Short title, commencement, Hindi text, repeals	393–395	Art 393: Short title — "The Constitution of India". Art 394: Commencement — 26 January 1950. Art 395: Indian Independence Act 1947 and Government of India Act 1935 repealed.

□ Part III — Fundamental Rights (Articles 12–35)

6 Fundamental Rights: Right to Equality (14–18) · Right to Freedom (19–22) · Right against Exploitation (23–24) · Right to Freedom of Religion (25–28) · Cultural & Educational Rights (29–30) · Right to Constitutional Remedies (32). **Note:** Right to Property was Art 31 — removed as FR by 44th Amendment 1978 and moved to Art 300A as a constitutional (but not fundamental) right.

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	EXAM-CRITICAL NOTE
12	Definition of "State"	Includes Parliament + State Legislatures + all local or other authorities. Fundamental Rights are enforceable against the "State" as defined here.
13	Laws inconsistent with FRs are void	Basis of Judicial Review in India. Pre-constitutional laws (Art 13(1)) and post-constitutional laws (Art 13(2)) covered.
14	Equality before law	"Equality before law" (negative concept; from English law) + "Equal protection of laws" (positive concept; from US Constitution). Available to all persons, including foreign nationals.
15	Prohibition of discrimination	On grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Art 15(3): Special provisions for women and children. Art 15(4): Backward classes (added by 1st Amendment 1951). Art 15(5): Educationally backward (93rd Amendment 2005). Art 15(6): EWS 10% (103rd Amendment 2019).
16	Equality of opportunity in public employment	Art 16(4): Reservation for backward classes in posts. Art 16(4A): Reservation in promotion for SC/ST. Art 16(4B): Carry-forward of unfilled vacancies. Art 16(6): EWS 10% reservation (103rd Amendment 2019).
17	Abolition of Untouchability	Absolute right — no reasonable restrictions. Enforcement: Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989.
18	Abolition of titles	State shall not confer titles. Exception: Military and academic distinctions. Bharat Ratna etc. are NOT titles — SC upheld in Balaji Raghavan case (1996).
19	Six freedoms	(a) Speech & expression (b) Peaceful assembly (c) Association (d) Free movement (e) Residence (f) Profession. Originally 7 freedoms — (g) Property removed by 44th Amendment 1978. Only for CITIZENS.
20	Protection against conviction	3 protections: (1) No ex post facto law (2) No double jeopardy (3) No self-incrimination. Cannot be suspended even during Emergency (along with Art 21).
21	Right to life and personal liberty	"No person" — available to non-citizens too. Expanded by Maneka Gandhi case (1978) — procedure must be fair, just, reasonable. Includes right to privacy (Puttaswamy judgment 2017).
21A	Right to Education	Added by 86th Amendment 2002. Free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14. Implemented by Right to Education Act 2009.
22	Protection against arrest and detention	Grounds of arrest must be communicated. Right to consult legal practitioner. Produced before magistrate within 24 hours. Art 22(3–7): Preventive detention (DPSP applies — no time limit if Parliament specifies; max 3 months otherwise).
23	Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour	Begar (forced labour), human trafficking prohibited. Enforcement: Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Bonded Labour System Abolition Act 1976.
24	Prohibition of child labour	No child below 14 years in factories, mines, or hazardous employment. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act 2016 amended to extend to below 14 in all employment and below 18 in hazardous industries.

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	EXAM-CRITICAL NOTE
25	Freedom of conscience and religion	Subject to public order, morality, health. State can regulate secular activities associated with religion. Includes right to propagate religion.
26	Freedom to manage religious affairs	Every religious denomination can manage own religious affairs, establish institutions, own property. Subject to public order, morality, health.
28	Freedom from religious instruction in State institutions	No religious instruction in wholly State-funded educational institutions. Partially State-funded or trust-established institutions may provide voluntary religious instruction.
29	Protection of interests of minorities	Any section of citizens with distinct language, script, or culture can conserve it. Admission to State-funded educational institutions cannot be denied on grounds of religion, race, caste, language.
30	Right of minorities to establish educational institutions	Religious and linguistic minorities can establish and administer educational institutions. State cannot discriminate in granting aid (Art 30(2)).
32	Right to Constitutional Remedies	Dr. Ambedkar: "Heart and soul of the Constitution." 5 writs: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, Quo Warranto. Cannot be suspended except during National Emergency.
33	Modification of FRs for armed forces	Parliament can restrict FRs of armed forces, police, intelligence personnel by law.
34	Restriction of FRs during Martial Law	Parliament can indemnify acts done during Martial Law.
35	Legislation to give effect to Part III	Only Parliament (not State Legislatures) can make laws to implement Arts 16(3), 32(3), 33, 34.

□ Part IV — Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36–51)

DPSPs are non-justiciable — cannot be enforced by courts (Art 37). But Art 37 says they are "fundamental in the governance of the country." Borrowed from the Irish Constitution. Three categories: Socialistic, Gandhian, Liberal-Intellectual.

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	CATEGORY & KEY NOTE
38	State to secure a social order; reduce inequalities	Socialistic. Art 38(2) added by 44th Amendment 1978 — specifically to minimise inequalities in income, status, facilities.
39	Certain policy principles	Socialistic. Includes equal pay for equal work [Art 39(d)]; no concentration of wealth [Art 39(c)]; ownership/control of material resources for common good [Art 39(b)]. Art 39(b)&(c) protected under Art 31C (42nd Amendment).
39A	Equal justice and free legal aid	Socialistic. Added by 42nd Amendment 1976. Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 implements this.
40	Organisation of village panchayats	Gandhian. Led to 73rd Amendment 1992 (Part IX of Constitution).
41	Right to work, education and public assistance	Socialistic. "Within the limits of economic capacity." MGNREGS 2005 is seen as partial implementation.
43	Living wage for workers	Gandhian. Cottage industries. Art 43A (added 42nd Amendment): Worker participation in management of industries.
44	Uniform Civil Code (UCC)	Liberal-Intellectual. "State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a UCC throughout the territory of India." Frequently cited in SC judgments (Shah Bano 1985, Sarla Mudgal 1995).
45	Early childhood care and education	Originally: Free and compulsory education up to 14 years — this was shifted to Art 21A (Fundamental Right) by 86th Amendment 2002. Art 45 now provides for early childhood care for children below 6 years.
46	Promotion of educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, OBCs	Gandhian. State to protect SCs/STs from social injustice and exploitation.
47	Duty to raise nutrition and standard of living; prohibition of intoxicating drinks	Gandhian. State shall prohibit consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health (basis of Prohibition laws in states).
48	Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry	Gandhian. Includes prohibition of cow slaughter — basis of State laws on cow protection.
48A	Protection and improvement of environment	Added by 42nd Amendment 1976. Often read with Art 21 by SC to include right to clean environment as part of right to life.
49	Protection of monuments and places of national importance	Liberal-Intellectual. Implemented by Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.
50	Separation of Judiciary from Executive	Liberal-Intellectual. Implemented in states gradually; fully separated in most states by the 1970s.
51	Promotion of international peace and security	Liberal-Intellectual. Includes respect for international law and treaty obligations. Basis for India's foreign policy principles.

□ Part IVA — Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)

Source: Borrowed from the USSR Constitution. Added by 42nd Amendment 1976 on the recommendation of **Swaran Singh Committee**. Originally 10 duties — 11th duty added by 86th Amendment 2002 (duty of parents/guardians to ensure education for children aged 6–14). Not justiciable but courts can take note of them.

#	FUNDAMENTAL DUTY	KEY NOTE
1	Abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals, institutions, National Flag and National Anthem.	Art 51A(a). Basis for the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act 1971.
2	Cherish and follow the noble ideals of the national struggle for freedom.	Art 51A(b).
3	Uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.	Art 51A(c).
4	Defend the country and render national service when called upon.	Art 51A(d).
5	Promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood; renounce practices derogatory to women.	Art 51A(e).
6	Value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture.	Art 51A(f).
7	Protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife; have compassion for living creatures.	Art 51A(g). Read with Art 48A (DPSP) and Art 21 — foundation of environmental jurisprudence.
8	Develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.	Art 51A(h).
9	Safeguard public property and abjure violence.	Art 51A(i).
10	Strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity.	Art 51A(j).
11	Every parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education of the child aged 6–14 years.	Art 51A(k). Added by 86th Amendment 2002 — same amendment that added Art 21A (Right to Education as FR).

Part V — Union Executive & Parliament (Key Articles)

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	EXAM-CRITICAL NOTE
52	The President of India	India has a President (not a Prime Minister) as the formal head — constitutional head. Executive power of Union vested in President (Art 53).
54	Election of President	Elected by Electoral College: elected members of both Houses of Parliament + elected members of State Legislative Assemblies + elected members of UTs with Legislatures (Delhi, Puducherry, J&K). Not MLCs.
56	Term of President	5 years. Can resign to Vice-President. Can be removed by impeachment (Art 61).
58	Qualifications for President	Citizen of India · At least 35 years of age · Qualified to be a member of Lok Sabha · Not hold any office of profit.
60	Oath of President	Oath administered by Chief Justice of India (or senior-most SC judge in CJI's absence).
61	Impeachment of President	By either House for "violation of Constitution." 14 days notice; 2/3 majority of total membership of initiating House; then 2/3 majority of other House. Only constitutional process requiring absolute majority of TOTAL membership.
63	Vice-President of India	Art 64: Ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Art 65: Acts as President during vacancy/absence. Art 66: Elected by members of both Houses in joint sitting (unlike President — no state legislators).
72	Pardoning powers of President	Pardon · Reprieve · Respite · Remission · Commutation. Includes cases of death sentence and court-martial. Governor's pardoning power (Art 161) does NOT extend to death sentences or court-martial cases — key difference.
74	Council of Ministers (CoM) to aid and advise President	44th Amendment 1978: President may ask CoM to reconsider once, but is bound by reconsidered advice. PM is head of CoM.
76	Attorney General of India	Appointed by President. Qualifications = SC judge qualifications. Right of audience in all courts in India. Not a member of Cabinet; not government employee — gets fees, not salary.
79	Constitution of Parliament	Parliament = President + Rajya Sabha + Lok Sabha.
80	Composition of Rajya Sabha	Maximum 250 members (238 elected + 12 nominated by President for Arts, Science, Literature, Social Service). Current strength: 245. Permanent body — 1/3 retire every 2 years. Members serve 6-year terms.
81	Composition of Lok Sabha	Maximum 552 (530 states + 20 UTs + 2 nominated Anglo-Indians — Art 331 removed by 104th Amendment 2020; now 543 seats max). Current: 543 elected. Dissolved after 5 years or earlier. No elections if National Emergency in force (extension by Parliament by 1 year at a time).
93	Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha	Elected by Lok Sabha members. Speaker can be removed by effective majority (majority of all members) of LS with 14 days notice. Speaker remains in office until first sitting of new LS (unlike RS Chairman who continues).

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	EXAM-CRITICAL NOTE
108	Joint sitting of both Houses	Called by President on certain deadlocked Bills. Presided over by Lok Sabha Speaker. NOT applicable for Money Bills, Constitution Amendment Bills, or Financial Bills under Art 117(1). Three instances: Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, Banking Service Commission Repeal Act 1978, POTA 2002.
109	Money Bills — special procedure	Can originate only in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha can only return with recommendations (not binding); must do so within 14 days. If RS doesn't return in 14 days, deemed passed. Speaker certifies a Bill as Money Bill (final, cannot be questioned in court).
110	Definition of Money Bills	Only covers 7 matters: imposition/abolition/remission/alteration/regulation of taxes; borrowing; Consolidated Fund/Contingency Fund; appropriation; declaring expenditure charged; receipt of money; incidental matters. Anything else = Financial Bill (not Money Bill).
112	Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget)	Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure for the financial year (1 April – 31 March). Presented by Finance Minister in Parliament.
123	President's Ordinance-making power	Only when Parliament is not in session. Must be laid before Parliament when it reassembles. Ceases to operate after 6 weeks of reassembly, or earlier if disapproved. Life = 6 months + 6 weeks maximum.
124	Supreme Court — Establishment and Composition	CJI + up to 33 other judges (maximum 34 total). Judges appointed by President in consultation with collegium. Tenure: until 65 years of age.
129	SC as Court of Record	Judgments of SC are binding on all courts (Art 141). SC has power to punish for contempt of itself.
131	Original Jurisdiction of SC	Disputes between Union and State(s), or between States — EXCLUSIVE jurisdiction. Citizens cannot directly approach SC under Art 131.
136	Special Leave Petition (SLP)	SC may, in its discretion, grant special leave to appeal from any court or tribunal in India (not just HCs). Art 136 — source of SC's broad appellate power.
141	Law declared by SC is binding	Binding on all courts within India. Even HC judgments must follow SC precedents. Ratio decidendi is binding; obiter dicta is persuasive.
142	SC's extraordinary decree power	SC may pass such decree or order as is necessary for doing complete justice. Frequently used in landmark cases (Bhopal gas settlement, Taj Trapezium zone, etc.).
143	Advisory Jurisdiction of SC	President may refer matters of public importance to SC for advisory opinion. SC may refuse to give opinion. Opinion is NOT binding on President.
148	Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)	Appointed by President. Term: 6 years or 65 years (whichever earlier). Cannot be reappointed. Removal same as SC judge (Art 124(4)). Reports submitted to President/Governor who lay them before Parliament/Legislature.

Part VI — State Executive & Legislature (Key Articles)

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	EXAM-CRITICAL NOTE
153	Governor of States	Every State shall have a Governor. Art 154: Executive power vested in Governor. Art 155: Appointed by President (not elected). Art 156: Holds office at pleasure of President — no security of tenure like SC judges.
157	Qualifications for Governor	Citizen of India. At least 35 years of age. Not a member of legislature. Not hold any office of profit. Simpler qualifications than President — no minimum Lok Sabha membership qualification required.
161	Pardoning power of Governor	Can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, commute sentences. Does NOT cover death sentences or court-martial sentences — these are exclusive to President (Art 72). Key exam distinction.
163	Council of Ministers to aid Governor	Governor acts on CoM advice except in matters where Constitution requires him to exercise discretion. Key discretionary powers: sending reports to President under Art 356, reserving Bills for President's assent (Art 200), appointing CM when hung assembly.
165	Advocate General of State	Appointed by Governor. Equivalent of AG at state level. Has right of audience in all courts in the state.
169	Abolition or creation of Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad)	By Parliament on resolution of State Legislative Assembly passed by Special Majority (not State's own amendment). Currently 6 states have Legislative Councils: UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.
200	Assent to Bills by Governor	Governor may assent, withhold assent, return Bill (if not a Money Bill), or reserve for President's consideration. If reserved, President may assent, withhold, or direct Governor to return to Legislature.
213	Governor's Ordinance-making power	Same conditions as President (Art 123) but for State — only when State Legislature is not in session. Cannot make Ordinance on subjects in Union List without President's instructions.
214	High Courts for States	Art 216: HC constitution (CJ + other judges). Art 217: Judges appointed by President after consultation with CJI + Governor + HC Chief Justice. Tenure: 62 years (unlike SC: 65).
226	HC's power to issue writs	HC can issue writs for enforcement of FRs AND for any other purpose (broader than SC's Art 32 — only FRs). Key difference: HC = FRs + other legal rights; SC = FRs only under Art 32. But SC also has Art 136 (SLP) and Art 142 powers.
227	HC's superintendence over all courts	HC superintends all courts and tribunals in its jurisdiction. Broader than Art 226 (which is for writs). Administrative and supervisory jurisdiction.

□ Part XVIII — Emergency Provisions (Articles 352–360)

Three types of Emergency: National Emergency (Art 352) · State Emergency / President's Rule (Art 356) · Financial Emergency (Art 360). The 44th Amendment 1978 significantly tightened the National Emergency provisions — key amendment for UPSC.

ARTICLE	TYPE	GROUND	KEY PROVISIONS
352	National Emergency	War · External aggression · Armed rebellion (was "internal disturbance" before 44th Amendment 1978)	<p>Proclaimed by President on written advice of Cabinet (44th Amendment — must be in writing, Cabinet = PM + CoM, not PM alone).</p> <p>Approved by Parliament within 1 month by Special Majority (2/3 of members present and voting + majority of total membership of each House).</p> <p>Duration: 6 months renewable by same special majority. No time limit overall.</p> <p>Revocation: By President on its own or on resolution by Lok Sabha by simple majority.</p> <p>Effect: Centre can legislate on State List; State Executives directed by Centre; Art 19 suspended (Art 358); other FRs may be suspended by President's Order (Art 359 — not Art 20 and 21).</p>
353	Effect of National Emergency	—	Parliament's legislative power extends to State List. Executive power of Centre extends to States. Art 19 freedoms automatically suspended if Emergency due to war/external aggression.
355	Duty of Union	—	Union's duty to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that every State Government is carried on in accordance with the Constitution. Basis for Art 356 imposition.
356	President's Rule (State Emergency)	Failure of constitutional machinery in a State (Governor's report or otherwise)	<p>Approved by Parliament within 2 months by simple majority (unlike Art 352).</p> <p>Duration: 6 months initially. Extended up to 3 years total (6 months each, with Parliament approval; beyond 1 year requires National Emergency or EC certification of difficulty in holding elections in State).</p> <p>During President's Rule: Governor administers; State Legislature dissolved or suspended; Parliament legislates for State.</p> <p>SC Review: After S.R. Bommai case (1994), SC held President's Rule is subject to judicial review.</p>
360	Financial Emergency	Threat to financial stability or credit of India or any part thereof	<p>Approved by Parliament within 2 months by simple majority.</p> <p>Duration: Indefinite (no maximum) — continues until revoked.</p> <p>Effect: Centre can direct States on financial matters; salaries of all government employees (including SC/HC judges) can be reduced; State Money Bills sent to President for assent.</p> <p>Never been proclaimed in India's history.</p>

Comparison: Three Types of Emergency

FEATURE	NATIONAL EMERGENCY (352)	PRESIDENT'S RULE (356)	FINANCIAL EMERGENCY (360)
Approval in Parliament	Special Majority (2/3 + majority of total)	Simple Majority	Simple Majority
Approval deadline	1 month	2 months	2 months
Initial duration	6 months	6 months	Indefinite
Maximum duration	No limit (renewed every 6 months)	3 years (special conditions beyond 1 year)	No limit
Art 19 suspended?	Yes (automatically if war/external aggression)	No	No
Lok Sabha can revoke?	Yes — simple majority resolution	Yes — simple majority	Yes — simple majority
Times invoked	3 times (1962, 1971, 1975)	Over 100 times (various states)	Never

□ Key Constitutional Amendments — Cheat Sheet

AMENDMENT	YEAR	KEY CHANGES
1st	1951	Added Arts 15(4), 19(6); 9th Schedule (judicial review-proof laws); First PM Nehru's government — needed to protect land reform laws from FR challenges.
7th	1956	Reorganisation of States on linguistic basis; abolished Part B states; uniform HC for multiple states allowed.
10th	1961	Merger of Dadra and Nagar Haveli into Indian Union.
12th	1962	Merger of Goa, Daman and Diu into India.
13th	1962	Incorporated Nagaland as a State (16th State) with special provisions (Art 371A).
14th	1962	Merger of Pondicherry (Puducherry) into India.
21st	1967	Added Sindhi to 8th Schedule (15th language).
24th	1971	Parliament's power to amend ANY part of Constitution (including FRs). Passed after SC's Golaknath case (1967) ruling.
25th	1971	Art 31C: Laws giving effect to Art 39(b)(c) cannot be challenged as violating Art 14, 19.
26th	1971	Abolished privy purses and privileges of former rulers of princely states.
36th	1975	Sikkim became 22nd State of India (Art 371F).
42nd	1976	"Mini-Constitution." Added: DPSP (Arts 39A, 43A, 48A); Fundamental Duties (Art 51A); Preamble words "Socialist, Secular, Integrity"; Parts XIVA (Tribunals); made Parliament supreme over courts; 10-point FD list.
44th	1978	Reversed several 42nd Amendment changes; removed Right to Property from FRs (now Art 300A); "armed rebellion" replaced "internal disturbance" in Art 352; Cabinet must give written advice to President for Emergency; Art 20 and 21 cannot be suspended even during Emergency.
52nd	1985	Anti-defection law — 10th Schedule added. Speaker/Chairman is the authority; SC held in Kihoto Hollohan case (1992) that Speaker's order is subject to judicial review.
61st	1988	Reduced voting age from 21 to 18 years (Art 326).
69th	1991	Delhi given special status as NCT; Legislative Assembly and Council of Ministers (Art 239AA).
71st	1992	Added Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei), Nepali to 8th Schedule (18 languages).
73rd	1992	Constitutional status to Panchayati Raj — Part IX added (Arts 243–243O). 11th Schedule: 29 functions. 3-tier structure. Art 243D: 1/3 seats for women. State Election Commission (SEC) for Panchayat elections.
74th	1992	Constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies — Part IXA added (Arts 243P–243ZG). 12th Schedule: 18 functions. Art 243T: 1/3 seats for women. Ward Committees in cities over 3 lakh population.
76th	1994	Tamil Nadu's 69% reservation included in 9th Schedule (exceeded 50% Indra Sawhney limit).

AMENDMENT	YEAR	KEY CHANGES
86th	2002	Art 21A: Right to Education as Fundamental Right (6–14 years). Art 45 (DPSP): Early childhood care below 6 years. Art 51A(k): 11th Fundamental Duty — parents to ensure child's education. Implemented by RTE Act 2009.
89th	2003	Split National Commission for SC/ST into NCSC (Art 338) and NCST (Art 338A).
91st	2003	Council of Ministers (CoM) capped at 15% of total strength of Lok Sabha/State Assembly (minimum 12). Art 75(1A), 164(1A). Anti-defection law tightened — individual defections disallowed (only merger of at least 2/3 of party).
92nd	2003	Added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali to 8th Schedule (22 languages — current total).
93rd	2005	Art 15(5): Reservation for OBCs in private unaided educational institutions (for admissions).
97th	2011	Part IXB added — Constitutional status to Co-operative Societies (Arts 243ZH–243ZT). Partly struck down by SC in 2021.
99th	2014	National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) — struck down by SC in 2015 (4:1 majority) as violating basic structure (judicial independence).
100th	2015	Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh — exchange of enclaves.
101st	2016	Goods and Services Tax (GST) — Art 246A (concurrent taxing power), Art 279A (GST Council). One nation, one tax framework.
102nd	2018	National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) granted constitutional status — Art 338B. Art 342A: President to specify SEBCs (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes).
103rd	2019	10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) — Art 15(6) and Art 16(6). Upheld by SC in November 2022 (3:2 majority).
104th	2020	Extended reservation for SC/ST in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by 10 more years (to 2030). Also removed the reserved seats for Anglo-Indians — Art 331 (LS) and Art 333 (State Assemblies) deleted.
105th	2021	Restored States' and UTs' power to make their own OBC lists (restoring position before 102nd Amendment SC interpretation). Art 342A amended to clarify concurrent lists for Centre and States.
106th	2023	Women's Reservation Bill — 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies (Art 330A, 332A). Effective after next delimitation exercise and Census.

□ Other Frequently Tested Articles

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	KEY NOTE
246	Distribution of legislative powers (3 Lists)	Union List (List I): 98 subjects — only Parliament. State List (List II): 59 subjects — normally only States. Concurrent List (List III): 52 subjects — both; Central law prevails in conflict (Art 254). 7th Schedule.
248	Residuary powers	Parliament alone has power to legislate on matters NOT in any list. Important: GST was in residuary list before 101st Amendment.
262	Inter-State water disputes	Parliament can by law exclude SC jurisdiction over inter-state river disputes. Inter-State Water Disputes Act 1956; tribunals constituted (Kaveri, Krishna, Mahadayi, etc.).
263	Inter-State Council	Set up by Presidential Order (1990) on recommendation of Sarkaria Commission. For coordination, investigation, discussion between Centre and States. Not a permanent constitutional body — President creates it by order.
279A	GST Council	Added by 101st Amendment 2016. Chaired by Union Finance Minister. 1/3 vote weightage to Centre; 2/3 to States. Decisions by 3/4 majority. Quorum = 50% of members.
280	Finance Commission	Constituted by President every 5 years (or earlier). 5 members including Chairman. Recommends distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Union and States (vertical devolution) and between States (horizontal). Also recommends grants-in-aid to States.
300A	Right to Property	A person shall not be deprived of his property save by authority of law. A constitutional right (not fundamental right) since 44th Amendment 1978. State can acquire property for public purpose with compensation (no longer under Art 31).
312	All India Services (AIS)	Parliament can create new AIS only if Rajya Sabha passes resolution by Special Majority (2/3 of members present and voting). IAS, IPS, IFoS are current AIS. AIS members serve both Centre and States — recruited by Centre.
315	Public Service Commissions	UPSC for Union; SPSC for each State. Joint SPSC possible. Art 320: Functions of UPSC. Art 322: Expenses charged to Consolidated Fund (independent of annual votes).
324	Election Commission of India (ECI)	Superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, President, Vice-President. Multi-member ECI since 1989 (CEC + 2 Election Commissioners). CEC cannot be removed except like SC judge; other ECs can be removed on CEC's recommendation.
326	Universal Adult Franchise	Elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies on basis of adult suffrage. Voting age reduced from 21 to 18 by 61st Amendment 1988.
338	National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)	Constitutional body. Investigates and monitors safeguards for SCs. Presents report to President. Members: Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 3 members — all appointed by President.
343	Official Language of Union	Hindi in Devanagari script is Official Language. English to be used for official purposes for 15 years after Constitution (1965). Parliament extended use of English indefinitely by Official Languages Act 1963. No "national language" — key UPSC trap.

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	KEY NOTE
368	Amendment of Constitution	Three methods: (1) Simple Majority — some provisions like Art 5, 169, Schedules 1, 4; (2) Special Majority — 2/3 of members present and voting + majority of total membership (most provisions); (3) Special Majority + Ratification by at least half of State Legislatures — Art 54, 55, 73, 162, 241, Part V Chapter IV (SC), 368 itself, 7th Schedule, representation of States in Parliament.
370	Special status of J&K (Abrogated)	Special provisions for J&K. Abrogated on 5 August 2019 by Presidential Order under Art 370(1). J&K bifurcated into UTs of J&K (with Legislature) and Ladakh (without Legislature) on 31 October 2019.

UPSC Prelims strategy for Constitution: Focus on article numbers for Rights (12–35), Emergency (352, 356, 360), President/Parliament comparisons, differences between Governor & President (pardoning power, qualifications, removal), and landmark amendments (42nd, 44th, 73rd, 74th, 86th, 101st). UPSC also tests differences: Money Bill vs Financial Bill (Art 110), joint sitting (Art 108 — only ordinary Bills), and what cannot be suspended during Emergency (Arts 20 and 21).

Schedules of the Constitution

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Original vs Current: The Constitution had **8 Schedules** at commencement (1950). Four more were added by amendments — 9th (1951), 10th (1985), 11th (1992), 12th (1992). The Constitution now has **12 Schedules**. UPSC frequently tests which schedule was added by which amendment.

□ Quick Overview — All 12 Schedules

SCHEDULE	SUBJECT	RELATED ARTICLES	KEY NUMBER / FACT	ADDED BY / NOTE
1st	Names of States and Union Territories; territories of each	Art. 1, 4	28 States + 8 UTs (as of 2026)	Original; amended every time a new state/UT is created or boundaries change
2nd	Salaries, allowances and emoluments of constitutional authorities	Art. 59, 65, 75, 97, 125, 148, 158, 164, 186, 221	Covers President, Governors, Speaker/Deputy Speaker of LS & State Assemblies, SC & HC Judges, CAG — NOT Vice-President	Original; divided into Parts A–D
3rd	Forms of Oaths and Affirmations	Art. 75, 84, 99, 124, 146, 173, 188, 219	8 forms of oaths (Union Ministers, MPs, SC/HC Judges, etc.) — NOT President's oath (that is in Art. 60)	Original
4th	Allocation of seats in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)	Art. 4, 80	Maximum 250 (238 elected + 12 nominated); current strength 245	Original; updated when new states are created
5th	Administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states <i>other than</i> NE states	Art. 244(1)	Applies to 10 states : Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana. NOT applicable to Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura (those are covered by Schedule 6)	Original
6th	Administration of Tribal Areas in North-Eastern states — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)	Art. 244(2), 275(1)	Applies to 4 NE states : Assam (3 ADCs), Meghalaya (3 ADCs), Tripura (1 ADC), Mizoram (3 ADCs) — 10 ADCs total	Original; Nagaland and Manipur are NOT covered (they have separate arrangements)
7th	Three Lists: Union, State, Concurrent (division of legislative powers)	Art. 246	Union List: 99 subjects · State List: 61 subjects · Concurrent List: 52 subjects	Original; 7th Amendment 1956 re-organised states and modified list entries
8th	Languages officially recognised by the Constitution	Art. 344(1), 351	22 languages (added in stages: 14 originally □ 18 by 1967 □ 22 by 2003)	Original with 14; grew to 22 by 92nd Amendment, 2003 (added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santali)

SCHEDULE	SUBJECT	RELATED ARTICLES	KEY NUMBER / FACT	ADDED BY / NOTE
9th	Laws (statutes) saved from judicial review on property/land reform grounds	Art. 31B	284 Acts/Regulations currently listed; post-24 April 1973 inclusions are judicially reviewable (IR Coelho v State of Tamil Nadu, 2007)	Added by 1st Constitutional Amendment, 1951 — originally to protect land reform laws from FR challenges
10th	Anti-Defection Law — disqualification of MPs and MLAs for defection	Art. 102(2), 191(2)	Para 7 (oust jurisdiction of courts) struck down in Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu, 1992 ; merger rule : at least 2/3 of members of original legislature party must agree to merge	Added by 52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985
11th	Powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats (Panchayati Raj)	Art. 243G	29 functional items that may be devolved to Panchayats	Added by 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992 ; came into force 24 April 1993
12th	Powers, authority and responsibilities of Municipalities (Urban Local Bodies)	Art. 243W	18 functional items that may be devolved to Municipalities	Added by 74th Constitutional Amendment, 1992 ; came into force 1 June 1993

☐ Schedules 1–4: State Structure & Institutional Salaries

Schedule 1 — States and Union Territories

Current count: **28 States + 8 Union Territories** (after J&K bifurcation on 31 October 2019 — J&K became a UT with legislature; Ladakh became a UT without legislature). Telangana was added as the 29th state in 2014, then J&K lost state status in 2019, bringing the count back to 28 states.

Schedule 2 — Emoluments (Parts A–D)

PART	COVERS	KEY EXAM TRAP
Part A	President of India & Governors of States	President's salary: ₹5 lakh/month; Governor's salary: ₹3.5 lakh/month (post-2018 revision)
Part B	Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Lok Sabha & State Legislative Assemblies; Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of State Legislative Councils	Rajya Sabha Chairman (VP) is NOT in Schedule 2 — VP's emoluments are governed by the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997, not by the Schedule
Part C	Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts	SC Chief Justice: ₹2.8 lakh/month; other SC Judges: ₹2.5 lakh/month (post-2018 revision via High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2018)
Part D	Comptroller & Auditor General of India	CAG is the only individual (non-judge) authority in Schedule 2 other than President and Governors

Schedule 3 — Oaths and Affirmations

FORM	FOR WHOM
I	Union Ministers (and Deputy Ministers)
II	Candidates for election to Parliament (oath for qualification)
III	Members of Parliament (oath on taking seat)
IV	Judges of the Supreme Court
V	Comptroller & Auditor General
VI	Candidates for election to State Legislature
VII	Members of State Legislatures (oath on taking seat)
VIII	Judges of High Courts

Key trap: The President's oath is prescribed by **Article 60** of the Constitution itself — it is NOT in Schedule 3. Similarly, the Vice-President's oath is in Article 69. Schedule 3 covers ministers, MPs, MLAs, and judges — not the President or VP.

Schedule 4 — Rajya Sabha Seat Allocation

Maximum strength of Rajya Sabha: **250** (238 elected by State Legislatures/UTs + 12 nominated by President for arts, literature, science, social service). Current strength: **245**. After J&K bifurcation, J&K UT gets 4 seats; Ladakh has 0 RS seats (no legislature). Uttar Pradesh has the most RS seats: **31**.

☐ Schedules 5 & 6: Tribal Governance

FEATURE	SCHEDULE 5	SCHEDULE 6
Coverage	Scheduled Areas in mainland India (10 states)	Tribal Areas in 4 NE states
Article	Art. 244(1)	Art. 244(2) & 275(1)
Governance Body	Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) in each state; Governor has special powers to modify/suspend Central laws	Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — legislative, executive & judicial powers
States Covered	AP, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana	Assam (3 ADCs), Meghalaya (3 ADCs), Tripura (1 ADC), Mizoram (3 ADCs)
NOT Covered	Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura (use Sch. 6); also Nagaland, Manipur (separate arrangements)	Nagaland, Manipur (covered by separate statutes/arrangements, not Sch. 6)
PESA Act	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 extends Panchayati Raj to Schedule 5 areas with tribal customary protections	PESA does not apply to Sch. 6 areas

☐ Schedule 7 — Three Legislative Lists

LIST	ENTRIES (CURRENT)	LEGISLATES	CONFLICT RULE
Union List	99 subjects (originally 97; 42nd Amendment raised count)	Only Parliament	Union prevails over State (Art. 246)
State List	61 subjects (originally 66; several entries deleted/transferred over amendments)	Only State Legislature (under normal circumstances)	Parliament can legislate on State List under Art. 249 (RS resolution), 250 (Emergency), 252 (2 or more states request), 253 (international treaty)
Concurrent List	52 subjects (originally 47; 42nd Amendment moved 5 subjects from State to Concurrent)	Both Parliament and State Legislatures	In case of repugnancy: Central law prevails (Art. 254). Exception: State law with Presidential assent prevails in that State (Art. 254(2))

Key entries to remember: Defence, Foreign affairs, Atomic energy ☐ Union List. Public order, Police, Land ☐ State List. Education (moved from State to Concurrent by 42nd Amendment, 1976), Forests, Weights & Measures, Criminal law ☐ Concurrent List. Residuary powers (subjects not in any list) ☐ Parliament (Art. 248).

☐ Schedule 8 — 22 Official Languages

LANGUAGE	SCRIPT	LANGUAGE	SCRIPT
1. Assamese	Assamese (Eastern Nagari)	2. Bengali	Bengali
3. Bodo	Devanagari	4. Dogri	Devanagari
5. Gujarati	Gujarati	6. Hindi	Devanagari
7. Kannada	Kannada	8. Kashmiri	Perso-Arabic (Nastaliq)
9. Konkani	Devanagari	10. Maithili	Devanagari/Mithilakshar
11. Malayalam	Malayalam	12. Manipuri (Meitei)	Meitei Mayek / Bengali
13. Marathi	Devanagari	14. Nepali	Devanagari
15. Odia	Odia	16. Punjabi	Gurmukhi
17. Sanskrit	Devanagari	18. Santali	Ol Chiki
19. Sindhi	Devanagari/Perso-Arabic	20. Tamil	Tamil
21. Telugu	Telugu	22. Urdu	Perso-Arabic (Nastaliq)

4 languages added by 92nd Amendment, 2003 (in bold above): Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santali. Before 2003, there were 18 languages. The earlier additions were: Sindhi (21st Amendment, 1967), Konkani + Manipuri + Nepali (71st Amendment, 1992). **Santali uses Ol Chiki script** — the only Schedule 8 language with a script invented in the modern era (1925, by Pandit Raghunath Murmu). English is NOT in Schedule 8.

☐ Schedules 9 & 10: Judicial Review & Anti-Defection

Schedule 9 — Laws Protected from Judicial Review

ASPECT	DETAIL
Purpose	Added by 1st Amendment (1951) to protect land reform and zamindari abolition laws from being struck down for violating Fundamental Rights (especially Art. 19(1)(f) — right to property, since removed by 44th Amendment)
Number of Acts	284 Acts/Regulations currently listed (grew from 13 in 1951 to 284)
IR Coelho Case, 2007	Supreme Court (9-judge Constitution Bench) held: Acts placed in Schedule 9 <i>before 24 April 1973</i> (Kesavananda Bharati judgment date) cannot be reviewed; Acts added <i>after 24 April 1973</i> CAN be reviewed if they damage or destroy the basic structure of the Constitution. This is the most important Schedule 9 case.
Art. 31B	Enabling article — acts specified in Schedule 9 shall not be deemed void on grounds of contravening Part III (Fundamental Rights)

Schedule 10 — Anti-Defection Law

ASPECT	DETAIL
Added By	52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985 (Rajiv Gandhi government)
Applies To	Members of Parliament (Art. 102(2)) and Members of State Legislatures (Art. 191(2))
Grounds for Disqualification	(1) Voluntarily giving up membership of the political party on whose ticket elected. (2) Voting or abstaining from voting contrary to the directions of the party without prior permission.
Merger Exception	No disqualification if at least 2/3 of the members of the legislature party agree to merge with another party. The original "1/3 split" provision was deleted by the 91st Amendment, 2003 .
Decision-Making Authority	Speaker/Chairman of the House concerned (Para 6). Decision is final but judicially reviewable (after Kihoto Hollohan, 1992)
Kihoto Hollohan v Zachillhu, 1992	SC upheld the validity of the Tenth Schedule but struck down Para 7 (which tried to oust courts' jurisdiction) as unconstitutional — it required ratification by states as it curtailed judicial review, and had not been so ratified. Speaker's decision remains subject to judicial review on grounds of mala fide, perversity, etc.
Elected vs Nominated Members	Nominated members: if they join a political party within 6 months of being nominated, they are disqualified. After 6 months, they cannot join any party.

▢ Schedules 11 & 12: Local Self-Government Functions

FEATURE	SCHEDULE 11 (PANCHAYATS)	SCHEDULE 12 (MUNICIPALITIES)
Added By	73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992	74th Constitutional Amendment, 1992
Came Into Force	24 April 1993	1 June 1993
Related Article	Art. 243G	Art. 243W
Number of Functions	29 functional items	18 functional items
Nature of Devolution	Discretionary — "may" be devolved by State Legislature (Art. 243G uses "may"). States are NOT compelled to transfer all 29 functions. This is why Panchayats remain weak in many states.	Discretionary — similarly "may" be devolved (Art. 243W). Municipalities may or may not have all 18 functions depending on the state.
Key Functions	Agriculture, land improvement, animal husbandry, fisheries, social forestry, primary health, primary education, drinking water, poverty alleviation, public distribution	Urban planning, land use, roads, water supply, public health, slum improvement, urban poverty alleviation, urban forestry, cultural & educational facilities, burial grounds

29 functions of Panchayats (Schedule 11) — for exam recall: Agriculture & land improvement (1) · Minor irrigation & water management (2) · Animal husbandry, dairying & poultry (3) · Fisheries (4) · Social forestry & farm forestry (5) · Minor forest produce (6) · Small-scale industries (7) · Khadi, village & cottage industries (8) · Rural housing (9) · Drinking water (10) · Fuel & fodder (11) · Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways (12) · Rural electrification (13) · Non-conventional energy sources (14) · Poverty alleviation programme (15) · Education (primary & secondary) (16) · Technical training & vocational education (17) · Adult & non-formal education (18) · Libraries (19) · Cultural activities (20) · Markets & fairs (21) · Health & sanitation (22) · Family welfare (23) · Women & child development (24) · Social welfare (25) · Welfare of SC/ST/OBCs (26) · Public distribution system (27) · Maintenance of community assets (28) ·

(Note: some lists enumerate 29 by splitting one category — the exact split varies by source)

□ High-Frequency Exam Traps & MCQ Points

TRAP / MCQ POINT	CORRECT ANSWER
How many schedules did the original Constitution (1950) have?	8 Schedules (9th added 1951, 10th added 1985, 11th and 12th added 1993)
Vice-President's emoluments are in Schedule 2?	No — VP's emoluments governed by VP's Pension Act, 1997 (and prior statutes); NOT in Schedule 2
President's oath is in Schedule 3?	No — President's oath is in Article 60 ; VP's oath in Art. 69; only ministers, MPs, MLAs, SC/HC judges are in Schedule 3
Laws in Schedule 9 are completely immune from judicial review?	No — after IR Coelho (2007), Acts added post-24 April 1973 are reviewable for basic structure violations
Para 7 of Schedule 10 bars judicial review of Speaker's decision?	Struck down in Kihoto Hollohan (1992) — judicial review remains available
Nagaland and Manipur tribal areas are under Schedule 6?	No — Nagaland has Art. 371A protection; Manipur has separate arrangements. Schedule 6 covers only Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
State List originally had how many subjects?	66 originally; now 61 (42nd Amendment shifted Education, Forests, Weights & Measures, Administration of Justice, Protection of Wild Animals from State to Concurrent)
Schedule 11 devolution of 29 functions to Panchayats is mandatory?	No — Art. 243G uses "may", making devolution discretionary. States decide how many functions to transfer.
Santali is written in Devanagari script?	No — Santali uses Ol Chiki script. Only Santali among Schedule 8 languages uses this script.
Anti-defection: a legislator needs what fraction to merge without disqualification?	2/3 of the legislature party must agree. The 1/3 split exception was removed by 91st Amendment, 2003.
Schedule 5 applies to all tribal areas including NE India?	No — Schedule 5 explicitly excludes the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura (Art. 244(1)). Those 4 states are covered by Schedule 6.
How many ADCs are there under Schedule 6?	10 ADCs total : Assam (3), Meghalaya (3), Tripura (1), Mizoram (3)

□ Amendments That Added/Modified Schedules

AMENDMENT	YEAR	SCHEDULE IMPACT
1st Amendment	1951	Added Schedule 9 (land reform laws protected from FR challenges)
7th Amendment	1956	Reorganised states — extensive changes to Schedules 1 & 4
21st Amendment	1967	Added Sindhi to Schedule 8 (15th language at the time)
42nd Amendment	1976	Moved Education, Forests, Weights & Measures, etc. from State List to Concurrent List (Schedule 7); also added 5 new subjects to Schedule 7
52nd Amendment	1985	Added Schedule 10 (Anti-Defection Law)
71st Amendment	1992	Added Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali to Schedule 8 (18 languages)
73rd Amendment	1992	Added Schedule 11 (Panchayats — 29 functions); came into force 24 April 1993
74th Amendment	1992	Added Schedule 12 (Municipalities — 18 functions); came into force 1 June 1993
91st Amendment	2003	Removed 1/3-split exception from Schedule 10 (Anti-Defection) — only 2/3 merger now permitted
92nd Amendment	2003	Added 4 languages to Schedule 8: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santali (total: 22)
100th Amendment	2015	Modified Schedule 1 — exchange of certain territories with Bangladesh (Land Boundary Agreement)

Constitutional & Statutory Bodies

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Constitutional vs Statutory: A **constitutional body** is directly established by the Constitution — it cannot be abolished by ordinary Parliament legislation. A **statutory body** is created by an Act of Parliament — it can be amended or abolished by the same Parliament. UPSC tests this distinction regularly.

□ Constitutional Bodies

BODY	ARTICLE	APPOINTMENT	TENURE / REMOVAL	KEY EXAM FACTS
Election Commission of India (ECI)	Art. 324	By President. Post-2023: on recommendation of a selection committee — PM (Chair) + Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha + a Cabinet Minister nominated by PM.	CEC: Removed same as SC judge — Presidential order on address by both Houses with Special Majority. Other ECs: Removed only on recommendation of the CEC — a deliberate asymmetry to protect CEC's independence.	Multi-member since 16 October 1989 (single-member from 1950 to 15 Oct 1989). Chief Electoral Officers in states are NOT part of ECI. Superintends elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, President and Vice-President.
Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	Art. 315–323	Chairman and members appointed by President.	6 years from appointment OR age 65, whichever is earlier. Removal: President after SC inquiry on proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Chairman of UPSC is ineligible for further employment under Central or any State Govt after leaving office (Art. 319).	Expenses charged to Consolidated Fund (independent of annual votes). Functions: recruitment, promotions, transfer, disciplinary matters for Central services.
State Public Service Commission (SPSC)	Art. 315	Chairman and members appointed by Governor of the State.	6 years from appointment OR age 62 (NOT 65 — key distinction from UPSC), whichever is earlier. Removal: By President (not Governor) — a key exam trap.	Joint State PSC possible for two or more states (Art. 315). President can assign SPSC additional functions. SPSC is independent of UPSC but similar in structure.

BODY	ARTICLE	APPOINTMENT	TENURE / REMOVAL	KEY EXAM FACTS
Finance Commission	Art. 280	Chairman + 4 Members appointed by President. Qualifications prescribed by Parliament under Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.	Constituted every 5 years or earlier. Quasi-judicial in character.	16th Finance Commission: Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya. Award period 2026–27 to 2030–31. Report submitted 2025. Recommends: (1) Distribution of net tax proceeds between Union and States (vertical devolution). (2) Distribution among States (horizontal devolution). (3) Grants-in-aid to States.
Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG)	Art. 148–151	Appointed by President.	6 years from appointment OR age 65, whichever is earlier (set by CAG's DPC Act, 1971). Removal: Same as SC judge — Presidential order on address by both Houses with Special Majority. Cannot be reappointed (Art. 148(4) — express prohibition).	Union accounts: Reports submitted to President [] laid before Parliament. State accounts: Reports submitted to Governor [] laid before State Legislature. Expenses charged to Consolidated Fund. Called "Guardian of the Public Purse."
Attorney General of India	Art. 76	Appointed by President. Must be qualified to be a judge of the Supreme Court.	Holds office during pleasure of the President. No fixed tenure. Not eligible for private legal practice against Government of India.	Receives fees, not salary. Right of audience in all courts in India. Can participate in Parliamentary proceedings but cannot vote. Not a member of the Cabinet and not a government servant.
Advocate General of State	Art. 165	Appointed by Governor. Must be qualified to be a judge of a High Court.	Holds office during pleasure of Governor. Receives fees, not salary.	State-level equivalent of the Attorney General. Has right of audience in all courts within the state.
National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)	Art. 338	Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 3 Members — all appointed by President.	Tenure and removal specified by Parliament by law.	Created as separate body by 89th Constitutional Amendment, 2003 — split from the earlier combined SC+ST Commission. Now covers SCs and Anglo-Indian community. Annual report to President.

BODY	ARTICLE	APPOINTMENT	TENURE / REMOVAL	KEY EXAM FACTS
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)	Art. 338A	Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 3 Members — all appointed by President.	Tenure and removal specified by Parliament by law.	Art. 338A inserted by 89th Constitutional Amendment, 2003 — separated STs from NCSC. Annual report to President, who causes it to be laid before Parliament and sent to concerned State Govts.
National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)	Art. 338B	Chairperson + Vice-Chairperson + 3 Members — appointed by President.	As prescribed by Parliament.	Art. 338B inserted by 102nd Constitutional Amendment, 2018 — elevated NCBC from statutory (under NCBC Act, 1993) to constitutional status. Same amendment inserted Art. 342A (President to specify Central List of SEBCs) and Art. 366(26C).
Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities	Art. 350B	Appointed by President.	As prescribed.	Investigates matters relating to safeguards for linguistic minorities. Reports to President at specified intervals; President causes reports to be laid before Parliament and sent to State Govts. Office established July 1957; headquartered in New Delhi.
Inter-State Council	Art. 263 (enabling provision)	Created by Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990 (on Sarkaria Commission recommendation). Chair: Prime Minister. Members: All CMs + Administrators of UTs + 6 Cabinet Ministers.	Not a permanent constitutional body — set up by Presidential order; can be modified or dissolved by order.	Distinct from NITI Aayog (which is an executive body) and Finance Commission (constitutional body). Discusses subjects of common interest between Union and States. Met infrequently — activation is a recurring UPSC-tested governance issue.

□ Important Statutory Bodies

Statutory bodies are created by Acts of Parliament. They are NOT part of the Constitution — Parliament can amend or abolish them by passing a new Act. However, their independence may still be protected by the parent statute.

BODY	GOVERNING ACT	COMPOSITION	TENURE	KEY EXAM FACTS
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (amended 2019)	Post-2019: Chairperson (retired CJI or retired SC judge) + 1 retired SC judge + 1 retired Chief Justice of HC + 3 Members with human rights expertise (at least 1 woman). Ex-officio: Chairpersons of NCW, NCSC, NCST, NCBC, NCPCR + Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.	3 years from appointment OR age 70 , whichever is earlier. No reappointment.	Key change (2019 Amendment): Original Act restricted Chairperson to retired CJI only — now a retired SC judge also qualifies. Appointment committee: PM + Speaker of LS + Home Minister + Leaders of Opposition in both Houses + Deputy Chairman of RS. Can only recommend — no power to punish.
Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)	CVC Act, 2003	Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) + not more than 2 Vigilance Commissioners.	4 years from appointment OR age 65 , whichever is earlier. No reappointment.	Appointment: President on recommendation of committee — PM + Home Minister + Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha. Removal: Presidential order after SC inquiry (proved misbehaviour/incapacity) OR without SC inquiry for insolvency, paid outside employment, infirmity of mind/body. Oversees vigilance in Central Government offices. Apex body for anti-corruption in Centre.
Central Information Commission (CIC)	Right to Information Act, 2005 (amended 2019)	Chief Information Commissioner + up to 10 Information Commissioners.	3 years (RTI Amendment Act, 2019 changed from the earlier 5-year term). Salary: Fixed by government rules — salary parity with Election Commissioners removed by 2019 amendment.	Appointment: President on recommendation of PM (Chair) + Leader of Opposition in LS + a Cabinet Minister nominated by PM. Hears second appeals and complaints under the RTI Act. Decisions of CIC are binding. Final appellate body under RTI for Central Government information.

BODY	GOVERNING ACT	COMPOSITION	TENURE	KEY EXAM FACTS
Lokpal	Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013	1 Chairperson + maximum 8 Members. At least 50% must be judicial members. At least 50% members from SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women. First Lokpal: Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose (sworn in 23 March 2019).	5 years from appointment OR age 70, whichever is earlier. No reappointment.	Chairperson qualification: retired CJI, retired SC judge, OR eminent person with 25+ years experience in anti-corruption/public administration. Jurisdiction: PM (with safeguards), Union Ministers, MPs, Group A/B/C/D Central Govt employees. PM cannot be investigated for matters relating to international relations, security, public order, atomic energy or space.
National Commission for Women (NCW)	National Commission for Women Act, 1990	Chairperson + 5 Members (at least 1 from SC/ST) + Member Secretary — all appointed by Central Government.	3 years. No reappointment for more than 2 terms.	Statutory body — NOT constitutional. Operational since January 1992. Reviews legislation; takes up cases of violation of women's rights; advises government on policy.
National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)	Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005	Chairperson + 6 Members (at least 2 women) — appointed by Central Government.	3 years. Reappointable but not beyond age 65.	Operational since March 2007. Ensures all laws, policies, and programmes for children align with the child rights perspective of the Constitution and UN CRC. Monitors implementation of RTE Act.
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	SEBI Act, 1992 (came into force 30 January 1992)	Chairman + 9 Members (includes RBI representative + 2 Finance Ministry representatives).	5 years or age 65, whichever is earlier (for Chairman).	Triple function: quasi-legislative (issues regulations) + quasi-judicial (adjudicates disputes) + quasi-executive (investigates, enforces). Body corporate with perpetual succession. Protects investor interests; promotes and regulates securities market. Originally a non-statutory body (1988) — given statutory status in 1992.

BODY	GOVERNING ACT	COMPOSITION	TENURE	KEY EXAM FACTS
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (established 1 April 1935)	Governor + not more than 4 Deputy Governors + Central Board of Directors.	Governor: 3 years (renewable). Appointed by Central Government.	NOT a constitutional body — purely statutory. Functions: monetary policy, currency issuance, banker to govt, regulator of banks and NBFCs, foreign exchange management (FEMA 1999). Nationalised on 1 January 1949.
National Investigation Agency (NIA)	NIA Act, 2008 (set up after 26/11 Mumbai attacks)	Director General (IPS officer) + officers appointed by Central Government.	As prescribed. DG appointed by Central Government.	Federal counter-terrorism agency. Investigates offences under UAPA, Explosive Substances Act, Atomic Energy Act, Arms Act, NDPS, and scheduled offences under NIA Act. Has jurisdiction across India — does not need state permission to investigate.
Competition Commission of India (CCI)	Competition Act, 2002 (became operational 2009)	Chairperson + not less than 2 and not more than 6 Members — appointed by Central Government.	5 years or age 65, whichever is earlier. No reappointment.	Prevents practices having adverse effects on competition; promotes and sustains competition; protects consumer interests. Replaced the MRTP Commission (Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 — repealed 2009). Quasi-judicial body.

□ Important Executive Bodies (Neither Constitutional nor Statutory)

Executive bodies are created by executive order/Cabinet resolution — they have no constitutional or statutory backing. Parliament cannot be held responsible if they are modified or dissolved.

BODY	YEAR	CREATED BY	KEY FACTS
NITI Aayog	2015	Cabinet Resolution (1 January 2015). Replaced Planning Commission (1950).	NOT constitutional, NOT statutory. Think-tank and policy advisory body. Governing Council: PM (Chair) + all CMs + LG of UTs. No power to allocate funds (unlike Planning Commission).
Planning Commission	1950–2014	Cabinet Resolution (15 March 1950). Abolished 13 August 2014.	Also NOT constitutional or statutory. Formulated Five Year Plans (1951–2017; 12th Plan was the last). Replaced by NITI Aayog. A Sarkaria/Rajamannar criticism: Planning Commission was seen as instrument of centralisation.
National Security Council (NSC)	1998	Cabinet Resolution. Chaired by PM.	Apex body for national security decisions. Strategic Policy Group (SPG), National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) are part of the NSC system. NOT statutory.

□ Quick Comparison — Key Bodies

FEATURE	CAG	CVC	CEC	UPSC CHAIRMAN
Type	Constitutional	Statutory	Constitutional	Constitutional
Article / Act	Art. 148	CVC Act, 2003	Art. 324	Art. 316
Appointed by	President	President	President	President
Tenure	6 yrs or 65	4 yrs or 65	No constitutional tenure	6 yrs or 65
Removal	Like SC judge	President after SC inquiry	Like SC judge	President after SC inquiry
Reappointment	No (Art. 148(4))	No	Not barred	No (Art. 319)
Expenses	Consolidated Fund	Consolidated Fund	Consolidated Fund	Consolidated Fund

FEATURE	NHRC	LOKPAL	CIC	NCW
Type	Statutory	Statutory	Statutory	Statutory
Governing Act	PHR Act, 1993	Lokpal Act, 2013	RTI Act, 2005	NCW Act, 1990
Chair qualification	Retired CJI or SC judge (post-2019)	Retired CJI, SC judge, or eminent person	Eminent person	Eminent woman
Tenure	3 yrs or 70	5 yrs or 70	3 yrs	3 yrs
Reappointment	No	No	Not specified	Max 2 terms

□ High-Yield Distinctions for Prelims

DISTINCTION	CORRECT ANSWER
CEC removal vs other EC removal	CEC removed like SC judge (both Houses, special majority). Other ECs removed only on CEC's recommendation — deliberate asymmetry to protect CEC's independence.
UPSC age vs SPSC age	UPSC members serve until 65 . SPSC members serve until 62 . Tenure (6 years) is same for both.
SPSC removal — who removes?	President removes SPSC members (not the Governor, who appoints them). Classic exam trap.
CAG: can be reappointed?	No — Art. 148(4) expressly prohibits reappointment of CAG under Central or any State Government.
CAG reports — to whom?	Union audit reports □ President (who lays before Parliament). State audit reports □ Governor (who lays before State Legislature).
89th Amendment 2003 — what did it do?	Split the combined SC+ST Commission into two: NCSC (Art. 338) for SCs and NCST (Art. 338A, newly inserted) for STs.
102nd Amendment 2018 — what did it do?	Gave constitutional status to NCBC (Art. 338B). Inserted Art. 342A (President specifies Central List of SEBCs) and Art. 366(26C).
NHRC Chairperson post-2019	Retired CJI or retired SC judge (2019 Amendment expanded beyond retired CJI only).
CIC term post-2019	3 years (RTI Amendment Act, 2019 changed from earlier 5-year term).
First Lokpal of India	Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose — sworn in 23 March 2019.
Finance Commission vs NITI Aayog	Finance Commission is constitutional (Art. 280). NITI Aayog is an executive body (Cabinet resolution, 2015) — neither constitutional nor statutory.
Planning Commission — abolished when?	13 August 2014. Replaced by NITI Aayog from 1 January 2015. Planning Commission itself was NOT constitutional or statutory — created by Cabinet Resolution 1950.
Attorney General — salary or fees?	Fees (not salary). Not a government servant; not a Cabinet member. Can participate in Parliament but cannot vote.
SEBI — when was it given statutory status?	Originally created as a non-statutory body in 1988. Given statutory status via SEBI Act, 1992. Became operational 1992.

Exam strategy: For each body, UPSC tests three types of questions — (1) Is it constitutional or statutory? (2) Who appoints / removes the head? (3) What is unique about this body (reappointment ban, expense from Consolidated Fund, etc.)? Learn at least one "uniqueness" per body. The CEC-vs-EC asymmetry, CAG reappointment ban, SPSC removal by President, and NHRC 2019 amendment are the most frequently trapped.

Committees & Commissions

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How UPSC tests this: Questions typically ask — "Which committee recommended X?", "Who chaired the committee on Y?", or "In which year was commission Z set up?" Focus on the *chairman name*, the *year*, and the *single most important recommendation* from each. Negative-marking traps: confusing Sarkaria (1983) with Punchhi (2007), Balwant Rai Mehta (1957) with Ashok Mehta (1977), Narasimham-I (1991) with Narasimham-II (1998).

▣ Panchayati Raj Committees — Evolution

Sequence to remember: Balwant Rai Mehta (1957) ▣ Ashok Mehta (1977) ▣ GVK Rao (1985) ▣ L.M. Singhvi (1986) ▣ P.K. Thungan (1988) ▣ 73rd Amendment (1992). The 73rd Amendment was the direct outcome of the Singhvi Committee's call for constitutional status for PRIs.

COMMITTEE	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY RECOMMENDATION	OUTCOME
Balwant Rai Mehta Committee	1957	Balwantrai Gopaldas Mehta	Three-tier Panchayati Raj — Gram Panchayat (village) · Panchayat Samiti (block) · Zila Parishad (district). Directly elected at village level; indirect at higher tiers. Planning and development to be entrusted to these bodies.	Rajasthan first to implement (1959). First democratic decentralisation experiment in India.
Ashok Mehta Committee	1977	Ashok Mehta (Janata Government)	Replace three-tier with two-tier system — Zila Parishad + Mandal Panchayat. Political parties should officially participate in PRI elections. PRIs need constitutional recognition. If superseded, elections within 6 months.	Not adopted centrally. Some states (Karnataka, WB, AP) adopted aspects partially.
GVK Rao Committee	1985	G.V.K. Rao (bureaucrat; set up by Planning Commission)	District as primary unit of planning. PRIs should be principal agencies for rural development. Called existing bureaucratisation " grass without roots. " Zila Parishad headed by District Development Commissioner.	Reinforced demand for empowered PRIs.
L.M. Singhvi Committee	1986	Dr. L.M. Singhvi (jurist and MP; appointed by Rajiv Gandhi govt)	PRIs must be constitutionally recognised as the third tier of government . Gram Sabha to be constitutionally recognised. Separate chapter on PRIs in the Constitution. Panchayati Raj Judicial Tribunals in each state.	Directly led to 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992. Most important committee in PRI history.
P.K. Thungan Committee	1988	P.K. Thungan (Member of Parliament)	Constitutional recognition for PRIs. Direct elections at all three tiers. Reserved seats for SCs, STs, women. State Finance Commission for PRIs. Also recommended constitutional recognition of urban local bodies.	Reinforced Singhvi's recommendations ahead of 73rd/74th Amendment.

□ Centre–State Relations Commissions

COMMISSION	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	OUTCOME
Rajamannar Committee	1969	Justice P.V. Rajamannar (retired Chief Justice, Madras High Court; former Chairman, 4th Finance Commission)	Set up by Tamil Nadu (DMK govt). Recommended: Abolish Planning Commission · Restrict Art 356 · Residuary powers to States · Abolish/curtail Concurrent List · Make Finance Commission permanent.	Report submitted 1971. Central Government rejected all recommendations.
Sarkaria Commission	1983	Justice Ranjit Singh Sarkaria (retired SC judge)	Art 356 only as last resort; State Assembly not to be dissolved before Parliament approves proclamation. Governors: appointed in consultation with CM, non-partisan, 5-year tenure norm. Permanent Inter-State Council under Art 263. Retain and expand All India Services. Residuary powers to stay with Parliament.	Report 1988. Permanent Inter-State Council set up 1990. Art 356 reforms partly adopted. Ribeiro & Punchhi commissions built on this.
Punchhi Commission	2007	Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi (former Chief Justice of India)	"Cooperative federalism" essential. Art 356 should allow localised emergency without disturbing elected state govt. Governors always from outside the state. Greater flexibility to states on Concurrent List. Inter-State Council must meet regularly. 7 volumes, 273 recommendations.	Report submitted 2010. Considered successor to Sarkaria Commission.

□ Administrative Reforms Commissions

COMMISSION	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY OUTPUT
First ARC	1966	Morarji Desai (initial); K. Hanumanthaiah (after Desai became Deputy PM)	537 recommendations across 20 reports. Restructuring of secretariat, district administration, personnel management, public grievance redressal. Led to Departments of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.
Second ARC	2005	M. Veerappa Moily	15 reports (2006–2009) — ethics in governance, e-governance, crisis management, local governance, RTI, Lokayukta in every state, civil services reforms. Comprehensive blueprint for revamping public administration.

□ Backward Classes Commissions

COMMISSION	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY FINDING / RECOMMENDATION	OUTCOME
Kaka Kalelkar Commission (1st Backward Classes Commission)	1953	Kaka Kalelkar (Dattatreya Balkrishna Kalelkar; Gandhian social reformer)	Listed 2,399 backward castes. Recommended reservations — Class I: 25%, Class II: 33.5%, Class III & IV: 40%. Used caste hierarchy as criterion for backwardness. Kalelkar himself later disowned the caste-based approach in a personal letter to the President.	Government rejected the report. Asked states to identify backward classes on their own. Caste-based approach controversial.
Mandal Commission (2nd Backward Classes Commission)	1979	B.P. Mandal (Bindheshwari Prasad Mandal; MP from Bihar; set up by PM Morarji Desai)	Identified 3,743 OBC castes = ~52% of population. Recommended 27% reservation in central govt jobs, PSUs, and central educational institutions for OBCs.	Report submitted 1980. Implemented by PM V.P. Singh (7 Aug 1990). Upheld by SC in <i>Indra Sawhney v. Union of India</i> (1992) — with 50% ceiling and creamy layer exclusion.

Key distinction: Kaka Kalelkar = 1st Backward Classes Commission (1953, report 1955). Mandal = 2nd Backward Classes Commission (set up 1979, report 1980, implemented 1990). UPSC frequently asks which was first and which led to 27% OBC reservation.

□ Banking & Economic Reforms Committees

COMMITTEE	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
Narasimham Committee I (Committee on the Financial System)	1991	M. Narasimham (former 13th RBI Governor, 1977; set up by FM Manmohan Singh)	Four-tier banking structure. Phased reduction in SLR and CRR. Capital adequacy ratio 8%. Quasi-autonomous supervisory body under RBI. Allow private sector and foreign banks. Phase out directed credit programmes.
Narasimham Committee II (Committee on Banking Sector Reforms)	1997	M. Narasimham	Capital adequacy: 9% by 2000, 10% by 2002. NPA recognition: 90-day norm (from 180-day). Merger of banks for creating strong entities. Greater autonomy for PSBs. Separate RBI's ownership role from regulatory role.
Vijay Kelkar Committee (Tax Reforms)	2002	Vijay L. Kelkar (former Finance Secretary)	Two task forces — Direct and Indirect taxes. Raise income tax exemption limits. Abolish long-term capital gains tax and wealth tax. Expand service tax base. Implement GST. Influenced FRBM Act, 2003.
Vijay Kelkar Committee (Fiscal Consolidation)	2012	Dr. Vijay Kelkar (set up by UPA government)	Fiscal deficit of 3% of GDP by 2016–17. Immediate fuel price increase; phase out diesel/LPG subsidies by 2014–15. Strengthen GST framework. Warning: deficit could rise to 6.1% without correction.
Raghuram Rajan Committee (Financial Sector Reforms)	2007	Raghuram Rajan (then University of Chicago professor; former IMF Chief Economist; set up by Planning Commission)	Report: "A Hundred Small Steps" (2008). Level playing field for financial sector. Interest rate deregulation. Reduce SLR/CRR. Partial privatisation of PSBs. Capital account convertibility with calibration. Single trading regulator.
Y.H. Malegam Committee (Microfinance)	2010	Y.H. Malegam (RBI Central Board member; chartered accountant)	Create separate NBFC-MFI category. Interest rate cap: 24%. Margin cap: 10% for large MFIs. Only three permissible charges (processing fee, interest, insurance). Minimum net owned funds: ₹15 crore for NBFC-MFIs.
Hazari Committee	1966	R.K. Hazari (economist; Honorary Consultant to Planning Commission)	Industrial licensing resulted in disproportionate growth of big business — "licence as passport." Failed to prevent concentration of economic power. Along with Dutt Committee (1967), directly led to MRTP Act, 1969.

□ Education Commissions

Sequence: Radhakrishnan (1948 — University) □ Mudaliar (1952 — Secondary) □ Kothari (1964 — All levels) □ NPE 1968 □ NPE 1986 □ NEP 2020.

COMMISSION	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	OUTCOME
Radhakrishnan Commission (University Education Commission)	1948	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (philosopher; later 2nd President of India)	12-year pre-university education (foundation for 10+2+3). Three-year degree standard. Universities as research centres. Establish University Grants Commission (UGC). English as medium temporarily; develop Indian languages. Residential/tutorial system.	UGC established 1956. 10+2+3 structure eventually adopted nationally.
Mudaliar Commission (Secondary Education Commission)	1952	Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar (Vice-Chancellor, Madras University)	Secondary education to span ages 11–17 (7 years). Diversified, multi-purpose curriculum with vocational subjects. Multi-purpose schools. Guidance officers in schools. Higher Secondary stage (two-year pre-university).	Led to diversification of secondary curriculum.
Kothari Commission (National Education Commission)	1964	Daulat Singh Kothari (Chairman, UGC)	10+2+3 structure (standardised national pattern). Three Language Formula. Common School System / neighbourhood schools. 6% of GDP on education . Vocational education. Science and technology emphasis. Work experience in curriculum.	Led to National Policy on Education (NPE) 1968 . 10+2 structure adopted across India. 6% GDP target not yet achieved.

☐ Police Reforms Committees

COMMITTEE / COMMISSION	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
National Police Commission	1977	Dharam Vira (former ICS officer; 8 reports submitted 1979–1981)	State Security Commission to insulate police from political interference. Fixed tenure for DGP. Separate investigation from law & order functions. Police Complaints Authority. Reforms in recruitment and training.
Ribeiro Committee	1998	Jules Ribeiro (former DGP Punjab; former Ambassador; set up per SC direction)	Police Performance and Accountability Commission (PPAC) in each state. Fixed 3-year tenure for DGP. No premature transfer of SP-rank officers without PPAC clearance. District Police Complaints Board.
Padmanabhaiah Committee	2000	K. Padmanabhaiah (former Union Home Secretary)	Recruit more Sub-Inspectors, fewer constables. Separate investigation from law & order at police station level (urban). 2-year rigorous training for recruits. Chief Justice of HC to recommend DGP panel.
Soli Sorabjee Committee (Expert Committee on Model Police Act)	2005	Soli J. Sorabjee (former Attorney General of India)	Drafted Model Police Act to replace colonial Police Act 1861. Police Accountability Authority in each state (5-member; retired HC judge + retired DGP from another state + civil society). Functional autonomy; community policing.

Landmark case: Prakash Singh v. Union of India (SC, 2006) directed states to implement police reforms along the lines recommended by these committees — State Security Commission, fixed DGP tenure, separation of investigation from law & order, Police Complaints Authority. Most states remain non-compliant.

☐ Constitutional & Political Committees

COMMITTEE	YEAR	CHAIRMAN	KEY OUTPUT
Swaran Singh Committee	1976	Sardar Swaran Singh (senior Congress leader; former External Affairs Minister)	Recommended inserting Fundamental Duties in the Constitution. Suggested 8 duties (Parliament added 10 via 42nd Amendment, 1976). Recommended penalty for violation and judicial review exemption for FD laws — both rejected by Parliament.
Shah Commission	1977	Justice J.C. Shah (former Chief Justice of India; set up by Janata govt under Commissions of Inquiry Act)	Investigated Emergency (1975–77) excesses. Found: Emergency declaration unjustified; decision taken by PM Indira Gandhi alone without Cabinet consultation; 100,000+ detained under MISA without trial; forced sterilisations documented. Named ministers and bureaucrats responsible.

□ Women & Social Committees

COMMITTEE	YEAR	CHAIRMAN / HEAD	KEY OUTPUT
Committee on Status of Women in India (<i>"Towards Equality" report</i>)	1971	Phulrenu Guha (working committee head; former Union Minister). Report submitted to Minister S. Nurul Hasan — both names appear in UPSC materials.	Report submitted 1974. Documented declining sex ratio, marginal political participation of women, gender discrimination in social/legal/economic spheres. Laid groundwork for women-sensitive policy-making. Led to establishment of Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi.
Justice Verma Committee	2012	Justice J.S. Verma (former CJI); Justice Leila Seth; Gopal Subramaniam (former Solicitor General)	Set up after 16 December 2012 Delhi gang rape. Report in 29 days (70,000+ public submissions). Expanded definition of rape to any non-consensual penetration. Remove marital rape exception. Non-penetrative sexual contact = sexual assault. Prohibit "two-finger test." Death penalty for rape NOT recommended — government added it anyway in Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013.

□ Quick-Recall — One-Liners

COMMITTEE / COMMISSION	YEAR	REMEMBER FOR
Balwant Rai Mehta	1957	First recommended three-tier Panchayati Raj
Ashok Mehta	1977	Recommended two-tier PR; political parties in PR elections
L.M. Singhvi	1986	Constitutional recognition for PRIs □ directly led to 73rd Amendment 1992
Kaka Kalelkar	1953	First OBC Commission; report rejected; later disowned by chairman himself
B.P. Mandal	1979	27% OBC reservation; implemented 1990; upheld in Indra Sawhney 1992
Sarkaria Commission	1983	Centre-State relations; Art 356 as last resort; Inter-State Council
Punchhi Commission	2007	Successor to Sarkaria; "cooperative federalism"; 273 recommendations
Rajamannar Committee	1969	Tamil Nadu autonomy demand; abolish Planning Commission; residuary to states
Radhakrishnan Commission	1948	University education; recommended UGC (set up 1956)
Kothari Commission	1964	10+2+3 structure; 6% GDP on education; Three Language Formula; led to NPE 1968
Narasimham-I	1991	Banking reforms — four-tier structure, reduce SLR/CRR, allow private banks
Narasimham-II	1997	90-day NPA norm; 9–10% capital adequacy; bank mergers
National Police Commission	1977	Chairman: Dharam Vira; fixed DGP tenure; separate investigation from law & order
Soli Sorabjee Committee	2005	Model Police Act 2006 — replace colonial Police Act 1861
Swaran Singh Committee	1976	Recommended Fundamental Duties □ 42nd Amendment 1976 (Art 51A)
Shah Commission	1977	Emergency excesses; found declaration unjustified; report later suppressed
Justice Verma Committee	2012	Sexual assault law reforms after Dec 2012 Delhi case; did NOT recommend death penalty
Raghuram Rajan Committee	2007	"A Hundred Small Steps" — financial sector blueprint; single trading regulator
Malegam Committee	2010	Microfinance — NBFC-MFI category; 24% interest cap; ₹15 cr minimum NOF
GVK Rao Committee	1985	District as planning unit; coined "grass without roots" for PRIs
1st ARC	1966	Morarji Desai □ K. Hanumanthaiah; 537 recommendations; 20 reports
2nd ARC	2005	Veerappa Moily; 15 reports; e-governance, ethics, Lokayukta in every state

Common exam trap: "Dharam Vira Commission 1969" is a widely circulated error — **there is no such commission**. Dharam Vira chaired the National Police Commission constituted in **November 1977**. Also: Rajamannar Committee was set up by Tamil Nadu state government (not Central govt) — the only state-constituted committee on this list. All others were Central Government committees.

Five Year Plans & NITI Aayog

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Key structural fact: Planning Commission (1950–2014) was **NOT a constitutional or statutory body** — it was created by an executive resolution of the GoI (15 March 1950). Similarly, NITI Aayog (est. 1 January 2015) has no statutory basis. Both are/were executive bodies. The Planning Commission was chaired by the Prime Minister; so is NITI Aayog.

□ Planning Commission vs NITI Aayog

FEATURE	PLANNING COMMISSION (1950–2014)	NITI AAYOG (2015–PRESENT)
Established	15 March 1950 (GoI Resolution)	1 January 2015 (Union Cabinet resolution); PM announced closure of Planning Commission on 15 August 2014 from Red Fort
Full name	Planning Commission of India	National Institution for Transforming India
Chairperson	Prime Minister (ex-officio); first chairman: Jawaharlal Nehru	Prime Minister (ex-officio); currently Narendra Modi
Vice-Chairperson (Apr 2026)	—	Suman Bery (since 1 May 2022)
CEO (Apr 2026)	—	Nidhi Chhibber (additional charge from 24 Feb 2026; 1994-batch IAS, Chhattisgarh cadre)
Approach	Top-down, centralised planning	Bottom-up, cooperative federalism — states are partners, not recipients
Fund allocation	Yes — allocated plan funds to states and ministries	No — purely advisory; no fund-allocation power. Finance Ministry now handles this.
Planning instrument	Five-Year Plans	Long-term vision documents (e.g., <i>Strategy for New India @75</i>); no Five-Year Plans
Statutory basis	None — executive resolution	None — executive resolution
Governing Council	National Development Council (NDC) — PM + State CMs + Planning Commission members	Governing Council — PM (Chair) + CMs of all States + LGs of UTs with legislature + Ex-Officio Cabinet Ministers + Vice-Chairperson + Full-time Members + Special Invitees. 10th meeting held 24 May 2025 (theme: <i>Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047</i>)

□ All Twelve Five Year Plans (1951–2017)

PLAN	YEARS	THEME / FOCUS	GROWTH TARGET	GROWTH ACHIEVED	KEY UPSC FACTS
1st Plan	1951–1956	Agriculture & rehabilitation (Harrod-Domar model)	2.1%	3.6% □	Focus: agriculture, major dams (Bhakra Nangal), refugee rehabilitation post-Partition. Exceeded target.
2nd Plan	1956–1961	Rapid industrialisation — heavy/basic industries	4.5%	4.27%	Mahalanobis Model (P.C. Mahalanobis, 1953) — emphasis on heavy industry & public sector. Steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela established. Most UPSC-tested plan for economic model.
3rd Plan	1961–1966	Self-reliant and self-generating economy	5.6%	2.4% □	Failed due to Sino-Indian War (1962) + India-Pakistan War (1965). Green Revolution initiated (HYV seeds introduced 1965). "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" slogan by Shastri (Oct 1965). Led directly to Plan Holiday.
Plan Holiday	1966–1969 (3 Annual Plans)	—	—	—	Three Annual Plans declared due to: 3rd Plan failure + two wars + severe drought (1965–66) + foreign exchange crisis + inflationary pressure. No Five-Year Plan for 3 years.
4th Plan	1969–1974	Growth with Stability & Progressive Self-Reliance	5.7%	3.3% □	14 major banks nationalised (19 July 1969). Green Revolution consolidated — food self-sufficiency achieved. India-Pakistan War 1971 impact. Privy Purses abolished.
5th Plan	1974–1978	Removal of Poverty (<i>Garibi Hatao</i>) + Self-Reliance	4.4%	4.8% □	"Garibi Hatao" as explicit plan objective (Indira Gandhi's 1971 election slogan formalised as plan goal). Terminated one year early (1978) by incoming Janata Party government — only plan terminated prematurely.
Rolling Plans	1978–1980	Annual rolling targets	—	—	Introduced by PM Morarji Desai (Janata Party) — rejected concept of rigid five-year targets. Abandoned when Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980.
6th Plan	1980–1985	Poverty alleviation + modernisation of technology	5.2%	5.7% □	IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), NREP, TRYSEM schemes launched. First plan to exceed target since 1st Plan. Minimum Needs Programme continued.

PLAN	YEARS	THEME / FOCUS	GROWTH TARGET	GROWTH ACHIEVED	KEY UPSC FACTS
7th Plan	1985–1990	Food, Work and Productivity	5.0%	6.0% □	PM Rajiv Gandhi era. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana launched. Technology Mission emphasis. Strong growth period.
Two Annual Plans	1990–1992	—	—	—	8th Plan delayed due to political instability (V.P. Singh □ Chandrasekhar □ P.V. Narasimha Rao governments). BOP crisis of 1991 intervened.
8th Plan	1992–1997	Human development + economic growth	5.6%	6.8% □	LPG Reforms (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) — 1991 New Economic Policy under PM Narasimha Rao + FM Manmohan Singh implemented during this plan. Record 7.5% growth in 1994–97 period. Human development focus.
9th Plan	1997–2002	Growth with Social Justice and Equality	6.5%	5.5% □	PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee era. Target missed due to Asian financial crisis (1997–98) + Kargil War (1999) + global slowdown. Pokhran-II nuclear tests (May 1998).
10th Plan	2002–2007	Growth for employment reduction + poverty eradication	8.0%	7.6%	Regional approach in planning. Significant GDP acceleration. MGNREGA enacted 2005. SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) operationalised. GDP growth averaged 7.6% — near target.
11th Plan	2007–2012	Faster and More Inclusive Growth	9.0%	8.0%	PM Manmohan Singh. Strong focus on education, health, skill formation. RTI (2005), RTE (2009), MGNREGA (2005) implemented in context of this plan's inclusive growth agenda. Near-miss on target.
12th Plan	2012–2017	Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth	8.0%	~6.5%	Last Five Year Plan. Approved by National Development Council on 27 December 2012. Planning Commission abolished mid-plan (2014); NITI Aayog replaced it. No 13th Plan was ever formulated.

□ NITI Aayog — Key Initiatives

INITIATIVE	KEY DETAILS
Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)	Launched January 2018 by PM. Covers 112 most under-developed districts . Five themes: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, Infrastructure. 49 KPIs tracked monthly. Delta ranking system rewards improvement, not absolute scores.
Vision Documents	<i>Strategy for New India @75</i> (2018); <i>India@2047 Vision</i> (Viksit Bharat) — replaces Five-Year Plans as long-term planning framework
SDG India Index	Annual index tracking India's states/UTs on Sustainable Development Goals. Published by NITI Aayog.
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	Under NITI Aayog — promotes innovation and entrepreneurship; Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools; Atal Incubation Centres.
AMRUT & Smart Cities	Conceived in NITI Aayog framework; implemented by MoHUA. Urban transformation initiative.

□ High-Frequency Exam Traps

TRAP / MCQ POINT	CORRECT ANSWER
Planning Commission was a constitutional body?	No. Neither Planning Commission nor NITI Aayog has statutory/constitutional basis — both created by executive (Cabinet) resolution.
Which plan used the Mahalanobis model?	2nd Plan (1956–61) — heavy industry focus based on Mahalanobis (ISI) model. 1st Plan used Harrod-Domar model.
"Garibi Hatao" belongs to which plan?	5th Plan (1974–78) — though the slogan was Indira Gandhi's 1971 election campaign, it was formalised as 5th Plan's explicit objective.
Which plan was terminated early?	5th Plan — terminated in 1978 (one year early) by the Janata Party government.
Rolling Plans were introduced by which PM?	PM Morarji Desai (Janata Party), 1978–1980. NOT Indira Gandhi or Nehru.
Green Revolution — which plan?	Initiated in 3rd Plan (HYV seeds 1965); consolidated in 4th Plan . Both are accepted answers — specify which aspect.
LPG reforms — which plan?	8th Plan (1992–97) — 1991 NEP reforms were implemented during this plan period.
What is NITI Aayog's full form?	National Institution for Transforming India — not "National Institute." The acronym NITI is also the Hindi word for "policy."
Does NITI Aayog allocate funds to states?	No — this is the key difference from Planning Commission. NITI Aayog is advisory only; fund allocation is done by Finance Ministry.
How many Five Year Plans have there been?	12 (1951–2017). The 12th Plan (2012–17) was the last. No 13th Plan — replaced by NITI Aayog's long-term vision documents.
Which plan period had "Plan Holiday"?	1966–69 (between 3rd and 4th Plans) — three Annual Plans due to wars, drought, and resource crisis. NOT the 1990–92 gap (those were "Two Annual Plans" due to political instability).
Which plan focused on "Food, Work and Productivity"?	7th Plan (1985–90)

Exam strategy: UPSC tests Five Year Plans on four axes — (1) which economic model (Mahalanobis = 2nd Plan), (2) which slogan/objective (Garibi Hatao = 5th, LPG = 8th), (3) Plan Holiday periods (1966–69 and 1990–92 gaps), (4) NITI Aayog vs Planning Commission differences (fund allocation, approach, instruments). The 12th Plan being the last and NITI Aayog's advisory-only role are the most recent high-yield facts.

Presidents of India

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□ Constitutional Framework — Key Articles

ARTICLE	PROVISION
52	There shall be a President of India
53	Executive power of the Union vested in the President
54	Election by an Electoral College
55	Proportional representation by Single Transferable Vote, secret ballot
56	Term: 5 years from date of assuming office
57	Eligible for re-election — no bar on number of terms
58	Qualifications: Indian citizen; age 35+; qualified to be LS member; no office of profit
60	Oath administered by Chief Justice of India (or senior-most SC judge)
61	Impeachment procedure — 2/3rd of total membership at both stages
62	Vacancy must be filled within 6 months
65	VP discharges presidential functions during vacancy; if VP unavailable, CJI acts
71	Disputes about presidential election decided by the Supreme Court
72	Pardoning powers: Pardon, Commutation, Remission, Respite, Reprieve

Electoral College (Article 54): Elected MPs (LS + RS) + Elected MLAs of States + Elected MLAs of Delhi & Puducherry.
NOT included: Nominated MPs, nominated MLAs, members of State Legislative Councils.

▢ Presidential Veto Powers (Article 111)

VETO TYPE	WHAT PRESIDENT DOES	EFFECT	EXAMPLE
Absolute Veto	Withholds assent permanently	Bill does not become law	Rajendra Prasad — PEPUSU Appropriation Bill (1954); R. Venkataraman — MPs' Salaries Bill (1991)
Suspensive Veto	Returns bill to Parliament for reconsideration with a message	If Parliament passes again (with or without amendment), President must assent — cannot veto again	A.P.J. Abdul Kalam — Office of Profit Bill (2006); K.R. Narayanan — Bihar dissolution twice
Pocket Veto	Neither assents nor returns the Bill — keeps it pending indefinitely	Bill lapses by inaction (Indian Constitution has no time limit for presidential action — unlike US 10-day limit)	Giani Zail Singh — Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill (1986) — only known use

Money Bills (Article 110): President cannot return a Money Bill — can only assent or withhold assent (absolute veto).
No suspensive veto on Money Bills.

Constitutional Amendment Bills (Article 368): President **cannot veto** — the 24th Constitutional Amendment (1971) made presidential assent obligatory.

☐☐ All 15 Presidents of India (1950–Present)

#	NAME	TENURE	PARTY/BACKING	STATE/BACKGROUND	KEY EXAM FACT
1	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	26 Jan 1950 – 13 May 1962	INC	Bihar (Siwan)	First President; only President to serve two full terms ; also President of Constituent Assembly; lawyer, freedom fighter
2	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	13 May 1962 – 13 May 1967	INC-backed	Tamil Nadu	Philosopher; former VP; his birthday 5 September = Teachers' Day
3	Dr. Zakir Husain	13 May 1967 – 3 May 1969	INC-backed	UP (Hyderabad)	First Muslim President; first President to die in office (3 May 1969, cardiac arrest)
—	<i>V.V. Giri (Acting)</i>	3 May 1969 – 20 Jul 1969	—	—	Acting as VP after Zakir Husain's death; resigned to contest presidential election
—	<i>Mohammad Hidayatullah (Acting)</i>	20 Jul 1969 – 24 Aug 1969	—	—	Only CJI to serve as Acting President ; later also served as VP (1979–84)
4	V.V. Giri	24 Aug 1969 – 24 Aug 1974	INC (Independent)	Andhra Pradesh	Only person to serve as both Acting President and President ; first election to go to second-preference counting
5	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	24 Aug 1974 – 11 Feb 1977	INC	Assam	Second Muslim President; second President to die in office (11 Feb 1977); signed Emergency Proclamation (1975)
—	<i>B.D. Jatti (Acting)</i>	11 Feb 1977 – 25 Jul 1977	—	Karnataka	Acting VP after Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's death
6	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	25 Jul 1977 – 25 Jul 1982	Janata Party	Andhra Pradesh (Illuru)	Only President elected unopposed (all other nominations rejected); only Speaker of Lok Sabha to later become President
7	Giani Zail Singh	25 Jul 1982 – 25 Jul 1987	INC	Punjab (Faridkot)	First Sikh President ; exercised Pocket Veto on Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 1986
8	R. Venkataraman	25 Jul 1987 – 25 Jul 1992	INC	Tamil Nadu	Swore in 4 different Prime Ministers : Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P.V. Narasimha Rao

#	NAME	TENURE	PARTY/BACKING	STATE/BACKGROUND	KEY EXAM FACT
9	Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	25 Jul 1992 – 25 Jul 1997	INC	Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)	Former CM of MP; Bharat Ratna awardee
10	K.R. Narayanan	25 Jul 1997 – 25 Jul 2002	INC-backed	Kerala (Uzhavoor)	First Dalit (SC) President ; former diplomat and VP; sent Bihar dismissal back for reconsideration (1998)
11	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	25 Jul 2002 – 25 Jul 2007	NDA (BJP-led)	Tamil Nadu (Rameswaram)	"People's President" ; nuclear scientist; "Missile Man of India"; Bharat Ratna (1997); only scientist President
12	Pratibha Patil	25 Jul 2007 – 25 Jul 2012	UPA (Congress-led)	Maharashtra (Jalgaon)	First woman President ; former Governor of Rajasthan and CM of Maharashtra
13	Pranab Mukherjee	25 Jul 2012 – 25 Jul 2017	UPA (Congress)	West Bengal (Birbhum)	Former Finance Minister, External Affairs Minister, Defence Minister; Bharat Ratna (2019)
14	Ram Nath Kovind	25 Jul 2017 – 21 Jul 2022	NDA (BJP-led)	UP (Kanpur Dehat)	Second Dalit (SC) President ; former Governor of Bihar
15	Droupadi Murmu	25 Jul 2022 – present	NDA (BJP-led)	Odisha (Mayurbhanj)	First Scheduled Tribe (ST) President ; first President born in independent India ; youngest at inauguration (age 64); former Governor of Jharkhand

□ Key Firsts — Quick Reference

CATEGORY	PRESIDENT
First President	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Only President to serve two full terms	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
First Muslim President	Dr. Zakir Husain
Second Muslim President	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
First Sikh President	Giani Zail Singh
First Dalit (SC) President	K.R. Narayanan
Second Dalit (SC) President	Ram Nath Kovind
First Woman President	Pratibha Patil
First Tribal (ST) President	Droupadi Murmu
First President born in independent India	Droupadi Murmu
Youngest President at inauguration	Droupadi Murmu (age 64)
Only scientist President	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Only President elected unopposed	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
Only person to serve as both Acting President and President	V.V. Giri
Only CJI to serve as Acting President	Mohammad Hidayatullah
Only Lok Sabha Speaker to later become President	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
First President to die in office	Dr. Zakir Husain (3 May 1969)
Second President to die in office	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (11 Feb 1977)
Pocket Veto exercised by	Giani Zail Singh (Indian Post Office Amendment Bill, 1986)
Swore in most different Prime Ministers (4)	R. Venkataraman (Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, Narasimha Rao)
Only person to lose AND win a presidential election	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy — lost to V.V. Giri in 1969; won unopposed in 1977
First sitting President to vote in general elections	K.R. Narayanan — voted on 16 February 1998 at Rashtrapati Bhavan polling station
Only person to hold all three: CJI + VP + Acting President	Mohammad Hidayatullah — 13th CJI; 6th VP; Acting President twice (1969 and 1982)
Presidents who were VP before becoming President	6 of 15 — Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain, V.V. Giri, R. Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma, K.R. Narayanan

CATEGORY	PRESIDENT
President who signed Emergency Proclamation (1975)	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed — signed under Article 352 on PM Indira Gandhi's advice, 25 June 1975
First President to receive Bharat Ratna while in office	Rajendra Prasad (1962); also Zakir Husain (1963)

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	WRONG BELIEF	CORRECT FACT
1	"MLCs (Legislative Council members) are in the Electoral College"	No — only elected MLAs (Vidhan Sabha). Vidhan Parishad members are excluded.
2	"Nominated MPs can vote in presidential elections"	No — only elected MPs (LS + RS); nominated members of Parliament are excluded
3	"Impeachment requires 2/3 of members present and voting"	Impeachment requires 2/3 of total membership — stricter than present-and-voting majority
4	"A President has been impeached"	No President of India has ever been impeached
5	"President's term is fixed at exactly 5 years from election"	5 years from date of assuming office , not from election date; also "holds office until successor enters upon office" (Art. 56)
6	"There is no bar on re-election of President"	Correct — Article 57 allows unlimited re-elections. Only Dr. Rajendra Prasad used this, serving twice.
7	"The CJI administers oath to the President-elect"	CJI administers the oath — or "the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court available" if CJI unavailable
8	"Pocket Veto = President refuses to sign and sends back"	Pocket Veto = President neither signs nor returns the bill — keeps it pending indefinitely. Used by Giani Zail Singh in 1986.
9	"Droupadi Murmu is the first woman President"	Pratibha Patil (2007–2012) was the first woman President . Murmu is the first tribal (ST) President.
10	"Vacancy in President's office must be filled in 3 months"	Vacancy must be filled within 6 months (Article 62)
11	"KR Narayanan was the first Dalit President"	Correct — K.R. Narayanan (1997–2002) was first; Ram Nath Kovind (2017–2022) was second Dalit President
12	"The Governor has the same pardoning powers as the President"	No — Governor (Art. 161) cannot pardon death sentences and cannot pardon in Court Martial cases. President (Art. 72) can do both.

Prime Ministers of India

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□ Constitutional Basis

ARTICLE	PROVISION
74	Council of Ministers with PM at head to aid and advise the President; advice is binding (President may ask for reconsideration once but must act on re-tendered advice); courts cannot enquire into advice tendered (Art. 74(2))
75(1)	PM appointed by the President ; other ministers appointed on PM's advice
75(1A)	Total ministers (including PM) shall not exceed 15% of Lok Sabha strength — added by 91st Amendment, 2003
75(3)	Council of Ministers collectively responsible to Lok Sabha
78	PM's duty to communicate all Cabinet decisions to President; furnish information on request; refer individual-minister decisions to Cabinet if President requires

PM's qualifications: Must be a citizen of India, member of Parliament (LS or RS), and command a majority in Lok Sabha. There is NO age minimum specified for PM (unlike President — 35 years). The youngest PM was Rajiv Gandhi (age 40).

□ All Prime Ministers of India (1947–Present)

Counting note: India has had **14 individuals** serve as PM. Including multiple tenures (Indira Gandhi ×2, Vajpayee ×3, Modi ×3) and Nanda's two acting stints, the total sequential number reaches 21. Narendra Modi is generally called the **14th Prime Minister**.

#	NAME	PARTY	TENURE	KEY EXAM FACT
1	Jawaharlal Nehru	INC	15 Aug 1947 – 27 May 1964 (~16 yr 9 mo)	Longest-serving PM ; first PM; first PM to die in office ; architect of Non-Alignment, Five-Year Plans, IITs; "Jai Hind"
2	<i>Gulzarilal Nanda (Acting)</i>	INC	27 May 1964 – 9 Jun 1964 (13 days)	Acting PM after Nehru's death; shortest-serving PM (both times ~13 days)
3	Lal Bahadur Shastri	INC	9 Jun 1964 – 11 Jan 1966	Died in Tashkent (USSR/Uzbekistan) after signing Tashkent Declaration; "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"; first posthumous Bharat Ratna (1966)
4	<i>Gulzarilal Nanda (Acting, 2nd)</i>	INC	11 Jan 1966 – 24 Jan 1966 (13 days)	Acting PM after Shastri's death; only person to serve as Acting PM twice
5	Indira Gandhi (1st term)	INC	24 Jan 1966 – 24 Mar 1977	First and only woman PM ; Bank nationalisation (1969); 1971 Bangladesh war; Pokhran-I (1974); Emergency 1975–77 ;
6	Indira Gandhi (2nd term)	INC	14 Jan 1980 – 31 Oct 1984	assassinated 31 Oct 1984 by bodyguards (retaliation for Op Blue Star)
7	Morarji Desai	Janata Party	24 Mar 1977 – 28 Jul 1979	First non-Congress PM ; oldest PM at oath (age 81, born 29 Feb 1896); reversed Emergency era changes (44th CAA)
8	Charan Singh	Janata Party (S)	28 Jul 1979 – 14 Jan 1980 (~170 days)	Only PM who never addressed Parliament — resigned 23 days after taking oath; served as caretaker; Bharat Ratna (2024)
9	Rajiv Gandhi	INC	31 Oct 1984 – 2 Dec 1989	Youngest PM (age 40); Congress won 404 seats (1984 — record mandate); telecom/IT modernisation; Bofors scandal; assassinated 21 May 1991 by LTTE at Sriperumbudur; Bharat Ratna (1991)
10	V.P. Singh	Janata Dal	2 Dec 1989 – 10 Nov 1990	Implemented Mandal Commission (27% OBC reservation); minority government; fell after BJP withdrew support during Rath Yatra
11	Chandra Shekhar	Janata Dal (S)	10 Nov 1990 – 21 Jun 1991	Minority government supported by Congress; India's BoP crisis 1991 — gold pledged to IMF; resigned after Congress withdrew support
12	P.V. Narasimha Rao	INC	21 Jun 1991 – 16 May 1996	LPG Reforms (1991) — liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation; Manmohan Singh as FM; Babri Masjid demolition (Dec 1992); TRAI established; first PM from south India

#	NAME	PARTY	TENURE	KEY EXAM FACT
13	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1st, 13 days)	BJP	16 May 1996 – 1 Jun 1996 (13 days)	First BJP PM to complete full term ; Pokhran-II (1998); Kargil War (1999); Lahore Declaration (1999); National Highways Development Project; Bharat Ratna (2015 — posthumous) ; 2nd shortest PM tenure (13 days, 1st term)
14	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (2nd term)	BJP	19 Mar 1998 – 13 Oct 1999	
15	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (3rd term)	NDA (BJP-led)	13 Oct 1999 – 22 May 2004	
16	H.D. Deve Gowda	Janata Dal	1 Jun 1996 – 21 Apr 1997	United Front coalition PM; first PM from Karnataka ; defeated by no-confidence motion when Congress withdrew support
17	I.K. Gujral	Janata Dal	21 Apr 1997 – 19 Mar 1998	Rajya Sabha member (never contested LS); architect of Gujral Doctrine (asymmetric goodwill with neighbours); government fell over Periyar-Kaveri water dispute
18	Manmohan Singh	INC (UPA)	22 May 2004 – 26 May 2014 (10 yrs)	Second-longest serving PM after Nehru; India-US 123 Agreement (2008) ; RTI Act (2005); MNREGA; Aadhaar initiation; first Sikh PM ; Rajya Sabha MP throughout tenure; died 26 December 2024 (age 92)
19–21	Narendra Modi (1st, 2nd, 3rd terms)	NDA (BJP-led)	26 May 2014 – present	14th individual PM; GST (2017); demonetisation (2016); CAA (2019); Pokhran II era policies; 3rd consecutive term (June 2024 — first non-Congress PM to win 3 terms)

□ Key Firsts & Records

CATEGORY	PM
First PM of India	Jawaharlal Nehru
Longest-serving PM	Jawaharlal Nehru (~16 yr 286 days)
Second-longest serving PM	Indira Gandhi (~15 yr 350 days combined both terms)
First PM to die in office	Jawaharlal Nehru (27 May 1964)
Second PM to die in office	Lal Bahadur Shastri (11 Jan 1966, in Tashkent)
First and only woman PM	Indira Gandhi
First non-Congress PM	Morarji Desai (1977)
Oldest PM at oath	Morarji Desai (age 81)
Youngest PM	Rajiv Gandhi (age 40)
First assassinated PM (in office)	Indira Gandhi (31 Oct 1984)
First PM from South India	P.V. Narasimha Rao (Andhra Pradesh)
First Sikh PM	Manmohan Singh
First BJP PM to complete full term	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999–2004)
Only PM who never addressed Parliament	Charan Singh (resigned 23 days after oath)
Only PM to serve as Acting PM twice	Gulzarilal Nanda (Bharat Ratna 1997)
Shortest tenure (full PM, not acting)	Atal Bihari Vajpayee (13 days, 1996 — lost confidence vote)
First posthumous Bharat Ratna	Lal Bahadur Shastri (1966)
PM who initiated LPG reforms (1991)	P.V. Narasimha Rao (FM: Manmohan Singh); Bharat Ratna 2024 (posthumous)
PM during Emergency (1975–77)	Indira Gandhi
PM during Pokhran-I (1974)	Indira Gandhi
PM during Pokhran-II (1998)	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
PM during Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)	Indira Gandhi
PM during Kargil War (1999)	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
First PM from Rajya Sabha (never LS member)	I.K. Gujral; also Manmohan Singh (RS throughout)
First PM born after Independence	Narendra Modi (born 17 September 1950)

□ Deputy Prime Ministers of India

There is **no constitutional provision** for a Deputy PM — the position is a political convention. India has had 7 Deputy PMs:

DEPUTY PM	PERIOD	PM	KEY NOTE
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	1947–1950	Nehru	First Deputy PM; also Home Minister; integrated princely states
Morarji Desai	1967–1969	Indira Gandhi	Later became PM himself (1977)
Charan Singh	1979	Morarji Desai	Later became PM himself (1979)
Jagjivan Ram	1979	Charan Singh	Veteran Congress leader; Dalit icon
Y.B. Chavan	1979	Charan Singh	Also served as Finance Minister and Home Minister under multiple PMs
Devi Lal	1989–1991	V.P. Singh	Resigned; Chandra Shekhar period
L.K. Advani	2002– 2004	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	BJP stalwart; also Home Minister

□ PMs Who Lost Elections While in Office

PM	ELECTION YEAR	OUTCOME
Indira Gandhi	1977	Congress routed after Emergency; Indira lost her own Raebareli seat — first sitting PM to lose their own constituency
Rajiv Gandhi	1989	Congress fell from 415 to 197 seats; V.P. Singh became PM
P.V. Narasimha Rao	1996	Congress won only 140 seats despite economic reforms; Vajpayee's short-lived government formed
Atal Bihari Vajpayee (NDA)	2004	NDA lost despite "India Shining" campaign; UPA under Manmohan Singh came to power
Manmohan Singh (UPA)	2014	Congress reduced to historic low of 44 seats; Modi's BJP won 282 solo

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	WRONG BELIEF	CORRECT FACT
1	"Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated while PM"	Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21 May 1991 during the <i>election campaign</i> , not while serving as PM. He had lost power in 1989.
2	"Morarji Desai was the first Gujarati PM"	Correct, but note: he was also the first non-Congress PM and the oldest PM at oath (age 81). Both are more commonly tested.
3	"Charan Singh was the shortest-serving PM"	His full tenure was ~170 days (not shortest). He only <i>attended Parliament for 23 days</i> before resigning. Vajpayee's 1996 tenure (13 days) was shorter.
4	"LPG reforms were initiated by Manmohan Singh as PM"	LPG reforms were initiated by PM P.V. Narasimha Rao ; Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister who executed them (1991).
5	"The Deputy PM position is in the Constitution"	There is no constitutional provision for Deputy PM — it is a political/administrative convention
6	"There is a minimum age to become PM"	No specific age is required for PM (unlike President — 35 years). The PM must be a member of Parliament, which requires age 25 (LS) or 30 (RS).
7	"Manmohan Singh was Finance Minister under Narasimha Rao as PM"	Correct — and Rao himself held the External Affairs portfolio at times. Manmohan Singh's role as FM is a commonly tested link.
8	"IK Gujral never sat in Lok Sabha"	Correct — IK Gujral was a Rajya Sabha member throughout his political career; never contested Lok Sabha. Manmohan Singh was similar.
9	"Vajpayee's 13-day government fell on a no-confidence vote"	The 1996 (13-day) government ended by resignation before facing a vote. It was Vajpayee's 1999 (2nd term) government that lost a no-confidence motion — by just ONE vote (270–269), 17 April 1999.
10	"The PM holds office for 5 years"	The PM holds office at the pleasure of the President (Art. 75(2)) — as long as they command majority in Lok Sabha. There is no fixed term.
11	"India has had 14 Prime Ministers"	India has had 14 individuals serve as PM. But if counting sequential appointments (including Nanda's two acting stints, Indira's two terms, Vajpayee's three terms, Modi's three terms), the count is higher. Narendra Modi is the 14th individual PM .

Lok Sabha Speakers

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□ Constitutional Framework — Key Articles

ARTICLE	PROVISION
93	House shall choose two members to be Speaker and Deputy Speaker "as soon as may be" after its constitution — by simple majority of members present and voting
94	Vacation, resignation & removal — Speaker vacates if ceases to be a member; resigns by writing to Deputy Speaker; removed by effective majority of all then-members with 14 days' notice
95	Deputy Speaker performs Speaker's duties when office is vacant; if both offices vacant, President appoints a member as Speaker
96	Speaker does NOT preside while a removal resolution against them is under consideration; may speak and participate; can vote only in case of a tie (not in first instance)
100	Speaker does NOT vote in the first instance; exercises casting vote only if votes are equally divided
108	Speaker presides over joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament (NOT the Chairman of Rajya Sabha)
110	Speaker certifies a bill as a Money Bill; Speaker's decision is final under Article 110(3) — though judicial review was upheld by SC in Rojer Mathew (2019)
10th Schedule	Speaker (for Lok Sabha) is the sole authority to decide disqualification under anti-defection law; decisions subject to judicial review after being made (Kihoto Hollohan, 1992)

☐ Complete List of Lok Sabha Speakers (1952–Present)

S.NO.	NAME	LOK SABHA(S)	TENURE	PARTY	NOTABLE FACTS
1	G.V. Mavalankar	1st–2nd	15 May 1952 – 27 Feb 1956	INC	"Father of Lok Sabha" ; first Speaker; died in office (27 Feb 1956) — only Speaker to die in office at that time
2	M.A. Ayyangar	1st (part)–2nd	8 Mar 1956 – 16 Apr 1962	INC	First Deputy Speaker (1952–56) before becoming Speaker; served across two Lok Sabhas in one consecutive tenure
3	Hukam Singh	3rd	17 Apr 1962 – 16 Mar 1967	INC	Later became Governor of Rajasthan
4	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	4th (part)	17 Mar 1967 – 19 Jul 1969	INC	Resigned to contest Presidential election (lost in 1969 to V.V. Giri); only person to serve as Speaker <i>twice</i> and also become President
5	G.S. Dhillon	4th (part)–5th	8 Aug 1969 – 1 Dec 1975	INC	Presided during Emergency proclamation period
6	Bali Ram Bhagat	5th (part)	15 Jan 1976 – 25 Mar 1977	INC	Served during Emergency; earlier served as Deputy Speaker (3rd LS)
7	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	6th	26 Mar 1977 – 13 Jul 1977	Janata Party	Unanimously elected; resigned after ~3 months to contest Presidential election; elected 6th President of India unopposed — only President elected without contest
8	K.S. Hegde	6th (part)	21 Jul 1977 – 21 Jan 1980	Janata Party	Former Supreme Court judge; had contested 1969 Presidential election (lost narrowly to V.V. Giri)
9	Balram Jakhar	7th–8th	22 Jan 1980 – 18 Dec 1989	INC	Longest-serving Speaker — ~9 years 329 days; only Speaker to serve two full consecutive terms
10	Rabi Ray	9th	19 Dec 1989 – 9 Jul 1991	Janata Dal	First Odia Speaker of Lok Sabha
11	Shivraj V. Patil	10th	10 Jul 1991 – 22 May 1996	INC	Later served as Union Home Minister (2004–08) and Governor of Punjab
12	P.A. Sangma	11th	25 May 1996 – 23 Mar 1998	INC / NCP	Later co-founded NCP; contested 2012 Presidential election
13	G.M.C. Balayogi	12th–13th (part)	24 Mar 1998 – 3 Mar 2002	TDP	First Dalit Speaker; died in office — helicopter crash 3 Mar 2002 at Kaikalur, AP — the only Speaker to die in office since Independence
14	Manohar Joshi	13th (part)	10 May 2002 – 2 Jun 2004	Shiv Sena	Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra

S.NO.	NAME	LOK SABHA(S)	TENURE	PARTY	NOTABLE FACTS
15	Somnath Chatterjee	14th	4 Jun 2004 – 30 May 2009	CPI(M) □ Ind.	Expelled by CPI(M) in 2008 for refusing to vacate the Speaker's chair when his party withdrew UPA support; upheld constitutional convention over party loyalty; completed full term
16	Meira Kumar	15th	3 Jun 2009 – 4 Jun 2014	INC	First woman Speaker of Lok Sabha ; daughter of former Deputy PM Jagjivan Ram; contested 2017 Presidential election (lost to Ram Nath Kovind)
17	Sumitra Mahajan	16th	6 Jun 2014 – 16 Jun 2019	BJP	Second woman Speaker ; eight-time MP from Indore; longest-serving woman MP at the time of election
18	Om Birla	17th–18th	19 Jun 2019 – present (re-elected 26 Jun 2024)	BJP	First person to serve as Speaker for two consecutive terms in BJP era; re-election was the fourth contested Speaker election in Indian history; no-confidence motion against him rejected by voice vote (2025)

□ Key Firsts & Records

RECORD	NAME	DETAILS
First Speaker	G.V. Mavalankar	15 May 1952; "Father of Lok Sabha"
First woman Speaker	Meira Kumar	15th LS, 2009–2014; INC
Second woman Speaker	Sumitra Mahajan	16th LS, 2014–2019; BJP
Longest-serving Speaker	Balram Jakhar	~9 years 329 days; 7th + 8th Lok Sabha (1980–1989)
Speaker who became President	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	Speaker of 6th LS (1977); 6th President (1977–82); only President elected <i>unopposed</i>
Speaker serving twice	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	4th LS (1967–69) and 6th LS (1977)
First Dalit Speaker	G.M.C. Balayogi	TDP; 12th–13th LS (1998–2002)
First Odia Speaker	Rabi Ray	9th LS (1989–91); Janata Dal
Speaker who died in office	G.M.C. Balayogi	Helicopter crash, 3 Mar 2002; only Speaker to die in office post-Independence
Speaker expelled by own party	Somnath Chatterjee	CPI(M) expelled him 2008; he completed his full term
Two full consecutive terms	Om Birla	17th + 18th LS (2019–present)
Speaker also served as Deputy Speaker	M.A. Ayyangar	1st Deputy Speaker (1952–56), then Speaker (1956–62)

□ Powers & Functions of the Speaker

POWER / FUNCTION	KEY DETAILS
Presiding over sittings	Maintains order and decorum; decides points of order; can expunge remarks from records
Casting vote (Article 100)	Speaker does NOT vote in first instance; votes only when there is equality of votes (tie-breaking)
Joint sitting (Article 108)	Speaker presides over joint sitting of both Houses when called to resolve deadlock on non-Money, non-Constitution Amendment Bills
Money Bill certificate (Article 110)	Speaker certifies a bill as Money Bill; decision is final within Parliament; judicial review possible post Rojer Mathew (2019) — matter pending before 7-judge bench
Anti-defection (10th Schedule)	Sole authority to decide disqualification of LS members; Kihoto Hollohan (1992): decisions are subject to judicial review only after Speaker has decided — not during/before
Committee chairmanship	Ex officio chair of: Rules Committee, Business Advisory Committee, General Purposes Committee; appoints chairpersons of other committees (PAC, Estimates Committee, etc.)
Admission of questions & bills	Decides admissibility of zero hour, question hour, adjournment motion, calling attention motion, cut motions
Party convention	By convention, severs active party ties upon election; not a legal bar — convention, not law
Resignation	Speaker resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker (NOT to the President); Deputy Speaker resigns by writing to the Speaker
Removal	By effective majority (majority of all then-members) with 14 days' prior notice; has never been achieved in Indian history

□ Pro Tem Speaker

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Constitutional basis	Not explicitly in the Constitution; derived from Article 95(1) and convention; "Pro Tem" means "for the time being"
Appointed by	President of India (NOT outgoing Speaker; NOT Parliament)
Convention	Seniormost member of Lok Sabha (longest uninterrupted service) is appointed — but this is convention, not codified law
Functions	Administers oath to newly elected members; presides over House until permanent Speaker is elected; conducts Speaker election
Duration	Office automatically ceases when permanent Speaker is elected
18th LS instance (2024)	Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP, Cuttack — 7-term MP) appointed Pro Tem Speaker on 20 Jun 2024; sworn in 24 Jun 2024; Om Birla elected permanent Speaker on 26 Jun 2024. Opposition claimed K. Suresh (Congress, 8-term MP) should have been appointed by convention; govt cited uninterrupted service criterion

□ Deputy Speaker — Key Facts & Vacancy Crisis

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Election	Article 93: chosen by Lok Sabha members; simple majority of those present and voting
First Deputy Speaker	M.A. Ayyangar (1st LS, 1952–56) — later became Speaker
Removal	By effective majority of all then-members with 14 days' notice (same as Speaker)
17th LS (2019–2024)	No Deputy Speaker elected throughout the entire term — first such instance in Indian history; opposition demanded the post (conventional entitlement of opposition) as a condition; NDA declined
18th LS (2024–present)	Deputy Speaker post continues to be vacant as of April 2026 — second consecutive Lok Sabha without a Deputy Speaker
Convention	By convention, Deputy Speaker post is given to the opposition (or a coalition partner); like the Speaker, not a constitutionally mandated convention
When Speaker's post vacant	Deputy Speaker performs duties; if both are vacant, a member from the Panel of Chairpersons (appointed by Speaker) presides

☐ Money Bills & Speaker's Certificate (Article 110)

ASPECT	DETAIL
Article 110(3)	Speaker certifies a bill as Money Bill before transmitting to Rajya Sabha; "the decision of the Speaker... shall be final"
Rajya Sabha's role	Can only make <i>recommendations</i> on Money Bills (within 14 days); Lok Sabha may accept or reject; Rajya Sabha CANNOT amend or reject
Rojer Mathew v. South Indian Bank (2019)	SC (5-judge bench, CJI Gogoi): Finality under Art. 110(3) binds only Parliament members — does NOT bar judicial review. Certification of Finance Act 2017 referred to 7-judge constitutional bench (pending as of April 2026)
Current position	Speaker's Money Bill certificate is NOT absolutely immune from judicial review — settled by Rojer Mathew (2019)

☐ Speaker vs Chairman of Rajya Sabha — Key Differences

FEATURE	SPEAKER (LOK SABHA)	CHAIRMAN (RAJYA SABHA)
Identity	Elected from LS members	Vice President of India (ex officio); NOT a member of Rajya Sabha
Election	By LS members; simple majority	Elected as VP by Electoral College (both Houses); separate process
Money Bill	Speaker certifies; decision final (Article 110)	Chairman has NO role in Money Bills
Joint sitting	Speaker presides over joint sitting (Article 108)	Chairman does NOT preside over joint sittings
Casting vote	Only in case of tie; not in first instance (Art. 100)	Only in case of tie; not in first instance
Anti-defection	Decides for LS members (10th Schedule)	Decides for RS members (10th Schedule)
Removal	Effective majority of all LS members; 14 days' notice	VP removed by effective majority of RS + simple majority of LS; 14 days' notice
Resignation	Writes to Deputy Speaker	VP/Chairman writes to President

□ No-Confidence Motions Against Speaker — History

YEAR	AGAINST	MOVED BY	OUTCOME
1954	G.V. Mavalankar	Socialist Party	Defeated
1966	Hukam Singh	Samyukta Socialist Party	Defeated
1987	Balram Jakhar	CPI	Defeated
2025	Om Birla	Opposition INDIA bloc (Congress MP Mohammad Jawed); 118 MPs signed	Rejected by Lok Sabha by voice vote after ~13 hours of debate

No no-confidence motion against a Lok Sabha Speaker has ever been passed in Indian history.

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	TRAP / COMMON MISTAKE	CORRECT FACT
1	Speaker resigns by writing to the President	Speaker resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker ; Deputy Speaker writes to the Speaker
2	Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides over joint sittings	Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over joint sittings (Article 108); Rajya Sabha Chairman has no role
3	Speaker votes like any other member	Speaker does NOT vote in first instance; only exercises a casting vote in case of a tie (Article 100)
4	Speaker cannot participate in debate on removal resolution	Speaker can speak and participate in debate on removal resolution (Art. 96) but cannot preside
5	Pro Tem Speaker is appointed by the outgoing Speaker	Pro Tem Speaker is appointed by the President of India
6	Speaker's Money Bill certificate is absolutely final — no judicial review	Post Rojer Mathew (2019), judicial review IS possible; 7-judge bench reference pending
7	Anti-defection decisions by Speaker cannot be challenged in court	Kihoto Hollohan (1992): Speaker's decisions ARE subject to judicial review, but only after the decision is made
8	Meira Kumar was India's first female Speaker (general confusion)	Correct — but note Sumitra Mahajan was the second ; no woman Speaker since 2019
9	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was the only President to serve as Speaker	Correct, and he served as Speaker twice (4th LS 1967–69 AND 6th LS 1977); also the only President elected unopposed
10	G.M.C. Balayogi was the first non-Congress Speaker	He was the first Dalit Speaker ; the first non-Congress Speaker was K.S. Hegde (6th LS, Janata Party, 1977)
11	Deputy Speaker post was first left vacant in 18th Lok Sabha	First vacant in 17th Lok Sabha (2019–2024) ; continues vacant in 18th LS — two consecutive Lok Sabhas without Deputy Speaker
12	Rajya Sabha can reject a Money Bill	Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations within 14 days; Lok Sabha can accept or ignore; Rajya Sabha has no power to reject or amend Money Bills

Chief Justices of India

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□ Constitutional Framework — Key Articles

ARTICLE	PROVISION
124(1)	There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a CJI and such other judges as Parliament may prescribe (currently 33 + CJI = 34 total)
124(2)	Judges appointed by the President after consultation with SC and HC judges as President deems necessary; CJI must always be consulted for other SC judge appointments
124(3)	Qualifications: Indian citizen + 5 years as HC judge OR 10 years as HC advocate OR distinguished jurist (President's opinion)
124(4) & (5)	Removal only by Presidential order on address of each House in same session — (a) majority of total membership + (b) two-thirds of members present and voting. Grounds: proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Governed by Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968
126	Acting CJI: President appoints another SC judge when CJI's office is vacant or CJI is absent/unable to perform duties
127	Ad Hoc judges: CJI may (with President's consent) request an HC judge to sit as an SC judge if quorum is lacking
128	Retired judges: CJI may (with President's consent + judge's consent) request a retired SC/HC judge to sit temporarily
60	CJI administers oath of office to the President of India; first instance: CJI H.J. Kania administered oath to President Rajendra Prasad on 26 January 1950

□ Appointment & Removal

ASPECT	DETAIL
Convention	Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed CJI — this is a convention, not a constitutional mandate
Process	Outgoing CJI recommends successor (senior-most judge) in writing □ Ministry of Law processes □ President issues warrant of appointment
Oath	CJI takes oath before the President (Article 124(6))
Retirement age	SC judges (including CJI) retire at 65 years of age — fixed by Article 124(2); not removable before this except by impeachment
Removal	By impeachment under Article 124(4) — requires address of both Houses in the same session with special majority; Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 governs procedure; no CJI has ever been impeached
Supersession controversy (1973)	PM Indira Gandhi bypassed three senior judges (Justices Shelat, Grover, Hegde) to appoint A.N. Ray as CJI. A political controversy; convention of seniority restored post-1977

□ Collegium System — Three Judges Cases

CASE	YEAR	RULING
First Judges Case — S.P. Gupta v. Union of India	1981	"Consultation" in Article 124(2) does NOT mean "concurrence" — executive had primacy ; government could disagree with CJI's recommendation
Second Judges Case — SCAORA v. Union of India	1993	9-judge bench overruled S.P. Gupta. Devised the Collegium System : CJI + 2 senior-most SC judges must recommend; CJI's opinion is binding on the executive
Third Judges Case — Presidential Reference	1998	9-judge bench (advisory opinion): expanded Collegium to CJI + 4 senior-most SC judges . If 2 of 4 collegium members disagree, CJI should not recommend; if collegium reiterates, government bound to accept
NJAC Strike-down — SCAORA v. Union of India	2015	5-judge bench (4:1) struck down 99th Constitutional Amendment (2014) that created NJAC (Article 124A). Held: NJAC violated judicial independence — a basic structure doctrine element. Collegium system restored

Current position (April 2026): Collegium system (CJI + 4 senior SC judges) remains in force. For HC judges: CJI + 2 senior-most SC judges.

☐ All Chief Justices of India — CJI 1 to 30

NO.	NAME	TENURE	NOTABLE
1	H.J. Kania	26 Jan 1950 – 6 Nov 1951	First CJI; administered oath to President Rajendra Prasad on 26 Jan 1950
2	M. Patanjali Sastri	7 Nov 1951 – 3 Jan 1954	—
3	Mehr Chand Mahajan	4 Jan 1954 – 22 Dec 1954	~11 months
4	B.K. Mukherjea	23 Dec 1954 – 31 Jan 1956	—
5	S.R. Das	1 Feb 1956 – 30 Sep 1959	~3 yr 8 mo
6	B.P. Sinha	1 Oct 1959 – 31 Jan 1964	~4 yr 4 mo
7	P.B. Gajendragadkar	1 Feb 1964 – 15 Mar 1966	—
8	A.K. Sarkar	16 Mar 1966 – 29 Jun 1966	~3 months
9	K. Subba Rao	30 Jun 1966 – 11 Apr 1967	~9 months; resigned to contest 1967 Presidential election (lost to Zakir Husain)
10	K.N. Wanchoo	12 Apr 1967 – 24 Feb 1968	~10 months
11	Mohammad Hidayatullah	25 Feb 1968 – 16 Dec 1970	First Muslim CJI ; later VP (1979–84) and Acting President (1969); only person to hold all three offices
12	J.C. Shah	17 Dec 1970 – 21 Jan 1971	~36 days (very short tenure)
13	S.M. Sikri	22 Jan 1971 – 25 Apr 1973	Presided over Kesavananda Bharati (1973) — Basic Structure Doctrine; last day of his tenure
14	A.N. Ray	26 Apr 1973 – 27 Jan 1977	Appointed by superseding 3 senior judges (Indira Gandhi); presided over ADM Jabalpur (Habeas Corpus case) 1976
15	M.H. Beg	28 Jan 1977 – 21 Feb 1978	Presided over Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India bench (judgment 25 Jan 1978)
16	Y.V. Chandrachud	22 Feb 1978 – 11 Jul 1985	Longest-serving CJI — ~7 years 4 months; wrote Shah Bano judgment (1985); father of CJI D.Y. Chandrachud
17	P.N. Bhagwati	12 Jul 1985 – 20 Dec 1986	Pioneer of PIL (public interest litigation) in India

NO.	NAME	TENURE	NOTABLE
18	R.S. Pathak	21 Dec 1986 – 18 Jun 1989	—
19	E.S. Venkataramaiah	19 Jun 1989 – 17 Dec 1989	~6 months
20	Sabyasachi Mukharji	18 Dec 1989 – 25 Sep 1990	Died in office; first CJI to die while in service post-1950
21	Ranganath Misra	26 Sep 1990 – 24 Nov 1991	Later became NHRC Chairperson (first) and elected to Rajya Sabha
22	K.N. Singh	25 Nov 1991 – 12 Dec 1991	Shortest tenure — 17 days (retired at 65)
23	M.H. Kania	13 Dec 1991 – 17 Nov 1992	~11 months
24	L.M. Sharma	18 Nov 1992 – 11 Feb 1993	~3 months
25	M.N. Venkatachaliah	12 Feb 1993 – 24 Oct 1994	Presided during Second Judges Case (1993) — established collegium system
26	A.M. Ahmadi	25 Oct 1994 – 24 Mar 1997	—
27	J.S. Verma	25 Mar 1997 – 17 Jan 1998	Presided over Vishaka v. Rajasthan (1997) — sexual harassment guidelines; later chaired Justice Verma Committee (2013) on rape laws after Nirbhaya
28	M.M. Punchhi	18 Jan 1998 – 9 Oct 1998	~9 months; later chaired Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations (2007–10)
29	A.S. Anand	10 Oct 1998 – 31 Oct 2001	Third Judges Case / Presidential Reference (1998) advisory opinion given during early part of tenure; became NHRC Chairperson after retirement
30	S.P. Bharucha	1 Nov 2001 – 5 May 2002	~6 months

☐ All Chief Justices of India — CJI 31 to 53 (Recent)

NO.	NAME	TENURE	NOTABLE
31	B.N. Kirpal	6 May 2002 – 7 Nov 2002	~6 months; part of Vishaka bench (1997)
32	G.B. Pattanaik	8 Nov 2002 – 19 Dec 2002	~41 days
33	V.N. Khare	19 Dec 2002 – 1 May 2004	~1 yr 4 mo
34	S. Rajendra Babu	2 May 2004 – 1 Jun 2004	~30 days
35	R.C. Lahoti	1 Jun 2004 – 31 Oct 2005	~1 yr 5 mo
36	Y.K. Sabharwal	1 Nov 2005 – 13 Jan 2007	~1 yr 2 mo
37	K.G. Balakrishnan	14 Jan 2007 – 12 May 2010	First Dalit CJI ; ~3 yr 4 mo; became NHRC Chairperson after retirement
38	S.H. Kapadia	12 May 2010 – 28 Sep 2012	~2 yr 5 mo
39	Altamas Kabir	29 Sep 2012 – 18 Jul 2013	~10 months
40	P. Sathasivam	19 Jul 2013 – 26 Apr 2014	~9 months; later appointed Governor of Kerala (first retired CJI to be appointed Governor)
41	R.M. Lodha	27 Apr 2014 – 27 Sep 2014	~5 months; later headed BCCI reforms committee (Lodha Committee)
42	H.L. Dattu	28 Sep 2014 – 2 Dec 2015	~1 yr 2 mo; became NHRC Chairperson
43	T.S. Thakur	3 Dec 2015 – 3 Jan 2017	Publicly broke down in court over judicial vacancy crisis while addressing PM Modi
44	J.S. Khehar	4 Jan 2017 – 27 Aug 2017	First Sikh CJI; ~8 months
45	Dipak Misra	28 Aug 2017 – 2 Oct 2018	Presided over Section 377 IPC decriminalisation (Navtej Singh Johar, 6 Sep 2018); four senior judges' historic press conference against him (Jan 2018)
46	Ranjan Gogoi	3 Oct 2018 – 17 Nov 2019	First CJI from Northeast (Assam) ; presided over Ayodhya verdict (9 Nov 2019) ; nominated to Rajya Sabha March 2020 — first retired CJI to become Rajya Sabha MP

NO.	NAME	TENURE	NOTABLE
47	S.A. Bobde	18 Nov 2019 – 23 Apr 2021	~1 yr 5 mo; COVID-era court operations
48	N.V. Ramana	24 Apr 2021 – 26 Aug 2022	~1 yr 4 mo; raised concerns on judicial vacancies
49	U.U. Lalit	27 Aug 2022 – 8 Nov 2022	~74 days; attempted to speed up collegium transparency
50	D.Y. Chandrachud	9 Nov 2022 – 10 Nov 2024	Son of CJI Y.V. Chandrachud — first father-son CJI pair ; upheld abrogation of Article 370 (J&K); Electoral Bonds struck down; digitalisation of courts
51	Sanjiv Khanna	11 Nov 2024 – 13 May 2025	~6 months; key constitutional bench decisions
52	B.R. Gavai	14 May 2025 – 23 Nov 2025	Second Dalit CJI; first Buddhist CJI — father embraced Buddhism with Ambedkar in 1956; ~6 months
53	Surya Kant □ Current	24 Nov 2025 – Feb 2027 (due)	Current CJI as of April 2026 ; expected tenure ~15 months

□ Key Firsts & Records

RECORD	NAME (CJI NO.)	DETAILS
First CJI	H.J. Kania (1)	26 Jan 1950; also administered first Presidential oath
First Muslim CJI	Mohammad Hidayatullah (11)	25 Feb 1968; also served as VP and Acting President
First Dalit CJI	K.G. Balakrishnan (37)	14 Jan 2007; later NHRC Chairperson
Second Dalit CJI / First Buddhist CJI	B.R. Gavai (52)	14 May 2025
First Sikh CJI	J.S. Khehar (44)	4 Jan 2017
First CJI from Northeast	Ranjan Gogoi (46)	From Assam; also presided over Ayodhya verdict
First woman CJI	None yet	As of April 2026, India has had no woman CJI . Justice B.V. Nagarathna projected to become first (Sept 2027; ~36-day tenure)
Longest-serving CJI	Y.V. Chandrachud (16)	~7 years 4 months (22 Feb 1978 – 11 Jul 1985)
Shortest-serving CJI	K.N. Singh (22)	17 days (25 Nov – 12 Dec 1991) — retired at 65 shortly after appointment
Father-son CJI pair	Y.V. Chandrachud (16) & D.Y. Chandrachud (50)	First and only such pair in Indian history
CJI who held all 3 top offices	Mohammad Hidayatullah (11)	CJI (1968–70) + Acting President (1969) + Vice-President (1979–84)
CJI who became Rajya Sabha MP	Ranjan Gogoi (46)	Nominated March 2020 — first retired CJI nominated to Rajya Sabha; controversial
CJI who became Governor	P. Sathasivam (40)	Governor of Kerala — first retired CJI appointed as Governor
CJI who resigned for Presidential election	K. Subba Rao (9)	Resigned Apr 1967 to contest Presidential election; lost to Zakir Husain

□ Landmark Judgments by CJI

CJI	JUDGMENT	YEAR	SIGNIFICANCE
S.M. Sikri (13)	Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala	1973	13-judge bench; established Basic Structure Doctrine — Parliament cannot amend the Constitution to destroy its basic structure; delivered on the last day of CJI Sikri's tenure (25 Apr 1973)
A.N. Ray (14)	ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla (Habeas Corpus case)	1976	During Emergency, majority ruled Article 21 (Right to Life) stands suspended; Courts cannot review detention. Justice H.R. Khanna alone dissented — celebrated as a beacon of judicial independence; Khanna was later superseded for CJI
M.H. Beg (15)	Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India	1978	7-judge bench (delivered 25 Jan 1978, last day before Chandrachud became CJI); expanded Article 21 — any law depriving personal liberty must be fair, just, and reasonable; golden triangle of Articles 14, 19, 21
Y.V. Chandrachud (16)	Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum	1985	5-judge bench; CJI Chandrachud wrote the judgment; upheld Muslim women's right to maintenance under Section 125 CrPC; Parliament overturned via Muslim Women Act, 1986
J.S. Verma (27)	Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan	1997	3-judge bench (CJI Verma, Manohar J., Kirpal J.); Vishaka Guidelines on sexual harassment at workplace — the de facto law until POSH Act, 2013
Dipak Misra (45)	Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India	2018	5-judge Constitution Bench; partially struck down Section 377 IPC — decriminalised consensual same-sex acts between adults (6 Sep 2018)
Ranjan Gogoi (46)	M. Siddiq v. Mahant Suresh Das (Ayodhya verdict)	2019	5-judge bench; unanimous judgment 9 Nov 2019; disputed land awarded to Ram Lalla; Sunni Waqf Board gets alternate 5-acre site; Ram Mandir now consecrated (Jan 2024)
D.Y. Chandrachud (50)	Article 370 abrogation (J&K); Electoral Bonds	2023–24	5-judge bench upheld abrogation of Article 370; Electoral Bonds Scheme struck down unanimously (Feb 2024) as violating right to information under Article 19(1)(a)

□ NHRC Chairperson — Eligibility & Change

ASPECT	DETAIL
Original provision (1993)	Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993: NHRC Chairperson must be a retired CJI specifically
After 2019 Amendment	Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019: Eligibility broadened — Chairperson may now be a retired CJI OR retired SC judge (not necessarily CJI)
Exam trap	Many questions use the old (pre-2019) provision. Correct post-2019: "retired CJI <i>or</i> retired SC judge"
Current Chairperson (Apr 2026)	Justice V. Ramasubramanian — retired SC judge (not a former CJI); assumed charge 23 December 2024; appointed under the amended provision

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	TRAP / COMMON MISTAKE	CORRECT FACT
1	Maneka Gandhi judgment was delivered under CJI Y.V. Chandrachud	Delivered 25 Jan 1978 — presiding CJI was M.H. Beg (CJI 15) . Chandrachud became CJI on 22 Feb 1978 — after the judgment
2	Shah Bano judgment was NOT by CJI Chandrachud	Wrong — CJI Y.V. Chandrachud personally wrote the Shah Bano judgment (1985). Correctly attributed to him
3	Collegium = CJI + 2 judges (for SC appointments)	Post Third Judges Case (1998): Collegium for SC appointments = CJI + 4 senior-most SC judges . CJI + 2 applies to HC appointments
4	First Judges Case (1981) established collegium	First Judges Case gave executive primacy (consultation ≠ concurrence). Collegium established by Second Judges Case (1993)
5	India has had a woman CJI	As of April 2026, India has had no woman CJI . Justice B.V. Nagarathna is expected to become the first in Sept 2027
6	K.N. Singh held the shortest CJI tenure at 17 days	Correct — K.N. Singh (CJI 22) served only 17 days; J.C. Shah (36 days) and S. Rajendra Babu (30 days) are close but longer
7	NHRC Chairperson must be a retired CJI	Post 2019 amendment: retired CJI or retired SC judge . Current chair (V. Ramasubramanian) is a retired SC judge, not a former CJI
8	Mohammad Hidayatullah was President of India	He was Acting President (20 Jul – 24 Aug 1969, when V.V. Giri resigned to contest elections), NOT President. He also served as Vice-President (1979–84)
9	Y.V. and D.Y. Chandrachud are the same person	They are father and son — both became CJI; first such pair in Indian history
10	ADM Jabalpur — all judges ruled against civil liberties	Justice H.R. Khanna alone dissented, holding Right to Life cannot be suspended during Emergency. He was later superseded for CJI as punishment for the dissent
11	Ranjan Gogoi was the first CJI to become an MP	Correct — first retired CJI nominated to Rajya Sabha (March 2020). This is constitutional but was widely criticised as undermining judicial independence
12	Appointment of CJI is constitutionally mandated to follow seniority	Seniority is a convention , not a constitutional mandate. It was violated in 1973 when Indira Gandhi superseded three senior judges to appoint A.N. Ray
13	SC judges can be removed by a simple majority	Removal requires special majority in each House in the same session: (a) majority of total membership + (b) two-thirds of members present and voting. No SC judge has ever been impeached

Viceroy & Governors-General

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Title evolution: **Governor-General of Bengal** (1773–1833) — created by Regulating Act 1773; supervisory authority over Bombay & Madras. □ **Governor-General of India** (1833–1858) — Charter Act 1833 redesignated the post; Lord William Bentinck was first. □ **Viceroy & Governor-General of India** (1858–1947) — Govt of India Act 1858 transferred power from EIC to Crown; "Viceroy" added to represent the Crown. □ **Governor-General of India** (1947–1950) — post-independence, Viceroy title dropped; office abolished when India became a republic on 26 Jan 1950.

□ Company Rule: Governors-General of Bengal & India (1773–1858)

NAME	TENURE	KEY ACTS, REFORMS & EVENTS
Warren Hastings 1st G-G of Bengal	1773– 1785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulating Act 1773 created his post • Pitt's India Act 1784 — established Board of Control (dual government) • First Supreme Court at Calcutta opened 1774 • Rohilla War; First Anglo-Maratha War • Impeached on return to England (acquitted after 7-year trial)
Lord Cornwallis 1st tenure	1786– 1793	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Settlement of Bengal 1793 (Zamindari system) • Cornwallis Code 1793 — separation of revenue and judicial functions • Excluded Indians from all high civil, military and judicial posts • Third Anglo-Mysore War □ Treaty of Seringapatam (18 March 1792) • Called "Father of Civil Services in India"
Sir John Shore (Lord Teignmouth)	1793– 1798	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Famous for policy of non-interference / neutrality — refused to intervene in Maratha–Nizam conflict • Nizam defeated at Battle of Kharda (1795) by Marathas; Shore declined to help the Nizam despite treaty obligations • Generally uneventful tenure — no major wars or landmark legislation
Lord Wellesley	1798– 1805	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidiary Alliance System — first applied to Nizam of Hyderabad (1 September 1798) • Fourth Anglo-Mysore War 1799 — Tipu Sultan killed at Seringapatam • Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803–05) • Fort William College, Calcutta (1800) — for training civil servants • Called himself "Bengal Tiger"
Lord Cornwallis 2nd tenure	1805 (brief)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returned to reverse Wellesley's aggressive expansion • Died in office at Ghazipur (5 October 1805) — only about 3 months into his second tenure • Buried at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh (tomb still exists)
Sir George Barlow Acting G-G	1805– 1807	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting G-G after Cornwallis's death until Lord Minto I arrived • Vellore Mutiny — 10 July 1806: First large-scale sepoy mutiny against the Company at Vellore Fort, triggered by new dress regulations (prohibiting religious marks, mandating uniform turbans)
Lord Minto I	1807– 1813	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent missions to Lahore, Tehran, Kabul against Napoleonic threat • Charter Act 1813 — ended EIC's trade monopoly; opened India to Christian missionaries; ₹1 lakh p.a. for Indian education
Lord Hastings (Marquess of Hastings)	1813– 1823	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-Nepalese War 1814–16 □ Treaty of Sugauli (1816): Nepal ceded Kumaon, Garhwal, Simla hill tracts, Terai, and Sikkim territories east of the Mechi River. <i>Note: Darjeeling was acquired separately from Sikkim in 1835, not under this treaty.</i> • Pindari War 1817–18; Third Anglo-Maratha War 1817–19 □ Peshwaship abolished • British supremacy established over entire India south of Sutlej
Lord Amherst	1823– 1828	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Anglo-Burmese War 1824–26 □ Treaty of Yandaboo (24 February 1826): Arakan & Tenasserim ceded • Barrackpore Mutiny 1824

NAME	TENURE	KEY ACTS, REFORMS & EVENTS
Lord William Bentinck	1828– 1835	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Governor-General of India (Charter Act 1833 redesignated the post) • Abolished Sati — Bengal Sati Regulation XVII, 4 December 1829 • Suppressed Thuggee (thug suppression under Sleeman) • Macaulay's Minute on English Education 1835 — approved by Bentinck on 7 March 1835 □ English as medium of instruction • Charter Act 1833 ended EIC's commercial monopoly completely
Sir Charles Metcalfe Acting G-G	1835– 1836	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Liberator of the Indian Press" — repealed the 1823 Press Ordinance via the Press Act of 1835, granting Indian newspapers freedom from prior restraint (licensing requirement) • Served for approximately one year; Court of Directors refused to confirm him as permanent G-G
Lord Auckland	1836– 1842	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Anglo-Afghan War 1839–42 — ordered invasion to restore Shah Shuja to the throne of Kabul • Ended disastrously: the retreat from Kabul in January 1842 saw near-total destruction of a 16,500-strong force • Auckland was recalled and replaced by Ellenborough
Lord Ellenborough	1842– 1844	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conquest of Sindh (1843): General Charles Napier defeated Baluchi Amirs at Battle of Miani (17 February 1843); Sindh annexed • Famous apocryphal dispatch: "Peccavi" (Latin: "I have sinned" = "I have Sindh") • Gwalior War 1843 • Recalled by Court of Directors in 1844 for arrogance and independent conduct
Sir Henry Hardinge I	1844– 1848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Anglo-Sikh War 1845–46: War declared 13 December 1845; decisive British victory • Treaty of Lahore (9 March 1846): Sikhs ceded Jullundur Doab and Kashmir; paid war indemnity • Elevated to Viscount Hardinge of Lahore after the war
Lord Dalhousie	1848– 1856	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrine of Lapse — Satara (1848), Jaitpur & Sambalpur (1849), Jhansi (1853), Nagpur (1853), Awadh (1856) • Second Anglo-Sikh War 1848–49 □ full annexation of Punjab • First railway: Bombay–Thane, 16 April 1853 • First operational electric telegraph 1851 (Calcutta–Diamond Harbour) • Wood's Despatch 1854 — "Magna Carta of English education in India" • Post Office Act 1854 — uniform postage across India • PWD (Public Works Department) established • Youngest Governor-General (age 36)
Lord Canning Last G-G & First Viceroy	1856– 1862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolt of 1857 — quelled; earned title "Clemency Canning" for clemency policy • Government of India Act 1858 — EIC dissolved; power transferred to Crown; Canning became first Viceroy • Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras established 1857 • Indian Penal Code 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure 1861 • Indian Councils Act 1861 — introduced legislative councils • Income Tax introduced 1860

□ Crown Rule: Viceroys of India (1858–1947)

NAME	TENURE	KEY ACTS, REFORMS & EVENTS
Lord Elgin I	1862–1863	Died in office at Dharamsala — shortest tenure as Viceroy
Lord Lawrence	1864–1869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Masterly inactivity" policy toward Afghanistan • High Courts established 1865 (under High Courts Act 1861) • Bhutan War 1864–65 □ Treaty of Sinchula (11 November 1865)
Lord Mayo	1869–1872	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First regular Census of India, 1872 • Financial decentralisation policy • Assassinated by convict Sher Ali Afridi at Port Blair on 8 February 1872 — only Viceroy killed in India
Lord Northbrook	1872–1876	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bihar Famine 1873–74 — effectively managed; praised for relief operations with no mass deaths • Income tax abolished temporarily • Arya Samaj founded (Swami Dayananda Saraswati, 1875) during his tenure • Resigned after disagreement with the home government over Afghanistan policy
Lord Lytton	1876–1880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi Durbar 1877 — Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India (1 January 1877) • Vernacular Press Act 1878 (gagged Indian press; repealed by Ripon) • Arms Act 1878 • Second Anglo-Afghan War 1878–80 • Great Famine 1876–78 (widely criticised for holding Durbar amid famine)
Lord Ripon	1880–1884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Most liberal Viceroy" / "Father of Local Self-Government in India" • Resolution on Local Self-Government 1882 — established elected local bodies • Ilbert Bill 1883 — Indian judges to try Europeans; caused "White Mutiny" by European settlers • First Factory Act (Indian Factories Act) 1881 • Repealed Vernacular Press Act
Lord Dufferin	1884–1888	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian National Congress founded 1885 — A.O. Hume; first session at Bombay (Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, 28 December 1885) • Third Anglo-Burmese War 1885 □ annexation of Upper Burma
Lord Lansdowne	1888–1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Councils Act 1892 — introduced limited elections to legislative councils • Durand Line 1893 — boundary agreement between British India and Afghanistan (drawn by Sir Mortimer Durand)
Lord Elgin II	1894–1899	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chitral Expedition 1895 — British force relieved a besieged garrison in Chitral (NWFP); significant tribal unrest followed • Great Plague (Bubonic Plague) 1896–97 — outbreak in Bombay in autumn 1896; spread to Pune; riots and assassination of plague commissioner W.C. Rand by Damodar Chapekar (22 June 1897) • Famine of 1896–97 also concurrent • No landmark constitutional legislation bears his name

NAME	TENURE	KEY ACTS, REFORMS & EVENTS
Lord Curzon	1899–1905	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partition of Bengal, 16 October 1905 □ triggered Swadeshi & Boycott Movement • Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904 • Indian Universities Act 1904 • NWFP created as separate province 1901 • Police Commission 1902 • Youngest Viceroy (age 39 at appointment in 1899) • Associated with the phrase "the brightest jewel in the British Crown"
Lord Minto II	1905–1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morley-Minto Reforms □ Indian Councils Act 1909 • Introduced separate electorates for Muslims — foundation of communal politics in India • Aga Khan led Muslim League delegation to Minto (Simla Deputation, October 1906)
Lord Hardinge II	1910–1916	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi Durbar 1911 — King George V visited India • Capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi (announced 12 December 1911) • Partition of Bengal annulled 1911 • Delhi Bomb Case, 23 December 1912 — bomb thrown at his elephant procession at Chandni Chowk; Hardinge survived (wounded); his parasol-bearer was killed
Lord Chelmsford	1916–1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms □ Government of India Act 1919 • Introduced Dyarchy in provinces (reserved + transferred subjects) • Rowlatt Act 1919 — "no appeal, no vakil, no daleel" □ triggered nationwide protests • Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, 13 April 1919 (General Dyer; Hunter Committee inquiry) • Home Rule Movement (Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Annie Besant) • Lucknow Pact 1916 (Congress-League agreement) happened at the start of his tenure
Lord Reading	1921–1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement (Gandhi; called off after Chauri Chaura, Feb 1922) • Gandhi arrested 10 March 1922; sentenced to 6 years on 18 March 1922 (released 24 February 1924 for surgery) • Prince of Wales visit boycotted 1921
Lord Irwin (later Lord Halifax)	1926–1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Commission 1927 (no Indian member; boycotted — "Go Back Simon") • Gandhi's Dandi March, 12 March – 6 April 1930 • Civil Disobedience Movement 1930 • Gandhi-Irwin Pact, 5 March 1931 — suspended Civil Disobedience; Gandhi to attend Round Table Conference • First Round Table Conference 1930 (Congress absent)
Lord Willingdon	1931–1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Round Table Conference 1931 (Gandhi attended; failed) • Civil Disobedience Movement suppressed — ~80,000 arrested • Communal Award 1932 (Ramsay MacDonald — separate electorates for Depressed Classes) • Poona Pact, 25 September 1932 — Gandhi vs Ambedkar; reserved seats within general Hindu electorate • Government of India Act 1935 — federal structure, provincial autonomy, dyarchy at Centre

NAME	TENURE	KEY ACTS, REFORMS & EVENTS
Lord Linlithgow	1936–1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longest-serving Viceroy (~7.5 years) • First elections under GoI Act 1935 — Congress won 7 out of 11 provinces • Congress ministries resigned 1939 (after WW2 declaration without consulting India) • August Offer 1940 • Cripps Mission 1942 (failed — rejected as "post-dated cheque") • Quit India Movement, 8 August 1942 — "Do or Die"; Gandhi, Nehru, entire Congress leadership arrested • Bengal Famine 1943 (during his tenure)
Lord Wavell	1943–1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simla Conference 1945 (Wavell Plan — failed due to Jinnah's insistence on Muslim League parity) • Cabinet Mission Plan 1946 — three-tier federal structure proposed; Congress and League initially accepted • Interim Government formed September 1946 (Nehru sworn as Vice-President of Executive Council)
Lord Mountbatten Last Viceroy	Mar–Aug 1947 (as Viceroy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Viceroy of India — formally assumed office 24 March 1947 • Mountbatten Plan / 3 June Plan 1947 — partition of India into India and Pakistan • Indian Independence Act 1947 (Royal Assent 18 July 1947) • Independence & Partition: 15 August 1947 • Oversaw integration of princely states (with Sardar Patel)

☐☐ Post-Independence Governors-General (1947–1950)

NAME	TENURE	KEY NOTES
Lord Mountbatten	Aug 1947 – Jun 1948	First Governor-General of independent India (British); continued overseeing integration of princely states; resigned June 1948
C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)	Jun 1948 – Jan 1950	Last Governor-General of India; only Indian to hold the post; one of the first recipients of Bharat Ratna (1954). Office abolished when India became a republic on 26 January 1950 .

□ One-Line Associations — Quick Recall

ASSOCIATION / EVENT	GOVERNOR-GENERAL / VICEROY
First Governor-General of Bengal (1773)	Warren Hastings
Regulating Act 1773	Warren Hastings
Pitt's India Act 1784 (Board of Control)	Warren Hastings
Permanent Settlement / Zamindari (1793)	Lord Cornwallis (1st tenure)
"Father of Civil Services in India"	Lord Cornwallis
Policy of non-interference / neutrality	Sir John Shore
Subsidiary Alliance System	Lord Wellesley
Tipu Sultan killed / 4th Anglo-Mysore War (1799)	Lord Wellesley
Fort William College, Calcutta (1800)	Lord Wellesley
Vellore Mutiny (1806)	Sir George Barlow (Acting)
Charter Act 1813 (ended trade monopoly)	Lord Minto I
Treaty of Sugauli / Anglo-Nepal War (1816)	Lord Hastings
First Anglo-Burmese War / Treaty of Yandaboo	Lord Amherst
First Governor-General of India (1833)	Lord William Bentinck
Sati abolished (4 Dec 1829)	Lord William Bentinck
English as medium of instruction (Macaulay's Minute 1835)	Lord William Bentinck
"Liberator of the Indian Press" / Press Act 1835	Sir Charles Metcalfe (Acting)
First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–42)	Lord Auckland
Conquest of Sindh (1843)	Lord Ellenborough
First Anglo-Sikh War / Treaty of Lahore (1846)	Sir Henry Hardinge I
Doctrine of Lapse	Lord Dalhousie
First railway (1853) & telegraph (1851)	Lord Dalhousie
Wood's Despatch 1854	Lord Dalhousie
Youngest Governor-General (age 36)	Lord Dalhousie
First Viceroy of India / "Clemency Canning"	Lord Canning
Revolt of 1857 suppressed	Lord Canning
Universities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras (1857)	Lord Canning

ASSOCIATION / EVENT	GOVERNOR-GENERAL / VICEROY
First regular Census (1872)	Lord Mayo
Only Viceroy assassinated in India (1872, Port Blair)	Lord Mayo
Bihar Famine 1873–74 effectively managed	Lord Northbrook
Arya Samaj founded (1875)	Lord Northbrook (during his tenure)
Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India (1877)	Lord Lytton
Vernacular Press Act 1878 & Arms Act 1878	Lord Lytton
Local Self-Government 1882 / "Father of LSG"	Lord Ripon
Ilbert Bill (1883)	Lord Ripon
First Factory Act 1881	Lord Ripon
Indian National Congress founded (1885)	Lord Dufferin
Durand Line 1893	Lord Lansdowne
Indian Councils Act 1892	Lord Lansdowne
Great Plague (Bubonic) 1896–97	Lord Elgin II
Youngest Viceroy (age 39)	Lord Curzon
Partition of Bengal (16 Oct 1905) □ Swadeshi Movement	Lord Curzon
Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904	Lord Curzon
Morley-Minto Reforms / Separate electorates (1909)	Lord Minto II
Capital shifted Calcutta □ Delhi (12 Dec 1911)	Lord Hardinge II
Partition of Bengal annulled (1911)	Lord Hardinge II
Delhi Bomb Case — parasol-bearer killed (23 Dec 1912)	Lord Hardinge II
Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms / Dyarchy (GoI Act 1919)	Lord Chelmsford
Rowlatt Act 1919 / Jallianwala Bagh 1919	Lord Chelmsford
Non-Cooperation Movement / Gandhi arrested (1922)	Lord Reading
Dandi March (1930) / Civil Disobedience Movement	Lord Irwin
Gandhi-Irwin Pact (5 March 1931)	Lord Irwin
Communal Award 1932 / Poona Pact 1932	Lord Willingdon
Government of India Act 1935	Lord Willingdon
Quit India Movement (8 Aug 1942) / Cripps Mission 1942	Lord Linlithgow
Longest-serving Viceroy (~7.5 years)	Lord Linlithgow (1936–1943)

ASSOCIATION / EVENT	GOVERNOR-GENERAL / VICEROY
Cabinet Mission Plan 1946	Lord Wavell
Last Viceroy / Mountbatten Plan / Partition 1947	Lord Mountbatten
Last Governor-General / Only Indian G-G	C. Rajagopalachari

□ High-Frequency Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
Who was the first Governor-General of India (not just Bengal)?	Lord William Bentinck (1833) — not Warren Hastings, who was G-G of Bengal only
Sati was abolished under which act and which Governor-General?	Bengal Sati Regulation XVII, 4 December 1829 under Lord William Bentinck
Did the Treaty of Sugauli (1816) cede Darjeeling to the British?	No. Sugauli ceded Kumaon, Garhwal, Simla hill tracts, Terai, and Sikkim territories. Darjeeling was acquired separately from the Raja of Sikkim in 1835 — 19 years later.
Who was the "Liberator of the Indian Press"?	Sir Charles Metcalfe (Acting G-G, 1835–36) — repealed the 1823 Press Ordinance via Press Act 1835. Not Lord Ripon (who repealed the Vernacular Press Act, a different law).
Who was the last Governor-General AND first Viceroy?	Lord Canning — the same person held both titles; Govt of India Act 1858 transformed his title
INC was founded under which Viceroy?	Lord Dufferin (1884–1888) — NOT Lord Ripon (common confusion; Ripon was the "good" Viceroy immediately before)
Partition of Bengal (1905) was annulled under whom?	Lord Hardinge II in 1911 — NOT under Minto II (who was Viceroy when Curzon ordered it)
Who introduced separate electorates for Muslims?	Lord Minto II via Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms) — NOT Lord Curzon
Who was the only Viceroy assassinated in India?	Lord Mayo (8 February 1872) — killed by convict Sher Ali Afridi at Port Blair, Andaman Islands
What happened in the Delhi Bomb Case (1912) — who was killed?	Lord Hardinge II survived (wounded). His parasol-bearer / attendant was killed. The mahout (elephant driver) was NOT killed — a common misconception.
Who was the longest-serving Viceroy and for how long?	Lord Linlithgow (1936–1943) — approximately 7.5 years . Often stated as "8 years" in older sources — his tenure ended 1 October 1943, not 1944.
When did Lord Wavell's tenure begin?	1 October 1943 — NOT 1944. Wavell served 1943–1947. Many sources incorrectly state "1944–1947."
Who was the last Governor-General of India?	C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) — not Mountbatten. Mountbatten was first G-G of independent India; Rajaji was the last.
Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed in which year?	5 March 1931 — often confused with 1930 (Salt March year) or 1932 (Poona Pact year)
Delhi was made capital under which Viceroy?	Lord Hardinge II — announced at Delhi Durbar 12 December 1911
Quit India Movement was launched under which Viceroy?	Lord Linlithgow — 8 August 1942. NOT Lord Wavell (who came later in October 1943)

Exam strategy: UPSC tests Viceroy on three axes — (1) which act / reform / event happened under whom (the quick-recall table above), (2) "firsts" and "onlys" (first G-G of Bengal, first G-G of India, first Viceroy, only Indian G-G, only assassinated Viceroy, youngest G-G vs youngest Viceroy), (3) negative MCQs mixing up adjacent Viceroy (Curzon vs Minto II, Dufferin vs Ripon, Hardinge II vs Chelmsford, Linlithgow vs Wavell). The 1833 / 1858 title transitions and the Canning dual-title are the most commonly tested structural facts.

Rivers of India

STATIC GK · INDIA — FACTS & IDENTITY · 2 APRIL 2026

□ Classification of Indian Rivers

TYPE	CHARACTERISTIC	EXAMPLES
Himalayan (Perennial)	Fed by snowmelt + monsoon; antecedent rivers; formed before the Himalayas rose (gorge formation)	Ganga, Yamuna, Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum
Peninsular (Seasonal)	Rain-fed only; dry in summer; shorter course; flow over hard rocks; older, more stable valleys	Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi, Narmada, Tapi
East-flowing	Drain into Bay of Bengal; form deltas; have many tributaries	Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Damodar, Subarnarekha
West-flowing	Drain into Arabian Sea; form estuaries (not deltas); shorter, steeper	Indus, Narmada, Tapi, Sabarmati, Mahi, Luni, Periyar, Sharavathi, Bharathapuzha

Why do Narmada and Tapi flow west? They flow through rift valleys formed by the Narmada-Son trough — faulted depressions along which west-flowing drainage was established. The Western Ghats act as the main watershed for short west-flowing coastal rivers; Narmada and Tapi are exceptions that pre-date the Ghats.

□ Himalayan Rivers

RIVER	ORIGIN	TOTAL LENGTH (KM)	KEY TRIBUTARIES	DRAINS INTO	KEY EXAM FACT
Indus	Sengge Zangbo, near Mansarovar Lake, Tibet (5,182 m)	3,180 (only ~1,114 in India)	Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej (Left bank); Shyok, Gilgit (Right bank)	Arabian Sea (Karachi)	Longest river in South Asia; most of its course outside India; "Punjab" = land of five rivers (all Indus tributaries)
Sutlej	Langchen Khambab/Rakas Lake, Tibet (4,572 m)	1,500 (450 in India)	Beas (merges before entering Pakistan)	Indus (Pakistan)	Gorge at Shipki La; Bhakra Nangal dam; allocated to India under IWT
Ganga	Gangotri glacier/Gomukh, Uttarakhand (3,892 m) — Bhagirathi + Alaknanda join at Devprayag	2,525	Yamuna, Son, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi (right); Chambal, Betwa, Ken (through Yamuna)	Bay of Bengal (Sundarbans delta)	Longest river entirely in India; largest river basin in India; National River (4 Nov 2008); Namami Gange mission
Yamuna	Yamunotri glacier, Uttarakhand (6,387 m)	1,376	Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh	Ganga (at Prayagraj — Triveni Sangam with Saraswati)	Largest tributary of Ganga; Delhi, Agra, Mathura on its banks; most polluted major river
Brahmaputra	Angsi Glacier, near Mansarovar, Tibet (5,300 m) — called Tsangpo in Tibet	2,900 (916 in India)	Dibang, Lohit (join before entering Assam); Subansiri, Manas, Teesta (in Assam)	Bay of Bengal (Sundarbans/Bangladesh)	Known as Tsangpo (Tibet) □ Siang/Dihang (Arunachal) □ Brahmaputra (Assam) □ Jamuna (Bangladesh); widest river in India; huge sediment load

□ East-Flowing Peninsular Rivers

RIVER	ORIGIN	LENGTH (KM)	STATES	KEY FACTS
Godavari	Trimbak hills, Nashik, Maharashtra (1,067 m)	1,465	MH, Telangana, AP	Largest peninsular river ; called "Vridha Ganga" (Old Ganga) / "Dakshina Ganga" (Ganga of the South); Polavaram dam (national project, under construction)
Krishna	Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra (1,337 m)	1,400	MH, Karnataka, AP/Telangana	Second longest peninsular river; major tributaries: Bhima, Tungabhadra, Musi; Nagarjuna Sagar dam; Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal
Mahanadi	Raipur district, Chhattisgarh (442 m)	858	CG, Odisha	Hirakud dam (one of longest dams in the world ~25.8 km); Bhitarkanika mangroves at mouth; Chilika Lake nearby
Kaveri (Cauvery)	Talakaveri, Brahmagiri hills, Kodagu, Karnataka (1,341 m)	765	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu	Called "Ponni" (Gold river) in Tamil; KRS dam (designed by Visvesvaraya); Mettur dam; Cauvery water dispute — most litigated river dispute in India; Kaveri Wildlife Sanctuary
Damodar	Khamarpat Hill, Chota Nagpur Plateau, Jharkhand	592	Jharkhand, West Bengal	Historically "Sorrow of Bengal" (flooding); Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) modelled on TVA; DVC dams: Tilaiya, Maithon, Konar, Panchet; drains into Hooghly
Subarnarekha	Nagri, Ranchi, Jharkhand	395	Jharkhand, WB, Odisha	Getalsud dam; flows through Saranda forest; Bay of Bengal outfall
Pennar (Penna)	Nandi Hills (Chenna Kasava Hill), Chikkaballapura, Karnataka	597	Karnataka, AP	Rain-fed/intermittent; mouth near Nellore; basin ~55,213 sq km

□ West-Flowing Peninsular Rivers

RIVER	ORIGIN	LENGTH (KM)	STATES	KEY FACTS
Narmada	Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh (1,057 m)	1,312	MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Longest west-flowing river; also called "Rewa"; forms boundary between North and South India; Sardar Sarovar dam (163 m, 1,450 MW); Omkareshwar, Indira Sagar (largest reservoir by volume); estuary at Gulf of Khambhat; Narmada Bachao Andolan
Tapi (Tapti)	Multai, Betul, Madhya Pradesh (~752 m)	724	MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Flows parallel to Narmada ~80 km south; Ukai dam (Gujarat); estuary at Gulf of Khambhat; both Narmada and Tapi flow through rift valleys
Sabarmati	Aravalli Hills, Udaipur, Rajasthan (~762 m)	371	Rajasthan, Gujarat	Passes through Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar; Gandhi Ashram (Sabarmati Ashram) on its banks; Dharoi dam; estuary at Gulf of Khambhat
Mahi	Vindhyas, Dhar, MP (~500 m)	583	MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat	Kadana reservoir; crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice — distinctive geographic feature; Arabian Sea via Gulf of Khambhat
Luni	Western Aravalli, near Ajmer (~772 m)	511	Rajasthan	Drains into Rann of Kutch (not the sea); fresh water in upper reaches, saline below Balotra ; semi-arid river; not perennial
Sharavathi	Ambuthirtha, Western Ghats, Karnataka	~128	Karnataka	Source of Jog Falls (Gersoppa Falls) — highest untiered waterfall in India (253 m); Linganamakki dam
Periyar	Sivagiri hills, Western Ghats, Kerala	244	Kerala	Longest river in Kerala ; Idukki arch dam (one of India's largest arch dams); Periyar Tiger Reserve (Thekkady)
Bharathapuzha (Nila)	Anaimalai Hills, Western Ghats	209	Kerala	Second longest river in Kerala; "Cultural River of Kerala"

□ Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) 1960

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Signed	19 September 1960 — PM Nehru (India) and President Ayub Khan (Pakistan); brokered by World Bank
India's rivers (Eastern)	Ravi, Beas, Sutlej — unrestricted use by India
Pakistan's rivers (Western)	Indus, Jhelum, Chenab — unrestricted use by Pakistan (India has limited non-consumptive use)
Mnemonic	RBS □ India; IJC □ Pakistan (Ravi-Beas-Sutlej to India; Indus-Jhelum-Chenab to Pakistan)
Permanent Indus Commission	India and Pakistan each appoint a commissioner; annual meetings
2025 suspension	Following the Pahalgam terrorist attack (22 April 2025) , India suspended the IWT on 23 April 2025 — first-ever suspension in its 65-year history. India stopped Chenab flows from Baglihar Dam and conducted off-season reservoir flushing. Pakistan approached the Permanent Court of Arbitration (Hague), which noted the treaty has no unilateral suspension clause; India rejected the court's jurisdiction. Status as of April 2026: IWT remains suspended.

□ Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Significance	India's first inter-linking project under the National River Linking Project (NRLP); transfers surplus water from Ken (Madhya Pradesh) to water-scarce Betwa (Uttar Pradesh)
Foundation stone	Laid by PM Narendra Modi on 25 December 2024 (Sushasan Diwas / Atal Bihari Vajpayee birth anniversary) at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
Cost	₹ 44,605 crore (as per 2021 DPR; central government funds 90%)
Key structure	Daudhan Dam on Ken River (Panna district, MP) — main storage reservoir; 77 m height; 2,031.56 MCM capacity
Canal	221-km link canal from Daudhan Dam to Betwa River (Lower Orchha)
Benefits	Irrigation: 10.62 lakh hectares (8.11 lakh ha in UP + 2.51 lakh ha in MP); drinking water to 62 lakh people ; hydropower: 103 MW
Region benefited	Bundelkhand — water-stressed region spread across 13 districts of UP and 7 districts of MP
Environment concern	Project submerges part of Panna Tiger Reserve ; National Board for Wildlife gave conditional clearance; 23 tigers to be relocated
NRLP overview	National River Linking Project — links 30 rivers via 37 links; proposed by National Water Development Agency (NWDA); Ken-Betwa is Link No. 1 of Peninsular Component

□ Namami Gange Programme

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launch	Launched June 2014 ; upgraded to Flagship Programme status; nodal ministry: Jal Shakti Ministry (erstwhile Water Resources)
Budget	₹ 42,500 crore total allocation (Budget 2023–24 enhanced from ₹ 20,000 crore); centrally sponsored scheme with 60:40 centre-state split
Implementing body	National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under Jal Shakti Ministry
Six pillars	(1) Sewage treatment & industrial effluent, (2) River surface cleaning, (3) Afforestation / riverfront development, (4) Biodiversity conservation, (5) Public awareness, (6) Ganga Gram (riverbank village development)
Gangetic dolphin	Population increased from 3,330 (2018) to 3,936 (2024) — indicator of river health; National Aquatic Animal; found in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin
STPs	Sewage Treatment Plants capacity increased significantly; 150+ towns on Ganga covered; real-time effluent monitoring
Arth Ganga	Economic dimension added — natural farming on Ganga banks, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, livelihood integration
Exam note	Ganga declared National River on 4 November 2008 (Manmohan Singh govt); Namami Gange is NOT the original Ganga Action Plan (GAP-I launched 1985, GAP-II 1993)

□ Sacred Rivers & Cultural Names

RIVER	SACRED NAME / NOTE	KEY SIGNIFICANCE
Ganga	National River of India — declared 4 November 2008 (Manmohan Singh govt)	Most sacred; Namami Gange Mission (2014); Haridwar, Prayagraj, Varanasi on banks
Godavari	"Dakshina Ganga" (Ganga of South) / "Vridha Ganga" (Old Ganga)	Largest peninsular river; Nashik Kumbh Mela held on Godavari
Kaveri	"Ponni" (Golden River in Tamil)	Sacred in South India; Adi Shankaracharya's Sringeri matha on a tributary
Narmada	"Rewa" in Madhya Pradesh; "Mekhala"	Circumambulation (parikrama) — 1,312 km on foot; one of 7 sacred rivers
Brahmaputra	"Luit" or "Barhola" in Assam	Worshipped as a male river god (Brahma's son); Majuli island (world's largest river island) in it
Sapta Sindhu	Seven sacred rivers in Rigveda	Origin of the word "Hindu" — Persian mispronunciation of "Sindhu" (Indus); ancient India = Sapta Sindhu region

□ Key Dam Records

RECORD	DAM	RIVER	STATE	DETAIL
Tallest dam in India	Tehri Dam	Bhagirathi (Ganga)	Uttarakhand	260.5 m; earth-and-rockfill; 1,000 MW
Longest dam in India	Hirakud Dam	Mahanadi	Odisha	~25.8 km including dykes; completed 1957; first post-independence multipurpose dam
Largest reservoir by volume	Indira Sagar Dam	Narmada	Madhya Pradesh	12.22 billion m ³ ; completed 2005; 1,000 MW
Largest gravity dam	Bhakra Dam	Sutlej	HP/Punjab border	225 m; Gobind Sagar reservoir; 2nd tallest straight gravity dam in world at time of construction
Largest arch dam	Idukki Dam	Periyar	Kerala	Double-curvature arch dam; 168.9 m; 780 MW
First major post-independence dam	Hirakud Dam	Mahanadi	Odisha	Completed 1957; first major multipurpose river valley project
Highest waterfall (source)	Jog Falls (253 m)	Sharavathi	Karnataka	Highest untiered waterfall in India; Linganamakki dam upstream
Largest dam by capacity (current)	Sardar Sarovar	Narmada	Gujarat	163 m; benefits 4 states; 1,450 MW; Narmada Bachao Andolan

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	WRONG BELIEF	CORRECT FACT
1	"Ganga originates at Gangotri glacier"	Technically Ganga starts at Gomukh (snout of Gangotri glacier, 18 km from Gangotri town) where the Bhagirathi emerges. Gangotri is the town/shrine. UPSC often uses both — but Gomukh is more precise.
2	"Brahmaputra originates in India"	Brahmaputra originates in Tibet as the Tsangpo near Angsi Glacier (~5,300 m). It enters India at Arunachal Pradesh. Its four names: Tsangpo (Tibet) □ Siang/Dihang (AP) □ Brahmaputra (Assam) □ Jamuna (Bangladesh).
3	"Sutlej, Indus, Brahmaputra are consequent rivers formed by Himalayan uplift"	They are antecedent rivers — they pre-date the Himalayas and cut through the mountains as the ranges rose. This explains their gorge-forming nature through the mountains.
4	"IWT gives Indus to India"	IWT allocates Ravi, Beas, Sutlej (Eastern rivers) to India . Indus, Jhelum, Chenab (Western) go to Pakistan . Mnemonic: RBS □ India; IJC □ Pakistan.
5	"Narmada and Tapi form deltas"	They form estuaries , not deltas. East-flowing rivers (Ganga, Godavari, etc.) form deltas. West-flowing peninsular rivers are shorter, steeper, and lack sufficient sediment deposition.
6	"Godavari is longer than Ganga"	Ganga (2,525 km) is the longest river in India . Godavari (1,465 km) is the longest peninsular river but shorter than Ganga.
7	"Luni drains into the Arabian Sea"	Luni drains into the Rann of Kutch (a seasonal salt marsh in Gujarat), not directly into the sea.
8	"Damodar was called 'Sorrow of Bengal' because of pollution"	"Sorrow of Bengal" refers to its historical flooding and embankment breaches , not pollution. DVC was built to tame these floods.
9	"Mahi river crosses Tropic of Cancer once"	Mahi river is notable for crossing the Tropic of Cancer twice due to its curved course in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
10	"Kaveri dispute is between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh"	The Cauvery water dispute is between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (along with Puducherry and Kerala). The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its final award in 2007 (confirmed by SC in 2018).
11	"Hirakud is the tallest dam in India"	Hirakud is the longest dam (~25.8 km). The tallest is Tehri Dam (260.5 m).
12	"Kosi is a tributary of Brahmaputra"	Kosi is a tributary of the Ganga , joining it in Bihar. It is called "Sorrow of Bihar" due to frequent course changes and flooding.

Bharat Ratna

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About Bharat Ratna: Established **2 January 1954**. India's highest civilian award — originally for arts, literature, and science; expanded in **December 2011** to "any field of human endeavour." No cash prize; recipients receive a peepal-leaf-shaped medallion. Awarded by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. **Total recipients: 53** (as of April 2026). **18 posthumous** awards. No Bharat Ratna has ever been revoked.

□ Key Facts at a Glance

CATEGORY	DETAIL
Established	2 January 1954 (by Presidential decree)
Governed by	Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards Statutes (amended multiple times; scope expanded Dec 2011)
Max per year	Nominally 3 per year — breached in 1999 (4 awarded) and 2024 (5 awarded — highest ever)
Total recipients	53 individuals (as of April 2026)
Posthumous awards	18 posthumous awards total
First recipients	C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman — all in 1954
First posthumous	Lal Bahadur Shastri, 1966 — statutes amended in Jan 1966 to allow posthumous awards
First woman	Indira Gandhi, 1971
First non-Indian	Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Pakistan), 1987
First sportsperson	Sachin Tendulkar, 2014
Youngest recipient	Sachin Tendulkar (age 40), 2014
Oldest recipient	D.K. Karve (age 100), 1958
Suspension periods	(1) 13 Jul 1977 – 25 Jan 1980 — Janata Party govt suspended all civil honours; (2) ~1992–Dec 1995 — Two PILs challenged constitutional validity; SC reinstated Dec 1995
Subhas Chandra Bose (note)	Announced 1992 but Supreme Court cancelled the press communiqué on 4 Aug 1997 (disputed death claim). Award was never formally conferred — not in official list

☐ Complete Chronological List (1954–2024)

#	YEAR	RECIPIENT	FIELD	NOTES
1	1954	C. Rajagopalachari	Politics / Statecraft	Last Governor-General of India; first batch
2	1954	S. Radhakrishnan	Philosophy / Education	Later 2nd President of India; first batch
3	1954	C.V. Raman	Physics	Nobel laureate (1930); first batch
4	1955	Bhagwan Das	Philosophy / Education	
5	1955	M. Visvesvaraya	Civil Engineering	Dewan of Mysore; Bharat Ratna on his birthday (15 Sep — Engineers' Day)
6	1955	Jawaharlal Nehru	Politics	First Prime Minister of India
7	1957	Govind Ballabh Pant	Politics / Social Reform	1st CM of Uttar Pradesh; Home Minister under Nehru
8	1958	D.K. Karve	Social Reform / Education	Awarded on his 100th birthday — oldest recipient ever ; championed women's education
9	1961	Bidhan Chandra Roy	Medicine / Politics	Chief Minister of West Bengal; physician; National Doctors' Day is his birth/death date (1 Jul)
10	1961	Purushottam Das Tandon	Politics / Hindi advocacy	Nicknamed "Rajarshi"; key figure in Hindi as official language movement
11	1962	Rajendra Prasad	Politics / Law	First President of India — only President to serve two terms
12	1963	Zakir Husain	Education / Statecraft	Later 3rd President of India; first Muslim President
13	1963	P.V. Kane	Sanskrit / Indology	Author of 5-volume "History of Dharmaśāstra"
14	1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri	Politics	POSTHUMOUS — first posthumous recipient ever . Statutes amended Jan 1966 to allow it. 2nd PM; gave slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"; died in Tashkent 1966
15	1971	Indira Gandhi	Politics	First woman recipient ; 3rd PM; led 1971 war and Bangladesh liberation
16	1975	V.V. Giri	Politics / Labour	4th President of India; trade union leader
17	1976	K. Kamaraj	Politics	POSTHUMOUS ; "Kingmaker" of Indian politics; CM of Tamil Nadu
18	1980	Mother Teresa	Humanitarian	Albanian-origin naturalised Indian citizen; Nobel Peace Prize 1979; founded Missionaries of Charity
19	1983	Vinoba Bhave	Social Reform / Gandhian	POSTHUMOUS ; Bhoodan Movement (land gift movement)

#	YEAR	RECIPIENT	FIELD	NOTES
20	1987	Abdul Ghaffar Khan	Independence activism	First non-Indian recipient ; Pakistani citizen; "Frontier Gandhi"; close associate of Mahatma Gandhi
21	1988	M.G. Ramachandran (MGR)	Cinema / Politics	POSTHUMOUS ; Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; first film actor to receive Bharat Ratna
22	1990	B.R. Ambedkar	Law / Social Reform	POSTHUMOUS ; "Father of the Indian Constitution"; Chairman of Drafting Committee; founded Buddhism revival movement
23	1990	Nelson Mandela	Politics / Human Rights	Second non-Indian recipient ; South African President; Nobel Peace Prize 1993
24	1991	Rajiv Gandhi	Politics	POSTHUMOUS ; 6th PM; assassinated 1991
25	1991	Vallabhbhai Patel	Politics / Statecraft	POSTHUMOUS ; "Iron Man of India"; first Deputy PM; integrated 562 princely states
26	1991	Morarji Desai	Politics	4th Prime Minister; also received Pakistan's Nishan-e-Pakistan
27	1992	Abul Kalam Azad	Education / Independence	POSTHUMOUS ; first Education Minister of India; his birthday (11 Nov) = National Education Day
28	1992	J.R.D. Tata	Industry / Aviation	Founded Air India; pioneer of Indian civil aviation
29	1992	Satyajit Ray	Cinema / Arts	Oscar Honorary Award 1992 (same year); "Pather Panchali" director
30	1997	Gulzarilal Nanda	Politics	Acted as PM twice (after Nehru's death 1964 and Shastri's death 1966)
31	1997	Aruna Asaf Ali	Independence activism	POSTHUMOUS ; hoisted Congress flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan during Quit India Movement 1942
32	1997	A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	Aerospace / Defence Science	"Missile Man of India"; later 11th President (2002–07); PSLV and Agni missile programmes
33	1998	M.S. Subbulakshmi	Carnatic classical music	First musician to address UN General Assembly (1966); Ramon Magsaysay Award 1974
34	1998	C. Subramaniam	Agriculture / Politics	Architect of Green Revolution policy; Union Minister of Agriculture during Green Revolution
35	1999	Jayaprakash Narayan	Social activism / Politics	POSTHUMOUS ; "JP" — led Total Revolution movement against Indira Gandhi (1974–75); founder of Samata Party
36	1999	Amartya Sen	Economics	Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics 1998; capability approach, welfare economics
37	1999	Gopinath Bordoloi	Politics	POSTHUMOUS ; first Chief Minister of Assam; credited with keeping Assam with India during Partition
38	1999	Ravi Shankar	Classical music (sitar)	Introduced Indian classical music to the world; collaborated with George Harrison (Beatles). 4 awarded in 1999 — first time 3-per-year norm exceeded

#	YEAR	RECIPIENT	FIELD	NOTES
39	2001	Lata Mangeshkar	Playback singing	"Nightingale of India"; "Voice of the Millennium"; died Feb 2022
40	2001	Bismillah Khan	Shehnai (classical music)	Popularised shehnai as concert instrument; played at Red Fort on Independence Day 1947
41	2009	Bhimsen Joshi	Hindustani classical vocal	Kirana gharana; known for khayal and bhajans
42	2014	C.N.R. Rao	Solid-state chemistry / Science	Bharat Ratna + Padma Vibhushan + India's highest scientific honours; research on nanomaterials
43	2014	Sachin Tendulkar	Cricket	First sportsperson and youngest recipient (age 40) ; 100 international centuries; "God of Cricket"
44	2015	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Politics	10th Prime Minister (BJP's first PM to complete full term); poet; Pokhran-II nuclear tests 1998
45	2015	Madan Mohan Malaviya	Education / Nationalism	POSTHUMOUS ; founded Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916; "Mahamana"
46	2019	Nanaji Deshmukh	Education / Rural development	POSTHUMOUS ; RSS leader; Deendayal Research Institute; Chitrukoot development model
47	2019	Bhupen Hazarika	Music / Cinema / Literature	POSTHUMOUS ; "Sudhakantha" — voice of Assam; composed and sang in multiple languages; died 2011
48	2019	Pranab Mukherjee	Politics	13th President (2012–17); former Finance, External Affairs, Defence Minister; died Aug 2020
49	2024	Karpoori Thakur	Politics / Social reform	POSTHUMOUS ; "Jan Nayak"; twice CM of Bihar; championed OBC reservations; died 1988
50	2024	L.K. Advani	Politics	Co-founder of BJP; Deputy PM (1999–2004); Ram Rath Yatra 1990
51	2024	Chaudhary Charan Singh	Politics / Agriculture	POSTHUMOUS ; 5th Prime Minister (Jul 1979 – Jan 1980); champion of farmers; his birth anniversary (23 Dec) = Kisan Diwas
52	2024	P.V. Narasimha Rao	Politics / Economic reform	POSTHUMOUS ; 9th PM (1991–96); architect of 1991 economic liberalisation; Look East Policy
53	2024	M.S. Swaminathan	Agricultural science	POSTHUMOUS ; "Father of India's Green Revolution"; died Sep 2023. 5 in 2024 — highest ever in a single year

□ Notable Firsts & Records

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT	YEAR
First recipients (all three)	C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman	1954
First posthumous award	Lal Bahadur Shastri	1966
First woman	Indira Gandhi	1971
First non-Indian (foreign national)	Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Pakistan)	1987
Second non-Indian	Nelson Mandela (South Africa)	1990
Naturalised Indian (foreign-born)	Mother Teresa (Albanian origin)	1980
First film actor	M.G. Ramachandran (MGR)	1988 (posthumous)
First scientist	C.V. Raman	1954
First sportsperson	Sachin Tendulkar	2014
Youngest recipient	Sachin Tendulkar (age 40)	2014
Oldest recipient	D.K. Karve (age 100)	1958
Most in one year	5 recipients	2024
Most posthumous in one year	4 of 5 (2024)	2024
Only President to receive it	Rajendra Prasad (as President), Zakir Husain (as VP), V.V. Giri (as President), Pranab Mukherjee (as ex-President)	Various

□ Women Recipients (5 Total)

YEAR	RECIPIENT	FIELD
1971	Indira Gandhi	Politics — first woman PM of India
1980	Mother Teresa	Humanitarian — Nobel Peace Prize 1979
1997	Aruna Asaf Ali	Independence activism (posthumous)
1998	M.S. Subbulakshmi	Carnatic classical music
2001	Lata Mangeshkar	Playback singing

□ Common UPSC Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
Was Subhas Chandra Bose given Bharat Ratna?	No. Announced 1992 but Supreme Court cancelled the press communiqué on 4 Aug 1997 — never formally conferred.
Who was the first sportsperson to receive Bharat Ratna?	Sachin Tendulkar (2014) — not Dhyan Chand (who was never awarded it despite demands).
Who was the first non-Indian recipient?	Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1987, Pakistan) — not Nelson Mandela (who received it in 1990).
Jayaprakash Narayan received Bharat Ratna in which year?	1999 — often confused with 1998 (C. Subramaniam's year).
Can the award be given posthumously from the start?	No. Statutes had to be amended in January 1966 to allow posthumous awards; the first posthumous award was Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1966.
M.S. Swaminathan received Bharat Ratna when?	2024 (posthumously) — died September 2023. Often mistaken for a living recipient.
Who was the youngest Bharat Ratna recipient?	Sachin Tendulkar (age 40 in 2014) — he is both the first sportsperson AND the youngest.
In which year was the award scope expanded beyond arts/science?	December 2011 — expanded to "any field of human endeavour."
How many women have received Bharat Ratna?	5 — Indira Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Aruna Asaf Ali, M.S. Subbulakshmi, Lata Mangeshkar.
Was the award ever suspended?	Yes, twice: (1) 1977–1980 under Janata Party; (2) ~1992–1995 due to PIL challenges.

Exam strategy: UPSC tests Bharat Ratna on three axes — (1) year-recipient mapping (especially 1954 firsts, 1966 posthumous, 1987 first non-Indian, 2014 first sportsperson), (2) "first" and "only" categories, (3) negative MCQs (Subhas Chandra Bose, Dhyan Chand). The 2024 batch of 5 is high-yield for 2025–26 exams.

Padma Awards

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Quick Facts: Padma awards were instituted on **2 January 1954** (same day as Bharat Ratna). Administered by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Announced on **Republic Day (26 January)** every year. Annual limit: ordinarily not more than **120** (posthumous and foreign recipients excluded). Not ordinarily more than 3 Bharat Ratna per year.

▢ Civilian Honours Hierarchy

RANK	AWARD	FOR	KEY NOTES
1st	Bharat Ratna	Highest order of national service	Max 3 per year. Peepal-leaf medallion. Not a "Padma" award — separate category entirely. Instituted 2 Jan 1954.
2nd	Padma Vibhushan	Exceptional and distinguished service	Highest of the three Padma awards. No strict annual cap. ~348 total recipients as of 2026.
3rd	Padma Bhushan	Distinguished service of high order	Middle tier. ~1,354 total recipients as of 2026.
4th	Padma Shri	Distinguished service in any field	Entry tier. ~3,448 total recipients as of 2025. Largest in number.

Wearing order (medals): Bharat Ratna ▢ Param Vir Chakra ▢ Ashoka Chakra ▢ Padma Vibhushan ▢ Padma Bhushan ▢ Padma Shri. The Padma awards are ranked 4th–6th in the Table of Precedence for wearing of medals.

□ Key Rules & Eligibility

RULE	DETAIL
Instituted	2 January 1954 — by Presidential Statutes (not an Act of Parliament). Bharat Ratna was also instituted on the same date.
Administered by	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
Decided by	Padma Awards Committee constituted every year by the PM, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary — includes Home Secretary, Secretary to President, and PM-nominated eminent persons. Recommendations □ PM □ President (who confers the award).
Annual limit	Ordinarily not more than 120 per year — posthumous awards and awards to foreigners/NRIs are excluded from this count. In practice, recent years exceed 120 when all categories are totalled: 2025 = 139, 2026 = 131.
Nominated by	Anyone — individuals, organisations, State/UT governments, Central Ministries. Self-nomination is also permitted. Online nominations accepted at <i>padmaawards.gov.in</i> (usually May–September each year).
Announced on	Republic Day eve (evening of 25 January); published in Gazette of India on 26 January.
Posthumous awards	Allowed since the January 1955 statute amendment. First posthumous awards: 1972 (Aditya Nath Jha, Ghulam Mohammed Sadiq, Vikram Sarabhai). Conferred "sparingly." Not counted in the 120 annual cap.
Foreign nationals / NRIs	Eligible — "without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex." Not counted in the 120 annual cap.
Use as prefix/suffix	Not permitted. Cannot be prefixed or suffixed to the recipient's name. They are civilian honours, not titles under Article 18. (SC ruling: Balaji Raghavan v. UoI, 1995).

□ Who is NOT Eligible

CATEGORY	INELIGIBLE?	EXCEPTION
Sitting MPs / MLAs / MLCs	Ineligible	None — no elected representative in office can receive
Sitting Government Servants (Central/State/PSU)	Ineligible	Doctors and Scientists in government service are eligible
Sitting Judges	Ineligible by convention	Retired judges can receive; former CJIs have received Padma Vibhushan

□ Fields / Disciplines

The MHA scheme recognises the following broad fields. "Art" covers sub-fields like music, dance, cinema, theatre, visual arts, etc.

#	FIELD
1	Art (Music, Dance, Cinema, Theatre, Visual Arts, etc.)
2	Literature and Education
3	Sports
4	Medicine
5	Social Work
6	Science and Engineering
7	Public Affairs
8	Civil Service
9	Trade and Industry
10	Others

□ Suspensions — When No Awards Were Given

PERIOD	REASON	YEARS AFFECTED
1977–1980	Janata Party government (Morarji Desai) revoked all civilian awards on 31 July 1977, calling them "politicised." Restored when Indira Gandhi returned to power in January 1980.	1978, 1979 (2 years)
1992–1997	MP High Court notice (Aug 1992) suspended awards pending petition that they violated Article 18 (prohibition of titles). Supreme Court restored them on 15 Dec 1995 in <i>Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India</i> — ruling that Padma awards are not titles under Article 18 . Awards resumed from 1998.	1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 (5 years)

Total suspension years: 7 (1978–79 + 1993–97). The MHA's official scheme document states: "except for brief interruptions during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997." The Supreme Court's 1995 verdict settled the constitutional question permanently.

Recent Padma Awards — 2025 & 2026

YEAR	TOTAL	PADMA VIBHUSHAN	PADMA BHUSHAN	PADMA SHRI	NOTABLE PADMA VIBHUSHAN RECIPIENTS
2026	131	5	13	113	Dharmendra (Cinema, posthumous), V. S. Achuthanandan (Public Affairs, posthumous), K. T. Thomas (former SC Judge), N. Rajam (Music), P. Narayanan
2025	139	7	19	113	M. T. Vasudevan Nair (Literature, posthumous), Sharda Sinha (Music, posthumous), Osamu Suzuki (Trade & Industry, Japan — posthumous), L. Subramaniam (Music), Kumudini Lakhia (Dance), D. Nageshwara Reddy (Medicine), Jagdish Singh Khehar (former CJI)

2026 demographic note: Of 131 awards — 19 women, 6 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, 16 posthumous.

Cumulative Count (as of 2026)

AWARD	TOTAL RECIPIENTS	POSTHUMOUS	FOREIGN / NON-CITIZEN
Padma Vibhushan	~348	34	25
Padma Bhushan	~1,354	41	103
Padma Shri	~3,448	—	—
Grand Total	~5,150+	—	—

□ Exam Traps

TRAP / QUESTION	CORRECT ANSWER
Is there a "Padma Ratna" award?	NO. This award does not exist. Civilian hierarchy: Bharat Ratna □ Padma Vibhushan □ Padma Bhushan □ Padma Shri. "Padma Ratna" is purely fictional — a very common UPSC trap.
Are Padma awards "titles" under Article 18?	NO. SC in Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1995) ruled they are civilian honours, not titles. They cannot be used as prefix or suffix.
When were Padma awards instituted?	2 January 1954 — same day as Bharat Ratna. Not by an Act of Parliament — by Presidential Statutes.
Can sitting MPs receive Padma awards?	No. Sitting elected representatives (MPs, MLAs, MLCs) are ineligible. However, retired politicians have received Padma awards.
Can government servants receive Padma awards?	No — with the exception of Doctors and Scientists in government service who remain eligible.
What is the annual cap on Padma awards?	Ordinarily not more than 120 , but posthumous awards and awards to foreign nationals/NRIs are excluded from this count. Recent years have had 131–139 total when all categories counted.
Who confers the Padma awards?	The President of India confers them, on the recommendation of the Padma Awards Committee (chaired by Cabinet Secretary, constituted by the PM).
Which ministry administers Padma awards?	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) — not the Ministry of Culture.
Were awards given in 1978–79?	No. Janata Party government suspended all civilian awards in 1977. No awards in 1978 and 1979.
Can foreigners receive Padma awards?	Yes. Awards to non-citizens are permitted and do not count against the 120 annual limit. King of Bhutan (Jigme Dorji Wangchuck) received Padma Vibhushan in the first batch (1954).
Is the Bharat Ratna a "Padma" award?	No. Bharat Ratna is a separate category — it is the highest civilian honour but is NOT one of the three Padma awards. Its medallion (Peepal leaf shape with sun) is different from Padma medals.

National Symbols

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□ Flora & Fauna Symbols

High-yield trap: India has NO officially declared national sport (confirmed by RTI, 2020). Hockey is often mistaken for national sport — it is NOT.

#	SYMBOL	NAME	SCIENTIFIC / DETAIL	KEY EXAM NOTE
1	National Animal	Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	Declared under Project Tiger, 1973. Previously the Lion was the national animal.
2	National Bird	Indian Peacock	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Designated 1963. National bird of India since 26 Jan 1963.
3	National Flower	Lotus	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Sacred in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Also the flower of goddess Lakshmi.
4	National Fruit	Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Called "King of Fruits". Cultivated in India for over 5,000 years.
5	National Tree	Indian Banyan	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Also called "Kalpavriksha" (wish-fulfilling tree). Symbolises immortality.
6	National River	Ganga	—	Declared National River in 2008. Flows ~2,525 km within India.
7	National Aquatic Animal	Gangetic Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	Designated 5 October 2009. Freshwater dolphin; blind; found in Ganga-Brahmaputra system.
8	National Heritage Animal	Indian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus indicus</i>	Designated 22 October 2010. Project Elephant launched 1992.

☐ State & Identity Symbols

#	SYMBOL	NAME / DESCRIPTION	ADOPTED	KEY EXAM NOTE
1	National Flag	Tiranga — Saffron (top), White (middle with Navy Blue Ashoka Chakra, 24 spokes), India Green (bottom). Ratio 3:2.	22 July 1947	Designed by Pingali Venkayya. Must be made of Khadi only (Flag Code of India, 2002).
2	State Emblem	Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. Four lions (3 visible); Dharma Chakra at centre; bull (right), horse (left).	26 January 1950	Motto "Satyameva Jayate" inscribed below in Devanagari script. Governed by State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.
3	National Anthem	Jana Gana Mana — by Rabindranath Tagore. First sung: 27 December 1911 (INC session, Calcutta). Full version: ~52 seconds.	24 January 1950	Constituent Assembly adopted it on 24 Jan 1950. Only first stanza is the National Anthem.
4	National Song	Vande Mataram — by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (novel <i>Anandamath</i> , 1882). First sung at INC session 1896.	24 January 1950	Has equal status with Jana Gana Mana. Only the first two stanzas are the National Song. Not an anthem — no mandatory standing required by law (unlike the Anthem).
5	National Motto	Satyameva Jayate (सत्यमेव जयते) — "Truth Alone Triumphs"	26 January 1950	Source: Mundaka Upanishad (verse 3.1.6). Written in Devanagari below the State Emblem.
6	National Currency Symbol	₹ (Indian Rupee)	15 July 2010	Designed by D. Udaya Kumar, IIT Bombay. Combines Devanagari "Ra" (र) and Latin "R". Adopted by Government of India on 15 July 2010.
7	National Calendar	Saka Calendar (Shalivahana Saka). Chaitra is the 1st month. Year generally begins 22 March (23 March in leap years).	22 March 1957	Adopted 22 March 1957. Used alongside Gregorian calendar for official purposes. Saka Era begins 78 CE.
8	National Sport	None officially declared	—	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports confirmed via RTI (2020) that India has not declared any game as its national sport. Hockey is a common misconception.

☐ National Flag — Key Facts

Colour (Top band)

India Saffron (Kesaria)

Symbolises courage and sacrifice

Colour (Middle band)

White

Symbolises peace and truth; carries Ashoka Chakra

Colour (Bottom band)

India Green

Symbolises faith and fertility

Ashoka Chakra

24 spokes, Navy Blue

Represents the wheel of Dharma (law)

Aspect Ratio

3:2 (Length : Width)

Specified by Bureau of Indian Standards

Material

Khadi only

Flag Code of India, 2002; polyester allowed for machine-made flags since 2022 amendment

Designed by

Pingali Venkayya

Andhra Pradesh; the original INC flag design

Adopted

22 July 1947

By Constituent Assembly; 24 days before Independence

Related topics: For wildlife conservation (Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Dolphin conservation), see the *Environment* subject.
For the State Emblem and constitutional provisions, see *Polity*.

States & Capitals

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Key count: India has **28 States** and **8 Union Territories** (as of 2020). J&K was reorganised into 2 UTs on 31 October 2019 — J&K (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature).

28 States of India

#	STATE	CAPITAL	STATEHOOD	KEY NOTE
1	Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati Sole capital	1956	Amaravati declared sole & permanent capital; AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill passed Lok Sabha, April 2026. Bifurcated from AP in 2014 to form Telangana.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	1987	Statehood on 20 Feb 1987. Easternmost state. Previously a Union Territory (1972).
3	Assam	Dispur	1950	Dispur (part of Guwahati) became capital in 1973. Guwahati is the largest city.
4	Bihar	Patna	1950	Jharkhand carved out of Bihar in 2000 (100th Amendment era). Historical seat of Pataliputra.
5	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	2000	Created 1 November 2000 from Madhya Pradesh. 26th state of India.
6	Goa	Panaji	1987	Smallest state by area. Liberated from Portuguese rule 19 December 1961. Statehood: 30 May 1987.
7	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	1960	Carved from Bombay state 1 May 1960. Largest coastline among states. Birthplace of Gandhi.
8	Haryana	Chandigarh Shared UT	1966	Chandigarh is a Union Territory shared as capital with Punjab. Created 1 Nov 1966 from Punjab.
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla Summer · Dharamshala Winter	1971	Statehood 25 Jan 1971. Dharamshala declared second (winter) capital in 2017. Shimla was British India's summer capital.
10	Jharkhand	Ranchi	2000	Created 15 November 2000 from Bihar. Rich in minerals — coal, iron ore, mica.
11	Karnataka	Bengaluru	1956	Renamed from Mysore State in 1973. Bengaluru (Bangalore) is India's IT capital.
12	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	1956	Formed 1 Nov 1956 (States Reorganisation Act). Highest Human Development Index among large states.
13	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	1956	Largest state by area until Rajasthan overtook in 2000 after Chhattisgarh bifurcation.
14	Maharashtra	Mumbai Legislative & Executive · Nagpur Winter session	1960	Nagpur hosts the winter session of Maharashtra legislature. Mumbai is financial capital of India.
15	Manipur	Imphal	1972	Statehood 21 Jan 1972. Loktak Lake — largest freshwater lake in Northeast India — is here.

#	STATE	CAPITAL	STATEHOOD	KEY NOTE
16	Meghalaya	Shillong	1972	Statehood 21 Jan 1972. Cherrapunji (Sohra) — one of the wettest places on Earth. Shillong was capital of undivided Assam.
17	Mizoram	Aizawl	1987	Statehood 20 Feb 1987. Highest literacy rate among NE states.
18	Nagaland	Kohima	1963	First state of the NE region; statehood 1 Dec 1963. Site of Battle of Kohima (1944, WWII).
19	Odisha	Bhubaneswar	1950	Formerly "Orissa"; renamed Odisha in 2011. Known as "Temple State of India".
20	Punjab	Chandigarh Shared UT	1966	Chandigarh is a Union Territory serving as capital of both Punjab and Haryana. Designed by Le Corbusier.
21	Rajasthan	Jaipur	1956	Largest state by area (3,42,239 sq km). Jaipur known as "Pink City". Thar Desert in the west.
22	Sikkim	Gangtok	1975	Newest state; merged with India 16 May 1975 (36th Amendment). Smallest state by population. Kangchenjunga (8,586 m) on its border.
23	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	1956	Renamed from Madras State in 1969. Kanyakumari (southernmost tip of mainland India) is here.
24	Telangana	Hyderabad Shared with AP till 2024	2014	Created 2 June 2014 from Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014). 29th state; now 28th after J&K's reorganisation. Hyderabad was joint capital with AP until June 2024.
25	Tripura	Agartala	1972	Statehood 21 Jan 1972. Surrounded by Bangladesh on 3 sides. 2nd smallest NE state.
26	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	1950	Most populous state. Highest number of Lok Sabha seats (80). Agra (Taj Mahal), Varanasi, Mathura, Ayodhya are in UP.
27	Uttarakhand	Dehradun Winter · Gairsain Summer	2000	Created 9 Nov 2000 from UP. Gairsain (Chamoli) declared summer capital in 2020. Dehradun is provisional winter capital. Char Dham pilgrimage sites are here.
28	West Bengal	Kolkata	1950	Kolkata was the capital of British India until 1911. Sundarbans — world's largest mangrove forest — is here.

8 Union Territories of India

Key distinction: Delhi (NCT), J&K, and Puducherry have their own legislatures. The remaining 5 UTs are administered directly by the Centre through a Lieutenant Governor or Administrator. Chandigarh serves as capital of both Punjab and Haryana states.

#	UNION TERRITORY	CAPITAL / HQ	LEGISLATURE	KEY NOTE
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	No	Southernmost point of India — Indira Point (Great Nicobar), 6°45'N. Cellular Jail here.
2	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	No	Serves as capital of Punjab and Haryana. Planned city designed by Le Corbusier.
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Daman	No	Merged from two separate UTs into one UT on 26 January 2020 (103rd Amendment area).
4	Delhi (NCT)	New Delhi	Yes	National Capital Territory. Special status under Article 239AA. Lt. Governor has enhanced powers (SC ruling, 2023).
5	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar Summer Jammu Winter	Yes	Reorganised from J&K state into UT on 31 Oct 2019 (J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019). Has legislature (Legislative Assembly).
6	Ladakh	Leh	No	Bifurcated from J&K on 31 Oct 2019. Largest UT by area (~59,146 sq km). No legislature.
7	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	No	Smallest UT by area (~32 sq km). Coral island group. Only Muslim-majority UT. Administered under Article 240.
8	Puducherry	Puducherry	Yes	Formerly Pondicherry (renamed 2006). Has legislature. Includes non-contiguous regions: Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam.

Remember: Telangana became the 29th state in 2014, but the count reverted back to 28 after J&K was bifurcated into 2 UTs (reducing states from 29 to 28, and increasing UTs from 7 to 9; then Dadra & NH merged with Daman & Diu reducing UTs to 8). Current count: **28 States + 8 UTs**.

Geographical Facts

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🇮🇳 India at a Glance

Total Area

32,87,263 sq km

7th largest country in the world

North–South Extent (mainland)

~3,214 km

8°4'N to 37°6'N latitude

East–West Extent (mainland)

~2,933 km

68°7'E to 97°25'E longitude

Land Borders

~15,200 km

Shared with 7 countries

Coastline (total) — Revised 2025

11,098.81 km

Officially revised by MoPSW circular, 29 April 2025. Old figure: 7,516.6 km (still in older textbooks).

Mainland Coastline (revised)

~7,870 km

Excl. A&N Islands (3,083.50 km) and Lakshadweep (144.80 km). Gujarat alone: 2,340.62 km — longest state coastline.

Population (2024 estimate)

~1.44 billion

World's most populous country — overtook China in 2023 (UN estimate). Census 2011: 1.21 billion.

Standard Time

IST = UTC +5:30

82.5°E meridian passes through Mirzapur, UP. No daylight saving time.

Time difference with Greenwich

+5 hours 30 minutes

Single time zone for entire country

□ Geographical Extremes

Common exam trap: Kanyakumari is the southernmost tip of the *mainland*. Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island) is the southernmost point of India's territory. Do not confuse the two.

DIRECTION	EXTREME POINT	LOCATION	COORDINATES
Northernmost (mainland)	Indira Col (also referred to as Siachen area)	Ladakh (Siachen Glacier area)	~37°6'N
Southernmost (mainland)	Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari)	Tamil Nadu	~8°4'N
Southernmost (India overall)	Indira Point	Great Nicobar Island, Andaman & Nicobar	~6°45'N
Easternmost	Kibithu	Anjaw district, Arunachal Pradesh	~97°25'E
Westernmost	Sir Creek / Ghuar Mota	Kutch district, Gujarat	~68°7'E

□ Land & Maritime Neighbours

COUNTRY	DIRECTION	BORDER LENGTH	STATES SHARING BORDER
Bangladesh	East	~4,156 km (longest)	West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
China	North / North-East	~3,488 km	J&K (Ladakh), Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
Pakistan	West / North-West	~3,323 km	J&K (Ladakh), Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat
Nepal	North	~1,751 km	Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim
Myanmar	East	~1,643 km	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram
Bhutan	North-East	~699 km	Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
Afghanistan	North-West	~106 km (PoK border)	J&K (Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir — claimed by India)

Maritime neighbours: Sri Lanka (separated by Palk Strait — ~30 km at narrowest) and Maldives (across Laccadive Sea, south of Lakshadweep).

☐ Major Rivers of India

#	RIVER	ORIGIN	DRAINS INTO	LENGTH (KM)	KEY NOTE
1	Ganga	Gangotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Bay of Bengal	~2,525 (in India)	National River of India. Ganga Action Plan, 1986. Namami Gange Mission.
2	Godavari	Trimbak, Nashik (Maharashtra)	Bay of Bengal	~1,465	Longest river of peninsular India. "Vridha Ganga" or "Dakshina Ganga".
3	Krishna	Western Ghats, Mahabaleshwar	Bay of Bengal	~1,400	Second-longest river of peninsular India. Nagarjuna Sagar dam is on it.
4	Yamuna	Yamunotri Glacier, Uttarakhand	Ganga (at Prayagraj)	~1,376	Largest tributary of Ganga. Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam): Ganga + Yamuna + Saraswati.
5	Narmada	Amarkantak, MP	Arabian Sea	~1,312	Flows west — unusual for a peninsular river. Natural boundary between North and South India.
6	Indus	Tibetan Plateau (near Lake Mansarovar)	Arabian Sea (via Pakistan)	~3,180 (total); ~1,114 in India	Longest river of the subcontinent (total). Mostly flows through Pakistan. Indus Waters Treaty (1960) governs sharing between India and Pakistan.
7	Brahmaputra	Angsi Glacier, Tibet (as Yarlung Tsangpo)	Bay of Bengal (via Bangladesh as Jamuna)	~916 in India	Enters India at Arunachal Pradesh. Creates the largest river island — Majuli — in Assam. Forms Brahmaputra Valley.
8	Mahanadi	Raipur plateau, Chhattisgarh	Bay of Bengal	~858	Hirakud Dam (Odisha) — one of India's oldest and longest earthen dams.
9	Cauvery (Kaveri)	Talakaveri, Coorg (Karnataka)	Bay of Bengal	~800	"Ganga of the South". Cauvery water dispute — Karnataka vs Tamil Nadu (resolved by SC, 2018).
10	Tapti (Tapi)	Satpura Range, MP	Arabian Sea	~724	One of the few rivers flowing westward (like Narmada). Surat city is on it.

State Rankings — Area & Population

RANK	LARGEST BY AREA	SMALLEST BY AREA	MOST POPULOUS	LEAST POPULOUS
1st	Rajasthan (3,42,239 sq km)	Goa (3,702 sq km)	Uttar Pradesh (~23.5 cr)	Sikkim (~6.8 lakh)
2nd	Madhya Pradesh (3,08,252 sq km)	Sikkim (7,096 sq km)	Maharashtra (~12.4 cr)	Mizoram (~11.9 lakh)
3rd	Maharashtra (3,07,713 sq km)	Tripura (10,486 sq km)	Bihar (~12.4 cr)	Arunachal Pradesh (~14 lakh)

RANK	LARGEST UT BY AREA	SMALLEST UT BY AREA
1st	Ladakh (~59,146 sq km)	Lakshadweep (~32 sq km)
2nd	Jammu & Kashmir (~42,241 sq km)	Chandigarh (~114 sq km)

☐ Notable Geographical Firsts & Rankings

CATEGORY	NAME	STATE / LOCATION	NOTE
Highest peak (India)	Kangchenjunga (8,586 m)	Sikkim–Nepal border	3rd highest peak in the world. India's highest point within its recognised territory.
Largest fresh water lake	Wular Lake	J&K	Largest freshwater lake in India (and Asia). Fed by Jhelum river.
Largest brackish water lake	Chilika Lake	Odisha	Largest coastal lagoon in India; Ramsar site. Important for flamingos and Irrawaddy dolphins. India has 96 Ramsar sites (2025) — highest in Asia and 3rd highest globally by count.
Largest river island	Majuli	Assam (Brahmaputra)	World's largest river island. UNESCO tentative heritage site.
Largest mangrove forest	Sundarbans	West Bengal (India) + Bangladesh	World's largest mangrove delta. UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home of Bengal Tiger.
Largest desert	Thar Desert	Rajasthan	Largest hot desert in India; 7th largest hot desert in world. Also called Great Indian Desert.
Highest waterfall	Kunchikal Falls	Karnataka (Shimoga)	Highest waterfall in India at ~455 m. On the Varahi river.
Longest river dam (earthen)	Hirakud Dam	Odisha (Mahanadi)	~26 km long; one of the first major multipurpose river valley projects after Independence (1957).
Highest dam	Tehri Dam	Uttarakhand (Bhagirathi)	~261 m high; one of the tallest dams in Asia. Rock and earth-fill dam.
Highest tiger population (state)	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	785 tigers (All India Tiger Estimation 2022). India total: 3,682 tigers (5th cycle, 2022); annual growth rate 6.1%. India hosts >70% of world's wild tigers. MP leads, followed by Karnataka (563) and Uttarakhand (560).
Most densely populated state	Bihar	Bihar	~1,102 persons/sq km (Census 2011). West Bengal is close second.
Least densely populated state	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	~17 persons/sq km (Census 2011).
Longest coastline (state)	Gujarat	Gujarat	2,340.62 km — longest state coastline (revised 2025). Includes Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Khambhat. Old figure: ~1,614 km.

□ Coastline Revision 2025 — Exam Alert

Official revision: India's coastline was remeasured and officially revised from **7,516.6 km** □ **11,098.81 km** by a Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) circular dated **29 April 2025**. This is not territorial expansion — it is a measurement methodology upgrade.

STATE / UT	COASTLINE (KM)	NOTE
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3,083.50	Now the single largest contributor — 1,298 offshore islands now fully included.
Gujarat	2,340.62	Longest among mainland states. Gulf of Kutch + Gulf of Khambhat.
Tamil Nadu	1,068.69	Coromandel Coast.
Andhra Pradesh	1,053.07	—
Maharashtra	877.97	Konkan Coast.
West Bengal	721.02	Includes Sundarbans delta.
Kerala	600.15	Malabar Coast.
Odisha	574.71	—
Karnataka	343.30	—
Goa	193.95	—
Lakshadweep	144.80	—
Daman & Diu	54.38	—
Puducherry	42.65	Enclaves along Tamil Nadu and AP coast.
Total: 11,098.81 km		MoPSW Circular, 29 April 2025

Why did it increase? (1) *Scale upgraded* from 1:4,500,000 to 1:250,000 — captures bays, inlets, and minor irregularities previously smoothed out. (2) *1,298 offshore islands/islets* previously excluded are now fully included. (3) *Old manual methods* replaced by GIS, satellite imagery, and drone mapping. This is the *coastline paradox (Richardson effect)* — finer measurement always yields a longer line. **Old figure 7,516.6 km** still appears in Laxmikanth and older NCERTs — identify it as the pre-2025 figure in exams.

For deep geography notes — physical features, drainage systems, climate, soils, and natural vegetation — see the *Geography subject pages*. For *India Mapping practice*, use the *interactive mapping tool*.

India's Firsts

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□ Constitutional & Government Firsts

OFFICE / POSITION	FIRST HOLDER	YEAR	KEY NOTE
President of India	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	1950	Only President to serve two full terms (1950–1962). Elected by Constituent Assembly.
Prime Minister of India	Jawaharlal Nehru	1947	Served as PM from 15 Aug 1947 until his death on 27 May 1964. Longest-serving PM.
Vice President of India	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	1952	Also served as 2nd President (1962–1967). His birthday (5 Sep) is Teachers' Day.
Chief Justice of India (CJI)	H.J. Kania (Harilal Jekisundas Kania)	1950	Appointed 26 Jan 1950 when Supreme Court was established. Served until Nov 1951.
Lok Sabha Speaker	G.V. Mavalankar	1952	Served as Speaker of provisional Parliament and 1st Lok Sabha (1952–1956). Called "Father of Lok Sabha".
Rajya Sabha Chairman (ex officio VP)	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan	1952	VP is ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Radhakrishnan was the first VP, thus first RS Chairman.
Attorney General of India	M.C. Setalvad	1950	Served from 28 Jan 1950 to 1 March 1963. Longest-serving Attorney General of India.
Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG)	V. Narahari Rao	1948	First CAG of independent India (1948–1954).
Chief Election Commissioner	Sukumar Sen	1950	Conducted the first two general elections (1951–52 and 1957). Also conducted elections in Myanmar.
Deputy Prime Minister	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	1947	First and only Deputy PM in Nehru's cabinet. Known as "Iron Man of India" and "Bismarck of India".
Finance Commission Chairman	K.C. Neogy	1951	First Finance Commission constituted in 1951 under Article 280. K.C. Neogy was its chairman.
UPSC Chairman	H.K. Kripalani	1947	First Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission, predecessor to UPSC.

□ Women Firsts in India

High-frequency Prelims topic. UPSC regularly asks about women firsts across government, civil services, judiciary, and defence. Learn the full list.

POSITION / ACHIEVEMENT	NAME	YEAR	KEY NOTE
President of India	Pratibha Devisingh Patil	2007	12th President (2007–2012). First woman to hold the office.
Prime Minister of India	Indira Gandhi	1966	3rd PM (1966–77, 1980–84). Only woman PM. Daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru. Awarded Bharat Ratna 1971.
Chief Justice of India	None yet	—	As of April 2026, India has not had a woman CJI.
Lok Sabha Speaker	Meira Kumar	2009	Speaker of 15th Lok Sabha (2009–2014). Daughter of Jagjivan Ram.
Governor of a State	Sarojini Naidu	1947	Governor of United Provinces (now UP), 1947–1949. Known as "Nightingale of India".
Chief Minister of a State	Sucheta Kripalani	1963	CM of Uttar Pradesh (1963–1967). Also a freedom fighter and member of Constituent Assembly.
IAS Officer	Anna Rajam Malhotra	1951	First woman IAS officer of India (1951 batch, Madras cadre). Later became first woman to head a major public sector undertaking.
IPS Officer	Kiran Bedi	1972	First woman IPS officer (1972 batch). Known for prison reforms at Tihar Jail. Also first woman to represent India at the UN.
Judge of Supreme Court	M. Fathima Beevi	1989	First woman judge of the Supreme Court of India (1989–1992). Later became Governor of Tamil Nadu.
Indian Air Force Pilot (Fighter)	Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth, Mohana Singh	2016	First three women fighter pilots of IAF commissioned in June 2016. Avani Chaturvedi first to fly solo in fighter jet (MiG-21) in 2018.
President of Indian National Congress	Annie Besant	1917	First woman president of INC (Calcutta session, 1917). Irish-British social reformer.
Nobel Prize Winner (India-born)	Mother Teresa	1979	Nobel Peace Prize (1979). Born in Albania; worked in India. Indian citizen from 1948.
Miss World (Indian)	Reita Faria	1966	First Indian to win Miss World title. Later became a doctor.
Chairperson of UPSC	Rose Millian Bethew	1992	First woman Chairperson of UPSC (1992–1996).

□ Space & Science Firsts

ACHIEVEMENT	NAME / MISSION	YEAR	KEY NOTE
First Indian in space	Rakesh Sharma	1984	Flew on Soviet Soyuz T-11 (2 April 1984). Spent 7 days, 21 hours, 40 minutes in space. Described India as "Saare Jahan Se Achha" from space to PM Indira Gandhi.
First Indian satellite	Aryabhata	1975	Launched 19 April 1975 by Soviet Cosmos-3M rocket. First satellite built by India.
First satellite launched from Indian soil	Rohini (RS-1)	1980	Launched by SLV-3 from SHAR (Sriharikota) on 18 July 1980. India became 6th nation to develop indigenous launch capability.
First Mars mission	Mangalyaan (MOM)	2013/2014	Mars Orbiter Mission launched 5 Nov 2013; entered Mars orbit 24 Sept 2014. India became first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit, and first nation to succeed on maiden attempt.
First lunar south pole soft landing	Chandrayaan-3 (Vikram lander)	2023	Vikram lander touched down near lunar south pole on 23 August 2023. India became 4th nation to achieve soft lunar landing, and first to land near south pole.
First Nobel Prize winner (Indian)	Rabindranath Tagore	1913	Nobel Prize in Literature for <i>Gitanjali</i> . First Asian to win Nobel Prize.
First Indian Nobel Prize in Science	C.V. Raman	1930	Nobel Prize in Physics for discovery of the Raman Effect (inelastic scattering of light). 28 February celebrated as National Science Day.

□ Awards & Honours Firsts

AWARD	FIRST RECIPIENT(S)	YEAR	KEY NOTE
Bharat Ratna	C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman	1954	All three were awarded simultaneously in the inaugural year. Highest civilian honour of India.
Bharat Ratna (Posthumous, first)	Lal Bahadur Shastri	1966	First Bharat Ratna awarded posthumously. Died in Tashkent on 11 January 1966.
Bharat Ratna (Woman, first)	Indira Gandhi	1971	First woman to receive the Bharat Ratna.
Jnanpith Award (First)	G. Sankara Kurup	1965	For the Malayalam work <i>Odakkuzhal</i> (The Flute). Highest literary award in India.
Padma Vibhushan (First)	Multiple recipients	1954	Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri were all instituted simultaneously in 1954.
Param Vir Chakra (First)	Major Somnath Sharma	1947	Highest wartime gallantry award. Awarded posthumously for action in Kashmir, November 1947.
Ashoka Chakra (First)	Multiple recipients	1952	Highest peacetime gallantry award. First awarded in 1952.

Exam tip: For Bharat Ratna, note that it has been awarded to non-Indians too — Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (1987, first non-Indian) and Nelson Mandela (1990). Also, it has been awarded to sportspersons: Sachin Tendulkar (2014, youngest recipient at 40), and C.N.R. Rao. The award was also given posthumously to BR Ambedkar, Rajiv Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose (all posthumous).

International Organisations

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How UPSC tests this: Three question types — (1) Match the organisation to its HQ/founding year, (2) India's membership status (founding member / year of joining / non-member), (3) Current heads and recent summits. Data below is verified to **April 2026** — current-affairs developments (WHO withdrawals, BRICS expansion, BIMSTEC Charter) are flagged separately.

□ United Nations & Specialised Agencies

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
United Nations (UN)	1945 (San Francisco Charter)	New York, USA	193 member states + 2 observer states (Holy See, Palestine)	António Guterres, Secretary-General (2nd term; ends 31 Dec 2026)	Founding member (1945); permanent UNSC seat aspirant (P5: USA, UK, France, Russia, China)	P5 members have veto power in UNSC. UNGA elects non-permanent UNSC members. Guterres' term ends Dec 2026 — successor selection underway.
IMF (International Monetary Fund)	1944 (Bretton Woods)	Washington D.C., USA	190 member states	Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director (since Oct 2019)	Founding member (1945); quota ~2.76%; 8th largest quota ; voting share ~2.64%	IMF deals with macroeconomic stability & BOP crises . India has NOT accepted an IMF bailout since 1991. Quota raised under 16th General Review (2023, +50% equiproportional increase).
World Bank Group	1944 (Bretton Woods; IBRD operational 1946)	Washington D.C., USA	5 institutions: IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID	Ajay Banga, President (since June 2023 — Indian-American)	Founding member; largest single borrower — ~USD 39.3 bn outstanding loans (2025)	World Bank funds development projects (≠ IMF which handles macroeconomic stability). IBRD = middle-income countries; IDA = poorest countries (India graduated from IDA eligibility).

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
WTO (World Trade Organization)	1995 (replaced GATT 1947)	Geneva, Switzerland	166 members	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, DG (2nd term from 1 Sep 2025 — first woman & first African DG)	Founding member (1995); frequent party in dispute settlement	WTO's Appellate Body effectively non-functional since 2019 (US blocking appointments) — major governance issue. India has used WTO dispute mechanism actively (sugar subsidies, solar panels, etc.).
WHO (World Health Organization)	1948	Geneva, Switzerland	194 members (standard answer; USA withdrew Jan 2026, Argentina withdrew Mar 2026)	Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (since 2017; 2nd term till Aug 2027)	Founding member (1948); active participant	USA & Argentina withdrew in 2026 — significant current-affairs point. Standard prelims answer: 194 members. Use ~192 for post-Jan 2026 context.
UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization)	1945	Paris, France	194 member states (US withdrawal effective Dec 2026 — still full member until then)	Khaled El-Enany, DG (since 15 Nov 2025 — first Arab DG , Egyptian)	Founding member (1946); India has 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites ; re-elected to Executive Board 2025–29	UNESCO inscribes World Heritage Sites (cultural & natural) and Intangible Cultural Heritage. US withdrawal effective Dec 2026.
ILO (International Labour Organization)	1919 (Treaty of Versailles — oldest UN specialised agency)	Geneva, Switzerland	187 member states	Gilbert F. Houngbo, DG (since Oct 2022 — first African DG of ILO)	Founding member since 28 Jun 1919 ; permanent member of Governing Body since 1922	ILO is tripartite — governments, employers & workers (unique structure). India has ratified 6 of 8 core conventions — has NOT ratified C87 (freedom of association) & C98 (right to organise/collective bargaining).

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)	1957	Vienna, Austria	178 member states	Rafael Grossi, DG (since Dec 2019)	IAEA member; India–IAEA Safeguards Agreement in force since Aug 2008 (item-specific, not full-scope NPT safeguards)	India is not a signatory to NPT ; India is not a member of NSG (bid blocked by China). India has item-specific IAEA safeguards (only declared civilian facilities), not comprehensive safeguards.

Plurilateral Groupings & Regional Bodies

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD / CHAIR	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
BRICS	2009 (first leaders' summit, Yekaterinburg; BRIC FMs met 2006)	No permanent HQ (rotating chair)	10 full members: Original 5 (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE (Jan 2024) + Indonesia (Jan 2025). Partner country category also created (9+ partners including Saudi Arabia).	India holds BRICS Chairmanship 2026 (4th time; earlier: 2012, 2016, 2021)	Founding member (BRIC 2006)	South Africa joined in 2011 (turning BRIC to BRICS). 2024 Kazan Summit expanded to 9+. Saudi Arabia was invited but has not formally joined. Indonesia joined Jan 2025 as 10th full member.
SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)	2001 (Shanghai; Shanghai Five existed from 1996)	Beijing, China (Secretariat); Tashkent (RATS — anti-terror body)	10 full members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran (2023), Belarus (2024)	Nurlan Yermekbayev (Kazakhstan), Secretary-General (Jan 2025–Dec 2027)	Full member since 2017 (Astana Summit) — India and Pakistan admitted simultaneously	RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) is SCO's key security body. India joined same summit as Pakistan — often tested. Iran joined 2023; Belarus joined 2024.

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD / CHAIR	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
G20	1999 (finance ministers); Leaders' Summits from 2008	No permanent HQ (rotating presidency hosts)	21 members: 19 countries + EU + African Union (admitted at India's 2023 New Delhi Summit)	USA holds 2026 Presidency (Miami Summit); South Africa held 2025	Founding member; India held 2023 Presidency (New Delhi Summit; theme: <i>Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam</i>)	G20 covers ~85% of world GDP and ~75% of global trade. African Union admitted at India's 2023 summit — high-yield exam fact. G20 ≠ treaty organisation — no permanent secretariat.
ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)	1967 (Bangkok Declaration, 8 Aug 1967)	Jakarta, Indonesia (Secretariat)	10 members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam	Dr. Kao Kim Houn (Cambodia), Secretary-General (2023–2027)	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) since 2022; Dialogue Partner since 1992; India is NOT a member of ASEAN	Timor-Leste is observer and candidate for 11th membership. India has ASEAN-India FTA (goods). ASEAN's founding five: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.
Commonwealth (of Nations)	1949 (London Declaration — modern Commonwealth)	Marlborough House, London, UK	56 member states	Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey (Ghana), Secretary-General (since 1 April 2025 — replaced Patricia Scotland)	Founding member (1949 London Declaration); largest population contributor (~1.4 bn)	Commonwealth is voluntary — operates by consensus, not binding treaty. Mozambique and Rwanda are members despite no colonial British link. Head of the Commonwealth: King Charles III.

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	CURRENT HEAD / CHAIR	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY UPSC FACT
Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)	2007 (original, under PM Abe); revived 2017; Leaders' Summits from 2021	No permanent HQ or Secretariat (informal grouping)	4 members: India, USA, Japan, Australia	No permanent head (rotating host); Leaders' Summit held annually	Full member	Quad is NOT a treaty-based alliance — no Article 5-style mutual defence clause. Focus: free & open Indo-Pacific, supply chain resilience, health security, climate, critical tech. China views it as "Asian NATO" — India rejects that framing.

□ South Asia & India's Neighbourhood

ORGANISATION	FOUNDED	HQ	MEMBERS	INDIA'S STATUS & KEY FACT
NAM (Non-Aligned Movement)	1961 (1st Summit, Belgrade, 1–6 Sep 1961)	No permanent HQ (host country chairs)	121 member states + 17 observer states	Founding member; Nehru was one of five founders (with Tito of Yugoslavia, Nasser of Egypt, Nkrumah of Ghana, Sukarno of Indonesia). NAM principles (Panchsheel) are basis of India's foreign policy.
SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)	1985 (Dhaka Charter, 8 Dec 1985)	Kathmandu, Nepal (Secretariat since Jan 1987)	8 members: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	Founding member. No summit since 2014 (18th Summit, Kathmandu). 19th summit was to be held in Pakistan (2016) but India withdrew after Uri attack — SAARC effectively stalled due to India-Pakistan tensions.
BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation)	1997 (as BIST-EC); renamed BIMSTEC 2004	Dhaka, Bangladesh (Permanent Secretariat since 2014)	7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand	Leading member; contributes 32% of Secretariat budget ; lead country for 4 priority sectors. BIMSTEC Charter signed Mar 2022 (5th Summit, Colombo); came into force April 2024 after all ratifications — major UPSC update. India promotes BIMSTEC as alternative to stalled SAARC.

□ Key Organisations India is NOT a Member Of

ORGANISATION	WHY INDIA IS NOT A MEMBER	INDIA'S STATUS
NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty)	India considers NPT discriminatory — it recognises only 5 nuclear weapon states (P5) and requires others to give up nuclear weapons. India tested nuclear weapons in 1974 (Smiling Buddha) and 1998 (Pokhran-II) outside NPT framework.	Non-signatory
NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group)	NSG requires NPT membership for full membership. India bid for membership in 2016; China blocked. However, India operates under a special waiver (2008 NSG waiver) allowing civil nuclear trade.	Non-member; operates under 2008 NSG waiver
ASEAN	India is a geographically non-Southeast Asian country. India is a Dialogue Partner and Comprehensive Strategic Partner, not a member.	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) since 2022
OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)	OECD is primarily a club of advanced/developed economies. India has had Enhanced Engagement status; accession negotiations opened 2023.	Accession discussions ongoing (2023–); not yet a member
OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)	India is a net oil importer, not an oil-exporting country. India is not eligible for membership.	Not applicable (importer); India is in IEA (International Energy Agency)

□ Quick Recall — HQ Mapping

CITY	ORGANISATIONS HQ'D HERE
Geneva, Switzerland	WHO · WTO · ILO · UNHCR · ICRC · ITU · WIPO · WMO · IOM
New York, USA	UN (HQ) · UNICEF · UNDP · UN Women
Washington D.C., USA	IMF · World Bank Group · IFC · OAS
Paris, France	UNESCO · OECD · IEA · Interpol
Vienna, Austria	IAEA · OPEC · UNODC · OSCE · UNIDO
Rome, Italy	FAO · WFP · IFAD
Nairobi, Kenya	UNEP · UN-Habitat
London, UK	Commonwealth (Marlborough House) · IMO · IAEA safeguards tribunal
Brussels, Belgium	NATO · EU (Council, Commission) · Eurocontrol
Beijing, China	SCO Secretariat · AIIB
Jakarta, Indonesia	ASEAN Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal	SAARC Secretariat
Dhaka, Bangladesh	BIMSTEC Secretariat
The Hague, Netherlands	ICJ · ICC · OPCW · Eurojust

□ High-Frequency Exam Traps

TRAP / MCQ POINT	CORRECT ANSWER
WTO replaced which organisation?	GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1947). WTO established 1995.
ILO is the oldest UN specialised agency?	Yes — ILO was founded in 1919 (Treaty of Versailles), predating the UN itself (1945). It became a UN specialised agency in 1946.
India joined SCO in which year?	2017 (Astana Summit). India and Pakistan joined simultaneously.
African Union was admitted to G20 at which summit?	India's 2023 New Delhi Summit. AU became the 21st member of G20.
BIMSTEC has how many members?	7: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand. (Pakistan is NOT a member — common trap.)
SAARC has how many members?	8: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.
India is a founding member of the IMF?	Yes — India joined in 1945 at the inception of the Bretton Woods institutions.
Where is the IMF headquartered?	Washington D.C., USA — same as World Bank. Both are Bretton Woods institutions but serve different functions.
World Bank President is always from the USA?	Traditionally yes — but Ajay Banga (Indian-American) became President in June 2023. He is the first person of Indian origin to hold this role.
Does India have a veto in the UN Security Council?	No. Only the P5 (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) have veto power. India is a non-permanent UNSC member (elected periodically).
NAM was founded at which conference?	1st Belgrade Summit, 1–6 September 1961. The Bandung Conference (1955) was a precursor but is NOT the founding conference of NAM.
Is Quad a formal military alliance?	No. Quad has no treaty basis, no permanent secretariat, no Article 5-type mutual defence clause. It is an informal security dialogue.
BRICS had how many members before 2024?	5 (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). In 2024 (Kazan Summit), 4 new members joined in January 2024; Indonesia joined January 2025 □ now 10 full members.
ASEAN has how many members?	10 — Timor-Leste is a candidate for 11th membership but has NOT yet joined.

Exam strategy: For international organisations, UPSC tests three layers — (1) static facts (HQ, founding year, member count), (2) India's specific status (founding member vs later joiner, member vs non-member, dialogue partner vs full member), (3) current-affairs updates (new heads, new members, summits, withdrawals). Always note what India is not part of — NPT, NSG, ASEAN — as these are frequent traps.

Gallantry Awards

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□ Award Hierarchy

Core distinction: India's gallantry awards are divided into two tracks — **Wartime** (in the face of the enemy) and **Peacetime** (not necessarily facing an enemy). Both tracks have three tiers.

Wartime Gallantry Awards

Instituted **26 January 1950**, backdated to **15 August 1947**. Restricted to armed forces personnel — civilians are NOT eligible.

RANK	AWARD	ABBREVIATION	KEY NOTE
1st (Highest)	Param Vir Chakra	PVC	Highest military honour; awarded for most conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy
2nd	Maha Vir Chakra	MVC	Second highest; for acts of pre-eminent bravery in face of enemy
3rd	Vir Chakra	VrC	Third tier; for acts of bravery in the field of battle

Peacetime Gallantry Awards

Originally instituted **4 January 1952** as Ashoka Chakra Classes I, II, III. Renamed in **January 1967** to present names. Open to armed forces personnel *and* civilians.

RANK	AWARD	ABBREVIATION	KEY NOTE
1st (Highest)	Ashoka Chakra	AC	Peacetime equivalent of PVC; civilians eligible; typically announced on Republic Day
2nd	Kirti Chakra	KC	Formerly Ashoka Chakra Class II (renamed 1967)
3rd	Shaurya Chakra	SC	Formerly Ashoka Chakra Class III (renamed 1967)

Order of Wearing Precedence (Combined)

When both wartime and peacetime awards are held, the order of wearing on uniform is:

POSITION	AWARD
1	Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
2	Ashoka Chakra (AC)
3	Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)
4	Kirti Chakra (KC)
5	Vir Chakra (VrC)
6	Shaurya Chakra (SC)

Service Medals (separate category)

Instituted **26 January 1960**. Awarded for gallantry or distinguished service *not necessarily* in the face of the enemy:

MEDAL	SERVICE	NOTE
Sena Medal	Army	Two categories: Gallantry and Devotion to Duty
Nau Sena Medal	Navy	Two categories: Gallantry and Devotion to Duty
Vayu Sena Medal	Air Force	Split into two categories in 1994

□ Param Vir Chakra — Key Facts

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Instituted	26 January 1950 (backdated to 15 August 1947)
Designer	Savitri Khanolkar — born <i>Eve Yvonne Maday de Maros</i> in Neuchâtel, Switzerland (20 July 1913); married into Indian Army; converted to Hinduism
Total recipients	21 (as of April 2026; last awarded in 1999 Kargil War)
Posthumous awards	14 of 21 recipients
Living recipients	3 of 21 (as of April 2026)
Service distribution	20 Army, 1 Air Force (Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, 1971)
Civilians eligible?	No — restricted to armed forces personnel only
First recipient	Major Somnath Sharma, 4 Kumaon Regiment — Battle of Badgam, 3 November 1947 (posthumous)
Last awarded	1999 Kargil War (Captain Vikram Batra, Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey — posthumous; Gren Yogendra Singh Yadav, Rfn Sanjay Kumar — living)

Notable coincidence: Savitri Khanolkar designed the PVC. The very first PVC was awarded to Major Somnath Sharma — whose brother was married to Khanolkar's daughter. The designer and the first recipient were thus connected by family.

☐ All 21 PVC Recipients

#	RECIPIENT	RANK AT TIME	CONFLICT / YEAR	STATUS
1	Somnath Sharma	Major	Battle of Badgam, J&K, 1947	Posthumous
2	Karam Singh	Lance Naik	Tithwal, J&K, 1947–48	Survived (deceased)
3	Rama Raghoba Rane	2nd Lieutenant	J&K, 1948	Survived (deceased)
4	Jadu Nath Singh	Naik	Naushera, J&K, 1948	Posthumous
5	Piru Singh Shekhawat	Company Havildar Major	Tithwal, J&K, 1948	Posthumous
6	Gurbachan Singh Salaria	Captain	Elizabethville, Congo (UN), 1961	Posthumous
7	Dhan Singh Thapa	Major	Ladakh, 1962	Survived (deceased)
8	Joginder Singh	Subedar	NEFA, 1962	Posthumous
9	Shaitan Singh	Major	Rezang La, 1962	Posthumous
10	Abdul Hamid	CQMH	Assal Uttar, 1965	Posthumous
11	Ardeshir Tarapore	Lt Col	Phillora, 1965	Posthumous
12	Hoshiar Singh	Major	Basantar River, 1971	Survived (deceased)
13	Albert Ekka	Lance Naik	Sylhet, 1971	Posthumous
14	Arun Khetarpal	2nd Lt	Basantar River, 1971	Posthumous
15	Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon	Flying Officer	Srinagar, 1971 (IAF)	Posthumous — <i>sole IAF recipient</i>
16	Bana Singh	Naib Subedar	Siachen (Op Rajiv), 1987	Living
17	Vikram Batra	Captain	Kargil (Pt 4875), 1999	Posthumous
18	Manoj Kumar Pandey	Lieutenant	Kargil (Jubar Top), 1999	Posthumous
19	Yogendra Singh Yadav	Grenadier	Kargil (Tiger Hill), 1999	Living
20	Sanjay Kumar	Rifleman	Kargil (Flat Top), 1999	Living (retired Feb 2026 as Honorary Capt)
21	—	—	—	Note: Cross-verify complete list at gallantryawards.gov.in for latest official sequence

Living PVC holders (April 2026): Bana Singh (Siachen 1987), Yogendra Singh Yadav (Kargil 1999), Sanjay Kumar (Kargil 1999 — retired 28 February 2026 as Honorary Captain; he was the last serving PVC awardee).

☐ Ashoka Chakra — Key Facts

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Original name	Ashoka Chakra Class I (instituted 4 January 1952)
Renamed	January 1967; Class II ☐ Kirti Chakra; Class III ☐ Shaurya Chakra
Total recipients	~87 (as of 2026)
Civilians eligible?	Yes — civilians can receive the Ashoka Chakra (unlike PVC)
First recipient	Havildar Bachittar Singh, Indian Army (1952)
Announced	Typically on Republic Day (26 January)
Posthumous awards?	Yes — can be awarded posthumously

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	WRONG BELIEF	CORRECT FACT
1	"PVC is higher than Bharat Ratna"	They are different categories — PVC is highest military gallantry; Bharat Ratna is highest civilian honour. PVC is worn first on uniform, but they are not comparable ranks.
2	"Civilians can win PVC"	No — PVC, MVC, VrC are restricted to armed forces personnel only. Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra CAN go to civilians.
3	"Savitri Khanolkar was Indian"	She was Swiss-born (Neuchâtel, Switzerland) — converted to Hinduism after marrying Indian Army officer Vikram Khanolkar
4	"PVC has had many Air Force recipients"	Only 1 IAF recipient ever — Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon (1971, posthumous)
5	"Ashoka Chakra was always called Ashoka Chakra"	No — it was Ashoka Chakra <i>Class I</i> until 1967; renamed to Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra in January 1967
6	"Wartime & peacetime awards are separate hierarchies"	They are interwoven on uniform: PVC □ AC □ MVC □ KC □ VrC □ SC
7	"No PVC was awarded for UN peacekeeping"	One was — Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria received PVC (posthumous) for the Congo (UN) operation in 1961
8	"Sena Medal is one of the six gallantry awards"	No — Sena/Nau Sena/Vayu Sena Medals are a <i>separate category</i> (service medals instituted 1960), not part of the six gallantry awards
9	"The last PVC was awarded in 2001"	Last PVC awarded: 1999 Kargil War (4 recipients)
10	"PVC cannot be awarded posthumously"	14 of the 21 PVC awards were posthumous
11	"Wearing order: Bharat Ratna comes before PVC"	In uniform, PVC is worn before all other decorations , including Bharat Ratna
12	"Peacetime awards cannot go to civilians for anti-terrorism actions"	They can — the Ashoka Chakra is frequently awarded to police/paramilitary for counter-terrorism

Classical Languages

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2024 Update: The Union Cabinet on **3 October 2024** conferred Classical Language status on **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali** — bringing the total from 6 to **11 Classical Languages**. The criteria were also revised by the Linguistic Experts Committee (Sahitya Akademi) on 25 July 2024 before this expansion.

□ All 11 Classical Languages

#	LANGUAGE	YEAR RECOGNISED	KEY NOTES
1	Tamil	2004	First language to receive Classical status. Dravidian family. Sangam literature dates back ~2,000 years. Only living Classical language with unbroken literary tradition of >2,000 years.
2	Sanskrit	2005	Indo-Aryan family. Vedas (~1500 BCE) are among the world's oldest texts. Classical language with the largest body of ancient literature (Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, epics). Scheduled language (8th Schedule).
3	Kannada	2008	Dravidian family. Inscriptional evidence from ~450 CE (Halmidi inscription). Pampa, Ponna, Ranna — "three gems" of old Kannada literature (10th century).
4	Telugu	2008	Dravidian family. Called "Italian of the East" for its vowel-ending words. Nannaya's Mahabharata translation (11th century) is the earliest major literary work.
5	Malayalam	2013	Dravidian family. Evolved from Tamil-Brahmi. Ramacharitam (12th–13th century) is among the earliest texts. Kerala's official language.
6	Odia	2014	Indo-Aryan family. The 6th and last of the original batch. Sarala Das's Odia Mahabharata (14th–15th century) is a landmark text. Script derived from Brahmi.
7	Marathi	2024	Indo-Aryan family. Literary tradition from ~12th century (Sant Dnyaneshwar's Dnyaneshwari, 1290 CE). Maharashtra's official language. 8th Schedule language.
8	Pali	2024	Middle Indo-Aryan (Prakrit family). Language of the Theravada Buddhist canon (Tripitaka). Not a scheduled language. Sacred language of Theravada Buddhism across South and Southeast Asia.
9	Prakrit	2024	Family of Middle Indo-Aryan languages. Jain scriptures (Agamas) are in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit. Ashoka's edicts used Prakrit. Not a scheduled language.
10	Assamese	2024	Indo-Aryan family. Easternmost Indo-European language. Srimanta Sankardeva's Borgeets and Ankiya Naats (15th–16th century). Assam's official language. 8th Schedule language.
11	Bengali	2024	Indo-Aryan family. Charyapada (8th–12th century) is the earliest known Bengali/Odia literature. Rabindranath Tagore wrote in Bengali. 8th Schedule language. Most spoken language in Bangladesh.

Family breakdown: Dravidian (4): Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam · Indo-Aryan (5): Sanskrit, Odia, Marathi, Assamese, Bengali · Middle Indo-Aryan/Prakrit (2): Pali, Prakrit.

□ Criteria for Classical Language Status (Revised 2024)

The Linguistic Experts Committee under **Sahitya Akademi** revised the criteria on **25 July 2024** before the October 2024 expansion. The current four criteria are:

#	CRITERION
1	High antiquity of early texts or recorded history over a period of 1,500–2,000 years
2	A body of ancient literature or texts which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers
3	Knowledge texts , especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence
4	The Classical Language and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots — i.e. the language need not be a living/continuous tradition

What changed in 2024: The 4th criterion previously required a "literary tradition not borrowed from another community." The new wording removes this bar — enabling Pali and Prakrit (which heavily influenced later languages) to qualify. This revision was the key that unlocked the 2024 expansion.

□ Benefits of Classical Language Status

#	BENEFIT	DETAILS
1	Two International Awards Annually	Presidential Award of Certificate of Honour + Maharshi Badrayan Samman Award — given to eminent scholars for outstanding contributions to the classical language
2	Centre of Excellence	A Centre of Excellence for Studies in that Classical Language is established (housed at CIIL — Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore) to support advanced research
3	UGC Professional Chairs	UGC is requested to create dedicated Professional Chairs in Central Universities for research and teaching of each classical language

□ Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
How many Classical Languages does India have?	11 (as of October 2024). The answer was 6 before October 2024 — exam questions from before 2025 may say 6.
Which was the first Classical Language?	Tamil (2004)
Are all Classical Languages also in the 8th Schedule?	No. Pali and Prakrit are Classical Languages but are NOT in the 8th Schedule (which has 22 languages). Sanskrit, Odia, Marathi, Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam are in both.
Which 5 languages were added in 2024?	Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali — Union Cabinet decision, 3 October 2024
Is Hindi a Classical Language?	No. Hindi is the official language of the Union (Art. 343) and is in the 8th Schedule, but does NOT have Classical Language status.
Who decides Classical Language status?	Union Cabinet on recommendation of the Linguistic Experts Committee under Sahitya Akademi — not Parliament, not a constitutional body.

Scheduled Languages (8th Schedule)

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What is the 8th Schedule? Article 344(1) and Article 351 of the Constitution refer to the Eighth Schedule, which lists languages that may be used for official purposes. The Official Languages Commission is set up to recommend progressive use of these languages. Currently **22 languages** are listed.

□ How the List Grew — Amendment History

YEAR	AMENDMENT	LANGUAGE(S) ADDED	TOTAL AFTER
1950	Constitution (original)	Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu	14
1967	21st Amendment	Sindhi	15
1992	71st Amendment	Konkani, Manipuri (Meitei), Nepali	18
2003	92nd Amendment	Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali	22

☐ All 22 Scheduled Languages

#	LANGUAGE	SCRIPT	PRIMARILY SPOKEN IN	ADDED BY
1	Assamese	Assamese (Eastern Nagari)	Assam	Original (1950)
2	Bengali	Bengali	West Bengal, Tripura	Original (1950)
3	Gujarati	Gujarati	Gujarat	Original (1950)
4	Hindi	Devanagari	Hindi Belt (UP, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, etc.)	Original (1950)
5	Kannada	Kannada	Karnataka	Original (1950)
6	Kashmiri	Perso-Arabic (Nastaliq), Devanagari	Jammu & Kashmir	Original (1950)
7	Malayalam	Malayalam	Kerala, Lakshadweep	Original (1950)
8	Marathi	Devanagari	Maharashtra, Goa	Original (1950)
9	Oriya (Odia)	Odia	Odisha	Original (1950)
10	Punjabi	Gurmukhi	Punjab, Haryana, Delhi	Original (1950)
11	Sanskrit	Devanagari (primary)	Classical language; no single state	Original (1950)
12	Tamil	Tamil	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry	Original (1950)
13	Telugu	Telugu	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana	Original (1950)
14	Urdu	Perso-Arabic (Nastaliq)	J&K, Telangana, UP, Delhi	Original (1950)
15	Sindhi	Perso-Arabic / Devanagari	No single state (Sindhi diaspora)	21st Amendment (1967)
16	Konkani	Devanagari (official), Latin, Kannada	Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala	71st Amendment (1992)
17	Manipuri (Meitei)	Meitei Mayek, Bengali	Manipur	71st Amendment (1992)
18	Nepali	Devanagari	Sikkim, West Bengal (Darjeeling), NE India	71st Amendment (1992)
19	Bodo	Devanagari	Assam (Bodoland)	92nd Amendment (2003)
20	Dogri	Devanagari, Dogra Akkhar	Jammu region (J&K)	92nd Amendment (2003)
21	Maithili	Devanagari, Tirhuta (Mithilakshar)	Bihar (Mithila region), Jharkhand	92nd Amendment (2003)

#	LANGUAGE	SCRIPT	PRIMARILY SPOKEN IN	ADDED BY
22	Santhali	Ol Chiki (official), Devanagari	Jharkhand, Odisha, WB, Assam	92nd Amendment (2003)

□ Classical Languages of India

Classical language ≠ Scheduled language. Classical language status is a separate designation (Ministry of Culture) — it does not require the language to be in the 8th Schedule. The criteria: high antiquity of early texts (1,500–2,000 years), a body of ancient literature, and original literary tradition.

#	LANGUAGE	YEAR OF DESIGNATION	KEY NOTE
1	Tamil	2004	First language to receive Classical language status in India.
2	Sanskrit	2005	Ancient language of Vedic and classical literature.
3	Telugu	2008	Known as "Italian of the East" for its phonological structure.
4	Kannada	2008	Inscriptions dating back to 450 CE (Halmidi inscription).
5	Malayalam	2013	Developed from Sanskrit and Tamil; earliest texts from ~13th century.
6	Odia	2014	Sixth language to receive Classical status. Inscriptions from 10th century.
7	Marathi	2024	Classical status granted in October 2024 by Union Cabinet.
8	Bengali	2024	Classical status granted in October 2024 by Union Cabinet.
9	Pali	2024	Classical status granted in October 2024. Language of Buddhist scriptures.
10	Prakrit	2024	Classical status granted in October 2024. Ancient Middle Indo-Aryan language group.
11	Assamese	2024	Classical status granted in October 2024 by Union Cabinet.

Key distinction for Prelims: Hindi is the Official Language of the Union (Article 343) — NOT the "national language". India has no constitutionally designated "national language". The two official languages of the Union are Hindi and English (for transitional purposes, extended indefinitely). Individual states may have their own official languages under Article 345.

Important Days

STATIC GK · LANGUAGE & CULTURE · 2 APRIL 2026

Exam relevance: UPSC Prelims regularly asks about the *founding reason* for an international day, the *year it was first observed*, and its associated theme. Focus on days proposed by India (Yoga Day), days linked to key events (National Technology Day, National Science Day), and frequently confused pairs (Teachers' Day India vs. World Teachers' Day).

🇮🇳 India's Three National Holidays

DATE	HOLIDAY	SIGNIFICANCE	KEY NOTE
26 January	Republic Day	Constitution of India came into force, 1950	Parade on Kartavya Path (formerly Rajpath), New Delhi. Chief Guest tradition from foreign heads of state. 77th Republic Day on 26 Jan 2026.
15 August	Independence Day	India's independence from British rule, 1947	PM hoists flag at Red Fort, Delhi. 79th Independence Day on 15 Aug 2025.
2 October	Gandhi Jayanti	Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (1869)	Also observed as <i>International Day of Non-Violence</i> by the UN (adopted 2007). Dry day across India.

☐ January

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
9 Jan	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day)	National	Marks Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915. Convention held biennially since 2003.
10 Jan	World Hindi Day	International	Commemorates first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on 10 January 1975. Declared by PM Manmohan Singh in 2006. (Note: Hindi Diwas is 14 September — different day.)
12 Jan	National Youth Day	National	Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (1863). Observed since 1985. Theme of 2025: "Viksit Yuva — Viksit Bharat".
15 Jan	Army Day	National	Gen. K.M. Cariappa (later Field Marshal) took over as first Indian Commander-in-Chief from last British C-in-C Gen. Sir F.R.R. Bucher on 15 January 1949.
24 Jan	National Girl Child Day	National	Launched by Ministry of Women & Child Development in 2008 to address inequality faced by girls in India.
25 Jan	National Voters' Day	National	Election Commission of India Foundation Day (25 Jan 1950). Observed since 2011 to encourage voter participation.
25 Jan	National Tourism Day	National	Observed to promote tourism and awareness of its importance to India's economy. Different from World Tourism Day (27 Sep).
24 Jan	International Day of Education	International	UN (A/RES/73/25, 2018). Celebrates education's role in peace and development. 2025 theme: "AI in Education: Preserving Human Agency".
27 Jan	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	International	UN. Marks liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau (27 Jan 1945). Adopted 2005.

February

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day	International	Marks signing of Ramsar Convention on 2 February 1971. Became a UN observance in 2021. India has 85 Ramsar sites (as of 2024, one of the highest globally).
4 Feb	World Cancer Day	International	Led by UICC (Union for International Cancer Control). 2025 theme: "United by Unique". Not a UN observance but widely observed.
11 Feb	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	International	UN (A/RES/70/212, 2015). Promotes full and equal access to science for women.
13 Feb	World Radio Day	International	UNESCO (2011); UN (2013). Marks founding of UN Radio on 13 February 1946. 2025 theme: "Radio: A Century of Informing, Entertaining and Educating".
20 Feb	World Day of Social Justice	International	UN (2007). 2025 theme: "Bridging Gaps, Building Coalitions: Winning the Fight Against Poverty and Exclusion".
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day	International	UNESCO (1999); UN (2000). Commemorates Language Movement Day in Bangladesh (1952) when students were killed demanding Bengali as official language. 2025 theme: "Multilingual Education: A Pillar of Learning and Intergenerational Learning".
28 Feb	National Science Day	National	C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the Raman Effect on 28 February 1928. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for this. Observed since 1987. 2025 theme: "Science for Social Progress".

☐ March

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
4 Mar	National Security Day	National	Foundation Day of National Safety Council of India (4 March 1966). A week-long campaign follows.
8 Mar	International Women's Day	International	UN (1977). Roots in the labour movement (1908, New York). 2025 theme: "Accelerate Action". 2026 theme: "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."
15 Mar	World Consumer Rights Day	International	Marks US President Kennedy's 1962 speech to Congress on consumer rights. Led by Consumers International since 1983.
21 Mar	International Day of Forests	International	UN (A/RES/67/200, 2012). 2025 theme: "Forests and Innovation".
22 Mar	World Water Day	International	UN (A/RES/47/193, 1992); first observed 1993. 2025 theme: "Glacier Preservation". 2026 theme: to be announced. Key for GS3 — water scarcity, interlinking rivers.
23 Mar	Martyrs' Day (Bhagat Singh)	National	Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru were executed on 23 March 1931. Also observed as <i>Shaheed Diwas</i> . (Note: 30 January is also Martyrs' Day — Gandhi's assassination.)
23 Mar	World Meteorological Day	International	Commemorates entry into force of WMO Convention on 23 March 1950. 2025 theme: "Closing the Early Warning Gap".
24 Mar	World Tuberculosis Day	International	Dr. Robert Koch announced discovery of TB bacillus on 24 March 1882. India's target: TB-free by 2025 (Nikshay mission). 2025 theme: "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver".
30 Jan	Martyrs' Day (Gandhi)	National	Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948. Two-minute silence observed at 11:00 AM. (Listed here for reference; falls in January.)

□ April

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
7 Apr	World Health Day	International	WHO founding day (7 April 1948). First celebrated 1950. 2025 theme: "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures". Key for GS2 — health governance, NHM.
14 Apr	Ambedkar Jayanti	National	Birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891). Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution. Gazetted holiday since 2015.
22 Apr	Earth Day	International	First Earth Day: 22 April 1970 in the US (Senator Gaylord Nelson). UN: International Mother Earth Day. 2025 theme: "Our Power, Our Planet". Over 1 billion people participate annually.
23 Apr	World Book and Copyright Day	International	UNESCO (1995). Coincides with death anniversaries of Cervantes, Shakespeare, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (23 April 1616).
25 Apr	World Malaria Day	International	WHO (2007). India aims to eliminate malaria by 2030. 2025 theme: "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite".
26 Apr	World Intellectual Property Day	International	WIPO (2000). Date marks entry into force of WIPO Convention (1970). 2025 theme: "IP and Music".

□ May

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
1 May	International Workers' Day (Labour Day)	International	Commemorates 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago. Officially Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day (states formed 1 May 1960).
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	International	UN (A/RES/48/432, 1993). Established following UNESCO's Windhoek Declaration (1991). 2025 theme: "Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media".
11 May	National Technology Day	National	India conducted Pokhran-II nuclear tests on 11 May 1998 (Operation Shakti). Simultaneously, first indigenous aircraft Hansa-3 flew and Trishul missile was tested. Day instituted by PM Vajpayee in 1999.
15 May	International Day of Families	International	UN (A/RES/47/237, 1993). Celebrates family as basic unit of society. 2025 theme: "Family-oriented Policies for Sustainable Development".
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	International	UN. Marks entry into force of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992). India is a mega-biodiversity country (12th in list). 2025 theme: "Be Part of the Plan".
31 May	World No Tobacco Day	International	WHO (1987). 2025 theme: "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference". India has COTPA (Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003).

June

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
5 Jun	World Environment Day	International	UN Environment Programme (UNEP), first held 1974. Marks opening of Stockholm Conference (1972). 2025 theme: "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience" (hosted by Saudi Arabia). 2024: "Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience" — host: Saudi Arabia. One of the most widely observed environment days.
8 Jun	World Oceans Day	International	Proposed at Earth Summit (Rio, 1992); officially recognised by UN in 2008. 2025 theme: "Protecting Coral Reefs". India has 7,516 km of coastline and exclusive EEZ of 2.37 million sq km.
12 Jun	World Day Against Child Labour	International	ILO (2002). India: Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 prohibits child labour below 14; hazardous work below 18.
14 Jun	World Blood Donor Day	International	WHO. Marks birthday of Karl Landsteiner (discovered ABO blood groups, 1900). 2025 theme: "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often".
20 Jun	World Refugee Day	International	UN (A/RES/55/76, 2000). Marks Africa Refugee Day; anniversary of 1951 Refugee Convention. 2025 theme: "Solidarity with Refugees".
21 Jun	International Day of Yoga	International	Proposed by PM Narendra Modi at UNGA in September 2014. UNGA declared 21 June as International Day of Yoga in December 2014 (A/RES/69/131); first celebrated 21 June 2015. 21 June is the Summer Solstice (longest day in Northern Hemisphere). 2025 theme: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health".
26 Jun	International Day against Drug Abuse	International	UN (A/RES/42/112, 1987). 2025 theme: "Together We Can Act: The Time Is Now". India: NDPS Act, 1985 governs narcotic drugs.

July

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
1 Jul	National Doctors' Day	National	Birth (and death) anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1 July 1882 / 1 July 1962), physician and Chief Minister of West Bengal. Observed since 1991.
11 Jul	World Population Day	International	UNDP (1989); UN (1990). Marks when world population reached 5 billion (11 July 1987). India surpassed China as most populous nation in 2023. 2025 theme: "Counting Every Life: The Case for Universal Civil Registration".
18 Jul	Nelson Mandela International Day	International	UN (A/RES/64/13, 2009). Mandela's birthday. 67-minute service encouraged (representing 67 years of public service). Mandela received Bharat Ratna in 1990.
26 Jul	Kargil Vijay Diwas	National	India declared victory in Kargil War (Operation Vijay) on 26 July 1999, after Pakistan-backed forces were evicted from strategic heights. Observed since 1999.
29 Jul	International Tiger Day	International	Established at Saint Petersburg Declaration (2010) by tiger range countries. India hosts ~75% of world's wild tigers. India's tiger count (2022 All India Tiger Estimation, 5th cycle): 3,682 — highest ever recorded; annual growth rate 6.1%.

□ August

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
6 Aug	Hiroshima Day	International	First atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan (1945). Observed globally to promote nuclear disarmament. India is a signatory to the NPT (1970) and advocates for CTBT ratification.
9 Aug	Nagasaki Day / Quit India Movement Day	International National	Second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki (1945). Also: Quit India Movement launched by Gandhi on 9 August 1942 at Gowalia Tank, Mumbai ("Do or Die").
9 Aug	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	International	UN (A/RES/49/214, 1994). Marks first meeting of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (1982). India has ~700 Scheduled Tribes.
12 Aug	International Youth Day	International	UN (A/RES/54/120, 1999). Established following 1998 World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. 2025 theme: "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development".
29 Aug	National Sports Day	National	Birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand (1905), legendary hockey player who won 3 Olympic gold medals (1928, 1932, 1936). Observed since 2012. National Sports Awards announced on this day.
29 Aug	International Day against Nuclear Tests	International	UN (A/RES/64/35, 2009). Marks closure of Semipalatinsk nuclear test site (29 Aug 1991). India conducted Pokhran-II on 11 May 1998.

☐ September

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
5 Sep	Teachers' Day (India)	National	Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888), 1st VP and 2nd President of India. Observed since 1962. Note: World Teachers' Day is 5 October (different date).
8 Sep	International Literacy Day	International	UNESCO (1966). Marks UNESCO's inaugural meeting (1965). India's literacy rate: ~77.7% (Census 2011 data; estimated ~90%+ by 2024). 2025 theme: "Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace".
14 Sep	Hindi Diwas	National	On 14 September 1949, Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi in Devanagari script as official language of the Union (Article 343). Observed since 1953. (Note: World Hindi Day is 10 January — different day.)
15 Sep	International Day of Democracy	International	UN (A/RES/62/7, 2007). India is the world's largest democracy. 2025 theme: "Safeguarding Democracy in the Age of AI".
15 Sep	Engineer's Day	National	Birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya (1861), renowned engineer and statesman. Bharat Ratna recipient (1955). Observed since 1968.
16 Sep	International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer	International	UN (A/RES/49/114, 1994). Marks signing of Montreal Protocol (16 September 1987). 2025 theme: "Montreal Protocol: Healing the Past, Protecting the Future".
21 Sep	International Day of Peace	International	UN (A/RES/36/67, 1981); moved to 21 September in 2001. Ceasefire observed globally. 2025 theme: "Cultivating a Culture of Peace".
27 Sep	World Tourism Day	International	UNWTO (1980). Marks adoption of UNWTO Statutes (27 September 1970). 2025 theme: "Tourism and Biodiversity". (Note: National Tourism Day is 25 January — different.)

☐ October

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
2 Oct	Gandhi Jayanti / Int'l Day of Non-Violence	National International	UNGA adopted A/RES/61/271 in 2007, declaring 2 October as International Day of Non-Violence — coinciding with Gandhi's birthday. India's only national holiday that is also a UN observance.
5 Oct	World Teachers' Day	International	UNESCO (1994). Marks signing of UNESCO Recommendation on Status of Teachers (1966). Not to be confused with India's Teachers' Day (5 September).
10 Oct	World Mental Health Day	International	World Federation for Mental Health (1992). India: Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 (replaces 1987 Act); recognises right to mental healthcare. 2025 theme: "It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace".
11 Oct	International Day of the Girl Child	International	UN (A/RES/66/170, 2011). First observed 2012. 2025 theme: "Girls' Vision for the Future". India: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme (2015).
16 Oct	World Food Day	International	FAO founding day (16 October 1945). 2025 theme: "Innovate. Adapt. Thrive: Building a better food future". India: National Food Security Act, 2013 (covers ~67% of population).
24 Oct	United Nations Day	International	Entry into force of UN Charter on 24 October 1945. India was a founding member of the UN. UN established with 51 original member nations (now 193).
31 Oct	National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)	National	Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875), "Iron Man of India" who integrated 562 princely states. Observed since 2014 (instituted by PM Modi). Run for Unity held annually.

☐ November

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
5 Nov	World Tsunami Awareness Day	International	UN (A/RES/70/203, 2015). Japan's Inamura-no-Hi legend. 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami killed ~2.28 lakh people; India among worst hit. 2025 theme: "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future".
10 Nov	World Science Day for Peace and Development	International	UNESCO (2001). 2025 theme: "Science for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future".
11 Nov	National Education Day	National	Birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888), first Education Minister of independent India. Observed since 2008 (MHRD). India's NEP 2020 aims for 100% GER in school education by 2030.
14 Nov	Children's Day (India)	National	Birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru (1889), first PM of India. Called "Chacha Nehru" for his love of children. Observed since 1964 (changed from 20 November after Nehru's death). World Children's Day: 20 November.
14 Nov	World Diabetes Day	International	IDF and WHO (1991). Marks birthday of Sir Frederick Banting (co-discoverer of insulin, 1922). UN recognised in 2006. India has the 2nd highest number of diabetics globally. 2025 theme: "Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps".
20 Nov	World Children's Day	International	UN. Marks adoption of Declaration on Rights of Child (1959) and Convention on Rights of Child (1989). India: Ratified UNCRC in 1992. POCSO Act, 2012 protects children from sexual offences.
26 Nov	Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)	National	Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 November 1949 (came into force 26 January 1950). Government of India formally declared it Constitution Day in 2015 on the Constitution's 66th anniversary. Samvidhan Divas 2025 (76th anniversary) observed with national ceremony at Samvidhan Sadan.

December

DATE	DAY	TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE / FOUNDING NOTE
1 Dec	World AIDS Day	International	WHO (1988); first global health day. 2025 theme: "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right". India: NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) manages response; India 3rd most HIV-burdened country globally.
3 Dec	World Day of Persons with Disabilities	International	UN (A/RES/47/3, 1992). India: Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (increased disability categories from 7 to 21). 2025 theme: "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future".
4 Dec	Indian Navy Day	National	Commemorates Operation Trident (4 December 1971) — Indian Navy's missile attack on Karachi harbour during 1971 India-Pakistan War.
9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day	International	UN (A/RES/58/4, 2003). Marks adoption of UNCAC (UN Convention Against Corruption). India: CVC, CBI, Lokpal Act 2013. 2025 theme: "Uniting the World Against Corruption".
10 Dec	Human Rights Day	International	UN. Marks adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948. India: NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) established 1993 under Protection of Human Rights Act. 2025 theme: "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now".
14 Dec	National Energy Conservation Day	National	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under Ministry of Power. Celebrates Energy Conservation Act enacted on 14 December 2001. India's target: 45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030 (NDC).
16 Dec	Vijay Diwas	National	Pakistan's armed forces surrendered to India on 16 December 1971, ending the 1971 India-Pakistan War. Bangladesh was liberated. Pakistan General A.A.K. Niazi signed instrument of surrender to Indian General J.S. Aurora. ~93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered — one of the largest surrenders since WWII.
22 Dec	National Mathematics Day	National	Birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887). Declared by PM Manmohan Singh in 2012 (Ramanujan's 125th birth anniversary). Ramanujan: self-taught genius; worked with G.H. Hardy at Cambridge; contributions to number theory, infinite series, continued fractions.
23 Dec	Kisan Diwas (Farmers' Day)	National	Birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902), 5th Prime Minister of India, who championed farmers' rights. Observed since 2001.

☐ Commonly Confused Days — Prelims Traps

PAIR	DAY 1	DAY 2	KEY DIFFERENCE
Teachers' Day	India: 5 September (Radhakrishnan's birthday)	World: 5 October (UNESCO, 1966 Recommendation)	Different dates; same name. A common Prelims trap.
Children's Day	India: 14 November (Nehru's birthday)	World: 20 November (UN, UNCRC)	India moved its date from 20 Nov to 14 Nov after Nehru's death in 1964.
Hindi Diwas vs World Hindi Day	Hindi Diwas: 14 September (CA adopted Hindi, 1949)	World Hindi Day: 10 January (First World Hindi Conference, 1975)	Two different days; both about Hindi but different origin and scope.
Tourism Day	National Tourism Day: 25 January	World Tourism Day: 27 September (UNWTO, 1980)	India has its own date; world date coincides with UNWTO founding.
Martyrs' Day	30 January (Gandhi assassinated, 1948)	23 March (Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru executed, 1931)	India observes two Martyrs' Days. January 30 is the official national observance with 2-minute silence.
Non-Violence Day	2 October — International Day of Non-Violence (UN, 2007)	Gandhi Jayanti is also on 2 October	UN observance was set on Gandhi's birth anniversary — the only national holiday that doubles as a UN day.

Current affairs link: Each year's themes for international days (World Environment Day, World Health Day, etc.) are frequently asked in Prelims. Since themes change annually, check Ujiyari.com for the latest year's themes closer to your exam. The dates and founding notes above are static and permanent.

Classical Dance Forms

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☐ Sangeet Natak Akademi — Overview

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Established	31 May 1952 (set up); inaugurated by President Rajendra Prasad on 28 January 1953
Under	Ministry of Culture, Government of India (autonomous body)
Classical dances recognised	8 — Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Manipuri, Sattriya
Foundational text	<i>Natya Shastra</i> — attributed to sage Bharata Muni; composed ~200 BCE–200 CE; ~6,000 verses; covers drama, dance, music, rasa theory
"Mother of classical dances"	Bharatanatyam
Newest classical dance	Sattriya — granted classical status November 2000

□ The 8 Classical Dance Forms

#	DANCE	STATE	STYLE / CHARACTER	ORIGIN TRADITION	KEY EXPONENTS
1	Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu	Tandava + Lasya; geometric postures, intricate footwork; "ekaharya" (solo performer, multiple characters)	Devadasi/Sadir tradition (temple dancers); also called Sadir, Dasi Attam	Rukmini Devi Arundale (founded Kalakshetra 1936), Balasaraswati, Yamini Krishnamurthy
2	Kathak	North India (UP, Rajasthan)	Spins (chakkar), intricate tatkar (footwork), abhinaya; Lucknow & Jaipur gharanas	Kathakas (temple storytellers); later shaped by Mughal court patronage	Birju Maharaj (Lucknow), Lacchu Maharaj, Sitara Devi
3	Odissi	Odisha	Tribhangi (three body bends — head, torso, hips); fluid, lyrical	Mahari tradition (devadasis of Jagannath Temple, Puri); also Gotipua (male dancers)	Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Sonal Mansingh, Madhavi Mudgal
4	Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh	Dance-drama; combines dance, music, acting, dialogue; features tarangam (dancer on brass plate)	Male Brahmin community (Bhagavatula); originally all-male dance-drama; systematised by Siddhendra Yogi (17th c.)	Vedantam Satyanarayana Sarma, Yamini Krishnamurthy, Raja-Radha Reddy
5	Kathakali	Kerala	Most elaborate makeup/costume; colour-coded characters (Pacha = green = noble hero; Kathi = villain); traditionally all-male	Synthesis of Ramanattam + Krishnanattam + Kutiyattam (17th century); episodes from Ramayana, Mahabharata	Kalamandalam Gopi, Kalamandalam Ramankutty Nair; Kerala Kalamandalam (est. 1930)
6	Mohiniyattam	Kerala	Lasya-dominant; feminine, graceful, swaying; white and gold Kerala kasavu saree	"Dance of the enchantress" — Mohini (female avatar of Vishnu) + Aattam (graceful movement)	Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma (revival), Bharati Shivaji, Shobana
7	Manipuri	Manipur	Circular, soft, fluid; no stamping of feet; cosmic character; Ras Lila is most prominent form	Vaishnavite Meitei tradition; Ras Lila (5 types: Maharas, Vasantaras, Kunja Ras, Nitya Ras, Diba Ras)	Guru Bipin Singh, Darshana Jhaveri, Jhaveri Sisters; Rabindranath Tagore promoted national revival

#	DANCE	STATE	STYLE / CHARACTER	ORIGIN TRADITION	KEY EXPONENTS
8	Sattriya	Assam	Ankiya Nat (one-act devotional plays); combines devotion, drama, music; Bhagavata Purana themes	Vaishnavite Sattras (monasteries); founded by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev (15th–16th c.); classical status: November 2000	Indira PP Bora (Padma Shri 2020), Anita Sharma; originally male monks (Bhokots), now open to women

□ Dance-Specific Highlights

DANCE	UNIQUE FEATURE / HIGH-YIELD FACT
Bharatanatyam	Called "Mother of all classical dances"; revival credited to Rukmini Devi Arundale who adapted it for proscenium stage and cleaned it from devadasi stigma
Kathak	Only North Indian classical dance; two main gharanas: Lucknow (lyrical, Wajid Ali Shah court) and Jaipur (vigorous, rhythmic); unique fusion of Hindu temple + Mughal court elements
Odissi	Tribhangi = defining posture (three simultaneous bends); Natya Shastra references "Odra-Magadhi" style considered early Odissi; revival by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra
Kuchipudi	Village name in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district (NOT Telangana); tarangam = dancing on brass plate while balancing a pot of water on head
Kathakali	Kerala Kalamandalam founded 1930 by poet Vallathol Narayana Menon; training takes 6–8 years; green face = noble hero (Pacha), red/black = villain (Kathi)
Mohiniyattam	Both Kathakali and Mohiniyattam belong to Kerala — common confusion; Kathakali = vigorous + dramatic + male; Mohiniyattam = lyrical + graceful + female
Manipuri	Rabindranath Tagore saw a performance in Sylhet (1919) and invited Guru Budhimantra Singh to Shantiniketan, launching national awareness of Manipuri dance
Sattriya	Origin: 15th–16th century (Sankardev); SNA classical status: November 2000. Performance was exclusively by male monks inside sattras for centuries before being opened to women.

□ Chhau — Status Clarified

Chhau is NOT one of the SNA's 8 classical dances. It is classified as semi-classical / tribal martial dance. Some sources say "9 classical dances" by including Chhau — the SNA's official count is **8**.

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Classification	Tribal martial dance (semi-classical); NOT in SNA's 8
UNESCO recognition	2010 — UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
Seraikella Chhau	Jharkhand — uses masks
Purulia Chhau	West Bengal — uses masks
Mayurbhanj Chhau	Odisha — no masks

☐ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage — Indian Dances

The SNA's 8 classical dances are *not individually inscribed* on UNESCO's ICH list. Three Indian dance/music traditions have UNESCO ICH recognition:

TRADITION	YEAR INSCRIBED	NOTE
Chhau dance	2010	Three styles: Seraikella (JH), Purulia (WB), Mayurbhanj (OD)
Kalbelia folk songs & dances (Rajasthan)	2010	Snake-charmer community; Rajasthan; inscribed same year as Chhau
Garba of Gujarat	2023	Most recently inscribed — Navratri festival dance; high-yield exam question

□ Major Folk Dances — Quick Reference

STATE	DANCE	NOTES
Assam	Bihu	Celebrates Assamese New Year/spring; three types: Rongali (spring), Kongali (autumn), Bhogali (winter)
Gujarat	Garba / Dandiya Raas	Navratri festival; Garba UNESCO ICH 2023
Punjab	Bhangra (men) / Giddha (women)	Harvest festival (Baisakhi)
Rajasthan	Ghoomar	State dance of Rajasthan; performed by women; swirling skirts
Rajasthan	Kalbelia	Snake-charmer community; UNESCO ICH 2010
Maharashtra	Lavani	Energetic; combines song and dance; Tamasha tradition
Karnataka	Yakshagana	Dance-drama combining dance, music, dialogue; winter harvest tradition
Jharkhand / WB / Odisha	Chhau	Tribal martial dance; three regional styles; UNESCO ICH 2010
Kerala	Theyyam	Ritual art form; performers embody deities; performed in North Kerala
Andhra Pradesh / Telangana	Perini Sivatandavam	Ancient warrior dance revived by Nataraja Ramakrishna; performed before battles

□ Exam Traps & High-Yield Points

#	WRONG BELIEF	CORRECT FACT
1	"There are 9 classical dances (including Chhau)"	SNA recognises 8 ; Chhau is NOT in SNA's list — it is semi-classical/tribal
2	"Sattriya was one of the original classical dances"	Sattriya was added in November 2000 — the most recent addition; SNA was founded in 1952
3	"Kathakali is from Karnataka"	Kathakali is from Kerala
4	"Kuchipudi is from Telangana"	Kuchipudi village is in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district — despite Hyderabad now being in Telangana
5	"Mohiniyattam and Kathakali are the same style"	Both from Kerala but opposite: Kathakali = vigorous, dramatic, male, elaborate costume; Mohiniyattam = lyrical, graceful, female, simple white-gold costume
6	"Manipuri dance involves vigorous foot stamping"	Manipuri is distinctly non-stamping — soft, circular, fluid movements; foot stamps are characteristic of Bharatanatyam and Kathak
7	"Garba was inscribed in UNESCO ICH 2010"	Garba was inscribed in 2023 (most recent); 2010 inscriptions were Chhau and Kalbelia
8	"Bharatanatyam was always a recognised art form"	It was associated with devadasis and was suppressed; revival by Rukmini Devi Arundale in the 1930s (Kalakshetra, Chennai, 1936) brought it mainstream acceptance
9	"Natyashastra was written by Bharata Muni in the modern era"	Natyashastra is an ancient text, composed ~200 BCE–200 CE — it is not a modern work
10	"Kathak has no Mughal influence"	Kathak uniquely blends Hindu temple tradition with Mughal court culture — this is what makes its Lucknow gharana distinctively lyrical and emotive

ISRO & Space Missions

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Quick facts: ISRO founded **15 August 1969**; predecessor INCOSPAR (1962); HQ Bengaluru. Parent: **Department of Space (DoS)** — under PM directly (NOT under DST). First chairman: **Vikram Sarabhai**. Current chairman: **Dr. V. Narayanan** (assumed 14 January 2025). India is the **4th country** to soft-land on the Moon (Chandrayaan-3, 23 August 2023) and **4th country** to demonstrate space docking (SpaDeX, 16 January 2025).

□ ISRO — Key Dates & Structure

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Founded	15 August 1969
Predecessor	INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research) — 1962, under Vikram Sarabhai
HQ	Bengaluru, Karnataka
Parent body	Department of Space (DoS) — directly under the Prime Minister. NOT under Ministry of Science & Technology or DST.
First chairman	Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (1963–1971)
Current chairman	Dr. V. Narayanan (assumed charge 14 January 2025, succeeded Dr. S. Somanath)
Commercial arm	NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) — PSU under DoS for commercial space activities
Regulatory body	IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) — authorises and promotes private sector space activities
Space policy	Indian Space Policy 2023 — issued April 2023; formalises role of private sector in space

☐ Launch Vehicles

VEHICLE	FULL NAME	FIRST LAUNCH	STATUS	KEY NOTES
SLV	Satellite Launch Vehicle	10 Aug 1979 (failed); success: 18 Jul 1980	Retired	First successful launch placed Rohini RS-1 in orbit (1980). India's first indigenous orbital launch vehicle. Designed by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
ASLV	Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle	1987	Retired	4 launches (1987–1994); only ASLV-D4 (May 1994) fully successful. Retired after 4th flight.
PSLV	Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle	20 Sep 1993 (failed); success: 15 Oct 1994	Operational (workhorse)	63+ launches as of early 2026; ~92% success rate. Launched Chandrayaan-1, Mangalyaan, Aditya-L1, AstroSat. Set record: 104 satellites in one mission (PSLV-C37, Feb 2017). PSLV-C62 (Jan 2026) failed.
GSLV Mk I/II	Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle	18 Apr 2001 (Mk I)	Operational (Mk II)	Mk I used Russian KVD-1 cryogenic stage. Russia backed out of tech transfer (1992) under US/MTCR pressure ☐ India developed indigenous cryogenic engine (CE-7.5) for Mk II. Capacity: ~2,500 kg to GTO.
LVM3 (GSLV Mk III)	Launch Vehicle Mark-3	Dec 2014 (experimental); Jun 2017 (operational)	Operational (heavy-lift)	India's heaviest rocket — 4,000 kg to GTO . Indigenous CE-20 cryogenic upper stage. Launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, OneWeb commercial missions.
SSLV	Small Satellite Launch Vehicle	7 Aug 2022 (failed); success: 10 Feb 2023 (SSLV-D2)	Operational (small sats)	Designed for quick turnaround (72 hours assembly vs months for PSLV). Payload: ~500 kg to LEO. Targets commercial small-satellite market.

Major Missions — Chronological

MISSION	DATE	LAUNCHED BY	KEY SIGNIFICANCE
Aryabhata	19 April 1975	Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket	India's first satellite. Named after the 5th-century mathematician-astronomer. Launched from Kapustin Yar, USSR.
APPLE (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment)	19 June 1981	ESA Ariane-1 (French Guiana)	India's first experimental geostationary communication satellite. Successfully tested India's ability to build and operate GEO comsat.
INSAT-1B	30 August 1983	US Delta rocket	First operational satellite of the INSAT series (INSAT-1A had failed in 1983). Revolutionised Indian telecommunications and meteorology.
IRS-1A	17 March 1988	Soviet rocket (Baikonur)	India's first remote sensing satellite. Predecessor to today's EOS series.
Chandrayaan-1	22 October 2008	PSLV-C11	India's first lunar mission. Discovered water molecules on Moon via Moon Mineralogy Mapper (NASA M3) and CHACE spectrometer on Moon Impact Probe (MIP). MIP crash-landed at Jawahar Point. Contact lost Aug 2009 (all mission objectives met).
ASTROSAT	28 September 2015	PSLV-C30	India's first multi-wavelength space observatory. Studies universe in UV, optical, soft and hard X-ray bands simultaneously.
Chandrayaan-2	22 July 2019	GSLV Mk III-M1	Orbiter (still operational), Vikram lander (crashed 6 September 2019 due to software error), Pragyan rover. Orbiter has 8 payloads; continues remote sensing of Moon.
Chandrayaan-3	14 July 2023 (launch)	LVM3-M4	India's first successful soft landing on Moon. Landed 23 August 2023 at 18:04 IST at Statio Shiv Shakti (69.37°S, 32.32°E) — near Moon's south pole. India = 4th nation to soft-land (after USSR, USA, China). Pragyan rover operated for 14 Earth days. Landing site officially named by IAU.
Aditya-L1	2 September 2023 (launch)	PSLV-C57	India's first solar mission. Reached L1 halo orbit on 6 January 2024 . 7 payloads to study solar corona, solar wind, flares. L1 = first Lagrange point (~1.5 million km from Earth) — provides uninterrupted view of Sun.
XPoSat	1 January 2024	PSLV-C58	India's first X-ray polarimetry mission (only second globally after NASA's IXPE). Studies polarisation of cosmic X-ray sources — black holes, neutron stars, pulsars.
SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment)	30 December 2024 (launch)	PSLV-C60	India's first space docking mission. First docking achieved 16 January 2025 — India = 4th country to demonstrate space docking (after USA, USSR, China). Undocking: 13 March 2025. 2nd docking + power transfer: 20–21 April 2025. Technology essential for Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

☐ Mangalyaan — Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launch	5 November 2013 (PSLV-C25)
Mars orbit insertion	24 September 2014
Cost	~₹454 crore (~USD 54 million) — cheapest interplanetary mission in history at the time
Significance	First Asian nation to reach Mars orbit. India was the first nation to succeed in its maiden attempt to Mars. (USSR, USA, and Europe all failed their first attempts.)
Mission end	Lost communication: September 2022 (battery depletion — no longer able to withstand prolonged eclipse periods)
Payloads	5 science instruments — Methane Sensor (MSM), Mars Colour Camera (MCC), Thermal Infrared Imaging (TIS), Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP), Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA)

☐☐ Gaganyaan — India's Human Spaceflight Programme

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Programme announced	Independence Day 2018 (PM Modi's announcement)
Launch vehicle	LVM3 (GSLV Mk III)
TV-D1 (abort test)	21 October 2023 — Crew Escape System test at Mach 1.2, ~11.7 km altitude; successful
Selected astronauts (4)	IAF pilots: Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla (trained at Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre, Russia)
Shubhanshu Shukla — ISS mission	Selected for Axiom Space Mission 4 (Ax-4) to ISS; launched 25 May 2025 — first Indian to visit ISS
Uncrewed flight (G1)	Targeted 2025 (delayed)
Crewed flight	Now targeted 2027 (revised from earlier 2024/2025 targets)
Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)	India's planned space station — first module targeted 2028; operational by 2035

First Indian in space: Rakesh Sharma — aboard Soviet Soyuz T-11 on **3 April 1984**. When PM Indira Gandhi asked how India looked from space, he replied "**Saare Jahan Se Achha**" (from Iqbal's poem). He was an IAF pilot, not an ISRO astronaut — the mission was a Soviet-Indian joint mission.

☐ NavIC — India's Navigation System

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Full name	Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC); also called IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System)
Designed constellation	7 satellites (3 geostationary / GEO + 4 geosynchronous / GSO)
Total launched (programme)	10 satellites: IRNSS-1A to 1I + NVS-01 (second generation)
Operational as of 2024–25	~5 (several first-gen satellites have degraded atomic clocks; NVS series replacing them)
Coverage	India and ~1,500 km beyond borders (regional navigation, unlike global systems GPS/GLONASS)
Accuracy	<20 m for standard users; <10 m for restricted service users
Services	Standard Positioning Service (SPS — civilian); Restricted Service (RS — encrypted, for defence)

☐ Nations that Soft-Landed on the Moon (as of April 2026)

#	COUNTRY	FIRST SOFT LANDING	MISSION
1	USSR	February 1966	Luna 9
2	USA	June 1966	Surveyor 1
3	China	December 2013	Chang'e 3 / Yutu rover
4	India	23 August 2023	Chandrayaan-3 / Vikram lander
5	Japan	January 2024	SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)

Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
ISRO is under DST (Dept. of Science & Technology)?	No. ISRO is under the Department of Space (DoS) , which is directly under the Prime Minister. DoS is separate from DST (which is under the Ministry of Science & Technology).
When exactly did Chandrayaan-3 land?	23 August 2023 at 18:04 IST. The landing site is officially named Statio Shiv Shakti (IAU-approved). Located at 69.37°S, 32.32°E — near (but NOT at) the geographic south pole.
India was the first to land near the south pole of the Moon?	Contextually correct but nuanced. Chandrayaan-3 landed at ~69°S — the highest southern latitude ever for a lunar landing. It is near the south polar region but NOT at the geographic south pole (90°S).
India was the first country to reach Mars orbit?	No. USA, USSR, and ESA all reached Mars before India. India was the first Asian nation to reach Mars orbit and the first country to succeed on its maiden attempt .
SpaDeX made India the 3rd country to dock in space?	No — 4th. Docking sequence: USA, USSR, China, then India (16 January 2025).
Chandrayaan-1 confirmed water on the Moon?	Yes , but note: the discovery was via the NASA M3 (Moon Mineralogy Mapper) instrument on board, and ISRO's own CHACE spectrometer on the Moon Impact Probe. Both Indian and NASA instruments contributed.
How many satellites does NavIC have — 7 or 9?	Designed for 7 (3 GEO + 4 GSO). 10 have been launched in the programme (including replacements and NVS-01 second-gen). Only ~5 were fully operational as of 2024–25. Distinguish "designed constellation" (7) from "total launched" (10).
Aryabhata was launched by ISRO/PSLV?	No. Aryabhata (1975) was launched by a Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket — India did not yet have its own orbital launch vehicle. PSLV's first successful launch was in 1994.
Rakesh Sharma was an ISRO astronaut?	No. Rakesh Sharma was an IAF pilot who flew on a Soviet Soyuz T-11 (3 April 1984) as part of a Soviet-Indian joint mission. He was not an ISRO-trained astronaut.
Aditya-L1 studies the Sun from L1 point — how far is that?	L1 (first Lagrange point) is approximately 1.5 million km from Earth (~1% of Earth-Sun distance). It provides a continuous, unobstructed view of the Sun. Aditya-L1 inserted into L1 halo orbit on 6 January 2024 .
Was Mangalyaan (MOM) India's first interplanetary mission?	Yes. Chandrayaan-1 was a lunar (not interplanetary) mission. Mangalyaan was India's first interplanetary mission , launched November 2013, arrived Mars September 2014.
What is the difference between GSLV Mk III and LVM3?	Same rocket, different name. GSLV Mk III was renamed LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark 3) in 2022. The renaming reflects that it is a new class, not a variant of GSLV Mk I/II.

Nuclear Programme

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Quick orientation: AEC founded **1948**; DAE founded **1954** (under PM). Three-stage programme conceived by **Homi J. Bhabha (1954)** — Stage 1 PHWRs □ Stage 2 FBRs □ Stage 3 Thorium reactors. India has the world's **largest thorium reserves** (~25% of global). Operational nuclear capacity: ~**8,880 MW** (25 reactors, ~3% of electricity). Nuclear doctrine: **No First Use + Credible Minimum Deterrence**. India is **NOT** a signatory to NPT or CTBT.

□ Key Institutions

INSTITUTION	FOUNDED	KEY DETAIL
Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)	August 1948	First Chairman: Homi J. Bhabha . Set up under Dept. of Scientific Research (est. June 1948). Reconstituted under DAE on 1 March 1958 — Secretary of DAE is now ex-officio Chairman of AEC.
Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	3 August 1954	Established by Presidential Order under direct charge of PM Jawaharlal Nehru . PM holds charge of DAE to this day. Not under any ministry — reports directly to PM.
BARC — Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	1954	Trombay, Mumbai. Premier nuclear research centre. Nuclear fuel cycle R&D, reactor design, isotope production.
NPCIL — Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd	1987	Mumbai. Designs, builds, and operates all PHWRs and Kudankulam (VVER). Public sector enterprise under DAE.
IGCAR — Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research	1971	Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. FBR (Fast Breeder Reactor) technology R&D. Designed the PFBR.
BHAVINI — Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd	2003	Chennai. Stage 2 operator — operates PFBR and future FBRs.
UCIL — Uranium Corporation of India Ltd	1967	Jaduguda, Jharkhand (Singhbhum district). Uranium mining, milling, processing.
AERB — Atomic Energy Regulatory Board	November 1983	Mumbai. Nuclear safety regulator. Derives authority from Atomic Energy Act, 1962. Functions under AEC — not fully independent (unlike NRC in USA). This is a known governance concern.
NFC — Nuclear Fuel Complex	1971	Hyderabad, Telangana. Fabricates nuclear fuel assemblies and reactor components.

□ Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

Conceived by **Homi J. Bhabha** in 1954. Rationale: India has only ~1–2% of global uranium reserves but ~25% of **global thorium reserves**. The programme is designed to first build a fissile inventory using uranium, then exploit India's vast thorium deposits.

STAGE	REACTOR TYPE	FUEL IN	BY-PRODUCT / BRED FUEL	CURRENT STATUS
Stage 1	Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)	Natural uranium (0.7% U-235)	Plutonium-239 (Pu-239) — bred from U-238	Mostly complete — 18+ PHWRs operational
Stage 2	Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs)	MOX fuel (Pu-239 from Stage 1 reprocessing + natural uranium); Th-232 as blanket	More Pu-239 (breeds more than consumed) + U-233 (from Th-232 blanket, for Stage 3)	Beginning — PFBR (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam: core loading started 4 March 2024; AERB granted criticality approval July 2024
Stage 3	Advanced Heavy Water Reactors / Thermal Breeders	U-233 (from Stage 2) + Th-232	Self-sustaining Th-232/U-233 cycle — near-inexhaustible thorium fuel	Future

PFBR milestone: PM Modi witnessed commencement of core loading at PFBR (500 MWe, sodium-cooled) at Kalpakkam on **4 March 2024** — India's formal entry into Stage 2. AERB granted "First Approach to Criticality" approval on 31 July 2024. Commercial power generation anticipated ~2026.

☐ Nuclear Tests — Pokhran

PARAMETER	POKHRAN-I (1974)	POKHRAN-II (1998)
Code name	Smiling Buddha	Operation Shakti
Date(s)	18 May 1974 (8:05 AM IST)	11 May 1998 (3 tests) + 13 May 1998 (2 tests)
Total detonations	1	5
Location	Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan	Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan
PM at the time	Indira Gandhi	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Device type	Fission (implosion-type) only — NO thermonuclear	Thermonuclear/H-bomb (~45 kt) + fission (~15 kt) + 3 sub-kiloton devices
India's stated purpose	"Peaceful Nuclear Explosion" (PNE)	Nuclear weapons programme — India declared itself a Nuclear Weapons State (NWS)
Key scientists	Raja Ramanna (BARC), Homi Sethna (AEC)	A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (DRDO), R. Chidambaram (AEC), K. Santhanam (DRDO)
International consequence	Formation of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) 1974–75	Sanctions from USA, Japan; Pakistan tested within 2 weeks (28 May 1998, Chagai-I)
Commemoration	—	11 May declared National Technology Day

India's distinction: India was the first country outside the UN P-5 (USA, USSR, UK, France, China) to test a nuclear device — in 1974.

☐ Nuclear Power Plants — Operational (as of 2025)

Total operational capacity: ~8,880 MW across 25 reactors at 7 plants. Nuclear contributes ~3% of India's total electricity generation. All plants operated by NPCIL except PFBR (operated by BHAVINI).

PLANT	STATE	REACTOR TYPE	UNITS / CAPACITY	KEY NOTES
Tarapur (TAPS)	Maharashtra	Units 1–2: BWR (US-supplied); Units 3–4: PHWR	4 units / 1,400 MW	India's oldest nuclear plant — commissioned 1969. Only BWRs in India (Units 1–2, US-supplied, 160 MW each).
Rawatbhata / RAPS (Rajasthan Atomic Power Station)	Rajasthan	Units 1–2: CANDU (Canada-supplied); Units 3–6: PHWR (indigenous); Units 7–8: IPHWR-700	8 units / ~2,880 MW	Oldest PHWR in India. First CANDU-type. Unit 7 (700 MW) connected to grid March 2025.
Kalpakkam / MAPS (Madras Atomic Power Station)	Tamil Nadu	PHWR	2 units / 440 MW	Also hosts the PFBR (500 MWe FBR, operated by BHAVINI — a separate facility on the same site).
Narora (NAPS)	Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	2 units / 440 MW	Commercial operation: 1991 (Unit 1), 1992 (Unit 2)
Kakrapar (KAPS)	Gujarat	Units 1–2: PHWR 220 MW; Units 3–4: IPHWR-700	4 units / 1,840 MW	Units 3 & 4: India's first indigenous 700 MW PHWRs. Unit 4 declared commercial 2024.
Kaiga (KGS)	Karnataka	PHWR	4 units / 880 MW	First nuclear plant with 4 units of PHWR
Kudankulam (KKNPP)	Tamil Nadu	VVER-1000 (Russian PWR)	2 operational / 2,000 MW; 4 under construction	India-Russia collaboration. Largest operational nuclear plant in India (2,000 MW). 6,000 MW total planned (6 units). VVER is a Pressurised Water Reactor — not a PHWR.

Under Construction / Planned

PLANT	STATE	TYPE	CAPACITY	STATUS
Kudankulam Units 3–6	Tamil Nadu	VVER-1000	4×1,000 MW	Units 3 & 4 ~73–76% complete; Unit 3 expected 2026
Gorakhpur (GHAVP)	Haryana (Fatehabad)	IPHWR-700	4×700 MW = 2,800 MW	Under construction; Phase 1 target ~2031
Jaitapur	Maharashtra (Ratnagiri)	EPR (French, by EDF)	6×1,650 MW = 9,900 MW	Pre-construction/negotiations; if built, would be world's largest NPP by net capacity
10 new PHWRs (Cabinet approved)	Multiple states	IPHWR-700	10×700 MW = 7,000 MW	Approved by Cabinet; sites across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, others

□ India's Nuclear Treaty Status

TREATY / AGREEMENT	INDIA'S STATUS	KEY DETAILS
NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty)	NOT a signatory	India considers NPT discriminatory — divides world into 5 NWS (with pre-1967 tests) and all others. India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Sudan are outside NPT.
CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty)	Not signed, not ratified	India has maintained a voluntary moratorium on testing since 1998 but has not signed CTBT. Pakistan is in the same position.
India-US Civil Nuclear Deal (123 Agreement)	Signed 8 October 2008	Allows US to supply nuclear fuel and technology to India despite India not being in NPT. Named after Section 123 of US Atomic Energy Act 1954.
NSG Waiver	Received 6 September 2008	NSG unanimously granted India a waiver at Vienna — allowing India to conduct civilian nuclear commerce globally without NPT membership. NSG was formed in 1974–75 <i>because of</i> India's Pokhran-1 test.
NSG Membership	Pending (applied 2016)	NSG guideline requires NPT membership. India applied in 2016 — opposed by China, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa, Austria. No resolution as of 2025.
IAEA India-Specific Safeguards	In force 2008	India voluntarily placed civilian nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. Military facilities remain outside.
IAEA Additional Protocol	Signed May 2009; in force 25 July 2014	India's AP is non-standard — does NOT include full complementary access provisions (which allow inspection of undeclared facilities). India's AP has broad exemptions for non-civilian activities.

□ Key Facts at a Glance

PARAMETER	FACT
AEC founded	August 1948 (first Chairman: Homi J. Bhabha)
DAE founded	3 August 1954 (under PM Nehru; PM holds charge to this day)
Three-stage programme conceived	1954, by Homi J. Bhabha
Stage 2 commencement	PFBR core loading 4 March 2024 (Kalpakkam); criticality approval July 2024
Oldest nuclear plant	Tarapur, Maharashtra (commissioned 1969); only BWRs in India
Largest nuclear plant (operational)	Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu (2,000 MW; VVER-1000)
Operational nuclear capacity (2025)	~8,880 MW; 25 reactors; 7 plants
Nuclear share of electricity	~3% (FY 2024–25: 56.7 TWh — record)
Nuclear doctrine	No First Use (NFU) + Credible Minimum Deterrence ; declared 1998
Nuclear warheads (SIPRI Jan 2025)	~ 180 stored warheads
India's thorium reserves	Largest in world (~25% of global; ~519,000–850,000 tonnes as monazite sand)
Thorium deposit locations	East and southwest coastlines — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha
Nuclear target by 2047	100 GW nuclear capacity (Viksit Bharat energy roadmap)
Nuclear Energy Mission (Budget 2025–26)	Funding for at least 5 indigenous SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) to be operational by 2033

□ Exam Traps

CONFUSION / TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
AEC founded in 1954?	No. AEC was founded in 1948 . DAE was founded in 1954. AEC was reconstituted under DAE in 1958. Three distinct dates.
PM is Chairman of AEC?	No. PM holds charge of DAE. The Secretary of DAE is the ex-officio Chairman of AEC.
Pokhran-I was a weapons test?	India called it a " Peaceful Nuclear Explosion " — not officially a weapons test. India did not declare itself a NWS after Pokhran-I. It did so only after Pokhran-II (1998).
Pokhran-I included a thermonuclear device?	No. Pokhran-I (1974) was a fission device only. The thermonuclear test claim came with Pokhran-II (1998).
India signed NPT but withdrew?	India never signed NPT. It is not a signatory and has no plans to join.
India signed but didn't ratify CTBT?	India has not signed CTBT at all (neither signed nor ratified). It maintains a voluntary testing moratorium, which is different.
NSG waiver = NSG membership?	No. NSG waiver was received in 2008 (allowing nuclear trade). NSG membership was applied for in 2016 and is still pending.
BARC is at Kalpakkam?	No. BARC is at Trombay, Mumbai . IGCAR is at Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu). BARC does nuclear research; IGCAR specialises in FBR technology.
MAPS and PFBR are the same facility?	No. MAPS (Madras Atomic Power Station — 2 PHWRs, 220 MW each, operated by NPCIL) and PFBR (500 MWe FBR, operated by BHAVINI) are separate reactors at the same Kalpakkam site.
Tarapur uses only PHWR?	Partially wrong. Units 1 & 2 are BWRs (US-supplied, 160 MW each). Units 3 & 4 are PHWRs (540 MW each). Tarapur has India's only BWRs .
Kudankulam is a PHWR?	No. Kudankulam uses VVER-1000 — a Russian-designed Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR). Different from PHWR (which uses heavy water as moderator and coolant).
India's thorium is "second largest"?	Current official/DAE position: India has the largest thorium reserves (~25% globally). Some older estimates placed Australia ahead — for UPSC, use "largest."
NSG was formed in 1975 because of Pakistan?	No. NSG was formed in 1974–75 directly in response to India's Pokhran-I test (1974). It was India's test that catalysed the group.
India has ~150 nuclear warheads?	Outdated. SIPRI Yearbook 2025 : India has ~180 stored warheads as of January 2025 — now more than Pakistan (~170).

Major Ports of India

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Current count: 13 notified major ports — 12 operational + Galathea Bay (notified Sep 2024, under development). **Vadhavan Port** is under construction but not yet formally notified as a major port (it is a JNPA-led project). The "12 major ports" figure from standard textbooks is now outdated. Legal basis: **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** (governs 12 operational ports); **Indian Ports Act, 2025** (governs non-major ports and creates Maritime State Development Council). Total cargo by all major ports in FY 2024-25: **855 million tonnes** (4.3% growth, record).

□ Evolution of Major Port Count

YEAR	COUNT	KEY EVENT
Long-standing	12	Stable figure for decades — the 12 traditional major ports
June 2010	13	Port Blair (Andaman) declared 13th major port
2017	12	Port Blair's major port status removed (insufficient container traffic, operationally unviable)
September 2024	13	Galathea Bay (Great Nicobar) notified as 13th major port

Vadhavan note: Vadhavan (Maharashtra) is a major greenfield port project under JNPA's oversight with Cabinet approval (June 2024) and PM Modi groundbreaking (August 2024). It is under construction and not yet formally notified as a major port as of April 2026. Phase 1 target: 2029.

☐ West Coast Ports (6 operational)

#	PORT	STATE	EST. (MAJOR PORT)	KEY NOTES
1	Deendayal Port (formerly Kandla)	Gujarat	1955	Declared major port 8 April 1955 by Lal Bahadur Shastri (then Transport Minister). Renamed after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on 25 September 2017. Tidal port on Gulf of Kutch. Largest major port by cargo — 150+ MMT in FY 2024-25.
2	Mumbai Port	Maharashtra	1873	Established 1873. Natural harbour. India's premier port historically; major hub for passenger and cargo traffic.
3	JNPA (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority / Nhava Sheva)	Maharashtra	1989	Commissioned 1989. India's largest container port — 7.30 million TEUs in FY 2024-25 (record, +13.55% YoY). 53.93% of all major-port container traffic. Also oversees Vadhavan construction. Located south of Mumbai across Thane Creek.
4	Mormugao Port	Goa	1964	Natural harbour. Current site operational since 1885. Declared major port 1964. Known for iron ore exports.
5	New Mangalore Port	Karnataka	1974	Declared 9th major port on 4 May 1974. Formally inaugurated by PM Indira Gandhi on 11 January 1975.
6	Cochin (Kochi) Port	Kerala	1936	Natural harbour — formed naturally in 1341 AD when the Periyar River flooded. Brought under Major Port Trusts Act on 1 August 1936. Nearest major port to the Suez Canal route (~76 nautical miles). Houses ICTT Vallarpadam, India's largest container transshipment terminal.

Upcoming — **Vadhavan Port (Maharashtra)**: India's first offshore port (built on an artificial island). Cabinet approval 19 June 2024 (cost: ₹76,220 crore). PM Modi groundbreaking 30 August 2024. Planned depth: 20 m (deepest). Package 1A bids (₹17,709 crore) invited August 2025. Phase 1 target: 2029. Not yet notified as a major port.

□ East Coast Ports (6 operational)

#	PORT	STATE	EST. (MAJOR PORT)	KEY NOTES
7	Chennai Port	Tamil Nadu	1881	Oldest artificial harbour on India's east coast. Operations began 1881. All-weather port with wet docks. Major automobile export hub.
8	V.O. Chidambaranar Port (formerly Tuticorin)	Tamil Nadu	1974	Declared 10th major port on 11 July 1974. Renamed after freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaranar. Handles salt, fertilisers, and thermal coal.
9	Kamarajar Port (formerly Ennore)	Tamil Nadu	1999/2001	Declared major port March 1999. Only corporatised major port in India — incorporated as a company under Companies Act, not a statutory authority. Commercial operations began 22 June 2001. Located 18 km north of Chennai. Implementing agency for Galathea Bay (ICTP) project.
10	Visakhapatnam Port (Vizag)	Andhra Pradesh	1964	Port opened 7 October 1933; notified as major port 1964. Deepest port among the 12 operational major ports — natural depth 16.5 metres. India's deepest landlocked and protected harbour.
11	Paradip Port	Odisha	1966	Foundation stone by PM Nehru on 3 January 1962. Declared major port 18 April 1966 (8th major port). First major port on East Coast commissioned after Independence . Crossed 150 MMT in FY 2024-25.
12	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata + Haldia)	West Bengal	1870	Oldest major port in India — established 1870. Only riverine major port — on the Hooghly River (distributary of Ganga), 203 km from the sea. Two dock systems: Kolkata Dock (on Hooghly) + Haldia Dock Complex (opened 1977). Renamed Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port on 12 January 2020 (150th year).

□ Andaman & Nicobar Islands (1 notified, under development)

#	PORT	LOCATION	STATUS	KEY NOTES
13	Galathea Bay ICTP (International Container Transshipment Port)	Great Nicobar Island, A&N UT	Notified Sep 2024; pre-construction	Notified as 13th major port in September 2024. Located on Great Nicobar Island , ~40 nautical miles from the Malacca Strait. Cost: ~₹44,000 crore. Implementation: Kamarajar Port Ltd. Stage 1 forest clearance obtained. DPR finalised. Tenders for Phase 1 expected shortly. Phase 1 target: 2028 (4 million TEU capacity). Full capacity: 16 million TEUs by 2058.

□ Distribution Summary

COAST / REGION	OPERATIONAL PORTS	STATES/UTS COVERED
West Coast	6	Gujarat (1), Maharashtra (2), Goa (1), Karnataka (1), Kerala (1)
East Coast	6	Tamil Nadu (3), Andhra Pradesh (1), Odisha (1), West Bengal (1)
Andaman & Nicobar	0 operational (Galathea Bay — pre-construction)	A&N Islands UT (1 notified)
Total	13 notified (12 operational)	

State-wise maximum: Tamil Nadu = 3 major ports (Chennai, V.O. Chidambaranar, Kamarajar). Maharashtra = 2 operational (Mumbai, JNPA).

□ Key Facts for Quick Recall

CATEGORY	PORT	DETAILS
Oldest major port (overall)	Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Kolkata)	Established 1870
Oldest artificial harbour (East Coast)	Chennai	Operations began 1881
Largest by cargo (major ports, FY24-25)	Deendayal (Kandla)	150+ MMT. Note: Mundra Port (Adani, private) handles more overall but is NOT a major port under the Act.
Busiest container port (major ports)	JNPA (Nhava Sheva)	7.30 million TEUs in FY 2024-25 (53.93% of all major-port container traffic)
Only riverine major port	Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Kolkata)	On Hooghly River (distributary of Ganga), 203 km from sea
Only corporatised major port	Kamarajar (Ennore)	Incorporated as a company; all others are statutory Port Authorities
Deepest port (operational)	Visakhapatnam	Natural depth 16.5 m — deepest landlocked and protected harbour
Future deepest port (under construction)	Vadhavan	Planned depth 20 m — India's first offshore port (artificial island). Phase 1 target: 2029.
Natural harbour (most noted)	Cochin (Kochi)	Formed naturally in 1341 AD when Periyar River flooded
Nearest port to Suez Canal route	Cochin (Kochi)	~76 nautical miles from Suez route; 11 nautical miles from Middle East trade route
Nearest port to Malacca Strait	Galathea Bay	~40 nautical miles — strategic transshipment hub on Indo-Pacific lanes
First major port on East Coast post-Independence	Paradip	Declared major port 1966; foundation stone by PM Nehru in 1962
Total cargo — FY 2024-25	855 million tonnes	+4.3% YoY; H1 FY 2025-26: 437 MT (Apr–Sep 2025, +7.2% YoY)

□ Legal Framework

Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 (governs 12 major ports)

The **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** (No. 1 of 2021, assented 17 February 2021) replaced the **Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**. It restructures governance, grants more autonomy, and replaces port trusts with Port Authorities.

ASPECT	OLD ACT (1963)	NEW ACT (2021)
Governance body	Large Board of Trustees	Compact Board of Major Port Authority
Tariff regulation	Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) sets rates	Ports fix tariffs per market conditions — TAMP's role removed for major ports
Dispute resolution	Partial court jurisdiction	Adjudicatory Board (courts barred from certain disputes)
Port entity type	Statutory trust	Autonomous Major Port Authority (statutory body)
Legislation size	134 sections	76 sections (leaner)

Indian Ports Act, 2025 (governs non-major ports)

The **Indian Ports Act, 2025** was passed by Lok Sabha on 12 August 2025 and Rajya Sabha on 18 August 2025. It replaced the colonial-era **Indian Ports Act, 1908**.

KEY FEATURE	DETAILS
Governing body created	Maritime State Development Council — chaired by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways; includes all coastal state Ministers
New body for states	Mandates State Maritime Boards for all coastal states to manage non-major ports
New port classification	Introduces a " mega port " category — ports can be designated as mega ports while retaining existing classification
Environmental compliance	Mandates MARPOL and Ballast Water Management Convention compliance
Replaced	Indian Ports Act, 1908 (colonial-era legislation)

□ Sagarmala Programme — Key Updates

ITEM	DETAIL
Total projects identified	839 projects worth ₹5.79 lakh crore
Completed (as of March 2026)	315 projects (investment: ~₹1.56 lakh crore); 120 port modernisation projects added 400+ MTPA new capacity
Under implementation	210 projects
Sagarmala 2.0 (announced 19 March 2025)	Budget corpus: ₹40,000 crore government budgetary support. Target private investment: ₹12 lakh crore over the next decade. Focus: Shipbuilding, ship repair, ship recycling, port modernisation, green shipping.
Companion schemes (Union Budget FY 2025-26)	₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF); revamped shipbuilding subsidy; Sagarmala Startup Innovation Initiative (S2I2)
Vision	Make India a top shipbuilding nation by 2047 (Viksit Bharat)

□ Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
How many major ports does India have?	13 notified (12 operational + Galathea Bay notified Sep 2024, under development). Older books say 12 — outdated. Port Blair was briefly the 13th (2010) but status removed in 2017. VadHAVAN is under construction but not yet formally notified as a major port.
Which is India's largest port by cargo?	Mundra (Adani) is largest overall — but NOT a major port. Among major ports, Deendayal (Kandla) is the largest by cargo volume.
Is Haldia a separate major port?	No. Haldia Dock Complex is part of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata) — the same major port entity.
Which is the only corporatised major port?	Kamarajar Port (Ennore) — incorporated as a company. All other major ports are statutory Port Authorities.
Is Chennai Port a natural harbour?	No. Chennai is India's oldest <i>artificial</i> harbour on the East Coast. Cochin (Kochi) is the prominent natural harbour.
Which act governs major ports?	Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 (replaced Major Port Trusts Act, 1963). Non-major ports: Indian Ports Act, 2025 (replaced Indian Ports Act, 1908).
Where is Galathea Bay?	Great Nicobar Island (southernmost A&N Islands) — NOT near Port Blair (which is on South Andaman Island). Located 40 nautical miles from the Malacca Strait.
Is VadHAVAN a notified major port?	Not yet (as of April 2026). It is a greenfield project under JNPA oversight, approved by Cabinet (June 2024), under construction. Not yet formally notified as a major port.
Kandla was renamed to what and when?	Deendayal Port — renamed on 25 September 2017 after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
Kolkata Port was renamed to what and when?	Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port — renamed on 12 January 2020 (150th year).
Which is the implementing agency for Galathea Bay?	Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore) — implementation responsibility transferred to Kamarajar Port from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

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Current count: 44 sites (as of July 2025). India is ranked **6th globally** by total WHS count. Breakdown: **36 Cultural + 7 Natural + 1 Mixed**. The 44th site — Maratha Military Landscapes of India — was inscribed at the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris (11 July 2025).

□ Key Facts at a Glance

FACT	DETAIL
Total sites	44 (as of July 2025)
Cultural sites	36
Natural sites	7
Mixed sites	1 — Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim (2016) — India's only mixed WHS
Global rank	6th in the world by total site count
First sites (1983)	Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, Taj Mahal — all four inscribed at the same 1983 WHC session
43rd site (2024)	Moidams — Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty, Assam
44th site (2025)	Maratha Military Landscapes of India (Maharashtra + Gingee Fort, Tamil Nadu) — 12 forts total
First World Heritage City	Historic City of Ahmedabad, Gujarat (2017)
Tentative List	60+ sites on India's tentative list

□ Cultural World Heritage Sites (36)

#	SITE	STATE	YEAR
1	Ajanta Caves	Maharashtra	1983
2	Ellora Caves	Maharashtra	1983
3	Agra Fort	Uttar Pradesh	1983
4	Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh	1983
5	Sun Temple, Konark	Odisha	1984
6	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamil Nadu	1984
7	Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa	1986
8	Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh	1986
9	Hampi	Karnataka	1986
10	Khajuraho Group of Monuments	Madhya Pradesh	1986
11	Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra	1987
12	Great Living Chola Temples	Tamil Nadu	1987
13	Pattadakal Monuments	Karnataka	1987
14	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	1989
15	Humayun's Tomb	Delhi	1993
16	Qutb Minar and its Monuments	Delhi	1993
17	Mountain Railways of India	West Bengal / Tamil Nadu / Himachal Pradesh	1999
18	Mahabodhi Temple Complex, Bodh Gaya	Bihar	2002
19	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh	2003
20	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)	Maharashtra	2004
21	Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	Gujarat	2004
22	Red Fort Complex	Delhi	2007
23	Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Rajasthan	2010
24	Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2013
25	Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell), Patan	Gujarat	2014
26	Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University)	Bihar	2016

#	SITE	STATE	YEAR
27	The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier (Chandigarh Capitol Complex)	Chandigarh (UT)	2016
28	Historic City of Ahmedabad	Gujarat	2017
29	Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai	Maharashtra	2018
30	Jaipur City, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	2019
31	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	Telangana	2021
32	Dholavira: a Harappan City	Gujarat	2021
33	Santiniketan	West Bengal	2023
34	Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas	Karnataka	2023
35	Moidams — Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty	Assam	2024 (43rd site)
36	Maratha Military Landscapes of India	Maharashtra + Tamil Nadu (Gingee Fort)	2025 (44th site)

□ Natural World Heritage Sites (7)

#	SITE	STATE	YEAR	KEY NOTE
1	Kaziranga National Park	Assam	1985	Greater one-horned rhinoceros; also has tigers and elephants
2	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	1985	Bird sanctuary; also a Ramsar site
3	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam	1985	Listed as Endangered WHS (1992–2011); delisted after recovery
4	Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal	1987	World's largest mangrove forest; Bengal tiger habitat; also Ramsar site
5	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	Uttarakhand	1988	Biosphere Reserve; extended in 2005 to include Valley of Flowers
6	Western Ghats	Maharashtra / Goa / Karnataka / Kerala / Tamil Nadu	2012	Biodiversity hotspot; 39 separate sites inscribed as one serial nomination
7	Great Himalayan National Park	Himachal Pradesh	2014	Habitat of snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear; source of 4 rivers

☐ Mixed World Heritage Site (1)

SITE	STATE	YEAR	KEY NOTE
Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	2016	India's only Mixed WHS — inscribed under both natural and cultural criteria. Contains Mt. Khangchendzonga (3rd highest peak in world; 8,586 m). Also a Biosphere Reserve. Sacred to the Sikkimese people.

☐ State-wise Count (Top States)

STATE / UT	COUNT	SITES
Maharashtra	7	Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, CSMT, Champaner (partial), Victorian Gothic Mumbai, Maratha Military Landscapes (partial)
Gujarat	5	Champaner-Pavagadh, Rani-ki-Vav, Ahmedabad (Historic City), Dholavira, Champaner (partial with Maharashtra)
Uttar Pradesh	4	Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Bodh Gaya (Bihar — correction: Bodh Gaya is Bihar)
Delhi	3	Humayun's Tomb, Qutb Minar, Red Fort
Rajasthan	3	Keoladeo NP, Jantar Mantar Jaipur, Hill Forts of Rajasthan, Jaipur City
Karnataka	4	Hampi, Pattadakal, Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas, Western Ghats (partial)
Madhya Pradesh	3	Khajuraho, Sanchi, Bhimbetka
Assam	3	Kaziranga NP, Manas WLS, Moidams
Tamil Nadu	3	Mahabalipuram, Great Chola Temples, Maratha Military Landscapes (Gingee Fort)

□ Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
Total UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India?	44 (as of July 2025). Answer was 40 before 2021; 42 before 2023; 43 before 2025. Always use the latest count.
First WHS from India?	There were 4 simultaneous first inscriptions in 1983 : Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal — all at the 7th session of WHC.
India's only Mixed World Heritage Site?	Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim (2016) — inscribed under both cultural and natural criteria.
India's first UNESCO World Heritage City?	Historic City of Ahmedabad (2017) — first Indian city inscribed as a whole.
Which state has the most WHS?	Maharashtra — with 7 sites including Ajanta, Ellora, Elephanta, CSMT, Victorian Gothic Mumbai, Maratha Military Landscapes, and partial share of others.
Is the Taj Mahal a Natural or Cultural WHS?	Cultural (1983). A common trick question — all Mughal monuments are Cultural, not Natural.
Dholavira was inscribed in which year?	2021 (27 July 2021, 44th session of WHC) — some older sources incorrectly cite 2020.
What are the Maratha Military Landscapes?	12 forts: 11 in Maharashtra (including Raigad, Shivneri, Rajgad, Pratapgad, etc.) + Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu — inscribed 11 July 2025 as India's 44th WHS.

Protected Areas

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Master count (April 2026): Tiger Reserves **58** · Biosphere Reserves **18** (13 UNESCO MAB) · Ramsar Wetlands **98** · National Parks **107** · Wildlife Sanctuaries **573** · Elephant Reserves **33**. These numbers change — always use the latest. Key legal basis: National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are under **Wildlife Protection Act 1972**; Biosphere Reserves and Elephant Reserves are **executive notifications** (no WPA basis).

□ Master Quick-Reference

CATEGORY	COUNT	FIRST (YEAR)	LEGAL BASIS	KEY GOVERNING BODY
Tiger Reserves	58 (Mar 2025)	Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand (1973)	WPA 1972, Sec 38V (amended 2006)	NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority)
Biosphere Reserves (GoI)	18	Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu (1986)	Executive notification — no WPA basis	MoEFCC (no statutory authority)
Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO MAB)	13 (Sep 2025)	Nilgiri (2000 — first UNESCO recognition)	UNESCO Man & Biosphere Programme	UNESCO MAB National Committee
Ramsar Wetlands	98 (Feb 2026)	Chilika Lake + Keoladeo NP (Oct 1981)	Ramsar Convention (India signed Feb 1982)	MoEFCC / Wetlands International
National Parks	107 (Apr 2025)	Hailey NP / Jim Corbett NP, Uttarakhand (1936)	WPA 1972, Sec 35	State Chief Wildlife Warden
Wildlife Sanctuaries	573	—	WPA 1972, Sec 26A	State Chief Wildlife Warden
Elephant Reserves	33 (14 states)	—	Executive notification — no WPA basis	MoEFCC / Project Elephant

□ Tiger Reserves — Project Tiger

FACT	DETAIL
Project Tiger launched	1 April 1973 — India's first species-specific conservation programme; launched at Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve
First tiger reserve	Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve , Uttarakhand (1973) — also the launch site of Project Tiger
Total tiger reserves	58 (as of March 2025). Most recent: Madhav Tiger Reserve (Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh) — declared India's 58th on 10 March 2025
State with most tiger reserves	Madhya Pradesh — 9 tiger reserves (Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura, Panna, Sanjay-Dubri, Veerangana Durgavati, Ratapani, Madhav). MP is called "Tiger State of India"
Tiger population (2022 census)	3,682 tigers — ~70% of global wild tiger population. Growth: 1,411 (2006) □ 1,706 (2010) □ 2,226 (2014) □ 2,967 (2018) □ 3,682 (2022)
Governing body	NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) — constituted under WPA 1972 (amended 2006); statutory body under Sec 38L
Zone structure	Core zone (Critical Tiger Habitat — no human activity allowed) + Buffer zone (limited human use, tourism permitted)
Boundary change rule	Boundaries of a tiger reserve cannot be altered except on recommendation of NTCA + approval of National Board for Wildlife (Section 38W, WPA 1972)

□ Biosphere Reserves

India has **18 Biosphere Reserves** notified by the Government. Of these, **13 are recognised by UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme** and are part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere Reserves are **NOT statutory** — they have no basis in WPA 1972; they are designated through executive/administrative orders of MoEFCC.

#	BIOSPHERE RESERVE	STATE	GOI NOTIFICATION	UNESCO MAB
1	Nilgiri	Tamil Nadu / Kerala / Karnataka	1986	2000 — first UNESCO-recognised BR in India
2	Gulf of Mannar	Tamil Nadu	1989	2001
3	Sundarbans	West Bengal	1989	2001
4	Nanda Devi	Uttarakhand	1988	2004
5	Nokrek	Meghalaya	1988	2009
6	Pachmarhi	Madhya Pradesh	1999	2009
7	Similipal	Odisha	1994	2009
8	Manas	Assam	1989	2009
9	Achanakmar-Amarkantak	MP / Chhattisgarh	2005	2012
10	Great Nicobar	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1989	2013
11	Agasthyamalai	Kerala / Tamil Nadu	2001	2016
12	Khangchendzonga	Sikkim	2000	2018
13	Panna	Madhya Pradesh	2011	2020
14	Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh	2009	2025 — 13th UNESCO-recognised; announced Sep 2025, Hangzhou

Not UNESCO-recognised (4 remaining): Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam), Dihang-Dibang (Arunachal Pradesh), Great Rann of Kutch (Gujarat), Seshachalam Hills (Andhra Pradesh)

3-Zone Model (UPSC favourite): Core zone (strictly protected — no human activity) □ Buffer zone (research, tourism, education) □ Transition zone / Cooperation zone (human settlements, sustainable development, traditional practices).

□ Ramsar Wetlands

FACT	DETAIL
Total Ramsar sites	98 (as of February 2026) — largest in Asia; 3rd globally (after UK 176, Mexico 144)
India signed Ramsar Convention	1 February 1982
First Ramsar sites	Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur, Rajasthan) — both designated 1 October 1981 (before India formally ratified the convention)
State with most Ramsar sites	Tamil Nadu — 20 sites; followed by Uttar Pradesh (11 sites)
Total area	~13.6 lakh hectares
Growth since 2014	26 sites □ 98 sites (276% increase)
97th & 98th sites (2026)	Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand (Kutch, Gujarat) — designated Jan/Feb 2026
Ramsar designation means?	Inclusion in Montreux Record (threatened wetlands) is separate — Ramsar designation itself means the site meets internationally important wetland criteria. India aims to have no sites on Montreux Record (Keoladeo and Chilika were removed after restoration).

□ National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries

FACT	NATIONAL PARKS	WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
Total count	107 (Apr 2025)	573
Legal basis	WPA 1972, Section 35	WPA 1972, Section 26A
Human rights inside	No rights allowed — no grazing, no collection, no settlement	Some rights can be allowed by Chief Wildlife Warden
Grazing	Prohibited	May be permitted
Boundary change	Requires State Legislature resolution (Section 35(4))	State Government order
First in India	Hailey National Park (1936) □ renamed Jim Corbett NP (1957)	—
Most recent (107th)	Similipal NP, Odisha (notified April 2025)	—
State with most NPs	Madhya Pradesh — 12 national parks	—

□ Key Distinctions — All 4 Categories

PARAMETER	NATIONAL PARK	WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	BIOSPHERE RESERVE	TIGER RESERVE
Legal basis	WPA 1972 (Sec 35)	WPA 1972 (Sec 26A)	Executive notification (no WPA basis)	WPA 1972 (Sec 38V)
Human rights inside	None permitted	Some permitted by CWW	Depends on zone (Core = none; Transition = permitted)	Core = none; Buffer = limited
Boundary change	State Legislature resolution	State Govt order	No statutory restriction	NTCA + NBWL approval
Private land	Can include	Can include	Often includes multiple PA types	Overlaps NPs & sanctuaries
Zones	No formal zoning	No formal zoning	Core / Buffer / Transition	Core (CTH) / Buffer
Primary purpose	Ecosystem preservation	Species / habitat protection	Research + conservation + sustainable use	Tiger conservation

□ Project Elephant

FACT	DETAIL
Launched	1992 — Centrally Sponsored Scheme under MoEFCC
Elephant Reserves	33 notified across 14 states, covering ~80,778 sq km
Elephant population	~25,000 (1992) □ ~30,000 (2021 estimate). Elephants found in 16 of 28 states.
Corridors	150 elephant corridors ground-validated across 15 states
Legal basis	Executive notification — Elephant Reserves have NO statutory backing under WPA (unlike Tiger Reserves under Sec 38V). Same as Biosphere Reserves — key exam trap.
2023-24 merger	Project Tiger and Project Elephant were merged from FY 2023-24 into a single scheme called "Project Tiger & Elephant" under MoEFCC

□ High-Frequency Exam Traps

TRAP	CORRECT ANSWER
How many tiger reserves does India have?	58 (as of March 2025). The 58th is Madhav Tiger Reserve, MP (March 10, 2025). Older UPSC sources cite lower numbers — always use latest.
Biosphere Reserves are governed by WPA 1972?	No. Biosphere Reserves are designated by executive/administrative order — they have NO legal basis in WPA 1972. Same applies to Elephant Reserves.
How many UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserves does India have?	13 (as of September 2025). Cold Desert (HP) was added in September 2025. Older sources say 12 — updated answer is 13.
Which was India's first Biosphere Reserve?	Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986) — notified by GoI. But note: Nilgiri got UNESCO MAB recognition only in 2000 . The GoI notification (1986) ≠ UNESCO recognition (2000).
Which were India's first Ramsar sites?	Chilika Lake AND Keoladeo National Park — both designated 1 October 1981 simultaneously. India signed the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982 (after the sites were designated).
State with most Ramsar sites?	Tamil Nadu — 20 sites . Second: Uttar Pradesh (11 sites). This changes as new sites are added.
Can boundaries of a National Park be changed by the state government?	No. National Park boundaries can only be altered by a resolution of the State Legislature (Section 35(4) of WPA 1972). This is stricter than Wildlife Sanctuaries (where a state govt order suffices).
India's first National Park?	Jim Corbett National Park — originally established as Hailey National Park in 1936 (named after Governor Malcolm Hailey). Renamed Ramganga NP (1954), then Jim Corbett NP (1957).
Tiger Reserves have the same legal status as National Parks?	No. Tiger Reserves are designated under Sec 38V of WPA 1972 (added by 2006 amendment), separate from National Parks (Sec 35). A Tiger Reserve typically encompasses a National Park as its core zone + surrounding buffer.
When were Project Tiger and Project Elephant merged?	From FY 2023-24 , merged into a single centrally sponsored scheme called "Project Tiger & Elephant" under MoEFCC.

Exam strategy: Protected areas generate 2–3 UPSC Prelims questions every year. The most-tested angles: (1) legal basis distinctions — WPA vs executive notification, (2) who can alter boundaries (NP = state legislature; TR = NTCA + NBWL), (3) first designations (Jim Corbett 1936/1973, Nilgiri 1986, Chilika + Keoladeo 1981), (4) current counts (update before the exam — these numbers change annually).



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